

Annual Report 2002-2003



of the officers of the Town of

BENSON, VERMONT

and

BENSON

SCHOOL DISTRICT

For

TOWN MEETING: *March 2, 2004*

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE.....911
BENSON FIRST RESPONSE.....911
STATE POLICE.....911

Public Services Hours

Transfer Station:

Wednesday.....12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday.....8:00 a. m. to 4:00 p.m.

Library:

Saturday.....11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....3:00 p.m. to 7:00p.m.

Museum:

Wednesday.....1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday.....1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Helpful Numbers

Benson School.....537-2491
537-2492
High School.....265-4966
Town Garage.....537-2722
Town Office.....537-2611
Fax 2612



Dedicated
to
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bowen

Fran and Dick, as we all know them, have been dedicated citizens of our town for many years.

Dick was a member of the Select Board for 25 years. He has been a member of the Benson Volunteer Fire Department for over 30 years. He has held different positions including Fire Chief.

Dick served on the committee to restore the Methodist Church to a Community Hall. Many meetings and five years were needed to complete this project for our town.

Dick is the contact person for local situations at the Senior Citizen Housing complex in Benson Village.

Fran has been our Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer for 27 years. Her dedication to the Benson Library has been outstanding. She has been a commissioner for 26 years. Fran also volunteers weekly at the school.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Voter Information

Condensed Minutes of 2003 Town Meeting	13
Town Officers.....	14 & 15
Warning for the 218 th Town Meeting.....	5-7

Budget and Related

Abstract of Grand List	16
Benson Fire Department	23
Delinquent Sewer Maintenance Fees	25
Delinquent Taxes	26-28
Payroll.....	24
Select Board Report.....	3&4
2002-2003 Report.....	17-22
Select Board Budget.....	8-12

Reports

Benson Cemetery Bank Account and Report.....	31-32
Benson Local Indebtedness	29
Benson Planning Commission Report	33
Benson Public Library	30
First National Bank of Orwell.....	35
Green-Up Vermont.....	49
Listers' Report.....	34
Merchants Bank	36
Revenue Sharing	29
Rutland Regional Planning Commission.....	44
Rutland Regional Transportation Council.....	45
Trustee of Public Funds	16

Requests

Benson First Response	39-40
Benson Volunteer Fire Department	37-38
Benson Youth Baseball League	29
Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council	46
Conservation Commission.....	43
Fair Haven Volunteer Rescue Squad	41-42
Rutland Area Mental Health	49
Rutland Area Visiting Nurses and Hospice	47
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	48

General

Emergency Numbers.....	Inside Front Cover
"Dedication"	1
Scholarship Report and Registered Dogs.....	102
Veteran's Memorial	Inside Back Cover
Vermont Department of Health.....	100
Vital Records.....	101
<u>All School Budgets and Reports</u>	50-99

SELECT BOARD REPORT

The Select Board would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their assistance and suggestions during the year. As always, Town residents are encouraged to attend and invited to participate at Select Board Meetings. Make this the year you become actively engaged in your local government!

FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004 REPORT:

Sunset Lake Road Project: The goal of this project is to eliminate erosion along the 1400 foot shoreline and the subsequent sedimentation in the lake along the lake shore. The project is being completed in phases. Phases 1 and 2 were completed in years 2001 and 2002 for a total of 400 feet. In the summer of 2003 (Phase 3), 600 more feet were completed, leaving 400 feet to be finished before November 1, 2005 (Phase 4).

Other Road Projects:

- Replaced culvert on North Lake Road
- Paved 1.2 miles on Route 144
- Arranged for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to complete traffic studies on several paved and dirt roads. Reports from RRPC include information on vehicle types, speeds and numbers.

Ordinances: A traffic committee was formed to research and make recommendations to the Board about parking, speed and stop sign issues. This information will be used to create a traffic ordinance.

Sunset Lake Public Access: The Sunset Lake Committee, formed to explore options for public access to Sunset Lake, reported:

- The State responded affirmatively to the Town letter requesting development of the State-owned fishing access property on State-owned lakefront property
- Vermont towns with Boy Scout and Girl Scout property were identified and contacted, along with Rutland County State Senators and Representatives, requesting support for legislation to compensate towns for taxes lost from these properties
- The Committee met with the Green Mountain Council to present three parking proposals and to address other issues,
- Met with Orwell Select Board to advise them of the Committee's activities and to determine if Orwell had an interest in participating in a joint project to improve lake access, specifically for Benson and Orwell residents, and
- Drafted a Sunset Lake Public Parking and Management Plan

Administrative/Personnel Changes:

- Hired Bob Ballard as a road crew equipment operator
- Hired Diane Drake as Select Board secretary
- Asked the voters to make one of the two Constable positions an appointed one
- Added stops on Community Hall windows

- Received \$1,000 grant from the State of Vermont which will be used to address the playground safety, purchase new equipment and fix the existing play structures
- Constructed retaining walls for dumpsters and graded Transfer Station area
- Purchased a new recycling dumpster and contracted single-stream service
- Began re-evaluation process of the Cold Springs gravel pit: arranged for it to be grandfathered; worked to meet MSHA requirements; created an operational plan
- Began preparation process of a Hazard Communication Plan
- Completed VLCT and ANR compliance on all town buildings, sewer plant and playground
- Worked with RRPC to create a plan re: inventorying and mitigating hazardous problem areas in Benson
- Completed SPCC plan, a plan which identifies sites where there is a potential for oil spills and establishes a plan of action should one occur
- Began working with State on Storm Water Permit Process, which is pending
- Agreed to join a regional animal control officer program at an approximate cost of \$2,000 per year
- Proposed a community project on Mill Pond, which was turned down by the voters
- Applied for Village Center designation
- Signed a contract to purchase land that borders Lake Sunset and Lake Sunrise, to be owned jointly with the Town of Orwell (will need to meet approval of voters from both towns)

PLANS FOR 2004-2005:

- Continue work on the Sunset Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project and seek grant money to aid in the completion of this project
- Apply for State Grant to pave one mile
- Apply for State Grant to complete a culvert or road surface project
- Continue work on Sunset Lake public access issues
- Evaluate options for salt and sand storage to meet EPA requirements
- Replace 2 UST's / improve garage fuel area
- Replace playground equipment, to be partially paid for with grants

A special thank you to

- **Randy Bowen and road crew for helping us get through this very difficult winter!**
- **Sue Janssen for helping us with grants and showing interest in public affairs**
- **Whit Humphries, first-year selectboard member, who co-ordinated all the great work done on gravel pit, town buildings (especially the garage) and playground**

Guy Charlton
Select Board Chairperson

WARNING

FOR THE 218TH BENSON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Benson in the County of Rutland and the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Community Hall in said town on the first Tuesday in March, being the 2nd of March, 2004, at 10 AM to transact the following business, vis:

- Article 1: To elect all town officers and fill vacancies except those required by law to be appointed by the Selectboard.
(Note: The vote under Article 1 will be by Australian ballot. Polls will open at 10 AM and close at 7 PM)
- Article 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town officials.
- Article 3: Shall the Town confirm and ratify the outstanding notes and orders that have been given by the Selectboard or its proper officials as may appear by the report of the Town officials?
- Article 4: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds, such as grants and gifts?
- Article 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$705.00 for the support of Rutland Mental Health Services so that these services can be maintained?
- Article 6: Shall the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,400.00 to support the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice in Fiscal Year 2004 (\$250.00 to support Rutland Area Hospice and \$1,150.00 to support RAVNAH Home and Community Services)?
- Article 7: Shall the town appropriate the sum of \$900.00 requested by the Southwestern Council on Aging to help support the Senior Meals Program, Meals on Wheels and other services provided by the agency to elder residents of Benson?
- Article 8: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to support the programs and services of BROCC (Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council) in 2004-2005?
- Article 9: What sum shall the Town vote for the Benson First Response to help defray the costs of major expenses? (\$2,000.00 requested)

- Article 10: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$10,390.00 as its share of the FY2004 Fair Haven Rescue Squad budget?
- Article 11: Will the Town appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 for the maintenance, care and increase of the Town Library?
- Article 12: Will the Town appropriate the sum of \$2000.00 for the maintenance and care of the Town Cemeteries, with a minimum of \$500.00 to be spent on each of the four Town cemeteries?
- Article 13: Will the Town appropriate \$10,000 to set aside for the construction of a salt or salted sand shed?
- Article 14: Will the Town appropriate the sum of \$19,500 to cover the cost of equipment, training, truck repairs, gas, etc. for fire protection?
- Article 15: Will the Town appropriate an additional sum of \$9,995 to purchase an air compressor system for the purpose of filling self contained breathing apparatus bottles?
(The total cost of the system is \$15,385. The three bottle cascade storage system is \$1,895 and the fill station is \$3,495. Both are required in addition to the compressor, and the \$5,390 will be paid for by the Benson Fire Department)
- Article 16: Will the Town appropriate \$600.00 for the Benson Youth League for the support of their program?
- Article 17: Shall the Town create a municipal conservation commission pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sections 4501 to 4506?
(to help in the stewardship of the Town's natural resources, see page XX of the Town Report for more information)
- Article 18: Shall the Town of Benson appropriate an additional \$5000 for the fund for a stone monument to honor veterans to be placed at the Town Office?
- Article 19: What sum shall the Town vote for the Selectboard's Budget? (\$100,000.00 Requested)
- Article 20: What sum shall the Town vote for layout, repair and maintenance of Town highways? (\$188,600.00 requested)
- Article 21: Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of up to \$48,000 to purchase a one and a half ton pickup truck, with plow, dump box and slide in sander, for the maintenance of Town highways, to be financed, and to be paid for out of the Town highway budget?

Article 22: Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of up to \$45,000.00 plus closing costs to purchase land on Sunset Lake and Lake Sunrise, to be jointly owned with the Town of Orwell, the funds to be raised by grants, financing, and/or Town funds?

Article 23 What sum shall the Town vote to pay appropriations, its portion of county tax, state highway taxes, and to pay its indebtedness, current and incidental expenses, for the year ensuing and fix a time and how the same shall be collected?

Article 24: Shall the town of Benson vote all appropriation articles, all budget articles and all other articles authorizing funds to be raised by taxes by Australian ballot?

Article 25: Shall the town of Benson vote all appropriation articles over \$5,000, all budget articles and all other articles authorizing funds to be raised by taxes by Australian ballot?

Article 26: Shall the Town vote to elect Planning Commissioners, maintaining a 7 person board, with 3 year terms, spaced such that 2 or 3 members are elected each year?

Article 27: To transact any other business proper to be done at the Annual Town Meeting.

Dated at Benson, Vermont, this the 22nd day of January, 2004.

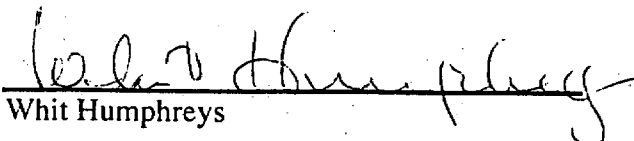
Benson Select Board

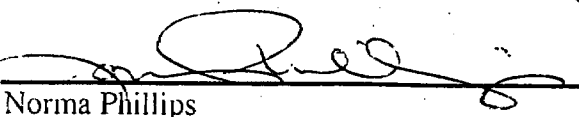

Guy Charlton

Nancy Elkington


Nancy Elkington

John Fedor


Whit Humphreys


Norma Phillips

Category	Proposed Budget 2004-2005	Estimated Total 2003-2004	Voted 2003-2004	Actual 2002-2003
Appropriations:				
Rutland Area Comm. Services	\$705.00	\$705.00	\$705.00	\$705.00
BROC	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
S.W. Council on Aging	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
Visiting Nurses/Hospice	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Benson First Response	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Fair Haven Rescue	\$10,390.00	\$10,390.00	\$10,390.00	\$10,290.00
Fair Haven Rescue-additional	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Benson Youth League	\$600.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,236.57
Benson Cemeteries	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,376.00
Benson Library	\$3,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,171.00
Benson Fire Department	\$19,500.00	\$15,600.00	\$15,600.00	\$19,388.00
Benson Fire Department-additional	\$9,995.00			
Veteran's Monument	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00
Selectboard Budget	\$100,000.00	*See next page	*See next page	*See next page
Highway Budget	\$188,600.00	*See next page	*See next page	*See next page

00

Other Appropriations:

Total to be raised by taxes
in 2004-2005 fiscal year:

Selectboard Budget:
(see report on next page)

Note 1:

While the Estimated Total 2003-2004 shows that \$128,333.99 will be spent, and that the Town only voted \$100,206.00, the money that the Selectboard spends comes from sources other than taxes. In this case, there was a carry forward of \$18,000 that was raised by taxes but not spent in previous years. Also, \$12,571.05 was spent from CDs earmarked to pay for reappraisal costs. This means that, after the carry forward and the cashed in CDs, the total is \$97,762.94, which is \$2,443.06 under budget.

Note 2:

How will this proposed budget of 110,595 be paid for? The Selectboard is forecasting a carry forward of \$3,000 from the current fiscal year. In addition, the Selectboard proposes to spend \$3,500 from the Community Hall saving to help pay for the cost of replacing the furnace. And finally, to defray the cost of reappraisal, a CD of \$3,918 will be cashed in. The resulting total is \$100,177, which is slightly less than the budgeted amount for the current fiscal year. The Selectboard is requesting that \$100,000 be raised by taxes.

In the current fiscal year, the Selectboard has incurred many one time expenses. Since the Town switched insurance carriers, we have saved money. However, it is important to note that now, the insurance on Benson First Response and the Benson Fire Department are now paid out of the Selectboard Budget, and not from BFR and BFD's budgets. In addition, the voters appropriated the purchase of a new fire truck. The payments for this truck are also now paid for out of the Selectboard budget. The above mentioned switch of insurance carriers resulted in a safety inspection. This brought to our attention much work that needed to be done to comply with state and federal regulations, as well as for the safety of the people using the Town's facilities. The playground by the Town Office has received attention, and there have been electrical updates at the Fire Department, Community Hall, Town Office and the building that houses the Fire Dept & Bookshed. (Additional work was accomplished under the highway budget) In addition, the Selectboard has forecast the expenditure of \$20,000 to replace the two underground tanks (Town Office and Community Hall) to comply with regulations concerning fuel storage. This work represents a one time expense to correct long standing issues.

Highway Budget:
(see report on next page)

Similar to the work mentioned above, much work has been accomplished in the current fiscal year to comply with state and federal regulations at the Town Garage. Much work has been accomplished regarding the proper handling and use of the hazardous materials at the Town Garage. A spill in the diesel fuel containment area was cleaned up and many overdue repairs and improvements were made to the facility, including to the electrical system. Many of these items are one time expenses, however, the Selectboard has budgeted for continued monitoring and compliance in this area to ensure that the Town does not fall behind in compliance issues again.

COMPARATIVE SELECTBOARD BUDGET 2002-2003 to 2004-2005

Category	Proposed Budget 2004-2005	Estimated Total 2003-2004	Voted 2003-2004	Actual 2002-2003
Selectboard Budget:				
<i>Income:</i>				
Current Use	\$13,918.00	\$13,918.00	\$12,606.00	\$12,606.00
FG & FP	\$6,280.00	\$6,280.00	\$6,280.00	\$6,280.00
Fees & Copier	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$12,614.00
Dog Tags	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,279.00
Dump Stickers & Permits & Recycling	\$39,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$23,163.93
Bookstore Rent	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,200.00
State Grand List Maintenance	\$632.00	\$632.00	\$632.00	\$632.00
Licenses	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,373.00
Reappraisal State Money	\$4,100.00	\$4,100.00	\$10,000.00	\$4,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,489.51
Total Income:	\$85,230.00	\$74,230.00	\$77,818.00	\$69,637.44
<i>Expenses:</i>				
Fire Truck Payment	\$11,928.00	\$11,928.00 *	\$11,928.00 *	
Regional Planning	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
VLCT Dues	\$997.00	\$946.00	\$675.00	\$675.00
Town Officers	\$45,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$46,842.02
Listers Reappraisal Cost	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$4,496.64
Insurance	\$23,000.00	\$21,046.46	\$17,000.00	\$13,993.46
Elections	\$1,300.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,280.88
Office Expenses	\$15,000.00	\$14,800.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,936.14
Selectboard Employees	\$1,700.00	\$1,115.00		
Electricity	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,936.42
Fuel	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,424.20
Transfer Station	\$48,000.00	\$54,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$43,945.11
County Tax	\$6,400.00	\$6,390.72	\$6,621.00	\$6,406.93
Community Hall	\$10,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$5,200.00	\$9,176.88
Legal Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$467.50
Building Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$14,137.81	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Town Facility Planning	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$10,000.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$4,000.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,000.00	
Total Expenses:	\$195,825.00	\$202,563.99	\$178,024.00	\$152,081.18
Total Selectboard:	\$110,595.00	\$128,333.99	\$100,206.00	\$82,443.74

*appropriated by
voters Mar 2003

How will this be paid for? then amount voted?
See Note 2 See Note 1

COMPARATIVE HIGHWAY BUDGET 2002-2003 to 2004-2005

Category	Proposed Budget 2004-2005	Estimated Total 2003-2004	Voted 2003-2004	Actual 2002-2003
Highway Budget:				
<i>Income:</i>				
State Aid	\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$109,372.00
Grants	\$40,000.00	\$26,900.00	\$45,000.00	\$56,000.00
Misc. Income	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$50.00
Total Income:	\$150,000.00	\$137,900.00	\$156,000.00	\$165,422.00
<i>Expenses:</i>				
Labor	\$90,000.00	\$88,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$69,874.00
Chloride	\$18,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$6,050.00
Winter Sand	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$22,183.00
Winter Salt	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$22,014.00
Crushed Gravel	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$53,727.00
Bank Run Gravel	\$8,000.00	\$5,400.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00
Culverts	\$5,000.00	\$5,852.00	\$12,000.00	\$17,656.00
Cold Patch	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
<i>Contracts:</i>				
Sudbury	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Sunset Lake Road	\$7,000.00	\$27,644.00	\$17,000.00	\$7,296.00
Ditching	\$5,600.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$770.00
Paving/Class II Resurfacing	\$37,000.00	\$44,985.52	\$35,000.00	\$79,193.00
Mowing	\$3,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,650.00
Roadside Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Gravel Hauling	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,370.00
Misc. Contracts-Ditching&Operator	\$7,500.00	\$8,280.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Misc. Expenses	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,468.00
<i>Garage:</i>				
Reserve Equipment Fund	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Truck Payment	\$16,500.00	\$16,935.00	\$17,000.00	\$17,514.07
Grader Payment	\$12,600.00	\$12,920.38	\$13,200.00	\$13,200.00
Diesel Fuel	\$6,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,769.76
Utilities	\$3,300.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,951.00
Chains, Etc.	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,194.00
Equipment Parts	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$6,721.00
Equipment & Repair	\$4,500.00	\$2,805.00	\$4,500.00	\$11,166.00
Service Materials	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$41.00
Tools & Repairs	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,856.00
Signs	\$3,000.00			
Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$71.77
Total Expenses:	\$338,600.00	\$350,221.90	\$363,000.00	\$354,735.60
Total Highway:	\$188,600.00	\$212,321.90	\$207,000.00	\$189,313.60

COMPARATIVE BUDGET 2001-2002

Category	Voted 2001-2002 2001-2002	Actual 2001-2002 2001-2002
Appropriations:		
Rutland Area Comm. Services	\$705.00	\$705.00
BROC	\$500.00	\$500.00
S.W. Council on Aging	\$900.00	\$900.00
Visiting Nurses/Hospice	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Benson First Response	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Fair Haven Rescue	\$6,353.00	\$6,353.00
Benson Youth League	\$600.00	\$583.26
Benson Cemeteries	\$2,000.00	\$6,253.73
Benson Library	\$1,500.00	\$2,455.98
Benson Fire Department	\$19,000.00	\$21,786.65
Fire Truck CD	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Veteran's Monument		
Selectboard Budget:		
<i>Income:</i>		
Current Use		\$12,688.20
FG & FP		\$4,385.74
Fees & Copier		\$12,558.38
Dog Tags		\$2,128.00
Dump Stickers & Permits & Recycling Revenue		\$22,949.45
Bookstore Rent		\$1,200.00
State Reappraisal		\$632.00
Licenses		\$300.00
Reappraisal State Money		\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income		<u>\$3,353.58</u>
<i>Expenses:</i>		
Regional Planning	\$500.00	\$500.00
VLCT Dues	\$535.00	
Town Officers	\$25,500.00	\$36,080.76
Listers Reappraisal Cost		
Interest Paid	\$0.00	
Insurance	\$8,000.00	\$9,535.50
Elections	\$500.00	\$601.65
Office Expenses	\$15,700.00	\$13,365.94
Selectboard Employees		
Electricity	\$3,500.00	\$3,448.31
Fuel	\$2,000.00	\$1,636.70
Transfer Station	\$16,000.00	\$42,652.38
County Tax	\$6,621.25	\$6,621.25
Community Hall	\$5,500.00	\$7,451.02
Legal Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,140.00
Building Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$1,324.97
Town Facility Planning		
Miscellaneous Expenses		<u>\$2,132.30</u>
Total Selectboard:	<u>\$87,856.25</u>	<u>\$64,163.13</u>
Highway Budget:		
<i>Income:</i>		
State Aid		\$142,373.32
Grants		
Misc. Income		<u>\$1,205.00</u>
Total Income:		<u>\$143,578.32</u>
<i>Expenses:</i>		
Total Expenses:		<u>\$251,937.85</u>
Total Highway:	<u>\$146,000.00</u>	<u>\$108,359.53</u>
Total Appropriations, Selectboard and Highway budgets:		
	\$280,814.25	\$227,460.28

Note: In 01-02 "Voted", income was deducted from a category below, for example, transfer station revenue was deducted from the expenses listed below.

CONDENSED MINUTES OF 2003 TOWN MEETING

The town meeting for 2003 was held on March 4, 2003 at the Benson Community Hall.
Ron Savageau, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
The town voted to give Rutland Mental Health \$705.00.
The town voted to give Rutland Visiting Nurses \$1400.00.
The town voted to give Southwestern Council on Aging \$900.00.
The town voted to give BROCC \$500.00.
The town voted to give 0 dollars to Benson First Response as requested.
The town voted to give Fair Haven Rescue Squad \$10,390.00. (\$10.00 per capita)
The town voted to give Fair Haven Rescue Squad an additional \$2,000.00 for Benson's share for a cardiac/defibrillator..
The town voted to give the library \$2,000.00.
The town voted to give the cemetery \$2,000.00.
The town voted to give the fire department \$15,600.00.
The town voted to give the Benson Youth League \$1,000.00.
The town voted to invest \$10,000.00 for a reserve fund for highway equipment.
Motion carried to adopt speed limits in the town.
The town voted to spend up to \$10,000.00 to complete a study and provide recommendations for construction, use, and maintenance of town buildings including construction of salt and salt/sand storage facilities.
Town voted to request the state to put in a fishing access on the back side of Sunset Lake.
Town voted to have select board hire a select board assistant for assistance on a temporary basis needed per hour basis not to exceed \$20,000.00.
Town voted to give the highway \$165,000.00.
Town voted to give the select board \$120,000.00 for their budget.
Town voted to authorize a second constable position.
Town voted to give \$5,000.00 towards veteran's monument.
Town voted to raise by taxes \$285,000.00 with taxes due ½ on September 15, 2003 and second half due on March 15, 2004.
Town tabled the article concerning immediate and ongoing action of legislature to promote energy efficiency in Vermont homes, etc.
Discussion about town plan and zoning and subdivision ordinance.

TOWN OFFICERS

		Term Expires
Moderator:	Ron Savageau	2004
Town Clerk/Treas:	Janet Ladd	2004
Select Board:	Norma Phillips (3 year)	2006
	John Fedor (3 year)	2005
	Guy Charlton (3 year)	2004
	Whit Humphreys (1 year)	2004
	Nancy Elkington (1 year)	2004
Listers:	Susan Brown	2006
	Lois Trenn	2005
	Les Burleson	2004
Auditors:	Bob Butman	2006
	Lynn Bernhardt	2005
	Pat MacLaren	2004
First Constable:	Daryl Burlett	2004
Second Constable:	Randy Gadway	2004
Del. Tax Collector:	Lois Trenn	2004
Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits:	Morris Silver	2004
Grand Juror:	Daniel Britton	2004
Trustee of Public Funds:	Norma Phillips	2006
	Genevieve Trutor	2005
	Welsey Bowen	2004
Library Commissioners:	Peggy Munger	2008
	Frances Bowen	2007
	Cherie Collett	2006
	Ethel McWayne	2005
	Jacqueline Lussier	2004
Cemetery Commissioners:	Leonard Lussier	2008
	Donald Ladd	2007
	Martha Savageau	2006
	Ed Peltier	2005
	Ruth Bosworth	2004

School District		
Moderator:	Ron Savageau	2004
School District		
Clerk:	Janet Ladd	2004
Town School Directors:		
	Tobi Silver (3 year)	2006
	Susan Brown (3 year)	2005
	Cheryl Schneider (3 year)	2004
	Lee Scott (1 year)	2004
	Wesley Bowen (1 year)	2004

FHUHS Directors:	Theresa Lussier	2005
	Cheryl Schneider	2005

Justices of the Peace:	Ron Savageau	2007
	Ed Peltier	2007
	Melvin Corey	2007
	John Hill	2007
	Susan Janssen	2007

The following officers are appointed by the Board of Selectmen

Fence Viewers:	Neal Bartholomew	
	Lester Burleson	
	H. Jack Munger	
Pound Keeper:	Daryl Kuehne	
Health Officer:	Daryl Kuehne	
Inspection of Wood,		
Lumber & Shingles:	Morris Silver	
Town Energy Coord:	Jim Hall	
Tree Warden:	Steve Arthur	
Town Env. Officer:		
Town Planning Board:		
	Matthew Currie	2008
	David Cunningham	2007
	Neal Bartholomew	2006
	Jack Munger	2005
	Morris Silver	2004
	Matt Lannon	2004

JMSC/SWAC:	Janet Ladd/Norma Phillips	
Flood Plain Zoning:	John Fedor	
Civil Defense:	Dave White	
Community Hall:		
	Howard Bowen	2005
	Dawn Pedro	2004
	Pam Lamoureux	2004

Director of F.H. Rescue:	Lynn LaRock
Service Coordinator:	Lynn Bowen
Rutland Regional Planning Rep:	Norma Phillips
Rutland Regional Trans. Comm:	Tom Bartholomew
Fire Warden:	Ben Bartholomew

ABSTRACT OF 2003 GRAND LIST

2002 total listed value of real estate for taxation \$52,578,488.00

Total Municipal Grand List \$525,784.88
Total Education Grand List \$526,470.88
(contract for parsonage added in)

Setting tax rates for 2003

School

State tax 613,209. Divided by Education grand list = 1.164

Local share 249,692. Divided by Education grand list = .474

Education tax rate 1.638

Town 285,000. voted at town meeting

Divided by Municipal grand list = .542

Tax rate 2003 School 1.164
School .474
Town .542
2.180

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Balance 6-30-02	\$67,394.99
Interest CD 6-30-03	631.03
Interest CD 6-30-03 (renewal)	1,179.49
Interest Savings 6030-03	41.24
 Total Balance 6-30-03	 \$69,246.75

Respectfully submitted,

Elenore Trator
Wesley Bowers
[Signature]

**TOWN OF BENSON
2002-2003 REPORT**

Balance as of June 30, 2002	\$103,960.28
Receipts:	\$1,489,818.58
Expenditures:	<u>\$1,542,772.98</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2003	\$51,005.88

Receipts:

Delinquent Taxes	\$83,548.38
8 % penalty	4,073.39
1% interest	2,877.49
Highway Equipment Fund	6,375.00
Highway Aid	165,546.85
Sewer Fees	15,452.31
8% penalty	53.36
1% interest	44.57
Rent of old office	1,600.00
Fees	12,614.97
Dogs	2,279.00
Beverage Licenses	200.00
Transfer Station	23,514.81
Recycle on paper	822.93
2002-2003 taxes	1,058,790.83
2003-2004 taxes	5,429.13
FG/FP	6,280.00
Insurance refund	3,607.00
Library Roof Savings	3,200.00
CDs for reappraisal	17,142.05
CDs for fire truck	49,636.73
Library grant & donations	10,446.90
Cemetery Restoration	1,794.37
Current Use	12,606.00
Miscellaneous Income	<u>1,882.51</u>
Total	1,489,818.58

Expenditures:

Insurance	\$13,993.46
Transfer station	\$43,945.11
HE	\$ 6,227.50
Library (Grant)	\$ 3,170.93
Library	\$ 2,171.04
Highway	\$295,155.87
Office	\$17,883.72
Garage	\$39,657.41
Elections	\$ 1,349.78
Sewer	\$11,393.77
Del. Taxes	\$4,787.98
Fire Dept.	\$19,306.50
Community Hall	\$ 9,176.88
Cemetery	\$ 4,376.73
Town Officers	\$46,633.79
Legal Opinions	\$467.50
Taxes	\$904,560.00
CVPS	\$3,936.42
Mac's Flame Rite	\$2,424.20

County Tax	\$6,406.93
Rutland Mental Health	\$705.00
Visiting Nurses	\$1,400.00
BROC	\$500.00
Council on Aging	\$900.00
Benson First Response	\$4,000.00
Green Up for VT	\$50.00
Fair Haven Rescue	\$10,390.00
Truck payment	\$17,514.07
Grader payment	\$13,200.00
Refund	\$135.02
Fire Truck payment	\$50,000.00
Humane Society	\$150.00
VLCT	\$675.00
Rutland Planning	\$500.00
Youth League	\$1,236.57
Reappraisal costs	\$4,274.65
Building Repairs	\$115.58
Misc.	<u>\$1.57</u>

Total Expenditures \$1,542,772.98

Break Down of Expenditures:

Insurance:	Unemployment	\$523.96
	VLCT	<u>\$13,469.50</u>
	Total	\$13,993.46

Transfer Station:

Les Ballard	\$100.00
Pete Flynn	\$68.00
Julie Austin	\$716.00
Rachel Collett	\$64.00
Jim Hopper	\$992.00
Jim Smith	\$3,408.00
FICA	\$331.72
MC	\$77.69

JMSC	\$2,131.76
Hubbard Brothers	\$ 875.00
Casella Waste	\$33,642.98
Gates Appliance	\$636.00
HE Equipment	\$147.50
Trend-Stickers	\$260.34
Benson Village Store	\$ 72.00
Jim Smith-keys	\$ 22.12
Leonard Lussier	\$75.00
Don Ladd -plowing	\$300.00
Carrie Charlton-plowing	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$43,945.11

Highway and Garage:

Reese Pedro	\$207.00
Morgan Phillips	\$76.50
Jim Smith	\$306.00
Jim Hall	\$145.00
Jim Hopper	\$106.50
Frank Heibler	\$24.00
Jim Pritchard	\$6,298.91
Frank Fowler	\$4,008.00
Daryl Burlett	\$25,924.32
Randy Bowen	\$24,489.49
Daryl Burlett (dump)	\$564.57
Randy Bowen (dump)	\$358.02
FICA	\$3,875.77
MC	\$906.74
Retirement JimP.	\$314.96
Randy B.	\$530.15
Daryl B.	\$1,324.49

Irene Bowen	64.00
Mileage	\$963.52
Phil Stannard	\$100.00
Howard's Fire	\$102.50
Power Washer	\$4,495.00
Jim Pritchard	\$392.50
Telephone	\$662.76
CVPS	\$938.56
Mac's Flame Rite	\$2,201.86
Lawson Products	\$1,095.54
Ken Metal	\$20.48
Griswold	\$2,280.80
Doran Brothers	\$31.50
Gr. Mt. Rental	\$491.65
ESNI	\$1,907.72
McIntyre Fuels	\$1,035.00
Environ. Products	\$1,125.00
Tax	\$82.60
Sewer	\$150.00
Black Pond	\$1,734.88
Carrara	\$7,123.63
Bartholomew Broth.	\$7,796.00
D & F Paving	\$73,598.85
Solutions (CC)	\$6,050.52

Cargill Salt	\$22,014.36
Agway	\$5,769.76
Rouse Tires	\$1,027.20
Mike Smith Exc.	\$6,215.00
Chris Sheldrick	\$705.00
Taconic Exc.	\$2,662.50
Don Tupper	\$200.00
Gilmore Home	\$519.29
Don Ladd	\$721.00
Carrie Charlton	\$200.00
Jim Hall Trucking	\$3,370.00
Reese Pedro	\$770.00
Lem Palmer	\$2,650.00
St. Michael's	\$135.00
Vt. Mun. Truck	\$3,167.99
Seward's	\$3,309.02
Mike Shaw	\$561.00
Capital Tractor	\$1,755.88
Fyles Brothers	\$70.83
Saunders Trans.	\$179.00
Giddings	\$182.41
Young Farm Equip.	\$293.92
Benson Village Store	\$79.19
Smith Auto	\$1,131.99

Highway and garage expenditures (con't)

Champlain Constr. \$23,252.17
 Casella (sand) \$22,183.86
 Crushed Rock \$15,556.68
 Red Hed \$15,740.05
 William Bowen \$120.00
 Mac Steel \$189.60
 Parker's \$8.00
 Mike Sheldrick \$135.00
 Steven's Lawn & Garden \$30.00
 Hill Martin \$1,257.90
 Seedway \$35.50
 N.E. Mt. Radio \$50.00
 Nortrax \$188.50
 Tenco \$326.07

KAM \$780.00
 Scott Perron \$61.14
 Winmill \$734.91
 Dept. of Motor Vehicle \$50.00
 Dundon's \$447.89
 LWI \$64.88
 Young's Spring \$2,237.86
 CBS \$725.00

F. H. Auto \$699.71
 Staples \$80.88
 Haun Welding \$41.00
 Daryl Burlett \$550.00
 Mobile Sales \$131.30
 Work Safe \$ 88.86
 Town of Sudbury \$1,000.00
 Nat. Fire Safety \$178.50
 Adirondack 2-Way \$444.00
 Dynamic Cons. \$1,250.00
 Reg Lussier \$2,500.00
 Foley's \$71.77
 BC/BS \$1,372.12
 Addition error .62
 Everett Prescott \$634.84

Highway \$295,155.87
 Garage \$39,657.41

Total \$334,813.28

COMMUNITY HALL:

Fran Bowen \$1,690.00
 FICA \$104.78
 MC \$24.70
 Mac's Flame Rite \$2,108.20
 CVPS \$912.32
 Benson Village Store \$ 22.15
 Sewer (Town) \$150.00
 Fran Bowen \$14.37
 Mike Sheldrick \$145.00
 Dick Bowen \$105.00
 Gilmore's \$97.46
 Don Ladd \$60.00
 Howard' Fire \$150.00
 Staples \$92.90
 Reg Lussier \$300.00
 Total \$5,976.88

Community Hall Savings Account
 Paid for roof \$3,200.00

Elections:

BCA	\$1,248.00
FICA	\$77.53
MC	\$18.25
Retire.	<u>\$6.00</u>
Total	\$1,349.78

Town Hall Maintenance:

Scott Perron	\$115.58
--------------	----------

Del. Taxes:

Lois Trenn	\$4447.60
FICA	\$275.82
MC	<u>\$64.56</u>
Total	\$4,787.98

Legal Expenses:

Langrock, Sperry, Wool \$467.50

Town Officers:

Janet Ladd	\$22,784.32
Select Board	\$ 508.33
	\$3,050.00
Auditors	\$375.00
	\$375.00
Les Burleson	\$5,982.23
Lois Trenn	\$5,580.42
Susan Brown	\$1,302.66
Randy Gadway	\$300.00
Daryl Kuehne	\$240.00
John Fedor	\$300.00
BCA	\$532.00
FICA	\$2,562.87
MC	\$599.63
Retirement	\$1,140.72

Mileage	\$560.61
NEMRC	\$285.00
VLCT	\$140.00
John Hill (BCA)	<u>\$15.00</u>
Total	\$46,633.79

TOWN OFFICE:

Diane Drake	\$282.00
Fran Bowen	\$812.00
FICA	\$67.95
MC	\$16.29
Shoreham Tel.	\$1,298.53
Marotti	\$2,475.93
Russell Graphics	\$700.00
Reg Lussier	\$455.00
Envelopes	\$632.55
Printing	\$1,604.82
Ads	\$304.84
Intuit/QuickBooks	\$775.72
NEMRC	\$982.50
IDS	\$101.44
Keytech	\$180.00
Sewer (Town)	\$150.00
Mike Sheldrick	\$95.00
Howard's Fire	\$30.50
University Products	\$534.57
Clarendon Animal	\$40.00
BVS & Post Office	\$1,133.62
Vt. Dept. of Health	\$10.00
Trend	\$158.86
Don Ladd	\$12.00

Les Ballard	\$300.00
Adirondack 2-Way	\$83.00
Green Mt. Awning	\$88.50
AGC of Vt	\$100.00
Bank Services Charges	\$93.50
St. Michael's	\$100.00
Fish & Game	\$358.00
Staples	\$1,060.15
Gall's	\$56.98
Ikon	\$167.00
O'Brian's	\$177.60
Gilmore's	\$88.51
UVM	\$70.00
Vt. Digital	\$120.75
Westbrooke Gardens	\$65.00
Pot Belly Press	\$295.00
Dick Bowen	\$280.00
VMCTA dues	\$20.00
Jan Burleson	\$30.00
Vt. State Treasurer	\$557.00
Les Burleson	\$91.98
The Wheel	\$1.00
John Fedor	\$35.63
Green Mt. Kleen	\$195.00
VLCT	<u>\$595.00</u>
Total	\$17,883.72

Youth League:

Charles Blake Insurance	\$110.20
Keith's Sports	\$635.35
Dave White	\$262.30
Reynolds & Sons	<u>\$228.72</u>
Total	\$1,236.57

League has a credit of \$57.18 at Reynold's

BENSON FIRE DEPARTMENT 2002-2003

Balance as of June 30, 2003	\$669.85
Town voted	<u>\$19600.00</u>
Total	\$20269.85
Expenditures	<u>-\$19306.50</u>
Balance as of June 30, 2004	963.35

Expenditures:

Benson Village Store	\$681.54
Peter's General Store	\$420.01
Seward's Sales & Service	\$1905.36
CVPS	\$780.24
Mac's Flame Rite	\$1356.22
Shoreham Telephone	\$299.88
Rutland County Mutual Aid	\$1025.00
Northeast Mt. Radio	\$221.50
Fair Haven Auto	\$197.54
Chris Sheldrick & Sons	\$290.51
Smith's Auto	\$27.69
Howard's Fire Control	\$230.00
Scott Perron	\$26.55
Brad Barrett	\$140.00
Adirondack 2-Way	\$1064.13
Frontline	\$8331.51
Town Sewer	\$150.00
First Signs of Fire	\$95.00
Insurance	\$1076.00
R. L. Valley	\$101.24
Desorcie	<u>\$886.58</u>
Total	\$19,306.50

2003 PAYROLL	
Austin, Julia	Transfer Station \$128.00
Ballard, Bob	Highway \$2082.70
Bartholomew, Tom	Select Board \$100.00
Bernhardt, Lynn	Auditor \$125.00
Bowen, Frances	Community Hall/Asst. Clerk/Treas. \$2676.00
Bowen, Dick	Select Board \$116.00
Bowen, Randy	Highway \$33540.22
Bowen, Shirley	Cemetery \$280.00
Brown, Susan	Lister \$1313.41
Burleson, Lester	Lister \$7528.11
Burlett, Daryl	Highway \$24,901.00
Butman, Bob	Auditor \$125.00
Charlton, Carrie	Waste Water Plant \$6240.00
Charlton, Guy	Select Board \$124.33
Collett, Cherie	Library \$205.00
Collett, Rachel	Transfer Station \$80.00
Colvin, Matt	Transfer Station \$64.00
Corey, Melvin	BCA \$32.00
Corey, Stewart	Cemetery \$64.00
Cunningham, David	Election Official \$84.00
Drake, Diane	Secretary for Select Board \$783.00
Ellis, Holly	Cemetery \$308.00
Fedor, John	Select Board \$116.00
Gadway, Randy	2 nd Constable \$488.00
Hall, Jim	Highway \$5875.00
Hill, John	BCA \$56.00
Hopper, Jim	Transfer Station \$800.50
Ladd, Janet	Clerk/Treasurer \$22824.32
Lussier, Jacqueline	Library \$2550.00
MacLaren, Pat	Auditor \$125.00
Mathewson, Hazen	BCA \$24.00
McCoy, Dawn	Election Official \$32.00
Munger, Zachery	Cemetery \$2812.00
Pedro, Reese	Highway \$512.00
Peltier, Ed	BCA \$48.00
Phillips, Norma	Select Board \$148.00
Phillips, Morgan	Highway \$76.50
Rivers, Don	Transfer Station \$96.00
Savageau, Ron	BCA \$100.00
Smith, Jim	Transfer Station \$4510.00
Snyder, Claire	Election Official \$72.00
Trenn, Lois	Lister/Del. Tax Collector \$11654.55
Waterhouse, Lisa	Cemetery <u>\$84.00</u>
	Total \$133,903.64

Delinquent Sewer Fees Report
January 1, 2004

Delinquent Sewer Fees as of December 31, 2002	\$ 981.25
Delinquent Warrant January 22, 2003	1,125.00
Delinquent Warrant July 1, 2003	<u>975.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,081.25

Collected as of December 31, 2003	\$ 1,641.95
Delinquent as of December 31, 2003	<u>1,439.30</u>
	\$ 3,081.25

Respectfully submitted,

Lois P. Trenn
Delinquent Tax Collector

Apjohn Eric	07/03	\$ 75.00
Donald Belden	01/01, 07/01, 01/02, 07/02, 01/03, 07/03	450.00
Anne Bowen	07/02, 01/03, 07/03	164.40
Bowen Ralph Sr.	01/03, 07/03	150.00
Charlton Carrie	01/03, 07/03	150.00
Cherie Collett	07/01, 01/02, 07/02, 01/03, 07/03	375.00
June Flynn	07/03	75.00

12/31/03
12:08 am

Town of Benson Tax Administration
Delinquent Tax Report

Page 1
benison

Parcel	Name	Tax Year	Payment 1	Payment 2	Interest	Penalty	Other	Total
000007-26	BARTHOLOMEW ROBERT	2000	507.84	0.00	297.18	40.63	0.00	845.65
		2001-6	63.48	0.00	33.24	5.08	0.00	101.80
		2001-2002	288.42	288.42	203.45	46.14	0.00	826.43
		2002-2003	311.88	311.88	109.20	49.90	0.00	782.86
			1171.62	600.30	643.07	141.75	0.00	2556.74
000005-39.004	BEDARD ANDREW	2002-2003	56.50	56.50	19.86	9.04	0.00	141.90
000005-38.51	BEDARD SHARON	2002-2003	0.00	77.97	10.14	6.24	0.00	94.35
000010-61.001	BELDEN DONALD	2001-2002	9.00	74.19	23.10	6.65	0.00	112.94
		2002-2003	80.23	80.23	28.00	12.84	0.00	201.30
			89.23	154.42	51.10	19.49	0.00	314.24
000010-119	BELDEN HEIDI JEAN	2002-2003	592.70	892.70	246.46	118.84	0.00	1850.70
000010-2	BELDEN SCOTT ET AL	2001-2002	0.00	117.67	39.17	9.42	0.00	166.26
		2002-2003	378.55	378.55	132.56	60.56	0.00	950.22
			378.55	496.22	171.73	69.98	0.00	1116.48
000010-61	BELDEN SCOTT NEIL	2001-2002	3.25	324.99	98.73	26.26	0.00	453.23
		2002-2003	351.43	351.43	122.94	56.22	0.00	882.02
			354.68	676.42	221.67	82.48	0.00	1335.25
000010-70	BOWEN RALPH J SR &	2002-2003	0.00	1314.19	170.82	105.14	0.00	1590.15
000010-70.001	CIOFFI PASCAL III	1999	362.18	0.00	276.93	28.97	0.00	668.08
		2000	366.16	0.00	214.11	29.29	0.00	609.56
		2001-6	45.77	0.00	24.15	3.66	0.00	73.58
		2001-2002	207.96	207.95	146.64	33.28	0.00	595.83
		2002-2003	224.87	224.87	78.66	35.98	0.00	564.38
			1206.94	432.82	740.49	131.18	0.00	2511.43
000012-5	COFFEY DANIEL	2001-2002	315.59	315.59	222.37	50.50	0.00	904.05
		2002-2003	341.26	341.26	119.44	54.60	0.00	856.56
			656.85	656.85	341.81	105.10	0.00	1760.61
000010-49	COLLETT CHERIE	2002-2003	0.00	668.96	86.94	53.52	0.00	809.42
000014-25	COOPER WAYNE J	2001-6	3.91	0.00	2.10	0.31	0.00	6.32
		2001-2002	17.77	17.76	12.69	2.84	0.00	51.06
		2002-2003	19.21	19.21	6.74	3.08	0.00	48.24
			40.89	36.97	21.53	6.23	0.00	105.62

Town of Benson Tax Administration
Delinquent Tax Report

Parcel	Name	Tax Year	Payment 1	Payment 2	Interest	Penalty	Other	Total
000005-16.1	DUFOUR PRISCILLA R	2001-2002	476.30	599.82	301.92	86.08	0.00	1464.12
		2002-2003	1111.92	1111.92	389.20	177.90	0.00	2790.94
			1588.22	1711.74	691.12	263.98	0.00	4255.06
000014-1	DUVAL DARYL R	2002-2003	0.00	108.84	26.50	8.70	0.00	144.04
000010-57	FLYNN JUNE B	2002-2003	0.00	543.53	70.66	43.48	0.00	657.67
000010-51	HILLIER CARRIE L	2002-2003	0.00	1027.17	133.54	82.17	0.00	1242.88
000014-14	INABINETT ZETTA	2001-2002	462.94	462.93	326.21	74.07	0.00	1326.15
		2002-2003	500.59	500.59	175.26	80.10	0.00	1256.54
			963.53	963.52	501.47	154.17	0.00	2582.69
000014-24	INABINETT ZETTA	2001-2002	321.86	321.86	227.01	51.50	0.00	922.23
		2002-2003	348.04	348.04	121.80	55.68	0.00	873.56
			669.90	669.90	348.81	107.18	0.00	1795.79
000005-38.4	LEWIS TAMMIE L	2002-2003	0.00	576.28	74.88	46.10	0.00	697.26
000010-22	LUSSIER LEONARD N	2000	293.78	0.00	173.67	23.51	0.00	490.96
		2002-2003	433.92	433.92	151.90	69.42	0.00	1089.16
			727.70	433.92	325.57	92.93	0.00	1580.12
000005-44.002	MASON DONALD	2001-2002	67.93	67.92	47.94	10.86	0.00	194.65
		2002-2003	73.45	73.45	25.64	11.76	0.00	184.30
			141.38	141.37	73.58	22.62	0.00	378.95
000010-116	MCKEARIN JAMES & G	2002-2003	0.00	478.91	92.01	35.92	0.00	606.84
000012-8	MCNEILL TRACY	2002-2003	0.00	283.63	36.86	22.69	0.00	343.18
000007-21	MESSER KEVIN & APR	2002-2003	0.00	614.72	79.92	49.18	0.00	743.82
000011-45	MUNGER JAMES L & S	2001-2002	276.93	276.92	195.08	44.30	0.00	793.23
		2002-2003	299.45	299.45	104.74	47.92	0.00	751.56
			576.38	576.37	299.82	92.22	0.00	1544.79
000009-21.4	PALMER BRICE LEE	2001-2002	288.06	740.90	362.71	82.31	0.00	1473.98
		2002-2003	801.17	801.17	280.44	128.18	0.00	2010.96
			1089.23	1542.07	643.15	210.49	0.00	3484.94

Tax Year	Payment 1	Payment 2	Interest	Penalty	Other	Total
1999	362.18	0.00	276.93	28.97	0.00	668.08
2000	1167.78	0.00	684.96	93.43	0.00	1,946.17
2001-2002	2736.01	3816.92	2207.02	524.21	0.00	9,284.16
2001-6	113.16	0.00	59.49	9.05	0.00	181.70
2002-2003	5925.17	11919.37	2895.11	1425.16	0.00	22,164.81
TOTALS	10304.30	15736.29	6123.51	2080.82	0.00	34,244.92

DELINQUENT TAXES REAL
January 1, 2004

Delinquent on December 31, 2002	\$ 17,644.39	
Delinquent Warrant March, 2002	<u>77,173.21</u>	
	\$ 94,817.60	\$94,817.60
Collected as of December 31, 2002	\$ 68,777.01	<u>\$68,777.01</u>
Delinquent taxes due December 31, 2003		\$26,040.59

Respectfully submitted,

Lois P. Trenn
Delinquent Tax Collector

**TOWN OF BENSON
LOCAL INDEBTEDNESS 2003**

	Original Amount	Payment	Maturity Date	Interest
Grader	\$124,800.	10,400. + interest	11/15/2011	2.8 %
Inter. Truck	\$ 77,000.	15,400. +interest	12/11/2006	2.8 %
Fire Truck	\$142,336. (-50,000.deposit)	11,928.92 10 payments	2012	4.95%
School	\$1,020,000.	50,000. + interest	12/2013	5.22%

REVENUE SHARING REPORT-2003

Balance 6/30/2002	\$5930.41
Interest for year 2002-2003	<u>74.59</u>
Balance 6/30/2003	\$6005.00

Earmarked for town history

BENSON YOUTH LEAGUE

Expenditures:

Charles Blake Insurance	\$110.20
Keith's Sports	\$635.35
Dave White	\$262.30
Reynolds and Sons	<u>\$228.72</u>
Total	\$1236.57

League has a credit at Reynolds for \$57.18.

Benson Public Library

Balance 6/30/02 \$ 135.93

Receipts:

Town Of Benson	\$1700.00
Transfer from savings account	235.00
Donations	200.00
Book sale	11.90
<u>Total Receipts:</u>	<u>\$2146.90</u>

Total Receipts and balance from 6/30/02 \$2282.83

Disbursements:

Jacqueline Lussier	\$1275.00
F.I.C.A.	79.05
MC	18.49
Cherie Collett	25.00
F.I.C.A.	1.55
MC	.37
Gaylord Brothers	45.64
Center Point	31.74
Shoreham Telephone	277.74
Jaci Lussier (reimburse postage)	7.06
Fran Bowen (reimburse postage)	3.10
Demco	234.37
MC error	.13
Talking About Books	35.07
Literary Guild	31.89
Doubleday	75.84
Howard's Fire Control	10.00
The Bookshed	19.00
<u>Total Disbursements:</u>	<u>\$2171.04</u>

Balance 6/30/03 \$ 111.79

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Bowen
Frances Bowen, Treasurer

Peggy Munger
Peggy Munger, Chairperson

Ethel McWayne
Ethel McWayne

Jacqueline Lussier
Jacqueline Lussier
Cherie Collett
Cherie Collett

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS' BANK ACCOUNT 2003

DATE	DEPOSIT	WITHDRAWALS	BALANCE
12/31/2002			\$412.70
01/31/2003			\$412.70
02/28/2003			\$412.70
03/31/2003			\$412.70
04/30/2003		** \$7.40	\$405.30
05/31/2003	*\$120.00		\$525.30
06/30/2003	*\$ 20.00		\$545.30
	* 10.00		\$555.30
07/31/2003			\$555.30
08/31/2003			\$555.30
09/30/2003			\$555.30
10/31/2003			\$555.30
11/30/2003			\$555.30
12/31/2003		***\$100.00	\$455.30

Explanation of Deposits/Withdrawals

* Payments for care of individual lots not covered by perpetual care

** Postage and Envelopes

*** Annual fee for services rendered as voted by cemetery commissioners

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Bosworth

Secretary

Benson Cemetery Commission

BENSON CEMETERY REPORT 2002-2003

Receipts:

Town	\$2,000.00
Trustees	<u>\$2,376.74</u>
	\$4,376.74

Expenditures:

Zachery Munger	\$3380.00
Stewart Corey	\$64.00
FICA	\$213.56
MC	\$49.96

Sheila Johnson (mowing)	\$308.40
Howard's Fire Control	\$10.00
Gilmore's Home Center	\$44.91
Steven's Lawn & Garden	\$77.45
Horst Gebauer	\$90.00
Benson Village Store(gas)	<u>\$138.46</u>
Total	\$4,376.74

Restoration Fund	-20.96
Receipts	\$1,794.37

Cemetery Commissioners

**Town of Benson
Planning Commission**

February 2, 2003

The Planning Commission was active for the fiscal year 2002-2003. The Commission reviewed the current Town Plan and created a draft currently in the adoption process.

The Commission worked very closely with representatives from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC). With the help of RRPC, Benson town planning maps were updated, and a great deal of information on planning, zoning, and land use was given to the Benson Planning Commission.

With the help of the RRPC, the Commission is considering its options in developing and implementing community-supported land use, growth, and management regulations. The Planning Commission is working in cooperation with the Selectboard to complete all necessary steps to facilitate the Town Plan adoption process.

The Commission began the 2002-2003 year with a balance of \$3,832 in grant money. Expenses incurred were \$2,228, leaving a balance at the end of the year of \$1,605. Control of this account is with RRPC, per preexisting agreement.

The Commission greatly thanks the community for its involvement and encourages interested persons to work with the Commission for the benefit of the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew P. Lannon

Matthew P. Lannon
Chairperson

Lister's Report January 19, 2004

The listers are working on their regular work of updating the Grand List, plus the reappraisal work undertaken last year. This reappraisal work will be completed by the 2005-2006 tax year, if not before. Because this is a reassessment of the whole town, each property will be visited and updated during this time.

The big change this year for listers is Act 68, which is an act to change the way education taxes are assessed and collected by the State. This bill substantially increases the workload of the listers.

However, of much more interest to Benson taxpayers, given the mechanics of Act 68, is the effect of recent property sales in Benson. Every year the State takes all of the good sales in Benson, those deemed to be at arm's length, and creates a figure based on what percentage of the Grand List assessment these properties sold at. This is called the CLA, or the Common Level of Appraisal.

Last year, this percentage was 93.66. That means that the State determined that the properties in Benson were assessed at 93.66% of their Fair Market Value. This figure is within reasonable limits, given that the last reappraisal was in 1990.

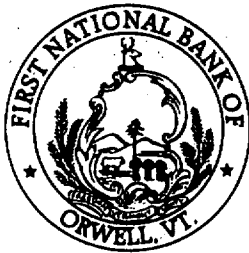
This year, the percentage is 86.14. Although many properties in Benson have sold for significantly more than their assessed value, this CLA is an unanticipated drop, and the listers have appealed this determination. If this figure stands, it is another signal of the sharply rising prices commanded by real estate in Benson, and a further sign that a reappraisal is very important.

What this figure means to the average taxpayer in Benson is that the education tax assessed to each property owner will be multiplied by some figures supplied by the State, and then divided by the CLA. When the CLA goes down, the effective education tax rate goes up to make up for (what the State has determined to be) the low assessment. Roughly, the CLA is used by the state to attempt to tax each property owner in Benson as if each piece of property were assessed at 100% of Fair Market Value.

On a more personal note, Les Burleson has decided not to run for Lister again. His seemingly unlimited fund of expertise and knowledge about all things lister-related has been an invaluable resource for Benson, and for the other listers. He will be very much missed, personally and professionally.

Any questions about the reappraisal, Land Use (also called Current Use), or other assessment or listing questions, are welcomed by the Listers. Helping Benson citizens to understand what we do and how we do it is an important part of our job, and we are glad to talk to anyone about any facet of our work. We are available by appointment at the Listers office on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. As always, we are available by phone, and special appointments can be made by contacting one of us at the Town Offices, or at home.

Lois P. Trenn
Lester Burleson
Sue Brown



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ORWELL

Traditional Banking Since 1863 Phone (802) 948-2811 Fax (802) 948-2309

July 10, 2003

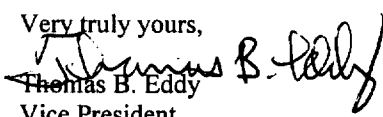
Board of Auditors
Benson, Vermont 05731

Dear Sir/Madame:

Our records reflect the following account balances as of the close of business on June 30, 2003:

<u>Checking Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
School	\$44,797.32
Town, Regular	8,204.04
Town, Payroll	989.74
School, Petty Cash	250.00
School, Student Projects	2,942.40
PTO	2,389.76
Nutritional Programs	5,756.53
Benson First Response Rescue	184.73
<u>Savings Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Trustees of Public Funds	4,067.26
Bicentennial Funds	7,952.30
H. Glenn Munger Scholarship Fund	37.40
Lyle Wilcox Scholarship Fund	4,938.20
Community Hall	2,584.60
Revenue Sharing	6,005.00
Benson Public Library	6,855.62
Benson First Response Rescue	9,043.25
<u>Certificates of Deposit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Town, Reappraisal	4,082.41
Town, Regular	17,165.31
Town, Reappraisal	4,597.59
Trustees of Public Funds	65,179.49
Benson First Response Rescue	6,438.96
<u>Loans</u>	
School	33,000.00

Very truly yours,


Thomas B. Eddy
Vice President

TBE/tad

POST OFFICE BOX 38 441 MAIN STREET ORWELL, VERMONT 05760-0038

January 22, 2004

TOWN OF BENSON
ATTN: AUDITOR
PO BOX 163
BENSON, VT 05731

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Benson, checking account, for the Cemetery Commissioners, had a balance on June 30, 2003 of \$555.30.

The Town of Benson, checking account, for the Benson Volunteer Fire Department, had a balance on June 30, 2003 of \$7,986.69.

The Town of Benson, money market account, for the Benson Volunteer Fire Department, had a balance on June 30, 2003 of \$9,709.83.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for banking with the Merchants Bank.

Very Truly Yours,
Merchants Bank



Jill S. Miller
Lender Customer Rep



Benson Volunteer Fire Department

Serving the Town of Benson

PO Box 294

Benson, VT 05731

E-mail Bensonvfd@aol.com

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

The Benson Fire Department responded to 48 calls this past year, 3 of which were major structure fires where the department responded quickly and effectively to save residents' homes and property. A large amount of our calls are automobile and tractor-trailer accidents. Unfortunately we have one of the highest rated sections of highway for motor vehicle accidents in the state, the section of 22a that runs through our town.

The department is continuously training in all aspects of our responsibility, firefighting, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials situations, and assisting EMS services when needed. The department is committed to improving all aspects of our role to the community. The department has scheduled a Vermont State class on vehicle extrication and motor vehicle accidents, a role that is becoming a major aspect of our job. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dave Bartholomew and Josh Otey on successfully completing the Vermont State firefighters level 1 course. The level 1 course is 140 hours of training at the state level.

Our department holds many fund-raisers throughout the year but our two major efforts continue to be the annual haunted hayride and the Down Home Derby. These two efforts not only benefit our department but bring many visitors to town to dine and shop also.

Our proceeds from our fundraising over the past four years are going to, the purchase of vehicle extrication rescue tools in January 2004, the remainder of our funds are going towards replacing a water tanker that is in need of replacement and the replacing of a much missed crash/utility truck.

Our department continues to educate our youths in fire safety and awareness. We visit our school to introduce ourselves to the children. During this visit children get to tour the state fire safety trailer, put on actual firefighters gear, learn the STOP, DROP, AND ROLL routine, the importance of having a pre planned meeting place, and learn the proper ways to report an emergency to the 911 dispatcher.

This past fall the department was pleased to become involved with the Benson Youth Baseball program, we helped with a hat auction to raise money for the purchase of a new pitching machine and improvements to the ball field. We are also proud to be involved with the town's playground-rebuilding project, the fire department will supply manpower to get the project underway.

On behalf of the entire fire department I would like to publicly thank Ed Peltier who is our dispatcher. Ed responds to all calls we go on, and has to juggle many different tasks at one time in his role; many times Ed is responsible for getting resources to a scene that I need with very little guidance on my part. Ed also did a lot of fundraising with the Burdock festival T-shirts this year for our department and we are very grateful to him for that.

To all 26 members of our department that serve under me, I can not be any prouder of you, you are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. You respond at any hour of the day, you leave family functions, birthday parties, holiday celebrations, or just family time to serve our community. In some cases members leave work to respond to their communities needs, losing valuable pay for them and their families. On behalf of the Residents of the town of Benson I say thank you.

I would like to thank the taxpayers and residents of Benson for your continued support, and allowing us the privilege of helping you in your time of need.

The Benson Fire Department requests \$19,500.00 for our fiscal budget 04/05. We also request under a separate article \$9,995.00 to purchase a Air Compressor system to fill our self contained breathing apparatus bottles for firefighting and training purposes.



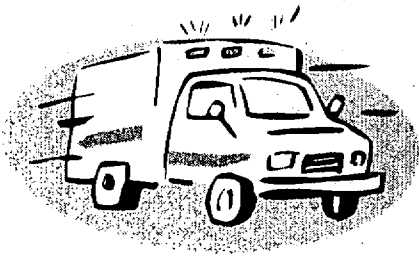
Brad Barrett, Fire Chief



Rob Lowell, 1st Assistant Chief

Breakdown Proposed Budget 04/05

Utilities	\$2,000.00
Truck repairs/maintenance	\$3,000.00
Portable equipment maintenance/replacement	\$2,500.00
Communications repair replacement	\$2,500.00
Gasoline/Diesel	\$1,500.00
State Dues/programs	\$2,000.00
Equipment update/replacement	\$5,000.00
Town Sewer	\$150.00
Heating Oil	\$1,000.00
 Total	 \$19,500.00



Benson First Response 2003 Report

Town Funding Request: We request **\$2000.00** for the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 to help defray the cost of major expenses.

The past year was an expensive one for our First Response Vehicle which required a new transmission. This expense drove our vehicle maintenance cost up \$2692.

Calls: We went on 67 medical and trauma calls last year. We continue to stand by at the scene when the Fire Department is at a fire, and they back us up when we need manpower.

New Members Needed: We lost three more members this year. Kim Bowen, Jim Pritchard, and Norma Phillips...they are missed. Deb Robbins successfully completed the EMT course. Sarah Trenn has recently joined as an EMT. Currently there are four residents of Benson enrolled in the EMT course that we hope to accept as new members upon successful completion of their course. As always the need for volunteers remains high. We need new members and we need people who are interested in helping with fund raising.

9-1-1 House Signs: A reminder to all residents – because we are now on State Dispatch, it is even more important than ever that you have your 9-1-1 number signs posted and kept clear of snow in the winter. Please help us to better help you when you need us. Dispatch doesn't give names very often on the radio, and we may need help finding you. In some cases, every second counts, so please, if you haven't bought your signs, go to the Town Clerk Office to pick up your house sign for \$2.50 and post them. It might be the best money you every spent!!

Annual Rabies Clinic: The Rabies Clinic for dog and cat vaccinations will be held on Saturday, March 6th at the Firehouse from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. As always, the Town Clerk will be there to sell dog licenses.

Annual Craft Sale: The 4th Annual Craft Sale & Show will be held on November 20th. We had fewer spaces this past year, but everyone had a great day. Please keep that day open to get some of your holiday shopping done!!

Memory Tree Lighting: This event remains very popular and will be held this year on Sunday, December 5th at 4:30 p.m. in front of the Town Office. There will be caroling, refreshments and a special visit from Santa.

Medical Equipment to Borrow: Did you know that your First Response Squad has an inventory of used medical equipment for loan to any town's person that needs it? We have lots of crutches (all sizes), walkers, commodes, and a couple of wheelchairs. These are stored at the Town Office. Call any of your town officers that has a key or a First Response member, and we will help if we can.



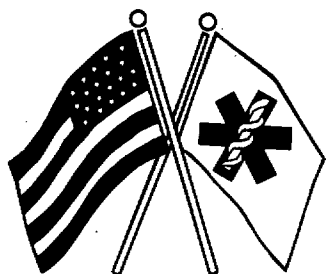
We would like to thank everyone who has so generously given of their time and money to support this group. We could not exist without your continued help. Again, we are looking for new members – please give us a call if you are interested.

Tom Neumann, President
Lynn LaRock, Treasurer
Jan Ladd, Secretary
Debbie Robbins, Training Officer
Sarah Trenn

Ed Peltier, Dispatcher
Bea Laramie, Vice President
Bea Laramie, Dist #10 Rep.
Bea Laramie, Infection Control

<u>Income (7/1/02 – 6/30/03)</u>		<u>Expenses (7/1/02 – 6/30/03)</u>	
Donations	\$1780	Telephone Fire House	\$ 242
Interest	53	Ambulance Cell Phone	234
Rabies Clinic	760	Merriam-Graves Oxygen	389
Craft Show	533	Medical Equipment/Supplies	881
Memory Tree	432	Vehicle Maintenance	409
Family Day	946	Transmission	2692
Cook Books	43	Rutland County Dispatch	1025
Town of Benson	4,000	Other	294
	<u>\$8547</u>		<u>\$7214</u>

Checkbook Balance as of June 30, 2003	\$ 184.73
Regular Savings Account	\$9020.45
Certificate of Deposit	+/- \$6,290.00



FAIR HAVEN RESCUE SQUAD

17 Prospect Street, Fair Haven, VT 05743

Phone (802) 265-3620

FICTION OR FACT ABOUT YOUR AMBULANCE SERVICE: **FAIR HAVEN RESCUE SQUAD**

Fiction:	Fair Haven Rescue Squad is a volunteer ambulance service.
Fact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board of Directors for Fair Haven Rescue Squad hired a paid Administrator who started November 1, 1999. Fair Haven Rescue Squad became a career, paid ambulance service providing quality patient care 24 hours a day on July 1, 2000. Fair Haven Rescue Squad was issued a license to practice at the advanced Paramedic level by the Vermont Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, on July 1, 2000.

Fiction:	Fair Haven Rescue Squad provides ambulance service only to the Town of Fair Haven.
Fact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair Haven Rescue Squad provides ambulance service to the towns of Benson, Fair Haven, Lower Hampton, Hubbardton and West Haven (covering 125 square miles with a total population of about 5,100).

Fiction:	Fair Haven Rescue Squad receives money from the State of Vermont.
Fact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial support comes primarily from insurance reimbursement, followed by tax support (about 7 percent of the total income) and the 300 families that joined the 4th Annual Membership Drive. At this time, we do not charge for refusals or cancellations (247 in FY03, 215 in FY02, 113 in FY01 with an average loss of about \$441 per call). Write-offs required by Medicare and Medicaid continues to represent about 48% of our total receivables. Despite the fact that EMS crosses all age barriers and disease or injury systems, federal and state agencies still have not recognized the need to provide funding assistance to ambulance services.

Fiction:	It really doesn't cost much to run an ambulance service.
Fact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last year, the cost to run Fair Haven Rescue Squad was \$293,000. The yearly <i>Independent Auditors' Report</i> from McCormack, Guyette & Associates is on file in your Town Office and available for your review. The cost continues to be high in order to compensate for yearly increases in Workers' Compensation, fuel (building and ambulances), medical supplies, vehicle and building insurance-repairs-maintenance, as well as for wages and required continuing education.

CALLS BY FISCAL YEAR	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	07/01/03 THRU 11/30/03
BENSON	41	41	57	56	61	34
FAIR HAVEN	237	313	299	332	310	125
LOW HAMPTON	19	18	20	22	14	15
HUBBARDTON	26	37	34	38	52	21
WEST HAVEN	12	9	24	22	32	9
MUTUAL AID RESPONSE PROVIDED TO GRANVILLE RESCUE, POULTNEY RESCUE, REGIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE, AND SKENESBOROUGH EMS	61	61	130	184	240	89

Fair Haven Rescue Squad is licensed at the highest level—Paramedic. Each level of certification (EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic) must obtain continuing education credits every year in order to maintain their levels of certification. The EMTs and Paramedics on FHRS are proud of their profession and proud to be on the staff of FHRS. They face new challenges everyday by learning about nuclear, biological and chemical terrorism and other timely continuing education topics that include updates about new infectious diseases. The staff also remains dedicated to public education by providing First Responder and EMT courses.

Our EMS staff heroically responds to these types of calls every year:

- allergic reactions
- cardiac arrest
- chest pain
- congestive heart failure
- diabetic emergencies
- domestic incidents
- lacerations
- motor vehicle accidents
- pedestrian accidents
- psychological emergencies (depression and suicide)
- respiratory emergencies
- seizures
- unresponsive patients
- and non-emergency transports for area nursing home patients, as well as patients returning to their home from the hospital

Families of children with special health care needs in our towns rely on the staff knowing the special assistance that their children require. Our Field Supervisor discusses those needs with the patient's parents/guardians and nursing support staff and prepares the FHRS staff ahead of time in order to prevent additional injury to these children and assist their families in the event of an emergency.

The Staff and Board of Directors appreciate the strong loyalty from the residents and Selectboards in our coverage area. **Our request this year is the same as last year – \$10.00 per capita.**

To learn more about Fair Haven Rescue Squad or the Annual Membership (subscription) Drive, call Bea Laramie, Administrator, at 265-3620.

To learn more about our ambulance service as compared to other ambulance services in Vermont, call the Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention, Dan Manz (under the Vermont Department of Health) at 800-244-0911.

Please also call your town representative for more information about their goals and direction for FHRS and how it affects your town: Benson—Lynn LaRock (537-4811), Fair Haven—Judy Wiskoski (265-8617), Hampton—Len Reed (518-282-9816), Hubbardton—Grace Calvin (273-2242), West Haven—John Krupp (265-8176).

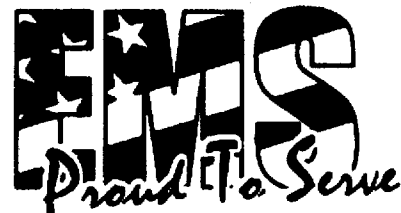
Thank you for your support and have a safe and healthy 2004.

Bea Laramie

Bea Laramie, Administrator

FY04-05 REQUEST IS \$10.00 PER CAPITA:

Benson	=	\$10,390 (1039)
Fair Haven	=	\$29,280 (2928)
Hubbardton	=	\$7,520 (752)
West Haven	=	\$2,780 (278)



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

This Town Meeting Day, the Town will vote on whether or not to establish a conservation commission.

What are Town Conservation Commissions?

In 1977, Vermont passed the enabling legislation (24 V.S.A. 4501) to establish town conservation commissions. **The major goal of a conservation commission is to establish community responsibility for its natural resources.** A commission is comprised of caring citizens who are organized to speak for the environment.

How Are Conservation Commissions Established?

The enabling legislation states, "**A conservation commission may be created at any time when a municipality votes to create one**, or, if the charter of a municipality permits it, when the legislative body of the municipality votes to create on."

Once the commission is established, **Select Boards appoint conservation commissioners**, choosing people who represent diverse interests in town and different geographical sections of town.

What Are the Powers and Duties of Conservation Commissions

The powers and duties of town conservation commissions include:

- **Making an inventory of the town's natural resources including lands that have agricultural, scientific, historic, educational, or cultural value**
- **Receiving gifts of land for conservation purposes**
- **Assisting the local planning commission on natural resource issues**
- **Encouraging the public's understanding of their local environment through educational activities**

What Types of Projects Can Conservation Commissions Undertake?

The projects that a town conservation commission can become involved with are almost endless. The focus of each conservation commission will vary depending on the needs of its community. Some examples:

- Carry out a survey to assess public interest and conservation needs
- Carry out a natural resource inventory of the Town of Benson
- Identify and protect unique natural areas
- Inventory and work to preserve historic sites
- Organize education workshops for local citizens
- Carry out fundraising activities such as bulk bird food sales, bottle drives, or tree seedling sales
- And many more

What Can a Conservation Commission Do First?

A town conservation commission

- **Should represent the conservation interests of its towns people**
- **Make an inventory of the town's natural resources**

How Are Conservation Commissions Funded?

Many commissions in Vermont operate successfully with no budget. Other commissions have annual appropriations from their towns' budgets for operating; appropriations range from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year.

Note: Further information available at Town Clerk's Office.



ANNUAL REPORT - 2003

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

THE RRPC'S MISSION:

To provide leadership and technical expertise to encourage cooperative planning with and among the region's communities and area wide interests; and, strive to improve the quality of life for people in the region by promoting harmony between sustainable economic development, environmental interests and other planning issues.

2003 ACTIVITIES:

In pursuit of its Mission, the RRPC continued to work closely with the region's 27 communities on a wide range of projects:

- Provided **technical assistance** on community development issues - including assisting in the update and implementation of town plans, zoning & subdivision regulations, telecommunications ordinances in virtually every member community.
- Assisted -- communities to successfully apply for funds through the **Municipal Planning Grant** program.
- Continued the RRPC's very successful **cooperative purchasing program** with-- municipal and non-profit entities organizations in --towns, saving them substantial amounts on fuel oil, diesel and gasoline.
- Used **GIS (Geographic Information Systems)** tools to work on transportation, watershed planning, and emergency management initiatives. Also continued involvement of GIS in planning projects, the RRPC intern program, and community training.
- Continued **support of the Rutland Region Transportation Council** in their planning for the future transportation needs of the Rutland Region; participated in several route / intersection upgrade studies; continued to work with communities to create bridge and culvert inventories for use with GIS.
- Worked with the **Rutland Economic Development Corporation**, and the **Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce** on a regional strategy to better coordinate community development, economic development and travel and tourism activities. Both organizations have become permanent ex-officio members of the Board of Regional Commissioner.
- Assisted communities with **emergency management planning**, including updates to Rapid Response Plans, assisting in the re-formation of the Rutland Local Emergency Planning Committee, and beginning Federal Hazard Mitigation planning.
- Received \$200,000 Federal **Brownfields Assessment** grant and began the organization of a steering committee and the identification of potential sites.
- Continued to offer **education, training, and information distribution programs** to municipal officials and to pay for those program related to planning and zoning and other community development issues.

For the sixteenth consecutive year, dues will remain at \$500. All communities are voting members of the Commission regardless of whether or not they pay dues. Dues paying members receive discounted technical services and are able to participate in the cooperative fuel purchasing program.

RUTLAND REGION TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Formed in 1992, the Rutland Region Transportation Council (RRTC) provides a forum for the development of regional transportation planning and transportation projects that may have regional impacts. In addition, it coordinates policies and priorities with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and promotes cooperation on transportation issues in the Rutland region. The Council is the primary method for public involvement in transportation planning. State and federal funds are obtained by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission which provides support for the Council. The Planning Commission also provides planning, administrative, and geographic information system staff.

All municipalities in the Rutland Region are encouraged to be active in the Transportation Council and those with representatives named to the Council may vote on any issues. Municipalities are not obligated to participate in the Council and those that do participate may cease their involvement at any time.

Over the last fiscal year (October 2002-September 2003), the Rutland Region Transportation Council and its staff have been working for improved transportation planning in Rutland County in the following ways:

- Continued to assess the Rutland region's top transportation problems including whether planned projects conform to the Rutland Regional Plan. From a regional perspective, improvements to the Route 7 and 4 corridors are always high priorities;
- Participated in discussions regarding transportation projects such as improvements to VT 73 and the Pittsford-Brandon Route 7 upgrades;
- Provided comments to the Vermont Agency of Transportation on the development of Vermont's FY 2004 transportation Capital Budget and Program and the FY 2004-2006 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP);
- Continued to discuss the potential for a roundabout to reduce the number and severity of accidents at the US7/VT103 intersection in Clarendon;
- Continued to assist towns with road network (culvert, bridge and road condition) inventories. Utilizing the RRPC's simple system of aerial photos and data collection (condition, etc.) sheets, 2 towns have completed culvert inventories and 5 are in progress.
- Continued to address seasonal transportation problems along VT 103, VT 100, and US 4 by working with staff of neighboring Regional Planning Commissions and ski area representatives;
- Collected traffic data at multiple locations for two towns;
- Worked with the Rutland Physical Activity Coalition to increase bicycle and pedestrian opportunities in the area (including a map of walking trails in Rutland City);
- Worked with transit providers and human service agencies to improve transportation service to those with special needs including elders;
- Began work with towns along Route 30 for possible Byways designation;
- Assessed the region for existing and potential locations for Park and Ride lots;
- Distributed reports, bulletins, fliers, and newsletters, and maintained the Council's Web page.

In the current federal fiscal year (October 2003 – September 2004), the Rutland Region Transportation Council is continuing many of these efforts. A stronger focus on access management is expected in the coming year.

Meetings of the Rutland Region Transportation Council are held once each month, normally on the fourth Thursday, in Rutland. All those with an interest in transportation and related issues are invited to attend. Questions about the Transportation Council may be directed to the following individuals: Susie Leonard or Susan Schreibmen, Senior Planners (775-0871) or Richard Baker, Chairman (247-6366).

BROC

Community Action in Southwestern Vermont
Since 1965

January 6, 2004

To the Citizens of the Town of Benson and Members of the Selectboard,

First, BROC would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Benson who have supported the agency through the appropriation process over the years, acknowledging the important work we do. This past year BROC continued to experience a large increase in limited income families who needed help just meeting their *basic* needs -- enough food on the table; heat for warmth through the winter; and a roof over their heads.

BROC helped meet the basic needs of 28 families in the Town of Benson between 10/1/02 and 9/30/03. This number included **1 homeless family** that needed transitional or permanent housing assistance. In addition, **BROC weatherized 5 homes, comprised of 14 individuals** through our Weatherization & Energy Conservation program. BROC's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) **reimbursed 1 day care home provider in Benson for serving nutritious meals to about 10 children in their care.** In addition, our Micro Business Development Program **worked with 2 Benson residents interested in starting or expanding a small business.** BROC also created several new partnerships and collaborations throughout the year with local organizations and businesses to help raise food for our emergency food shelf; as well as to help raise much needed funds through events and fund raising so that the needs of our neighbors continue to be met.

BROC staff work hard each and every day to not only address immediate crisis, but to work on developing prevention plans with each person who needs our help. We are very proud of moving an individual or family up from the effects of poverty in their lives. In doing so, we advance our mission of "Helping people. Changing Lives." and we thank you, the Benson community, for helping make this possible.

Our appropriation request for the upcoming year is \$500.00.

Sincerely,



Linda G. Rooker
Executive Director

Home Office: 60 Center Street, Rutland, VT 05701 802-775-0878 Fax: 802-775-9949 800-717-BROC
Satellite Office: 332 Orchard Road, Bennington, VT 05201 802-447-7515 Fax: 802-447-7516
Linda G. Rooker, Executive Director lrooker175@aol.com * www.broc.org





RONALD J. CIOFFI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RUSS GATES, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Town of Benson

TO THE TOWN MANAGER, OFFICERS AND CITIZENS OF BENSON:

For more than 57 years, the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice has brought high-quality, affordable community based home health and hospice services to people in the comfort of their homes.

In the face of rising healthcare costs, nursing shortages, shrinking reimbursement and regulatory changes to the health care system, RAVNAH has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective health care services to some of Rutland County's most vulnerable individuals. We are proud to report that we continue to be a community leader in guiding and shaping the future of home health, preventative and long-term care services, including home care, hospice, maternal-child health and community programs. Our services not only promote a healthy community, but also support individual dignity and independence in the home.

We are proud to report on a number of successes we have achieved:

- Provided over 1,200 hours of volunteer service in our Hospice Program.
- Initiated Hospice Palliative Care Program
- Instituted Options Counseling for nursing home admissions
- Collaborated with Wilcox Pharmacy in the Synagis® Program for patients with respiratory syncytial virus
- Provided over 3700 flu vaccinations
- Prepared for compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

We could not have been successful without our dedicated staff. RAVNAH's staff and volunteers made over 84,000 visits to 2,494 different patients. In the town of Benson we provided 1340 visits to 30 individuals.

To the individuals and organizations of the town of Benson that have supported us during 2003 we are truly thankful. With your support, RAVNAH will continue to meet our mission "to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services."

Again, we say thank you for your support.



Report to the Citizens of Benson

This report briefly describes the services and support provided to elders in Benson by the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging during the past year; these included:

Senior Meals:

The Council provided funding for meals served to elder residents of Benson. This funding helped make available 2,241 meals that were prepared and delivered to the homes of 16 older persons in your community who were in need of this special support. This service, provided through contract, is often referred to as "Meals on Wheels". We also supplied "Blizzard Bags" to Meals on Wheels participants and other isolated elders, containing "shelf-stable" meals for use in a weather related or other emergency situation. In addition, 14 Benson elders participated at one or more of the luncheon sites available in our region, enjoying 296 meals.

Case Management Assistance:

28 elder residents of your community were served by SVCOA Case Management staff who provided help with applications and problem solving around programs such as Fuel Assistance, SSI, Medicaid, Food Stamps, etc. Case Managers also helped frail elders who were facing long term care placement, assisting those who wanted to and were able to remain independent connect with available supports including Medicaid Waiver assistance.

Other Services:

The Council on Aging also made available the following services to help support older persons in your community: 1) Telephone support through our "Senior HelpLine" (786-5991 or 1-800-642-5119). This service provided easy phone access to elders and others in need of information about available programs and supports for older persons; 2) Health benefit counseling information and form filing assistance through our SHIP Program; 3) Legal service support through a contract with the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project; 4) Provision of information related to elder issues through the "Elder Connection" column written by Barbara Hanson appearing weekly in the Rutland Herald; 5) Nutrition education and counseling provided by a Registered Dietician to elders who needed to improve their dietary intake; 7) Senior Companion support on a one on one basis for frail, homebound elders; 8) Elder Care Clinician outreach services to elders struggling with a variety of mental health issues provided through a contract with Rutland Mental Health; 9) Transportation support through the Elders on the Go Program and One-2-One; 10) Community Development assistance and 11) Caregiver information and support for family members and others who are providing help to elders in need of care.



In the year 2003, 27 towns in Rutland County supported the work of Rutland Mental Health Services through town giving. Our agency is committed to providing quality services regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The generous support of towns such as Benson assures that quality services are available for their families, friends and neighbors. Town giving dollars support services which include:

- Individual Counseling for Children, Adults and Families
- Substance Abuse Treatment Services
- Emergency/Crisis Services

During fiscal year 2003, Rutland Mental Health Services provided 471 hours of services to 29 Benson residents. We value our partnership with the Town of Benson in providing these much needed services and thank you for your continued support.

Mark G. Monson

President and Chief Executive Officer

RECEIVED

Board Members

Hon. Howard Dean
Hon. Philip Hoff
Hon. F. Ray Keyser
Hon. Madeline Kunin
Hon. Thomas Salmon

Contributions to
Green Up Vermont
are tax deductible
to the extent
allowable by law.

"Green Up Vermont"
Green Up Day, May 1 2004

Thirty-three years strong, "Green Up Day" is a special day when Vermonters clean and spruce up their communities. We were the first state in our nation to designate a day for such cleaning of the entire state. Working together, we can keep our unique Green Up spirit growing for Vermont.

Green Up Vermont is the not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that promotes litter-free communities by supporting Green Up Day, civic pride and education.

Over 13,000 Vermonters participated in Green Up Day 2003, using over 33,000 Green Up bags, collecting over 200 tons of trash, piles of mixed metals and tires. Green Up Vermont arranged widespread promotional support in excess of \$25,000.

The success of Green Up for Vermont depends upon two essential ingredients. One is the combined efforts of individuals and civic groups who volunteer to make it all possible; and two, the financial support given by the public and private sectors throughout Vermont.

With your town's help, we can continue our unique annual Vermont tradition of, taking care of our beautiful landscape and promoting civic pride so our children grow up with Green Up.

Careful use of resources minimizes Green Up's costs. The State appropriates funds that cover about 15 percent of our budget. The rest comes from gifts from towns, individuals and businesses. These funds pay for supplies, promotion and services of two part-time employees. We ask your community to contribute, according to population, to keep Green Up growing for Vermont.



WARNING

Benson School District Budget Informational Meeting

March 1, 2004

The legal voters of the Town of Benson School District in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont are hereby duly warned and notified that an informational meeting regarding the 2003-2004 budget will be held at the Community Hall in said Town of Benson on March 1, 2004 at 7:30 P.M. to have presented by the Board of Directors their estimates of the expenses for the ensuing year.

Benson Town School District Meeting

March 2, 2004

The legal voters of the Town of Benson School District in the County of Rutland and State of Vermont are hereby duly warned and notified to meet at the Community Hall in said Town of Benson on March 2, 2004 at the conclusion of the Town Meeting to transact the following business:

- Article 1. To act on the report of the Town School District Officers.
- Article 2. To see if the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to borrow money to meet the current expenses of the District until funds can be realized from the State of Vermont.
- Article 3. To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

The following articles (4 and 5) will be voted by Australian ballot at the Benson Community Hall on March 2, 2004 from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.


- Article 4. To elect a moderator for a term of one year, one school director for a term of three years, and two school directors for terms of one year each.


Article 5. Shall the voters of the Benson Town School District appropriate the sum of \$1,423,395. necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2004?

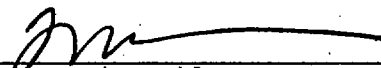
Dated at Benson, Vermont this 6th day of January, 2004.


Cheryl Schneider

Wesley Bowen


Susan Brown


Lee Scott


Torrin Silver

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

NOTE: Ballot boxes will be open for voting on Articles 4 and 5 from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on March 2, 2004 at the Community Hall in the Town of Benson.

BENSON TOWN SCHOOL BOARD

Special Informational Meeting

March 3, 2003

Present: Cheryl Schneider, Chair; Lee Scott, Clerk; Judy D'Amico, Tobi Silver, Susan Brown

Adm. present: Jim Frail, Assistant Superintendent; Kris Benway, Director of Special Services;

Gary Netsch, Principal;

School Moderator: Ron Savageau

Guest: Steve Arthur, David Cunningham, John Fedor, Deirdre Denehy, Martha Savageau, Richard Bowen, Jan Ladd, Town Clerk; Donald Ladd, Lois and Joe Trenn, Mr. and Mrs. John Kubin, Sue Corey, Guy Charlton, Norma Phillips, Brian Scott, Tom Bartholomew, Ted Kellogg, Chuck Kellogg, Marilyn Langer, William Hill, Pamela Stefanek, Mr. and Mrs. Rochon

Ron Savageau called the informational meeting to order at 7:30 p.m..

Introductions of Board members and Administration present.

Cheryl Schneider began by explaining the hand out material.

Page 1.) Benson FY04 budget information - recap of expenditure increases. Total increase compared to FY03 \$28,839.

Page 2.) Benson Town Profile - Town School Budget is up by \$104,696 or 8.5%. FHUHS Assessment is down by \$75,857 or -15.9%. Total increase \$28,839 or 1.7%.

Page 3.) Town Profile - Shows the differences of local taxes raised and the equalized pupil count for the past three years.

Joe Trenn asked about the salary increase differences from last year. Cheryl pointed out that information in the Town Report on page 80.

Lois Trenn asked about the yield on the Block grant. Cheryl commented on a proposal circulating in the House and Senate now that would increase the Block grant. Both proposals would benefit us, but the Senates is better.

Jan Ladd commented that the people should understand that on page 1 of the handouts that the total of \$1,743,268 includes both the grade school budgeted amount and Benson's share of the high school budgeted amount. Cheryl agreed and explained that \$1,341,177 is the amount for Benson grade school budget. Benson's share of the high school budget is \$402,091.

Joe Trenn asked about the increases in the Payroll. Cheryl explained that the Board negotiates a contract with the teachers for a 2 to 3 year time period. The Board negotiates to pay the teacher an increase of 2 % or 3 % each year. Insurance benefits also rise on an average of 9% a year. This year insurance costs went up 19%.

Cheryl went on to explain the budget. On the revenue page Cheryl explained that line item 3145 - Small Schools Grant is listed with an incorrect amount. The State received the wrong information on the number of students in the school. We have more children than presented to the State so the amount given to us is less. The amount for the Small Schools Grant should read as \$45,067. This will also change item 3125 - Revenue from Education Fund to \$94,451. Item 3205 - Intensive Reimbursement amount represents State placed students.

Joe Trenn asked if the expense for each student was so high. Cheryl explained that the cost varies due to the students needs.

Cheryl went on to explain the expenses.

- 2311 Board of Education - Item 522 - Umbrella Insurance - All insurance costs have gone up.
- 2321 ARSU Assessment - ARSU has out grown it's office facilities. We have been looking into another place for a few years. The ARSU Board made the decision to move into the old Vermont Secret Building in downtown Fair Haven. There will be an initial increase for renovation but then will level out.
- 2620 Building Services - Item 421 - Cost of garbage removal has increased.
Item 521 - Property Insurance - costs are up.
- 2711 Transportation - The bus contract with Bet-cha Transportation was up for extension this year. After looking into the possibility of putting the contract up for bid, the Board decided that it was in our best interest to extend the contract for the next two years.
- 1100 Instruction - Item 115 - Aide Salary - ARSU was chosen for an audit. During this audit Laura Jakubowski, the ARSU Business Manager, learned that some of the time that the aides were working, in the lunch room for example, were being billed as special education. When actually the school needs to pay the aides for that time.

Martha Savageau asked why item 114 - Secretary Salary was in the Instructional section. Neither Gary Netsch or Cheryl could answer. They will ask Laura Jakubowski.

- 250 - Workers Compensation - Costs are down due to the decrease in claims.
- 2222 - Library Services - We are still looking to fill this position. So the Board has budgeted for that salary.
- 1200 - Special Education - item 115 - Aide Salaries - We have many high needs students who have one to one para educators.
- 2711 - Special Education Transportation - Some students need transportation to other schools or need a bus with handicap accessibility. We are mandated to provide this service. Half of this expense is refundable.

Joe Trenn asked who makes the decision that these students are in need. A team consisting of a LEA, [Local Education Agent, (an administrator)] Special Ed. teacher, Regular Ed. teacher and a parent decide what the needs of a student are. Cheryl explained that Special Education Laws are mandated from the Federal and State level. And are often unfunded or partially funded through reimbursements.

- 3110 - Food Service - Item 210 - health insurance - Food service personnel chose to take the buy out.

John Fedor asked about the quality of the curriculum. Cheryl talked about the numerous tests that the students are required to take and the "Standards" scores that all schools should maintain. Our students have maintained and in some areas improved. Gary Netsch mentioned some of the several programs that we offer.

- Even start program - which targets the very young children and their parents.
- Beginning with Books in Benson program - provides literature to children from birth to age 5.
- Literary Programs - Special events throughout the year.
- Middlebury College mentor group for the 8th grade students.
- Music program - We are looking to expand on this to include better instrumental instruction. This position has been difficult to fill in the past.
- Sports program - We have a good after school sports participation rate. And this past year Sue Brown took on the sports coordinators position to help organize these activities.
- Theater Program - We have received some grant monies to use for this purpose.

Marilyn asked if the district got together to purchase items such as fuel. Cheryl assured her we do. Marilyn asked why there aren't any articles in the Lakes Region Free Press on the events of the school. Gary replied that he does notify the Rutland Herald, "Heard it at School" column, but that he would try to do more. Marilyn asked about the Bond on the School. Cheryl had a conversation with Laura Jakubowski about a letter that Laura received from the bond bank stating the possible resale of bonds issued in the year 1992. We may receive an adjusted debit service schedule with adjusted interest payments.

Cheryl mentioned Article 5 a request for an Architectural Feasibility study of the school. She has spoken to 4 different architectural companies and all state that this expense should not exceed \$10,000.

William Hill asked if the original plans were to have classrooms upstairs. There was discussion. This Board is uncertain what the previous Board at that time had in mind. Guy Charlton stated that is had been structurally designed to be used for more than storage.

Tobi Silver wanted to point out that the building is being used more for other activities. That the building issues and special education take up a lot of monies, which make it hard to put monies toward music and art. But with the help of donations from the PTO and grants we do our best to enrich the children.

Judy D'Amico mentioned that with the increases in insurance and special education costs there's not much left for our students.

Martha Savageau moved to adjourn. William Hill seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Scott, clerk

BENSON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 4, 2003

MINUTES

Ron Savageau called the meeting to order at 3:58 p.m.

Article 1: Martha Savageau made the motion in the affirmative, seconded by Tom Neumann and so voted.

Article 2: Martha Savageau made the motion in the affirmative, seconded by Guy Charlton and so voted.

Article 3: Tom Neumann made the motion to adjourn at 3:59 p.m. seconded by Ben Bartholomew and so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ladd, Clerk

Janet Ladd

Results of the Australian balloting on March 4th, 2003

School Moderator	Ron Savageau	170 votes		
School Board (3 years)	Torrin Silver	148 votes		
School Board (1 year)	Judy D'Amico	53 votes		
	Wesley Bowen	92 votes		
	Robert Lowell	50 votes		
	Laurie Orvis	48 votes		
	Lee Jean Scott	72 votes		
Town School Budget	Yes	133	No	56
School Study Vote	Yes	107	No	83
High School Budget	Yes	1055	No	712
Land Purchase	Yes	852	No	907

**BENSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
TREASURER'S REPORT
JULY 1, 2002 TO JUNE 30, 2003**

Balance June 30, 2002	\$10,190.05
-----------------------	-------------

Receipts:

ARSU	8,896.13
State	28,753.45
Taxes	904,556.00
Loans	128,000.00
State Aid	773,935.00
Bank Interest	1,818.84
Hot Lunch	18,155.25
Refund	290.00
Insurance	9,528.42
FHUHS Trans	15,741.00
EEE	36,305.00
Misc.	2,835.77

Total Receipts	<u>\$1,928,814.86</u>
----------------	-----------------------

Total Balance and Receipts	\$1,939,004.91
----------------------------	----------------

Disbursements:

Payroll	\$651,877.55
Bills	1,212,425.56
BC/BS	18,589.85
Loan	50,483.28
Bank Fees	51.84

Total Disbursements	<u>-\$1,933,428.08</u>
---------------------	------------------------

Balance as of June 30, 2003	5,576.83
-----------------------------	----------

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ladd

Janet Ladd, School Treasurer

BENSON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

2003-2004

School Directors

Cheryl Schneider, Chair

Wesley Bowen

Susan Brown

Lee Jean Scott

Torrin Silver

Superintendent of Schools - Ronald C. Ryan

Assistant Superintendent - Wendy M. Savery

Director of Special Education - Kristin H. Benway

Business Manager - Laura Z. Jakubowski

District Technology Coordinator - Katie Duggan

District Psychologist - John Fitzpatrick

District Speech/Language Pathologist - Nicole Johnson

District School Counselor - Robert Smolinski

Principal - Linda Peltier

Teachers

Susan Fletcher

Michelle Miles

Lynne Komraus

Jacquelyn Nichols

Susan Corey

Wendy Paterson

Linda Heitkamp

Ronald Savageau

Desna Richardson

Francine Broughton

Susan Strosnider

Arlene Disorda

Mary Gunn

Gail Hunt

Deborah Reed

Ann Vale

Arnolda Michel

Eric Becker

Stella Tupper

Kathryn Barsalow

Mary Lussier

Thomas Neumann

Leslie Phillips

Debra Robbins

Danielle Sweatt

Mark Tomsuden

Cathleen Gearwar

Cindy Timmerman

Carrieann Wolcott

Jane Weinlagen

Thomas Dukeshire

Colleen Howard

Lisa Gates

Glen Woods

Assignment

Primary Unit

Multi-age Primary

Multi-age Primary

Intermediate Unit

Intermediate Unit

Grade 5

Grade 6

Social Studies, Science, Grades 7-8

Language Arts, Math, Grades 7-8

Music

School Nurse

Remedial Reading/Math

Remedial Reading/Librarian

Resource Room

Essential Early Educator

Art

French

Physical Education

Secretary

Special Education Aide

Special Education Aide

Special Education Aide

Special Education Aide

Special Education Aide

Special Education Aide

Special Education Aide

Special Education Aide

EEE Aide

Title I Paraprofessional

Speech Assistant

Technology Assistant

Hot Lunch Manager

Hot Lunch Assistant

Custodian

SCHOOL DIRECTORS REPORT

As many of you are aware, for the first time in nine years we have a new principal at the Benson Village School, Linda Peltier. Mrs. Peltier lives here in Benson and had been a science teacher at the Fair Haven Union High School for 24 years. In addition to the principal we have several new employees to welcome, including: Francine Broughton (music teacher), Sue Strosnider (nurse), Eric Becker (physical education), Gail Hunt (special educator), Glen Woods (custodian), Thomas Dukeshire (technology assistant), Lisa Gates (hot lunch assistant), and Carrieann Wolcott (instructional assistant). We were finally able to fill our part-time librarian position with Mary Gunn who also works as a Title I teacher. Michelle Miles has become a primary teacher (grades 1 & 2) from her former position as special educator.

The Board would like to note a special thank you to Gary Netsch for his years of dedicated service to the children of Benson, and we hope you join us in wishing him well in his new position as principal of Shaftsbury Elementary School.

Several members of our faculty were honored this year with ARSU awards, including:
Benson Even Start Program – ARSU Executive Award;
Robin Herrick – ARSU Outstanding Teacher Award;
Danielle Sweatt – ARSU Instructional Assistant Award;
Marion Munger and Fran Bowen – ARSU Special Service Award;
Jacquelyn Sawin – ARSU Substitute of the Year.

Our student population continues to increase. As of December when this report was being written, we have 161 students in the school. Last March the voters approved up to \$10,000 to be spent on an architectural feasibility study to look at all the issues around the best current and future use of our educational facility. After interviewing several interested firms, the board awarded a contract to Black River Design of Montpelier for the architectural study. Black River Design is also utilizing Tracy Consulting Inc. of Center Rutland, an educational consulting firm run by Paul Tracy, a name many of you may be familiar with as Mr. Tracy was the principal at Benson years ago. Mr. Tracy provided the board with School Enrollment Projections and is currently working on Ed Specs for the State of Vermont. His enrollment projections predict 199 students in PreK-8 for the 2007-2008 school year, and 205 students by 2010-2011. These enrollment projections are based on students now in the system, along with birth rates provided by the Town Clerk and other historical data and using a formula from the Vermont Department of Education.

Despite the school only being 10 years old we are seeing a pattern of growth in town population that was not anticipated when it was built. The school is actually listed with the Vermont Education Department as being suitable for up to 125 students. With 161 and growing, we are facing obvious space issues. We also have issues with the parking lot, including lack of adequate parking, the current gravel surface, and inadequate handicapped accessibility. With the help of Black River Design the school board is

looking at current use of the facility as well as future needs, and how best to meet those needs.

Our budget for 2004-2005 which we will be presenting in March is not final as of this writing, but we do know our numbers have increased at the high school for this coming year by 13 students. In 2003-2004 we were assessed at 8.2% of the FHUHS budget based on number of students in the high school, and the coming year we will be responsible for 10.65% of the FHUHS budget. Though we didn't have actual numbers when this report was written, we do know Benson's FHUHS assessment will go up at least 30%, a significant increase.

It is our hope that we will be able to present the results of the feasibility study at an informational meeting in February to take place at the school. At this meeting townspeople and parents will be presented with the facts and figures as well as have an opportunity to ask questions of the school board, faculty and the architects. The date and time have not been decided as of this writing but will be well publicized. We encourage all interested parties to attend and take part in a positive discussion about the future of our school district.

We would also like to use this space to say thank you to the many volunteers and businesspeople who continue to support our school, whether through donations of time, money or services. Special thanks to the Parent Teacher Organization for their fine arts contributions, the Benson Volunteer Fire Department for supporting our fundraising efforts, our athletic coaches, and to our dedicated faculty members for going "above and beyond."

There are three (3) town school district positions open for election this year. The informational meeting on the 2004-2005 school budget will be held on Monday night, March 1, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Hall. Articles 1-3 will be conducted on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday March 2, 2004 in the Community Hall, as well as Australian ballot voting on the election of school officers and the 2004-2005 school budgets. Please be sure to attend both meetings, as the budget cannot be discussed on Town Meeting Day while Australian ballot voting is underway.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Schneider
Lee Scott
Torrin Silver
Susan Brown
Wesley Bowen

Benson Village School Directors

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

With the start of a new school year, we have begun to understand the implications of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, which was enacted in January 2002. This law dramatically increases the Federal Government's role in four areas of K – 12 education:

- 1) Accountability for what every child should learn in reading, math, and science (as reflected in test results);
- 2) Local control over federal education dollars;
- 3) Funding for teaching programs and methods that work; and
- 4) Parental options.

One of the areas that the No Child Left Behind Act places significant emphasis on is teacher quality as a factor in improving student performance. As such, the law imposes standards requiring teachers of core academic subjects (English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography) to be "highly qualified".

Paraprofessionals are also affected by this law, referring to highly qualified staff. They must have completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education or obtained an associate's degree or pass a rigorous assessment. The No Child Left Behind Act will have an increasingly profound influence on public education over the next decade as each area of implementation is reached. In the end, all students must be proven proficient in all of the State's academic standards within the next 12 years. High-stakes testing, federal government intervention, accountability, and curriculum uniformity will be regular discussion topics in schools.

There is a new education finance law in effect. This law, called Act 68, is the new education funding law, which replaces Act 60 of 1997. It creates a simpler education funding system, based on a split grand list. The new system begins in fiscal year 2005 and will affect property tax bills beginning in the summer of 2004. The new act:

- Repeals the "sharing pool";
- Splits the education grand list into two parts: homestead and all other property;
- Taxes homesteads at an adjustable rate, adjusted within each district to correspond to the district's education spending;
- Taxes non-residential property at a uniform statewide rate;
- Maintains income sensitivity with very few changes.

Assessment/Student Performance

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires states to put into place a series of measurable objectives about student performance that states, school districts and schools are expected to meet, as well as a series of reporting mechanisms to measure progress. Performance is measured by the progress of schools and districts in making adequate yearly progress in applying the same high standards of academic achievement to all public elementary and secondary school students.

The NCLB Act is designed to help all students meet high academic standards by requiring that states create annual assessments that measure what children know and can do in reading and math in grades three through eight. These tests, based on challenging state standards, will allow parents, educators, administrators, policymakers, and the general public to track the performance of every school in the nation. Data will be disaggregated for students by poverty levels, race,

ethnicities, disabilities, and limited English proficiencies to ensure that no child – regardless of his or her background – is left behind.

The Addison-Rutland Supervisory Union (ARSU) is committed to helping all children achieve state standards and to using different types of data to help make decisions that improve student and school performance. Through the use of data-driven decision-making, the Supervisory Union will be able to make comparisons and to develop goals that more clearly identify our strengths and weaknesses, a vital ingredient in efforts to improve teaching and learning. In addition, the decision-making process will allow us to focus on the following important components of effective school improvement:

- Changing Beliefs and Attitudes That All Children Can Learn
- Professional Development
- Interventions and Curricular Decisions
- Using Data to Create School Improvement Plans and Assess Programs
- Allocating District Resources

What follows are a few of the results of the assessments given to students in ARSU, including the New Standards Reference Examination (NSRE) in English/Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 4, 8, and 10; the Vermont Developmental Reading Assessment (VT – DRA) for grade 2; and the Stanford Achievement Test – Ninth Edition (SAT-9) for grades 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 11. District demographic summaries are also provided in the areas of gender and free and reduced lunch/milk status.

New Standards Reference Examination

The NSRE represents a way to measure student achievement using Performance Standards, which say what students should be able to do at different points in their educational careers. This reference to standards differs from reference to norms that assess how well students perform compared to other students. For example, a low score in Mathematics Conceptual Understanding on the NSRE means that a student may not have understood the concepts they should have at their grade level. The same student might score above national averages on a norm-referenced test if students across the nation are weak in conceptual understanding.

The NSRE results are reported as profiles. The profiles map directly to the Performance Standards or to clusters of standards. In mathematics the profile has three parts:

- 1.) Skills
- 2.) Conceptual Understanding
- 3.) Problem Solving

In English/Language Arts, the profile has four parts:

- 1.) Reading: Basic Understanding
- 2.) Reading: Analysis & Understanding
- 3.) Writing: Effectiveness
- 4.) Writing: Conventions

Scores for the NSRE are reported for each cluster and determined according to the following scale:

- *Achieved the Standard With Honors*
-A student performs at a higher level than the standard on a consistent basis.
- *Achieved the Standard*
-A student performs at the level of the standard on a consistent basis.

- *Nearly Achieved the Standard*
-A student shows some evidence of performing at the level of the standard, but overall, the performances do not consistently meet the standard.
- *Below the Standard*
-A student shows some attempt to respond but the number of successful responses is minimal, and, all too often, the responses are incomplete.
- *Little Evidence of Achievement*
-A student shows almost no attempt to respond, as evidenced by numerous blank answers, entirely unsuccessful answers, and incomplete answers.

Vermont Developmental Reading Assessment

The VT-DRA is an individually administered, standards-based reading assessment given to 2nd graders. It requires a student to demonstrate evidence of the ability to comprehend grade-appropriate materials and to make connections among various parts of the text. The VT-DRA assesses the following standards:

***VT Standard 1.2 – Reading Accuracy**

- Students read grade-appropriate material with at least 90% accuracy, in a way that makes meaning clear.

***VT Standard 1.3 – Reading Comprehension**

- Students read for meaning, demonstrating both initial understanding and personal response to what is read.

Proficiency levels on the VT-DRA include:

<u>Level</u>	<u>Students successfully:</u>
Achieved the Standard With Honors	Read with 94% accuracy at a third grade level or higher and demonstrate fluency in oral reading.
Achieved the Standard	Read with 94% accuracy at a late second grade level of difficulty.
Nearly Achieved the Standard	Read with at least 92% accuracy at late first to mid-second grade level of difficulty.
Below the Standard	Read with at least 90% accuracy at a primer to mid-first grade level of difficulty.
Little or No Evidence of Meeting the Standard	Read with at least 90% accuracy at a pre-primer level of difficulty or respond to familiar print.

Stanford Achievement Test

The Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition (SAT 9) includes both multiple-choice and open-ended assessments for greater coverage of the depth and breadth of student achievement. Scores are reflected using national Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) scores and Performance Standard percentages.

A Normal Curve Equivalent score is a direct conversion from percentile rank and is a standard score resulting from the division of the normal curve into 99 equal units. It is a standard score with a known mean and standard deviation, such that NCE scores of 1, 50 and 99 correspond to percentile ranks of 1, 50 and 99 respectively.

Performance Standards on the SAT 9 are content-referenced scores that reflect what students know and should be able to do in given subject areas. There are four categories or levels of student performance.

Level 1 - indicates little or no mastery of fundamental knowledge and skills.

Level 2 - denotes partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for satisfactory work. At the high school level, that is higher than minimum competency skills.

Level 3 - represents solid academic performance, indicating that students are prepared for the next grade level. At the high school level, this indicates preparedness for democratic citizenship, responsible adulthood, and productive work.

Level 4 - signifies superior performance beyond grade-level mastery. At the high school level, this shows readiness for rigorous college courses, advanced technical training, or employment requiring advanced academic achievement.

Overview of 2003 Assessment Results

Reading

- 75% of ARSU grade two students met or exceeded the standard with 41% reading and comprehending at the third grade level or higher. In addition, fewer than 15% of all students fell below the standard.
- ARSU students in grade four have shown consistently strong performance in basic reading skills, with more than 75% meeting the standard or achieving it with honors. 10% of student fell below the standard.
- 65% of ARSU eighth graders met the basic standard, and 10% fell below the standard.
- Only 47% of ARSU tenth grader students met or exceeded the standard compared to 55% at the State level. 9% fell below the standard. Significant improvement still needs to happen at this level.

Writing

- Approximately 38% of our grade four students met the writing standard in Effectiveness and 59% met the standard in Conventions, compared to State averages of 48% in both. We are concerned that an average of 29% fell below the standard in the last two years.
- 59% of ARSU eighth graders met the standard in Effectiveness, 51% met the standard in Conventions. 4% fell below the standard in Effectiveness, 11% in Conventions.
- 37% of ARSU tenth graders met the standard in Effectiveness, 76% in Conventions. 4% fell below the standard in Effectiveness and 6% in Conventions.

Mathematics

- 73% of ARSU fourth graders met the standard for Skills, 40% for Concepts, and 37% for Problem Solving. The State averages were 73% (Skills), 46%(Concepts), and 41% (Problem Solving).
- 68% of ARSU eighth graders met the standard for Skills, 44% for Concepts, and 54% for Problem Solving. The State averages were 67% (Skills), 40% (Concepts), and 48% (Problem Solving).
- 54% of ARSU tenth graders met the standard for Skills, 33% for Concepts, and 32% for Problem Solving. The State averages were 62% (Skills), 42% (Concepts) and 42% (Problem Solving). These scores were an improvement from 2002, but are still of great concern, especially when looking at the percentages of students who did not meet the standard at the 10th grade level (35% in Skills, 34% in Concepts, and 63% in Problem Solving).

Stanford Achievement Test

- The following percentage of students scored in the solid academic to superior performance levels on the Stanford Achievement Tests:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Math</u>
1	71%	63%	73%
3	55%	36%	36%
5	45%	37%	38%
6	38%	22%	32%
7	53%	35%	37%
9	36%	17%	33%
11	35%	20%	11%

Gender & Free and Reduced Lunch/Milk Status

- In 2003, females outperformed males in every category at each level on the NSRE's with the exception of Math Concepts in grade 10. The most significant differences were seen in English/Language Arts at the 10th grade level.
- Students participating in the Free and Reduced Lunch/Milk programs tended to have higher percentages of students falling below the standard in reading, writing and mathematics, scoring as follows in 2003:

		% Below the Standard		
		<u>Reading</u>	<u>Writing</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
Free and Reduced Lunch/Milk	4th	18%	45%	39%
	8th	25%	18%	43%
	10th	18%	6%	55%
No Assistance	4th	11%	32%	26%
	8th	7%	4%	22%
	10th	15%	3%	30%

Concluding Summary

The Addison-Rutland Supervisory Union Office has seen a few new changes this year. One big change is that our office has relocated from the Town Hall building in Fair Haven to 49 Main Street in Fair Haven. This move has culminated with the ARSU School Board looking at space, facilities, and location for the past five years. This new location has provided the district with sufficient office space for their workers, storage space, conference space, and easy accessibility.

I would also like to welcome Wendy Savery, the new Assistant Superintendent, to the district. Wendy has been a high school social studies teacher, learning specialist, and special education administrator. She comes to us from Middlebury, Vt., where she lives with her husband and two children.

We commend and congratulate the following recipients of this year's special awards. Laurel Cecil and Tricia Dudley each received the UVM Outstanding Teacher Award. Sally deLancey, Maureen Faryniarz, Susan McKelvie, Robin Herrick, and Dick Luzer, each received the ARSU Outstanding Teacher Award. The Benson Even Start Program and The Fair Haven Grade School's Student Support Team, each received the ARSU Executive Award. Linda Blackbird, Christy Alger, Danielle Sweatt, Sally Corey, and Gail McGann, each received the ARSU Instructional Assistant Award. Steve Bruyneel, Sally Moore, Fran Bowen, Marion Munger, Judy Ouellette, and Bea Laramie of the Fair Haven Rescue Squad, each received the ARSU Special Service Award. Jacquelyn Sawin, Tracy Hardiman, Ed Dechen, Paul Christensen, and Barbara Papandrea, each received the ARSU Substitute of the Year Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald C. Ryan
Superintendent of Schools

ADDISON-RUTLAND SUPERVISORY UNION
District Assessment Summary
2002 & 2003

New Standards Reference Examination – English/Language Arts

Percentages at Each Performance Level

Year & Number of Students Reported (N) & Grade		READING					Analysis & Interpretation					WRITING					Conventions				
		Basic Understanding					Little Below Nearly Stndr Honor					Effectiveness					Little Below Nearly Stndr Honor				
		Little Below	Nearly	Stndr	Honor		Little Below	Nearly	Stndr	Honor		Little Below	Nearly	Stndr	Honor		Little Below	Nearly	Stndr	Honor	
Percentages at Each Performance Level																					
2003																					
Gr. 4, N = 125	ARSU	0%	14%	10%	57%	20%	1%	13%	24%	55%	7%	1%	43%	18%	38%	0%	0%	30%	11%	56%	3%
	STATE	0%	8%	11%	57%	23%	0%	7%	23%	60%	10%	0%	23%	17%	57%	3%	0%	27%	11%	58%	4%
Gr. 8, N = 146	ARSU	0%	10%	24%	64%	1%	0%	18%	43%	32%	6%	0%	4%	37%	55%	4%	1%	10%	38%	50%	1%
	STATE	0%	9%	29%	60%	2%	0%	17%	47%	29%	7%	1%	4%	29%	64%	2%	3%	10%	35%	48%	4%
Gr. 10, N = 146	ARSU	1%	8%	45%	43%	4%	1%	18%	43%	38%	1%	1%	11%	51%	35%	2%	0%	4%	19%	60%	16%
	STATE	1%	10%	34%	50%	5%	0%	18%	38%	43%	1%	1%	13%	44%	39%	5%	0%	6%	17%	53%	24%
2002																					
Gr. 4, N = 143	ARSU	0%	10%	16%	64%	10%	1%	10%	31%	55%	4%	1%	35%	17%	43%	5%	1%	30%	21%	44%	4%
	STATE	0%	6%	13%	63%	17%	0%	8%	24%	62%	5%	0%	24%	19%	46%	11%	0%	18%	22%	55%	5%
Gr. 8, N = 129	ARSU	0%	9%	26%	65%	0%	0%	16%	47%	33%	3%	0%	4%	39%	52%	5%	2%	10%	38%	49%	2%
	STATE	0%	10%	25%	63%	2%	0%	18%	42%	36%	5%	0%	5%	32%	58%	4%	1%	8%	38%	50%	3%
Gr. 10, N = 115	ARSU	3%	8%	37%	51%	2%	0%	12%	43%	44%	1%	1%	6%	43%	44%	6%	0%	3%	17%	61%	18%
	STATE	1%	10%	36%	51%	2%	0%	18%	34%	47%	1%	1%	9%	47%	39%	4%	0%	4%	21%	56%	19%

New Standards Reference Examination – Mathematics

Vermont Developmental Reading Assessment (VT-DRA)67

ADDISON – RUTLAND SUPERVISORY UNION
District Assessment Summary
2002 & 2003

Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition – Total Reading & Language

Subtests / Grade / Year / # Students Reported (N) / National NCE	Performance Standards Percent in Each				Subtests / Grade / Year / # Students Reported (N) / National NCE	Performance Standards Percent in Each			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
TOTAL READING					LANGUAGE				
Gr. 1 2003 N = 103; NCE = 66.2	3%	26%	32%	39%	Gr. 1 2003 N = 104; NCE = 59.7	1%	36%	46%	17%
Gr. 1 2002 N = 74; NCE = 60.2	5%	35%	34%	26%	Gr. 1 2002 N = 76; NCE = 55.5	3%	46%	42%	9%
Gr. 3 2003 N = 115; NCE = 56.7	10%	36%	35%	20%	Gr. 3 2003 N = 116; NCE = 52.6	28%	35%	26%	10%
Gr. 3 2002 N = 114; NCE = 56.7	18%	25%	39%	18%	Gr. 3 2002 N = 115; NCE = 53.0	32%	30%	21%	17%
Gr. 5 2003 N = 137; NCE = 52.2	16%	39%	41%	4%	Gr. 5 2003 N = 139; NCE = 49.1	24%	39%	29%	8%
Gr. 5 2002 N = 119; NCE = 48.0	20%	52%	21%	7%	Gr. 5 2002 N = 120; NCE = 44.8	32%	43%	20%	6%
Gr. 6 2003 N = 111; NCE = 51.9	17%	45%	30%	8%	Gr. 6 2003 N = 111; NCE = 42.4	34%	44%	17%	5%
Gr. 6 2002 N = 137; NCE = 58.9	10%	35%	45%	9%	Gr. 6 2002 N = 139; NCE = 48.0	24%	45%	27%	4%
Gr. 7 2003 N = 164; NCE = 56.1	10%	36%	46%	7%	Gr. 7 2003 N = 164; NCE = 52.9	18%	47%	31%	4%
Gr. 7 2002 N = 155; NCE = 56.7	13%	35%	43%	8%	Gr. 7 2002 N = 156; NCE = 52.5	23%	38%	33%	6%
Gr. 9 2003 N = 136; NCE = 48.1	21%	43%	31%	5%	Gr. 9 2003 N = 131; NCE = 46.2	31%	52%	12%	5%
Gr. 9 2002 N = 153; NCE = 48.7	22%	43%	31%	3%	Gr. 9 2002 N = 153; NCE = 44.5	35%	50%	13%	1%
Gr. 11 2003 N = 112; NCE = 55.2	25%	40%	27%	8%	Gr. 11 2003 N = 113; NCE = 50.6	56%	25%	18%	2%
Gr. 11 2002 N = 139; NCE = 51.6	33%	40%	17%	10%	Gr. 11 2002 N = 143; NCE = 44.9	63%	24%	10%	3%

ADDISON – RUTLAND SUPERVISORY UNION
District Assessment Summary
2002 & 2003

Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition

Subtests / Grade / Year / # Students Reported (N) / National NCE	Performance Standards Percent in Each			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
TOTAL MATHEMATICS				
Gr. 1 2003 N = 104; NCE = 67.8	4%	23%	44%	29%
Gr. 1 2002 N = 77; NCE = 60.4	6%	30%	47%	17%
Gr. 3 2003 N = 115; NCE = 61.8	28%	35%	26%	10%
Gr. 3 2002 N = 115; NCE = 58.5	16%	34%	34%	17%
Gr. 5 2003 N = 139; NCE = 49.1	26%	36%	34%	4%
Gr. 5 2002 N = 120; NCE = 52.7	30%	29%	34%	7%
Gr. 6 2003 N = 111; NCE = 53.7	35%	32%	25%	7%
Gr. 6 2002 N = 139; NCE = 59.4	26%	32%	38%	4%
Gr. 7 2003 N = 164; NCE = 61.4	23%	39%	35%	2%
Gr. 7 2002 N = 156; NCE = 61.0	28%	37%	29%	7%
Gr. 9 2003 N = 135; NCE = 62.5	29%	38%	26%	7%
Gr. 9 2002 N = 153; NCE = 59.5	22%	43%	31%	3%
Gr. 11 2003 N = 113; NCE = 56.7	58%	31%	9%	2%
Gr. 11 2002 N = 143; NCE = 51.1	68%	20%	10%	2%

GENDER – NSRE English/Language Arts

GENDER – NSRE Mathematics

GENDER – VT-DRA

70

**FREE & REDUCED LUNCH/MILK STATUS – Free/Reduced Lunch -NSRE English/Language Arts
Percent Performing at Each Level**

**FREE & REDUCED LUNCH/MILK STATUS – Free/Reduced Lunch - NSRE Mathematics
Percent Performing at Each Level**

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH STATUS - Free/Reduced Lunch - VT-DRA
Number at Each Performance Level

Year & % Students (N)	Number at Each Performance Level				Achieved Standard	Achieved Stand. w/ Honors
	Little Evidence Achievement	Below the Standard	Nearly Achieved Standard	Achieved Standard		
2003 N = 36%	5	5	3	17	10	
2002 N = 36%	4	3	5	16	15	

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH/MILK STATUS – No Assistance - NSRE English/Language Arts

**FREE & REDUCED LUNCH/MILK STATUS – No Assistance - NSRE Mathematics
Percentage at Each Performance Level**

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH STATUS – No Assistance - VT-DRA

Year & % Students (N)	Number at Each Performance Level				Achieved Standard	Achieved Stand. w/ Honors
	Little Evidence Achievement	Below the Standard	Nearly Achieved Standard	Achieved Standard		
2003 N = 64%	1	5	9	21	36	
2002 N = 64%	3	2	7	27	38	

Principal's Report

There is a saying that 'it takes a whole town to educate a child'. Here at Benson Village School, we are privileged to have the support from our *whole town* in the education of our children. We have many caring people that offer so much to our school. We are an active school with a great deal to offer and share with our community.

Our volunteer reading program is doing very well. Benson residents come in weekly to share a book with some of our students. Several Castleton College students have been reading with students as part of the *America Reads* program, while some other students from the college are working with our after school homework program. All of our students benefit from sharing books with others.

Benson continues to be a member of *Foundation for Excellent Schools*. This has enabled our school to network with other schools in brainstorming the daily challenges facing public schools. One of our goals with FES is to increase student performance in literacy. There is a dynamic mentoring program happening between the sixth grade and the primary classes. They meet weekly and read together. The sixth graders have college mentors from Middlebury College who come each week and work one-on-one with each other sharing some common activities. Some activities have included basketball, baseball cards, poetry and drawing. These college mentors are talking about academics and encouraging students to work towards their own goals.

Another goal of the FES action plan is to increase student performance in mathematics and to improve their self-esteem to encourage positive learning environments. We are addressing these needs as a school and in each classroom. Our after school homework assistance group, known as the SMART club, Success in Math And Reading Today, continues to be very popular with the students. Here students can get some extra help with adult assistance and peer tutoring.

We are continuing to work with the Vermont Standards in preparation for the Vermont State Assessment tests that will be given in March and April this year. Benson Village School continues to gain in our yearly goals of improving our students' abilities in math, reading, writing, and in science.

Our school is enriched by the generous support of the Benson PTO and other groups who support various programs in the school. Art, known as the 'voice of the soul' and music provide a depth to our lives. We have had the pleasure of visits to the Paramount Theatre, Vermont Symphony and other programs for the student body. These all encourage the children to share in the art programs we offer at our school. The students are shining in their acquisition of their talents. Thank you!!

We want to say thank you for *your* support of our programs. Please continue to participate in our school programs and activities such as concerts, plays, holiday meals, and sporting events. Our events are published in the weekly newsletter and in the community newsletter. Please join us when you can, since 'it does take a town to educate a child.'

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Rae Peltier, Principal

ANGOLANO & COMPANY

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

P. O. BOX 639
SHELBURNE, VERMONT 05482

TELEPHONE (802) 985-8992

(800) 540-8992

FAX (802) 985-9442

LOCATED AT:
2834 SHELBURNE ROAD

DAVID H. ANGOLANO, CPA
HEATHER L. ANGOLANO, CPA
DAVID J. ANGOLANO

Independent Auditors' Report

To The School Board
Benson School District

We have audited the accompanying general-purpose financial statements of Benson School District, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, as listed in the table of contents. These general-purpose financial statements are the responsibility of Benson School District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general-purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general-purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Benson School District, Vermont, as of June 30, 2003, and the results of its operations and the cash flows of its proprietary fund type for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 5, 2003 on our consideration of Benson School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general-purpose financial statements of Benson School District, Vermont taken as a whole. The combining and individual fund and account group financial statements and schedules listed in the table of contents are

presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the general-purpose financial statements of Benson School District. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general-purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the general-purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

Angolano & Company

Angolano & Company

Shelburne, Vermont

Firm Registration Number 92-0000141

August 5, 2003

Benson School District
Combined Balance Sheet
All Fund Types and Account Groups
June 30, 2003

EXHIBIT I

	Governmental Fund Type		Proprietary Fund Type		Fiduciary Fund Types			Account Groups			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Enterprise Fund	Agency Fund	Expendable Trust Funds	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt					
ASSETS:											
Current Assets:											
Cash	\$ 5,795	\$ 110	\$ 4,397	\$ 4,975						\$ 15,277	
Accounts Receivable - State	44,285	4,792								49,077	
Accounts Receivable - Other	5,245	1,156								6,401	
Due From Other Funds	4,894									4,894	
Inventory	-	598								598	
Total Current Assets	60,219	6,656	4,397	4,975						76,247	
Other Assets:											
Fixed Assets					1,472,330					1,472,330	
Amount to be Provided for:											
Retirement of Long-Term Debt	-	-	-	-		550,000				550,000	
Total Other Assets	-	-	-	-	1,472,330	550,000				2,022,330	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 60,219	\$ 6,656	\$ 4,397	\$ 4,975	\$ 1,472,330	\$ 550,000				\$ 2,098,577	
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY:											
Liabilities:											
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,144	\$ 4,894	\$ 4,397							\$ 2,144	
Due To Other Funds										4,894	
Amount Held for Agency Funds										4,397	
Note Payable	33,000									33,000	
Bonds Payable	-	-	-	-		550,000				550,000	
Total Liabilities	35,144	4,894	4,397			550,000				594,435	
Fund Equity:											
Investment in General Fixed Assets					1,472,330					1,472,330	
Fund Balances:											
Reserved	25,075			4,975						30,050	
Retained Earnings	-	1,762								1,762	
Total Fund Equity	25,075	1,762		4,975	1,472,330					1,504,142	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	\$ 60,219	\$ 6,656	\$ 4,397	\$ 4,975	\$ 1,472,330	\$ 550,000				\$ 2,098,577	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Benson School District
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances
All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds
For The Year Ended June 30, 2003

EXHIBIT II

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	Totals
	General Fund	Debt Service Fund	Expendable Trust Fund	(Memorandum Only)
REVENUES:				
Local Taxes	\$ 307,300			\$ 307,300
Tuition	29,392			29,392
Transportation	14,976			14,976
Investment Income	1,763		\$ 107	1,870
Donations			600	600
Refunds and Reimbursements	2,500			2,500
State	1,369,876			1,369,876
Federal	6,000	-	-	6,000
TOTAL REVENUES	1,731,807	\$ -	707	1,732,514
EXPENDITURES:				
Direct Services	1,246,102		2,100	1,248,202
Support Services:				
Students	78,198			78,198
Instructional Staff	19,947			19,947
General Administration	55,132			55,132
Area Administration	70,522			70,522
Fiscal Services	2,845			2,845
Operation & Maintenance of Building	84,149			84,149
Transportation	76,025			76,025
Debt Service:				
Interest Charges		31,198		31,198
Principal Retirement		50,000		50,000
Other Outlays	48	-	-	48
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,632,968	81,198	2,100	1,716,266
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	98,839	(81,198)	(1,393)	16,248
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
Transfers In (Out)	(83,396)	81,198	-	(2,198)
EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	15,443	-	(1,393)	14,050
FUND BALANCES, JULY 1, 2002	9,632	-	6,368	16,000
FUND BALANCES, JUNE 30, 2003	\$ 25,075	\$ -	\$ 4,975	\$ 30,050

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Benson School District
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
For The Year Ended June 30, 2003

NOTE 4 - LONG-TERM DEBT

The School District issues general obligation bonds to finance the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities, renovations, and equipment purchases. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the issuing entity. These bonds are generally issued as 20-year serial bonds with equal amounts of principal maturing each year.

The following is a summary of general obligation bonds & notes:

Vermont Municipal Bank, bond payable,
interest at 5.22% paid semi-annually,
principal of \$50,000 due December 1st of
each year until 2013, originally borrowed
\$1,020,000 on July 1, 1993

\$550,000

The annual debt service requirement to maturity for general obligation bonds and notes including interest are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
During the year ended June 30, 2004	\$ 50,000	\$ 11,189	\$ 61,189
2005	50,000	8,669	58,669
2006	50,000	23,637	73,637
2007	50,000	21,016	71,016
2008	50,000	18,346	68,346
Thereafter	<u>300,000</u>	<u>50,994</u>	<u>350,994</u>
Totals	<u>\$550,000</u>	<u>\$133,851</u>	<u>\$683,851</u>

The following is a summary of changes in Long-term Debt:

	Balance July 1, 2002	Increase	Decrease	Balance June 30, 2003
Vermont Municipal Bond Bank	<u>\$600,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$550,000</u>

BENSON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING
June 30, 2003

TEACHER SALARIES (CONTRACT)

BRANTON, ARTHUR (30%)	\$ 8,369.92
COREY, SUSAN	36,401.04
FLETCHER, SUSAN (60%)	25,426.96
GREGORY, ROBERT (40%)	14,143.94
HEITKAMP, LINDA	28,631.98
HERRICK, ROBIN	27,296.88
KOMRAUS, GENEVIEVE	37,896.04
MICHEL, ARNOLDA (20%)	6,042.08
NICHOLS, JACQUELYN	43,074.98
PATERSON, WENDY	43,157.92
RICHARDSON, DESNA	24,275.94
SAVAGEAU, RONALD	32,080.88
VALE, ANN	12,772.10
CSIZMESIA, MARYELLEN (EVENSTART)	889.27

TOTAL TEACHER SALARIES

\$ 340,459.93

SECRETARY

TUPPER, STELLA

15,949.18

AIDES

LUSSIER, MARY	3341.05
PHILLIPS, LESLIE	1374.33
ROBBINS, DEBRA	1293.63

TOTAL AIDE SALARIES

6,009.01

SUBSTITUTE SALARIES

9,881.77

SUBSTITUTE AIDES/SECRETARY

537.11

HEALTH INSURANCE

64,014.66

SOCIAL SECURITY

28,653.64

UNION HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

477,948.00

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

3,692.00

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

371.00

BUYOUT INSURANCE

2,610.00

ACHIEVMENT TESTS/CONTRACTED SERVICES

1,068.86

TRAVEL

500.00

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES

ABC SCHOOL SUPPLY	112.59
BADGE A MINT	25.95
BENSON VILLAGE STORE	16.38
CARSON DELLROSA	82.47
CASCADE SCHOOL SUPPLIES	123.87
CLASSROOM DIRECT	423.97
CURRICULUM ASSOC.	52.36
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES	15.90
GREAT SOURCE EDUCATION	349.72
HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS	114.45
IBF SOLUTIONS	400.42
INITIAL IDEAS	274.90
KOMRAUS, LYNN	7.98
MAP OF THE MONTH	26.00
MCGRAW HILL COMPANIES	1,118.27
NASCO	84.63
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY	130.62
NORTHEAST FOUNDATION	73.85
ONE-HUNDRED % EDUCATIONAL	54.45
ORIENTAL TRADING	65.44
PEARSON EDUCATIONAL	844.26
RADIO SHACK	46.77
REALLY GOOD STUFF	98.25
RUTLAND HERALD	104.00
SCHOLASTIC, INC.	495.44
SCIENCE KIT BOREAL	61.25
SCHOOL SPECIALTY	2,145.82
SPORTTIME	11.95
STAPLES	779.12
SUMMIT LEARNING	124.69
TEACHER'S ROOM	24.03
TEACHING RESOURCE CENTER	201.96
THERAPRO INC.	51.65
USI	36.38
WILSON LANGUAGE TRAINING	107.80

TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES**8,687.59****BOOKS & PERIODICALS**

A TEACHERS CLOSET	295.91
BUDGET TEXT	73.41
CAPSTONE CURRICULUM	109.73
FLYING PIG BOOKSTORE	200.00
HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVIH	1,623.84
HERRICK, ROBIN	31.25
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN	59.66
KOMRAUS, LYNN	25.31
LAKESHORE LEARNING	196.90
MARI, INC.	125.57
MCGRAW HILL COMPANIES	493.01
PEARSON EDUCATION	2,763.69
SCHOLASTIC, INC.	165.97
TEACHING RESOURCE CENTER	80.03
WORLD ALMANAC EDUCATION	81.48

TOTAL BOOKS & PERIODICALS**6,325.76**

AUDIO VISUAL SUPPLIES		246.44
EQUIPMENT		753.81
ART SUPPLIES		598.26
FOREIGN LANGUAGE SUPPLIES		222.80
PHYSICAL EDUCATION SUPPLIES		600.00
MUSIC SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT		602.72
COACHING		2,446.52
SUPPLIES/UNIFORMS		110.00
SPORTS BUS		2,194.70
FIELD TRIP BUS		3,058.28
COMPUTERS		
ST.OF VERMONT (INTERNET SERVICE)	4,300.00	
TECHNOLOGY AIDE JOHN WARD,III	2961.00	
SOCIAL SECURITY	226.51	
REPAIRS		
SUPPLIES	276.89	
SOFTWARE	316.52	
EQUIPMENT	2,782.05	
TOTAL COMPUTERS		10,862.97
SPECIAL ED AIDES		
CHRISTIAN, CHARLENE M.	7,485.02	
GEARWAR, CATHLEEN M.	6,412.50	
LUSSIER, MARY J.	9,335.75	
NEUMANN, THOMAS	8,218.00	
PHILLIPS, LESLIE	6,423.46	
ROBBINS, DEBRA	8,096.34	
SWEATT, DANIELLE M.	8,429.88	
TOMSUDEN, MARK H.	6,267.85	
SPECIAL ED AIDES SUBSTITUTES	4960.82	
HEALTH INSURANCE	8,849.15	
SOCIAL SECURITY	5,187.90	
OTHER BENEFITS (INS.BUY OUT)	2,185.00	
TUITION	43,657.34	
SUPPLIES	242.99	
TRAVEL	2,457.69	
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS		<u>128,209.69</u>

RESOURCE ROOM		
TEACHER SALARY	28,666.04	
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER	32.55	
SOCIAL SECURITY	2,195.59	
HEALTH INSURANCE	9,533.88	
SUPPLIES	240.26	
BOOKS	210.03	
TOTAL RESOURCE ROOM		<u>40,878.35</u>
ESSENTIAL EARLY ED		
REED, DEBORAH	38,953.98	
SUBSTITUTES	553.05	
HEALTH INSURANCE	3,595.66	
SOCIAL SECURITY	3,213.67	
TRAVEL	139.04	
SUPPLIES	784.15	
EQUIPMENT	84.98	
OT/PT SERVICES	882.88	
EEE SPEECH TEACHER 10%	2,503.38	
SPEECH CONTRACTED SERVICES	3,967.50	
TOTAL ESSENTIAL EARLY ED SERVICES		<u>54,678.29</u>
GUIDANCE SERVICES		
SALARY/SUPPLIES	10,691.30	
TOTAL GUIDANCE SERVICES		<u>10,691.30</u>
NURSE		
BOYD, KATHLEEN	6,178.18	
SOCIAL SECURITY	472.62	
HEALTH INSURANCE	326.58	
HEP B SHOTS	335.00	
REPAIRS	224.50	
SUPPLIES	761.79	
BOOKS	218.05	
TOTAL NURSE SERVICES		<u>8,516.72</u>
OT/PT SERVICES		
AIDE - TIMMERMAN, CINDY	1,696.00	
SOCIAL SECURITY	129.72	
OT/PT PROF.SERVICES	16,182.99	
TOTAL OT/PT SERVICES		<u>18,008.71</u>
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES		<u>4,292.50</u>
SPEECH		
CONTRACTED SERVICES	28,506.11	
SUPPLIES	372.57	
TRAVEL	263.71	
TOTAL SPEECH SERVICES		<u>29,142.39</u>
SPECIAL ED STUDENT TRANSPORTATION		<u>20,183.33</u>
SECONDARY EXCESS COST TEACHER		<u>45,800.00</u>
LIBRARY		
SALARY-LAMOUREUX, PAMELA J.	2,976.26	
SOCIAL SECURITY	227.75	
SUPPLIES	347.57	
AV MATERIALS	64.00	
BOOKS	254.81	
TOTAL LIBRARY		<u>3,870.39</u>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COREY, SUSAN	800.00
FLETCHER, SUSAN	237.00
HEITKAMP, LINDA	800.00
HERRICK, ROBIN	762.00
JOHNSON, NICOLE	135.00
KOMRAUS, LYNN	370.00
MICHEL, ARNOLDA	145.80
MILES, MICHELLE	150.00

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

BOYD, KATHLEEN	79.60
BRANTON, ARTHUR	45.00
FLETCHER, SUSAN	186.00
HERRICK, ROBIN	95.00
MILES, MICHELLE	284.00
NICHOLS, JACQUELYN	260.00
PATERSON, WENDY	99.00
VALE, ANN	58.80

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

4,507.20**INSERVICE**

707.39**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

BOARD STIPENDS	2,010.00
SOCIAL SECURITY	153.77
UMBRELLA/LIABILITY INSURANCE	1,925.66
MISC. BOARD EXPENSES	518.52
ADVERTISING/ELECTIONS	3,454.44
DUES	850.00

TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

8,912.39**ARSU ASSESSMENT**

44,911.00**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

PRINCIPAL SALARY	49,680.02
HEALTH INSURANCE	9,378.36
SOCIAL SECURITY	3,885.02
PROF. DEVELOPMENT	575.00
TELEPHONE/POSTAGE	3,819.25
PRINTING/AWARDS	239.17
TRAVEL	365.55
SUPPLIES	667.36
OTHER BENEFITS	1,208.18
DUES & FEES	704.09

TOTAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

70,522.00**LEGAL SERVICES**

1,309.25**AUDIT SERVICES**

1,500.00**CURRENT INTEREST**

1,219.53**BANK SERVICE CHARGES**

125.00

BUILDING SERVICES	
CUSTODIAL SALARY DAWN BARLETTE	19,962.40
SUBSTITUTES	67.44
HEALTH INSURANCE	2,936.66
SOCIAL SECURITY	1,532.28
SEWER CHARGE	2,409.50
WELL & WATER	1,194.18
SNOW/LAWN	2,540.00
GARBAGE REMOVAL	2,758.71
ELECTRIC	22,083.33
PROPERTY INSURANCE	1,802.73
OIL	4,036.90
EQUIPMENT	527.35
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	
A-1 SEWER & DRAIN SERVICE	1,619.51
ADVANCED ANSWERING CENTER	599.90
BOUCHER TEMP. CONTROL CO.	1,296.09
HOWARD'S FIRE CONTROL	694.00
HUTCHINS & WHITE	861.42
JH TRANSPORTATION INC	250.00
JOSEPH P CARRARA & SON	456.61
NORTH COUNTRY CARPET CLEANERS	1,621.00
NORTHEAST RURAL WATER ASSOC.	125.00
SLATE VALLEY ELECTRIC	87.50
STEVENS LAWN & GARDEN	85.91
TERMINIX	1,306.00
SUPPLIES	
DON TUPPER CONSTRUCTION	50.26
FILTERS, INC.	224.01
GRAYBAR ELECTRIC	78.00
HOME DEPOT	154.52
HUTCHINS & WHITE	13.06
SWISH MAINTENANCE	3,129.16
WALSH ELECTRIC	696.37
WE AUBUCHON HARDWARE	151.87
WESTSIDE NAPA	38.68
TOTAL BUILDING SERVICES	\$ 75,390.35
GROUNDS SERVICE	1,244.00
COPIER EXPENSE	7,514.85
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION EXPENSE	52,783.61
VOCATIONAL TUITION	9,597.31
DEBT SERVICE	81,198.25
PRIOR YEAR STATE TRANSPORTATION ADJUSTMENT	48.00
FOOD SERVICE	2,197.85
TOTAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPENDITURES	1,716,364.66

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons

ESTIMATES
ONLYDistrict: **Benson**
County: **Rutland**LEA: **017**
S.U.: **Addison - Rutland**

Expenditures

Budget (local budget approved in prior years)

82% of base payment per FTE paid to tech centers by the State on behalf of the district in FY2005
S.U. assessment (included in local budget)

Deficit (if included in local budget)

Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years

1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

Act 144 Expenditures, (excluded from "Education Spending")

Act 68 local adopted budget

+ Union school or joint school district assessment

+ Deficit if not included in budget or revenues

+ Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)

Gross Act 68 Budget

Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")

Revenues

+ Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)

+ Capital debt aid

+ Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)

- Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures

- Act 144 revenues

Total revenues

- Fund raising (if any)

Adjusted local revenues

Education Spending (Act 68 definition)

Equalized Pupils

Education Spending per Equalized Pupil

Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)

Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment

District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)
(\$8,169 / \$6,800)Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized
(120.132% x \$1.10)Household Income Percentage for income sensitivity
(120.132% x 2.0%)

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	
1.	1,149,678	1,236,481	1,341,177	1,423,395	1.
2.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	12,546	2.
3.	43,916	45,216	52,127	55,515	3.
4.	-	-	-	-	4.
5.	12,258	17,143	19,347	not applicable	5.
6.	-	-	10,000	-	6.
7.	-	-	-	-	7.
8.	-	-	-	-	8.
9.	-	-	-	-	9.
10.	1,161,936	1,253,624	1,370,524	1,423,395	10.
11.	348,952	477,948	397,981	537,703	11.
12.	-	-	-	-	12.
13.	-	-	-	-	13.
14.	1,510,888	1,731,572	1,768,505	1,961,098	14.
15.	-	-	-	-	15.
16.	286,238	342,260	356,992	396,190	16.
17.	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	-	-	-	-	18.
19.	-	-	-	-	19.
20.	286,238	342,260	356,992	396,190	20.
21.	-	-	-	-	21.
22.	-	-	-	-	22.
23.	286,238	342,260	356,992	396,190	23.
24.	1,224,650	1,389,312	1,411,513	1,564,908	24.
25.	176.69	179.80	184.50	191.56	25.
26.	6,931	7,727	7,650	8,169	26.
27.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	27.
28.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	8,169	28.
29.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	120.132%	29.
30.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	\$1,321	30.
31.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	2.40%	31.

BENSON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT 2004-2005 BUDGET

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Estimated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 ACTUAL
Balance, July 1	\$25,000.00	\$24,824.00	\$0.00	\$9,631.24
Add: Revenue	1,936,098.00	1,752,687.00	1,749,158.00	1,731,808.04
Total Balance+Revenue	\$1,961,098.00	\$1,777,511.00	\$1,749,158.00	\$1,741,439.28
Less: Expenditures	1,961,098.00	1,746,511.00	1,749,158.00	1,716,364.66
Balance, June 30	\$0.00	\$31,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,074.62

ACCOUNT

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Estimated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 ACTUAL
1110 Local Taxes	0.00	249,692.00	272,392.00	307,300.00
1311 EEE Tuition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1360 EEE Tuition Orwell	39,000.00	36,500.00	36,500.00	29,392.00
1420 Transportation Receipts	14,975.00	14,975.00	14,975.00	14,976.00
1500 Earnings on Investments	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,764.04
1600 Food Service Reimbursement	19,235.00	15,620.00	15,620.00	0.00
1920 Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1920 Speech EEE Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1980 Prior Year	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
3110 Ed Spending Owed to District	1,552,362.00	1,052,598.00	1,023,792.00	983,624.00
3110 Base Ed Amt Tech FTE	12,546.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3125 Revenue from Ed. Fund	0.00	89,876.00	95,982.00	81,245.00
3145 Small Schools Grant	34,345.00	46,335.00	45,067.00	55,131.00
3150 Transportation Aid	25,000.00	26,319.00	24,595.00	25,687.00
3160 Debt Service Aid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3201 Block Grant	54,880.00	49,950.00	49,950.00	48,998.00
3202 Intensive Reimb	165,000.00	151,865.00	140,000.00	143,430.00
3204 EEE Block Grant	11,255.00	9,808.00	9,785.00	10,261.00
3205 State Placed Students	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	21,124.00
3790 Restricted Grant EEE	0.00	0.00	0.00	376.00
3456 Food Serv Equip Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4226 Federal Funds Speech	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
4228 Preschool IDEA B Grant	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
4343 EEE School Renovation	0.00	649.00	0.00	0.00
5200 Transfer of Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5300 Asset Sale/Ins Claim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5400 Prior Year Adj	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5720 VSBIT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	1,936,098.00	1,752,687.00	1,749,158.00	1,731,808.04

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Estimated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
2213 PROF. STUDY/CONFERENCE	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	5,214.59
2311 BOARD OF EDUCATION				
119 Board Salaries	2,010.00	2,010.00	2,010.00	2,010.00
220 Social Security	155.00	158.00	155.00	153.77
320 Printing	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
522 Liability Insurance	1,560.00	1,355.00	750.00	658.06
522 Umbrella Insurance	1,170.00	1,015.00	1,460.00	1,267.60
529 Miscellaneous Expense	250.00	250.00	250.00	518.52
540 Advertising/Elections	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,454.44
810 Dues and Fees	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00
2311 TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION	9,495.00	8,638.00	8,475.00	8,912.39
2315 LEGAL FEES	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,309.25
2321 ARSU ASSESSMENT	55,515.00	52,127.00	52,127.00	44,911.00
2410 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION				
112 Principal Salary	54,590.00	53,000.00	53,000.00	49,680.02
210 Health Insurance	12,555.00	11,160.00	11,160.00	9,378.36
220 Social Security	4,175.00	4,055.00	4,055.00	3,885.02
270 Prof Development	800.00	800.00	800.00	575.00
290 Other Benefits	0.00	0.00	1,250.00	1,102.98
529 Admin Misc Exp.	200.00	200.00	200.00	105.20
530 Telephone/Postage	4,000.00	3,800.00	3,200.00	3,819.25
550 Printing/Awards	300.00	300.00	300.00	239.17
580 Travel	200.00	200.00	200.00	365.55
610 Supplies	600.00	600.00	600.00	667.36
640 Books	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
810 Dues and Fees	655.00	655.00	655.00	704.09
2410 TOTAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	78,075.00	74,770.00	75,420.00	70,522.00
2520 FISCAL SERVICES				
310 Audit	1,800.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
550 Service Charges	250.00	250.00	250.00	125.00
830 Interest Current Loan	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,219.53
2520 TOTAL FISCAL SERVICES	4,050.00	3,750.00	3,750.00	2,844.53
2620 BUILDING SERVICES				
116 Custodial Salary	26,440.00	19,100.00	20,600.00	19,962.40
120 Substitutes	150.00	500.00	150.00	67.44
210 Health Insurance	4,290.00	3,810.00	3,810.00	2,936.66
220 Social Security	2,035.00	1,460.00	1,590.00	1,532.28

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Estimated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
2620 BUILD. SERVICES (CONT.)				
411 Sewer	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,409.50
411 Well Water	500.00	500.00	500.00	1,194.18
421 Garbage Removal	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00	2,758.71
422 Snow/Lawn	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,540.00
430 Repair/Maintenance	7,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	9,002.94
430 Repair/Painting	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
521 Property Insurance	3,500.00	3,035.00	2,100.00	1,802.73
610 Janitorial Supplies	6,000.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	4,535.93
622 Electricity	24,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	22,083.33
624 Oil	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	4,036.90
730 Equipment/Furniture	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	527.35
2620 TOTAL BUILDING SERVICES	93,615.00	80,105.00	80,450.00	75,390.35
2630 GROUNDS SERVICE	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,244.00
2640 COPIER EXPENSES	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,514.85
2711 TRANSPORTATION				
511 Pupil Transportation	54,000.00	54,000.00	54,000.00	52,783.61
580 Field Trips	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,058.28
2711 TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	57,000.00	56,000.00	56,000.00	55,841.89
5100 DEBT	58,670.00	61,190.00	78,730.00	81,198.25
5200 TRANSPORTATION ADJUSTMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.00
5300 FUND TRANSFER	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
1100 INSTRUCTION				
113 Teacher Salary	377,160.00	\$360,865.00	\$354,440.00	\$340,459.93
114 Secretary Salary	16,890.00	16,600.00	16,600.00	15,949.18
115 Aide Salary	3,160.00	2,810.00	7,270.00	6,009.01
123 Substitute Salary	7,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	9,881.77
120 Substitute Aide/Sec	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	537.11
210 Health Insurance	93,750.00	84,815.00	81,415.00	64,014.66
220 Social Security	31,070.00	29,750.00	29,720.00	28,653.64
250 Workers Compensation	5,000.00	4,400.00	4,300.00	3,692.00
260 Unemployment Compensation	2,100.00	1,940.00	800.00	371.00
290 Buyout Insurance	900.00	1,570.00	3,150.00	2,610.00
390 Achievement Tests	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,068.86
330 Contracted Service	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
430 Repair Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
560 FHUHS Assessment	537,703.00	397,981.00	397,981.00	477,948.00
580 Travel	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Estimated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
1100 Instruction (Cont)				
610 Supplies	9,100.00	9,125.00	9,000.00	8,687.59
640 Books and Periodicals	5,000.00	5,000.00	9,000.00	6,325.76
650 Audio Visual	400.00	710.00	500.00	246.44
670 Software	250.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
730 Equipment	1,065.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	753.81
810 Dues & Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1100 TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$1,093,898.00	\$926,066.00	\$924,676.00	\$967,708.76
1102 ART	600.00	600.00	600.00	598.26
1106 Foreign Lang. Supplies	375.00	200.00	200.00	222.80
1108 PHYSICAL EDUCATION	765.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
1112 MUSIC (BAND)	1,100.00	600.00	600.00	602.72
2120 GUIDANCE	12,500.00	12,310.00	12,000.00	10,691.30
2130 SCHOOL NURSE				
113 Nurse Salary	11,180.00	10,695.00	11,015.00	6,178.18
210 Health Insurance	400.00	640.00	1,635.00	326.58
220 Social Security	890.00	860.00	850.00	472.62
290 Physicals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
330 Prof Serv Vaccinations	400.00	350.00	350.00	335.00
430 Repairs	150.00	200.00	200.00	224.50
610 Supplies	600.00	375.00	300.00	761.79
640 Books/Periodicals	50.00	225.00	250.00	218.05
730 Equipment	0.00	350.00	350.00	0.00
2130 TOTAL SCHOOL NURSE	13,670.00	13,695.00	14,950.00	8,516.72
2222 LIBRARY SERVICES				
113 Teacher Salary	11,015.00	10,695.00	9,850.00	2,976.26
210 Health Insurance	4,980.00	3,675.00	0.00	0.00
220 Social Security	855.00	925.00	855.00	227.75
610 Supplies	500.00	200.00	200.00	347.57
640 Books/Periodicals	1,900.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	254.81
650 A-V Supplies	200.00	200.00	200.00	64.00
2222 TOTAL LIBRARY SERVICES	19,450.00	17,995.00	13,405.00	3,870.39

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Estimated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
2225 COMPUTER EXPENSES	14,340.00	10,990.00	11,670.00	10,862.97
1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION				
115 Aide Salaries	77,440.00	74,825.00	70,500.00	60,668.80
120 Substitutes	5,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,960.82
210 Health Insurance	18,340.00	14,525.00	10,760.00	8,849.15
220 Social Security	6,500.00	6,025.00	5,775.00	5,187.90
290 Insurance Buy-Outs	2,930.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	2,185.00
565 Tuition SPED	60,000.00	60,000.00	32,000.00	43,657.34
580 Travel	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,457.69
610 Supplies	500.00	500.00	500.00	242.99
1200 TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION	172,710.00	161,875.00	126,535.00	128,209.69
1219 RESOURCE ROOM				
113 Teacher Salary	22,800.00	22,130.00	29,240.00	28,666.04
120 Sub Salaries	250.00	250.00	250.00	32.55
210 Health Insurance	4,620.00	4,025.00	11,630.00	9,533.88
220 Social Security	1,770.00	1,730.00	2,290.00	2,195.59
610 Supplies	400.00	400.00	400.00	240.26
640 Books/Periodicals	400.00	400.00	400.00	210.03
733 Equipment	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1219 TOTAL RESOURCE ROOM	30,390.00	28,935.00	44,210.00	40,878.35
2136 OT/PT SERVICES	10,150.00	9,940.00	11,230.00	18,008.71
2140 PSYCH. SERVICE	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	4,292.50
2150 SPEECH SERVICES				
113 Teacher Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
210 Health Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
220 Social Security	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
240 Retirement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
320 Testing	250.00	260.00	200.00	0.00
330 Contracted Services	31,000.00	29,085.00	29,000.00	28,506.11
580 Travel	250.00	200.00	200.00	263.71
610 Supplies	300.00	200.00	200.00	372.57
640 Books & Periodicals	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
733 Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2150 Total Speech Services	31,900.00	29,845.00	29,700.00	29,142.39
2711 SPED Transportation	12,500.00	12,500.00	24,500.00	20,183.33

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Estimated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
1200 SPED SECONDARY				
594 Excess Costs Teach FHUHS	49,580.00	48,065.00	48,065.00	45,800.00
1214 ESSENTIAL EARLY EDUCATION				
113 Teacher Salary	40,925.00	39,735.00	39,735.00	38,953.98
115 Aide Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
120 Sub Teacher	700.00	700.00	700.00	553.05
210 Health Insurance	5,415.00	4,670.00	4,665.00	3,595.66
220 Social Security	3,175.00	3,125.00	3,125.00	3,022.16
540 Advertising	600.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
565 EEE Tuition	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
580 Travel	300.00	300.00	300.00	139.04
610 Supplies/Other	150.00	250.00	250.00	784.15
640 Books/Periodicals	100.00	450.00	450.00	0.00
733 Equipment	150.00	600.00	600.00	84.98
330 OT & PT Services	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	882.88
330 Psychological Serv	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
113 Speech Teacher	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	2,503.38
220 Social Security	0.00	0.00	0.00	191.51
290 Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
330 Speech Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,967.50
270 Prof Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
519 Transportation	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
890 Prior Year Adj	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1214 TOTAL ESSENTIAL EARLY ED	67,015.00	65,930.00	66,425.00	54,678.29
1300 Baes ED Amt Tech FTE	12,546.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1300 Vocational Tuition	9,019.00	10,070.00	11,700.00	9,597.31
1300 TOTAL VOCATIONAL TUITION	21,565.00	10,070.00	11,700.00	9,597.31
1410 ATHLETICS	4,870.00	4,670.00	4,670.00	4,751.22
3110 FOOD SERVICE				
118 Hot Lunch Salary	19,235.00	18,610.00	15,620.00	0.00
120 Substitute Salary	500.00	0.00	0.00	325.15
210 Health Insurance	4,570.00	3,995.00	500.00	500.00
220 FICA	1,495.00	1,440.00	1,350.00	1,372.70
580 Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
670 Software	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
733 Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3110 TOTAL FOOD SERVICE	25,800.00	24,045.00	17,470.00	2,197.85
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,961,098.00	1,746,511.00	1,749,158.00	1,716,364.66

Benson Village School Enrollments as of December 1, 2003:

EEE	17		
Kindergarten	17	Grade 5	15
Grade 1	13	Grade 6	21
Grade 2	12	Grade 7	9
Grade 3	15	Grade 8	16
Grade 4	24	Total	159

Benson Students at Fair Haven Union High School as of October 15, 2003:

Grade 9	19
Grade 10	8
Grade 11	18
Grade 12	11
Total	56

**STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDS
BLOCK GRANTS**

	<u>2002-2003</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>Estimated 2004-2005</u>
Benson	48,998	49,954	54,883
Castleton	170,831	171,072	168,669
Fair Haven	155,849	151,492	165,514
Hubbardton	35,604	35,602	35,350
Orwell	59,977	65,110	66,949
West Haven	<u>13,926</u>	<u>12,152</u>	<u>12,079</u>
Totals	485,185	485,382	503,444

**STATE ESSENTIAL EARLY EDUCATION FUNDS
BLOCK GRANTS**

	<u>2002-2003</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>Estimated 2004-2005</u>
Benson	10,240	9,808	11,257
Castleton	25,957	23,375	22,093
Fair Haven	20,117	20,220	22,569
Hubbardton	5,572	6,405	5,218
Orwell	10,387	10,610	11,648
West Haven	<u>1,143</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>631</u>
Totals	73,416	71,475	73,416

ANGOLANO & COMPANY

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

P. O. BOX 639
SHELBURNE, VERMONT 05482

TELEPHONE (802) 985-8992
(800) 540-8992
FAX (802) 985-9442

LOCATED AT:
2834 SHELBURNE ROAD

DAVID H. ANGOLANO, CPA
HEATHER L. ANGOLANO, CPA
DAVID J. ANGOLANO

Independent Auditors' Report

To The School Board
Addison Rutland Supervisory Union

We have audited the accompanying general-purpose financial statements of Addison Rutland Supervisory Union, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, as listed in the table of contents. These general-purpose financial statements are the responsibility of Addison Rutland Supervisory Union's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general-purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general-purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Addison Rutland Supervisory Union, as of June 30, 2003, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 8, 2003 on our consideration of Addison Rutland Supervisory Union's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general-purpose financial statements of Addison Rutland Supervisory Union taken as a whole. The schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the general-purpose financial statements of Addison Rutland Supervisory Union. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional

analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is not a required part of the general-purpose financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general-purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the general-purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

Angolano & Company

Angolano & Company
Shelburne, Vermont
Firm Registration Number 92-0000141

August 8, 2003

ADDISON-RUTLAND SUPERVISORY UNION 2004-2005 BUDGET

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Anticipated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
Balance, July 1	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Add: Revenue	720,270.00	731,605.00	734,605.00	614,097.32
Total Balance+Revenue	\$720,270.00	\$731,605.00	\$734,605.00	\$614,097.32
Less: Expenditures	720,270.00	721,605.00	734,605.00	614,097.32
Balance, June 30	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

ACCOUNT

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Anticipated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
1500 Interest	2,000.00	2,000.00	5,000.00	2,039.65
1931 Benson Assessment	51,469.00	48,597.00	48,597.00	41,658.00
1931 Cast/Hubb Assessment	165,370.00	182,704.00	182,704.00	152,897.00
1931 Fair Haven Assessment	154,546.00	154,181.00	154,181.00	124,126.00
1931 FHUHS Assessment	194,887.00	199,186.00	199,186.00	164,138.00
1931 Orwell Assessment	50,784.00	50,632.00	50,632.00	42,761.32
1931 West Haven Assessment	5,970.00	5,970.00	5,970.00	5,970.00
1932 Sp. Ed. Assmt. Benson	4,044.00	3,529.00	3,529.00	3,253.00
1932 Sp. Ed. Assmt. C/H	12,950.00	13,269.00	13,269.00	11,942.00
1941 Sp. Ed. Assmt. F.H.	12,116.00	11,197.00	11,197.00	9,698.00
1932 Sp. Ed. Assmt. FHUHS	15,403.00	14,463.00	14,463.00	12,947.00
1932 Sp. Ed. Assmt. Orwell	3,971.00	3,677.00	3,677.00	3,340.00
1932 Sp. Ed. Assmt. W.H.	740.00	740.00	740.00	740.00
1960 Sale of Asset	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1980 Prior Year	0.00	0.00	0.00	227.35
4226 Leap (IDEA B)	46,020.00	41,460.00	41,460.00	38,360.00
5900 Insurance Claim Reimb	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	720,270.00	731,605.00	734,605.00	614,097.32

EXPENDITURES

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Anticipated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
2213 Professional Development	2,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
2225 COMPUTER SERVICES				
330 Contract Service/Training	2,500.00	500.00	500.00	822.60
430 Service Contract	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,621.97
580 Travel	250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
610 Supplies	4,000.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	3,645.93
650 Software	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	45.00
730 Equipment	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,268.00
2225 TOTAL COMPUTER SERVICES	13,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	9,403.50
2311 BOARD OF EDUCATION				
522 Liability Insurance	2,350.00	2,065.00	1,165.00	916.66
522 Umbrella Insurance	1,080.00	940.00	1,245.00	1,182.19
540 Advertising	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,969.77
580 Travel	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,320.00
590 Other	200.00	200.00	200.00	21.10
2311 TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION	8,130.00	7,705.00	7,110.00	7,409.72
2312 BOARD SECRETARY				
114 Salary	800.00	800.00	800.00	650.00
220 Social Security	60.00	60.00	60.00	49.77
2312 TOTAL BOARD SECRETARY	860.00	860.00	860.00	699.77
2315 LEGAL FEES	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,643.93
2321 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION				
110 Superintendent	90,000.00	87,000.00	87,000.00	79,999.92
110 Assistant Superintendent	75,745.00	72,140.00	72,140.00	70,040.10
110 Business Manager	55,125.00	52,500.00	52,500.00	49,000.12
110 Staff Salaries	124,800.00	117,300.00	117,300.00	112,595.06
120 Sub Salary	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
210 Health Insurance	74,695.00	64,425.00	67,205.00	52,668.39
220 Social Security	26,755.00	25,400.00	25,500.00	23,848.59

EXPENDITURES

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Anticipated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
2321 GENERAL ADMIN. (cont.)				
240 Retirement	8,995.00	8,490.00	8,490.00	8,079.32
250 Workers Compensation	4,500.00	3,960.00	1,900.00	3,327.98
260 Unemployment Comp.	2,100.00	2,025.00	200.00	168.00
290 Other Benefits	2,570.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	1,875.60
290 Awards	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,840.17
290 Section 125 Plan	250.00	230.00	210.00	228.75
290 District Bus Physicals	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
441 Rent	18,600.00	19,800.00	18,600.00	15,400.00
530 Postage	8,000.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,898.12
530 Telephone	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	3,906.76
580 Travel	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,213.50
610 Supplies	8,500.00	8,500.00	8,500.00	6,937.53
640 Books & Periodicals	500.00	500.00	500.00	678.44
733 Equipment	2,500.00	7,325.00	6,500.00	191.47
810 Dues & Fees	4,000.00	3,775.00	4,000.00	3,659.00
2321 TOTAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	519,035.00	494,870.00	491,845.00	445,556.82
2574 Printing	900.00	900.00	900.00	741.69
2520 FISCAL SERVICES				
310 Audit	2,850.00	2,300.00	2,500.00	2,375.00
320 Fixed Assets	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00
2520 TOTAL FISCAL SERVICES	3,375.00	2,825.00	3,025.00	2,900.00
2542 BUILDING SERVICES				
116 Custodial Salary	0.00	265.00	4,680.00	2,297.88
220 Social Security	0.00	20.00	360.00	175.76
240 Retirement	0.00	0.00	235.00	0.00
330 Contract Services	0.00	3,290.00	0.00	0.00
330 Cleaning Services	5,200.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
411 Water/Sewage	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
421 Rubbish Removal	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
450 Construction Costs	0.00	35,490.00	55,000.00	5,278.07
521 Property Insurance	350.00	305.00	500.00	196.49
610 Supplies	500.00	500.00	500.00	169.92
622 Electricity	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	152.05
624 Oil	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	569.59
730 Equipment	500.00	500.00	500.00	149.98
2542 TOTAL BUILDING SERVICES	15,250.00	52,070.00	68,475.00	8,989.74

E X P E N D I T U R E S

	2004-2005 Budget	2003-2004 Anticipated	2003-2004 Budget	2002-2003 Actual
2640 UPKEEP OF EQUIPMENT				
430 Equipment Repair	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,618.17
430 Copier/Maintenance	4,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,466.40
2640 TOTAL UPKEEP OF EQUIPMENT	<u>7,000.00</u>	<u>7,000.00</u>	<u>7,000.00</u>	<u>6,084.57</u>
1100 STUDENT SUPPLIES	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00
2225 DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY COORD.				
110 Salary	45,215.00	43,060.00	43,060.00	41,600.00
110 Sub	0.00	120.00	0.00	0.00
210 Health Insurance	13,050.00	11,345.00	11,345.00	9,533.88
220 Social Security	3,460.00	3,305.00	3,295.00	3,101.28
240 Retirement	2,260.00	2,155.00	2,155.00	2,080.00
530 Cell Phone	550.00	550.00	550.00	516.34
580 Travel	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,466.50
610 Supplies	300.00	300.00	300.00	469.68
640 Books	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
670 Software	0.00	0.00	0.00	269.96
733 Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2225 TOTAL TECHNOLOGY COORD	<u>67,335.00</u>	<u>63,335.00</u>	<u>63,205.00</u>	<u>60,037.64</u>
2390 SCHOLARSHIP	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
2420 SPECIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR				
110 Salary	65,625.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	56,000.10
210 Health Insurance	5,465.00	4,420.00	4,420.00	3,715.26
220 Social Security	5,020.00	4,590.00	4,590.00	4,242.68
610 Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2420 TOTAL SPEC. SERVICES DIR.	<u>76,110.00</u>	<u>71,510.00</u>	<u>71,510.00</u>	<u>63,958.04</u>
1420 DISTRICT 7th & 8th FOOTBALL				
119 Coaches Salaries	1,700.00	1,500.00	1500.00	1500.00
119 Officials	360.00	360.00	360.00	240.00
220 Social Security	160.00	115.00	260.00	114.75
430 Repairs	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
610 Supplies	345.00	345.00	345.00	270.50
1420 TOTAL FOOTBALL PROG	<u>2,765</u>	<u>2,520.00</u>	<u>2665.00</u>	<u>2125.25</u>
2720 FOOTBALL TRANSPORTATION				
127 Drivers Salaries	800.00	800.00	800.00	546.65
220 Social Security	60.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
2720 TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	<u>860</u>	<u>860.00</u>	<u>860.00</u>	<u>546.65</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>720,270.00</u>	<u>721,605.00</u>	<u>734,605.00</u>	<u>614,097.32</u>

**Vermont Department of Health
Annual Report – Benson**

The Vermont Department of Health works to protect and improve the health of all citizens. The following are some of the essential services available to residents of Benson.

Bioterrorism – Emergency Preparedness:

The Vermont Department of Health is actively working with local, state and federal agencies to assure a rapid and effective response to bioterrorism and other public health threats or emergencies. Local health department response may include: finding and identifying disease early; investigating the source of the disease; providing accurate and timely information to the public and health professionals; and collaborating with other agencies during biological, environmental or weather events. The Rutland District Office has become a contributing member of the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) for the Rutland Region. In the past year we have established ties with many of the emergency response agencies. We have also provided training to town health officers, worked closely with the Rutland Regional Medical Center to increase active surveillance, and participated with local and statewide partners in a table top exercise on October 3, 2003. This exercise tested our ability to interact correctly in the vent of a regional emergency incident.

WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children):

One of the most effective ways to improve the health of the overall population is to improve nutrition and physical activity. WIC improves the health of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children by assuring access to health care, teaching families about good nutritional practices, and providing an individually designed package of nutritious food to eligible individuals. During 2002, 78 women, infants and children living in ~~Rutland City~~ ^{Rutland County} received foods as well as health screening and individualized nutrition education through this program. The average value of foods provided is \$35,00 per person per month.

West Nile Virus Surveillance:

West Nile Virus first appeared in the U.S. in New York City in 1999 and has become well established in nearly all states. Birds, some mammals and people can get WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito. The Vermont Departments of Health and Agriculture conduct surveillance for WNV each year from June until cold weather limits mosquito activity in the fall. As of October 21, 2003: 76 birds and three horses have tested positive for WNV. Three human cases of WNV have been confirmed in the state. In Rutland County from June 12 – October 17, 2003, 88 dead birds were reported, 61 were tested, and 7 birds were found to be infected with WNV. There were no human or equine cases reported during this same time period for Rutland County.

If you would like more information about these efforts, or if you have a public health concern, please call the Rutland District Office at 802-786-5811. Please visit our web site at www.healthyvermonters.info for *Healthy Vermonters 2010*, our state's blueprint for improving public health, news releases; other publications and reports; and general public health information.

VITAL RECORDS FOR 2003

BIRTHS:	Britney Jane Hadvab John Andrew Lowell Donavin Michael Andronaco Aaliyah Marjorie Conway Eleese Taylor Pedro Brooke Hazel Woodbury Sarah Ann Masse Derrick Randall Gadway Olivia Mary-Edith Lannon	January 5, 2003 February 1, 2003 March 17, 2003 March 25, 2003 April 24, 2003 October 4, 2003 December 18, 2003 January 25, 2002 June 5, 2002
---------	--	---

(births of Derrick and Olivia were recorded after last year's report was printed)

DEATHS:	Fred Lichtblau Audra Joan Bowen Helen May Camara John J. Mullen, Jr. Muriel Lorraine Allarie Charles William Shlosser Marcel John Denis James R. Hopper Olga Charlton	January 2, 2003 January 21, 2003 March 23, 2003 March 30, 2003 May 2, 2003 June 10, 2003 August 1, 2003 August 12, 2003 October 22, 2003
---------	---	--

MARRIAGES:	Marlene Fraley and Randall Gadway Dawn McCoy and Reese Pedro, Jr. Susan Morse and Robert Sterling Jennifer Baird and Wyatt Todd Sandra Bowen and Gerard Jordon, Sr. Pamela Doherty and Wayne Simek Margaret Talley and Michael Bartholomew Becky Bowen and Scott Coltey	March 8, 2003 May 8, 2003 June 21, 2003 June 28, 2003 July 5, 2003 August 25, 2003 August 31, 2003 September 6, 2003
------------	--	---

TOWN OF BENSON SCHOLARSHIPS

Lyle Wilcox Scholarship \$500.00 for four years

Year 2003 went to April White

Awards also given to Ashley Fletcher and Tamsen Owens

H. Glenn Munger Scholarships

Two \$100.00 to eighth graders with highest marks

Hannah Brown and Morgan Denehy

Two \$200.00 to seniors with highest marks

April White and Eric Gipe

DOG TAGS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003

93 neutered males at \$5.00	=	\$465.00
19 males at \$9.00	=	\$171.00
94 spayed females at \$5.00	=	\$470.00
17 females at \$9.00	=	\$153.00

late (after April 1st)

40 neutered males at \$7.00	=	\$280.00
20 males at \$13.00	=	\$260.00
28 spayed females at \$7.00	=	\$196.00
18 females at \$13.00	=	\$234.00

2 Special licenses	at \$20.00	=	\$ 40.00
1 Kennel permit	at \$10.00	=	<u>\$10.00</u>
	Total		\$2279.00

BENSON TRANSFER STATION

Hours of Operation

- Wednesday 12:00 noon - 4:00 PM
- Saturday 8:00 am - 4:00 PM

Permits

Permits are available at the Town Clerk's Office:

- Valid April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005
- One per household.....\$10.00
- Place on rear bumper, or make easily visible for attendant

Garbage Stickers

Stickers can be purchased:

- At Town Clerk's Office: Office Hours 9-12, 1-4:30, Monday through Thursday
- Via Mail to Town Clerk's Office: Address: PO Box 163, Benson, VT 05731
- From Transfer Station Attendant

Residents are encouraged to purchase stickers in sheets of 6 or 12.

Please make note of these two dates:

- Saturday, July 3, 2004
Bulk Item Day
Cost: Disposal of furniture free to Benson residents
- Saturday, September 11, 2004
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Cost: Free to Benson Residents. List of acceptable items available at Transfer Station. Benson residents may also drop off their household hazardous waste at the Gleason Road Hazardous Waste Depot during normal operating hours. Please call Tom at 770-1333 for more information. **PROOF OF RESIDENCE REQUIRED!**

Recycling Center

Benson residents are encouraged to recycle. Recycling acceptable items (see list on next page) conserves natural resources and saves Benson money through avoided disposal costs.

Along with one regular Garbage Dumpster, the Benson Transfer Station has 6 separate recycling stations: a Metal Dumpster; a Glass/Tin/Plastics Dumpster; a Cardboard Dumpster, Paper Disposal Units in Shed, a computer/computer parts dumpster, and battery bins. There is a fee for recycling the computer/computer parts and automotive batteries only. The Transfer Station Attendant is available to answer any questions about recycling.

Other things that the Attendant recycles:

- Good used toys – for the less fortunate
- Good used clothes – for the needy
- Used tools – to be repaired
- Used furniture – for the needy
- Lawn mowers & garden tools – for anyone in need
- Stoves & pipe in good shape – for the needy

Battery Bins:

- 6 volt, 12 volt automotive batteries (\$3.00 each battery)
- AAA, AA, 6 volt, 9 volt (30 gallon trash barrel, color blue)

	<u>ACCEPTABLE ITEMS</u>	<u>NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS</u>
1. METAL DUMPSTER (Disposal at no charge)		
• Metal	All metal such as: tin cans, roofing, car parts, cables, wire, bed frames (metal), pipes, metal cabinets & racks, etc.	TV's. Microwaves.
2. NEW COVERED RECYCLING DUMPSTER (Disposal at no charge)		
Plastic water/milk jugs		
Plastic covers	Large without gaskets	
Small pails	Without handles	
Milk carton, juice jugs	Waxed paper	
Aluminum pie pans		
Metal lids from cans		
Clear & colored glass		
Plastics # 1 - # 7		
3. CARDBOARD DUMPSTER (Disposal at no charge)		
• Cardboard	Corrugated Cardboard Only. Clean, Flattened.	Waxed Cardboard Plastic, Dirty Cardboard, Packing Material.
4. PAPER DISPOSAL UNITS IN SHED (Gaylord Bins) (Disposal at no charge)		
• Newspaper	Newsprint.	
• Junk Mail and Magazines	Glossy print. Books, Notebooks, Envelopes, Junk Mail.	
5. COMPUTER/COMPUTER PARTS (Disposal charge fee – ask Attendant for details))		
6. NON-RECYCLABLE HOUSEHOLD TRASH DUMPSTER (One sticker required for every one-dollar's worth of garbage)		
	<u>ITEMS</u>	<u># STICKERS NEEDED</u>
Non-Recyclable Garbage	One 30-Gal. Garbage Bag*	1
	Couch	5
	Chair	3
	Hide-a-Bed (if has iron)	10
	TV's (Small)	3
	TV's (Large)	5
	In Addition:	
	Refrigerator/ Freezer/ Air Conditioner	12
	<i>Anything else is at the discretion of attendant</i>	

<i>*examples: pizza boxes; soda & beer boxes; cracker, cereal, smaller toy boxes, toilet paper rolls, plastic grocery bags, plastic bottle lids, coffee cups, waxed cardboard, laundry baskets, large pails & drums, plastic & wood household items; plastic packaging styrofoam (sheet & pellets); household glassware (window pane glass, plate glass, mirrors, and ceramics); very wet and/or oily paper & cardboard</i>		

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING WITH THE TOWN OF BENSON

Questions? Contact Jim Smith at Transfer Station or call Norma Phillips: 537-2177

Benson Veterans' Honor Roll

The Benson Veterans Honor Roll committee has been meeting for about 4 years to plan an Honor Roll for the town of Benson. Originally, the criteria for inclusion on the Honor Roll were to use the "home of record." This past winter the criteria was changed to: 1. Veterans whose "home of record" was Benson at the time of entry into active service. 2. Veterans whose place of birth was Benson. 3. Veterans whose principle residence has been Benson for 20 years or more. (Names can be added in the future if a person has not yet lived here 20 years at the time the memorial is situated.) 4. Reservists who have completed their military obligation. We would also like to include Veterans who served in times of peace as well as war.

With the new changes we are hoping to identify more Veterans. If you know of anyone please send or call Susan Brown, with the information to 240 Hulett Hill Rd, Benson, VT 05743, or at 537-4474. We have had a few more names come in, but we want be sure that we do not leave any off anyone that deserves to be honored on the memorial and to be shown the gratitude for their service.

The estimate for the monument is presently \$16,500. Additional names will bring the cost up. To date, we have \$6,000, which was allotted by the town. We have had \$400.00 graciously donated by townspeople. We will be asking for another \$5,000 at town meeting. We really appreciate your support in making this dream become a reality. Any donations that you would like to contribute can be sent to Benson Veterans' Honor Roll Fund, c/o Town Hall, PO Box 163, Benson, VT 05731. Any monies received will be kept in a monument savings account.

Town of Benson, VT
PO Box 163
Benson, VT 05731

US Postage
PAID
FAIR HAVEN,
VT Permit #34
Std Mail
05734