

STRAFFORD, VERMONT
TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2017

HISTORICAL NOTE

STRAFFORD'S COLLECTED HISTORY

Historical artifacts have an eloquent story to tell. The objects created by early residents speak to their backgrounds, interests, needs, skills, values, and cultural heritage. Those historic items are not just in the Historical Society collections; they are around us still.

Left on the landscape are millstones and remnants of dams, evidence of the water-powered mills that ground the grain or sawed the lumber for the food and shelter of the earliest settlers. Tenter hooks still visible on the foundation walls remaining from the old woolen mill in South Strafford show where woolen cloth was stretched and dried. An old iron pot dug up from the Town House driveway was still packed with charcoal for use as a footwarmer in an unheated meetinghouse one winter. An axe, forged at Nathaniel Morrill's blacksmithy across the river from the Town House, may have been used to cut the forest to clear land for pastures and for planting crops. A grindstone found under the wing of the Brick Store would have sharpened axes like this at the 1805 store on that site. Also unearthed at the store was a very large, iron, hanging scale to weigh objects up to 1,200 pounds. The wrought iron gate of the cemetery behind the Morrill blacksmith shop was doubtless created at that water-powered forge, and the cemetery stones within its confines tell stories of individuals, their families, and their fates.

Town roads also bear testimony to early ways of life. The old guide post sign in the Upper Village indicates the destinations and distances of travel from its location near Strafford's historic buildings, including the earliest inns, meetinghouse, and stores. Still apparent under the current roadways in both villages are the iron frameworks of large scales to weigh wagons or cartloads of goods for mills or stores.

The Upper Village began to take shape when Daniel Robinson and his family came to town in 1788 and built a house

and inn by 1790 and an adjacent store by 1793. Following a custom of the times, they hid a child's shoe in the chimney wall of the house, to ward off evil. Daniel was a supervisor of the Town House construction in 1799 and the tools he used have been saved for over two centuries. The present Daniel Robinson's family has his ancestor's adze, molding plane, and broad axe. They gave the Historical Society the original large iron key to the 1837 Robinson Meetinghouse, though the building itself is long gone. The family also donated a wedding gown of bright blue plaid silk, worn by a Robinson bride married there in 1858, and a Robinson family crazy quilt, both skillfully made and prized for their sentiment and beauty.

Articles made at home not only supplied family needs, but were also used as barter for store goods. Although most of those items no longer exist, the three carefully-preserved ledgers at the Historical Society that document them, do. These tell the names of early Strafford residents and what they produced to exchange for store items. Daniel Robinson's inn and general store were managed by Joel Hatch, and Joel's ledger of 1795 to 1804 serves as an index of early Strafford occupations and home skills. Nathaniel Morrill's account book of 1807 to 1809 names customers at his Upper Village blacksmithy and the barter they brought in for goods and services. Leonard Walker had a saw mill and blacksmith shop (a "universal manufactory") along the stream on Taylor Valley Road. His ledger of 1798 to 1825 indicates the vast variety of products he made at this water-powered site and the types of barter he received in payment. These three accounts document barter from an amazing array of home skills and occupations in town in 1795-1825.

A major item was butter, but there

Continued on inside back cover

Continued from inside front cover

was also cheese, maple sugar, honey, hog lard, and soap. Farmers paid with harvested grains, fruits and vegetables, flax, barrels of cider, sheep, sheepskins and wool, horses, cows and calfskins, beef, turkeys, pigs, fish and feathers. Home industries produced bottles of whiskey and of gin, cords of wood, shoes, overshoes, thread, woven cloth, lace, spinning work, tailoring and dressmaking, wooden bowls and casks, a loom, pounds of iron, wheels, harnesses, handmade sieves, and masonry work.

During the same time period, objects from the mine, which opened in 1809, give information exclusive to Strafford. An ancient iron ladle found by EPA workers had been used in the copperas factory before the mine started producing copper, too, in 1830. Miners' headgear – a hard helmet and a soft canvas cap with visor – feature carbide lanterns. A more recent hard hat, with electric headlamp, bears the name “Judd,” for Charles Judd, the man who was employed the longest of anyone at the mine. And a gas mask tells of the dangers lurking in the dark, dank, mine tunnels for all its underground workers.

Family legacies come to light in collections of artifacts kept from generation to generation. The Chandler family is well-known in Strafford history mainly because of the wealth of historic items they have saved over the years and have shared with the town through the Historical Society. The “Yellow House” on Old City Falls Road at Pennock Road was a family headquarters for centuries, and it housed their treasures. A brass bedwarmer and wooden footwarmer tell of cold winters. Ball gowns speak of an active social scene in Strafford. A huge magic show poster advertises Seth Chandler's amateur magician's act at the Town House the centennial summer of 1876. An 1840 election banner, hand-painted and hand-sewn on silk, attests to Chandler political passions, and a whimsical, hand-embroidered apron shows a teenage daughter's needle skills – and sense of humor.

A closer focus on individual people

is found in the Historical Society's large collection of diaries, in oil portraits from the 1840s by an itinerant painter, in finely etched portraits, and formal photographs. An 1833 letter from copper mine owner Isaac Tyson, Jr. describes the circuitous route he and his family navigated as he brought them to Strafford from Baltimore, Maryland for the first time. A Valentine sent from a young lad to his sweetheart in Strafford encloses a woven design made of his own flaxen hair as a love token.

Gravestone rubbings have preserved the engraved details of headstones which have since deteriorated. The 2nd gravestone for James and Thankful Pennock (since replaced with a 3rd) includes a lengthy accounting of the number of their descendants accrued up to that time. A white marble cenotaph for George Day was lost, then found and returned to Strafford to honor this civil war soldier who died in the Andersonville prison and was buried in Georgia.

Far from a dusty record of Strafford's past, the objects and documents preserved in the Historical Society's collections bring Strafford's history to life in dramatic, informative, poignant, and sometimes amusing ways. A photograph may be worth 1,000 words, but an historic object is a physical link to our past, allowing us to touch something held by our predecessors, an object that was “handed down” through generations during the formative years of our town. Good examples are the two original, large, iron keys to the Brick Store given SHS by Kendall Mix, who restored the building and, in 2002, provided its “Meeting Room” for the Historical Society's first home. Since 2013, Kendall's daughter, Phoebe, has allowed SHS the use of the first floor of the entire wing, which was the original 1805 Harris Store. The Brick Store keys were in constant use since 1834 by all the many store owners from Jedediah H. Harris down through C. William Berghorn, founder, in 1955, of the Strafford Historical Society. These original wrought iron artifacts have become, literally, the keys to Strafford's collected history.

Stefanie Johnston



Photo by Kate Siepmann

DEDICATION

This year's Town Report is dedicated to Charles H. "Charlie" Brown. Charlie was born and died on the farm on Stage Road, which he considered the most beautiful spot in the world and where he produced some of the best maple syrup in the world.

Charlie was a gifted athlete who loved sports and shared this love with many. He was one of the founders of the Strafford Athletic Association, worked on the ski program, and in the early days hosted swimming lessons at the farm pond. He was active in the Central Vermont baseball and basketball leagues as well as enjoying golf, skiing, fishing, horseback riding, and carriage driving. So great was his love of playing sports, it was said that if the weather looked like rain during a baseball game, Charlie would rather stay with the game than trying to get in the hay.

Charlie was a long-time Strafford Justice of the Peace and is believed to have married over 100 couples. Charlie was also a member of the Fire Department, the Strafford Area Lions Club, and a 50-year member of the Masonic Temple Lodge #54 F&AM in South Strafford. Besides being a farmer, Charlie also was a noted dowser.

Charlie's roots went back to Strafford's earliest days and he knew all those whose families had lived here for generations. He also befriended many more recent residents of the town. Charlie helped tie our community together by teaching what it meant to be a Vermonter through the example of how he lived his life. If Strafford is a special place to live today, it is due in part to Charlie Brown, who lived close to the land and close to its people, demonstrating what life here has to offer.

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TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator (Town & School):

Robert Bauer Term expires March 2018

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2018

Selectboard:

Kate Siepman Term expires March 2020

Brian Johnson Term expires March 2019

John Freitag Term expires March 2019

Toni Pippy Term expires March 2018

Stephen Marx Term expires March 2018

Listers:

Tim Denny Term expires March 2020

Mark Castro Term expires March 2019

Allan Wylie..... Term expires March 2018

Auditors:

Suzanna Liepmann Term expires March 2020

June Solsaa Term expires March 2019

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2018

School Directors:

Margaret Albee Term expires March 2020

Hilary Linehan Term expires March 2019

Erik Goodling Term expires March 2019

Glenn Wylie Term expires March 2018

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2018

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro Term expires March 2018

Town Agent and Town Grand Juror:

Alan Donohue Term expires March 2018

Trustee of Public Funds:

John Hawkins Term expires March 2020

Elizabeth Ruml Term expires March 2019

Kevin Plunkett Term expires March 2018

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2018

Harris Library Trustees:

Miriam Newman Term expires March 2019

Curt Albee..... Term expires March 2018

Carol Wilson (*Selectboard Trustee*)..... Term expires March 2018

Front cover: Original keys to the 1834 Brick Store.

*Photographs throughout this report were provided by the
Strafford Historical Society.*

Town Officers (continued)

Cemetery Commissioners:

Gretchen Graner	Term expires March 2020
Gary Kendall	Term expires March 2020
Sherm Wilson	Term expires March 2019
Blake Spencer	Term expires March 2018
Andrew Behrens	Term expires March 2018

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee	Alan Donohue	Rosalind Finn
Charles Lewis	Catherine L. Linehan	Sarah North
	Vincent Robinson	

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Road Foreman and Supervisor of Public Works	Jon MacKinnon
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Regina J. Josler
Selectboard Assistant	Lisa Bragg
Town Constable	Edwin Eastman
Zoning Administrator	Brian Johnson
Zoning Administrator Alternate	Ed Eastman
Town House Overseer	Paul Kifner
Emergency Management Director	William Burden
Deputy Emergency Management Director	<i>Vacant</i>
Emergency 9-1-1 Contact	Lisa Bragg
Town Health Officer	Stephen Marx
Dog Officer and Pound Keeper	Janet Hardy
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	Bob Wilson
Tree Warden	Bob Wilson
Town Service Officer	Susan Coburn
Recycling Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association	Shawn Harlow
Fire Warden, appointed by the State	Calvin Benjamin
Fence Viewers	Stephen Wetmore, Greg Lewis, Gary Kendall
South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative	Susan Coburn
Deputy Registrar	Dennis Cilley

Development Review Board:

Bonnie Bergeron (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Terrence Garrison (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2019
Dan Ruml	Term expires March 2019
Martha Walke	Term expires March 2019
Steven Campbell (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2018
Alan Donohue (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Kip Lindsay (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2019
Fred Wolfe (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2018

Appointive Officers (continued)

Planning Commission:

Bob Bushway	Term expires March 2021
Donald Graham	Term expires March 2021
Sean Lewis	Term expires March 2021
Martha Walke (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Chrissy Jamieson	Term expires March 2020
Steven Campbell (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2018
Michael Scanlan	Term expires March 2018
Stuart Crocker	Term expires March 2018
Stephen Willbanks (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2018

Conservation Commission:

Michael Hebb (<i>Trails Commissioner</i>)	Term expires March 2021
Kate Root.....	Term expires March 2021
Charles Sherman.....	Term expires March 2020
David Paganelli	Term expires March 2020
Steve Faccio (<i>Recording Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2019
Stephen Willbanks (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2019
Tim McCormick	Term expires March 2018
J. T. Horn	Term expires March 2018
Jared Jenisch	Term expires March 2018

Town House Advisory Group:

Curt Albee	Term expires March 2020
Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2018
Lori Mikusa	Term expires March 2018
Steve Willbanks	Term expires March 2018
Martha Manheim	Term expires March 2018
Therese Linehan	Term expires March 2018
Peter Revers	Term expires March 2018
Steve Handy	Term expires March 2018
Silas Treadway	Term expires March 2018

Regional Planning Commission:

Steven Campbell	Term expires March 2018
John Echeverria (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2018

Recreation Board:

Meg Albee	Term expires March 2019
Christa Wurm	Term expires March 2019
Jason Loomis	Term expires March 2019
Scott Moore	Term expires March 2018
Hilary Linehan	Term expires March 2020
David Taplin	Term expires March 2020
Ellen Bagnato	Term expires March 2020

Appointive Officers (continued)

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network

Governing Board Representative:

Steve Willbanks	Term expires March 2018
David Webb (<i>Alternate</i>).....	Term expires March 2018
Andrew Behrens (<i>Alternate</i>).....	Term expires March 2018

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:

Stephen Willbanks	Term expires March 2018
Michael Scanlan (<i>Alternate</i>).....	Term expires March 2018

Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:

John Whelihan	Term expires March 2018
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Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:

Diana Leddy	Term expires March 2020
Danette Harris	Term expires March 2019
Joanna Hawkins	Term expires March 2018

Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:

Rockwell Fuller	Joanna Hawkins	Rod Maclay
	Maureen Wilson	

Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:

Barbara Murray	Susan Coburn	Rose Silloway
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Notaries Public

Susan Coburn	Alan Donohue	Regina J. Josler
Lisa Bragg	Roderick Maclay	Victoria Lloyd
	Sarah North	

ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Senator Patrick Leahy	800-642-3193
Senator Bernard Sanders	800-339-9834
Congressman Peter Welch	888-605-7270
Governor Phil Scott	802-828-3333
Lt. Governor David Zuckerman	802-828-2226
State Senator Mark MacDonald	802-433-5867
Representative Tim Briglin	802-785-2414
Representative James Masland	802-785-4146

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

Permit Fees

Zoning Application	\$ 70.00 +\$ 10.00 Recording Fee
Zoning Variance/Site Plan Appl.	\$100.00 +\$ 10.00 Recording Fee
Minor Subdivision Application	\$200.00 +\$ 10.00 Recording Fee
Major Subdivision Application	\$400.00 +\$100.00 per lot +\$ 10.00 Recording Fee
Highway Access Application	\$ 30.00 +\$ 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



*1908 silver cornet of Verne Bushnell and
a Strafford Cornet Band cap.*

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 6, 2018

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 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 a report of the Auditors.
- Article 4:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,018,215 to defray 2018 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:** 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. on the first Wednesday of December. An official United States 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 after the grace period ending at 4:30 p.m. seven days after the first Wednesday of December.
- Article 7:** To elect the following officers:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>For a term of three years:</i> | <i>For a term of two years:</i> |
| Treasurer (paper ballot) | Selectman (paper ballot) |
| Selectman (paper ballot) | |
| Lister (paper ballot) | <i>For a term of one year:</i> |
| Auditor (paper ballot) | Delinquent Tax Collector |
| Cemetery Commissioner | Town Grand Juror |
| Cemetery Commissioner | Town Agent |
| Trustee of Public Funds | Agent to Deed Real Estate |
| Harris Library Trustee | |

Article 8: Shall the Town of Strafford vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$500 for the support of Health Hub School Based Health Services to provide services to residents of the Town?

Article 9: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$110 dollars to the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley for the purpose of continuing public health coordination for Strafford residents particularly in the areas of Substance Misuse, Elder Care, Oral Health, Emergency Preparedness, and Healthy Living?

Article 10: WHEREAS Climate change is one of the most urgent problems facing our state, nation and the world, and

WHEREAS the State of Vermont has a goal to achieve 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, yet is making insufficient progress toward achieving that goal and

WHEREAS all fossil fuels used in Vermont are imported from other states or other countries, resulting in a multi-billion dollar drain annually on the Vermont economy, while renewable energy boosts the state's economy;

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

That the town urges the State of Vermont to:

1. Halt any new (expansion of) fossil fuel infrastructure,
2. Firmly commit to developing renewable energy for all people in Vermont, and,
3. Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents, with no harm to the lowest income people, people of color, or rural communities.

Article 11: To transact any legal business to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 31, 2018

By Strafford Board of Selectmen

Kate Siepmann

John Freitag

Brian Johnson

Toni Pippy

Stephen Marx

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Moderator Robert Bauer.

All were asked to stand and salute the flag.

Moderator Robert Bauer explained that the meeting will run by Robert's Rules of Order and the Moderator read the warning.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator

The Article was moved and seconded. John Freitag asked for nominations. Robert Bauer was nominated and seconded. Motion was made and seconded to close nominations and Robert Bauer was elected.

Article 2: To hear a report of the Auditors

The Article was moved and seconded. Nellie Pennington spoke on Article 2 thanking everyone that helped put the town Report together and Stefanie Johnston for writing the Historical article. No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 2 is closed. Article 2 passes.

Article 3: To see if the Town will appropriate \$997,752 to defray 2017 budget expenses.

The Article was moved and seconded. Selectperson Toni Pippy spoke on Article 3. Toni indicated there was a net surplus of \$128,134 and \$135,493 in the equipment fund has been moved to the Highway Fund. TAN and Recycling lids loan proceeds have new line items. All in all it was a good year.

Employees now receive a benefit credit for health benefits and the second assistant position has been eliminated. Workers Compensation expenses were moved to the highway department where the majority of the expense is. Strafford Fire and Fast Squad received a \$1,000 increase and all mowing has been moved to municipal property line item. The Town House also received an increase of \$3,150 for improvements and repairs.

From the 2016 surplus the town was able to purchase a brand new Ford 550 outright. There was a reduction in total benefits due to a change in enrollment. There will be a large cost of \$88,000 for the bridge replacement by Coburn's Store this summer that the State is managing.

Various questions from the floor continued discussion. The question was called and seconded to stop discussion. Article 3 is closed. Article 3 passes.

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 town purposes.

The Article was moved and seconded. No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 4 is closed. Article 4 passes.

Article 5: 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. on the first Wednesday of December. An official United States 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 after the grace period ending at 4:30 p.m. seven days after the first Wednesday of December.

The Article was moved and seconded. It was asked that the Town does not list names in the Town Report for delinquent taxes. Nellie Pennington indicated there is an audit purpose for doing this and to verify everyone on the list is delinquent. Motion was made to call the questions and seconded. Article 5 is closed. Article 5 passes.

Article 6: To elect the following officers:

The Article was moved and seconded.

For a term of three years:

Selectman (paper ballot): Kate Siepmann was nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Kate Siepmann.

Lister (paper ballot): Tim Denny was nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Tim Denny.

Auditor (paper ballot): Suzanna Liepmann was nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Suzanna Liepmann.

Cemetery Commissioner: Gary Kendall was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations. Gary Kendall was elected.

Cemetery Commissioner: Gretchen Graner was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations. Gretchen Grainer was elected.

Trustee of Public Funds: John Hawkins was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations. John Hawkins was elected.

For a term of two years:

Selectman (paper ballot): Brian Johnson was nominated. No other nomination Brian Johnson was elected.

For a term of one year:

Delinquent Tax Collector: Jeanne Castro was nominated. No other nomination Jeanne Castro was elected.

Town Grand Juror: Alan Donohue was nominated. No other nomination Alan Donohue was elected.

Town Agent: Alan Donohue was nominated. No other nomination Alan Donohue was elected.

Agent to Deed Real Estate: Lisa Kendall was nominated. No other nomination Lisa Kendall was elected.

Article 7: Shall the voters of the town of Strafford oppose the New Vistas development?

The Article was moved and seconded. Therese Linehan spoke on this article.

After questions from the floor Arthur Hanchett made a motion to move to table the article and it was seconded. The motion failed.

A motion was made to amend the article to read “shall the majority of the voters at the town meeting of the Town of Strafford March 7, 2017 presently express opposition to the proposed New Vista development” the motion was seconded.

Motion was made to call the question to stop discussion. Discussion ended on the amendment. Moderator read the amendment, amendment did not pass. Back to original Article. After further discussion a motion was made to call the question and seconded. All in favor to stop discussion, ayes have it.

A vote was called on Article 7 in its original version. Article 7 passes.

Robert’s Rules of Order were suspended to hear from Jim Masland and Tim Briglin.

Article 8: To transact any legal business to come before the meeting.

The Article was moved and seconded. John Freitag thanked Brent Cadwell who is leaving the board as a person with a clear way of thinking and has been a real asset to the board.

Jere Linehan, Strafford Fire and Rescue Fire Chief gave an update on the current state of the fire engine and it being 27 years old and needs replacing.

Robert's Rules of Order were suspended again to hear from Jim Masland from a question raised from the floor about the condition of RT 132. Jim noted that Tim Bringlin and he have been working with Ed Hathway from the EPA on how to proceed and Ed has agreed that the EPA is responsible for a portion of the costs, but how much has not been decided. The Town of Thetford is in the process of an assessment on road repairs for RT 132.

Moderator Robert Bauer announced rabies clinic March 18th, 10-12 sub station.

David Grant spoke about the work done by the Governance Committee.

Nellie Pennington brought up a suggestion to alternate Town and School District meeting The Town has always gone first and the school meeting in the afternoon which has less attendance even though it's three times the budget and the school is in favor of this as well. Next year have the school go first in the morning and alternate after that each year. It was proposed a show of hands and get an opinion of the body. Show of hands every other year was a majority.

Gretchen Graner, Trustee of Barrett Hall would like to recognize Ed Eastman, our Constable and the number of things he has done for Barrett Hall. Remember to say thanks.

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded at 11:23 am.

Robert Bauer
Moderator

Lisa M. Bragg
Town Clerk

John Freitag
Selectboard

**WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF STRAFFORD**

November 7, 2017

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 6:00 pm o'clock to transact the following articles of business:

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to extend the tax-exempt status of the Barrett Hall real property for five (5) additional years.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to extend the tax-exempt status of the Strafford Firemen's Association real property for five (5) additional years

Dated: September 27, 2017

By: Strafford Board of Selectmen

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

November 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Moderator Robert Bauer.

Moderator Robert Bauer explained that the meeting will run by Robert's Rules of Order and the Moderator read the warning.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to extend the tax-exempt status of the Barrett Hall real property for five (5) additional years.

The Article was moved and seconded. No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 1 is closed. Article 1 passes.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to extend the tax-exempt status of the Strafford Firemen's Association real property for five (5) additional years

The Article was moved and seconded. No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 2 is closed. Article 2 passes.

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded at 6:05 pm.

Robert Bauer
Moderator

Lisa M Bragg
Town Clerk

John Freitag
Selectboard

SELECTBOARD REPORT

We were expecting 2017 to be a busy year with the State bridge project in South Strafford and the solar project at the Elizabeth Mine. What we did not anticipate was the extent of the damage done by the July 1 storm, as well as the replacement of the VELCO powerlines through town. The result was a tremendous amount of trucking, some safety concerns and a good deal of inconvenience.

The good news is that the bridge project was completed on budget and on schedule with only a month of closure. Our thanks go out to the solar project managers for closely monitoring the trucking and to our Constable and 2017 Citizen of the Year Ed Eastman, for his regular patrols and diligent maintenance of the speed indicator signs. There were no injuries or major accidents despite literally thousands of large trucks coming through town. The Town secured an additional \$10,000 from a solar construction company to cover damage to culverts and other areas of Mine Road.

Thanks to the efforts of Town Clerk Lisa Bragg, Road Foreman Jon MacKinnon, volunteer Rod Maclay, and Select Board liaison to the Highway Department, Brian Johnson, the bids for repair work of the July 1 storm were put out promptly, contractors were selected, and all repairs were made to standards to ensure FEMA reimbursement, and all completed before the onset of winter weather.

The solar project at the Elizabeth Mine site is now producing power and we expect tax revenue to help with many town needs. The old power poles still need to be taken out and this will occur over the course of the next three years. The new power lines have provided more reliable power to South Strafford, though this is little comfort to those in other areas of town who have had multiple outages for extended times in the past year.

The Grand Opening of the rebuilt tennis courts occurred in the spring. Many thanks to all those who contributed, and a special thanks to the Strafford Athletic Association for their major grant of \$50,000. Our community rests heavily on the willingness of its members to help out where they can. Please take time to read in the Town Reports about the many voluntary organizations and committees that exist. If you feel you can contribute, by all means contact any volunteer in your area of interest.

Perhaps the volunteer organization that requires the most time and dedication is our Strafford Fire and Rescue service. Those involved go through rigorous and extensive training and are on call 24/7. The vehicles and equipment require continued maintenance and upgrading to be fully functional when an emergency occurs. The Strafford Select Board in response to a request from our emergency services have included in our equipment replacement schedule funds to cover the purchase of a new fire truck. We regard these as essential services and feel that it is our responsibility to cover the cost in

the Town budget, rather than expecting our volunteers to raise the money themselves.

Other major budget changes outside regular expenditures include the Town's share of the July 1 storm. In 2018 we will be replacing Bridge #19 near Kendall Road had a sidewall collapse last summer. Again, thanks to the work of Road Foreman/Public Works Supervisor Jon MacKinnon and Town Clerk/Selectboard Assistant Lisa Bragg, we were able to get an emergency bridge grant. The project has been put out to bid and awarded. The work will begin this summer. We regret the inconvenience for those residents who will be met with a detour through Taylor Valley while construction is underway.

Another landmark this year: after years of concerted effort, the Planning Commission submitted a new Town Plan, which was reviewed over the course of the summer and adopted by the Select Board in September. This important document will guide our community's planning and growth for the next eight years. The Planning Commission is to be commended for its dedicated work on the Plan.

Next year there will be continued work on the VELCO power lines and EPA work on the next phase of their Elizabeth Mine Project. The Board will be meeting with both organizations once their plans for the summer are finalized, and report the schedules and plans to the community.

Select Board member Toni Pippy and Select Board Assistant Lisa Bragg have done the lion's share of the work on the budget. Auditor Nellie Pennington is once again responsible for overseeing the Town Reports and her work on this is invaluable and greatly appreciated. The amount the Town will be asked to appropriate to defray budget expenses in 2018 is an increase of 2% over last year. Due to an increase in the Grand List, fueled primarily by the value of the solar project, we expect the tax rate to remain the same. There are always far more needs than available funds and we try hard to strike a proper balance. As always, we want to express our sincere gratitude to our Town Employees and the legion of volunteers who continue to make Strafford such an exceptionally fine place to live.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

Once again my term as Town Clerk and Town Treasurer is up. I have completed 12 years, or four terms, and am seeking to run again for another three year term for Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. I continue to find the job challenging in many ways and enjoy working with committees and helping residents and researchers with their requests. I never knew working for local Municipal Government was going to be of such interest to me, but it turns out that it must be in my blood. My Dad, Peter Bragg, worked all his life on highways, either in construction or for Municipal Highway departments for the Town of Hartford, and before he retired, for the Town of Norwich. I find myself talking to my father about a mutual interest I never knew we had and am eager to hear his thoughts and learn from him and many others about local government. I will continue to look for ways to improve services and serve our community.

Last year I reported that we can accept DMV renewals that are less than 2 months expired and found only a few people needing this service. Credit cards were new in 2016 and the number of residents using the online payments in 2017 was up considerably. I was glad to see this service is used and helping residents process tax payments and others payments as well.

I spoke about setting up online access to land records and working with Cott Systems, which did not pan out. However, the New England Municipal Resources Center was able to provide us with some online access tools. Currently we have the Lister Cards online and a link to them can be found at <https://www.straffordvt.org/auditors--listers>. You have to create a login and user name, but there is no charge to access. The next step is getting land records online to research and view. This will take some time as it's a big project, and we'll work on when time allows.

In July I completed my third year at New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy, received my graduation certification and now can apply to get my Certified Municipal Clerks certification (CMC). In addition, Regina and I attended a two day Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association annual conference, and I have attended NEMRC trainings; many are offered as Webinars, saving travel and time.

In July, during my absence at the Academy, we decided to close the office and have the floors redone. We started out the week before packing up some things, not realizing that everything had to come out of the office. The Thursday before closing, we worked all day packing and stuffing the vault with whatever would fit and put the rest into an enclosed trailer outside. That went pretty well. The carpets were torn up and underneath were painted robin egg blue boards, and after stripping and sanding, we were left with gorgeous original wood floors. It was a nice improvement that lightened up the office. This year hopefully we'll take on another project but have to wait and see what that might be.

Also on July 1st, we had another storm event that washed away roads and ditches resulting in over \$550,000 in damages, which was declared as another FEMA event. I worked again many hours processing paperwork and documents required by FEMA and will be submitting all the completed requirements next month. FEMA will do their review and we'll wait for reimbursement.

This year is an election year, with the primary election on August 14 and the general election on November 6, 2018. As always, we will be looking for volunteers. There will be additional training required from the State of Vermont that we will be attending.

The State is also changing how we process vital records that will go into effect July 1, 2018. Training is set up for this as well at the South Royalton Town Office, where we will be attending.

The annual Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association conference is being held this year in September, which is a two-day conference that offers trainings all day and the opportunity to spend time with other Clerks and Treasurers.

In order to cover these additional hours during elections, trainings, staff time off for Regina or I and to keep the office open regular hours, I added additional funds this year into the Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer line item to hire temp help or to cover additional hours Regina works so I don't go over budget.

Besides elections and trainings, daily work at the office includes processing payroll weekly and accounts payable, payroll taxes, and filing quarterly reports to VMERS, VT Dept of Labor, 941 Reports and WHT436, reporting to the state, and monthly budgets to the Selectboard. Managing vital records for births, deaths, and marriages, preparing for Town Meeting (includes helping with the town report, town budget, balancing taxes, and mailing the town report). Issuing excess weight permits, dog licenses, marriage licenses and Green Mountain Passports. In July there is printing and mailing tax bills and then collections in September and December. In addition we provide a notary public service, provide access to public records, land records and indexing. We work closely with the Listers and take receipt of the Grand List. As Town Clerk, I'm a member of the Board of Civil Authority and Board of Abatement and clerk of the boards. This requires setting meetings, posting, notifications, and taking of the minutes. As Selectboard Assistant, I update the website, post agendas and minutes, set up for meetings, and attend Selectboard meetings. Additional work includes preparing bids for structure grants and paving grants, and assisting in administration of these grants received by the town and other committee grants. Working with the Road Foreman, Jon MacKinnon, and filing the Vtrans annual Financial Plan, and assisting with communication with Vtrans, ANR, TRORC, the Better Road Program, and updating culvert survey, road inventory, and the

new Municipal Roads General Permit among some. These are just a few reasons I enjoy working for the Town.

I want to thank as always Regina Josler for her dedication and support. Regina is always there and never hesitated to help during a difficult time in October when I lost my Mom and was out of the office. Thank you also to the Selectboard for their thoughts and support and for all their work through the year.

To the Highway Department crew, “You’re the Best!” and to Steve Marx who’s leaving us this year, thank you for all your time and caring. It’s been great to get to know you.

As always, please call the office with any questions you may have or stop in and we will be glad to help in any way we can. If you can’t get there when the office is open, please call and we can make arrangements that will work for you.

Thank you.

Lisa M Bragg
Town Clerk/Treasurer CVC, CVT



*The old guidepost which stood across from the Town Offices,
1800s - 1900s.*

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2017. Based upon our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Town of Strafford. We have found audited accounts to be consistent and well-managed.

We would like to thank Lisa Bragg, Regina Josler, the Selectboard, 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
June Solsaa
Suzanna Liepmann

REPORT OF THE TOWN AGENT AND GRAND JUROR

During 2017, as the Town Agent, I was not called upon to prosecute and/or defend suits in which Strafford or the Strafford school district had an interest, or to assist the select board in matters involving litigation. Further, as Grand Juror, I was also not asked to prosecute any criminal offenses that occurred within the town by having to give information to state and/or local law enforcement. My report then, accordingly, is that I have nothing to report! A quiet year indeed for this place we love so much and that we call home.

Alan Donohue
Town Agent/Town Grand Juror

LISTERS' REPORT

The purpose for the Listers office is the production of the Grand List, upon which your property taxes are based. The Grand List, however, is a complex document encompassing basic taxpayer identification, basic property assessment, Current Use (CU) calculations, and Homestead evaluations.

First, it is the Listers' responsibility to maintain an accurate record of mailing addresses for all taxpayers. This is the town's only comprehensive mailing list. While listers do not deal with taxes, it is the listers' address file which the clerk uses to mail tax bills and other town communications. When addresses change, taxpayers must submit a written change of address request which can be found on the town website.

Homestead Declarations, Vermont tax form HS-122, must be filed by the income tax deadline. The HS-122 is used to determine your tax rate, i.e., resident or non-resident. The state, unfortunately, has been overwhelmed in processing these forms with some being reported to us as late as December 2017. This has accounted for many revised tax bills.

Strafford has 171 parcels enrolled in CU for a total of 17,264.15 acres. The deadline for enrolling in CU is 1 September. As the deadline is after the lodging of the Grand List, those who wait for the deadline can expect to see their tax bills revised and perhaps be required to pay more than necessary on the September due date. We encourage early enrollment, but again, caution that the state continues to be overwhelmed with CU applications.

Finally, the listers establish the assessed value of each property for the previous year as of 1 April. During the year we conduct assessments on new construction and subdivisions and followup on ongoing construction. We are available throughout the year to discuss property assessment and/or to visit properties. If the taxpayer and the listers are unable to agree on an assessed value, the taxpayer may grieve the assessment.

The listers work toward two goals which are sometimes difficult to realize. We are required to assess all properties at fair market value and, at the same time, be fair to all taxpayers. Each year the state evaluates the work of the listers by comparing assessments with actual selling prices. The CLA is a measure of our success in meeting those goals. All properties are assessed using the same algorithms which evaluate properties based on objectively measurable items combined with overall assessment of real estate quality, e.g., neighborhood or view. This year's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) indicates that we were 99.74% accurate.

Taxes billed on July 27, 2017 are determined from the Grand List value as of 1 April 2017 and are billed to the owner of record on that date.

Lister office hours are
Monday: 8 a.m.-12 noon
Tuesday: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

In addition, we will be happy to meet with you at a prearranged time either in the office or at your property to discuss any questions you may have. In particular, after the Grand List has been lodged, if you have received a change of assessment, we encourage you to contact us directly if you have questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Castro

Tim Denny

Allan Wylie

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

This year we inspected most of the cemeteries in town. We had the cemetery at Old City spruced up for the 250th anniversary of the settlement of Old City Falls. We also installed a sign for the event. We continued the yearly mowing and trimming of the inactive cemeteries. We also have the Evergreen Cemetery mowed on a regular basis. Thanks to Billy Hodge for doing such a good job this year mowing and cleaning up at the Evergreen Cemetery.

Strafford Cemetery Commissioners,

Gary Kendall
Blake Spencer
Gigi Grainger
Sherm Wilson
Andy Behrens

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

This past year was a very uneventful year for wild land fire, as rain put a damper on most of the spring fire season. Late October did have a significant dry spell with some higher than normal fire weather indicators. To date, there have been 51 fires that burned 49 acres in 2017 as reported to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation by Town Forest Fire Wardens. The 2017 fire season did have short windows of elevated fire danger, resulting in 18 fires being reported on April 13th-20th and 6 fires occurring from October 20th-24th.

I would also like to add that the Department of Environmental Conservation provides fire wardens 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 with 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 always a good idea to call the fire warden if you are going to have a large fire. If someone happens to see it and reports 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 need to speak with the Fire Warden.

Thank you to all those who obtained fire permits.

Calvin Benjamin
Forest Fire Warden

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

My thought this year was to change the dates on last year's report. This idea did not however go over well at the town office. To quote an old friend where I grew up, I decided to "do right, because it is right, without fear of punishment or hope of reward," so here it is. There were 24 permits issued in 2017, as opposed to 23 in 2016.

Feel free to call me at home (802-765-4514) or through the town clerk's office with questions.

	2015	2016	2017
Houses	2	2	8
Barns/garages	8	6	6
Decks/Porches	1	4	2
Sheds	4	6	4
Additions	1	2	1
Green house	0	1	0
Building renewal	0	2	0
Parcel anexation	0	0	1
Permit renewals	0	0	2
Total	16	23	24

Brian Johnson, Zoning Administrator



*1808 invitation to a ball at the Strafford Inn
(originally Daniel Robinson's house.)*

STRAFFORD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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

The volunteer members of the DRB are appointed by the Select Board, 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 Donahue. The Zoning Administrator is Brian Johnson. The Clerk of the Board is Bonnie Bergeron.

The DRB meets on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at the Town Offices building in Strafford, when there is business before the Board. All meetings are open to the public, and the minutes are available to the public. The DRB met five times in 2017 to address business and hear applications.

Applications for Subdivisions, Conditional Use, and/or Variance are considered at formally warned Hearings. Lot Line Adjustments do not require warned Hearings. Decisions are publicly posted for a 15 day period to allow interested parties to appeal the decision. In 2017, the DRB held five hearings: (2) subdivisions and (2) Lot Line Adjustments. The 2 applications for subdivision and two applications for Lot Line Adjustments were approved.

In December of 2016 Liz Clarke stepped down as clerk of the DRB after 8 years of helping the board take minutes, warning hearings and attend every meeting. Thank you, Liz, for everything you did for the Town of Strafford.

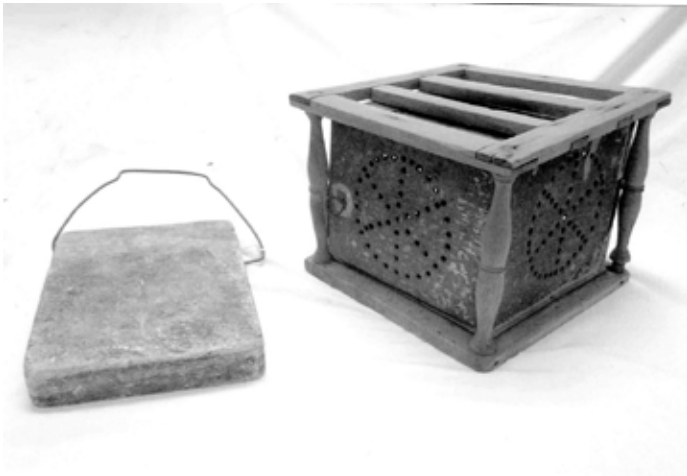
Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bergeron
Clerk of the Strafford Development Review Board

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

The members of the Strafford Planning Commission are Chair Steve Campbell, Vice Chair Steve Willbanks, Secretary Martha Walke and members Bob Bushway, Stuart Crocker, John Echeverria, Donald Graham, Christina Jamieson and Michael Scanlan. In December, John Echeverria tendered his resignation and Sean Lewis has been appointed to finish his term.

The Strafford Planning Commission spent the entirety of 2017 working on the Town Plan. With help from Two-Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission, we updated and reworded sections of the Plan; held community forums and hearings; and, in March, passed the revised Town Plan on to the Select Board for their changes and eventual adoption. We renewed our work on the Unified Bylaw in December.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha M. Walke, Secretary



*Footwarmers - a soapstone heated on a stove;
a metal box filled with hot coals.*

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Strafford Conservation Commission (SCC) sponsored or was involved in the following activities in 2017:

- A presentation in January on the dangers to wildlife and plant species posed by current municipal planning strategies, particularly those resulting in forest-fragmentation, which isolate species and limit the diversity necessary for a healthy ecosystem. The speaker was Jens Hawkins-Hilke, conservation planning biologist at the Agency of Natural Resources.
- The initial discussion in February of a plan to commemorate our late colleague John Hemenway's contribution to conservation in general and sustainable forestry practices in particular took place. Consideration was given to purchase a granite bench in his memory.
- In March, three replacements for the SCC Board were appointed by the Selectboard: Steve Faccio (who had formerly served on the SCC from '02 – '13), Tim McCormick and David Paganelli. David, who is the Orange County Forester, was asked to discuss the status of the Strafford Town Forest. He reported that he had been unable to locate a formal management plan, which didn't necessarily mean there hadn't been one at some point. Clearly, however, a current one is needed. He also provided the following historical details about the Town Forest: Encompassing approximately 140 acres, it became a municipal forest in '69. There have been 6 timber sales, returning \$40,000 in revenue to the Town. Current management tasks should include re-marking the boundaries, confirming the existing trails and conducting a forestry health-check. He said that some towns set up conservation funds with the proceeds from timber sales to make their municipal forests self-sustaining by providing a source of funds for signage, boardwalks, boundary marking and trail maintenance.
- Strafford environmentalist and author, Gus Speth, spoke in May at the Morrill Library on the environmental roll-backs at the national level and what he described as a 'functioning new political ecosystem,' which has sprung up to counteract the efforts to undermine more than a half-century of environmental safeguards.
- In June, SCC member Steve Faccio, lead author in the study, *2017: The Status of Vermont Forest Birds: A Quarter Century of Monitoring*, published by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, reported on a declining trend in forest bird populations in the state and possible causes of these changes. This study may be found on the Vermont Center for Ecostudies website at www.vtechostudies.org.
- The SCC in July formally moved to proceed with a fund-raising campaign to purchase a granite bench in memory of John Hemenway. In addition, a new state historical marker commemorating the first settlement at

Strafford in 1767 was installed at the entrance to the Old City Falls Nature Area. Mike Hebb proposed a plan to make Whitcomb Hill accessible to people who may not be able to reach it by foot, which would require moving them by motor conveyance.

- At the SCC's request, David Paganelli made a special report in September on the incursions of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect that kills all varieties of native ash trees. Since ashes make up nearly 10 percent of Vermont forests and the depredations of the ash borer result in a 100% mortality rate, this incursion is of grave concern for Vermont. Kate Root and Jared Jenisch reported that the SCC's wetlands team visited and inventoried 8 Strafford wetlands during the year.
- Noting the recent approval of the new Town Plan by the Selectboard, the SCC decided in October to review the SCC's Open Space Plan and the sections of the new Strafford Town Plan pertaining to conservation issues.
- At the November meeting, it was agreed that the Hemenway commemorative bench will be scheduled for installation on the Common this coming spring and a dedication ceremony will be planned. The inscription on the bench will read: *John T. Hemenway 1924-2016/ Living on in Forest Time*. 'Forest Time,' a concept John enthusiastically embraced, is time measured at the pace of nature, not on the human life span. So far, \$1,250 has been raised, which should cover the costs. Our special thanks to those who contributed.

The SCC meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Morrill Education Center. Members of the public are always welcome.

The Strafford Conservation Commission has nine members: Mike Hebb, Jared Jenisch, Kate Root, Chuck Sherman, J.T. Horn, Steve Faccio, David Paganelli, Tim McCormick and Steve Willbanks.

STRAFFORD TRAIL SYSTEM

The trail system usage appears to be somewhat constant from year to year. Outlying sections like the Podunk area and south end back of the mining cuts get less usage than those with attractive views and easy access. There are always winter travelers enjoying the system but fewer than in summer. The Town Forest loop continues to attract visitors. In June over 100 people come through just to see the prolific orchid bloom.

The combined generosity of just 2 dozen land owners have made the 17 mile town trail system possible. In addition there are 7 volunteers who monitor sections of the trail to keep it well marked, and clear. We are also fortunate that the town road crew clears trail head parking areas regularly, especially after snow storms.

No land owners have complained of problems attributable to the trail since its inception.

We moved about 1.5 miles of trails last summer to bypass some properties and it has resulted in a more aesthetic route in the area of Copperas Hill. Some extra work was needed when a logging operation took place near the trail. Several new land owners acquired land that the trail passed over and we are fortunate that they have been supportive and have allowed the trail to remain on their property. This summer I plan to go over the whole system and repaint the blazes which are wearing thin in places. We have considered adding more trail to the system but maintenance overhead like the above and the limited availability of volunteers have to be seriously considered. We are open to ideas regardless.

Again the town, the Select Board and the Conservation Commission want to thank land owners, trail volunteers and the road crew for your contribution to this resource.

Trail maps are available here: <http://straffordtrails.yolasite.com/>

Mike Hebb
Trails Manager
Strafford Conservation Commission

STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

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

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

This summer we celebrated the grand opening of our new town tennis courts. We held a ribbon cutting ceremony with strawberries and whipped cream for everyone. Once again this was a giant project with many helping hands, and very generous donors. The Recreation Board gives a sincere thank you to everyone who helped us achieve this gem within the center of town.

As of this writing the skating rink is up and has just opened at Murray Field, next to the new tennis courts. Our newest Recreation Board member, Jason Loomis, has taken on the lead role in getting our rink up and running again. We are trying out this new location to see how it works and whether the maintenance of the rink is sustainable in that location. If you are interested in helping with the volunteer efforts in future winters, please be contact one of the Recreation Board members, or contact Jason directly.

This summer saw a new program – a Jedi Camp for elementary age students. In all, 10 students participated with 2 licensed teachers and worked on Star Wars projects throughout the week. The camp was started by Christa Wurm, one of our two new members for this year.

The summer Challenger Soccer Camp ran a morning session for all kids in grades K-8. The turnout was lower than usual, but the 22 kids who attended really enjoyed the coaches from the UK. Additionally, two families in our community assisted by being host families for the coaches for the week. In summer 2018 we will adjust the camp slightly, and offer the morning Challenger Soccer camp, and also a multi sports option in the afternoon for all ages. Look for details the spring. The soccer camp is typically offered in mid-August. We would be interested in hearing from you if your children don't attend due to the timing of camp, and whether a different time period would work better..

The camps allow for an exciting volunteer opportunity for families to host the coaches for the week in their home. Soccer coaches are very well-mannered young men and women from the United Kingdom. They have their own transportation but require a place to sleep and meals for the week. If you are interested in sharing some Strafford hospitality and learning about a different culture this summer, please contact the camp coordinator Hilary Linehan.

Much of our time this year went into the discussion of how to maintain and improve upon the condition of recreation facilities in town. For example: in 2017 the board purchased and spread wood chips at the playgrounds to ensure safety of children; we discuss how to manage/maintain recreational facilities with the creation of a small stipend position, and we have had to examine of how and when to address reconstruction of the stone wall at the red barn, which is in need of repair.

The Recreation Board hosted a Red Barn Clean-out in the fall. With the assistance from the various local organizations who use the red barn for storage, we went through everything to determine what needed to be saved and what could be cleared out. Then we started with the first of our “Open Barn” dates on the first Saturday of December. We plan to have open red barn dates in future, and are hopeful that the used sporting equipment in the red barn remains a free resource to all Strafford residents. Please contact any Recreation Board member for assistance with accessing the red barn when it is not open.

We are very happy to announce we have two new board members this year, Christa Wurm and Jason Loomis. We appreciate having more members on our board who stepped up to fill the void left by long time rec board members John Freitag and Scott Moore. We also encourage all community members to join the board or attend meetings. We always welcome new ideas as well as bodies to help maintain and improve recreational opportunities in the town.

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Linehan, Co-Chair
Ellen Bagnato, Co-Chair
David Taplin, member
Margaret Albee, member
Christa Wurm, member
Jason Loomis, member

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

This year, we saw power outages in October and December that were long enough to result in emergency management activity in our emergency operations center. In addition, I was able to meet with Dottie Schnure, my primary contact at Green Mountain Power, to make her aware of our town emergency procedures and vulnerabilities and communications resources. We also reviewed some of the power outage problems in 2016 as examples of the extent of the problem.

We took training at the annual Vermont Emergency Management Conference again this year including an extensive presentation by Scott Whittier of National Weather Service – Burlington. He did emphasize that life-threatening weather events will happen and how towns, first responders and emergency management can plan to be prepared for such events. We also got information on newer, enhanced websites for weather predictions.

There was the annual review of terrorist activity which showed that the majority of terrorist activities in the U.S. are planned and executed by “home-grown” terrorists. They also noted that overseas radical groups are actively recruiting in the U.S. using most of the social media platforms for making contact and doing training.

Other training and information sessions focused on the opioid epidemic, cybersecurity and cyberwarfare.

I also attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings during the year which included presentations by state agency representatives, utility companies and other entities that support public safety in Vermont.

In May, we installed a public safety radio in the school principal’s home so that he can now communicate with the road crew and school buses early in the morning or at other times when he is not in his office. This improves his decision-making process with regard to issues like late school openings or cancellations.

Following the March town meeting, we updated the Local Emergency Operations Plan. It was reviewed and approved by the Selectboard and forwarded to TRORC and Vermont Emergency Management.

There were various localized, short-term power outages during the year that got our attention, but didn’t require any emergency management action.

In addition to using the Strafford listserv for providing notifications to residents, this year we began putting notifications on the Strafford Facebook page as a quicker way to get information out to people and as a means of getting responses from people during an incident.

This year, I worked with the Fire Dept (FD) and the Select Board and we now have a liaison from the FD to work in the emergency operations center when it is opened. His job will be to coordinate communications between

the FD and the EOC during incidents to make sure that the FD has the resources and information they need. John Lloyd is going to work in that role and we are going over procedures in the emergency management plan, etc.

Finally, I want to thank Ed Eastman, the Select Board, Lisa and Regina, Lee Vormelker, Jon MacKinnon, Jere Linehan and other people in town for their support and help during the year.

Bill Burden
Emergency Manager

STRAFFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Strafford Energy Committee is looking forward to a productive and revitalized year in 2018. We have 5 new members and a full agenda to encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in Strafford. Thank you to Ken Alton, Lee Vormelker, Gail Boyajian and Dori Wolfe for all their work on the Energy Committee over the years.

In 2017 the Energy Committee continued to support the Elizabeth Mine Solar Array. The construction project was challenging to those on Mine Road; however, the 7-megawatt array is now generating enough electricity for approximately 600 homes. The project will be generating some tax revenue for the town and will contribute to the Vermont energy goals of 90% renewable by 2050.

The 110-kilowatt School/Municipal solar array has continued to supply energy for the Town Garage, Town Office, Town House, Newton School, Barrett Hall, the United Church of Strafford and the library. After 6 years, we hope it will become a co-operatively owned, community net-metering array.

The committee continues to support the 150-kilowatt Thetford Strafford Community Solar Array, to be built in Thetford, on land adjacent to the former landfill in Post Mills. New rules imposed by the Vermont Public Utilities Commission slowed progress on the TSCS project and made its development more expensive, but the project application is complete with hopes that the project will be developed in 2018. Individuals may invest in this array in exchange for net-metering credits on their electricity bill.

Barbara Smith added more edible and native trees and shrubs in the Edible Pocket Park in South Strafford with the continued help of her family and children from the Newton School. She has also built a garden shed, installed signs designed by Will Cooney and made progress on the removal of invasive plants along the river bank.

In 2018 we look forward to working with the Planning Board and Select Board on the Enhanced Energy Plan, in response to new regulations regarding

the siting of renewable energy projects. We also plan to apply in the fall to be part of a weatherization initiative organized by Vital Communities. Transportation is a significant contributor to fossil fuel use and we hope to make progress in encouraging ride sharing and the use of public transportation currently available in Sharon.

The Strafford Energy Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room above the Town Clerk's office. All meetings are open to the public and we always welcome more input. 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,
Doc Bagley, Chair
Jim Schley, Secretary
Kevin Grady
David Lutz
Jason Stableford
Barbara Smith
Gus Speth
Janet Cavanagh

THE TOWN HOUSE ADVISORY GROUP

The mission of the Town House Advisory Group is to advise the Select Board 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 Select Board.

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

This was the seventh year of pursuing our mission as the Town House Advisory Group. We have a core group of 10 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 on the Strafford webpage: www.straffordvt.org/townhouse. Anyone interested in participating in any way is welcome to contribute. We meet monthly either at the Town House or Martha Manheim's house on the Common.

This past year we have been focusing on the spire (top structure of the bell tower) renovation. There are several deteriorating issues that need attention as soon as we can secure funding. Our fund raising efforts have been productive. As of this writing we are very close to meeting our goal for the necessary funds to commence the project this summer. We just received

notice that we have been awarded a 2018 Vermont Historic Preservation Grant. That along with grants from the Byrne Foundation, generous donations from individuals, and fund raising events, we are well on our way to making this project a reality.

Other projects that we have been involved with are:

- 1) Cleaning out the attic space and construction of a walkway to view the timber frame construction. This was done prior to the Timber Framers' Guild Conference held in September. This effort was accomplished with a generous donation for the clean out, a fund raising effort for the Ed Levin Walkway and volunteer builders.
- 2) Raising significant funds for the Spire Restoration Project in June that featured a Dwight and Nicole concert, underwritten by the Albee family with promotional support by Catamount Solar and refreshments by Brocklebank Brewery.
- 3) Obtaining a Vermont Council of the Arts grant to update our sound and video capabilities, thanks to the efforts of Michael Caduto and Paul Kifner.
- 4) Accessing and implementing electrical improvements to the building and grounds.
- 5) Developing a repairs and maintenance schedule to address ongoing needs.

We continue marketing the use of the building. The future rentals will further fund our ongoing projects. The season for rentals is from May 1 to October 31.

Our 8th annual Clean Up Day will be held in late April or the beginning of May. All are welcome to participate in sprucing up the building for the upcoming season. The date will be posted on the list serve as well as the Town webpage.

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 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Town Governance Committee was appointed by the Selectboard in September, 2016. Our central task was to take a forward-oriented look at how town government can best be set up and conducted to serve the residents of Strafford.

Our activities were: contacting the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to better understand the structural options available to us under Vermont law; interviewing twenty-five current and former Town officials and employees; conducting a survey of Strafford residents (149 responses); holding a public meeting in February, 2017; and meeting monthly as a committee to analyze and organize what we were learning. The entire report can be found on the town website, www.straffordvt.org, under Selectboard Sub-committees.

Key findings:

- there are limited structural options available to towns of our size and no compelling argument to change our current structure;
- the original question that led to the appointment of this committee – whether there should be three or five Selectboard members – was not a high-priority question for most people. We heard, “It’s not the number; it’s the people;”
- most residents of Strafford feel town government is functioning reasonably well, given limited resources and increased requirements from the State;
- there was a large gap between what townspeople thought they knew about town government (a lot) and what town officials thought they knew (not enough);
- there could be better communication and where appropriate coordination between various town boards and committees;
- in a town like Strafford, volunteerism plays an oversized role.

Our recommendations:

1. An easy-to-read compilation of information that will help educate townspeople on selected topics (e.g. job descriptions; budgets; roads; conflicts of interest) and clear up common misunderstandings about town government;
2. A new form that will clarify the charges and expectations associated with various town bodies, including the inter-relationships between them, for the benefit of both current and prospective members of these groups;
3. A new system for coordinating volunteer efforts in town that will elevate the already high level of appreciation for these efforts and make it easier for people to participate when their specific expertise is needed.

Committee members: R.J. Farley, Roz Finn, David Grant (co-chair), Arthur Hanchett, John Hawkins (co-chair), Therese Linehan.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2016, 2017, and Proposed 2018

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed	
GENERAL FUND Revenue						
Taxes/Fund Balance						
Balances Forward	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,449	<i>a</i>
Current Taxes	289,772	302,453	310,535	8,082	298,503	<i>b</i>
Taxes/Fund Balance Total	\$ 289,772	\$ 302,453	\$ 310,535	\$ 8,082	\$ 328,952	
Governmental						
PILOT/Fish and Game Tax	\$ 15,066	\$ 15,066	\$ 16,900	\$ 1,834	\$ 16,900	
State of Vermont Hold Harmless	130,630	130,630	128,716	(1,914)	128,716	
Governmental Total	\$ 145,696	\$ 145,696	\$ 145,616	\$ (80)	\$ 145,616	
Interest						
1% Interest on First Payment	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,970	\$ 570	\$ 1,400	
Delinquent Tax Interest	8,490	9,000	11,662	2,662	9,000	
Interest	-	150	1,474	1,324	150	
Interest Total	\$ 9,960	\$ 10,550	\$ 15,106	\$ 4,556	\$ 10,550	
Penalty						
Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ 8,769	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,556	\$ 556	\$ 9,000	<i>c</i>
Penalty Total	\$ 8,769	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,556	\$ 556	\$ 9,000	
Loans						
Loan Proceeds	\$ 509,173	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	<i>d</i>
Loans Total	\$ 509,173	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

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

b - Increase in taxes partially offset by increase in Grand List for 2018 for the value of the Elizabeth Mine Solar Project

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

d - Loans Proceeds (revenue) are offset by Capital Outlay or Financial Services (expenses)

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed
Fees Total					
Dog License Fees	\$ 1,568	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,540	\$ 40	\$ 1,500
Dog Violation Fees	460	300	280	(20)	300
Liquor License Fees	185	185	185	-	185
Other Fees for Services	2,353	1,700	2,496	796	1,700
Recording Fees	8,360	7,500	11,573	4,073	7,500
Recording Surcharge	935	1,000	1,282	282	1,000
Subdivision Permit Fees	1,000	700	400	(300)	700
Zoning Permit Fees	1,550	1,500	1,540	40	1,500
Fees Total	\$ 16,411	\$ 14,385	\$ 19,296	\$ 4,911	\$ 14,385
Grants					
Parcel Mapping	\$ 35	\$ 100	\$ 14	\$ (86)	\$ 100
State of Vermont Lister Education	-	400	-	(400)	400
Equal Education Grand List	712	-	704	704	-
State of Vermont Planning Grant	8,138	-	2,974	2,974	-
State of Vermont Reappraisal Fund	6,052	6,600	5,984	(616)	6,600
Grants Total	\$ 14,937	\$ 7,100	\$ 9,676	\$ 2,576	\$ 7,100
Donations					
Donations - Pocket Park	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -
Donations - Town House	2,379	500	13,301	12,801	500
Donations - Town House Spec Proj	117	-	41,364	41,364	-
Donations - Tennis Court	96,635	-	-	-	-
Town House Usage	575	1,200	600	(600)	1,200
Donations Total	\$ 99,706	\$ 1,700	\$ 55,415	\$ 53,715	\$ 1,700
Miscellaneous					
Evergreen Cemetery	\$ 1,525	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	12,041	4,000	17,767	13,767	4,000
Recycling Revenue	2,246	425	4,328	3,903	3,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 15,811	\$ 4,425	\$ 22,095	\$ 17,670	\$ 7,000

e - Primarily the Town House Spire project, with funds moved to reserve

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed	
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)				\$ -		<i>f</i>
Carrie Sanborn Fund	\$ 4,060	\$ -	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -	
Conservation Commission	14,750	-	-	-	-	
Conservation Fund	-	-	1,450	1,450	-	
Energy Committee	-	-	-	-	-	
Recreation Revenue	3,125	-	555	555	-	
Independent Committees Total	21,935	-	13,005	13,005	-	
GENERAL FUND Total Revenue	\$ 1,132,169	\$ 495,309	\$ 600,300	\$ 104,991	\$ 524,303	
GENERAL FUND Expenses						
Deficit Reduction						
Deficit Reduction	\$ -	\$ 3,830	\$ 3,830	\$ -	\$ -	<i>g</i>
Deficit Reduction Total	\$ -	\$ 3,830	\$ 3,830	\$ -	\$ -	
Administration						
Select Board Salary	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ -	\$ 2,250	
Select Board Expenses	60	212	302	(90)	250	
Select Board Assistant	6,581	6,839	6,841	(2)	7,017	
Town Clerk/Treasurer	37,329	38,755	37,994	761	39,762	
Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer	37,079	32,298	32,452	(154)	37,247	<i>h</i>
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	30,354	25,733	31,047	(5,314)	32,207	
Municipal Retirement	2,622	3,116	3,107	9	3,201	
Social Security Tax	6,118	7,925	7,176	749	8,390	
Unemployment Insurance	307	430	311	119	-	
Workers' Compensation	15,341	1,395	1,107	288	1,496	
Property & Liability Insurance	11,749	12,442	11,603	839	11,686	
Financial Services	506,783	9,269	9,822	(553)	9,382	<i>i</i>
Administration Total	\$ 656,573	\$ 140,664	\$ 144,014	\$ (3,350)	\$ 152,888	

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

g - To offset the general fund deficit from 2016

h - Increase partially includes additional assistant hours to cover elections and time off

i - Tax Anticipation Note (2016 actuals)

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed
General Services					
Town Office	\$ 14,084	\$ 22,550	\$ 15,272	\$ 7,279	\$ 17,000
Records Restoration	6,080	-	6,658	(6,658)	-
VLCT Dues	2,329	2,232	2,415	(183)	2,279
Town Meeting & Elections	1,335	300	-	300	2,000
Town Report	2,800	2,900	2,704	196	2,900
Auditing	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
Outside Audit/Professional Services	3,200	5,000	3,300	1,700	5,000
Delinquent Tax Collector Salary	8,769	9,000	9,556	(556)	9,000
Listers	1,982	2,050	2,059	(9)	2,150
Lister Contract Services	8,357	9,600	12,776	(3,176)	11,815
Parcel Mapping	80	750	260	490	750
Police Services	29,660	33,000	33,150	(150)	33,500
Dog Officer	1,054	1,050	955	95	2,000
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	36,000	37,000	37,000	-	37,000
Emergency Management	225	1,000	149	851	1,000
Ambulance Service	39,528	40,728	40,626	102	47,126
Solid Waste	13,176	12,078	12,277	(199)	12,078
Recycling	20,819	18,700	14,242	4,458	13,000
General Services Total	\$ 190,676	\$ 199,138	\$ 194,599	\$ 4,539	\$ 199,798

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

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed
Community Services					
Adult Basic Education	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
Capstone Community Action	300	300	300	-	300
Clara Martin Center/OCMH	2,700	2,700	2,700	-	2,700
Council on Aging	750	750	750	-	750
Library	34,000	34,000	34,000	-	34,000
Orange County Court Diversion	200	200	200	-	200
Red Cross	550	550	550	-	500
Safeline	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Senior Citizens Center	2,000	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Stratford Historical Society	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Streetlights	2,733	2,600	2,555	45	2,600
Vermont Center for Independent Living	200	200	200	-	200
Visiting Nurse Alliance	3,250	3,250	3,250	-	3,250
Community Services Total	\$ 50,483	\$ 51,350	\$ 51,305	\$ 45	\$ 51,300
Planning					
Development Review Board	\$ 1,245	\$ 1,250	\$ -	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Regional Planning	1,504	1,548	1,548	-	1,592
Town Planning	-	800	149	651	1,000
Zoning	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Planning Total	\$ 3,749	\$ 4,598	\$ 2,697	\$ 1,901	\$ 4,842
General Government					
County Tax	\$ 43,444	\$ 43,444	\$ 41,190	\$ 2,254	\$ 41,190
Leaseland Rent	-	85	85	-	85
Legal Fees & Consultants	3,074	3,000	1,530	1,470	3,000
General Government Total	\$ 46,518	\$ 46,529	\$ 42,805	\$ 3,724	\$ 44,275

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Municipal Building	\$ 12,947	\$ 16,500	\$ 11,122	\$ 5,378	\$ 22,000
Town House	16,500	12,450	14,320	(1,870)	28,450
Town House Restrooms	353	500	-	500	500
Cemeteries	6,350	10,800	7,800	3,000	10,800
Town Common	1,200	-	-	-	-
Tennis Court	100,374	-	-	-	-
Recreation Areas	6,709	5,200	12,861	(7,661)	5,700
Pocket Park	-	-	350	(350)	-
Capital Outlay	10,673	-	-	-	-
Municipal Property Total	\$ 155,106	\$ 45,450	\$ 46,452	\$ (1,002)	\$ 67,450
Grant Expenditures					
Miscellaneous Grants	\$ 14,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Planning Grants	10,882	-	717	(717)	-
Grant Expenditures Total	\$ 25,632	\$ -	\$ 717	\$ (717)	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 3,095	\$ 3,750	\$ 11,637	\$ (7,887)	\$ 3,750
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 3,095	\$ 3,750	\$ 11,637	\$ (7,887)	\$ 3,750
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn	\$ 7,646	\$ -	\$ 10,289	\$ (10,289)	\$ -
Conservation Fund	50	-	-	-	-
Independent Committees Total	\$ 7,696	\$ -	\$ 10,289	\$ (10,289)	\$ -
GENERAL FUND Total Expenses	\$ 1,139,527	\$ 495,309	\$ 508,345	\$ (13,036)	\$ 524,303
General Fund Grand Total	\$ (7,358)	\$ -	\$ 91,956	\$ 91,956	\$ -

k - Capital expenditure on recycling bins

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

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed	
HIGHWAY FUND Revenue						
Taxes						
Balances Forward	\$ -	\$ 184,330	\$ 184,330	\$ -	\$ 111,246	<i>m</i>
Current Taxes	695,299	695,299	695,299	-	719,712	
Taxes Total	\$ 695,299	\$ 879,629	\$ 879,629	\$ -	\$ 830,958	
Governmental						
FEMA	\$ 6,168	\$ -	\$ 405,767	\$ 405,767	\$ -	
Grants	324,951	-	6,526	6,526	198,446	
State of Vermont Emergency Fund	-	-	127,019	127,019	-	
Vermont Gas Tax	143,510	143,500	143,456	(44)	143,413	
Governmental Total	\$ 474,630	\$ 143,500	\$ 682,768	\$ 539,268	\$ 341,859	
Miscellaneous						
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 340	\$ -	\$ 17,845	\$ 17,845	\$ -	<i>n</i>
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 340	\$ -	\$ 17,845	\$ 17,845	\$ -	
HIGHWAY FUND Total Revenue	\$ 1,170,269	\$ 1,023,129	\$ 1,580,242	\$ 557,113	\$ 1,172,817	
HIGHWAY FUND Expenses						
Labor & Benefits						
Highway Department Labor	\$ 193,955	\$ 208,621	\$ 169,550	\$ 39,071	\$ 213,954	
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	64,113	46,741	46,828	(87)	48,658	
Municipal Retirement	7,610	8,345	7,856	489	8,558	
Social Security Tax	16,677	15,960	14,830	1,130	16,367	
Workers' Compensation	-	15,769	15,481	288	15,189	
Labor & Benefits Total	\$ 282,354	\$ 295,436	\$ 254,545	\$ 40,891	\$ 302,726	
Contracted Services						
Contract Services	\$ 2,205	\$ 39,600	\$ 37,883	\$ 1,717	\$ 34,600	
Contracted Services Total	\$ 2,205	\$ 39,600	\$ 37,883	\$ 1,717	\$ 34,600	

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

n - \$7,000 revenue from sale of truck; \$10,000 received for damages to Mine Rd.

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Contract Services	\$ 480	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,915	\$ (915)	\$ 1,000
Materials	1,041	7,000	4,543	2,457	7,000
Recycling	232	500	180	320	500
Sidewalks	7,400	9,000	6,660	2,340	9,000
Mowing	-	8,325	8,325	-	8,325
Town Garage	24,234	22,510	22,573	(63)	25,505
Storm Water Management	-	-	-	-	640
Municipal Property Total	\$ 33,387	\$ 48,335	\$ 44,197	\$ 4,138	\$ 51,970
Materials					
Chloride	\$ 15,116	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,730	\$ (730)	\$ 15,000
Gravel	30,179	31,800	33,420	(1,620)	31,800
Miscellaneous Materials	932	25,000	1,740	23,260	30,000
Salt	51,918	50,000	64,457	(14,457)	60,000
Sand	20,948	33,000	29,853	3,147	33,000
Materials Total	\$ 119,094	\$ 154,800	\$ 145,200	\$ 9,600	\$ 169,800
Bridges					
Bridge Grant Expenditures	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ 8,157	\$ (8,157)	\$ 175,000
Bridge Grant Town Match	28,673	88,499	87,996	503	55,000
Materials	3,183	5,000	3,588	1,412	5,000
Bridges Total	\$ 206,855	\$ 93,499	\$ 99,742	\$ (6,243)	\$ 235,000
Paving					
Paving Grant Expenditures	\$ 149,951	\$ 45,511	\$ -	\$ 45,511	\$ 60,511
Paving Grant Town Match	37,488	-	-	-	-
Retreatment	-	30,000	25,200	4,800	30,000
Paving Total	\$ 187,439	\$ 75,511	\$ 25,200	\$ 50,311	\$ 90,511
Grants for Public Works					
Highway Misc. Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,814	\$ (2,814)	\$ 26,028
Grants for Public Works Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,814	\$ (2,814)	\$ 26,028

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed	
Equipment						
Capital Expense	\$ 34,427	\$ 123,054	\$ 130,101	\$ (7,047)	\$ 98,630	<i>p</i>
Interest	6,354	1,936	1,855	81	695	
Debt Service	70,455	59,700	51,516	8,184	26,728	<i>q</i>
Gas & Oil	38,116	55,000	46,446	8,554	55,000	
Supplies	21,031	28,000	29,191	(1,191)	28,000	
Insurance	9,114	10,258	9,973	285	9,129	
Backhoe Repairs	-	1,000	677	323	1,000	
Grader Repairs	7,929	5,000	7,579	(2,579)	5,000	
Loader Repairs	250	1,000	1,525	(525)	1,000	
Mower Repairs	2,079	1,500	1,616	(116)	1,500	
Truck 1 Repairs	2,090	2,000	703	1,297	3,000	
Truck 2 Repairs	2,840	7,500	10,925	(3,425)	10,000	
Truck 3 Repairs	1,557	15,000	5,586	9,414	15,000	
Truck 4 Repairs	2,895	5,000	18,858	(13,858)	7,500	
Equipment Total	\$ 199,138	\$ 315,948	\$ 316,550	\$ (602)	\$ 262,182	
FEMA						
Administrative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,815	\$ (5,815)	\$ -	
Contract Services	3,963	-	535,865	(535,865)	-	
Labor	-	-	27,953	(27,953)	-	
Materials	-	-	12,162	(12,162)	-	
Miscellaneous Expense	-	-	1,116	(1,116)	-	
FEMA Total	\$ 3,963	\$ -	\$ 582,911	\$ (582,911)	\$ -	
HIGHWAY FUND Total Expenses	\$ 1,034,436	\$ 1,023,129	\$ 1,509,042	\$ (485,913)	\$ 1,172,817	
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 135,833	\$ -	\$ 71,200	\$ 71,200	\$ -	

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

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

q - Principal payments for loans

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed
TOWN GARAGE BOND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 52,852	\$ 51,438	\$ 51,438	\$ -	\$ 47,931
Taxes Total	\$ 52,852	\$ 51,438	\$ 51,438	\$ -	\$ 47,931
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Revenue	\$ 52,852	\$ 51,438	\$ 51,438	\$ -	\$ 47,931
TOWN GARAGE BOND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000
Interest	17,852	16,438	16,405	33	12,931
Bond Total	\$ 52,852	\$ 51,438	\$ 51,405	\$ 33	\$ 47,931
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Expenses	\$ 52,852	\$ 51,438	\$ 51,405	\$ 33	\$ 47,931
Town Garage Bond Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33	\$ 33	\$ -
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 136,360	\$ 134,340	\$ 134,340	\$ -	\$ 132,321
Taxes Total	\$ 136,360	\$ 134,340	\$ 134,340	\$ -	\$ 132,321
HWY RECON BOND Total Revenue	\$ 136,360	\$ 134,340	\$ 134,340	\$ -	\$ 132,321
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 122,222	\$ 122,222	\$ 122,222	\$ (0)	\$ 122,223
Interest	14,138	12,118	12,118	(0)	10,098
Bond Total	\$ 136,360	\$ 134,340	\$ 134,341	\$ (1)	\$ 132,321
HWY RECON BOND Total Expenses	\$ 136,360	\$ 134,340	\$ 134,341	\$ (1)	\$ 132,321
Hwy Recon Bond Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1)	\$ (1)	\$ -

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

	2016 Actual	2017 Proposed	2017 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2018 Proposed
TOTALS					
General Fund Grand Total	\$ (7,358)	\$ -	\$ 91,956	\$ 91,956	\$ -
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 135,833	\$ -	\$ 71,200	\$ 71,200	\$ -
Town Garage Fund Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33	\$ 33	\$ -
Hwy Reconstr. Fund Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1)	\$ (1)	\$ -
ALL FUNDS Revenue	\$ 2,491,650	\$ 1,704,216	\$ 2,366,320	\$ 662,104	\$ 1,877,372
ALL FUNDS Expenses	\$ 2,363,176	\$ 1,704,216	\$ 2,203,133	\$ (498,917)	\$ 1,877,372
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 128,134	\$ -	\$ 163,187	\$ 163,187	\$ -

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

For Years Ending December 31, 2016 and 2017 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Town Garage	Hwy Reconstr.	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2017	12/31/2016
ASSETS							
Cash	\$1,205,571.00	(\$327,886.66)	\$19,782.03	(\$451.93)	\$34,892.43	\$931,906.87	\$2,001,451.35
Delinquent Tax Receivable	131,088.18	-	-	-	-	131,088.18	107,522.82
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	12,901.92	-	-	-	-	12,901.92	2,035.51
Accounts Receivable	8,967.04	549,415.70	-	-	-	558,382.74	30,629.13
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,358,528.14	\$221,529.04	\$19,782.03	\$(451.93)	\$34,892.43	\$1,634,279.71	\$2,141,638.81
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE							
LIABILITIES							
Deferred Revenue	\$107,992.58	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$107,992.58	\$82,168.75
Accounts Payable	1,004,353.22	75,236.21	-	-	-	1,079,589.43	1,661,505.49
Accrued Payroll	1,952.17	7,976.55	-	-	-	9,928.72	7,519.91
Prepaid Taxes	37,750.69	-	-	-	-	37,750.69	-
Logging Bond	-	500.00	-	-	-	500.00	500.00
Due to School District	38,430.47	-	-	-	-	38,430.47	5,525.68
Due to Tax Collector	5,115.50	-	-	-	-	5,115.50	2,038.72
Miscellaneous Liabilities	2,125.22	-	-	-	-	2,125.22	323.69
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,197,719.85	\$83,712.76	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$1,281,432.61	\$1,759,582.24
FUND BALANCE							
Restricted (Note 3)	\$130,358.85	\$66,570.43	\$19,782.03	(\$451.93)	\$34,892.43	\$251,151.81	\$312,122.87
Unrestricted	30,449.44	71,245.85	-	-	-	101,695.29	69,933.70
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$160,808.29	\$137,816.28	\$19,782.03	\$(451.93)	\$34,892.43	\$352,847.10	\$382,056.57
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$1,358,528.14	\$221,529.04	\$19,782.03	\$(451.93)	\$34,892.43	\$1,634,279.71	\$2,141,638.81

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

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2016 and 2017

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Town Garage Fund	Hwy Recon Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2016	\$ 76,853.90	\$ 250,946.58	\$ 19,749.28	\$ (451.27)
Prior Year Adj (<i>See Note 4</i>)	(11,831.25)	-	-	-
Adj. Fund Bal. Dec. 31, 2016	65,022.65	250,946.58	19,749.28	(451.27)
Transfers Out (<i>See Note 5</i>)	-	(184,330.00)	-	-
Transfers In (<i>See Note 5</i>)	3,830.00	-	-	-
Revenues	600,300.35	1,580,241.71	51,438.00	134,340.00
Balances and Additions	\$ 669,153.00	\$ 1,646,858.29	\$ 71,187.28	\$ 133,888.73
Expenditures:	(508,344.71)	(1,509,042.01)	(51,405.25)	(134,340.66)
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2017	\$ 160,808.29	\$ 137,816.28	\$ 19,782.03	\$ (451.93)

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2017

2014 Western Star				
Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
December 31, 2018	27,422.52	694.92	26,727.60	-

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

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

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
TOWN ENDOWMENTS AND TRUST FUNDS - SELECTMEN, TRUSTEES
Year Ending December 31, 2017

Fund	Principal	Trust Income Balance 12/31/16	Interest Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Frank Brown Fund	\$ 10,000.00	2,858.44	(43.36)	0.00	13,135.79
Selected Highways	320.71				
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	5,354.72	(22.29)	0.00	10,492.79
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	\$ 21,353.34	\$ 13,604.74	\$ (65.65)	\$ -	\$ 34,892.43

* Funds from the H. N. Mattison fund were transferred to the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library

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
- 2017 Ford Ton Truck with 2-way Everest Plow and MG 4-Season Side Dump 550
- 2007 International 5500 4x4 with Everest Side Dump Body and Plow
- 2015 John Deere 544G Loader
- 2015 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 – Printer
- 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, 2017

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS: *Highway Fund*—The operating fund for road maintenance and improvements funded by a specific revenue source and restricted for road maintenance use only. *Town Garage Fund*—The Town Garage Fund was established in 2006 to build a new town garage. *Highway Reconstruction Fund*—The Highway Reconstruction Fund was established in 2012 to finance road reconstruction and non-reimbursable expenses from Tropical Storm Irene.

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

Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS

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

	<i>Beginning</i>	<i>Net Change</i>	<i>Ending</i>
GENERAL FUND:	<i>Balance</i>	<i>in 2017</i>	<i>Balance</i>
Reserve-Tennis Courts	\$ 5,863.00	\$ (5,863.00)	\$ -
Reserve-Town House	5,979.43	9,948.01	15,927.44
Reserve-Town House Clock	338.03	-	338.03
Reserve-Town House Spec Proj	-	42,914.61	42,914.61
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	5,255.39	(5,255.39)	-
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	24,777.29	6,688.00	31,465.29

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2017</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
GENERAL FUND:			
Reserve-Recreation	3,675.00	(1,432.00)	2,243.00
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	4,075.00	-	4,075.00
Reserve-Dogs	580.00	-	580.00
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	16,102.79	712.12	16,814.91
Reserve-Pocket Park	224.17	(199.57)	24.60
Reserve-Energy Committee	1,572.33	-	1,572.33
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	4,286.77	1,450.00	5,736.77
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	1,024.65	712.12	1,736.77
Reserve-Fire Truck	6,920.20	-	6,920.20
Total General Reserve Funds	\$ 80,683.95	\$ 49,674.90	\$ 130,358.85

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2017</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
HIGHWAY FUND:			
Reserve-Equipment	\$ 152,288.43	\$ (85,718.00)	66,570.43
Total Highway Reserve Funds	\$ 152,288.43	\$ (85,718.00)	\$ 66,570.43

Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

This section contains adjustments to fund balances from adjustments made by the outside auditors.

GENERAL FUND:

Change in deferred revenue (\$ 11,831.25)

Note 5: TRANSFERS

GENERAL FUND TRANSFER IN:

Deficit Reduction \$ 3,830.00

HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$184,330.00

Note 6: OTHER INDEBTEDNESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of December 31, 2017, is \$102,255.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017

Grand List				
Real Estate			196,558,000	
Plus Equipment			38,000	
Less Exemption			(160,000)	
Less Current Use			(19,196,500)	
Less Local Agreements			(215,000)	
Total			<u>177,024,500</u>	
Total Listed Value				
Residential			109,311,400	
Non-residential			67,713,100	
Taxes Billed				
			Tax rate	Tax
General Fund	1,770,245.00	x	0.1709	302,535
Highway Fund	1,770,245.00	x	0.3928	695,352
Town Garage	1,770,245.00	x	0.0291	51,514
Hwy Reconstruction	1,770,245.00	x	0.0759	134,362
Local Agreements	1,770,245.00	x	0.0012	2,124
Homestead Educ.	1,093,114.00	x	1.5397	1,683,068
Nonresidential Educ.	677,131.00	x	1.4688	994,570
Total				<u>3,863,525</u>
Adjustments to Taxes Due				
Lister errors and omissions				1,125
Current use change				(270)
State Homestead Declaration errors				412
Board of Civil Authority appeal				(683)
Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration				1,487
Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties				1,296
Rounding				3
Total Taxes Due				<u><u>3,866,895</u></u>
Taxes accounted for as follows:				
Collections				3,719,737
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2017)				147,158
Total Taxes Collectible				<u><u>3,866,895</u></u>

REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY**2017 Listed Values**

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education Listed Value (Homestead)	Education Listed Value (Nonresidential)	Total Education Listed Value
Residential less than 6 acres	44,051,200	33,921,000	10,130,200	44,051,200
Residential more than 6 acres	98,839,800	67,761,200	31,078,600	98,839,800
Mobile home without land	76,700	25,400	51,300	76,700
Mobile home with land	1,791,600	776,600	1,015,000	1,791,600
Vacation home less than 6 acres	1,092,100	261,900	830,200	1,092,100
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,771,700	1,673,100	9,098,600	10,771,700
Commercial	1,878,600	537,700	1,340,900	1,878,600
Commercial Apartments	715,600	-	715,600	715,600
Utilities Electric	3,954,700	-	3,954,700	3,954,700
Farm	14,877,400	9,863,400	5,014,000	14,877,400
Woodland	13,362,300	342,400	13,019,900	13,362,300
Miscellaneous	5,146,300	972,300	4,174,000	5,146,300
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	196,558,000	116,135,000	80,423,000	196,558,000
Cable	38,000		38,000	38,000
TOTAL LISTED VALUE	196,596,000	116,135,000	80,461,000	196,596,000
Veterans' Exemptions	(160,000)	(30,000)	(10,000)	(40,000)
Current Use	(19,196,500)	(6,703,600)	(12,492,900)	(19,196,500)
Local Agreements	(215,000)	-	(152,500)	(152,500)
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	177,024,500	109,401,400	67,805,600	177,207,000

ANIMAL LICENSING

18	Male dogs	
137	Neutered dogs	
26	Female dogs	
159	Spayed female dogs	Total receipts for dogs \$1,539.00

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

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

License fees are \$9 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$13 for an unspayed female or unneutered male dog. Dog licenses issued after April 1st will be subject to an increase in the fee.

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

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

Dog violations: First offense – \$20 full penalty/\$1 waiver penalty (waiver penalty applies when an alleged violator pays the fine without contesting the violation); Second offense – \$25 penalty; Third offense – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$50 penalty; Subsequent offenses – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$100 penalty; Impoundment cost – \$40/day.

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

Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

VERMONT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Low income Vermonters may qualify for assistance with spaying/neutering pets from the VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP). For applications send a S.A.S.E. to VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034, or download and print an application at vsnip.vt.gov or vvsahs.org. Cost per cat/dog is \$27, including a rabies vaccination and one distemper series. The balance is paid through a designated fund, collected by a nominal fee of \$4 added to the registration of dogs.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Year Ending December 31, 2017

Name	Total	Name	Total
Baldwin, Paul & April	\$ 3,758.39	Lawrence, Duane Sr	5,570.97
Butler, Nancy	1,039.71	Lepenven, Larry	716.71
Churchill Family	52.07	Llorente, Lauren	475.96
Churchill Tree Farm	906.81	Lord, Edwin	1,449.10
Claffey, Keran & Rachel	4,324.18	Matson, Timothy	825.51
Clark, Peter V & Joanne	53.79	McPhee, Kevin Sr. & Tanya	2,378.24
Conant, James, David, Beth	672.27	Moses, James G	1,130.52
Depuy, Gove D. Trust	7.77	Nutting, Rae, Dillon, Lacey	2,915.30
Devlin, Francis	7,594.90	Osmer, Eufemia	1,460.37
Devlin, Francis	9,481.62	Owen, Kate	3,081.35
Dudley, Diana	186.07	Schoelen, Kenneth	544.47
Farina, Chris	10,740.55	Shaub, Paul & Rodney	14.84
Graber, Martha	24.56	Silovich, Donald	12,561.85
Harmon, Mary K	1,687.36	Smith, Keston	2,916.76
Higgins, Shannon & Amanda	33.32	Stanley, Henry	8,810.99
James, Elisabeth	41.76	Stone, Robert	2,573.47
Jarnot, Joseph et al.	395.89	Takacs, Edward	5,966.73
Kendall, Gile Jr	1,410.51	Traendly, K & Bohman, Y	1,044.75
Kendall, Gile Jr	14,736.68	Traudt, Scott & Victoria	6,811.08
Kendall, Jesse	4,035.73	Ward, Dana & Moses, Kristina	1,676.08
Kendall, Rachel	4,310.10	Zagaeski, Theodore	224.56
Kidder, Christopher	2,444.53		
		Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2017	<u>\$131,088.18</u>

	Total	2017	2016	Prior Years
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2017	\$ 131,088.18	\$ 93,628.92	\$ 28,978.67	\$ 8,480.59
Plus December Collections	<u>64,548.01</u>	<u>53,529.34</u>	<u>11,018.67</u>	<u>-</u>
	\$ 195,636.19	<u>\$147,158.26</u>	<u>\$ 39,997.34</u>	<u>\$ 8,480.59</u>

Previously uncollected	\$ 48,477.93
2017 Delinq. Tax Warrant	<u>147,158.26</u>
Total Delinquency	<u><u>\$195,636.19</u></u>

Please Note: Due to legislative changes and a Supreme Court ruling regarding the confidentiality of tax bill information,

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN
DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVABLE**

Year Ending December 31, 2017

	Total	2017	2016	2015 & prior
Balance January 1, 2017	\$107,522.82		\$ 95,605.35	\$11,917.47
Delinquent to Collector	147,158.26	147,158.26		
Subtotal	254,681.08	147,158.26	95,605.35	11,917.47
Collections/abatements/discharges	(123,592.90)	(53,529.34)	(66,626.68)	(3,436.88)
Balance December 31, 2017	\$131,088.18	\$ 93,628.92	\$ 28,978.67	\$ 8,480.59

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

2009 - 2017

	Delinquent Taxes	Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2010	63,314.83	2009	3,178,527.69	1.82%
January 1, 2011	83,451.96	2010	3,345,109.35	1.99%
January 1, 2012	78,579.70	2011	3,342,306.13	2.49%
January 1, 2013	98,441.60	2012	3,331,810.12	2.35%
January 1, 2014	60,587.42	2013	3,409,992.00	2.95%
January 1, 2015	62,386.58	2014	3,703,651.00	1.78%
January 1, 2016	74,804.44	2015	3,785,861.56	1.68%
January 1, 2017	95,605.35	2016	3,899,828.07	2.45%
January 1, 2018	93,628.92	2017	3,866,892.28	2.42%

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

2009 - 2017

	Warrants Issued	Total Bills Issued	% of Parcels Delinquent
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%
December 1, 2015	59	681	8.66%
December 1, 2016	54	688	7.85%
December 1, 2017	67	678	9.88%

VITAL STATISTICS

Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
David J. Paganelli	S. Strafford, VT	Judith A. Falk	S. Strafford, VT	1/29/2017	S. Strafford, VT
Spencer D. Gregg	Strafford, VT	Natalie P. Traendly	Strafford, VT	7/3/2017	Strafford, VT
Jasmine A. Jamieson	Strafford, VT	Corey M. Sawyer	Elizabeth City, NC	7/7/2017	Strafford, VT
Madeleine H. Boudreau-Perkins	Strafford, VT	William R. Appleby	Strafford, VT	7/21/2017	Sharon, VT
Lucas A. Chute	Marshall, NC	Kristin E. Mirabelle	Marshall, NC	8/19/2017	Strafford, VT
Crystal A. Camp	Strafford, VT	Randy D. Pixley	Strafford, VT	10/31/2017	Strafford, VT
Katherine B. Kim	Strafford, VT	John T. Keefe	Strafford, VT	11/26/2017	Strafford, VT

Deaths

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
Frederick J. Henning	M	96	Strafford, VT	1/26/2017	Strafford, VT
Marilyn E. K. Shannon	F	80	Strafford, VT	3/25/2017	Kettering, OH
Cynthia A. Maclay	F	65	S. Strafford, VT	4/19/2017	S. Strafford, VT
Ralph H. Coutermarsh, Jr.	M	60	Strafford, VT	7/19/2017	Strafford, VT
Charles H. Brown	M	84	S. Strafford, VT	8/1/2017	S. Strafford, VT
Richard W. Dow	M	80	S. Strafford, VT	8/17/2017	S. Strafford, VT
Bonnie L. Ross	F	66	Strafford, VT	9/3/2017	Strafford, VT
Larry A. Robinson	M	55	Strafford, VT	10/18/2017	Strafford, VT

VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)

Burials

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
Syliva J. Kendall	F	84	Meadow Vista, CA	8/26/2013	Evergreen Cemetery
Patricia S. Reynolds	F	66	S. Strafford, VT	6/6/2016	Strafford Cemetery
Thomas E. Kendall	M	85	Meadow Vista, CA	10/23/2016	Evergreen Cemetery
Edward H. Gramling	M	94	Windsor, VT	11/17/2016	Strafford Cemetery
Everett K. Linton Sr.	M	84	Hanover, NH	3/12/2017	Strafford Cemetery
Ruth M. Lewis	F	85	Barre City, VT	4/17/2017	Strafford Cemetery
Cynthia A. Maclay	F	65	S. Strafford, VT	4/19/2017	Evergreen Cemetery
Marion E. Rice	F	81	Hanover, NH	7/16/2017	Strafford Cemetery
Charles H. Brown	M	84	S. Strafford, VT	8/1/2017	Strafford Cemetery
Carlene F. Ford	F		Sarasota, FL	10/12/2017	Evergreen Cemetery

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

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

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

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

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2012 Market Value	12/31/2013 Market Value	12/31/2014 Market Value	12/31/2015 Market Value	12/31/2016 Market Value	12/31/2017 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 71,947.96	\$ 80,796.76	\$ 85,455.99	\$ 85,391.11	\$ 89,925.47	\$ 101,013.92	\$ 11,088.45	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 13,288.45
Gilman	7,230.21	7,921.99	8,574.92	8,718.92	9,386.12	10,773.12	1,387.00		1,387.00
Mix	40,507.77	76,305.65	82,594.73	83,981.80	90,408.31	103,768.11	13,359.80		13,359.80
Newton	79,401.67	92,389.73	99,304.45	100,172.14	107,837.57	121,452.37	13,614.79	2,320.56	15,935.35
Ordway	178,066.82	200,818.21	211,044.55	203,563.77	209,961.01	231,247.33	21,286.32	9,740.00	31,026.32
Robinson	6,011.12	7,001.95	7,579.05	7,706.33	8,296.04	9,521.96	1,225.92		1,225.92
RWW	16,083.58	18,734.70	20,278.80	20,619.36	22,197.20	25,477.32	3,280.12		3,280.12
SCE	4,842.62	5,440.85	5,714.28	5,635.24	5,866.47	6,523.37	656.90	210.00	866.90
SAA	40,225.29	46,855.76	50,717.59	51,569.33	3,901.46	4,477.99	576.53	-	576.53
ERF		11,648.34	12,608.39	12,820.13	13,801.16	15,840.58	2,039.42		2,039.42
CST	296,578.20	346,943.79	370,010.33	370,023.11	390,752.19	438,204.47	47,452.28	10,289.88	57,742.16
C-B A	-	-	-	-	51,614.09	58,241.20	6,627.11	1,000.00	7,627.11
Total	\$ 740,895.24	\$ 894,857.73	\$ 953,883.07	\$ 950,201.24	\$ 1,003,947.08	\$ 1,126,541.73	\$ 122,594.65	\$ 25,760.44	\$ 148,355.09
<i>Disbursed</i>	<i>8,652.81</i>	<i>13,559.26</i>	<i>14,728.40</i>	<i>19,701.06</i>	<i>69,008.07</i>	<i>25,760.44</i>			

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds

Change before disbursements and additions

14.78%

INVESTMENTS

<u>Cash</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Equity Funds</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Mascoma Checking (total of 2 accounts)	\$ 10,133.82	39.05% Vanguard Wellesley Inc. (VWIAX)	\$ 91,545.68
Vanguard Federal MM (VMFXX)	5,026.22	Vanguard Health Care (VGHAX)	60,126.27
VT Community Loan Fund	10,000.00	Vanguard REIT Index (VWIGX)	61,022.32
Total Cash	2.2% \$ 25,160.04	Primecap Odyssey (POAGX)	91,589.76
<u>Fixed Income</u>		Oakmark International (OAKIX)	74,945.36
60.95% Vanguard Wellesley Inc. (VWIAX)	\$ 142,886.28	Vanguard Extended Mkt Index (VEXAX)	120,278.67
Vanguard ST Bond (VFSTX)	30,400.64	Vanguard Dividend Growth (VDIGX)	258,740.29
Fidelity New Markets Income (FNMIX)	18,583.10		
Met. West TR Bond (MWTRX)	151,263.32	Total Equity Funds	67.3% \$ 758,248.35
Total Fixed Income	30.5% \$ 343,133.34		
Total Cash & Fixed Income	32.7% \$ 368,293.38	End of the year total	100.0% \$ 1,126,541.73

GARDNER N. COBB CHILD WELFARE FUND

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

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD FUND

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

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

During 2017 the Trustees of Public Funds will work out the operational details with the Selectboard.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

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

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

ROBERT I. GILMAN AND EVELYN ROBERTS GILMAN TRUST FUND

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

ROBIN MIX MEMORIAL FUND

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

NEWTON FUND

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

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND

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

WALTER C. ROBINSON FUND

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

CARRIE SANBORN TRUST

In May of 1986 the Carrie Sanborn Trust (CST) began providing assistance to aid the poor and needy of Strafford. In 2008 authority to manage this trust was transferred from TD Banknorth to the Trustees of Public Funds. The Trustees shall make funds available for distribution by the CST Committee who act on referrals or requests. Please contact Sue Coburn, Barbara Murray or Rose Silloway for assistance.

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 \$25,760.44 in 2017 from the following Town Funds:

The Cobb Fund granted \$2,200 to the Strafford School Based Health Clinic.

The Newton Fund contributed \$820.56 to help defray the material cost of the new Pocket Park Garden Shed and \$1,500 went to the Town to help offset the cost of bin lids at the South Strafford Recycling Center. ($\$820.56 + \$1,500 = \$2,320.56$ total)

The Ordway fund distributed a total of \$9,740 in 2017.

Four Strafford college students were granted \$575 each from the Ordway Fund. The three 2016 recipients were each granted a one time award of \$2,300 (4 times this year's \$575 quarterly amount). One student received a delayed \$540 grant from 2016 in 2017.

As of 2015 all recipients have been given a one time grant. This is now our standard practice for making grants for all future first time recipients. The total amount awarded therefore was: $(4 @ 575 > \$2,300) + (1 @ \$540) + (3 @ 2,300 > \$6,900) = \$9,740$.

The PTA received \$210 from the Strafford Community Education Fund to help provide supplemental arts programs for the benefit of our Newton Elementary School students.

The Carrie Sanborn Trust distributed a total of \$10,289.88 via the CST Committee to provide needed assistance to multiple families and individuals in our community.

A bequest of \$50,000 from the Ned Coffin estate was used to establish the "Community-Building Award Fund" on September 1, 2016. In 2017 the SelectBoard appointed a Selection Committee to recommend the annual grant recipient. The 2017 award of \$1,000 was granted to the Town House Advisory Group based the Committee's recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hawkins
Elizabeth Ruml
Kevin Plunkett

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.

2017 Awards: Simon Kahan, Harvey Kelley, Charlotte Pyle

Joey Hawkins

Diana Leddy

Danette Harris

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY BUILDING AWARD

The Community Building Award, established through a generous bequest by Ned Coffin "to award annually to persons and/or organizations who have made major contributions to building a sense of community in the town," made its first grant in 2017.

The funds are managed by the Trustees of Public Funds, and the Selectboard set up a selection committee to choose the recipient of the award. After soliciting suggestions from the community, it became clear that Strafford has many worthy organizations and individuals around town who are deserving of the award.

The 2017 award went to the Town House Advisory Group, which has done an extraordinary job of maintaining and improving our beautiful Town House, an important community building and symbol of the strength of the community. They are about to begin a major undertaking, the restoration of the building's spire.

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

More by necessity than design, many of the library's special efforts this year focused on the building and its grounds rather than programs and activities within the library.

Most noticeable to passersby was the removal of the lilac bushes in the front of the building. Actually, the lilacs weren't really removed; they were severely pruned back and are expected to eventually recover. Exposing the exterior of the building was necessary for overdue maintenance work on the building's exterior brickwork. The library's masonry should be in good shape for the near future.

Wholesale removal was exactly what we had in mind for some of the brush and weed trees that had established themselves behind the building. By opening up the property to more sunlight, we hope to make it more attractive and dry it out a bit so the area immediately behind the building will be less mucky. Thinning out the trees will also, we hope, invite people to appreciate and use the larger area behind the building we previously opened up and are now maintaining.

Meanwhile, a routine furnace cleaning delivered an unpleasant surprise: our chimney liner was in need of replacement. We were fortunate to get that done fairly quickly and before the arrival of really cold weather.

That work was not inexpensive, but we still finished the year in good financial shape. Thanks to the fundraising prowess of the Friends of the Library, the generosity of library supporters who responded to our annual appeal and newly available income from the endowment expertly managed by our investment committee, the library once again avoided having to ask for an increased appropriation from the town.

Fortunately, none of the work we undertook this year got in the way of normal library activities. A steady stream of patrons continued to visit us for books, movies, audiobooks, periodicals, high-speed internet, children's programs, book discussions and other activities. We once again secured grant funding that helps cover the cost of much of our children's programs. And we are happy to note that more community groups appear to be taking advantage of our open invitation to organizations to use our building for regular meetings or special activities.

Perhaps the most significant change this year was the retirement of Rebecca Seibel, whose skill, dedication and caring attention will be missed by both patrons and trustees. On the other hand, we feel fortunate to have found Melissa Strayton, an experienced librarian who most recently worked in Woodstock, as her replacement. We have no doubt the library will continue to remain a vital institution in the community.

The Trustees of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library

Cindy Binzen

Martin Frank

Curt Albee

Carol Wilson

Rachel Kurland

Miriam Newman

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2017

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2017		\$ 45,457
Prior Year Adjustments		(502)
Adjusting Beginning Balance		44,954
Income		
Town of Strafford	\$ 34,000	
Friends of the Morrill Library	10,048	
Endowed Funds	1,065	
Grants	4,320	
Donations & Fundraising	9,452	
Miscellaneous Income	368	
Total Income		\$ 59,253
Expenses		
Materials and Programs	\$ 9,347	
Personnel	32,877	
Postage	844	
Insurance	1,384	
Buildings and Grounds	8,096	
Supplies	636	
Fundraising Expenses	250	
Utilities (including telephone)	1,905	
Reserve Fund	503	
Miscellaneous	942	
Total Expenses		\$ 56,783
Ending Balance		<u>\$ 47,425</u>
Reserve Account		\$ 5,616

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Value January 1, 2017	\$ 270,759
Transfers to the Operating Fund	
Swan Fund transfer	93
Downer Fund transfer	93
Ordway/Steele Fund transfer	880
Subtotal	<u>269,694</u>
Gifts to the Endowment Funds	
Friends of the Library 6/12	800
Subtotal	<u>800</u>
Subtotal	270,494
Market Value December 31, 2017	\$ 310,227

STRAFFORD FIRE AND RESCUE

In 2017 the members of Strafford Fire and Rescue responded to 72 emergency calls which ranged from lift assists, through health emergencies, trees on wires, house alarms, and mutual aid assisting our surrounding towns. While the total number of calls for 2017 may have been down a bit from last year, we remained busy working to improve the department in many ways.

We are still welcoming new members, and as always appreciate the support we receive from the community. After all these years we can't write this report without reminding everyone to be sure your 911 numbers are visible in the dark, in the rain and from a vehicle which may approach from either direction.

The department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for a heart monitor that will allow our EMTs trained at the advanced level to detect and begin to treat a heart issue on scene, shortening the delay to transport. Unfortunately that type of monitor, even rebuilt, costs twice that much, and even so we have been unable locate one since spring. We will keep searching and probably have to extend the acceptable price range.

After much investigation and discussion into the many options for improving our buildings, we came to the conclusion that this is something that will take years to accomplish and the cost of improvements will be high. For those reasons, this is a long term goal, not an immediate one, for the department.

After routine testing and maintenance procedures, it became apparent that Engine 1, our oldest piece of fire apparatus, is no longer considered reliable, which causes safety concerns, so it needs to be replaced. We immediately began looking into replacement options, and together with the Select Board, have come up with a plan that will meet both department and town needs while still remaining financially responsible. We understand a new engine is a very large purchase but we hope the townspeople will continue to support us as they have in the past. Please speak with us or come to Town Meeting with any questions about this line item in the Town budget, or about anything else relating to Strafford Fire and Rescue.

The following were elected at our annual meeting in January: President, Calvin Benjamin; Vice President, Erin Masteller; Secretary, Andrew Lane; Treasurer, Craig Allen; Fire Chief, Shawn Harlow; EMS Chief, Beth Preston. The Board of Directors consists of Shawn Harlow, Beth Preston, BJ Miller, Bob Bushway and Sean Lewis.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Harlow
Fire Chief

Beth Preston
EMS Chief

**STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
and FIRST AID SQUAD, INC.
January 1 - December 31, 2017**

I. INCOME	Actual
<u>Category</u>	<u>2017</u>
Town Operating Income	\$ 37,000
4th of July	4,548
Donations	8,521
Grant	5,000
Interest	70
Rabies Clinic	1,155
Total Income	\$ 56,294

II. EXPENSES	Amount
<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 2,619
Buildings Repair & Maintenance	706
Insurance Auto & Liability	11,594
Miscellaneous	1,593
Electricity	1,075
Phone/Internet	1,226
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	13,505
Heating Oil	3,550
Membership/Dues	2,954
Training	100
Fast Supplies	2,170
Total Expenses	\$ 41,092

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The two committees on which we serve – Tim on the Health Care Committee, Jim on the Ways & Means Committee – are in the eye of the storm as it relates to recent changes in federal law. Congress and President Trump’s 2017 overhaul of the U.S. tax code and attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act will have significant policy implications for the state of Vermont. With approximately one-third of Vermont’s state budget derived from federal funding, decisions currently being made in Congress will likely present considerable challenges to our state budget and a variety of state programs.

Tim’s work on the Health Care Committee is focused on shoring up Vermont’s over-burdened and under-resourced system for mental health care and addiction treatment. In a very tight budget year, the legislature has increased funding for mental health providers and opiate addiction therapy. Policy changes made in Congress have the potential to destabilize Vermont’s health insurance marketplace, significantly increasing costs to consumers.



It appears that instead of making improvements to the Affordable Care Act, Washington policy makers are intent on weakening the law in hopes that it will collapse. Into these headwinds, the Health Care Committee has prioritized keeping financial supports in place to help low- and middle-income Vermonters get access to health insurance.

Jim's Ways & Means Committee is responsible for the revenues – taxes and fees – that come into the state treasury. While the new federal tax law will reduce taxes due to the IRS for some Vermonters, it may increase the taxes Vermonters pay to the Vermont Tax Department. Much of Vermont's tax code is linked to the federal tax code. Lower taxes paid to Washington translate to increased income in Vermont which can result in increased taxes due to Montpelier. While it's anything but simple, the legislature is exploring making changes to Vermont tax law to cushion the federal changes. The Ways & Means Committee is also exploring changing how we fund education in Vermont. Act 60 has been around for two decades and is showing its age. Among the proposals under review, some would key on reducing school spending, some would increase the link between local school budgets and what you pay in taxes, and other proposals would make education taxes income-based.

In addition to these issues in our committees, we expect the legislature and the governor to direct considerable attention to improving Vermont's workforce training system, reforming how we fund and deliver special education services, and continuing the debate on funding clean water requirements.

As always, we are honored to represent you in Montpelier and welcome hearing from you via email, telephone, snail mail, or in person. But not via tweet. At least not yet. Our contact information is below and we encourage you to subscribe to the Jim and Tim Report (www.jimandtimreport.com), a blog where we occasionally post information and commentary on our work in Montpelier.

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

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

*Opposite: A section of the original Town House pulpit,
removed in 1886 for building the stage.*

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 August this year, due to the July 1st storm, 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 Strafford Community Food Shelf. Without the community and member support we would not be able to do the following activities.

We sponsor the Lions Club Pond. The pond is the property of the Coffin Estate, who have generously let us use the pond for Strafford residents and their guests. Lions Vince Robinson, John Freitag 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 Diane White for organizing the program.

We sponsor the Saturday skiing at Harrington Hill and fund the maintenance of the rope tow. Rod Maclay owns 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.

We held the Citizen of the Year dinner in May and the recipient was Ed Eastman.

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 September. thru November and March thru May at Barrett Hall for a dinner meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Melvin Coburn
President, Strafford Area Lions Club

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 2017 season for the Historical Society exhibits and programs began on May 7 with an Open House at the Brick Store Wing and a Walking Tour of historic buildings on the Common. A booklet published by SHS to accompany the tour contained vintage photographs and information of historical interest about each site on the tour, as well as drawings by Silas Treadway related to some of the special architectural features. As many as forty people braved intermittent showers to view the historic buildings, hear Silas speak of elements of construction, and learn some history of the Common in the Upper Village.

The tour continued our theme for 2017, *Strafford's Historic Architecture*, which began with the Historical Essay and photos in the March Town Report. The theme was continued in SHS support for the Certified Local Government initiative to preserve historic places in Strafford. At our Annual Meeting at the Town House on Sunday, August 13th, the Historical Society co-sponsored a presentation by Professor Glenn Andres on the Gothic Revival architectural movement, and its legacy in Strafford - Senator Justin Smith Morrill's Homestead. Furthering the architectural theme, Silas Treadway arranged to have the Timber-Framers' Guild hold its annual conference at the Town House this summer, and there was an architectural tour of Strafford Village at the end of September, led by Architectural Historian Devin Colman, of the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation.

While the Historical Society is officially closed between mid-October and May, we had many visitors during that time. Researchers made special appointments to obtain information related to the Pennock, Hyde, West, Robinson, and Hackett families. Shiloh Dorgan from the Army Corps of Engineers came from Virginia for two days to document mine operations and EPA remediation at the Elizabeth Mine, through maps and photographs in our collections. In February, three groups of Newton School social studies classes, 3rd to 5th graders, came with their teacher, Kate Hill, to see the SHS exhibits and hear about the copper mine and other occupations of Strafford residents in the 1800s. Some of the students had relatives who had worked in the mine.

On July 15th, the Historical Society sponsored an event commemorating the 250th anniversary of the first settlement in Strafford with the dedication of a State historical marker near the entrance to the Old City Falls Recreational Area. In 1767, Frederick Smith and Ezekiel Parish, our original settlers, arrived in Strafford to stay, and they established themselves and their families near the area we call Old City. Frederick Smith's 'homeplace' is now a portion of the Havens/Sando house just across the road from the Old City Cemetery, where many of the earliest settlers are buried. Following the dedication, a tour of the cemetery was led by Curator Stefanie Johnston.

The Historical Society continues to upgrade its office equipment and organize its resources to facilitate genealogical and property research - the reasons most people seek out our archives. A new printer/copier now allows us to copy deeds and other legal-size documents.

New acquisitions have added seventy-two interesting documents and eighty artifacts to the SHS collections, and these have enhanced the current exhibit of "Strafford's First 150 Years." Among these are early birth records showing dates for Abila Hardie's 13 children, the first born in 1778; and for Zenas Morey's 11 offspring, including Zenas Morey Jr. born in 1768! We also acquired a paper noting Joseph Barrett's ½ share in the Strafford Turnpike Company in 1815. Another donation was two hetchels with beds of sharp metal spikes to prepare flax fibers for spinning and weaving to make linen cloth (donor Marcia Thomas). From Gwenda Smith's estate, her son Morgan gave SHS a canvas miner's cap with a carbide headlamp. The Society also acquired four stock certificates for a total of 5,040 shares of Vermont Copper Co. stock issued to Stanley C. Wilson, who later became Governor of Vermont. Emme Doyle and her siblings have donated several extraordinary items from the Chandler family's historic "Yellow House" on Old City Falls Road, including a large, wood-handled brass bedwarmer, a wood and metal footwarmer, and two lovely silk 1880s ball gowns, one with a label from Paris. Emme Doyle's family also held a sale of her mother Margaret (Mig) Gramling's paintings for the benefit of the Historical Society. It was a much-appreciated event which provided nearly \$1,000, for the society. We give our thanks for the generosity of this family, who trace their roots to Cyril Chandler, a tanner, who settled at that Old City property in the very early 1800s.

The summer of 2017 was a busy one in Strafford, with the final construction of the solar farm and its dedication at the site of the former Elizabeth Mine. Signage related to the history of the mine has been a focus of the Historical Society throughout the years of Steve Willbanks' leadership. The informational panels have been made and will be installed in the spring. We are especially grateful for Steve's dedication to this project and for his years of faithful service as President of the Strafford Historical Society.

Board members: Francis Devlin; John Whelihan; Silas Treadway; Jennifer Mullins; Stefanie Johnston, Curator; Gen Gibson; John Dumville. Officers Marianne Wakerlin, President; Bob Johnston, Vice President; Roberta Robsinon, Treasurer.

Membership: Since the Town of Strafford makes an annual financial contribution to the Historical Society of \$2,000 per year to cover the SHS's annual lease payments, all Strafford residents are considered members of the Strafford Historical Society. Annual membership dues will no longer be collected.

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

The Justin Morrill State Historic Site is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), with support from the Friends of the Morrill Homestead (Friends). In 2017, a record-breaking 1,953 people attended programs, events, and exhibits offered by the Friends and took guided tours of the historic house conducted by VDHP docents. Hundreds more came to take self-guided tours of the site, visit the elegant gardens and Fairy Village, and hike the Coburn Trail. Visitors arrived from around the United States, and from many other countries, in order to learn about Strafford's famous son, Senator Justin Smith Morrill—author of the Land Grant College Acts. All of this was made possible by the efforts of the Friends to offer public programs and to maintain the gardens and orchard, by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's dedication to preserving the buildings and collections, and by the strong support received from the residents of the Town of Strafford, for which we are most grateful. Once again in 2017, support from the Friends made it possible for the VDHP to offer guided tours from Wednesday through Friday each week, in addition to the Saturday and Sunday tours.

Restoration of Morrill's historic orchard continued in 2017, conducted by the Friends in conjunction with the VDHP. Due once again to the extremely generous support from the Strafford community, we were able to plant additional varieties of the original heirloom apples that had been grown on site by Justin Morrill and his family, including Northern Spy, King of Tompkins County, Golden Reinette, Lady, Rhode Island Greening, and Swaar. In March we gathered scion wood from the seven trees that still grow in the orchard from those originally planted by the Morrill family, and grafted those scions onto long-lived rootstock. Some two dozen young trees were successfully grown during the summer of 2017 and will be transplanted in spring of 2018 next to their wizened forebears, thus replacing the declining old trees with a new generation of genetically identical offspring. We are especially thankful to the Campbell family for their longstanding commitment to replant and maintain Morrill's historic orchard. As a private, non-profit organization, the Friends greatly appreciate the financial support from individuals, area businesses, and foundations whose generosity made possible the orchard restoration, and indeed all of our activities.

It was our pleasure to host so many visitors to the Homestead in 2017. The calendar of public events presented by the Friends is produced by Board members with help from residents of the Strafford community, VDHP staff, Master gardeners, and many hard-working and dedicated volunteers from throughout the Upper Valley. In 2017, the Friends' calendar focused on art, history, horticulture and sustainable farmstead programs for all ages, including workshops on pruning and grafting fruit trees, a family gardening program, watercolor and nature camps and workshops for children and adults, a workshop on traditional family farmstead skills, and a walk on

wild edible and medicinal plants. Open House coincided with the VDHP's "Vermont Days" Weekend, featuring live music, free admission for tours of the Morrill Homestead and an Ice Cream Social offered by the VDHP to thank the Strafford Community (serving ice cream generously donated by Strafford Organic Creamery). The annual "Minis for Morrill" Silent Auction and Gallery in the Garden art exhibit, "The Land and People," was followed by the Fairy House Festival, featuring the Homestead's Fairy Village where children and families engage their imaginations while immersed in nature. Horticulturalist and author Ellen Ecker Ogden presented an enlightening program on growing a kitchen garden, including a tour of Morrill's own garden. The Friends partnered with the VDHP to create an interpretive exhibit about heirloom apples and restoring old orchards (including Morrill's own), called "The Fruits of Time: Heirloom Apples, Then and Now." This exhibit will be on long-term display in the Carriage Barn. The event season climaxed with the 23rd edition of our annual 19th Century Apple & Cheese Harvest Festival and Apple Pie Contest, and closed with Putting the Garden to Bed.

Another 2017 harvest grew out of an effort that was initiated by the Friends in 2014 to raise funds for a state-of-the-art audiovisual system for the Strafford Town House. This project—a collaborative effort between the Friends, the Town House Advisory Group, and the Town of Strafford—was finally rewarded with a generous Cultural Facilities Grant from the Vermont Arts Council and State of Vermont. The grant funds have been used to purchase and install a versatile, digital audiovisual and lighting system that integrates seamlessly with the historic architecture, ensuring that this iconic building will remain a vital meeting space for future generations. The enhanced sound and lighting experience produced by this system will increase the number and diversity of public programs and performances that can be accommodated at the Town House, including music, art, theater, and a wide range public events, celebrations, speeches, and other gatherings. Many thanks to everyone involved in this project, including the indomitable Paul Kifner.

Please visit the Friends' website (www.morrillhomestead.org) for descriptions of 2018's programs, events, and exhibits for all ages on art, horticulture, history, gardening and sustainable farming skills, as well as a groundbreaking interpretive exhibit, "And Justice for All: Justin Morrill and the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution." Everyone's favorite major events are in the 2018 calendar, including Open House (June 10), Gallery in the Garden (July 6), and our annual Apple and Cheese Harvest Festival (September 30), which the Vermont Chamber of Commerce has chosen as a Top Ten Event Winner for Fall of 2018. On July 21 we will welcome all fairies, gnomes, and elves to an expanded edition of the popular Fairy House Festival.

We look forward to seeing you and your families in 2018. Guided tours of Morrill's historic Gothic Revival cottage will run from Memorial Day weekend (May 26) through October 14, with expanded hours from 10:00am-5:00pm, Wednesday through Sunday. A new season of colorful gardens and blossoms on the bough, awaits.

Respectfully Submitted
Michael Caduto, Director
Cameron Speth, Board Chair

STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

Creative Preschool was fortunate enough to welcome back all four of our team members this school year – Jody Lowes (Teaching Director), Sarah Rinehimer (Teacher), Kate Reimanis (Teacher) and Katie Chesnut (Teacher Aide). The Board and the children are grateful for such a wonderful group of individuals; they provide an incredible balance of fun, learning, and exploration in and outside the classroom every day!

We are once again a Vermont pre-qualified preschool program within Act 166. As such, every child aged 3, 4 and 5 years old by September 1st, 2017 enrolled at Creative Preschool is able to receive 10 hours a week, 35 weeks a year of free instruction – regardless of parental income or circumstance.

On our to-do list for this school year and upcoming summer is to bring a new layout to our playground. We will take down a few of the current structures in order to keep up with current state requirements. We will rework the space to more accurately reflect the wants and needs of both our team members and our children. And we will expand the playground to the edge of the building, allowing us to incorporate the trees that now abut our fence, which is scheduled to receive an upgrade as well.

Also on our to-do-list this year is planning for our Second Annual Cow Pie Bingo fundraiser. Last year's successful event was graciously held at the Strafford Village Farm. We had great weather and a great turnout and we were able to raise over \$2,300 for Creative Preschool! We plan to expand upon last year's event to make this year's event bigger and better. Our hope is that we will raise enough funds to keep any tuition increase reasonable while also keeping up with our basic operating needs, such as rent, food, maintenance, supplies, wages, and necessary playground renovations. Please stay tuned for information regarding the date and time of our Second Annual Cow Pie Bingo!

Respectfully submitted,
Creative Preschool Board

HEALTHHUB

The South Royalton School-based Health Clinic dba HealthHUB is a non-profit 501(c)(3) school-based medical, dental hygiene and mental health program. Over the past twenty years, HealthHUB has expanded to serve the schools in the White River Valley and Orange North Supervisory Unions. Why school-based? In-school visits reduce lost classroom time for students. Parents get prompt treatment for their children, saving an average of 2 hours of travel and work time. Teachers benefit by having more class time with appointments scheduled in coordination with the student's schedule. Transportation is no longer a barrier to care and everyone benefits by having healthier children in the classroom. Fall of 2017 we opened our dental hygiene services to adults! Parents, school staff and community members may access dental hygiene care close to home. Our dental trailer – outfitted as a dental room with all the equipment for cleanings and x-rays – is towed to many of the schools in our service area. Our hygienist, Janine Reeves, RDH, sees students during the school day and adults before and after school.

At the Newton School, our pediatrician Sam McWilliams, MD sees students for well-child, sports physicals, acute and chronic care visits as well as immunizations including flu shots. In September 2017, we provided dental hygiene services including cleanings and x-rays to twenty children and adults. Our hygienist will be back in the Spring of 2018 to provide cleanings on a six-month rotation. Our mission is to provide high quality, prompt, cost-effective medical, dental hygiene and mental health services to children from preschool through high school, with expanded dental hygiene services to adults. We bill insurance including Medicaid, but this does not cover the cost of care, especially that of dental equipment and supplies. With your help, we will be able to continue to meet our mission.

For more information please contact Administrator Jane Bennett at (802) 431-6060, email janeb.healthhubvt@gmail.com, visit our website healthhubvt.org or our Facebook page.

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK

Strafford is a member of ECFiber, the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, Vermont's first Communications Union District. ECFiber is owned by its 24 member towns, and is self-sustaining. Local taxpayer funds cannot be used to subsidize the District's operations.

As of December 2017, 529 miles of fiber-optic network had been built and "lit" in parts of 21 member towns, serving 2,300 customers, including 29 miles of fiber cable installed in Strafford serving 177 local customers and counting.

In April 2017 the District completed a \$14.5 million offering of Series 2017A Bonds to refinance the remaining original debt, cover 2017 capital expenditures, and complete the design and 'make-ready' for 250 miles of construction in 2018. ECFiber plans to continue to raise capital through the municipal bond market in 2018, 2019, and 2020, and to complete 1,400 miles of network covering all underserved locations in its 24 towns by 2020. ECFiber is pleased to offer:

- Reliable high Internet speeds, which are symmetrical (the same in each direction) and are not "up to" as offered by other providers.
- Simple, stable pricing with no contracts, fine print, or data caps. Over the last two years, ECFiber has increased its speeds but not its prices.
- Local and personable customer service. Phones are answered by an employee during business hours without an automated queue.
- Local ownership and control – governing board members meet monthly to set policy and are actively involved in promoting ECFiber within the community.
- Valued community services. For example, ECFiber offers over 25 community anchor institutions (schools, town facilities, and libraries) its highest level of service for its lowest monthly fee.

In 2017 ECFiber continued its practice of raising speeds but not prices, by announcing that the District's tiers of service would now be set at 17/40/200/700 Mbps.

More information is available at www.ECFiber.net or by contacting ECFiber at (802) 763-2262 or email support@ecfiber.net. Delegates are Steve Willbanks, 765-4530, stephen.willbanks@gmail.com and David Webb, 765-4025, dvwebb@gmail.com. Chuck Sherman, 765-9630, chucksherman@mac.com is a board member of ECFiber's operational partner, ValleyNet. Our thanks to Andy Behrens, formerly Strafford's second alternate delegate to the ECFiber Governing Board, who some months ago resigned to work for ECFiber/ValleyNet.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

CABIN FEVER UNIVERSITY

Cabin Fever University is a nonprofit adult education program based in Strafford. This institute began in 1995 by Eva Behrens who believed that there were many fascinating and talented local people with much to offer. Eva passed away in 2014, but her initiative has lived on, and we continue to offer affordable classes taught by community members. The mission of this “university” is for people to share their knowledge and experience with others. Eva infused our town with a love for collaboration, and CFU will continue to offer enrichment opportunities as long as an interest exists.

Cabin Fever University offers informal classes, presentations, and travel slideshows. Examples of past classes include tech instruction, vermiculture, silk screening, CPR certification, ski waxing, and home brewing. Some of our most popular classes have involved food preparation: Moroccan feasts, baklava, chocolates, and cake decorating. At this institute of random learning, any topic is possible. Classes take place at the Newton School, Barrett Hall, Morrill Library, and private homes. Held in late winter, these workshops are a wonderful chance to meet and learn from our neighbors. We welcome volunteers and ideas for new or rerun classes.

Leslie Berger and Therese Linehan are the current board members. Contact us with your ideas or wishes.



THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Cemetery Association is a private, non-profit organization responsible for the care and upkeep of the cemetery. The governing body of the Association consists of the executive board and directors. These are elected yearly from the trustees. The trustees are all lot owners who attend and have paid their small dues of ten dollars. New members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Current board members are: Gary Kendall, President; Greg Lewis, Vice President; Kerry Claffey, Treasurer; Bob Murray, Secretary; C. Punka Brown, Sexton. Directors are Barbara Murray, Ed Eastman, and Melvin Coburn. Any board member will be glad to answer questions about the cemetery.

Currently plots are being sold in the new section. They are available in two sizes. A half plot will allow for two normal caskets or six urns, with one monument with headstones. A full plot allows for four normal caskets or twelve urns with one monument with headstones. The purchase includes four corner stones, to be installed by the Association. Before any burial or installation of monuments or headstones, the Sexton should be contacted to discussion location and rules. We also ask that all artificial flowers be removed by September 15th, and no solar devices be placed on the graves. No green burials will be allowed. The association does provide small flags for the veterans' graves, which now number upward of eighty-three.

C. Punka Brown is the one to contact about purchase and rules for the cemetery.

The Strafford Cemetery Association would like to acknowledge the great job Tim Eastman and crew did maintaining the cemetery this past summer.

*Opposite: Civil War canteen of Strafford Civil War soldier
Aaron Alger, and a Civil War saddle rifle.*

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Since 1979, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

Final numbers for our FY2017 (10/2016-9/2017), VCIL responded to over 3,000 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 357 individuals to help increase their independent living skills, and 13 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program assisted 165 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 84 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 97 individuals with information on assistive technology; 45 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 534 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. VCIL is also now home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, which served 49 people and provided 22 peers with adaptive telecommunications, enabling low-income deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is 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. Our Windham County office now houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (previously under the Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English, and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil, and recreational settings.

During FY2017, 3 residents of Strafford received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (resident on the waiting list for modifications in FY2018)
- AgrAbility Program
- Peer Advocacy Counseling Program
- Information, Referral, and Assistance

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.

During the last year, Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more of the above services to 50 Strafford and South Strafford residents. Case Managers Penny Walker-Reen and Bonnie Hanson are designated to work directly with the seniors in Strafford. Central Vermont Council on Aging devoted a total of 312 hours of service to Strafford and South Strafford seniors.

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 fifty years.

CVABE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16-90+) in basic skills programs (reading, writing, math, computer literacy); English Language Learning and preparation for U. S. citizenship; high school diploma and GED credential programs; and academic skill readiness for work, technical training, and/or college.

CVABE has six welcoming learning centers located throughout the organization's 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 and we provide direct outreach to the Town of Strafford.

Over the past 10 years, an average of one Strafford resident has enrolled annually 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.

CVABE provides free instruction to 400-500 people annually in its overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. Nearly all students are low income. It currently costs CVABE \$3,145 per student to provide a full year of instruction. Over 125 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 is again critical to CVABE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the many neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information about CVABE's basic education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, 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 FOR 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 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, 2016 and June 30, 2017, VNH made 1,000 homecare visits to 39 Strafford residents. This includes approximately \$33,072 in unreimbursed care to Strafford residents.

- Home HealthCare: 408 home visits to 33 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- Hospice Services: 592 home visits to 6 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.

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

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 fortunate to have Ed Eastman as the cook for Strafford and Mary Lamb as the cook for Royalton; she has been with us a few years. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional requirement. We served a total of 13,922 meals for the year 2016-2017. The food cost per meal was \$2.01, total cost per meal \$8.98.

Each year fundraisers are held to help raise money for the services and trips. Fundraisers include raffles, half of the 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. This year we added a chicken and biscuit dinner, made and raffled a quilt, we put jars out to area businesses to collect change to be used to help defray the expenses of the rising cost of meals on wheels and running the senior centers.

A fund has been established to offer assistance to any senior who may have a need. The funding comes from half of 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, foot clinics, and flu shot clinic. A person is often available to help seniors with their taxes in April. Karen Eddy, the senior advisor, 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 different trips are offered to the seniors. Sue Pirie works very hard to make each trip a memorable time.

Strafford Board Representatives are Susan Coburn, Barbara Murray, and Carol Wilson.

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

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Your local health district office is at 118 Prospect St., Ste. 300, White River Junction, 802-295-8820 or toll-free 888-253-8799. Come visit or give us a call! At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With twelve district offices around the state, and state office and laboratory in Chittenden County, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. For example, in 2017 the Health Department:

Supported healthy communities: The Health Department's 3-4-50 initiative aims to engage multiple sectors – business, education, municipalities – in implementing policies and strategies that will reduce the three (3) behaviors of tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor diet that lead to four (4) chronic diseases of cancer, heart disease and stroke, diabetes and lung disease that result in more than 50% of deaths in Orange County. The local office is working to get these sector partners to sign-on to 3-4-50 and make a commitment to take action that will help to reduce the chronic disease in our state.

Provided WIC nutrition services and healthy foods to families: We served 1,199 pregnant women and children to age five in the White River Junction district with WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). WIC provides individualized nutrition counseling and breastfeeding support. We partner with grocery stores across the state to enable participants to use a debit-like card to access nutritious foods. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In 2017 we responded to 123 potential cases of infectious disease in the White River Junction district. In 2017, \$678,259 worth of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases was distributed to healthcare providers in Orange County.

Aided communities in addressing substance abuse and misuse: Regional Prevention Partnerships statewide worked to increase state and community capacity to prevent underage and binge drinking, and reduce prescription drug misuse and marijuana use. In Orange County, we partnered with Gifford Medical Center to distribute media messages to encourage proper disposal of prescription drugs and to support parents in reducing substance use among youth, and work with community partners on building the momentum around prevention.

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 is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance abuse services to the greater Orange County area for the last 50 years.

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

With 50 years of experience and leadership under our belt, Clara Martin Center remains positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve. Recent events in our communities have spotlighted opiate use, where Clara Martin Center is at the forefront of this epidemic, providing help to those in the community dealing with this problem. Anyone can get help through our Substance Abuse programming by simply walking through our doors, or calling 728-4466.

Prevention programming for at-risk teens through Clara Martin Center's TAY (Transition Age Youth) puts clinicians out on the street to engage and connect with youth in order to intervene and/or treat substance abuse and mental health issues that impact their ability to thrive in the world. This program aims to reduce the risk factors for youth by helping them to obtain and keep stable housing, jobs, and build skills to achieve long term success in their lives for themselves and others

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

<u>FY2017</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	556	7
School Services	87	
JOBS	130	1
Adult Services	594	7
CSP Services*	180	2
Supportive and Transitional Housing	45	1
Substance Abuse Services	572	4
Corrections Services	55	
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	476	4
Access	1,106	9
Total Served by Program (unduplicated)	2,234	21
CVSAS	1,286	

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

SAFELINE

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

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, Safeline's staff and volunteers provided 2,251 services for 362 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. 32 services were provided for 7 victims who identified themselves 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. Most of the victims have children within their family.

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

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse, and stalking. Safeline's staff offered "How Domestic Violence Affects Children and What You Can Do to Help" for local school personnel. We also co-facilitated two series of survivor groups at High Horses.

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

Upper Valley Ambulance is in our 27th year of providing emergency ambulance service to our member towns, and we continue to strive to meet our mission statement on a daily basis. Emergency Medical Services is the safety net for healthcare. We don't ask if you can pay the bill before we respond to your 9-1-1 call. We respond, render high quality healthcare as needed and help you make choices about whether you need to go to the hospital with us, or seek alternate care such as your primary physician's office. Whether we get paid for our services, or how much we get paid depends on what kind of health insurance, if any, you have. We care equally for all our patients regardless of their ability to pay. You call 9-1-1 and an ambulance responds. Period.

Because of the way healthcare reimbursement is in our country, the amount we collect is only about 50% of our costs. The only way you as a resident or visitor to the nine communities we serve can be assured that there will be an ambulance service to respond to your 9-1-1 emergency is by sharing those uncompensated costs through your taxes. All our communities are assessed a per-capita charge based on our costs that are not covered by revenue from patient billing. For 2017 that per capita charge was \$37. This year the Board of Directors of Upper Valley Ambulance struggled with flat or decreasing revenue from health insurance providers, increasing costs of our staff's health insurance and other increasing operational costs. This resulted in an increase of the per capita assessment to \$39.

However our financial struggles have presented us with a short-term problem. The money that we used to put aside for replacing ambulances has had to go into paying other expenses. We need to put aside approximately fifty thousand dollars a year to replace ambulances as they age. In 2017 we did not have the funds to set aside, and we will not have the funds in 2018 or 2019. In 2020 we will have finished paying off loans and will be able to set aside that money for ambulance replacement. However we cannot wait that long to replace ambulances. Thus we need to assess a temporary surcharge in 2018 and 2019 of \$4.00 per capita to pay for ambulance replacement.

The total amount Upper Valley Ambulance needs from our communities for 2018 is \$43 per capita. This is a 5% increase in operational expenses and an 11% temporary surcharge for ambulance replacement. We understand that a 16% increase is difficult to swallow. We assure our communities however that the temporary surcharge is temporary, and that we continue to work hard to control our costs.

The leadership and staff of UVA continue to be proud of the organization's accomplishments and look forward to providing you with the peace of mind that your 9-1-1 system is here if you, a family member, your neighbors or visitors to your community need it. We vow to continue our commitment to providing high quality emergency medical care to all the citizens we serve.

Clay Odell, Executive Director

AMERICAN RED CROSS

This past fiscal year, the Red Cross responded to 7 disaster incidents assisting 24 residents of Orange County. Most of these instances were home fires where our volunteers and staff were present; offering food, clothing, lodging, emotional support, and referrals to families in need both during the incident and for several days following. Some also resulted in the Red Cross conducting mass care to first responders such as police officers and firefighters. Mass care includes providing food, hydration and warm drinks; allowing them to maximize their time on-site assisting residents.

Home Fire Campaign: Last year, Red Cross volunteers canvased the neighborhoods of Orange County to educate the residents on fire, safety, and preparedness. During this time, we installed 63 free smoke alarms in homes and helped families develop emergency evacuation plans based on their individual needs.

Services to the Armed Forces: We proudly assisted 3 of Orange County's Service Members and their families by providing emergency communications and other services, including counseling and financial assistance.

Blood Drives: During the last fiscal year, Orange County was home to 26 American Red Cross blood drives, collecting a total of 878 pints of life-saving blood.

Volunteer Services: Orange County is home to 5 American Red Cross volunteers. These volunteers do everything from responding to disasters in the middle of the night, to teaching safety courses, to helping at our many blood drives. Being 90% volunteer run, our volunteers are truly the heart of our organization.

Public Health and Safety: Be assured that Orange County is a safer place to be because of the many health and safety courses offered by the American Red Cross each year. Last year, Orange County hosted 110 courses where 885 residents were taught a variety of important life saving skills such as First Aid, CPR, Babysitting Skills and Water Safety.

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 14,460 people in 8,162 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, and more.

Programs and services accessed by 8 Strafford households representing 13 individuals this past year included:

- 3 households with 7 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 was weatherized at no charge, making it warmer and more energy efficient for 2 residents, including 1 senior.
- 4 residents had their taxes prepared at no charge by Capstone's IRS certified volunteers ensuring them all the refunds and credits they were due.

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, owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

VLCT's mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 138 other municipal entities, including villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts.

Local governments in Vermont provide essential services to residents and visitors alike. From maintaining roads to providing safety services, recreational programs, water and sewer infrastructure, street lighting, and libraries, the work carried out by appointed and elected officials and community volunteers is both critical and challenging. The demands on local government are complex and require resources that are not always available in every city, town or village in the state.

VLCT is the only statewide organization devoted solely to delivering a wide range of services to local officials who serve municipalities of varying populations and geographic regions but face similar requirements with disparate resources. The organization provides legal, consulting, and education services to its members, offering important advice and responses to direct inquiries, as well as training programs on specific topics of concern to officials as they carry out the duties required by statute or directed by town meeting voters. VLCT represents cities and towns before the state legislature and state agencies, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and loudly, and also advocates at the federal level, primarily through its partner, the National League of Cities.

VLCT offers opportunities to purchase risk management products and services that directly meet the specific and specialized needs of local government through the VLCT Employee Resource and Benefit Trust and the VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund. During the 2017 calendar year, in addition to providing responses to more than 3,700 telephone inquiries, holding 16 training sessions, and following approximately 300 separate pieces of legislation, 13 summer study committees, and developing VLCT's legislative platform with five municipal policy committees, VLCT celebrated its 50th anniversary. Throughout the year, VLCT recognized local officials and employees who have served a number of communities for 50 years, and highlighted some of the many successes of the organization and local government during the last 50 years. It was also an important year to look ahead, to consider new ideas, and to think about new programs and ways of delivering services to members that will address their changing needs in the coming years. VLCT launched a new website in June 2017 that, despite a few initial glitches, has functioned well and serves as a better connection point for members, thanks to consistent updates, new information, and easier navigation tools. VLCT has also moved the majority of its mission-critical IT systems to the "cloud" in an effort to provide more security for member information, greater protection against hacking attempts, and greater redundancy of access that will help the organization remain operational following a disaster scenario. The move to the cloud also reduces the need to acquire, maintain, and replace costly capital equipment.

At the heart of all these activities is VLCT's commitment to serving as a good steward of member assets, and we are proud of the continued progress being made in that effort. Members are welcome to visit the VLCT office anytime to review the operations of the organization, to ask questions, and to access resources that can help each individual official and employee carry out the important work of local government.

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

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) is an association of thirty municipalities in east-central Vermont that is governed by a board of representatives appointed by each of our member towns. As advocates for our member towns, we seek to 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. The following are highlights from 2017:

Technical Assistance

In 2017, TRORC staff assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, ranging from minor updates to comprehensive, substantive overhauls, and assisted towns with Municipal Planning Grant applications.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

TRORC helped coordinate the Hazardous Materials Statewide Commodity Flow Study to inform and update emergency response plans, hazard analysis and response procedures. Our LEPC #12 efforts with local emergency responders and town officials continue across the region. TRORC assisted all member towns with their Local Emergency Operations Plans and have been working with the final towns to complete the updates to municipal Hazard Mitigation Plans. Following the flooding event of July 1, TRORC worked with the majority of towns in our region on flood assistance and FEMA coordination. TRORC continues to work on closing out buyout properties and re-use park projects from the 2011 Irene flooding. To date, we have coordinated the purchasing of 142 homes damaged in Irene, helping avoid future flood damage to structures on those sites.

Regional Energy Plan

The Vermont Department of Public Service has approved TRORC's Regional Energy Implementation Plan and Regional Plan and awarded a "Determination of Energy Compliance." The plans outline a pathway to implement the goals and policies of the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan at the regional level by setting regional targets for specific energy conservation, generation and fuel switching strategies, helping the state meet 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC is currently working with a number of towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to meet the new state standards and recommendations so that Town Plans can be given greater weight in Section 248 proceedings.

Transportation

TRORC is administering the Grants-In-Aid program in our region to provide funding for towns to implement best management practices on municipal roads ahead of the state's forthcoming Municipal Roads General

Permit provisions. Some of the projects include grass and stone-lined ditches, improvement and replacement of culvers, and stabilizing catch basin outlets. TRORC staff have also been busy with Road Erosion and Culvert Inventory projects with many municipalities, and we have continued sponsoring Transportation Advisory Committee meetings and facilitating meetings with our region's road foremen.

Specifically in Strafford this year, we conducted a road erosion inventory, completed the Municipal Planning Grant for the Town Plan revision, prepared Better Road grant applications, conducted a sidewalk inventory, provided assistance with recovery efforts following the July 1 storm, and coordinated a municipal roads Grants-In-Aid project on Maple Hill Road..

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

COUNTY OF ORANGE

This report highlights the activities and expenses of Orange County during the county's 2016 fiscal year (February 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018).

County Support for the Sheriff's Department

The Orange County budget supports basic civilian operations at the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's department budget accounts for about 63% 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. This 24/7 capability is most vital as it applies to domestic violence cases. We attempt to level-fund the department's portion of the county budget where appropriate. The 2018 fiscal year budget includes increases in wages for civilian dispatchers in order to remain competitive and retain good workers. The training budget is also increased mostly due to constant changes in mandatory law enforcement training.

You can call the Sheriff's department directly for assistance at all hours at 685-4875.

County Courthouse

Good news! The 1997 bond has finally been paid off and in fiscal year 2018 Orange County will receive the first of ten annual interest rebate payments as the result of a debt restructuring by the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank.

During the past year the south side of the courthouse was scraped and repainted. All the shutters on that side were removed, repaired and also repainted. This

work involved lead paint remediation and was hampered by many weather delays, but was finally completed in August.

The other significant project of 2017 involved replacing the sewer line from the courthouse to the connection to the town sewer line on Court Street. This line had backed up a few times during the year and it was best to replace the entire line.

Projects planned for fiscal year 2018 include installing a generator. In the past year we had several power outages that completely disrupted court operations including a day on which over 60 potential jurors had to be sent home. The funds for the generator will come from our Capital Reserve Fund. We will also be painting the north side of the courthouse, attending to those shutters and also beginning some interior painting. The interior of the courthouse has not been painted in over 10 years and we'll be working to complete that work in due course.

As always, 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 last 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 McKeeman
Assistant Judge from Corinth

Vickie Weiss
Assistant Judge from Tunbridge



An 1800s mortar and pestle, and an early 1900s pie lifter.

ORANGE COUNTY COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Orange County Court Diversion Program (OCCDP) is a community based restorative justice program, offering cost-effective alternatives to the criminal and civil court system. Our primary focus is the Court Diversion program for eligible adult and juvenile offenders referred by the State's Attorney. Other programs include:

- **Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program (YSASP)** for youth receiving civil complaints for underage alcohol or marijuana possession;
- **Driver's License Suspension Program**, helping Vermonters reinstate their licenses through income-sensitive fine repayment plans;
- **Pre-Trial Services Program**, providing support and services related to mental health and substance abuse for adults facing charges in criminal court.

The heart of our organization is Court Diversion. A Restorative Panel, composed of volunteers from Orange County, works with clients to address the harm they caused to victims and the community while working on underlying factors that contributed to the criminal act. Clients must take responsibility for their actions and be accountable for completing a contract that they develop with the Restorative Panel. Approximately 90% of the clients successfully complete our Court Diversion program. Those who fail have their cases returned to court for prosecution.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017, 183 clients were referred for services. Of those, 85 were referred from juvenile and adult court for criminal offenses, and 98 were referred for YSASP. With few exceptions, all cases involved offenses that occurred in Orange County. During FY17, OCCDP processed 1 case in which the offender either resided in Strafford, and/or the offense occurred in Strafford. OCCDP's FY17 operating budget was \$110,930.00

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 FY17 to support OCCDP. Our program is requesting the same appropriation request for FY18. Questions and additional information concerning the program should be directed to Jessica Schmidt, Executive Director, Orange County Court Diversion, P.O. Box 58, Chelsea, VT 05038. (802-685-3172).

STRAFFORD RECYCLING

As I suggested in last year's Town Report, the situation at the recycling center has been fairly stable this year because the Town now owns the roll-off containers that we use there, rather than renting them from the hauler. This has given us control over one factor that affects the operating cost of the center. This coming year, 2018, should see the town pay off the loan for purchasing the containers, which will remove one cost in our budget. The main cost in our budget comes from the flat charge of around \$250 that we incur every time a full container is hauled off to be dumped. You will see volunteers on Saturdays working to pack material into the bins as tightly as possible. Reducing the number of hauls needed is the one way we have to lessen these charges. That is why we ask people to flatten cardboard boxes or other material that can be easily crushed to reduce the space it takes up in the bins. The road crew also comes and packs the cardboard and paper with the backhoe, which helps a lot. Getting everyone cooperating on this makes a difference.

The other significant factor in our operating budget is either the revenue we receive for the material in the bins that is taken away or the charges that we pay for processing the material. These bits of revenue and charges fluctuate according to the markets for the various materials. These markets are affected by national factors and even international factors. All of this is out of our control. We generally get enough revenue from the cardboard to give a noticeable discount to the \$250 hauling charge. The mixed paper is more marginal, generally we receive a small revenue to offset a bit of the hauling charge; occasionally we have to pay a bit extra beyond the haul charge to have the paper taken away. The commingled material (plastics, tin cans, bottles) generally cost around \$70/ton in processing charges, beyond the hauling fees. The scrap metal is an actual money maker for us, since there is no haul charge and we receive decent (variable) revenue for the metal. But please make sure that what you throw in the bin is mostly metal (and not mostly plastic with a little metal, as many things are these days). This was the pattern in 2017, but, as noted, things could change in the future.

The goals of the committee are to keep the Recycling Center operating at a reasonable cost to the town and to make recycling convenient for people in Strafford. These don't always match. For instance, we ask people to do a lot of sorting of their material. In larger towns the recycling operations are Zero Sort. This is to encourage people to recycle, since people in general don't want to sort things. But if we went to Zero Sort with everything in one bin, then we'd be paying something like that \$70/ton commingled charge for everything we ship out of town. We hope that in little old Strafford people still have enough of a "do for yourself" attitude that the sorting doesn't seem too troublesome. Also, separating out aluminum cans, deposit bottles, etc. provides revenues for the Lions Club which sponsors many worthwhile

activities in town, including help for the Recycling Center, such as buying one of our roll-off containers.

The one significant change in 2017 was that at the end of the summer we began taking people's food scraps to be hauled to Corinth for professional composting. This is made possible at no cost to the town by a grant from the High Meadows Foundation. It was obtained by Dori Wolfe in her last act as Recycling Coordinator. It enables us to find out how we want to respond to the state requirement that all organic waste be recycled starting July 1, 2020. The grant is funded into this coming summer. After that the town will need to decide how it wants to continue with food scrap collection.

All of this happens because of a totally volunteer operation. We can't do it without people in town who are willing to volunteer four Saturdays a year to help out at the Center. We thank them very much, and you should, too. If you want to give up four of your Saturday mornings a year to help out, please contact any committee member, David Harris, Scott Moore, Vince Robinson, or me.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Scanlan, Chair

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District (GUVSWMD) is composed of 10 Upper Valley towns. The GUVSWMD, established in 1992, provides an integrated system for waste management for both solid waste and unregulated hazardous waste through recycling and reuse programs, food diversion and composting. The District also provides special collection events for bulky waste, household hazardous waste, paint, electronics, tires, and fluorescent bulbs. In addition, GUV offers technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

Direct services provided by GUV to Strafford and District residents in fiscal year 2017:

- Events were held in Thetford, Sharon, Strafford (9/3/16 and 5/6/17), Bridgewater, Woodstock, and Hartford where we collected 19.2 tons of tires; 1.38 tons of scrap metal; 12 tons of electronics; 12.6 tons of "big" trash/construction & demolition debris; and thousands of fluorescent bulbs and batteries.
- 399 GUV residents (6 from Strafford) participated in household hazardous waste events held in Woodstock in September 2016 and Hartford in June 2017. 8.1 tons of hazardous material were collected, including 651 gallons of paint.

- GUV staff provided assistance with battery and fluorescent bulb collection throughout the year as well as distributing updated recycling literature at both collection events.
- 7 Strafford residents attended a backyard composting workshop led by VT Master Composter Cat Buxton either in Sharon or Norwich. Soil Saver composters and Sure-Close food scrap pails were sold at greatly reduced prices thanks to a grant from the VT Agency of Natural Resources.

In FY2017, Stephen Willbanks and Michael Scanlan (Alternate) were Strafford representatives to the GUV Board of Supervisors. We thank them for their ongoing service and support of our work. GUV would like to offer special thanks to the excellent support and commitment from the volunteer Strafford Recycling Committee.

Tips to remember:

- The next household hazardous waste collection will be Saturday, June 2, 2018 at the Hartford Recycling Center. Stay tuned for other 2018 HHW dates and locations.
- Recycle paint, fluorescent and LED bulbs, and all batteries (except vehicle/lawn mower) at the transfer station. Visit www.paintcare.org or www.call2recycle.org/vermont/ for more info. Leaves, yard waste and clean wood were banned from landfill trash as of July 1, 2016.
- Food scraps will be banned from residential trash as of July 1, 2020.

The District's *Green Guide* will be available at Town Meeting and then at your Town Clerk's office or at www.guvswd.org. For information, contact the GUVSWMD at 802-674-4474 or hgillett@swcrpc.org.

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS



Newton School Class of 2017

Front row: Daniel Worth, Erik Younce, Paul Scull, Kesha Wootton, Max Higgins, Emme Jenisch.

Back row: Jordan Ray, Arlo Perez, Aaron Romano, Jackson Ransom, Knute Linehan, Tia Kendall, Xia Gillespie, Calli Goodling, Kaitie Tanner. (Photo by Ilene Kanoff)

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

March 6, 2018

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 6, 2018, 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.** Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,107,673.00 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,536.99 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.97% lower than spending for the current year.
- Article IV.** To Vote a sum of \$8,000.00 from the 2016-2017 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tyson Gym Maintenance 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 and to elect one (1) School Director to complete a term ending in 2019.
- Article VI.** To Address any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 9, 2018

Strafford Board of School Directors
Erik Goodling, Chairperson
Hilary Linehan, Vice Chair
Margaret Albee, Member
Jeff Solsaa, Member
Glenn Wylie, Clerk

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

March 7, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

The Strafford School District warning was read in its entirety.

Article 1: To Elect a Moderator.

The Article was moved and seconded. Bob Bauer was nominated. Motion was made to close nomination. Bob Bauer was elected.

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

The Article was moved and seconded.

Robert's Rules of Order were suspended to hear from William A. Bugg, Thetford Academy Head of School.

The vote was called and seconded and the report of the school directors was accepted.

Article 3: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,150,021.00 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,348.79 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.08% higher than spending for the current year.

The Article was moved and seconded. The article was open for discussion. Hilary Linehan reviewed the budget. Motion was made to end discussion and seconded. Article 3 passes.

Article 4: To vote a sum of \$8,635.00 from the 2015-2016 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund.

The Article was moved and seconded. The article was open for discussion. Motion was made to end discussion and seconded. Article 4 passes.

Article 5: To vote a sum of \$50,000.00 from the 2015-2016 school year general fund balance to be added to the Building Reserve Fund.

The Article was moved and seconded. The article was open for discussion. Motion was made to end discussion and seconded. Article 5 passes.

Article 6: To vote a sum of \$91,576.00 from the 2015-2016 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tuition Reserve Fund.

The Article was moved and seconded. The article was open for discussion. Motion was made to end discussion and seconded. Article 6 passes.

Article 7: To elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.

The Article was moved and seconded. Meg Albee was nominated for a three year term. Motion was made to close nominations and seconded. Meg Albee was elected.

Erik Goodling was nominated for a two year term. Motion was made to close nominations and seconded. Erik Goodling was elected.

Article 8: To address any other business proper to come before the meeting.

The Article was moved and seconded. The article was open for discussion. Motion was made to end discussion and seconded.

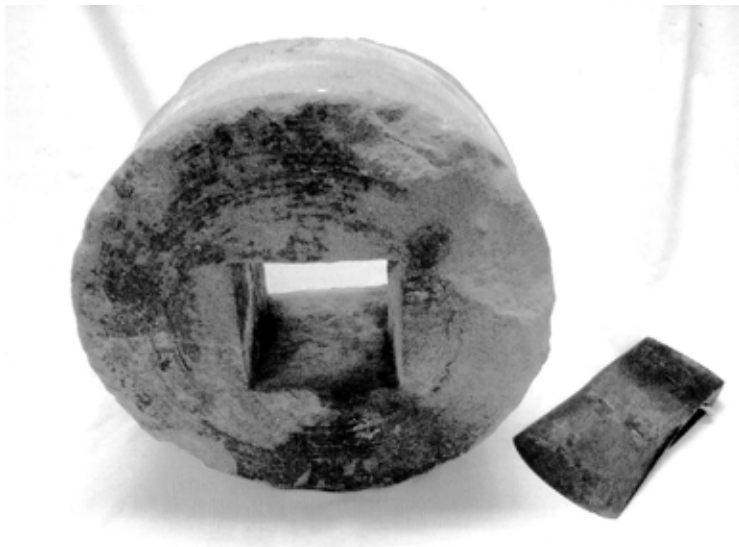
Motion was made to close the school District Meeting and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.

Robert Bauer
Moderator

Erik Goodling
School Director

Lisa M. Bragg
Town Clerk



*Grindstone found under the 1805 wing of the Brick Store.
Axehead made at the Morrill forge c. 1885*

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

Our mission is to develop each child's potential for academic success, engagement, and overall well-being. Through this process, we will enrich each child's education with community involvement, collaboration, and outreach.

WRVSU District Consolidation, Act 46, And Strafford's Alternative Structure

The past year saw eight of the ten towns making up the White River Valley Supervisory Union (WRVSU) vote to merge into four new districts:

- Granville and Hancock merged into a single district that does not operate any schools and tuitions all its students K-12 with full choice.
- Bethel and Royalton merged into a single district operating K-12. Each town will retain its elementary school but will consolidate to a single middle school in Bethel and a single high school in Royalton.
- Rochester and Stockbridge merged into a single district operating K-6 and tuitioning all its students 7-12 with full choice. Rochester will close its high school and middle school, and both towns will retain their elementary schools.
- Chelsea and Tunbridge merged into a single district operating K-8 and tuitioning all its students 9-12 with full choice. Chelsea will close their high school, and both towns will retain their elementary and middle schools.

With the possible exception of Granville and Hancock, none of these mergers were quick or easy. Over the course of the past year, votes were challenged and overturned, alternative plans were created, submitted to the state, and approved or not, partnerships changed, and entirely new mergers were created and approved. The final vote in the SU, on whether or not to overturn the approval of the Chelsea and Tunbridge merger, finally happened in January of this year, well past the November deadline for merger proposals. The motion was defeated, and the dust has only now begun to settle.

These changes leave the towns of Strafford and Sharon as the only two towns remaining un-merged in the SU. While Sharon does share the same structure as Rochester/Stockbridge, the 706b study committee looking at merger determined that the geographical distances involved were just too great to make a merger viable. Sharon, ultimately, submitted their own Alternative Structure proposal.

Once these merger options began to take shape and given the goals of retaining local control of our school and maintaining our operating structure and the designation of Thetford Academy as our high school, it became very clear that Strafford would be unable to find a merger partner. Our structure is unique in the state, and the law prohibits the merger of districts with different operating structures. Because of this, the Board knew it would, ultimately, be creating an Alternative Structure proposal under Section 9

of Act 46. However, it did not and could not know until all the votes were finalized which towns, if any, would be part of such a proposal.

Despite this forced wait-and-see aspect, the Board continued to investigate possible solutions other than merger. After Norwich withdrew from discussions of an Alternative Structure due to its inter-state district protections, Strafford continued to look at the creation of a new Supervisory Union with the towns of Sharon, Thetford, and Tunbridge. Since all four schools have different operating structures, each district would have continued operating its schools, would have established stronger collaboration between the schools, and the new SU could have focused on the needs of elementary and middle school students. However, when a consultant calculated the cost of such an endeavor, the committee determined that it was too expensive to continue.

After the final votes, with no alternatives, and no other partners available, Strafford submitted a final report on Act 46 to the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education proposing that Strafford be considered an Alternative Structure district remaining in the WRVSU. In other words, the Board asked that the Newton School and the Strafford School Board be left as is and where we are.

The Secretary is now in the processes of scheduling meetings with all towns that submitted Alternative Structure proposals. She will “have discussions” with each town and take their proposals into consideration when she submits her final plan for the state at the end of the year.

Fiscal Year 2018-19 Proposed Budget

We propose a budget of \$3,107,673. This is an overall decrease of \$42,348 or 1.34% below last year’s budget of \$3,150,021. Even with a slight decrease in student population, this will result in a decreased per-pupil spending rate of \$16,268.96 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 0.5% lower than spending for the current year.

Tax Impact

Despite overall reductions in the budget and per-pupil spending, the proposed budget without any mitigation would result in an increase of \$.1176 on the tax rate or 7.6%.

This increase is due to two factors beyond our control. First, the proposed dollar yield – the amount the state estimates a tax rate of \$1.00 will yield per-pupil – was drastically reduced this year due in large part to the widely reported deficit in the State Education Fund. As the dollar yield is the primary factor in determining each town’s tax rate given their spending level, any reduction in the dollar yield directly translates to an increase on the calculated tax rate for all Vermont towns. Secondly, a significant reduction in our common level of appraisal (CLA) – the state’s determination of how accurate the current town appraisal level is – again caused a dramatic increase in our tax rate.

While we cannot do anything about the dollar yield, the School Board did ask the Select Board to appeal our CLA to the state which they did. We believe that our appeal is sound and that there should be some adjustment to the final rate. However, we moved forward with the proposed budget based on the numbers as given to us.

To mitigate the impact of these changes, the School Board allocated the following sums to offset current expenses:

- The remaining sum of \$7,205 from the fiscal year 2016-17 surplus.
- \$122,500 from the Tuition Reserve Fund, representing 2/3 of the currently available monies in the fund.

These steps reduce our per-equalized pupil spending to \$15,536.99, a decrease of 4.97% over last year. The resulting impact on taxes is an increase of 4.4 cents or 2.8%. This would result in an increase of roughly \$44 on a \$100,00 house, \$88 on a \$200,000 house, and \$132 on a \$300,000 house.

Major Budget Components:

Debt Services

We have now retired the debt on the walkway construction removing a \$21,000 expense.

Food Service

The food service subsidy has been increased from \$25,000 to \$40,000. This is to more accurately reflect the real costs of running the food service program rather than incurring a deficit that needs to be retired each year.

Secondary Tuition

General tuition costs are up by just under \$25,000 due to an anticipated increase in the Thetford Academy Tuition and the overall number of students. However, vocational tuition is down over \$32,000 for a net decrease in overall tuition expenses.

Supervisory Union Costs

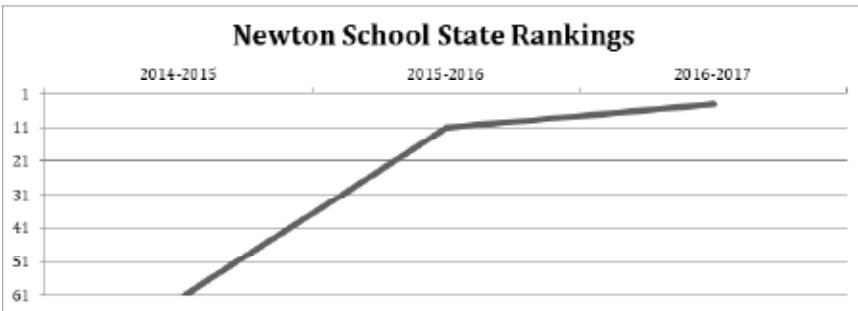
The SU budget has increase by \$20,993 or just under 4.9%. As part of the consolidation efforts several vital services – transportation, financial services, and Special Education – all occur at the SU level. The SU-wide transportation contract needs to be re-bid, and the associated costs are expected to rise with a new contract. Since the new figure is not known, the increase is only an estimate. New accounting software, database hosting, and associated personnel training is another new, but necessary, expense. Finally, Special Education costs have also risen due to an increase in needed services throughout the SU.

The Newton School Board of Directors

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

Over the past year the Newton School has continued to strive toward our mission: “To develop each child’s potential for academic success, engagement and overall well-being. Through this process, we will enrich each child’s education with community involvement, collaboration and outreach.”

Newton School ranked 4th (out of 167 schools) in the state of Vermont on the state ELA and Math state assessments (SBAC). While this is good news, it is even better that we have improved our ranking every year since the state has given this test. In order to support academic progress, each week, teachers have time set aside to discuss individual students. In addition, there are four times a year we review student progress and make specific plans in order to support students. Most importantly, we have committed and dynamic teachers that focus on the learning process as they implement a rigorous curriculum.



While academics are important, students are not able to reach their potential unless they feel they belong and are being supported emotionally. In order to help students in this way, fifteen Newton staff participated in Responsive Classroom training during the summer of 2017. This program provided structure and rationale for building community. This week-long professional development has provided us with information that helped bring forth initiatives such as student created school expectations, middle school advisories, and other community building initiatives.

Student engagement is a high priority at Newton School. Students in grades 6-8 all have created personal learning plans. All teachers at Newton give feedback to students regarding their Habits and Attitudes of Learning. These habits include collaboration, engagement, respectful behavior, and responsibility. These skills help students understand what they could improve to be more engaged in class. This year we have also changed our parent conferences to be led by students. During these conferences, students report to their parents about their achievement, activities they do during their day and their Habits of Learning. Feedback from our fall conferences on this change was very positive. Finally, all teachers in our supervisory union are working

together to create proficiency scales that will help identify areas of strength or areas to work on for each student. The hope is that this information will give more direct feedback to students in order to engage them and improve their academic achievement.

School Year	Students “Moving” into Newton School	Students “Moving” out of Newton School
2013-14	12	11
2014-15	13	6
2015-16	13	9
2016-17	9	8
2017-18	5	12
Total	52	46

The Newton School’s enrollment is a concern. Over the past several years we have had relatively stable enrollment. However this year our enrollment is down. This is mostly due to several small incoming kindergarten classes and not many people moving into Strafford this past year. Looking at the current 3- and 4-year olds in Strafford, this trend will continue. Please see the graph above for more details.

I want to thank the community of Strafford for consistently supporting the Newton School. The PTA is always available to help enrich our student’s education through the arts. There are also classroom volunteers, volunteer coaches, and community members who assist in fundraising or simply pass on information that they think will enhance the education of our town’s school.

Sincerely,
Greg Bagnato
Principal

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I feel privileged to offer this report to the voters in the ten towns that comprise the White River Valley Supervisory Union. Anyone who is tuned into the news at the state and local school level is familiar with the activities in each of the school districts and how they are going deal with Act 46, the school consolidation law, passed by the Legislature in 2016. Each of our school districts have had to decide what was in their own best interest for the future by November 30, 2017. They faced a choice of merging their districts (not schools) and collecting the tax benefits offered by the state or standing alone and seeing what consequence there would be for no action when asking for State Board Approval.

As anyone might expect, this decision making process around Act 46 was quite labor intensive and took a considerable amount of the board's time this past year. Besides the planning meetings done for each town there was a considerable amount of public hearings and information sessions held in each district to include the voters into the conversation and deliberations around the nuances of this new law. There was a series of votes, and in some cases re-votes, in some of the towns, as each potential configuration and partner school district was considered. In the end, there were mergers realized between Rochester and Stockbridge, Bethel and Royalton, Hancock and Granville, and Chelsea and Tunbridge. Strafford and Sharon decided to ask the state to let them stand alone within the SU. We hope to hear the outcome of this request in the next two months.

Besides dealing with school consolidation this last school year the School board has been engaged in quite intense and very public discussions with the teachers union for both professional staff and support staff around approving a new contract agreement for the entire newly configured SU. Throughout the year, we have had between fifteen and twenty sessions with each of these groups and we find ourselves still unable to reconcile our differences. The most recent changes in health care is one of the major stumbling blocks that has taken a long time to sort out. As I write this, I am optimistic that we will reach a resolution within the next few months.

The boards are working at this time on a new bussing contract for the future. We have a large job in developing single required policies for the entire SU. We are all also working to put into place the new plans and the changes that we told the public that we would carry out for each of the new mergers.

Finally, I would once again like to call your attention to the finished Strategic Plan that the White River Valley SU boards in 2016. This plan is still in process of implementation and can be found on our website at www.wrvsu.org under the School Board tab at the top of the page. We are determined to have this plan, which also serves as our state-mandated Continuous Improvement Plan, continues to be a living document that we use to guide our future work. When we are able to implement it fully

the school district will truly be a better, more student centered learning environment for each of the students we serve.

I feel that I am very fortunate and am indeed grateful to lead this SU. I wish to thank all of the residents and taxpayers of the White River Valley SU for their support of the 1,700 students within the districts this year. Please feel free to contact me at our office located at 461 Waterman Road in Royalton, if you have questions or concerns. I will always try to respond to each and every call, email, or letter. I hope to be up to the task of earning the public's trust every day I work here as Superintendent. I assure you that I know that I can not take the public's trust for granted and will try my best to earn that trust every day.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce C. Labs
Superintendent of Schools
White River Valley Supervisory Union



*A mechanical fly-swatter.
Winding up a spring set the
arms in motion.*

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

Thetford Academy is an independent town academy with historic ties to Strafford. The school provides a diverse array of educational and co-curricular opportunities for students in grades 7-12. Each year, TA offers over 100 courses in science, math, technology, humanities, world languages, and the arts.

TA's official 2017-18 enrollment of 318 includes local students from Brownsville, Corinth, Hanover, Hartland, Lyme, Norwich, Orange, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, Topsham, and Washington, as well as international students from China, Greece, and Rwanda.

This report highlights school accomplishments since March 2017 in STEM and the Arts, Outdoor Education, and Athletics:

STEM and the Arts

- Last April, TA sent a robotics team to the VEX World Championships in Louisville, KY, for the seventh consecutive year. This winter, TA Robotics Team 4886 earned a spot for the upcoming New Hampshire/Vermont VEX State Championships at Manchester Community College, the qualifying match for the 2018 World Championships.
- Last spring, Chris Schmidt's Timber Framing class erected the first third of TA's new 24 x 32 foot Outdoor Classroom. After completing computer-assisted drawings in Google Sketch-Up, students built scale models of the structure, prepared mortises and tenons for assembly, and helped ready the foundation and concrete pad. The class raised the front and back walls, along with the framing for an attached shed dormer, and a crane hoisted the roof trusses atop the bents. This year's Timber Framing class will bring the building to completion in May and June.
- TA's Drama classes, directed by Ray Chapin, performed *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged]* by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield, in November, and eight 10-minute plays in January. TA's Musical Theater class, led by Jennifer Yocom, will present *Annie* in May.
- In September, 12 TA students and two faculty members presented original poems in a Poetry Slam. The focus of the event was not on the scores or the winner, but on the students, their works, and their presentations. The school's house band, led by instrumental music teacher Greg Mellinger, opened and closed the event. Poetic performances ranged from short to long, silly to serious, personal to general.

Thetford Outdoor Program

- The Woodbury Foundation awarded TA a \$70,000 grant to support the third year of the Thetford Outdoor Program (TOP), the mission of which

is to “ignite academic curiosity and foster environmental stewardship through outdoor exploration, recreation and project-based, experiential learning.”

- TA launched a half-day, yearlong Environmental Studies and Outdoor Education course in the fall. The project-based course has students outside almost every day. Ecological literacy, field experiments, leadership development, and self-reflection are key components of the class. Students are earning two credits in science, one in English, and one elective credit.
- In December, TOP students completed the construction of a 20-foot yurt on Sunrise Hill, at the highest point of Thetford Hill State Park adjacent to Thetford Academy. The yurt now serves as the Environmental Studies and Outdoor Education class’s home base.
- TOP Coordinator Scott Ellis was the subject of a Nov. 15 article in *Seven Days: Vermont’s Independent Voice*. The article featured the YouTube video channel Scott and friend Austin Borg have developed, known as GuideYouOutdoors, which now has 79 videos, nearly 16,000 followers, and over 1.3 million views. Scott was also featured in the Nov. 8 New Hampshire PBS episode of *Windows to the Wild*.

Athletics

- TA girls’ athletics have had two state championships over the last year, earning the 2017 Division III girls soccer crown after a 3-1 victory over Green Mountain in November, and taking home the Division III girls basketball championship at the Barre Auditorium in March 18, when they overcame a 15 point deficit in the final six minutes to edge Windsor 53-52.
- TA now has athletic offerings for boys and girls in cross country, soccer, basketball, Alpine skiing, indoor track, baseball, softball, and track, as well as programs in weight lifting, climbing, and Nordic skiing.

TA remains proud of its many long-held traditions, including the 75th annual Founders’ Day in February, the 21st annual 10-Minute Play Festival in January, the 7th annual Mr. TA Pageant in December, the 32nd annual TA Alumni Association Craft Bazaar in November, the 27th Woods Trail Run in October, and the 39th annual Frederick G. Torrey Mountain Day in September.

To find out more about Thetford Academy, check out :

www.ThetfordAcademy.org

It’s an honor to serve the families of Strafford, Thetford and the Upper Valley.

Sincerely,
William A. Bugg III
Head of School

NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

The Newton School Parent Teacher Association is an organization dedicated to supporting Strafford's school and community. The PTA, composed of parents, school personnel, and community members, works together to provide the very best support programs which benefit the entire student body and school community.

The PTA coordinates and supports a number of events throughout the year, including Winter Carnival, Bike and Walk to School Day, the Fourth of July Fair, the Halloween Party, Artists-in-Residence, Staff Appreciation, field trips, and after-school workshops. The PTA also grants teacher and staff requests for classroom enrichment materials, as well as gym and playground equipment and supplies.

This year the Newton School, once again, enjoyed an amazing year of arts and cultural events. We welcomed Circus Smirkus to join us for our winter residency, a five-day workshop with the students before Christmas break that culminated in a final community performance. This 2017 residency was generously supported in part by a Vermont Arts Council Artist in Schools grant. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative and our time with Nettie Lane from Circus Smirkus was reduced to four days, but nonetheless the students were still able to put on a magnificent community performance. For many students, the sheer act of performing in front of others is scary, but learning to push through those fears and do something outside their comfort zone provides an opportunity for tremendous growth as individuals that they will carry with them throughout life. Thank you to all that attended the community performance!

In addition to funding the artist in residence each year, another large item in our budget that we enthusiastically fund is two art or culturally related performances for each student. Presently, the K-2nd-grade students have seen "Miss Nelson is Missing" and the 3rd-5th grades have seen "The Hobbit" and "Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great." The PTA will also sponsor a K-2 science program at VINS this Spring and other theater performances.

Lastly, one of the most beloved programs funded by the PTA, "Images," allows students 3rd and 4th grades to travel to the Hood Museum to explore and create art.

The PTA supports these programs through an annual appeals letter and various fundraising efforts. We were grateful to receive the generous support of Dominique Dinouart Designs with a very successful jewelry sale this past December. These funds will continue to support the Arts programs at the Newton School for years to come. We are constantly searching for additional volunteers as we see many of our dedicated volunteers moving on from Newton school. These efforts include 4th of July Fair, sales of

the PTA phone book, fall bulb and plant sale, town meeting luncheon, the spring plant sale, and holiday poinsettias.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all of the Strafford community. Your contributions of time, talent, and funds support great programming for the children of Strafford. These contributions have allowed us to take on larger projects, including many spectacular arts and music programs. The PTA always welcomes new members and ideas. Anyone interested is invited to participate in our monthly meetings (usually held on the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00 pm, at the Newton Library) or to speak with a board member regarding ideas or concerns. The PTA would not be able to meet our goals without the continued generosity and volunteer efforts of our wonderful members and townspeople.

Shannon Varley, Chair
Christine Bailey-Kellogg, Co-Chair
Nicole Ekegren, Treasurer
Laura Ogden, Secretary



*Childrens' shoes found in a wall of the
c. 1790 Daniel Robinson house.*

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY 2019 Budget Summary

	Budget FY2016	Actual FY2016	Budget FY2017	Actual FY17	Budget FY2018	Proposed Budget FY2019	Budget to Budget %	Dollar Change Budget to Budget
INSTRUCTION -K-8								
Elementary Instruction	\$ 586,788	\$ 549,831	\$ 609,309	\$ 627,673	\$ 631,666	\$ 591,477	-6.36%	\$ (40,189)
MS Instruction	179,990	172,367	193,688	164,823	178,283	200,309	12.35%	22,026
Athletics	4,053	2,137	2,710	3,133	3,690	2,690	-27.10%	(1,000)
Remedial Instruction	74,654	75,294	80,790	46,087	59,092	42,109	-28.74%	(16,983)
Total Direct Instruction	\$ 845,484	\$ 799,629	\$ 886,497	\$ 841,716	\$ 872,731	\$ 836,586	-4.14%	\$ (36,146)
SUPPORT SERVICES								
Student Support (incl Guidance/Health)	\$ 70,977	\$ 73,439	\$ 120,827	\$ 116,982	\$ 122,599	\$ 100,658	-17.90%	\$ (21,941)
Staff Support Services	26,932	16,432	24,150	21,136	27,550	24,153	-12.33%	(3,397)
Library/Technology	68,380	62,615	70,605	58,990	72,104	72,795	0.96%	691
School Board/Admin/Treasurer/Audit	242,705	243,632	251,770	254,311	251,866	238,295	-5.39%	(13,571)
Supervisory Union - Includes HTS Tra	83,116	83,115	165,217	163,498	178,219	191,786	7.61%	13,567
Buildings and Grounds	196,675	200,319	201,194	183,875	204,613	203,088	-0.75%	(1,525)
Transportation	87,000	80,338	5,000	4,499	5,000	5,000	0.00%	-
Food Service Subsidy	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	25,000	40,000	60.00%	15,000
Total Support Services	\$ 791,785	\$ 775,890	\$ 854,762	\$ 819,291	\$ 886,951	\$ 875,775	-1.26%	\$ (11,176)
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS K-8 w/o	\$1,637,270	\$1,575,519	\$1,741,259	\$1,661,007	\$1,759,682	\$1,712,360	-2.69%	\$ (47,322)
Preschool	15,000	13,029	30,920	24,736	25,200	30,000	19.05%	4,800
Local/SU- Special Education K-12	587,108	564,304	545,332	615,470	251,020	258,446	2.96%	7,426
Secondary Tuition (incl vocational)	1,050,330	1,020,355	1,001,637	1,115,160	1,114,119	1,106,867	-0.65%	(7,252)
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS	\$3,289,708	\$3,173,207	\$3,319,148	\$3,416,373	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673	-1.34%	\$ (42,348)

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXPENDITURE BUDGET FY 2018-2019**

Description	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	PROPOSED Budget 2019
Guidance Services						
Guidance Salary	\$ -	\$ 3,938	\$ 44,698	\$ 43,844	\$ 44,348	\$ 45,948
Employer Taxes	-	301	3,419	3,354	3,393	3,515
Health Ins	-	-	15,623	11,714	15,618	10,906
Dental Ins	-	-	314	295	294	294
Life Ins	-	-	30	-	30	30
Workers Comp	-	-	358	-	377	391
Contracted Services	18,500	13,254	1,350	750	1,350	1,200
Books & Periodicals	100	59	90	22	175	175
Supplies	-	-	90	-	90	90
Total Guidance Services	\$ 18,600	\$ 17,552	\$ 65,971	\$ 59,979	\$ 65,675	\$ 62,549
Health Services						
Nurse's Salary	\$ 33,385	\$ 37,820	\$ 34,700	\$ 38,248	\$ 35,741	\$ 23,814
Health Insurance	14,557	14,883	15,707	15,707	15,703	9,652
Employer Taxes	2,554	2,344	2,655	2,307	2,734	1,822
Life Ins	23	25	23	29	23	23
Workers Comp.	267	234	278	274	304	202
Dental Benefits	261	-	235	-	-	177
Contracted Services	600	-	600	-	1,800	1,800
Supplies	435	400	392	323	400	400
Books & Periodicals	115	66	104	-	105	105
Audio Visual	50	-	45	-	-	-
Equipment	130	115	117	115	115	115
Total Health Services	\$ 52,377	\$ 55,887	\$ 54,855	\$ 57,003	\$ 56,925	\$ 38,109

Description							PROPOSED
	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019	
Support Services							
Course Reimb.	\$ 12,500	\$ 9,165	\$ 12,500	\$ 13,938	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	
Staff Mentoring	-	-	-	-	1,000	2,000	
Contracted Services	850	-	850	-	850	-	
Long Term Disability Insurance	2,000	1,087	1,800	1,604	1,300	1,600	
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	27	-	126	-	153	
Employer Contribution to Teacher Retirement	6,582	-	4,000	1	4,000	-	
School-Wide Prof Dev	5,000	6,017	5,000	4,326	6,000	6,000	
Mileage Reimbursement	-	136	-	1,141	1,400	1,400	
Total Support Services	\$ 26,932	\$ 16,432	\$ 24,150	\$ 21,136	\$ 27,550	\$ 24,153	
School Library/Media							
Salaries	\$ 23,633	\$ 23,991	\$ 29,774	\$ 29,774	\$ 30,668	\$ 31,510	
Employer Taxes	1,808	1,835	2,278	2,278	2,346	2,410	
Workers Comp	189	165	238	235	261	268	
Supplies	200	250	180	197	180	150	
Technology Supplies	400	222	400	141	400	300	
Books & Periodicals	1,800	1,840	1,620	1,495	1,770	2,000	
Audio-Visual	650	865	585	542	-	-	
Licenses/Dues & Fees	100	-	90	-	300	600	
Equipment	200	45	180	61	380	150	
Total School Library	\$ 28,980	\$ 29,213	\$ 35,345	\$ 34,723	\$ 36,304	\$ 37,388	
School Board							
Board stipends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Board Secretary	1,100	1,167	1,100	750	1,100	1,000	
Contracted Services	-	-	-	100	-	100	
Legal Fees	2,500	845	2,500	484	2,500	1,000	
Other Services(sect 125 admin)	500	156	1,000	180	500	250	
HRA OOP Cost	-	-	-	-	-	12,880	
HRA Admin Fees	-	-	-	-	-	1,154	

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
Errors & Omissions/Catastrophic Insurance	2,500	2,505	3,000	2,163	3,000	2,850
Advertising	1,500	2,270	1,500	1,202	1,500	1,500
Supplies	200	-	180	50	180	100
Dues/Fees	1,350	1,421	1,500	1,496	1,500	1,500
Total School Board	\$ 9,650	\$ 8,364	\$ 10,780	\$ 6,425	\$ 10,280	\$ 22,334
Supervisory Union						
Office of the Superintendent	\$ 31,942	\$ 31,941	\$ 28,469	\$ 28,469	\$ 30,845	\$ 31,785
Curriculum Services	8,193	8,193	8,263	8,263	9,136	7,595
Technology Director	-	-	9,615	9,615	9,745	10,012
Grant Administration	1,780	1,780	955	955	2,525	5,165
Fiscal Services/Central Office	41,201	41,201	37,915	37,915	44,968	49,311
Transportation Assessment	-	-	80,000	78,281	81,000	87,918
Special Education	587,108	564,304	545,332	615,470	251,020	258,446
Total Supervisory Union	\$ 670,224	\$ 647,419	\$ 710,549	\$ 778,968	\$ 429,239	\$ 450,232
Office of the Principal						
Principals Salary	\$ 87,725	\$ 87,725	\$ 90,357	\$ 90,357	\$ 92,616	\$ 93,866
Assistant Salary	1,000	500	1,000	500	-	-
Administrative Assistant	32,960	32,980	34,612	33,973	35,466	36,558
Health Ins Benefits	34,937	37,054	39,982	39,970	39,970	30,640
Employer Taxes	9,309	8,617	9,637	8,962	9,798	9,977
Life/Disability Ins Premiums	265	292	330	325	330	300
Professional Development	1,000	239	1,000	-	500	500
Retirement Contribution	1,318	1,319	1,384	1,359	1,419	1,462
Workers Comp.	973	852	1,008	995	1,089	1,109
Dental Ins.	758	663	683	1,180	640	640
Mentoring	-	-	-	1,500	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	200	-	-	-	-	-
Telephone Exp	4,000	1,464	3,600	3,645	1,800	3,240
Postage	600	561	540	999	600	600
Printing	-	-	-	133	-	100
Mileage Reimbursement	500	346	450	602	300	500

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
Supplies	5,000	5,064	4,000	3,950	4,000	4,000
Copier Lease / other equipment	5,000	5,689	5,500	6,018	6,000	6,000
Dues & Fees	2,000	1,817	1,800	1,828	1,800	1,800
Total Office of the Principal	\$ 187,547	\$ 185,182	\$ 195,882	\$ 196,296	\$ 196,328	\$ 191,292
Town Services						
Treasurer Services	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 2,200
Employers Taxes	107	107	107	107	107	168
Audit Services	5,000	4,600	4,600	4,600	2,750	2,750
Postage	400	286	400	254	400	350
Supplies	-	-	-	81	-	100
Dues & Fees	400	1,786	400	30	400	100
Total Town Services	\$ 7,307	\$ 8,179	\$ 6,907	\$ 6,472	\$ 5,057	\$ 5,668
Buildings & Grounds						
Director of Buildings/Grounds	\$ 39,488	\$ 40,262	\$ 40,663	\$ 44,872	\$ 41,000	\$ 43,050
Other Salaries	16,973	16,878	17,482	17,000	17,919	18,544
Health Ins.	14,729	14,453	15,873	20,937	21,187	15,570
Employers Taxes	4,319	4,214	4,448	4,771	4,507	4,712
Professional Development	500	-	450	-	200	200
Life Ins	23	25	30	36	30	-
Employee Retirement	1,580	1,579	1,627	1,700	1,640	1,722
Workers Comp	3,105	3,130	3,198	3,507	3,535	3,696
Dental Ins.	348	296	314	319	294	294
Contracted Services	-	320	-	26	1,500	1,500
General Liability Insurance	5,800	5,070	6,000	5,554	6,000	6,000
Supplies	10,500	10,431	11,000	11,624	11,000	11,000
Rubbish Removal	5,500	4,175	6,000	3,985	5,000	4,000
Repairs & Maintenance (includes bldg & groun	17,500	21,932	18,000	9,693	19,000	19,000
Building Projects	26,000	31,197	26,000	19,634	26,000	26,000
Water Testing	-	-	2,000	935	-	2,000
Summer Painting	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Barret Hall Rental	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	1,500	1,500

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
Electricity	17,000	17,991	16,000	13,604	17,000	17,000
Fuel Oil	16,000	12,880	15,000	12,773	15,000	15,000
Mowing	3,000	3,000	3,150	2,181	3,000	3,000
Snow Removal	4,000	2,043	4,000	3,378	4,000	4,000
Furniture/Equipment	3,500	3,823	3,150	386	3,000	3,000
Dues & Fees	210	20	210	360	300	300
Total Buildings & Grounds	\$ 196,675	\$ 200,319	\$ 201,194	\$ 183,875	\$ 204,613	\$ 203,088
Transportation						
Field Trip Trans.	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,667	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Contracted Transportation	82,000	76,671	-	-	-	-
Total Transportation	\$ 87,000	\$ 80,338	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Debt Service						
Long Term Debt (walkway)	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ -
Interest (short term borrowing)	17,000	20,706	17,000	23,917	19,000	19,000
Total Debt Service	\$ 38,201	\$ 41,907	\$ 38,201	\$ 45,118	\$ 40,201	\$ 19,000
Art - Elementary						
Salaries	\$ 11,756	\$ 10,705	\$ 11,895	\$ 11,001	\$ 12,590	\$ 14,359
Employer Taxes	899	819	910	842	963	1,098
Workers Comp.	94	82	95	94	107	122
Supplies	1,000	946	900	1,052	900	1,050
Total Art Elementary	\$ 13,749	\$ 12,552	\$ 13,800	\$ 12,989	\$ 14,560	\$ 16,629
Phys Ed - Elementary						
Salaries	\$ 17,567	\$ 17,968	\$ 18,536	\$ 18,629	\$ 19,092	\$ 19,693
Health Ins. Benefits	225	-	225	-	225	200
Employer Taxes	1,344	1,375	1,418	1,425	1,461	1,506
Life Ins	14	-	18	-	18	20
Workers Comp.	141	123	148	146	162	167
Supplies	500	261	450	378	450	450
Equipment	750	406	675	549	675	675
Total Phys Ed - Elementary	\$ 20,540	\$ 20,133	\$ 21,470	\$ 21,127	\$ 22,083	\$ 22,712

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
Music - Elementary						
Salaries	\$ 10,793	\$ 10,910	\$ 8,429	\$ 5,975	\$ 6,145	\$ 8,861
Employer Taxes	826	834	645	457	470	678
Workers Comp.	86	76	67	67	52	75
Maintenance & Repair	250	-	225	-	200	200
Supplies	420	96	378	173	200	300
Equipment	-	-	-	-	200	200
Total Music Elementary	\$ 12,375	\$ 11,916	\$ 9,744	\$ 6,672	\$ 7,267	\$ 10,314
Preschool Tuition	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,029	\$ 30,920	\$ 24,736	\$ 25,200	\$ 30,000
General Elementary						
Salaries	\$ 364,340	\$ 370,568	\$ 387,844	\$ 380,152	\$ 391,557	\$ 380,087
Substitutes Salary	6,000	3,815	6,000	4,725	6,000	6,000
Paraprofessional Salaries	28,673	8,118	17,353	25,879	20,499	25,186
Health Ins. Benefits	86,472	71,935	95,272	110,373	105,822	65,794
Employer Taxes	30,442	27,679	31,374	29,896	31,898	31,462
Life Ins	200	212	240	211	229	213
Workers Comp.	3,192	2,599	3,290	3,644	3,553	3,496
Contracted Services- Forest K & F2S	-	3,100	4,000	5,966	6,520	6,250
Retirement Contribution	1,147	134	694	1,481	820	1,007
Unemployment	4,500	5,385	4,500	6,702	5,500	5,500
Dental Ins.	2,481	1,319	2,270	2,154	2,400	2,368
504/EST Expenses	500	625	-	-	1,000	2,000
One Planet - Tutoring	-	-	500	500	1,000	1,000
Supplies	6,650	5,812	5,985	6,038	5,985	6,485
Books & Periodicals	5,525	3,929	4,973	9,164	4,973	4,973
Total General Elementary	\$ 540,123	\$ 505,230	\$ 564,294	\$ 586,885	\$ 587,756	\$ 541,822
General Middle School						
Salaries	\$ 89,322	\$ 90,034	\$ 92,497	\$ 90,034	\$ 92,735	\$ 117,184
Substitutes Salary	-	550	-	125	-	-
Paraprofessional Salaries	7,296	3,341	6,291	-	1,750	1,875

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
Health Ins.	25,319	22,386	26,667	18,313	16,806	7,918
Employer Taxes	7,391	8,247	7,557	6,695	7,228	9,108
Life Ins	42	66	52	81	52	81
Workers Comp	773	676	790	780	803	1,012
Retirement Contribution	292	333	252	-	70	75
Dental Ins	629	436	571	294	494	588
Contracted Serv- VTVLC	-	-	2,250	-	2,250	2,250
Supplies	4,000	4,392	3,600	3,652	3,600	3,600
Books & Periodicals	3,770	1,184	3,393	1,614	3,393	3,393
Field Trips	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Total General Middle School	\$ 138,834	\$ 131,645	\$ 143,920	\$ 121,588	\$ 129,181	\$ 152,084
Remedial Support (partial schoolwide CFP funded)						
Salaries	\$ 30,242	\$ 37,456	\$ 30,760	\$ 32,846	\$ 34,018	\$ 33,647
Health Ins.	5,524	5,766	5,961	912	375	250
Retirement Contribution	-	2,169	3,298	4,797	4,082	4,038
Life Ins	23	25	30	25	30	30
Employer Taxes	2,314	2,489	2,353	2,532	2,602	2,574
Dental Ins	261	242	235	49	-	-
Workers Comp	242	212	246	243	289	286
Books & Periodicals	-	-	-	-	900	900
Supplies	-	-	-	-	385	385
Contracted Services	-	1,750	-	-	-	-
Total Remedial Support	\$ 38,606	\$ 50,109	\$ 42,883	\$ 41,404	\$ 41,397	\$ 42,109
Local Remedial Support						
Salaries	\$ 25,255	\$ 19,545	\$ 26,865	\$ 4,218	\$ 12,778	\$ -
Health Ins.	8,472	4,153	8,555	-	3,727	-
Life Ins	12	3	60	14	30	-
Employer Taxes	1,932	1,307	2,055	239	978	-
Dental Ins	174	-	157	-	74	-
Workers Comp	202	177	215	212	109	-
Total Local Remedial Support	\$ 36,048	\$ 25,185	\$ 37,907	\$ 4,683	\$ 17,695	\$ -

Description							PROPOSED
	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019	
Art - Middle							
Salaries	\$ 5,878	\$ 7,137	\$ 5,948	\$ 7,334	\$ 6,295	\$ 7,179	
Employer Taxes	450	546	455	561	482	549	
Workers Comp.	47	41	48	47	54	61	
Supplies	700	625	630	647	830	980	
Total Art - Middle	\$ 7,075	\$ 8,349	\$ 7,080	\$ 8,589	\$ 7,660	\$ 8,770	
World Language Middle							
Salaries	\$ 9,118	\$ 9,268	\$ 19,192	\$ -	\$ 17,063	\$ 17,563	
Health Ins				-	3,178	2,323	
Employer Taxes	698	709	1,468	-	1,305	1,344	
Worker Comp.	73	64	154	152	137	141	
Dental Ins				-	118	118	
Contracted Services	-	-	-	16,197		-	
Supplies	200	-	180	105	150	150	
Books & Periodicals	200	-	180	-	150	150	
Total World Language-Middle School	\$ 10,289	\$ 10,041	\$ 21,174	\$ 16,454	\$ 22,100	\$ 21,787	
Physical Education-Middle							
Salaries	\$ 8,783	\$ 8,850	\$ 9,268	\$ 9,175	\$ 9,546	\$ 9,846	
Health Ins. Benefits	150	-	150	-	150	100	
Employer Taxes	672	677	709	702	730	753	
Life Ins	11	-	11	-	11	10	
Workers Comp.	70	61	74	73	81	84	
Supplies	850	247	765	765	765	765	
Equipment	700	554	630	630	630	630	
Total Physical Education-Middle	\$ 11,237	\$ 10,389	\$ 11,607	\$ 11,345	\$ 11,913	\$ 12,188	
Music - Middle							
Salaries	\$ 10,793	\$ 10,910	\$ 8,429	\$ 5,975	\$ 6,145	\$ 4,431	
Employer Taxes	826	835	645	457	470	339	
Workers Comp.	86	76	67	67	49	35	
Repairs/Maint	250	-	225	-	225	225	

Description	PROPOSED					
	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
Supplies	500	122	450	348	450	450
Dues & Fees	100	-	90	-	90	-
Total Music Middle	\$ 12,555	\$ 11,943	\$ 9,906	\$ 6,847	\$ 7,429	\$ 5,480
Athletics						
Coaching/ Other Stipends	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,358	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
Employer Benefits	153	-	-	82	-	-
Supplies	1,100	1,437	990	913	990	990
Officials	800	700	720	780	700	700
Total Athletics	\$ 4,053	\$ 2,137	\$ 2,710	\$ 3,133	\$ 3,690	\$ 2,690
Computer Technology/Instruction						
Technology Support Services	\$ 16,000	\$ 10,704	\$ 16,000	\$ 7,364	\$ 16,000	\$ 15,000
Repairs & Maintenance	1,000	2,213	900	168	900	900
Computer Hardware	16,500	15,059	14,500	12,632	14,500	14,500
Computer Software	-	-	-	-	600	1,207
Assessment Tools	5,500	5,426	3,500	3,912	3,800	3,800
Internet Connection	400	-	360	191	-	-
Total Computer Technology	\$ 39,400	\$ 33,402	\$ 35,260	\$ 24,267	\$ 35,800	\$ 35,407
Food Service Program						
Subsidy	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 40,000
Sub-Total	\$2,239,378	\$2,152,852	\$2,317,511	\$2,301,213	\$2,035,902	\$2,000,806

Description	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	PROPOSED Budget 2019
General Secondary						
Tuition to Other LEA's in VT	\$ 15,200	\$ 1,871	\$ -	\$ 123	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition to Designated HS-TA	446,848	410,256	371,000	499,722	474,584	529,424
Tuition to LEA's Outside of VT	223,776	245,014	288,000	287,968	275,992	207,988
504 Admin Services	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000
Tuition to Private Schools	288,800	243,049	261,000	277,064	273,600	311,680
Total General Secondary	\$ 974,624	\$ 900,190	\$ 920,000	\$ 1,064,877	\$ 1,028,176	\$ 1,053,092
Vocational Ed.						
Tuition other VT LEA'S	\$ 50,000	\$ 78,348	\$ 58,000	\$ 12,297	\$ 58,000	\$ 30,000
Dual Enrollment	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	-
Voc Transportation	-	18,611	-	14,349	-	-
Tuition paid by State on behalf of District	23,206	23,206	23,637	23,637	25,443	23,775
Total Vocational Ed.	\$ 75,706	\$ 120,165	\$ 81,637	\$ 50,283	\$ 85,943	\$ 53,775
Total Expenditure Budget	\$3,289,708	\$3,173,207	\$3,319,148	\$3,416,373	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE BUDGET FY 2018-2019**

Description	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Proposed Budget 2019
PRIOR YR FUND BALANCE CARRY-OVER	\$ 33,984	\$ -	\$ 6,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,205
REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES						
Tuition	\$ -	\$ 21,200	\$ 11,000	\$ 27,284	\$ -	\$ -
Interest	15,000	23,992	15,000	24,294	20,000	23,000
Rentals (includes Preschool)	5,500	4,730	5,500	5,592	5,000	5,600
Miscellaneous	-	515	-	700	-	-
Transfer in from Tuition Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	122,500
Prior Yr Adjustment	-	(2,797)	-	22,911	-	-
Title I/SWP from OWSU	27,000	36,096	33,394	41,977	33,394	27,000
Total Local Source Revenues	\$ 47,500	\$ 83,736	\$ 64,894	\$ 122,758	\$ 58,394	\$ 178,100
REVENUES FROM STATE/FEDERAL SOURCES						
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$ 2,678,949	\$ 2,678,949	\$ 2,751,851	\$ 2,760,317	\$ 2,902,134	\$ 2,729,380
ACT 60 Related Transportation	\$ 33,075	\$ 33,075	\$ 34,830	\$ 34,282	\$ 34,363	\$ 34,363
Vocational Transportation Reimb	\$ -	\$ 18,611	\$ -	\$ 14,349	\$ -	\$ -
HS Completion Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 842	\$ -	\$ -
Small Schools Grant	\$ 99,571	\$ 102,040	\$ 92,697	\$ 88,558	\$ 99,687	\$ 109,850
Medicaid Reimbursement(IEP & EPSDT)	\$ 35,000	\$ 39,500	\$ 30,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,000
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$ 2,846,595	\$ 2,872,175	\$ 2,909,378	\$ 2,930,348	\$ 3,066,184	\$ 2,898,593
SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUES						
Block Grant	\$ 65,556	\$ 65,556	\$ 66,029	\$ 66,029	\$ -	\$ -
Expenditure Reimbursement	248,554	228,670	209,626	259,626	-	-
Extraordinary	13,573	26,847	27,585	36,079	-	-
Early Education Grant	10,740	10,740	11,099	10,401	-	-
Total Special Ed. Revenues	\$ 338,423	\$ 331,813	\$ 314,339	\$ 372,135	\$ -	\$ -
SUB- TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE - Vocational Tuition	\$ 3,266,502	\$ 3,287,724	\$ 3,295,511	\$ 3,425,241	\$ 3,124,578	\$ 3,083,898
Received for Tech Ctr- sent directly to Tech Ctr	\$ 23,206	\$ 23,206	\$ 23,637	\$ 23,637	\$ 25,443	\$ 23,775
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 3,289,708	\$ 3,310,930	\$ 3,319,148	\$ 3,448,878	\$ 3,150,021	\$ 3,107,673

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
FY 2018-2019
PRELIMINARY BUDGET
(INFORMATIONAL ONLY)**

	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
Expenditures						
Salaries	\$38,700	\$41,577	\$39,861	\$ 46,075	\$ 42,011	\$ 47,000
Benefits	5,700	5,675	5,500	21,824	23,173	23,000
Repairs/Maintenance	300	1,486	500	2,042	500	1,000
Food	38,150	38,724	34,000	34,191	32,766	35,000
Supplies	4,000	4,169	2,500	2,814	2,000	2,500
Propane	400	114	400	-	200	-
Commodities	4,300	3,672	3,000	3,610	3,500	3,500
Total Expenditures	\$91,550	\$95,417	\$85,761	\$ 110,556	\$104,150	\$112,000
Revenues						
Sales	\$25,000	\$13,091	\$18,261	\$ 22,549	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000
State Lunch Match	750	652	600	469	750	500
State Bkfst Match	500	338	400	301	400	400
Federal Lunch Reimb	28,000	25,806	28,000	22,955	30,000	24,000
Federal Bkfst Reimb	17,000	16,454	18,000	12,693	20,000	13,000
Other incl Grants	-	930	1,500	7,727	1,500	7,600
Commodities	4,300	3,672	3,000	3,610	3,500	3,500
Transfer from General Fund	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	25,000	40,000
Total Revenue	\$91,550	\$76,943	\$85,761	\$ 86,304	\$104,150	\$112,000

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURES**

	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
Transportation Expenditures						
Contracted Transportation	\$82,000	\$76,671	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SU Assessment	-	-	80,000	78,281	81,000	87,918
Contracted Field Trip Transp	5,000	3,667	5,000	4,499	5,000	5,000
Total	\$87,000	\$80,338	\$85,000	\$82,780	\$86,000	\$92,918

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS
FYE 6/30/17

General Fund	\$ 39,459
Food Service Program	\$ (24,251)
Medicaid Funds	\$ (6,028)
<i>(these funds are held at OWSU and drawn down as needed for qualifying expenditures)</i>	
Tyson Gym Reserve	\$ 3,693
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 59,241
Tuition Reserve	\$244,750

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

Year Ending June 30, 2017

The Strafford School District had an outstanding loan of \$21,201 for the covered walkway as of June 30, 2017.

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
EXPENDITURE BUDGET
FY 2018-2019

Description	OWSU/ WNWSU	OWSU/ WNWSU	WRVSU	WRVSU	WRVSU	WRVSU
	Budget 2016	Actuals 2016	Budget 2017	Actuals 2017	Budget 2018	Proposed Budget 2019
Office of the Superintendent						
Administration Salaries	\$ 225,500	\$ 228,605	\$ 118,718	\$ 118,773	\$ 121,729	\$ 122,979
Administrative/HR Support	61,963	69,501	86,520	88,230	90,220	92,720
Board Clerk	-	-	-	1,510	2,000	2,000
Health Insurance	59,429	51,307	53,516	33,506	42,035	31,237
Employer Taxes	21,991	21,848	15,701	15,409	16,367	16,501
Life Ins Premiums	355	407	340	313	340	340
Disability Ins	579	645	-	-	-	-
Retirement Contribution	7,565	6,749	4,759	4,841	4,962	5,100
Workers Comp	2,867	1,067	1,642	1,621	1,926	834
Professional Development	7,000	10,404	7,000	3,397	6,500	4,000
Dental Insurance	1,795	1,764	1,420	1,451	1,332	1,455
Mentoring	2,000	3,100	-	-	-	-
Legal Fees	13,500	45,531	20,000	48,693	15,000	20,000
Contracted Services-	2,600	4,956	2,000	2,357	1,500	11,500
In-Service, Meetings, Etc.	3,000	7,346	3,000	4,073	4,000	4,000
Repairs & Maintenance	500	371	1,000	-	1,000	500
Travel	7,900	6,043	5,000	5,447	5,000	5,000
Books & Periodicals	1,600	1,401	500	356	500	400
Equipment Contingency	-	638	3,000	1,144	1,500	1,000
Dues & Fees	10,000	8,189	7,500	5,320	7,000	15,000
Fingerprinting Expense	4,500	4,389	6,000	4,901	7,000	6,000
Total Office of the Superintendent	\$ 434,644	\$ 474,261	\$ 337,615	\$ 341,342	\$ 329,911	\$ 340,566

Description	OWSU/ WNWSU Budget 2016	OWSU/ WNWSU Actuals 2016	WRVSU Budget 2017	WRVSU Actuals 2017	WRVSU Budget 2018	WRVSU Proposed Budget 2019
Staff Training/Curriculum						
Salaries- Director	\$ 136,801	\$ 89,301	\$ 91,980	\$ 83,107	\$ 94,280	\$ 128,000
Curriculum Coordinator	-	-	-	-	46,000	-
Employer Taxes	10,466	6,909	7,036	6,054	10,731	9,792
Health Insurance	22,252	13,934	14,926	14,180	22,362	15,580
Workers Comp, Life Ins, Dental Ins	1,520	1,281	1,489	1,342	2,017	2,128
Curriculum Support	-	-	40,000	-	-	-
Prof Development	2,600	730	2,000	2,561	2,000	2,500
Mileage	1,700	1,249	2,000	1,649	3,000	2,500
Supplies	1,250	542	1,000	984	1,500	1,250
Books & Periodicals	750	-	750	77	500	400
Dues & Fees	600	402	600	424	600	600
Total Curriculum Services	\$ 177,939	\$ 114,348	\$ 161,782	\$ 110,378	\$ 182,990	\$ 162,750
Fiscal Services						
Administration Salaries	\$ 84,695	\$ 95,407	\$ 146,070	\$ 98,289	\$ 156,997	\$ 90,000
Support Salaries	134,277	137,471	91,984	135,942	94,284	187,572
Other salaries	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Health Insurance	36,942	45,299	48,967	56,174	55,961	46,048
Employer Taxes	16,752	16,791	18,594	16,962	19,605	20,852
Workers Comp Ins	2,772	1,187	1,944	1,928	2,307	2,000
Life Ins	390	214	370	561	370	400
Retirement Contribution	11,091	17,061	15,093	14,629	15,820	14,991
Professional Development	1,500	1,138	1,500	476	2,000	2,000
Dental Insurance	2,217	1,715	1,834	1,688	1,721	2,132
Disability Ins	212	-	-	-	-	-
Contracted Services	78,000	155,720	-	303	-	-
Treasurer Services	2,215	-	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,200
Audit Services	11,500	12,250	7,000	9,250	7,300	10,300

Description	OWSU/ WNWSU	OWSU/ WNWSU	WRVSU	WRVSU	WRVSU	WRVSU
	Budget 2016	Actuals 2016	Budget 2017	Actuals 2017	Budget 2018	Proposed Budget 2019
Computer Maintenance	10,500	16,619	15,000	15,316	16,000	15,754
Travel/Conference	4,600	5,247	5,000	4,529	6,000	4,500
Supplies	8,500	6,606	4,000	5,090	5,000	5,000
Equipment Contingency	2,500	1,069	2,000	1,879	2,500	2,000
Interest Exp	800	-	-	-	-	-
Dues & Fees	2,000	981	1,000	476	1,000	600
Total Fiscal Services	\$ 411,463	\$ 359,055	\$ 366,357	\$ 364,692	\$ 392,865	\$ 405,349
Central Office						
Unemployment Tax	\$ 12,000	\$ 8,751	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,000
HRA OOP Costs	-	-	-	-	-	8,128
Long Term Disability Ins	-	-	-	-	-	9,000
Section 125 Admin/HRA Admin	2,000	2,863	2,000	680	2,500	3,503
Prof Development	-	113	-	-	-	-
Custodial Services/Other Contr Serv	6,910	10,440	5,000	3,634	5,500	5,000
Repairs & Maint.	3,500	1,753	3,000	1,836	3,000	2,000
Disposal Services	850	1,072	2,100	885	2,200	1,500
Rental of Building	51,120	57,795	54,396	54,396	55,483	56,593
Property & Liability Insurance/Other	12,100	9,636	6,800	6,434	7,200	7,500
Electricity	2,200	-	-	-	-	-
Heat	5,400	56	-	-	-	-
Telephone/Internet	11,600	10,120	3,000	5,892	3,200	5,980
Postage	6,400	5,649	3,500	5,306	4,000	5,000
Advertising	4,650	487	4,000	445	4,000	2,000
Supplies	12,500	13,658	8,500	12,098	9,000	12,000
Software	1,000	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment/lease	5,000	7,476	8,000	8,177	8,500	8,500
Total Central Office	\$ 137,230	\$ 129,869	\$ 104,296	\$ 103,783	\$ 109,083	\$ 130,704

Description	OWSU/ WNWSU Budget 2016	OWSU/ WNWSU Actuals 2016	WRVSU Budget 2017	WRVSU Actuals 2017	WRVSU Budget 2018	WRVSU Proposed Budget 2019
Student Support						
Distr Music Prog- Sals	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ -
Distr Music Prog- Employer Taxes	27	-	115	-	115	-
Distr Music Prog - Travel	-	-	-	612	-	-
Distr Music Prog- Contr Services	500	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Distr Music Prog- Supplies	2,523	-	3,000	47	1,500	-
Distr Collaborative Projects	1,000	-	4,385	1,000	885	-
Total Student Support	\$ 5,050	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,659	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Technology						
Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 76,875	\$ 80,000
Employer Taxes	-	-	5,585	5,584	5,881	6,120
Health Ins	-	-	19,295	7,856	7,855	5,531
Dental Ins	-	-	473	444	444	444
Retirement Contribution	-	-	4,015	4,125	4,228	4,400
Worker's Comp Ins	-	-	-	593	-	600
Life Ins	-	-	30	11	30	30
Mileage Reimb	-	-	-	2,449	1,000	1,250
Prof Development	-	-	-	813	1,500	900
Supplies	-	-	-	-	500	500
Contracted Services	-	193	15,000	3,198	7,500	5,000
Equipment	-	-	-	2,286	-	2,500
Technology Support	\$ 8,500	\$ 193	\$ 117,398	\$ 102,359	\$ 105,813	\$ 107,275
Pre-School Operations						
Pre-school Coordinator	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,914
Employer Taxes	-	-	-	-	765	835
Winooski Valley Collaboration	-	-	-	-	-	9,676
Total Pre-School Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,765	\$ 21,425

Description	OWSU/ WNWSU	OWSU/ WNWSU	WRVSU	WRVSU	WRVSU	WRVSU
	Budget 2016	Actuals 2016	Budget 2017	Actuals 2017	Budget 2018	Proposed Budget 2019
Grant Administration (mostly grant funded)						
Administration Salaries	\$ 38,269	\$ 38,269	\$ 52,557	\$ 52,557	\$ 53,871	\$ 55,217
Health Ins	1,200	1,200	1,600	-	1,600	1,600
Employer Taxes	2,928	2,846	4,021	4,020	4,121	4,224
Life Ins	320	-	280	-	280	280
Workers Comp	306	268	420	415	485	424
Prof Development	2,000	1,698	2,000	-	1,000	1,000
Dental Ins	316	536	379	-	355	355
Audit	3,900	3,150	3,000	3,150	3,000	3,000
Mileage Reimb	798	689	800	1,403	800	800
Supplies	500	269	500	268	500	500
Books/Periodicals	1,000	-	1,000	76	500	250
Other expenses/software	100	476	100	108	100	150
Total All Grant Administration	\$ 51,637	\$ 49,401	\$ 66,656	\$ 61,997	\$ 66,612	\$ 67,800
LEA Title 1						
LEA Services						
Early Ed Services, ie..Story Lady	\$ 32,000	\$ 24,360	\$ 40,759	\$ 42,311	\$ 41,777	\$ 41,882
Prek Coordinator	-	10,871	15,450	-	-	-
Tutoring Services	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-
Employer Taxes	2,754	2,262	4,606	2,886	3,196	3,998
Health Ins	11,138	6,912	14,926	17,772	14,908	18,216
Workers Comp	270	32	482	354	376	400
Dental Ins	420	368	474	326	444	355
Professional Development/Training E	5,500	3,006	5,500	131	1,500	1,000
Homeless Services	1,000	13,241	1,000	589	1,000	1,000
Contracted Services	-	2,857	-	276	-	-
Travel/Mileage Reimb	1,400	798	1,500	3,720	1,500	2,500

Description	OWSU/ WNWSU Budget 2016	OWSU/ WNWSU Actuals 2016	WRVSU Budget 2017	WRVSU Actuals 2017	WRVSU Budget 2018	WRVSU Proposed Budget 2019
	Supplies	1,000	-	1,000	3,331	1,000
Books & Periodicals	400	-	400	-	400	200
Dues & Fees	2,100	2,826	2,100	125	500	500
Total LEA Title 1	\$ 61,982	\$ 67,533	\$ 92,197	\$ 71,821	\$ 66,601	\$ 71,051
Excel Program Contribution	\$ 52,500	\$ 52,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Supervisory Union Budget	\$ 1,340,945	\$ 1,247,160	\$ 1,256,300	\$ 1,158,031	\$ 1,269,641	\$ 1,306,920

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
REVENUE BUDGET FY 2018-2019**

	Budget 2016	Budget 2017	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	Proposed		Dec-16 ADM	%	Average	
					Budget 2019	Oct-17 Enrollment				
Local Assessments:										
Bethel	\$ 248,423	\$ 221,349	\$ 221,349	\$ 189,055	\$ -	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Chelsea	122,269	121,356	121,356	124,521	-	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Granville	22,208	15,530	15,530	10,317	-	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Hancock	36,434	25,132	25,132	16,992	-	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Rochester	102,769	97,580	97,580	83,759	-	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Royalton	234,235	234,510	234,510	254,441	-	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Sharon	83,116	90,651	90,651	137,303	149,233	153	11.90%	253.75	14.92%	13.41%
Stockbridge	100,267	74,562	74,562	45,467	-	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
Stratford	83,116	85,217	85,217	97,244	103,868	102	7.93%	182.55	10.73%	9.33%
Tunbridge	72,125	74,633	74,633	96,491	-	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00%
First Branch USD *	-	-	-	-	218,522	227	17.65%	367.65	21.62%	19.64%
Granville-Hancock USD	-	-	-	-	31,035	0	0.00%	94.85	5.58%	2.79%
Rochester-Stockbridge USD *	-	-	-	-	127,783	155	12.05%	185.55	10.91%	11.48%
White River USD	-	-	-	-	482,465	649	50.47%	616.24	36.24%	43.36%
Total Local Assessments	\$1,104,961	\$1,040,520	\$1,040,520	\$1,055,592	\$1,112,906	1286	100%	1700.59	100%	100%
State/Federal Sources										
Other Grant Admin Fees		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000					
Title 1/Title IIA Funding		203,080	65,410	200,349	180,314					
Total State/Federal Sources		\$ 208,080	\$ 70,410	\$ 206,349	\$ 186,314					
Other Sources										
Interest		\$ 200	\$ 551	\$ 200	\$ 200					
Prior Year Adj		-	(1,738)	-	-					
21ST Century Admin Fees/OP		7,500	29,666	7,500	7,500					
Total Other Sources		\$ 7,700	\$ 28,479	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,700					
Grand Total		\$1,256,300	\$1,139,409	\$1,269,641	\$1,306,920					

* enrollment adjustments for closing high schools

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
STATE AID FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
Estimated 2017-2018

	State Block Grant	Extraordinary Reimbursement	Expenditure Reimbursement	Essential Early Education Grant	Total Estimated State Aid	Anticipated Special Ed Expenditures
White River Valley SU	\$ 624,196	\$ 456,238	\$ 2,283,106	\$ 125,635	\$ 3,489,175	\$ 6,011,912

Estimated 2018-2019

	State Block Grant	Extraordinary Reimbursement	Expenditure Reimbursement	Essential Early Education Grant	Total Estimated State Aid	Anticipated Special Ed Expenditures
White River Valley SU	\$ 605,206	\$ 362,272	\$ 2,564,197	\$ 141,337	\$ 3,673,012	\$ 6,427,829

*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 reflect changes that occurred following that submission.
Starting in FY18 all Special Education grants and reimbursements will go to the Supervisory Union.*

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SU
SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURE BUDGET
FY 2018-2019

Program Area	SU BUDGET 2015-2016	SU ACTUALS 2015-2016	BUDGET 2016-2017	ACTUALS 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2019
Teacher Salaries	\$ 157,911	\$ 129,765	\$ 154,671	\$ 128,016	\$ 131,856	\$ 134,216
Support Salaries	36,500	15,298	36,706	9,877	18,355	12,958
Health Ins	35,132	33,072	39,589	29,639	31,158	20,773
Employer Taxes	14,872	10,595	14,640	10,248	11,491	11,259
Retirement Benefit-VSTRS	1,854	960	953	11,406	8,163	8,163
Workers Comp Ins	1,522	910	1,531	1,512	1,187	1,325
Unemployment	-	641	-	-	320	320
Professional Development	9,575	1,046	6,000	1,487	4,000	4,000
Dental Ins	2,863	804	1,420	888	915	915
Disability Ins/Life Ins	805	271	449	318	456	400
Contracted Services	7,000	6,475	15,000	-	10,021	10,100
Tuition	20,000	-	10,000	-	-	3,000
Travel/Conference	4,000	2,306	1,000	1,712	3,169	3,300
Supplies and Materials	5,500	2,574	6,000	805	3,000	1,000
Equipment	2,500	965	5,000	491	2,000	500
Dues & Fees	300	-	-	-	-	-
Psychological Services	\$ 4,800	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Speech Pathology & Audiology						
Salaries	\$ 27,654	\$ 42,142	\$ 57,788	\$ 11,721	\$ 42,325	\$ 43,383
Benefits	7,923	9,952	17,336	4,474	12,697	13,078
Contracted Services	-	24,448	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	238	-	15	500	500

Program Area	SU BUDGET 2015-2016	SU ACTUALS 2015-2016	BUDGET 2016-2017	ACTUALS 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2019
Occupational Therapy Services						
Salaries	\$ 27,692	\$ 19,171	\$ 65,206	\$ 17,974	\$ 21,200	\$ 21,836
Benefits	8,308	8,499	19,562	9,440	6,362	7,201
Contracted Services	17,000	5,921	-	-	4,000	4,000
Travel	-	38	-	-	500	500
Other Support Serv	40,105	-	8,750	-	5,000	-
Total Essential Early Ed	\$ 433,816	\$ 316,091	\$ 471,601	\$ 240,024	\$ 318,675	\$ 302,727
Teacher Salaries	\$ 858,418	\$ 779,905	\$ 812,012	\$ 745,380	\$ 783,876	\$ 837,620
Alt Program Prof Staff	-	-	-	-	170,750	128,942
Support Salaries	765,523	896,916	865,674	1,119,251	1,081,197	1,207,768
Summer Salaries	31,000	22,260	24,000	34,286	35,000	35,000
Substitutes	37,000	49,430	30,000	104,900	40,000	60,000
Health Ins	411,784	468,862	488,036	529,360	664,108	426,077
Employer Taxes	130,618	130,164	132,474	148,575	161,478	173,604
Life Ins	1,585	369	504	1,829	1,680	1,900
Emper Retirement Contribution	23,129	33,541	53,782	47,223	59,466	66,427
Workers Comp Ins	17,687	15,509	13,613	9,893	18,637	19,884
Unemployment	13,300	7,708	10,000	8,528	9,235	9,000
Prof Development	25,000	-	-	4,255	-	-
Dental Ins	25,461	23,781	21,504	7,990	25,648	29,734
Disability Ins	6,823	3,321	2,355	1,818	6,107	6,523
Contracted Serv	185,884	166,678	59,523	122,527	231,095	168,200
Phone/Postage/Advertising	6,500	600	5,000	36	1,000	4,200
Tuition	1,099,500	1,001,244	512,841	952,494	1,073,164	1,208,515
Travel	10,000	2,881	5,000	4,448	4,000	10,000
Excess Cost	351,143	304,997	325,250	457,014	315,722	632,000
Supplies/Books & Periodicals	15,000	5,712	15,000	3,432	30,000	43,000
Software	10,000	4,701	15,000	4,285	5,000	5,000
Equipment	17,000	15,452	15,000	9,518	15,000	20,000

Program Area	SU BUDGET 2015-2016	SU ACTUALS 2015-2016	BUDGET 2016-2017	ACTUALS 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2019
Psychological Services						
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,636	\$ -
Contracted Services	406,000	385,372	316,000	280,466	325,380	316,000
Speech Pathology and Audiology						
Salaries	\$ 260,014	\$ 190,539	\$ 193,666	\$ 208,983	\$ 184,425	\$ 151,669
Benefits	81,502	86,911	79,619	69,302	62,808	19,140
Contracted Services	8,000	48,843	30,000	110,058	50,000	50,000
Travel	3,000	2,938	3,000	1,603	3,000	3,000
Supplies/Books & Periodicals/Software	4,500	3,149	4,000	3,685	4,000	4,000
Dues/Fees	1,250	890	2,000	920	1,500	1,500
Occupational Therapy Services						
Salaries	\$ 125,659	\$ 167,777	\$ 126,531	\$ 124,312	\$ 121,032	\$ 130,351
Benefits	34,698	64,354	55,350	50,045	48,299	27,268
Contracted Services	76,500	21,247	1,500	36,978	25,000	25,000
Travel	1,000	2,587	1,500	1,208	3,000	3,000
Supplies/Books & Periodicals	2,000	4,253	3,000	2,129	3,000	3,000
Equipment	-	-	-	745	-	-
Other Support Services			12,000	45,745	-	-
Instructional Staff Trainings	52,000	32,589	30,000	29,006	25,000	30,000

Program Area	SU BUDGET 2015-2016	SU ACTUALS 2015-2016	BUDGET 2016-2017	ACTUALS 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	PROPOSED BUDGET 2018-2019
Administration						
Salaries	\$ 268,355	\$ 267,957	\$ 274,634	\$ 260,700	\$ 302,504	\$ 276,917
Benefits	84,915	81,423	94,151	83,854	109,110	71,817
Contracted Services	21,000	125,089	8,000	5,631	8,000	4,000
Legal	4,000	2,805	20,000	2,760	15,000	5,000
Repairs/Maintenance	1,000	538	2,000	-	2,000	1,000
Child Find Activities	2,000		2,000	-	2,000	1,000
Travel Reimbursement/Conference	8,500	6,757	4,000	4,561	6,000	5,000
Telephone/Postage	1,300	1,075	-	1,925	1,000	2,000
Supplies	2,750	387	1,000	893	1,000	1,000
Books & Periodicals	700	355	1,000	410	500	500
Equipment & Contingency	500	475	500	2,611	1,000	2,500
Dues & Fees	1,750	2,154	750	3,503	2,000	3,500
Transportation	451,880	266,709	281,000	268,047	325,000	424,174
HRA OOP Cost						\$ 38,800
HRA Admin Fees						\$ 2,264
TOTAL ALL SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$ 6,380,944	\$ 6,017,295	\$ 5,425,369	\$ 6,157,148	\$ 6,737,032	\$ 6,999,523

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SU
SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUE BUDGET
FY 2018-2019**

Program Area	SU	SU	BUDGET	ACTUALS	BUDGET	ACTUALS	PROPOSED
	BUDGET	ACTUALS	BUDGET	ACTUALS	BUDGET	ACTUALS	BUDGET
	2015-2016	2015-2016	2016-2017	2016-2017	2017-2018	2017-2018	2018-2019
IDEA B Basic Flow Through	\$ 330,000	\$ 472,270	\$ 350,000	\$ 457,088	\$ 510,000	\$ 514,003	\$ 514,003
IDEA B Pre-School	160,000	9,665	50,000	12,177	12,000	12,193	12,193
IDEA B Proportionate Share	-	-	-	2,556	-	-	-
Block Grants	-	-	-	-	703,669	746,543	746,543
Extra-Ordinary Reimbursements	-	-	-	-	456,238	362,272	362,272
Expenditure Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	2,625,593	2,883,797	2,883,797
State Placed Reimbursement	-	-	-	18,535	-	-	-
Admin Serv	-	117,432	-	-	-	-	-
Tuition/Excess Cost	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prior Yr Adjustment	-	25,164	-	-	-	-	-
IEP Medicaid	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES	\$ 518,000	\$ 649,531	\$ 430,000	\$ 520,356	\$ 4,337,500	\$ 4,548,808	\$ 4,548,808
TO MEMBER TOWNS	\$ 5,862,944	\$ 5,367,764	\$ 4,995,369	\$ 5,637,847	\$ 2,399,532	\$ 2,450,715	\$ 2,450,715
TOTAL	\$ 6,380,944	\$ 6,017,295	\$ 5,425,369	\$ 6,158,203	\$ 6,737,032	\$ 6,999,523	\$ 6,999,523

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
SPECIAL EDUCATION
Apportionment For Member Towns FY 2018-2019

	FY17-18	Proposed FY 2018-2019	Change
Bethel Town School District	\$ 392,791	\$ -	\$ (392,791)
Chelsea Town School District	251,589	-	(251,589)
Granville Town School District	46,906	-	(46,906)
Hancock Town School District	77,253	-	(77,253)
Rochester Town School District	135,602	-	(135,602)
Royalton Town School District	497,279	-	(497,279)
Sharon Town School District	372,266	371,061	(1,205)
Strafford Town School District	251,020	258,446	7,426
Stockbridge Town School District	128,921	-	(128,921)
Tunbridge Town School District	245,903	-	(245,903)
White River USD	-	899,249	899,249
First Branch USD	-	516,445	516,445
Granville-Hancock USD	-	137,599	137,599
Rochester-Stockbridge USD	-	267,915	267,915
	\$ 2,399,532	\$ 2,450,715	\$ 51,183



*Early 1800s ladle used at the Copperas factory;
mid-1800s miner's cap with carbide lamp from the Elizabeth Mine.*

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES ONLY

District: Stratford		T199		Property dollar equivalent yield	Homestead tax rate per \$9,842 of spending per equalized pupil
County: Orange		White River Valley		9,842	1.00
				11,862	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$3,289,708	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673
2.	<i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-
3.	<i>minus</i> Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$3,289,708	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673
5.	<i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-
6.	<i>plus</i> Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-
7.	Total Budget	\$3,289,708	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-
Revenues					
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$587,553	\$543,660	\$222,444	\$354,518
11.	<i>plus</i> Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-	-
12.	<i>minus</i> All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$587,553	\$543,660	\$222,444	\$354,518
14.	Education Spending	\$2,702,155	\$2,783,954	\$2,927,577	\$2,753,155
15.	Equalized Pupils	176.08	178.93	179.07	177.20
16.	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$15,346.18	\$15,558.90	\$16,348.79	\$15,536.99
17.	<i>minus</i> Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-
18.	<i>minus</i> Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$23.50	\$26.77	\$14.99	-
19.	<i>minus</i> Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-

20.	minus	Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-						20.
21.	minus	Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-						21.
22.	minus	Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-						22.
23.	minus	Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-						23.
24.	minus	Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	-	\$37.38	\$22.36	\$18.36			24.
25.		Excess spending threshold		threshold = \$17,103	Allowable growth	threshold = \$17,386	threshold = \$17,386		25.
26.	plus	Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	+	\$17,103.00	\$15,560.17	\$17,386.00	\$17,386.00		26.
27.		Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate		\$15,346	\$15,559	\$16,349	\$15,536.99		27.
28.		District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)		162.239%	160.384%	160.913%	157.864%		28.
				based on \$9,285	based on \$9,701	based on yield \$10,160	based on yield \$9,842		
Prorating the local tax rate									
29.		Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$15,536.99 ÷ (\$9,842.00 / \$1,000)]		\$1,6062	\$1,6038	\$1,6091	\$1,5786		29.
				based on \$0.99	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00		
30.		Percent of Stratford equalized pupils not in a union school district		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%		30.
31.		Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.58)		\$1,6062	\$1,6038	\$1,6091	\$1,5786		31.
32.		Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)		107.46%	103.23%	104.51%	99.74%		32.
33.		Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1,5786 / 99.74%)		\$1,4947	\$1,5536	\$1,5397	\$1,5827		33.
				based on \$0.99	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00		
<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>									
34.		Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(\$15,536.99 ÷ \$11,862) x 0.00%]		2.92%	2.86%	2.73%	-		34.
				based on 1.80%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 0.00%		
35.		Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 0.00%)		2.92%	2.86%	2.73%	-		35.
				based on 1.80%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 0.00%		
36.				-	-	-	-		36.
37.				-	-	-	-		37.

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$9,842 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$11,862 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1,629. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**

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

- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION
FY 2017-2018 First Semester Secondary Enrollment
(as of September 2017)

SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	Total
Thetford Academy	5	9	3	11	28
Hanover High School	1	2	3	6	12
Kimball Union			1		1
Sharon Academy	7	4	4	7	22
Total Enrollment	13	15	11	24	63

Secondary Education Tuition Paid during FY 2016-2017

	<u>Tuition Paid</u>
Thetford Academy	\$ 507,221
Hanover High School	287,968
Sharon Academy	254,792
Kimball Union	14,773
Vocational (all schools)	<u>12,297</u>
Total Tuition Paid	\$1,077,051

Per pupil costs*

	2016-2017		2017-2018	
	<u>Tuition Charged</u>	<u>Amount to be paid</u>	<u>Tuition Charged</u>	<u>Amount to be paid</u>
Thetford Academy	\$ 17,998	\$ 17,998	\$ 18,628	\$ 18,628
Hanover High School	19,275	17,998	19,682	18,628
Private Schools(state average)	varies	14,773	varies	15,130

*vocational not included

Congratulations, Graduates!
~ 2017 ~

The Newton School

Xia Gillespie	Calliope Goodling	Max Higgins
Emerson Jenisch	Tia Kendall	Knute Linehan
Onley Parker	Arlo Perez	Jackson Ransom
Jordan Ray	Aaron Romano	Paul Scull
Kaitlyn Tanner	Kesha Wootton	Daniel Worth
	Erik Younce	

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Thetford Academy

Nicolette Brown	Ruby Cassidy	Hunter Daniels
Mitchell Higgins	Molly Higgins	Sammantha Lepenven
	Austin Pedro	

The Sharon Academy

Cordell Benjamin	Alex Binzen	William Connelli
Tray Fisk		Harvey Kelley

Hanover High School

Ashley Farina	Simon Kahan	Ryan Kynor
Sylvia Penfield		Charlotte Pyle

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
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
2015-16	9	9	11	9	11	16	12	18	15	16	117
2016-17	8	12	9	12	9	11	16	14	17	15	123
2017-18	12	8	12	11	12	8	10	13	9	16	111

*Note: Reflects official October 1st student counts where available.
As of 2016-17, total includes pre-K.*

STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

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

TOWN OFFICE: Telephone 765-4411

TOWN GARAGE: Telephone 765-4550

LISTERS: Telephone 765-4360

www.traffordvt.org

Board Meetings

Selectboard – Town Office – Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 6:00 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 – Third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission – Education Center at Morrill Homestead –
Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

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

School Directors – Newton School (odd months),
Sharon Elementary (even months) – Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.,
*(Time/date subject to change;
[check wrvsu.org/school-boards/trafford-school-board/](http://check.wrvsu.org/school-boards/trafford-school-board/))*

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9 1 1

Orange County Sheriff: 685-4875

STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon – South Strafford Substation
Durkee Rubbish Collection - 765-4308

STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY

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