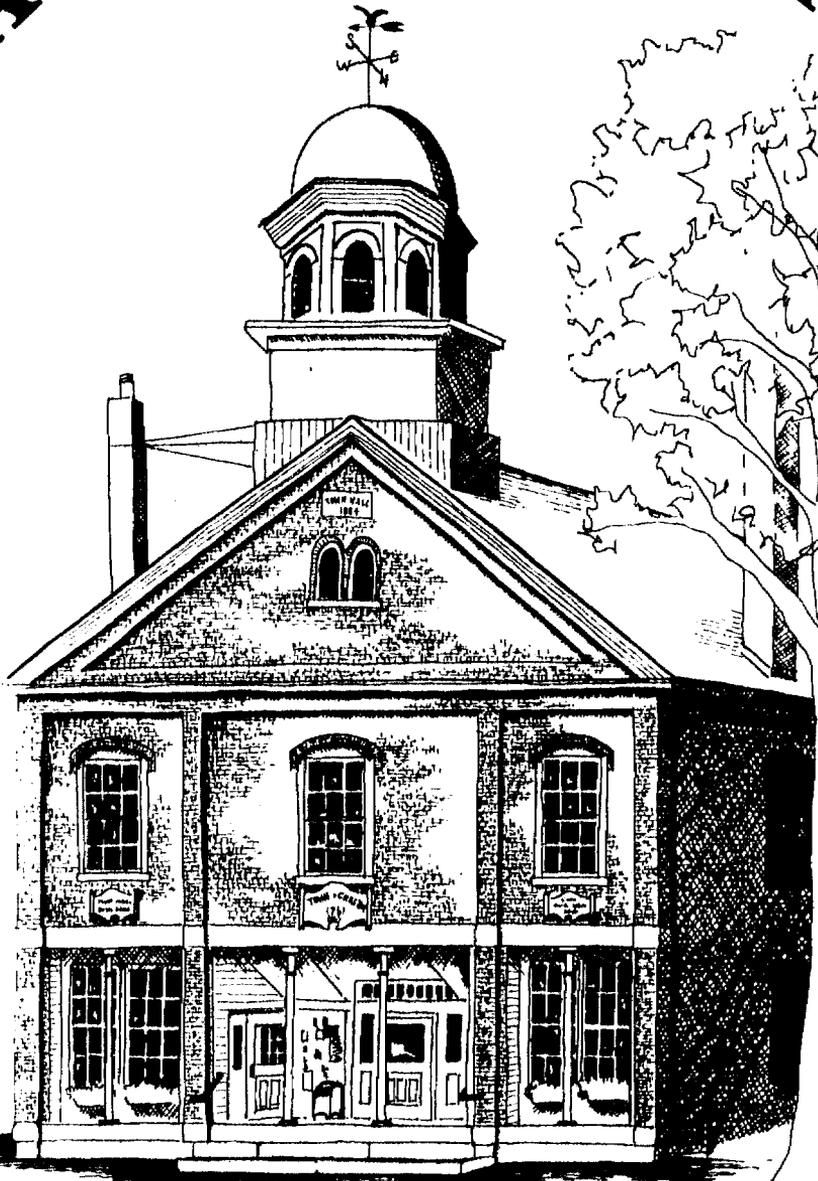


Annual Report



**Town of Chester, Vermont
Calendar Year 2003**

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

**OF THE
AUDITORS
OF THE TOWN OF
CHESTER, VERMONT**

AUDITORS

G. W. FOSTER

E. W. SPAULDING

R. G. HIGLEY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2003

EXPLANATION OF THE GRAND LIST

Total listed valuation of Real Estate for Taxation	\$191,771,619.00
One Percent of Total Listed Valuation	1,917,716.19

ANNUAL GRAND LIST INCREASE

1995	1,835,884.32	(0.001%)
1996	1,797,416.34	(0.020%)
1997	1,808,351.31	0.06%
1998	1,806,316.70	(0.003%)
1999	1,813,470.70	0.004%
2000	1,834,860.29	0.012%
2001	1,858,066.15	0.010%
2002	1,890,350.22	0.021%
2003	1,917,716.19	0.014%

TAX COMPUTATION TABLE BASED ON GRAND LIST OF \$1,917,716.19

\$0.01 will raise	\$ 19,177
\$0.02 will raise	38,354
\$0.03 will raise	57,531
\$0.04 will raise	76,708
\$0.05 will raise	95,885
\$0.06 will raise	115,062
\$0.07 will raise	134,240
\$0.08 will raise	153,417
\$0.09 will raise	172,594
\$0.10 will raise	191,771

COMPARATIVE TAX TABLE

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
School Tax Rate	\$1.94	\$1.74	\$1.65	\$1.56	\$1.44
Town Tax Rate	<u>0.82</u>	<u>0.82</u>	<u>0.90</u>	<u>0.76</u>	<u>0.81</u>
	<u>\$2.76</u>	<u>\$2.56</u>	<u>\$2.55</u>	<u>\$2.32</u>	<u>\$2.25</u>

5-YEAR BREAKDOWN OF TOWN AND SCHOOL TAXES

	Chester Town Taxes		School Taxes	
	% of Total Dollars		% of Total Dollars	
1999	36%	1,463,116	64%	2,601,096
2000	33%	1,394,494	67%	2,862,382
2001	35%	1,664,949	65%	3,079,745
2002	32%	1,526,839	68%	3,300,003
2003	30%	1,550,087	70%	3,667,279

ELECTIVE TOWN OFFICERS

March 4, 2003

	TERM EXPIRES		TERM EXPIRES
MODERATOR:		AUDITORS:	
William E. Dakin, Jr.	2004	Richard G. Higley	2004
		Geraldine W. Foster	2005
		E. W. Spaulding	2006
TOWN CLERK:		SCHOOL DIRECTORS	
Sandra K. Walker	2005	TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT:	
LISTERS:		Alison DesLauriers	2004
George C. Cook	2004	George C. Cook	2005
Donald Robinson	2005	Erron J. Carey	2006
Wanda C. Purdy, Chairman	2006		
SELECTMEN:		SCHOOL DIRECTORS	
Richard G. Jewett	2004	UNION NO. 29:	
Michael J. LeClair	2004	Alison DesLauriers	2004
Seeley W. Morton, Chairman	2004	Arunas S. Jonynas	2004
William L. Lindsay	2005	Terry Timura	2005
Arnold P. Stoddard	2006	Geralyn Donohue	2006
TAX COLLECTOR:		SCHOOL DIRECTORS	
Town Manager		UNION NO. 35:	
Article 14-1977 Town Meeting		John R. Coleman	2004
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS:		Raymond Stearns, Jr.	2004
Erron J. Carey	2004	Gertrude J. Bennett	2005
George C. Cook	2006	Alonzo W. Neff, Jr.	2006
TOWN GRAND JUROR:		BUDGET COMMITTEE:	
John R. Coleman	2004	Derek J. Suursoo	2004
TOWN TREASURER:		Norman Harrison	2004
Sandra K. Walker	2005	Shirley Barrett	2005
AGENT TO DEFEND SUITS:		Roderick G. Bates	2005
John R. Coleman	2004	Alice H. Forlie	2005
TRUSTEES OF WHITING LIBRARY:		Edward A. Knapp	2006
Janet Churchill Elliott	2004	GENERAL ELECTION-NOVEMBER 2002	
Irene F. Wright	2004	Justices of the Peace:	
Judith Asch-Goodkin	2005	James K. Aspden	
Hubert J. Severin	2005	Kenneth D. Barrett	
James K. Aspden	2006	Gertrude J. Bennett	
Cynthia L. Collins	2006	Erron J. Carey	
Joyce Tiemann	2006	Gilbert E. Carey	
		John R. "Jack" Coleman	
		William E. Dakin, Jr.	
		Ruth Douglas	
		Aili R. Farrar	
		Karen Trombley	

OFFICERS APPOINTED BY SELECTMEN

	TERM EXPIRES		TERM EXPIRES
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:		POLICE OFFICERS:	
Chief of Police		Richard H. Cloud - Chief	
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:		Mark C. Phelps - Sergeant	
Christopher Curran, Vice Chair	03-21-05	Michael D. Gilderdale- Patrolman	
Robert M. McIntyre	03-21-05	Matthew S. Wilson - Patrolman	
Richard Rommer	03-21-05	John (Steve) Cenate - Part-time	
Patricia Saul, Vice Chairman	03-21-05	Jeffery C. Holden - Part-time	
Paul Dexter, Alternate	03-19-06		
Bruce McEnaney, Chairman	03-19-06		
CEMETERY SEXTON:		POUND KEEPER:	
Kenneth Barrett		Chief of Police	
CLERK TO SELECTMEN:		REGIONAL PLANNING REPRESENTATIVES:	
William L. Lindsay		Cecil H. Waldo	
		William L. Lindsay - Alternate	
COUNCIL ON AGING:		ROAD COMMISSIONER:	
Karen Trombley		Town Manager	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CHAIRMAN:		SECRETARY TO SELECTMEN:	
Town Manager		Georgia A. Ethier	
FENCE VIEWERS:		SEWER COMMISSIONERS:	
Frank E. Balch		Board of Selectmen	
Arthur Farrar			
J. Leon Spaulding		SOLID WASTE DIST. REPRESENTATIVES:	
FIRE WARDEN:		Bruce McEnaney	
Susan S. Spaulding		Randall E. Wiggin - Alternate	
FIRST CONSTABLE:		TOWN MANAGER:	
Richard J. Crowson	2004	Susan S. Spaulding	
SECOND CONSTABLE:		TOWN SERVICE OFFICER:	
Clair F. Hesselton	2004	Town Manager	
GREEN-UP DAY CHAIRMAN:		TREE WARDEN:	
Townsend Gilbert		Town Manager	
INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES AND WOOD:		WATER COMMISSIONERS:	
Tony Weinberger		Board of Selectmen	
PLANNING COMMISSION:		WEIGHER OF COAL:	
Scott Wunderle	03-07-04	Frederick C. Degener, Jr.	
Harry S. Goodell	03-20-04		
Clair F. Hesselton	03-06-05	ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:	
William L. Lindsay (ex-officio)	03-06-05	(apptd. by Planning Commission)	
Thomas Bock, Chairman	03-19-06	Cecil H. Waldo	09-15-06
Naomi Johnson	03-19-06	Susan S. Spaulding - Alternate	09-15-06

APPOINTED BY TOWN MANAGER

Police Chief - Richard H. Cloud

Fire Chief - Harry S. Goodell

Ambulance Coordinator - Daniel J. Cook

APPOINTED BY STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Health Officer - Leslie Thorsen (term expires: 12-01-05)

ELECTED BY DIRECTORS OF WINDSOR SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Superintendent of Schools - Edward Brown

OFFICERS' SALARIES

	2002	2003
TOWN MANAGER		
Susan S. Spaulding	\$43,472.00	\$44,824.00
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER		
Sandra K. Walker	35,464.40	36,524.80
SELECTMEN		
Carol L. Balch	600.00	0.00
Richard G. Jewett	600.00	600.00
Michael J. LeClair	600.00	600.00
William L. Lindsay	600.00	600.00
Seeley W. Morton	600.00	600.00
Arnold P. Stoddard	0.00	600.00
LISTERS		
George C. Cook	4,917.25	4,729.41
Wanda C. Purdy	12,348.45	11,322.26
Donald Robinson	3,884.50	3,626.88
AUDITORS		
Ellen J. Hall	429.42	00.00
Richard G. Higley	849.95	850.16
E. W. Spaulding	849.95	859.20
Geraldine W. Foster	413.85	813.94
HEALTH OFFICER		
Leslie Thorsen	800.00	800.00

**2004 PROPERTY TAXES DUE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2004**

After this date, all Delinquent Taxes have an 8% penalty plus interest of 1% per month for the first 3 months and 1 1/2% per month thereafter.

Your property will be subject to Tax Sale after this date, in accordance with Article 5, Title 32, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

We experienced some changes in our make-up this year. Carol Balch retired after nine years on the Board, and we welcomed Arnold Stoddard in her place.

As with the previous year, the update to the sewer plant has been one of our major projects. Leach Engineering has been preparing plans to be submitted to the State of Vermont for approval. They and our operators have visited several plants around the State, midwest, and south to ensure that the equipment we are installing will be optimal for our plant. We certainly appreciate the way in which our operators have held the plant together with band-aids and duct tape until we can get the new plant in. It is expected to be finished in the summer of 2005.

Another project of great concern, and extending from 1986 to the present, is the reconstruction of the North Street bridge. The contract was awarded to Whitcomb Construction at a bid price lower than anticipated. They started construction this summer with the placement of a temporary bridge. Since then, progress has been excellent and we expect it to be completely finished by the end of next summer.

Another bridge of great concern, the Church Street bridge, is slated to begin construction during next summer. At the same time, the Green Mountain Railroad will be repairing the tracks just to the south of the bridge.

We need to start planning for the potential dissolution of the NH/VT Solid Waste District in 2007. There are a lot of issues to resolve such as what responsibilities the towns would have and what to do with jointly held assets.

After taking many requests for speed limits in the Town, we have petitioned the State to reduce the limit to forty miles per hour coming into Stone Village and on VT Route 11 East, coming into the Village. They have agreed to the first and are studying the second. In addition, we have changed our ordinance to say that all gravel roads will have a limit of thirty miles per hour rather than some forty and some thirty-five.

We have developed a capital plan for very long-needed repairs to the Town Hall. They include replacing the windows with energy efficient ones, done this January. In the future, we will repair the cupola and the chimneys.

We thank all the citizens of Chester and our employees who have worked hard to make this an excellent place to live and work.

Respectfully submitted,
Seeley W. Morton, Chairman
Richard G. Jewett
Michael J. LeClair
William L. Lindsay
Arnold P. Stoddard

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

It has been my pleasure to hire two new Department Heads this year. For a long time, we have been struggling to develop a stronger Recreation Program under the leadership of a Recreation Director. This year, that came together with the hiring of Steve Nelligan. Steve came with a lot of experience managing recreation programs on the Cape. In less than six months he has added more programs including ones for adults and found ways to increase the revenues.

We also welcomed Richard Cloud as our Chief of Police. He had been working for us for about a year before his appointment, so the transition has been quite smooth. Besides managing the Department, he is also the Dare instructor at Chester-Andover Elementary School and is involved in the canine program at the Academy.

The Highway Department had their hands full this summer reconstructing roads and culverts after the flooding in Popple Dungeon. They got most of the work done before it was time to prepare for winter. Next season, there is still some rip rap and top soil to put in place and the project will be complete. They got off to a real winter with two northeasters, but they kept pace and had the roads travelable in good time. The concern for this year is the intense cold on top of high water tables. It could be shaping up for a difficult mud season.

The Listers Office is getting ready to face a new reappraisal. We will be getting a letter from the State saying we have to do it this summer. In preparation, they are purchasing new upgraded computers and looking at the bidding process in towns that have already gone through the process. Given the prices we have seen for houses in the last year or two, the reappraisal should be thought provoking.

We continue to have concerns about staffing in our Ambulance and Fire Departments. We have managed to hold steady, but burn-out and changes of residence always have an impact. On a positive side, we are now seeing the results of the Explorer program as one has reached the age of 18 and has moved up into the Fire Department.

This summer, we upgraded some of our recreation facilities, putting new surfaces on the equipment at the skateboard park and installing a paved skating rink. Both facilities are being well used.

No matter what kind of equipment and facilities the Town has, it is really a service industry and the employees are the prime asset. We are very lucky in ours who have a strong work ethic and are always trying to do what is best for the Chester taxpayers. Once again, my sincere thanks to them.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan S. Spaulding
Town Manager

REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Discussion of the proposed 2004 Budget started in December with members of the Budget Committee attending the Select Board meetings. The Budget was reviewed line by line and questions were answered by the Town Manager and Select Board.

Some increases include 2.5% increase in salaries and a significant increase in workers compensation. Added to the Budget this year was a biphasic defibrillator for the ambulance at a cost of about \$11,000.00. The Town will pay \$8,500.00 and the Rescue Squad would fund the balance. The other major discussion was paying the salary for an Assistant Librarian for the Whiting Library. It was decided that the Town would pay half of the \$16,000.00 salary, costing us \$8,000.00, and the Library paying the other half. Special interest group funding is not included in the Budget and will increase the Budget by the amount voted for these articles at Town Meeting. The Town has maintained a level of service for road maintenance for some time, but our roads still need more work, so to maintain the infrastructure of the roads we should look for an increase in road maintenance in the coming years.

Even with the increases in this year's Budget, funding is still down from last year and the Town Manager has once again level funded the Budget. The Budget Committee agrees with this Budget and recommends that the Town taxpayers approve the 2004 Budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Your Budget Committee

REPORT OF THE TOWN AUDITORS

The Auditors have examined the accounts of the Town for the year ending December 31, 2003, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 1681-1689, Title 24, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

We have met each quarter during the past year to examine all bills, review payroll records, and reconcile the cash. We find that by meeting quarterly the preparation of the Town Report in January is more efficiently accomplished.

DELINQUENT TAXES:

The Delinquent Tax Collector received in September from the Town Treasurer one (1) Warrant for 2003 totaling \$335,090.99 in real and personal property taxes for collection. The total uncollected taxes as of December 31, 2003, was \$288,626.27. There were three abatements this year. The Delinquent Tax Collector's records were verified and accurately reflect the delinquencies as of December 31, 2003.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS:

The Trust Department of Chittenden Bank provides the Trustees of Public Funds investment advice, custodial service, and periodic reports relative to the assets held in the name of the various funds. The Trust Department's year-end investment advisory account report and other reports as prepared by the Trustees have been reviewed.

WHITING LIBRARY:

The Auditors, on January 26, 2004, verified the securities held at Banknorth by the Library and verified the savings account balances managed by the Trustees as of year end. The portion of Library funds managed by the Town were verified as well as revenues and expenditures processed by the Town office.

AUDITORS' STATEMENT:

The Municipal Accounting Program continues to provide an effective computerized management tool in accounting for the Town's financial records. In the process of auditing financial data, we also reviewed Town office procedures for payroll and general receipts and disbursements. These procedures provide good control of Town funds, in our opinion. All invoices approved for payment by the Selectmen and paid by the Town Treasurer have been reviewed for accuracy on a quarterly basis.

The Annual Report is compiled by your Auditors. The natural process of auditing creates interruptions for the Town Manager and office staff. We, therefore, sincerely wish to thank Susan Spaulding, Sandy Walker, Irene Wood, Deb Aldrich, Wanda Purdy, and Georgia Ethier for their patient assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine W. Foster
Richard G. Higley
E. W. Spaulding

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 2003

	Incurred	Earned	Net	Net	Surplus/ Deficit
	Expense	Income	Expense	Appropriation	(\$)
Administration	\$ 259,272.61	\$ 66,078.73	\$ 193,193.88	\$ 187,555.00	5,638.88)
Listing	23,162.35	0.00	23,162.35	28,450.00	5,287.65
Taxes	5,741.59	149,587.83	(143,846.24)	(118,350.00)	25,496.24
Planning	15,153.01	7,884.46	7,268.55	10,350.00	3,081.45
Insurance	348,339.56	0.00	348,339.56	353,596.00	5,256.44
Police	245,382.72	12,460.31	232,922.41	171,600.00	(61,322.41)
Fire	55,001.65	11,699.26	43,302.39	50,520.00	7,217.61
Ambulance	64,110.15	45,556.76	18,553.39	41,900.00	23,346.61
Communications	14,208.10	6,000.00	8,208.10	6,000.00	(2,208.10)
Highways	907,669.85	379,557.34	528,112.51	594,500.00	66,387.49
Solid Waste	15,879.00	0.00	15,879.00	20,500.00	4,621.00
Health	2,340.00	1,650.00	690.00	600.00	(90.00)
Special Interest	34,362.00	0.00	34,362.00	34,362.00	0.00
Recreation Programs	25,638.78	16,760.64	8,878.14	6,300.00	(2,578.14)
Parks/Cemeteries	43,047.26	15,228.44	27,818.82	23,950.00	(3,868.82)
Library	63,303.35	0.00	63,303.35	45,150.00	(18,153.35)
Town Hall	25,183.40	0.00	25,183.40	24,400.00	(783.40)
Academy Building	500.00	0.00	500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Recreation Facilities	53,708.89	0.00	53,708.89	45,000.00	(8,708.89)
Capital	452,934.83	148,479.00	304,455.83	291,300.00	(13,155.83)
County Tax	23,367.29	0.00	23,367.29	21,500.00	(1,867.29)
Other Income	0.00	2,245.09	(2,245.09)	(4,000.00)	(1,754.91)
TOTAL	<u>\$2,678,306.39</u>	<u>\$ 863,187.86</u>	<u>\$1,815,118.53</u>	<u>\$1,837,183.00</u>	<u>\$ 22,064.47</u>

SUMMARY OF SELECTMEN'S 2004 BUDGET

	Spent 2002	Voted 2003	Spent 2003	2004 Ant. Exp.	2004 Ant. Rcpt.	Net Budget
Administration	\$ 261,442.29	\$ 260,755.00	\$ 259,272.61	\$ 266,235.00	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 188,235.00
Listing	23,195.99	28,450.00	23,162.35	29,200.00	0.00	29,200.00
Taxes	3,330.79	2,650.00	5,741.59	2,800.00	126,100.00	(123,300.00)
Planning	13,933.33	14,650.00	15,153.01	14,650.00	4,500.00	10,150.00
Insurance	319,283.86	356,596.00	348,339.56	394,700.00	0.00	394,700.00
Police	194,462.56	202,600.00	245,382.72	205,850.00	29,500.00	176,350.00
Fire	52,736.94	59,800.00	55,001.65	54,900.00	25,830.00	29,070.00
Ambulance	49,641.52	71,000.00	64,110.15	75,500.00	44,100.00	31,400.00
Communications	11,967.21	12,000.00	14,208.10	13,000.00	6,000.00	7,000.00
Highways	737,469.42	776,500.00	907,669.85	783,700.00	176,000.00	607,700.00
Solid Waste	665.00	20,500.00	15,879.00	20,500.00	1,700.00	18,800.00
Health	2,497.28	2,800.00	2,340.00	2,300.00	0.00	2,300.00
Special Interest	27,647.00	34,362.00	34,362.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recreation Programs	13,152.71	14,800.00	25,638.78	40,000.00	12,000.00	28,000.00
Parks/Cemeteries	41,315.80	37,600.00	43,047.26	38,600.00	13,950.00	24,650.00
Library	54,145.27	45,150.00	63,303.35	53,800.00	0.00	53,800.00
Town Hall	18,840.46	24,400.00	25,183.40	24,450.00	0.00	24,450.00
Academy Building	243.50	2,000.00	500.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Recreation Facilities	30,492.60	45,000.00	53,708.89	33,500.00	0.00	33,500.00
Capital	233,578.12	381,300.00	452,934.83	242,300.00	0.00	242,300.00
County Tax	24,814.31	21,500.00	23,367.29	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,320.00	(2,320.00)
	<u>\$2,114,855.96</u>	<u>\$2,413,913.00</u>	<u>\$2,678,306.39</u>	<u>\$2,322,985.00</u>	<u>\$ 520,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,802,985.00</u>
					Surplus	\$ 22,064.47
					Net Budget	\$1,780,920.53

**2004
BUDGET**

		2002	2003	2003	2004
		Expended	Budget	Expended	Budget
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Selectmen/Manager					
1-411-10	Selectmen	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
1-411-70	Expenses	698.20	1,000.00	1,129.16	1,000.00
1-412-10	Manager	44,308.00	44,775.00	44,824.00	45,900.00
1-412-40	Expenses	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
	TOTAL	\$ 52,806.20	\$ 53,575.00	\$ 53,753.16	\$ 54,700.00
 Administration					
1-413-10	Elections	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,564.19	\$ 5,000.00
1-414-10	Town Clerk	18,073.00	18,370.00	18,262.40	18,830.00
1-414-11	Town Treas.	18,073.00	18,370.00	18,262.40	18,830.00
1-415-10	Payroll	93,996.34	88,000.00	100,731.91	100,000.00
1-415-20	Office Supplies	11,309.67	10,000.00	8,166.44	10,000.00
1-415-22	Equipment	7,031.20	7,000.00	6,193.75	5,500.00
1-415-33	Notices	348.50	1,000.00	1,262.86	1,000.00
1-415-34	Telephone	8,155.99	7,500.00	9,148.62	7,500.00
1-415-35	Postage	8,117.12	6,500.00	6,796.48	7,000.00
1-415-36	State Treasurer	0.00	1,000.00	1,963.00	1,000.00
1-415-40	VLCT	1,979.00	2,290.00	2,289.00	2,475.00
1-415-41	Training	1,918.80	750.00	1,132.50	1,000.00
1-415-56	Legal	986.55	5,000.00	170.67	2,500.00
1-415-57	Auditing	2,955.67	3,000.00	2,523.30	3,000.00
1-415-59	Computer	6,414.51	3,500.00	5,523.65	5,000.00
1-415-60	Service Charge	2,478.39	2,200.00	2,510.55	2,200.00
1-415-62	Town Report	4,182.95	4,200.00	4,153.00	4,200.00
1-415-79	Unclassified	2,633.23	500.00	553.37	500.00
1-415-90	TAN Interest	15,002.17	26,000.00	14,311.36	16,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 208,636.09	\$ 207,180.00	\$ 205,519.45	\$ 211,535.00
 Listing					
1-416-10	Salary	\$ 21,789.84	\$ 24,750.00	\$ 19,678.55	\$ 22,000.00
1-416-21	General Exp.	101.40	2,300.00	2,183.80	5,800.00
1-416-74	Travel	1,304.75	1,400.00	1,300.00	1,400.00
	TOTAL	\$ 23,195.99	\$ 28,450.00	\$ 23,162.35	\$ 29,200.00

**2004
BUDGET**

		2002 Expended	2003 Budget	2003 Expended	2004 Budget
Taxes					
1-417-20	Tax Billing	\$ 537.93	\$ 750.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 600.00
1-417-22	Abatement	1,642.72	200.00	858.39	200.00
1-417-23	Appeal Returns	0.00	500.00	2,884.20	500.00
1-417-33	Advertising	<u>1,150.14</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,734.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 3,330.79	\$ 2,650.00	\$ 5,741.59	\$ 2,800.00
Planning and Zoning					
1-418-10	Salary	\$ 9,968.14	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,993.51	\$ 10,000.00
1-418-21	General Exp.	3,965.19	4,500.00	5,069.50	4,500.00
1-418-62	Printing	<u>0.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>90.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 13,933.33	\$ 14,650.00	\$ 15,153.01	\$ 14,650.00
Insurance					
1-419-15	Social Security	\$ 67,477.30	\$ 72,100.00	\$ 70,921.33	\$ 74,000.00
1-419-16	Unemployment	3,286.00	5,260.00	5,261.32	5,400.00
1-419-17	Workers' Comp.	33,653.00	36,500.00	31,480.01	51,000.00
1-419-18	Medical	115,017.12	135,000.00	136,658.29	162,000.00
1-419-19	Disability/Life	4,117.34	5,000.00	5,882.80	2,000.00
1-419-20	Retirement	33,347.61	42,436.00	36,752.28	40,000.00
1-419-50	Property/Liab.	43,055.00	43,000.00	43,669.00	43,000.00
1-419-51	Bonds	635.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
1-419-52	Coinsurance	<u>18,695.49</u>	<u>17,000.00</u>	<u>17,714.53</u>	<u>17,000.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 319,283.86	\$ 356,596.00	\$ 348,339.56	\$ 394,700.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT		\$ 621,186.26	\$ 663,101.00	\$ 651,669.12	\$ 707,585.00

**2004
BUDGET**

		2002 Expended	2003 Budget	2003 Expended	2004 Budget
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Police					
1-421-10	Salary	\$ 180,650.07	\$ 189,500.00	\$ 220,516.99	\$ 193,750.00
1-421-20	Supplies	910.16	1,000.00	4,053.25	1,000.00
1-421-23	Equipment	1,831.29	2,500.00	2,964.30	500.00
1-421-24	DARE	718.92	500.00	50.00	500.00
1-421-25	Grant	0.00	0.00	5,585.31	0.00
1-421-34	Telephone	3,252.61	3,000.00	3,358.38	3,000.00
1-421-36	Training	1,108.83	1,500.00	1,104.00	1,500.00
1-421-40	Police Assoc.	301.00	300.00	200.00	300.00
1-421-68	Vehicles	2,644.35	3,000.00	4,034.12	3,000.00
1-421-74	Travel	405.50	300.00	379.37	300.00
1-421-75	Uniforms	2,639.93	1,000.00	3,137.00	2,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 194,462.66	\$ 202,600.00	\$ 245,382.72	\$ 205,850.00
Fire Department					
1-422-10	Salary	\$ 21,606.70	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,660.37	\$ 25,000.00
1-422-22	Medical	675.00	500.00	869.00	500.00
1-422-23	Equipment	7,650.14	12,500.00	8,782.29	7,500.00
1-422-36	Training	950.00	1,000.00	1,090.00	1,000.00
1-422-40	Dues	856.00	400.00	570.00	500.00
1-422-68	Vehicle Maint.	2,599.10	2,000.00	1,629.99	2,000.00
1-422-79	Hydrants	18,400.00	18,400.00	18,400.00	18,400.00
1-422-80	Mut. Aid Reimb.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL	\$ 52,736.94	\$ 59,800.00	\$ 55,001.65	\$ 54,900.00
Ambulance					
1-423-10	Salary	\$ 34,455.32	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 48,888.28	\$ 60,000.00
1-423-21	Supplies	5,394.75	5,000.00	5,940.69	5,000.00
1-423-22	Medical Exp.	582.84	500.00	231.61	500.00
1-423-23	Equipment	3,873.82	4,000.00	3,411.27	4,000.00
1-423-24	Intercept	2,382.93	3,000.00	4,556.01	3,000.00
1-423-36	Training	2,468.92	2,500.00	585.00	2,000.00
1-423-68	Vehicle Maint.	482.94	1,000.00	497.29	1,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 49,641.52	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 64,110.15	\$ 75,500.00
Communications					
1-426-10	Dispatching	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
1-426-34	Telephone	3,722.00	4,000.00	3,842.00	3,500.00
1-426-35	Radio Maint.	419.62	500.00	893.17	500.00
1-426-36	Phones/Pagers	4,325.59	4,000.00	5,472.93	5,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 11,967.21	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 14,208.10	\$ 13,000.00
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		\$ 308,808.33	\$ 345,400.00	\$ 378,702.62	\$ 349,250.00

**2004
BUDGET**

		2002 Expended	2003 Budget	2003 Expended	2004 Budget
PUBLIC WORKS					
Highway					
1-431-10	Labor	\$ 330,262.34	\$ 356,000.00	\$ 337,290.90	\$ 345,000.00
1-431-21	Supplies	4,326.46	4,000.00	5,892.78	4,000.00
1-431-23	Tools & Equip.	4,127.67	7,000.00	4,594.47	5,000.00
1-431-24	Salt	42,412.77	43,000.00	45,160.82	43,000.00
1-431-25	Sand	36,631.06	31,000.00	31,810.48	35,000.00
1-431-26	Gravel	32,011.65	33,000.00	36,888.09	33,000.00
1-431-27	Hot Mix	1,235.23	2,500.00	1,238.23	2,000.00
1-431-28	Paving	97,173.80	100,000.00	100,000.00	90,000.00
1-431-29	Calcium Chloride	18,060.61	15,000.00	5,880.00	15,000.00
1-431-30	Culverts	5,749.42	5,000.00	10,846.86	5,000.00
1-431-31	Rip Rap	2,510.50	500.00	0.00	500.00
1-431-32	Bridge Material	12,908.94	15,000.00	6,681.76	15,000.00
1-431-34	Communications	560.61	1,000.00	578.35	600.00
1-431-36	Training	1,098.84	500.00	311.00	500.00
1-431-37	Contracted Serv.	5,061.78	8,000.00	9,687.50	8,000.00
1-431-38	Mowing	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
1-431-49	Reconstruction	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
1-431-50	Flooding	0.00	0.00	155,373.75	0.00
1-431-67	Diesel/Gasoline	53,679.45	60,000.00	57,886.22	60,000.00
1-431-68	Vehicle Maint.	41,193.27	43,000.00	47,858.80	45,000.00
1-431-69	Street Lights	26,750.55	26,000.00	26,382.78	26,000.00
1-431-75	Uniforms	6,304.62	6,500.00	6,577.27	6,500.00
1-431-76	Garage Utilities	6,103.13	6,000.00	6,018.35	6,000.00
1-431-77	Garage Water	872.00	1,000.00	1,058.23	1,100.00
1-431-78	Fuel	7,871.45	9,000.00	8,007.85	9,000.00
1-431-79	Garage Maint.	564.27	3,500.00	1,645.36	3,500.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 737,470.42</u>	<u>\$ 776,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 907,669.85</u>	<u>\$ 783,700.00</u>
Solid Waste					
1-432-37	Eager Beaver	\$ 665.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 879.00	\$ 500.00
1-432-38	Transfer Station	<u>0.00</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>20,000.00</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 665.00</u>	<u>\$ 20,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 15,879.00</u>	<u>\$ 20,500.00</u>
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		\$ 738,135.42	\$ 797,000.00	\$ 923,548.85	\$ 804,200.00

**2004
BUDGET**

		2002 Expended	2003 Budget	2003 Expended	2004 Budget
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
1-441-10	Health Officer	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00
1-441-20	Animal Care	297.28	500.00	540.00	500.00
1-441-38	Septic Refunds	1,400.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,497.28</u>	<u>\$ 2,300.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,340.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,300.00</u>
Special Interest					
1-442-10	Nursing Service	\$ 9,560.00	\$ 10,275.00	\$ 10,275.00	\$ 0.00
1-442-11	New Beginnings	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
1-442-12	RSVP	300.00	400.00	400.00	0.00
1-442-13	Mental Health	2,791.00	2,791.00	2,791.00	0.00
1-442-14	SEVCA	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-442-15	WC Partners	400.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
1-442-16	Meals & Wheels	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
1-442-17	Family Center	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
1-442-18	Adult Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-442-19	Youth Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-442-20	Community Cares	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00
1-442-21	SRDC	8,496.00	8,496.00	8,496.00	0.00
1-442-22	Hospice	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
1-442-23	Meals on Wheels	1,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
1-442-24	Diversion	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 27,647.00</u>	<u>\$ 34,362.00</u>	<u>\$ 34,362.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE		\$ 30,144.28	\$ 36,662.00	\$ 36,702.00	\$ 2,300.00
CULTURE AND RECREATION					
Rec. Programs					
1-451-10	Rec. Payroll	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,687.50	\$ 20,000.00
1-451-37	Baseball	3,068.15	5,000.00	4,465.95	5,000.00
1-451-38	Softball	980.35	2,000.00	117.85	1,000.00
1-451-39	Tennis	452.00	400.00	138.69	5,000.00
1-451-40	Soccer	5,761.76	2,600.00	6,236.73	6,000.00
1-451-42	Camps	0.00	3,000.00	439.96	500.00
1-451-43	Skateboard Park	0.00	0.00	840.50	0.00
1-451-44	Basketball	2,890.45	1,800.00	2,711.60	2,500.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 13,152.71</u>	<u>\$ 14,800.00</u>	<u>\$ 25,638.78</u>	<u>\$ 40,000.00</u>

**2004
BUDGET**

		2002 Expended	2003 Budget	2003 Expended	2004 Budget
Parks & Cemeteries					
1-452-10	Payroll	\$ 33,054.26	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 34,866.13	\$ 31,000.00
1-452-21	Supplies	4,146.48	3,000.00	1,847.21	3,000.00
1-452-23	Equipment	267.80	1,000.00	1,240.96	1,000.00
1-452-39	Trees	2,266.00	2,000.00	2,388.96	2,000.00
1-452-40	Perpetual Care	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,950.00	1,000.00
1-452-76	Water	81.26	100.00	80.00	100.00
1-452-77	Memorial Day	0.00	500.00	674.00	500.00
	TOTAL	\$ 41,315.80	\$ 37,600.00	\$ 43,047.26	\$ 38,600.00
Library					
1-455-10	Payroll	\$ 34,704.87	\$ 25,750.00	\$ 43,145.57	\$ 0.00
1-455-20	Janitorial Service	2,522.90	2,500.00	2,532.00	0.00
1-455-22	Library Fund	5,100.00	5,100.00	5,100.00	42,000.00
1-455-68	Maintenance	1,658.08	3,000.00	4,974.64	3,000.00
1-455-76	Utilities	4,964.54	5,500.00	4,169.65	5,500.00
1-455-77	Water/Sewer	245.09	300.00	333.24	300.00
1-455-78	Fuel	4,949.79	3,000.00	3,048.25	3,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 54,145.27	\$ 45,150.00	\$ 63,303.35	\$ 53,800.00
Town Hall					
1-456-10	Payroll	\$ 3,460.30	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,659.43	\$ 4,000.00
1-456-21	Supplies	1,311.70	1,500.00	1,041.41	1,500.00
1-456-68	Repairs/Maint.	2,885.69	5,000.00	7,314.26	5,000.00
1-456-76	Utilities	6,522.15	7,000.00	6,287.02	7,000.00
1-456-77	Water/Sewer	381.64	500.00	538.16	550.00
1-456-78	Fuel	2,024.05	3,000.00	4,154.69	4,000.00
1-456-79	Rubbish	2,254.93	2,400.00	2,188.43	2,400.00
	TOTAL	\$ 18,840.46	\$ 24,400.00	\$ 25,183.40	\$ 24,450.00
1-457-68	Academy Building	\$ 243.50	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00
Recreation Facilities					
1-458-11	Lifeguards	\$ 24,022.40	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 34,758.90	\$ 26,000.00
1-458-20	Pool Improv.	258.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-458-21	Supplies	1,124.26	1,500.00	2,842.70	1,500.00
1-458-41	Skating Rink	0.00	13,000.00	8,457.90	0.00
1-458-68	Pool Maint.	2,674.99	3,000.00	4,557.22	3,000.00
1-458-69	Capital Improv.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-458-76	Utilities	2,411.99	2,500.00	3,092.17	3,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 30,492.60	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 53,708.89	\$ 33,500.00
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION		\$ 158,190.34	\$ 168,950.00	\$ 211,381.68	\$ 192,350.00

**2004
BUDGET**

		2002 Expended	2003 Budget	2003 Expended	2004 Budget
CAPITAL					
Bridges & Roads					
1-461-26	Bridge Grants	\$ 31,644.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
1-461-27	North Street	0.00	0.00	59,608.42	0.00
Equipment					
1-462-82	Copier	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00
1-462-83	Cruiser	0.00	24,500.00	25,472.52	0.00
1-462-84	Highway Truck	59,551.00	75,000.00	68,010.00	70,000.00
1-462-85	Mower	7,760.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-462-86	Defibrillator	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,500.00
1-462-87	Loader	0.00	91,000.00	90,367.00	0.00
1-462-88	Plow/Mower	12,471.91	12,300.00	12,287.60	0.00
1-462-89	High Band Radios	32,051.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-462-90	Grader	0.00	28,000.00	27,991.66	28,000.00
Fund Transfers					
1-470-86	Highway Equip.	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
1-470-87	Bridge	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
1-470-88	Emergency Equip	1,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
1-470-89	Reappraisal	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
1-473-35	Town Hall Imp.	22,300.00	22,000.00	44,197.63	22,300.00
1-473-36	Academy Building	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00
1-473-37	Record Rest.	1,800.00	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
TOTAL CAPITAL		\$ 233,578.13	\$ 381,300.00	\$ 452,934.83	\$ 242,300.00
OTHER GOVT. EXPENDITURES					
1-475-61	County Tax	\$ 24,814.31	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 23,367.29	\$ 25,000.00
TOT. CHESTER	BUDGET	\$ 2,114,857.07	\$ 2,413,913.00	\$ 2,678,306.39	\$ 2,322,985.00

**2004 BUDGET
REVENUES**

		2002 Receipts		2003 Budget		2003 Receipts		2004 Budget
TAXES								
1-318-01	Railroad Taxes	\$ 1,222.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,134.00	\$	1,100.00
1-318-03	Land Use	65,767.80		60,000.00		65,696.36		60,000.00
1-319-02	Penalties & Int.	64,872.00		60,000.00		82,757.47		65,000.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 131,861.80</u>	\$	<u>121,000.00</u>	\$	<u>149,587.83</u>	\$	<u>126,100.00</u>

**LICENSES,
PERMITS & FEES**

1-321-01	Liquor Licenses	\$ 1,100.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,350.00	\$	1,000.00
1-322-02	Planning/Zoning	4,467.98		4,300.00		7,884.46		4,500.00
1-322-03	Fish & Game	818.50		500.00		580.00		500.00
1-322-04	Dog Licenses	1,894.25		2,000.00		1,843.50		1,800.00
1-322-05	Other Licenses	260.00		300.00		148.00		300.00
1-322-06	Rabies	369.50		400.00		345.00		400.00
1-322-07	Motor Vehicle	1,148.00		1,000.00		1,180.00		1,000.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 10,058.23</u>	\$	<u>9,500.00</u>	\$	<u>13,330.96</u>	\$	<u>9,500.00</u>

GENERAL GOVT.

1-341-11	Recording Fees	\$ 38,185.77	\$	32,000.00	\$	42,527.30	\$	37,000.00
1-341-12	Administrative Inc.	36,402.55		5,000.00		5,296.52		5,000.00
1-341-41	Tax Sale Admin.	1,041.10		1,000.00		1,371.95		1,000.00
1-341-51	Interest	20,957.32		30,000.00		11,436.46		30,000.00
1-341-71	Insurance	15.40		0.00		0.00		0.00
1-341-72	Cobra Reimb.	5,209.55		3,000.00		0.00		0.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 101,811.69</u>	\$	<u>71,000.00</u>	\$	<u>60,632.23</u>	\$	<u>73,000.00</u>

TOTAL GENERAL GOVT. \$ 243,731.72 \$ 201,500.00 \$ 223,551.02 \$ 208,600.00

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Department

1-342-11	Court Fees	\$ 26,372.39	\$	20,000.00	\$	10,284.81	\$	20,000.00
1-342-12	Payroll Reimb.	625.00		3,000.00		805.50		3,000.00
1-342-14	DARE	715.00		500.00		100.00		500.00
1-342-15	Other Income	1,458.07		1,000.00		1,270.00		1,000.00
1-342-16	Grants	8,370.66		6,500.00		0.00		5,000.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 37,541.12</u>	\$	<u>31,000.00</u>	\$	<u>12,460.31</u>	\$	<u>29,500.00</u>

**2004 BUDGET
REVENUES**

		2002	2003	2003	2004
		Receipts	Budget	Receipts	Budget
Fire Department					
1-342-21	Other Income	\$ 1,893.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,419.26	\$ 1,000.00
1-342-22	Andover	7,000.00	8,280.00	8,280.00	8,280.00
1-342-23	Grant	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>16,550.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 8,893.00	\$ 9,280.00	\$ 11,699.26	\$ 25,830.00
Ambulance Service					
1-342-31	Service Revenue	\$ 32,300.98	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 31,371.60	\$ 30,000.00
1-342-32	Gifts	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
1-342-33	Other Income	110.00	500.00	85.16	0.00
1-342-51	Andover	<u>11,000.00</u>	<u>14,100.00</u>	<u>14,100.00</u>	<u>14,100.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 43,410.98	\$ 29,700.00	\$ 45,556.76	\$ 44,100.00
1-343-20	Tower Rent	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY		\$ 95,845.10	\$ 75,980.00	\$ 75,716.33	\$ 105,430.00
PUBLIC WORKS					
Highway					
1-344-11	Diesel Sale	\$ 18,871.60	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 27,280.00	\$ 20,000.00
1-344-12	Material Sale	277.50	2,000.00	5,800.00	1,000.00
1-344-13	State Aid	172,567.86	160,000.00	189,080.14	155,000.00
1-344-14	Other Income	4,369.55	0.00	2,022.20	0.00
1-344-15	Flood Reimb.	0.00	0.00	155,375.00	0.00
1-344-24	Grants	<u>28,479.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 224,566.11	\$ 182,000.00	\$ 379,557.34	\$ 176,000.00
HEALTH AND WELFARE					
1-345-01	Septic Permits	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 500.00
1-345-02	Septic Refunds	<u>900.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,300.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,700.00

**2004 BUDGET
REVENUES**

		2002 Receipts	2003 Budget	2003 Receipts	2004 Budget
CULTURE AND RECREATION					
Recreation					
1-347-11	Programs	\$ 8,982.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 14,416.00	\$ 12,000.00
1-347-12	Material Sale	0.00	0.00	2,344.64	0.00
	TOTAL	\$ 8,982.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 16,760.64	\$ 12,000.00
Parks & Cemeteries					
1-347-21	Sale of Lots	\$ 270.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 1,500.00
1-347-22	Grave Preparation	3,725.00	4,000.00	6,251.00	4,000.00
1-347-23	Cemetery Funds	5,543.66	5,500.00	2,989.73	5,000.00
1-347-25	Perpetual Care	300.00	750.00	2,075.00	750.00
1-347-26	Other Income	135.00	0.00	425.01	0.00
1-347-40	Town Hall	657.60	700.00	553.00	700.00
1-347-41	Pool Income	1,099.48	1,200.00	1,709.70	2,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 11,730.74	\$ 13,650.00	\$ 15,228.44	\$ 13,950.00
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION		\$ 20,712.74	\$ 22,150.00	\$ 31,989.08	\$ 25,950.00
CAPITAL EQUIP.					
1-348-11	Loader	\$ 0.00	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 88,872.00	\$ 0.00
1-348-21	High Band Radios	32,051.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
1-348-23	North St. Bridge	0.00	0.00	59,607.00	0.00
	TOTAL	\$ 32,051.22	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 148,479.00	\$ 0.00
OTHER INCOME					
1-349-11	Poor Funds	\$ 919.98	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 686.63	\$ 720.00
1-350-11	Cyprus Minerals	2,747.35	3,000.00	1,558.46	1,600.00
1-360-11	Land Sale	13,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL	\$ 17,167.33	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,245.09	\$ 2,320.00
TOTAL BUDGET REVENUES		\$ 636,074.22	\$ 578,330.00	\$ 863,187.86	\$ 520,000.00

COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2003

ASSETS

	2003	2002
CASH		
Petty Cash	\$ 215.00	\$ 215.00
Chittenden Checking	<u>114,919.92</u>	<u>57,490.20</u>
TOTAL CASH	\$ 115,134.92	\$ 57,705.20
RESTRICTED CASH		
Chittenden Bridge Fund	\$153,562.63	\$172,946.26
Chittenden Grafton Street Bridge Fund	27,356.06	1,070.01
Chittenden Emergency Fund	121,434.17	100,564.99
Chittenden Development Fund	331,220.92	161,429.60
Chittenden Equipment Fund	62,061.64	95,375.07
Chittenden Reappraisal	<u>97,184.68</u>	<u>68,269.93</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED CASH	\$ 792,820.10	\$ 599,655.86
RECEIVABLES		
Delinquent Taxes	\$288,626.27	\$329,853.29
Interest - Del. Taxes	42,200.46	50,257.12
Penalty - Del. Taxes	<u>23,077.27</u>	<u>26,384.74</u>
TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES	\$ 353,904.00	\$ 406,495.15
LONG-TERM RECEIVABLES		
Comm. Dev. Loans	<u>\$ 52,563.16</u>	<u>\$134,293.01</u>
TOT. LONG-TERM RECEIVABLES	\$ 52,563.16	\$ 134,293.01
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,314,422.18	\$1,198,149.22

LIABILITIES

	2003	2002
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 243,510.26	\$ 96,232.29

EQUITY

RESERVES		
Construction	\$100,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Historical Society	25,000.00	0.00
Memorials	855.00	855.00
Academy Building	<u>5,336.62</u>	<u>5,336.62</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	\$ 131,191.62	\$ 36,191.62

RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES

Chittenden Bridge Fund	\$153,562.63	\$172,946.26
Chittenden Grafton Street Bridge Fund	27,356.06	1,070.01
Chittenden Emergency Fund	121,434.17	100,564.99
Chittenden Development Fund	331,220.92	161,429.60
Chittenden Equipment Fund	62,061.64	95,375.07
Chittenden Reappraisal	<u>97,184.68</u>	<u>68,269.93</u>
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$ 792,820.10	\$ 599,655.86

UNCOLLECTED LONG-TERM NOTES

Comm. Dev. Loans	<u>\$ 52,563.16</u>	<u>\$ 134,293.01</u>
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TOTAL EQUITY

UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	\$ 976,574.88	\$ 770,140.49
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>94,337.04</u>	<u>331,776.44</u>
	<u>\$1,314,422.18</u>	<u>\$1,198,149.22</u>

**TOWN OF CHESTER
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES
DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	ENTERPRISE FUNDS
ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 115,134.92	\$149,464.78	\$123,581.28
Receivables:			
Delinquent Taxes	353,904.00	0.00	0.00
Notes Receivable	52,563.16	0.00	25,577.11
Restricted Assets:			
Restricted Cash	<u>792,820.10</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,314,422.18	\$149,464.78	\$149,158.39
LIABILITIES, EQUITY & OTHER CREDITS			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	\$ 243,510.26	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Bonds Payable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>160,471.07</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 243,510.26	\$ 0.00	\$160,471.07
EQUITY/OTHER CREDITS			
Fund Balance:			
Sinking Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 52,058.15
Retained	0.00	0.00	(63,370.83)
Restricted	792,820.10	0.00	0.00
Future Exp.	131,191.62	149,464.78	0.00
Long-Term Notes	52,563.16	0.00	0.00
Undesignated	<u>94,337.04</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EQUITY AND OTHER CREDITS	\$1,070,911.92	\$149,464.78	(\$ 11,312.68)
TOTAL LIABILITIES EQUITY/CREDITS	\$1,314,422.18	\$149,464.78	\$149,158.39

**STATEMENT OF LIABILITY OF THE TOWN
FOR BORROWED MONEY
GENERAL FUND**

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

Notes borrowed during the year:

Chittenden NA - 1.85% dated 01-09-03 \$1,000,000.00

Notes paid during the year:

Banknorth NA - 10-02-03 \$1,000,000.00

Chittenden Bank - 06-19-03 35,000.00

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
DECEMBER 31, 2003**

General Fund

REVENUES

Taxes	\$5,484,411.53
Licenses/Fees	13,330.96
General Government	60,632.23
Public Safety	75,716.33
Public Works	379,557.34
Health & Welfare	1,650.00
Culture & Recreation	31,989.08
Capital Equipment	148,479.00
Other Income	2,245.09
TAN and Current Expense Note	1,350,000.00
Fund Transfers	402,097.65
Accounts Receivable	155,375.00
TOTAL	<u>\$8,105,484.21</u>

EXPENDITURES

Selectmen/Manager	\$ 53,753.16
Administration	205,519.45
Listing	23,162.35
Taxes	5,741.59
Planning/Zoning	15,153.01
Insurance	348,339.56
Police	245,382.72
Fire	55,001.65
Ambulance	64,110.15
Communications	14,208.10
Highway	907,669.85
Solid Waste	15,879.00
Health & Welfare	2,340.00
Special Interest Groups	34,362.00
Recreation Programs	25,638.78
Parks & Cemeteries	43,047.26
Library	63,303.35
Town Hall	25,183.40
Academy Building	500.00
Recreation Facilities	53,708.89
Capital Expenditures	452,934.83
County Tax	23,367.29
Tax Anticipation Note	1,000,000.00
Current Year Expense Note	35,000.00
CTSD Assessment	3,731,270.00
Accounts Payable 2003	126,066.94
TOTAL	<u>\$7,570,643.33</u>

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 534,840.88
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Fund Balance 1/1/03	\$ 512,795.51
Fund Balance 12/31/03	\$1,047,636.39

**WATER DEPARTMENT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Year Ending December 31, 2003**

SUMMARY

Earned Income 2003	\$152,666.78
Incurred Expenses 2003	<u>163,155.33</u>
Excess of Expenses over Revenues	\$ 10,488.55

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2003	2002
Cash on Hand		
Chittenden Sweep Account	\$ 9,554.24	\$ 70,029.96
Chittenden Sinking Fund	51,743.02	81,261.42
Accounts Receivable	<u>10,744.35</u>	<u>8,808.59</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 72,041.61	\$160,099.97
LIABILITIES		
Vermont Bond Bank	\$160,471.07	\$181,223.72
Sinking Fund Reserve	<u>51,743.02</u>	<u>81,261.42</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$212,214.09	\$262,485.14
Excess of Liabilities over Assets	\$140,172.48	\$102,385.17
Change in Fund Equity	37,787.31	85,994.46

RECONCILIATION OF CASH

Cash on Hand January 1, 2003		\$151,291.38
Interest Earned - Sinking Fund	\$ 694.43	
Cash Receipts 2003	<u>152,666.78</u>	
TOTAL		<u>153,361.21</u> \$304,652.59
Payroll Reimbursement		80,200.00
Cash Disbursements 2003		<u>163,155.33</u>
CASH ON HAND DECEMBER 31, 2003		\$ 61,297.26
Chittenden Checking	\$ 9,554.24	
Chittenden Sinking Fund	<u>51,743.02</u>	
TOTAL		\$ 61,297.26

**2004 BUDGET
WATER DEPARTMENT**

		2002	2003	2003	2004
		Receipts	Budget	Receipts	Budget
REVENUES					
03-311-01	Water Rents	\$111,528.33	\$125,000.00	\$115,207.36	\$ 125,000.00
03-311-02	Delinquent	12,026.74	13,000.00	13,306.78	13,000.00
03-311-03	Penalty & Int.	1,589.30	1,500.00	1,846.82	1,500.00
03-311-04	New Connect.	2,500.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
03-311-05	Jeffrey Lease	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
03-311-06	Hydrant Fees	20,200.00	20,000.00	20,400.00	20,000.00
03-311-07	Interest	433.75	3,000.00	284.64	500.00
03-311-09	Other Income	10,100.00	0.00	621.18	0.00
03-311-10	Capital Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03-311-11	Reserve Fund	10,000.00	12,300.00	0.00	8,500.00
	TOTAL	\$169,378.12	\$178,800.00	\$152,666.78	\$ 172,500.00

		2002	2003	2003	2004
		Expended	Budget	Expended	Budget
EXPENDITURES					
03-411-10	Labor	\$ 74,575.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,851.20	\$ 61,500.00
03-411-15	Fringe Benefits	18,134.03	20,000.00	13,046.30	20,000.00
03-411-23	Tools	507.10	3,000.00	3,782.33	1,500.00
03-411-24	Meters	2,019.30	500.00	2,038.98	1,000.00
03-411-25	Collection Syst.	5,868.94	6,000.00	3,667.49	5,000.00
03-411-29	Chemicals	7,098.29	6,000.00	7,371.62	7,000.00
03-411-32	Hydrants	1,900.00	3,000.00	78.74	3,000.00
03-411-36	Training	100.00	100.00	181.00	100.00
03-411-37	Contracted Ser.	1,750.00	2,500.00	1,789.00	2,500.00
03-411-38	Well Repair	10,210.77	2,000.00	954.00	3,000.00
03-411-39	Testing	1,015.00	1,500.00	793.53	1,300.00
03-411-58	Computer	3,223.19	2,500.00	1,082.63	1,000.00
03-411-60	Service Chgs.	694.50	1,100.00	1,248.65	1,100.00
03-411-61	State Fees	1,587.53	1,500.00	1,378.76	1,000.00
03-411-68	Vehicle Maint.	151.72	500.00	1,395.53	500.00
03-411-76	Utilities	15,574.97	15,000.00	13,964.69	15,000.00
03-411-78	Gas	328.57	750.00	705.68	750.00
03-411-79	Miscellaneous	528.94	0.00	13.09	0.00
03-411-80	Capital Impr.	0.00	7,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
03-411-90	Bonds	20,237.60	17,650.00	20,610.99	21,320.00
03-411-91	Bond Interest	14,613.52	13,200.00	13,201.12	11,730.00
03-411-95	Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,200.00
	TOTAL	\$ 180,118.97	\$ 178,800.00	\$163,155.33	\$ 172,500.00

**VERMONT MUNICIPAL BOND BANK
 WATER DEPARTMENT
 BOND PAYMENT SCHEDULE
 SERIES 2 1992
 \$137,869.28**

	Principal	Percent Interest	Interest	Semi-Annual Debt Service	Fiscal Total
06-1-04			2,480.90	2,480.90	
12-1-04	7,326.96	7.55	2,480.90	9,807.86	12,288.76
06-1-05			2,204.16	2,204.16	
12-1-05	7,913.11	7.55	2,204.16	10,117.27	12,321.43
06-1-06			1,905.28	1,905.28	
12-1-06	8,546.17	7.55	1,905.28	10,451.45	12,356.73
06-1-07			1,582.49	1,582.49	
12-1-07	9,229.86	7.55	1,582.49	10,812.35	12,394.84
06-1-08			1,233.88	1,233.88	
12-1-08	9,968.25	7.55	1,233.88	11,202.13	12,436.01
06-1-09			857.38	857.38	
12-1-09	10,765.71	7.65	857.38	11,623.09	12,480.47
06-1-10			445.38	445.38	
12-1-10	<u>11,637.73</u>	7.65	<u>445.38</u>	<u>12,083.11</u>	<u>12,528.49</u>
	<u>\$65,387.79</u>		<u>\$21,418.94</u>	<u>\$86,806.73</u>	<u>\$86,806.73</u>

**VERMONT MUNICIPAL BOND BANK
 WATER DEPARTMENT
 BOND PAYMENT SCHEDULE
 SERIES 2 1992
 \$90,916.40**

	Principal	Percent Interest	Interest	Semi-Annual Debt Service	Fiscal Total
06-1-04			949.66	949.66	
12-1-04	3,990.65	7.55	949.66	4,940.31	5,889.97
06-1-05			798.93	798.93	
12-1-05	4,046.90	7.55	798.93	4,845.83	5,644.76
06-1-06			646.08	646.08	
12-1-06	4,107.65	7.55	646.08	4,753.73	5,399.81
06-1-07			490.93	490.93	
12-1-07	4,173.27	7.55	490.93	4,664.20	5,155.13
06-1-08			333.31	333.31	
12-1-08	4,244.14	7.55	333.31	4,577.45	4,910.76
06-1-09			173.01	173.01	
12-1-09	<u>4,520.67</u>	7.65	<u>173.01</u>	<u>4,693.68</u>	<u>4,866.69</u>
	<u>\$25,083.28</u>		<u>\$6,783.84</u>	<u>\$31,867.12</u>	<u>\$31,867.12</u>

**VERMONT MUNICIPAL BOND BANK
WATER DEPARTMENT
BOND PAYMENT SCHEDULE
1990 SERIES 1 BONDS
\$250,000.00**

	Date	Rate	Principal	Interest	Debt Service
23	06-1-04			2,435.00	2,435.00
24	12-1-04	6.900	10,000.00	2,435.00	12,435.00
25	06-1-05			2,090.00	2,090.00
26	12-1-05	7.000	10,000.00	2,090.00	12,090.00
27	06-1-06			1,740.00	1,740.00
28	12-1-06	7.000	10,000.00	1,740.00	11,740.00
29	06-1-07			1,390.00	1,390.00
30	12-1-07	7.000	10,000.00	1,390.00	11,390.00
31	06-1-08			1,040.00	1,040.00
32	12-1-08	7.000	10,000.00	1,040.00	11,040.00
33	06-1-09			690.00	690.00
34	12-1-09	6.900	10,000.00	690.00	10,690.00
35	06-1-10			345.00	345.00
36	12-1-10	6.900	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>345.00</u>	<u>10,345.00</u>
			<u>\$70,000.00</u>	<u>\$19,460.00</u>	<u>\$89,460.00</u>

**SEWER DEPARTMENT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Year Ending December 31, 2003**

SUMMARY

Earned Income 2003	\$218,757.12
Incurred Expenses 2003	<u>246,683.22</u>
Excess of Expenses over Income	\$ 27,926.10

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2003	2002
Cash on Hand		
Chittenden Sweep Account	\$ 61,968.89	\$103,400.71
Chittenden Reserve Fund	315.13	9,309.31
Accounts Receivable	<u>14,832.76</u>	<u>9,222.44</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 77,116.78	\$121,932.46
 LIABILITIES		
Reserve Fund Reserve	<u>\$ 315.13</u>	<u>\$ 9,309.31</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 315.13	\$ 9,309.31
 Excess of Assets over Liabilities	 \$ 76,801.65	 \$112,623.15
Change in Fund Equity	\$ 35,821.50	

RECONCILIATION OF CASH

Cash on Hand January 1, 2003		\$112,710.02
Cash Receipts 2003	\$218,757.12	
Reserve Fund Interest	<u>631.08</u>	
 TOTAL		 <u>219,388.20</u> \$332,098.22
 Due General Fund		 33,456.90
Cash Disbursements 2003		<u>236,357.30</u>
 CASH ON HAND DECEMBER 31, 2003		 \$ 62,284.02
 Chittenden Checking	 \$ 61,968.89	
Chittenden Reserve Fund	<u>315.13</u>	
TOTAL		 \$ 62,284.02

**2004 BUDGET
SEWER DEPARTMENT**

		2002 Receipts	2003 Budget	2003 Receipts	2004 Budget
REVENUES					
04-311-01	Sewer Rents	\$ 122,211.13	\$ 121,000.00	\$ 195,281.04	\$ 200,000.00
04-311-02	Delinquent Rents	13,026.34	15,300.00	20,324.21	15,000.00
04-311-03	Penalty & Interest	1,522.25	2,300.00	2,478.42	3,000.00
04-311-04	New Connections	2,608.21	2,500.00	0.00	3,000.00
04-311-07	Interest	709.45	1,200.00	625.13	1,200.00
04-311-09	Other Income	130.00	0.00	48.32	0.00
04-311-10	Reserves	0.00	6,500.00	0.00	0.00
04-311-12	Bond Antic. Note	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL	\$ 190,207.38	\$ 148,800.00	\$ 218,757.12	\$ 222,200.00

		2002 Expended	2003 Budget	2003 Expended	2004 Budget
EXPENDITURES					
04-411-10	Labor	\$ 44,122.50	\$ 44,500.00	\$ 44,577.00	\$ 61,500.00
04-411-15	Fringe Benefits	18,413.63	18,000.00	7,754.17	15,000.00
04-411-23	Tools	145.46	500.00	229.98	1,400.00
04-411-24	Lab. Equipment	1,312.25	500.00	570.25	500.00
04-411-25	Plant Maintenance	2,208.01	2,000.00	466.16	2,000.00
04-411-26	UV Disinfection	784.94	1,500.00	1,257.50	1,500.00
04-411-28	Sludge Disposal	44,540.00	45,000.00	51,705.00	45,000.00
04-411-29	Chemicals	2,890.10	2,500.00	2,224.02	2,500.00
04-411-35	Training	255.00	200.00	63.00	200.00
04-411-32	Pump Stations	387.18	500.00	307.50	3,000.00
04-411-36	Collection System	6,786.82	7,000.00	5,975.43	7,000.00
04-411-37	Contracted Serv.	1,956.86	2,000.00	2,031.25	2,000.00
04-411-38	Engineering	879.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
04-411-39	Testing	2,018.00	2,000.00	1,911.00	2,000.00
04-411-45	Flood Insurance	1,053.00	1,500.00	1,038.00	1,500.00
04-411-48	Computer	1,825.84	0.00	1,053.63	1,000.00
04-411-60	Service Charge	842.80	1,000.00	1,233.23	1,000.00
04-411-61	State Fees	266.00	300.00	334.75	300.00
04-411-68	Vehicle Maint.	37.97	500.00	1,414.82	500.00
04-411-76	Utilities	19,834.00	18,300.00	20,353.59	19,000.00
04-411-79	Unclassified	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00
04-411-80	Capital Expense	114,282.14	0.00	0.00	20,000.00
04-411-90	Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
04-411-91	Bond Interest	3,589.99	0.00	1,613.33	0.00
04-411-95	Reserves	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	30,300.00
	TOTAL	\$ 268,431.49	\$ 148,800.00	\$ 146,138.61	\$ 217,200.00

PLANT UPGRADE

04-420-32	Pump Stations	\$ 80,896.69		\$ 0.00
04-420-36	Collection System	0.00		76,224.99
04-420-38	Engineering	23,256.10		22,642.00
04-420-39	Testing	0.00		272.00
04-420-56	Legal Expenses	129.35		1,405.62
	TOTAL	\$ 104,282.14		\$ 100,544.61
	Total Operating and Capital Improvement			\$ 246,683.22

CHESTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Balance January 1, 2003	\$187,015.10	
Deposits	92,657.73	
Interest Income	<u>2,078.94</u>	
TOTAL		\$281,751.77
Notes Receivable		<u>49,469.15</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE		\$331,220.92

GRAFTON STREET BRIDGE FUND

Balance January 1, 2003	\$ 1,070.01
Reimbursement for one-half audit costs	26,261.44
Interest Income	<u>24.61</u>
Balance December 31, 2003	\$ 27,356.06

BRIDGE FUND

Balance January 1, 2003	\$191,626.79	
Interest Income	<u>1,542.84</u>	
TOTAL		\$193,169.63
Disbursement to General Fund		59,607.00
Due from General Fund		<u>20,000.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2003		\$153,562.63

**EQUIPMENT INVENTORY
DECEMBER 31, 2003**

	Cost	Purchase	Replace
Air Compressor (Highway)	\$ 7,073.01	1981	
Air Compressor (Fire)	7,260.56	1990	
Ambulance - Ford E-450	89,822.00	1998	2020
Backhoe Loader - John Deere 410D	104,310.00	1996	2008
Chipper - Bandit	16,500.00	1996	2020
Excavator - Caterpillar E120B	55,000.00	1990	2005
Fire Truck - Ford (1992)	141,872.00	1991	2010
Fire Truck - Ford Pumper L9513 (1997)	160,318.80	1996	2016
Loader - John Deere 544H	115,371.00	1997	2007
Loader - Caterpillar 928G (2003)	88,873.00	2003	2013
Pick-Up - Ford F250 (2002) (Highway)	25,905.00	2002	2006
Pick-Up - Ford F250 XL 4x2 (Water)	22,485.00	1999	2009
Police Cruiser - Ford Explorer (2001)	24,552.00	2001	2003
Police Cruiser - Ford Expedition (2004)	25,169.12	2003	2006
Road Grader - John Deere 770CH (2002)	120,900.00	2002	2012
Sidewalk Plow - MT5 Trackless	60,000.00	1999	2009
Trailer - Rogers	10,730.00	1995	2020
Trailer - Karavan	3,332.00	1998	2023
Truck 1 Ton Utility- Ford - F350 (Fire)	19,619.00	1990	2005
Truck 1 Ton Dump - Ford F350 (Cemetery)	42,659.00	1996	
Truck (Flatbed) - Ford F350	20,000.00	1994	2004
Truck (Dump) - Sterling L7500 (2000)	75,334.00	1999	2004
Truck (Dump) - Sterling L7500 (2001)	73,100.00	2000	2005
Truck (Dump) - Sterling L7500 (2002)	73,516.00	2001	2006
Truck (Dump) - Sterling L7500 (2003)	59,551.00	2002	2007
Truck (Dump) - Sterling LT9500 (2004)	67,060.00	2003	2008
York Rake	5,000.00	2000	2030

REAPPRAISAL FUND

Balance January 1, 2003	\$ 68,269.93
Deposits	28,237.00
Interest Income	677.75
Balance December 31, 2003	<u>\$ 97,184.68</u>

EQUIPMENT FUND

Balance January 1, 2003	\$ 60,340.94
Interest Income	592.70
Received from General Fund	45,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$105,933.64</u>

Purchase of Loader 88,872.00

Bank Balance	\$ 17,061.64
Due from General Fund	45,000.00
Fund Balance December 31, 2003	<u>\$ 62,061.64</u>

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT FUND

Balance January 1, 2003	\$100,564.99
Interest Income	869.18
Due from General Fund	20,000.00
Balance December 31, 2003	<u>\$121,434.17</u>

TOWN OF CHESTER LAND AND BUILDING ASSETS

DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	VALUATION
Adams Family Aquifer	30.53	\$ 36,000
Library building	0.43	629,700
Historical Society building	3.86	347,100
Town Hall	0.41	287,200
Wiley land, Cobleigh Street	3.00	40,200
Wastewater Treatment Plant	11.35	354,200
Colbeth land, Grafton Street	0.12	3,500
Quimby lot, School Street	1.10	11,000
Dodge land	9.08	32,400
Cemetery, North Street	5.74	59,500
Town Garage	6.12	361,100
Hadley land	14.10	32,600
Peck land, Reservoir Road	4.00	26,500
Henry land, old Salt Shed	0.63	17,200
Water Tank site (GMUHS)	1.00	9,000
Pinnacle Recreation area	37.28	142,800
Well site, Canal Street	3.00	42,400
Flamstead Acres, Lot 45	0.11	7,500
Field, vic. North Street Bridge	0.50	6,000
Cemetery, Spoonerville Road	0.28	7,600
Well site, Jeffrey Well, Route 103	17.00	49,100
Cemetery, Pleasant View	8.90	24,200
The Green, Main Street	1.50	47,400
Cemetery, Brookside, Main Street	3.80	259,000
Cemetery, Poplar Grove, Popple Dungeon	0.42	6,700
Park, Depot Street	0.55	27,300
Weatherby Farm, Reservoir Road	40.00	54,000
Perry/Pierce land Reservoir Road	501.35	527,200
Bouchard land, Smokeshire Road	0.12	8,100
Cemetery, Smokeshire Road	0.49	6,300
Cemetery, West Chester	1.00	10,400

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Officers of the Chester Police Department responded to more than 1,640 calls for service in 2003. Of those 1,640 complaints, officers made 73 arrests for some of the following crimes:

DWI	12	Unlawful Trespass	1
Assault	7	Domestic Assault	9
Disorderly Conduct	4	Reckless Endangerment	1
Larceny	5	Disturbing Peace by Phone	1
Forgery	1	Obstruction of Justice	1
Loaded Gun in Vehicle	1	Fugitive fom Justice	3
Burglary	4	Driving, License Suspended	2
Violation Cond. of Release	7	Leaving Accident Scene	2
Possession of Drugs	8	Accidents	117
Minor Possessing Alcohol	3	Fatal Accident	1
Furnishing Alcohol to Minor	1		

The Department gained one new face, Officer Michael Gilderdale who comes to us with three years of experience from the Springfield Police Department. Officer Matthew Wilson completed his training with sixteen weeks at the Vermont Police Academy.

In 2003, the Chester Police Department was awarded more than \$16,000 in grants. This money was utilized to outfit both cruisers with new radios, which will improve communication with both the Chester Fire Department and Chester Ambulance Service, and Trauma/02 kits and Automatic External Defibrillators. Our officers respond to assist at all calls involving the Chester Ambulance Service, sometimes arriving at the scene minutes before the ambulance, and sometimes minutes can save lives.

As you know, it is our job in the emergency services profession to help the community whether it is the Fire Department, Ambulance, or the Police Department. We also know that time can be a major factor so please help us help you. Please make certain your E-911 house number is located where it can be seen so when time is of the essence, we are not taking valuable time to find you!

I would like to thank the members of the Chester Police Department and the community for an enjoyable transition into the Chief's position.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard H. Cloud
Chief of Police

DRUG FORFEITURE FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES
Year Ending December 31, 2003

REVENUES:

Interest Chittenden Bank	\$ 324.35	
Revenues	64,192.31	
Accounts Receivable	<u>7,246.76</u>	
TOTAL		\$ 71,763.42

EXPENDITURES:

Transfer of 2002 Expenses to General Fund	\$ 8,068.18	
02-421-10 Payroll	25,224.76	
02-421-15 Fringe Benefits	8,528.67	
02-421-20 Supplies	1,460.53	
02-421-23 Equipment	16,145.20	
02-421-25 K-9	4,416.49	
02-421-30 Special Investigations	0.00	
02-421-34 Telephone	0.00	
02-421-36 Training	441.00	
02-421-68 Vehicle Maintenance	834.72	
02-421-75 Uniforms	<u>591.85</u>	
TOTAL		\$ 65,711.40

DRUG FORFEITURE
RECONCILIATION OF CASH
Year Ending December 31, 2003

Cash on Hand January 1, 2003	\$148,739.17	
Receipts	66,437.01	
Disbursements	<u>65,711.40</u>	
		\$149,464.78
Chittenden	\$ 19,213.51	
Stratevest	77.48	
Certificate of Deposit	<u>130,173.79</u>	
TOTAL		\$149,464.78

LLEG BLOCK GRANTS

Cash on Hand January 1, 2003		\$ 21,078.42
Revenues		
Grant Funds	\$ 5,216.00	
Interest Income	<u>1,215.15</u>	
		<u>\$ 6,431.15</u>
		\$ 27,509.57
Disbursements		<u>\$ 22,264.68</u>
Cash on Hand December 31, 2003		\$ 5,244.89

REPORT OF THE CHESTER AMBULANCE SERVICE

During the twelve-month period from November 1, 2002, through October 31, 2003, the Ambulance Service was asked to respond 225 times with 186 patients being transported as a result. These incidents include the following types of emergencies:

- 139 Medical
- 38 Trauma
- 37 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 5 Transfers
- 3 Public Assists
- 3 Stand-By for Fire Scenes, Mutual Aid Coverage, etc.

At this time, we have 19 members with a range of certification levels: 13 Emergency Medical Technicians (7 at the Basic level and 6 at the Intermediate level), 3 First Responder/ECAs and 3 trainees. These numbers should change slightly by mid-2004 as one of our EMTs is currently enrolled in an Intermediate course and two of our trainees are enrolled in an EMT course. We wish each of them all the best in their pursuit of higher training.

Early 2004 will mark my 15th year of being involved in EMS and I have seen many changes evolve during this time. The coming year will prove to be no different as all of our EMT-I personnel will need to take transition courses in order to learn new procedures that have been approved for that level. Another major change is Defibrillation. Years ago, only an EMT-Intermediate could advance with special training to administer this procedure. Now, as a result of statistics and technology, a simple first aid course is enough and defib units are being placed in areas for public access. One major change in technology is the advancement of biphasics. Defibrillation units now have the capability to automatically adjust power levels according to the body's natural resistance (for instance, a 300-pound adult male would have a higher resistance than a 90-pound geriatric female). Although defibrillation at set power levels has been proved for the immediate potential to save lives and should not be discarded, biphasic units have also been proved to save lives with fewer adverse, long-term effects.

In 2004, we are asking the taxpayers of Chester to approve a capital expense of \$8,500.00 toward the purchase of a biphasic defibrillator. The total investment cost of this unit will be approximately \$11,000.00 with the Chester Volunteer Rescue Squad paying the difference. There are less expensive models on the market, but those units are aimed at use by the general public, and we feel that the limited options would not suit our level of training.

We would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager and her office staff, Police, Fire and Highway Departments, and all taxpayers of the Towns of Chester and Andover. We would also like to thank the Chester Volunteer Rescue Squad, Yosemite Engine Company, and all individuals that have graciously donated to our cause. Your support enables us to perform at our current level of pre-hospital care.

I would also like to personally thank the following active members of our service for their continued dedication.

Jeff Holden	Laurie Cloud	Joyce Hill
Eric Richardson	Candi Cook	Steve Mancuso
Mary Ann Bonneville	Mike Pelkey	Deb Albert
Mary Wilson	Ken Markwell	Mark Phelps
Linda Carroll	Deb Aldrich	Damien Diette
	Trish Hunsdon	

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel J. Cook, Coordinator

REPORT OF THE CHESTER VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC.

The members of the Chester Volunteer Rescue Squad (CVRS) would like to thank the community for its continued support. The purpose of the Rescue Squad is to help the Chester Ambulance Service serve the public to the best of its ability. All Rescue Squad fund raisers and donations are used to help defray the cost of the Chester Ambulance Service by assisting in paying for equipment, education programs, and member training.

We try to promote the safety of the community through participation in the Safety Fair, supplying discounted bicycle helmets. We support the Ambulance Service at the Sale on the Green by providing safety and health awareness materials and being available to take blood pressures.

This year, due to the generous donations, the Rescue Squad was able to help purchase much needed uniforms. The uniforms are for occasions such as parades, public presentations, or events.

We have several goals in mind to help support and maintain the quality community service that the Chester Ambulance Service provides such as a new emergency services building. This is definitely a long-term goal that is in the very early stages but one that is very much needed.

Information on the Rescue Squad can be found on the Chester Ambulance Service Web Page at www.chesterambulanceservice.org.

In closing, we would like to thank the citizens of Chester and Andover for their support and the Chester Police and Fire Departments for their assistance over last year. We look forward to a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Albert, President
Chester Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.
P. O. Box 913,
Chester, VT 05143

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The year 2003 was an average year for the Chester Zoning Officer. One hundred and nine applications were received by the Zoning Administrator which was nearly a duplicate of the previous year. Fourteen of the applications were forwarded to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for review. Several violations of the Zoning Regulations were detected and in most instances, corrected by the property owner. Several are still under consideration.

The applications were:

22 New Homes	12 Garages
7 Signs	20 Sheds or Barns
7 Changes of Use	1 Fence/Pool
35 Additions	5 Miscellaneous

Respectfully submitted,
Cecil H. Waldo
Administrative Officer

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

In 2003, the Planning Commission considered two (2) applications for subdivisions totaling four (4) lots of less than twenty (20) acres. The Planning Commission also reviewed two (2) Site Plan applications; one for a Membership Club House and one for a Quarry. Both were approved with conditions. They also reviewed three Boundary Line Adjustments.

The Planning Commission spent many hours working on amendments to the Chester Town Plan. With the assistance of the Regional Planning Commission, they completed the review and passed the new Plan onto the Chester Board of Selectmen in the early fall. It was adopted by them and has now received certification as an approved Plan enabling Chester to apply for and receive grant money from the State and Federal governments.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Bock, Chairman
Harry Goodell
Clair Hesselton
Naomi Johnson
Scott Wunderle

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT REPORT

In 2003, the Zoning Board of Adjustment scheduled fourteen (14) hearings:

3 Variances - 3 approved
2 Amendments to previous permits
9 Conditional Use Applications--7 approved with 2 being withdrawn at the time of the hearing

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce McEnaney, Chairman
Christopher Curran
Robert McIntyre
Richard Rommer
Patricia Saul
Paul Dexter, Alternate

REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF

The Chester Fire Department responded to the following calls in 2003:

Chimney fire	8
Mutual aid to other towns	15
Motor vehicle fire	6
Motor vehicle accident	23
Structure fire	4
False alarm	6
Power lines down	7
Good intent call	9
Illegal burns (brush/trash)	8
Carbon monoxide investigation	5
Grass/brush fire	3
Odor/smoke investigation	6
Appliance fire	1
Fuel leak	2
Assist Police Department	1
Assist Highway Department	1
Assist Chester Ambulance	2
Dumpster fire	1
Forest fire	1
Snowmobile accident	<u>2</u>
TOTAL CALLS	111

I wish to thank the men and women of the Chester Fire Department and young men and women of the Chester Fire Explorer Post #206 for their dedication and support this past year and for their great efforts to protect life and property. I would also like to thank the Chester Police Department, the Chester Highway Crew, and the Chester Ambulance Service for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry Goodell
Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE YOSEMITE ENGINE COMPANY

The Yosemite Engine Company has had a successful year in fund raising. The wood raffle, filling pools for local residents, and year-end Christmas tree sale on Mr. Record's land were our traditional fund raisers. Several donations from organizations and local Chester citizens also brought in funds. The Yosemite Engine Company has taken these profits and set up a special fund. That fund's purpose is for future Chester Fire Department purchases. The members would like to thank all of those who have helped us out during the past year through the use of land or equipment or purchasing raffle tickets and Christmas trees. The members of the Yosemite Engine Company would like to thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert "Red" MacAllister, Secretary

REPORT OF THE CHESTER FIRE EXPLORER POST #206

The Chester Fire Explorer Post #206 had ten Explorers, three of which graduated to the Fire Department in the past year. We received new turnout gear as a donation from the West Weathersfield Fire Department. During the summer, we had a couple of car washes for a fund raiser. We designed a calendar for a fund raiser which has photographs of the Explorers in training, at calls, and fund raisers. We would like to thank everyone who has continued to support us through the years.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Forney, Captain

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

The Town of Chester issued 280 burn permits during 2003. People no longer have to come into the office to get a permit, they are allowed to call them in. While it is legal to burn during the winter when there is snow on the ground without a permit, I ask that you call so if the Fire Department is called with a report of smoke they can determine whether or not it is a permitted burn rather than rolling all the trucks.

During the weekdays you may call the office at 875-2173. During the weekends I may be contacted at 875-2714.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan S. Spaulding
Fire Warden

REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

Greetings from the Chester Health Officer. Once again, I hope everyone had a safe and healthy year. This year the big topic in health care was the smallpox vaccine. Smallpox is a virus called variola and is spread by close contact. The last naturally acquired smallpox was 1977. At the present time, the CDC is not recommending this vaccine for the general public. It is thought that terrorists or governments hostile to the United States could use the smallpox virus as a biological weapon. The smallpox vaccine can protect health care response teams and other first responders. At the present time, the CDC is still trying to decide what further work needs to be done in this area.

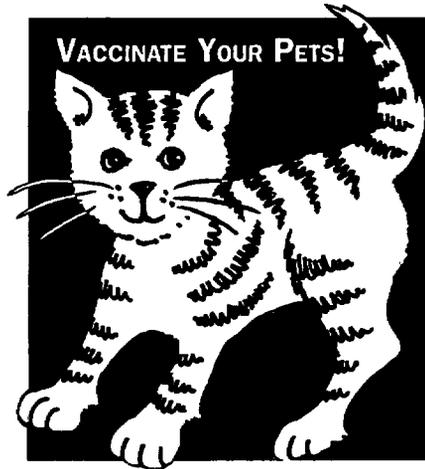
The other topic this year concerns childhood lead poisoning. Lead was used in house paint before it was banned in 1978. Chipped and peeling paint dust is created by opening and closing lead-painted windows, or while repairs and renovations are occurring. The dust gets on the toys, which then may be placed in the mouth, or the dust on fingers also going into a child's mouth. All children between the ages of one and two should be tested as there are no apparent symptoms.

Good news from our State! We have one of the highest rates of childhood immunization and the lowest rates of teen pregnancy! We exceed National goals for breast and cervical cancer screening. We should be proud of these accomplishments! Also, through our State's substance abuse prevention programs (TOLIV!), we are increasing the number of young people who choose not to smoke or take drugs! Keep up the good work; prevention is always the best medicine!

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie M. Thorsen, RN BBA
Chester Town Health Officer

RABIES ALERT

Rabies is a disease that can kill animals and people.



- * Vermont law requires rabies shots for all CATS and DOGS.
- * Rabies shots help protect pets and pet owners from rabies.
- * Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance. Remember, rabid animals have been found in all Vermont counties.



Questions? Call the Vermont Rabies Hotline
1-800-4-RABIES (472-2437)

Vermont Department of Health • Health Surveillance Division
P.O. Box 70, Burlington, VT 05402 • 863-7240 or 1-800-640-4374

2004 DOG AND CAT RABIES CLINICS

Athens - Sat., March 6, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Old School House - \$6

Chester - Sat., March 13, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Town Garage - \$6
Dog Licenses available for Chester residents only

Bellows Falls - Sat., March 20, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Village Garage
next to Playground - \$6

Rockingham - Sat., March 27, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Rockingham Vet.
Clinic, Lower Bartonsville Road - \$6

**Reminder to renew dog licenses by April 1
(Neutered: \$5; Non-Neutered: \$9)**

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY SEXTON

The Cemetery Department maintains seven cemeteries (three in Village area, four outside), the Village Green, the Town Garage lawn, Memorial Field, the Library lawn, the Pinnacle Recreation Area, and several small areas for a total of approximately 32 acres to be mowed. Village cemeteries are mowed on a two-week rotation and other areas in the Village are mowed weekly. The four outside cemeteries are mowed monthly.

The following activities took place in the Town cemeteries during 2003:

	<u>Brookside</u>	<u>North St.</u>	<u>Pleasant View</u>	<u>Outside Cemeteries</u>
Lots/Grave Spaces Sold	4	7	7	2
Monument Bases/ Foundations Installed	2	4	10	1
Cornerstone Sets Purchased/ Installed	2	3	4	1
Military Markers Placed	0	0	2	0
Burials	1	4	16	0

The Cemetery Sexton is a member of the Vermont Cemetery Association, an organization dedicated to excellence in the care and administration of cemeteries in the State of Vermont. The Sexton also belongs to the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, an organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Vermont's historic cemeteries.

Cemetery Rules and Regulations were revised in 2003 and rates were also revised at that time.

As a reminder to owners of lots in Chester cemeteries, please remove summer seasonal arrangements from lots by October 31 and fall/winter seasonal arrangements by April 15. Also, the planting of trees and shrubs is not allowed in cemetery lots.

I would like to thank everyone involved with Chester cemeteries for their help and encouragement in working with me during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth Barrett
Cemetery Sexton

LISTERS' REPORT

The year 2003 was very busy for the Listers. There have been many new homes along with outbuildings that have been built. Chester is growing and market values have almost doubled on some properties. The Listers are now hearing that Chester is becoming unaffordable for some people, and they are looking in other areas such as Springfield. The Tax Department indicated that Chester would probably receive a letter from the State to start the process toward reappraisal. Since we are aware that all the firms handling town-wide reappraisals are busy for the next three to four years, it may be a while before we can actually start. As the process evolves, the Listers will keep the public informed.

This year, the Legislature passed a law, Act 68, a revision of Act 60, the Educational Funding Law. Next year, there will be two tax rates, one for residential properties and one for nonresidential properties. Every resident who owns and occupies property will have to file an HS-131 form to declare a homestead. You do not need to file if you own only commercial property, a vacation home, or a second home. The law says you have to file this form and those who do not will have to pay a penalty. This homestead declaration determines which school property tax rate is applied to your property. You have to file in order to receive the correct tax rate. You should file as soon as possible but no later than April 15, 2004. You can send the form separately from your taxes and even if you pass the due date of April 15, you must still file anyway and you will be subject to penalties and interest. This form will be mailed in December 2003 and they should be available at the Town Office.

Also during 2003, legislation was passed that exempted farm buildings enrolled in the Current Use Program from taxation. There are presently 121 properties enrolled in the Town of Chester, four of which had farm buildings that were eligible. This brought the total enrollment for parcels and buildings to \$8,585,800. Of the 35,648 acres that makes up the Town of Chester, 13,427 or 38 percent are enrolled in Current Use. A summary of the State of Vermont Department of Taxes Land Use Report follows:

Enrolled Land Value	\$8,585,800
Take away the Use Value amount	1,432,255
Equals	7,153,545
Plus farm buildings (100% exempt)	541,175
Exempt reduction (amount to be made up by taxpayers)	7,694,720
76,947.2 times tax rate of \$2.76 equals	\$ 212,374
State reimbursement based on 2002 value	61,663
The difference is	150,711

One cent will raise \$18,903, so \$150,711 divided by \$18,903 equals 7.97 or 8 cents on the tax rate or \$80 on \$100,000 of valuation.

These figures are presented for the taxpayers' information to show the impact to our tax rate for this State-run program. With the growing concern over increased tax rates, it is important to realize that programs such as Land Use (8 cents), other exempted properties (2 cents), and additional articles at Town Meeting (11 cents for 2003) add significantly to the tax rate.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda C. Purdy, Chairman
George C. Cook
Donald W. Robinson

REPORT OF THE RECREATION DIRECTOR

My initial charge as the new Director of Recreation for the Town of Chester was to evaluate the current facilities.

The first facility evaluated was the skate board park. It was in need of extensive repair. The ramps needed resurfacing, and the structures needed to be repaired and repainted. Much of the material and labor for the actual resurfacing were donated by people who were fulfilling community service obligations. The remainder was taken from the Recreation Department operating budget. We used volunteers to help repaint the structures themselves, most of whom were the teenagers who use the park. Their help was consistent and very much appreciated.

My short-term goal is to add some additional ramps this coming season, and to organize some competitions for this summer.

Since the resurfacing and rehab, the use of the park by Chester youth increased dramatically. At any given time, 15-25 kids could be seen using the facilities instead of frequenting unauthorized areas around town.

The second area addressed was the use of the Snack Bar. The unit, owned by the Chester Rotary, was open seven days a week at the Pinnacle. We were able to hire local teenagers as a summer job to man the Snack Bar. Snacks, ice cream, drinks, and hot lunches were served daily. The Snack Bar was located next to the tennis courts, utilizing the power supply, and thereby serviced the skateboard park, the tennis courts, ballfields, and the swimming pool. The overwhelming use of this service allowed it to be completely self funded.

The next facility evaluated was the swimming pool. Our first concern was the lack of shaded areas for the swimmers and families. We purchased and installed three large umbrellas to immediately address this situation. A new electrical service was installed in the pump house to bring the facility up to State electrical codes.

The next area involves the programs themselves. The Chester Department of Recreation sponsors a variety of summer programs. Theatre, basketball, soccer, and golf camps, and swimming lessons all saw an increase in enrollment. The theatre camp was new this year, and this free program was very well received. I would like to thank our school administrators and their staffs for the generous use of their facilities.

I have several goals for upcoming years. The largest project we are facing is the renovation of our town pool; structurally, the exterior walls are fractured and must be rebuilt. Another goal involves improvement of the recreation area itself. I would like to see the building of a pavilion to provide a covered area for picnics and cookouts, and a stage and seating area created on the hill so that we can sponsor outdoor concerts and events.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen W. Nelligan
Director of Recreation

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT REPORT

In July 2007, the Waste Disposal Contract between the member towns of the Solid Waste District and Wheelabrator-Claremont (operator of the incinerator) will expire. It will be important over the next year to make decisions regarding the following:

1. Whether the New Hampshire-Vermont Solid Waste District should continue to operate jointly and negotiate a new waste disposal agreement with Wheelabrator.
2. Whether the two Solid Waste Districts which comprise the joint project (Sullivan County Regional Refuse Disposal District and Southern Windsor-Windham Counties Waste Management District) should independently address their own solid waste disposal issues; and
3. Whether we wish to remain in the current Solid Waste District.

Any Chester resident who is interested in the disposal of solid waste is welcome to attend meetings (they are public) or call Bruce McEnaney (your representative by appointment of the Select Board) at 875-4771.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce McEnaney, Chester Representative
VT/NH Solid Waste Project

**STATEMENT OF TRUST FUNDS
HELD BY TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003**

Investments	Market Value
Investment Income - 2003	\$ 3,807.24*
Short-Term Investments	6,911.64
Mutual Funds: Fixed Income	189,862.34
Equity	<u>250,982.90</u>
TOTAL	\$451,564.12

*\$3,807.24 to be disbursed January 2004

**TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
PAYABLES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003**

Due Town of Chester:	\$ 3,124.57
Due Chester Town School District:	
Abbie Ingalls School Fund	7.61
Due Chester Schools:	
Williams School Fund	582.51
Ojanen Latin Fund	5.37
Due Whiting Library:	
Holden Fund	<u>87.19</u>
TOTAL	\$ 3,807.24

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The Statements of Trust Funds, Payables, and Summary of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended December 31, 2003, for the Trustees of Public Funds have been prepared from the report of Chittenden Investment Services.

Respectfully submitted,
Erron J. Carey
George C. Cook

**TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
2003**

Funds	Receipts		Income Disbursements		Principal Invested
	Income	Principal	To Town	To Schools	
Cemetery Fund	\$ 1,206.90	\$ 1,950.00*	\$ 1,206.90	\$	\$ 1,950.00
Campbell for Poor	98.99		98.99		
Samuel Adams Cemetery	0.30		0.30		
Howe-Peabody	571.09		571.09		
Fullerton Cemetery	4.99		4.99		
Samuel Adams Poor	309.53		309.53		
Salter Poor Fund	7.61		7.61		
Cyprus Minerals	925.16		925.16		
Abbie Ingalls School	7.61			7.61	
Williams School Fund	582.51			582.51	
Ojanen Latin	5.37			5.37	
Holden Library	87.19				87.19
Capital Gains Distributions					
TOTAL	<u>\$ 3,807.24</u>	<u>\$ 1,538.95</u>	<u>\$ 3,124.57</u>	<u>\$ 595.49</u>	<u>\$ 1,538.95</u>
		<u>\$ 3,488.95</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 87.19</u>	<u>\$ 3,488.95</u>

*From Individuals - Perpetual Care

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

Once again our Boards had a quick year.

In our responsibility for the conduct of elections, the Board of Civil Authority did the triennial updating of the Voter Eligibility Lists. (This has long been called "purging"—but we now use a politer word: "cleansing.") As a result, 48 names of voters known to have died or left town were removed from the list, and another 166 will be removed late this autumn if they do not notify us that they are still here; these people were sent letters but the Post Office found them undeliverable. The year saw 115 new additions to the List, and 31 deletions were made on the voters' initiatives.

Only one case of an appeal from the Board's review of a tax assessment went to the State level.

At the local level, only two appeals from the Listers' assessments were filed. One of those appeals was withdrawn just before it was to be acted upon. The other resulted in the assessment being approved but being charged to a different owner.

The Board of Tax Abatement dealt with six cases: one simply corrected an error of omission of a credit, one concerned a property torn down, three came from losses due to fires, and one stemmed from the removal of a property from Town.

Our workload was made still lighter once again by the efficiency and courtesy of the staff in Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
John R. Coleman, Chairman
Board of Civil Authority
and Board of Tax Abatement

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

YEAR	WARRANT RECEIVED	TAXES COLLECTED	TAXES ABATED	B.C.A. ADJ.	BALANCE DUE	INTEREST DUE	PENALTY DUE
1996	\$ 283.48	\$ 283.48	\$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
1997	194.07	194.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1998	3,659.40	2,015.79	0.00	0.00	1,643.61	1,553.21	131.49
1999	7,732.04	4,179.55	0.00	0.00	3,552.49	2,717.50	284.18
2000	33,696.01	23,045.27	0.00	0.00	10,650.74	6,230.69	852.03
2001	89,003.60	65,067.52	0.00	0.00	23,936.08	9,694.09	1,914.88
2002	195,284.69	135,375.98	0.00	0.00	59,908.71	13,479.48	4,792.69
2003	<u>335,090.99</u>	<u>146,156.35</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>188,934.64</u>	<u>8,525.49</u>	<u>15,102.00</u>
	\$664,944.28	\$376,318.01	\$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$288,626.27	\$42,200.46	\$23,077.27

PROCEDURES FOR TAX SALE

A Tax Sale is a remedy available to a municipality to ensure collection of its local property tax. The right to sell real estate to satisfy taxes is a wholly statutory right. The first step is to have the Tax Collector "extend" his Warrant on the property in question.

The next step is to advertise such property for sale at public auction, both publicly on the Notice Board and in a local newspaper, as well as Notices of Tax Sale sent directly to the property owner by registered mail. All mortgage and lien holders are sent the same notice.

After three successive weeks of advertising, and at least ten days from the last advertisement, the property is sold at public auction if the taxes remain unpaid. The owner of a property may redeem the property within one year by paying to the Tax Collector the tax due, together with 1% interest per month plus all associated charges. The Tax Collector then returns the funds to the purchaser and releases the property from the Tax Sale Lien.

When the time for redemption (i.e.: one year) has passed, and the property has not been redeemed, the Tax Collector will execute and deliver to the purchaser a Quit Claim Deed.

The Town of Chester may become the purchaser at a Tax Sale, if a bid equal to the tax and costs is not made at such Sale. Property so acquired may be held, leased, sold and conveyed like other real estate belonging to the Town of Chester. The redemption period of one year also applies to the Town.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To the Voters of Chester:

SIZE OF THE WINDSOR SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION

As of July 1, 2003, the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union consisted of the following 11 school boards:

SCHOOL BOARDS	DIRECTORS	VOTES
Andover	3	1
Baltimore	3	1
Cavendish	5	3
Chester	3	1
Landgrove	3	1
Londonderry	3	1
Peru	3	1
Weston	3	1
Chester-Andover Elementary School	5	3
Flood Brook Union School	8	3
Green Mountain Union High School	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	46	19

The Chester Board of School Directors has representation on the Supervisory Union Board in accordance with Vermont Statutes.

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS AND PROGRAMS

Please see the Chester-Andover and Green Mountain Annual Reports.

ENROLLMENT

The following is the grade enrollment for your Town School District of students attending Chester-Andover Elementary School and Green Mountain Union High School as of October 12, 2003:

<u>GRADES</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Ungraded</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	28	30	31	27	42	44	49	48	47	58	36	36	38	1	515

Chester has 15 students tuitioned to other schools.

Chester pupils transported: 504

CONTINUED COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

During the past year, agendas of the School Board meetings have been sent to the local papers prior to the meetings. The Chester-Andover Elementary School Board meets the first and third Mondays of each month. Green Mountain Union High

School Board meets the first and third Thursdays of each month. The public is invited to all meetings. Each month, a list of activities which will take place in the schools is publicized in the area newspapers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education Programs, supported in part by Federal and State funds, provide essential instructional and related services to eligible students with special needs such as those with a specific learning disability, an orthopedic handicap, a speech or hearing impairment, or other handicapping condition. After a formal evaluation is completed and determines that a student is eligible for special education services under Federal and State law, an Individual Education Program (IEP) is developed for the student to address those special needs that cannot be met through the regular education program alone.

For further specific information related to curriculum programs, school finance, and other school items, please see the Chester-Andover Elementary School and Green Mountain Union High School Annual Reports.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Chester for their continued support and understanding of education.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward J. Brown
Superintendent

**CHESTER TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
RECONCILIATION OF CASH
JUNE 30, 2003**

Cash on Hand July 1, 2002	\$	306.72
Add Cash Receipts for year		<u>4,761,985.28</u>
TOTAL		\$4,762,292.00
Deduct Cash Disbursements for year		<u>\$4,951,847.00</u>
Excess Revenues over Expenditures		(\$ 189,555.00)

**CHESTER TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2003**

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 317,896.00	
Accounts Receivable	<u>8,825.00</u>	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 326,721.00

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 55,157.00	
Loan Payable	<u>650,000.00</u>	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 705,157.00

EQUITY

Undesignated Fund Balance	(<u>\$ 378,436.00</u>)	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		\$ 326,721.00

**CHESTER TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
 COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
 YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003**

REVENUES

State Treasurer	\$ 946,686.00
Town Treasurer	3,300,003.00
Leased Land Rents	60.00
Bank Interest	588.00
Abbie Ingalls Fund	12.00
Williams Fund	982.00
Miscellaneous Reimbursements	10.00
Special Education	<u>508,650.00</u>
 TOTAL RECEIPTS	 \$4,762,292.00

EXPENDITURES

Bank Service Charges	\$ 182.00
Loan Payments	11,536.00
Williams Fund	983.00
CAES Assessment	1,701,224.00
GMUHS Assessment	2,156,306.00
School Directors	75.00
School Clerk/Treasurer	500.00
Auditor-Sherman, Inc.	4,050.00
Supervisory Union Assessment	160,916.00
Special Education	850,595.00
Vocational Education	<u>65,480.00</u>
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	 \$4,951,847.00

Reconciliation of Cash June 30, 2003

Total Receipts	\$4,762,292.00
Total Expenditures	<u>4,951,847.00</u>
	(\$ 189,555.00)

CHESTER TOWN DISTRICT SCHOOL BUDGET

EXPENDITURES

	Fiscal Year 2003-2004	Fiscal Year 2004-2005
GMUHS Assessment		
Regular	\$1,898,481	\$2,082,248
Special Education	167,402	143,730
Transportation	179,516	180,658
Bond	26,519	26,470
Track Assessment	34,203	0
CAES Assessment		
Regular	1,535,926	1,588,893
Special Education	165,520	162,720
Transportation	61,733	66,998
Bond	20,236	15,213
Special Education		
Mainstream Block Grant	145,863	146,512
Bill Back	419,029	685,195
EEE	55,610	60,000
ESL and Other Instructional Services	30,000	30,000
Supervisory Union Assessment	165,830	184,725
Bank Charges	100	11,000
School Directors	75	75
Clerk Treasurer	500	500
Technical Center	47,456	132,232
Audit Fee	<u>0</u>	<u>2,500</u>
TOTAL	\$4,953,999	\$5,519,669

REVENUES

Prior Year's Deficit	\$ (163,004)	\$ (250,000)
Abbie Ingalls Fund	60	60
Lease Land	60	60
Interest	5,000	5,000
Capital Debt Hold Harmless	594	0
Special Education	413,573	357,331
Block Grant	145,863	146,512
EEE	20,421	20,909
Transportation	105,402	116,600
Basic Education For Technical Ctr.	0	88,770
State Support Grant	\$2,900,658	0
Local Share From State	46,297	0
Local Share	<u>1,479,075</u>	0
Education Spending Revenue	<u>4,426,030</u>	<u>5,034,427</u>
TOTAL	\$4,953,999	\$5,519,669

PRELIMINARY **ACT 68 BUDGET** Three Prior Years Comparisons ESTIMATES ONLY

District: **Chester**
 County: **Windsor**

LEA: **047**
 S.U.: **Windsor Southwest**

Expenditures	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
Budget (local budget approved in prior years)	1,170,216	855,660	864,463	1,252,739
82% of base payment per FTE paid to tech centers by the State on behalf of the district in FY 2005	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
S.U. assessment (included in local budget)	133,197	133,685	165,830	184,725
Deficit (if included in local budget)	-	-	(163,004)	4*
+ Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years	63,088	75,141	-	not applicable
+ 1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	5.
+ 2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	6.
+ 3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	7.
- Act 144 Expenditures, (excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	8.
	-	-	-	9.
	-	-	-	10.
+ Union school or joint school district assessment	1,233,304	930,801	951,148	1,252,739
+ Deficit if not included in budget or revenues	3,725,892	3,897,200	4,089,536	4,266,930
+ Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)	4,959,196	4,828,001	5,040,684	5,519,669
	-	-	-	11.
	-	-	-	12.
	-	-	-	13.
	-	-	-	14.
	-	-	-	15.

Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-
Revenues				
+ Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)	834,514	617,667	527,375	396,472
+ Capital debt aid	595	705	-	17.
+ Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)	-	-	-	18.
- Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures	-	-	-	19.
- Act 144 revenues	835,109	618,372	527,375	396,472
	-	-	-	20.
- Fund raising (if any)	835,109	618,372	527,374	396,471
	-	-	-	22.
	-	-	-	23.

Education Spending (Act 68 definition)	4,124,087	4,209,629	4,513,309	5,123,197
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	567.50	547.64	528.57	509.97
	7,267	7,687	8,540	10,046

Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	27.
Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	28.
District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	147.735%
Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	147.735%
Household Income Percentage for income sensitivity	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	2.95%

*Deficits are the result of unbudgeted item for ESL and the TECH CENTER; underbudgeted SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENSES; and changes in student population numbers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILD FIND (SECTION 504) NOTICE WINDSOR SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION

The Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union is required by Federal laws 94-142 and Section 504 and State regulations to identify and locate all persons with disabilities between the ages of birth and 21 who may be in need of regular education, special education services, or accommodations in accessing public education. If you know of any individual residing in the Towns of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, and Weston whom you suspect of having such needs but who is not currently receiving them, please contact the Director of Special Services/504 Coordinator, Madelyn Crudo Burke at 875-3365, Ext. 23, or Nancy Malette, Case Manager at 875-3365, Ext. 21, or the school principals at Cavendish, Chester-Andover, Flood Brook, or Green Mountain.

NON-DISCRIMINATION DISCLAIMER

The School Board recognizes its obligation to respect the legal rights of all students, parents, employees, applicants for admission or employment, and those conducting business with the District. The Board will comply with all applicable Federal and State non-discrimination laws including Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, handicapping condition and/or disability, or sexual orientation. A process of referral, evaluation, and placement of handicapped students exists in accordance with Section 504.

WHITING LIBRARY

This has been an extraordinary year for the Whiting Library. We were the recipients of two grants: a Public Library Incentive Grant from the Freeman Family Foundation which provided \$57,264 to be expended over a two-year period, and a \$2,400 grant from the Windham Foundation and Ben and Jerry's, given to us in collaboration with the Community Cares Network.

In its first year, the Freeman Grant enabled Whiting to:

- Add a Children's Librarian to our staff: Darcy Gibney is doing great work providing story hours for preschoolers, craft and summer programs, school visits, the junior librarian program for Chester-Andover Elementary School students, and the Red Clover book discussion groups for home schooling families.
- Stay open for evening hours once a week so that patrons who cannot get to us during regular daytime hours have an opportunity to use our facilities.
- Offer computer classes in beginning and more advanced computer skills. Teacher Tim Mack has done a wonderful job with his students, many of whom are seniors who have never used a computer before. Participants tell us they feel empowered by the skills they have acquired. Interested Chester residents should call the Library to sign up.
- Paid for the new book deposit box on our front steps, child-size tables and chairs in the Children's Room, racks for our paperback books, a second public-access computer in the Reference Room, and an antique, glass-fronted cabinet in which Whiting memorabilia—much of it lent by the Chester Historical Society—is displayed. Our thanks to William Austin Antiques for offering us a steep discount on the cabinet.
- Allowed us to celebrate the Library's birthday on October 4, precisely 111 years to the day Whiting first opened its doors to the good people of Chester, with a magnificent cake iced with a drawing of our beautiful building and a children's party.

Staffing for the Children's Librarian, internet classes, and evening hours will continue in the second year of the grant, and additional purchases of materials and equipment will be made as funding permits.

The Windham Foundation/Ben and Jerry's grant has made it possible for us to work with the Community Cares Network in establishing a Books to Home Program that brings library services to patrons who find it difficult to come to us. This grant has enriched our collection of Large Print books, audiovisual materials, and periodicals of particular interest to our older patrons. Volunteers carry library materials to and from the homes of participants, in special, purple canvas bags emblazoned with the Whiting Library logo and the names of both sponsoring organizations.

Throughout the year, local artists exhibit their work at the Library on a rotating basis. The Vermont On Line Library, a vast resource of information and reference that includes data bases on health, medicine, and business as well as scholarly journals, newspapers, and magazines, is accessible to Whiting patrons at the Library or from their homes, at www.vtonlib.org. Our own Whiting collection currently includes some 13,000 books, 1,100 video and audio tapes, and 26 magazine subscriptions, available to 1,631 registered borrowers. Additional library materials are also available from other Vermont libraries, via inter-library loans. We answer approximately 25 reference questions a week, provide internet access to an average of 160 users a month, and have an average monthly circulation of 1,650 books and other materials. All of these resources are available without charge.

Our many services are made possible by the support of our enthusiastic patrons, generous donors, dedicated staff, and the devoted volunteers who help run the circulation desk, shelve materials, and assist in myriad ways. To all these we would like to convey our deepest gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lindman, Director

TOWN MANAGED FUNDS

Savings Account (Chittenden Bank)		
Balance 01-01-03	\$41,453.34	
Deposits	18,754.98	
Interest Income	391.00	
Balance 12-31-03	60,599.32	
Less: Due to Town - Expenses	16,936.29	
- Salaries	<u>14,974.77</u>	
Balance available 12-31-03		\$28,688.26

STATEMENT OF FUNDS HELD BY TRUSTEES OF WHITING LIBRARY YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

Cash		
Cash on Hand		\$ 100.00
Memorials Savings Account (Banknorth)		5,137.30
Regular Savings Account Balance (Banknorth)		5,060.29
Investments		
Banknorth C/D (Maturity 04-21-05)		Market Value \$21,677.28
Eaton Vance Income Fund (735.372 shares)		4,743.15
J. P. Morgan & Chase Common Stock (1,402.4780 shares) 11-03-03		51,484.97

SPRINGFIELD/CHESTER REGIONAL RECYCLING AND TRANSFER CENTER

The Springfield/Chester Regional Recycling and Transfer Center experienced its second year of team effort. It has been a year of achievements. Pavement has been added to the trash disposal area. This will be widened to eliminate large puddling. Additional storage space has been floored. No longer will bales of recyclables act as hurdles for our patrons. Eventually, electric power will be extended to the shack on the ramp. This will permit the field testing of reusable discards. If a small appliance, lamp, tool, or vacuum has some life remaining, it can be taken free of charge. We cannot store most of these items. Patrons who make the first discovery receive the item.

We do not have sufficient acreage to allow year around collecting of some items. The collecting of propane tanks and refrigerators halted due to plowing patterns. We are not permitted to collect hazardous waste on a regular basis. Usually three hazardous waste events are scheduled with a spring time start-up date. Dry storage is needed for tires to be collected. This limits our collecting to cooler and mosquito-free months. Contractors should be aware that bulk "roll-offs" can get filled to capacity. Their best bet is to schedule and communicate their needs to us.

We have been able to redirect disposal of some items to reuse. Redirecting waste to reuse is the highest form of recycling. Using this concept, the Center has altered the disposal of food buckets, bikes, Styrofoam peanuts, shipping cartons, lawn mowers, clothing, books, leaves, and other items. Aid from a Rutland, VT, company enables us to safely direct car batteries into new product. Computers are shipped to Gardner, MA, for combined retrieval and proper disposal.

Our tonnage figures for recycables increased dramatically in 2002, but leveled off in 2003. Simultaneously, we have experienced an increase in trash tonnage. Some of this can be attributed to local trash removal businesses closing. A good amount comes from second home owners who both recycle and dispose. For educational purposes, we have printed and distributed many more informational packets. In addition to being available at the Fairgrounds Road site, they are available at Springfield and Chester Town Offices.

We continue to benefit from our relationship with the Solid Waste District. There have been two hazardous waste removal events at our site and one in Windsor, VT. Attendance was high at all events. Removal costs and liability were accepted by the Solid Waste District.

Respectfully submitted,
Hallie Whitcomb
Seeley Morton

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns' mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. Most government services used by Vermonters on a daily basis are those provided by its cities and towns. These include highways, police, fire, recreation, sewer, and water. Vermont municipal officials are responsible for raising and expending nearly one-half of the non-federal taxes raised in the State.

In large part, volunteer-elected and appointed municipal officials lead these governments. VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns to serve and strengthen the ability of these officials to provide quality services at affordable levels of taxation:

- **Advocacy representation before the State legislature, administration, and judiciary, ensuring that municipalities have the resources and authority to serve their citizens.** VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs.
- **Training, technical assistance, and publications to strengthen the ability of municipal officials to serve their communities.** In the past year, we have responded to almost 50,000 telephone calls, 21,200 of them from local officials on the toll-free line available to them. Our Municipal Assistance Center and Group Services staffs provided over 750 workshops and small group training sessions attended by over 4,000 municipal officials and answered almost 2,300 legal questions posed by municipal officials. VLCT distributed over 575 copies of local government publications and distributed over 3,200 hard copies or electronic mail versions of VLCT's *Weekly Legislative Report* to municipal officials each week during the legislative session.
- **Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost.** These include an array of municipal insurance programs, among many others. Examples of how this saves local taxpayers' dollars are the securing of municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to your employees. The value of VLCT PACIF to all our members was made painfully clear last year when the major reinsurer for the largest private sector option available for municipal property and casualty insurance was declared insolvent by the State of Pennsylvania, threatening the payment of claims made under those policies.

All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 140 other municipal entities including villages and fire districts. Membership dues are \$.72 per capita plus a \$250 service fee per year. VLCT maintains its offices in Montpelier and employs 42 staff members. It has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3.0 million.

Individuals interested in finding out more about Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including reviewing its audited financial statements, can visit its website at www.vlct.org.

SOUTHERN WINDSOR COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission is an organization that serves the ten towns in the southern Windsor County Region. Member towns are comprised of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Reading, Springfield, Weathersfield, West Windsor, and Windsor. SWCRPC's mission includes two major activities: assisting member towns with their planning and other community-related activities, and promoting cooperation and coordination among towns.

During fiscal year 2003, member towns contributed 4% to the Regional Planning Commission's annual budget of \$555,565.00. Town dues assessment was based on \$1.00 per person using 2000 census data, which for the Town of Chester was \$3,044.00. The remaining revenues were derived from federal and state funding sources: Federal funding supported transportation planning activities and the administration of Community Development Block Grants; State funds were derived from the Agency of Natural Resources for environmental planning, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for land use planning and other related activities.

The Southern Windsor County Transportation Advisory Committee (SWCTAC) is an advisory committee of the Regional Planning Commission. The SWCTAC's primary responsibilities are to make recommendations on regional transportation policies, review and provide comment on VT Agency of Transportation projects, identify and rank town/regional transportation improvements for submission to VAOT, and provide input on regional transportation studies.

In addition to providing ongoing technical assistance to member towns, in the last year, the Regional Planning Commission assisted the Town of Chester with several projects. The SWCRPC continues to develop a plan for traffic mitigation along Route 103 during the ski season, assisted the Planning Commission with completing the amendment process to its Town Plan, has provided technical assistance on zoning-related issues, and is working with public safety officials on emergency management issues.

Annually, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Chester appoints a representative and an alternate to the Regional Planning Commission. The RPC Board is responsible for developing regional policies, providing Act 200 review of Town Plans, and facilitating cooperation amongst member towns. In fiscal year 2003, Cecil Waldo represented the Town to the Regional Planning Commission and Bruce McEnaney was the representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission
Ascutney Professional Building
P.O. Box 320
Ascutney, VT 05030
Web site: www.swcrpc.org

CHESTER-ANDOVER FAMILY CENTER

During this year, the Family Center regularly served at least 44 families. Some weeks found us meeting more needs than this, and when one family might get on its feet, another was there to take its place. We are able to do so with the continued support of our communities.

We continue to operate with the same dedicated staff that has been serving for a number of years. Without their dedication and commitment, we would not be able to do what we do. This, however, is a major concern. We desperately need more volunteers to step up to the plate and join us in serving the needs of our community. Inasmuch as we could not continue without the gifts of food, money, and clothes, without bodies to help run the Family Center we will struggle. The most desperate need that we continually face is people to volunteer on a regular schedule. Having someone stop in sporadically, although appreciated, is difficult to depend on. Any help in this area would be a wonderful gift. We continue to receive regular support from area churches with donations of food and money. One area church has gone so far as to guarantee us \$100.00 a month for our operation, while others regularly bring us food.

This year, we saw a tremendous level of support from our local youth via our schools. We received multiple donations from both schools that were quite substantial and desperately needed. During our holiday periods, with the aid of the schools and the Feed the Thousand campaign, our food stores were abundant. We had a parent come in with two bags of groceries that were purchased by their child with their own money. The parent told us that they informed their child that they had already contributed to the Feed the Thousand campaign, but the child quickly said, "that was with your money; I want to contribute with my own." Everyone at the Center was deeply touched by their concern and commitment. It never ceases to amaze us at the way the community comes together to help those in need.

Over the past couple of years, Christmas has been a time where we have provided gifts for the children of families as well as the holiday meals. We realize that it is difficult during this time for adults to buy gifts for their families. We have provided these families with a free shopping day at the Center as our gift to them. We find that when they come in they shop with extreme care and concern. They shop thoughtfully and look for those things they need.

We enter 2004 with hope and are optimistic that the year will bring that which we need to continue and succeed. The Family Center could not survive without the continued support of both communities and for that we are extremely grateful. I would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all that you have done and will do to aid us in providing support for our communities.

Respectfully submitted,
Everett M. Bennett, President

WINDSOR COUNTY PARTNERS

Mentors for Youths

Windsor County Partners' youth mentoring program provides at-promise youth aged 10 through 17 with positive, healthy, and supportive adult role models that help improve their self-esteem, direction, and leadership potential. The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services has recognized us as "an outstanding instance of what can be done with limited resources and a great personal commitment."

Last year, we supported 39 partnerships and 3 Chester residents. We also took steps to begin to build our capacity to serve more youth, and to plan for future growth of our program. We instituted new policies in regard to our volunteers and their partnerships to better ensure the safety of children in our program, including the requirement of an F.B.I. criminal background check for all mentors. We also sponsored several workshops, organized new special events, and helped youngsters attend camp or classes in which they had a special interest.

It is the long-term support of the community that has helped our organization to grow and succeed over the last three decades as a vibrant leader in youth mentoring in our community. Our long track record and well-established program continue to positively influence our children so they can improve their school grades, as well as peer and family relationships; avoid the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and seek to achieve higher goals in life.

For more information about our services, please call our Executive Director, Mary Beth Heiskell, at 802-674-5101 or 800-491-5101 or windsor.county.partner@valley.net.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Heiskell, Executive Director

RETIRED & SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OF WINDSOR COUNTY

Windsor County RSVP provides opportunities for people primarily 55 and older to address community needs through volunteer service. The relationships that develop as a result of these activities benefit volunteers, communities, nonprofit agencies, and individuals. RSVP volunteers not only help increase the capacity of local organizations and improve the quality of life for people of all ages, they also learn new skills, meet new people and continue to be an asset to the community. In the past year in southern Windsor County, 244 RSVP volunteers put in over 32,000 hours doing 163 different jobs for 76 nonprofit organizations, schools, and State agencies.

Last year, 34 RSVP volunteers contributed 4,897 hours in Chester. Volunteers read to youngsters at Chester-Andover Elementary School, lead osteoporosis prevention exercise classes, called homebound seniors on a regular basis for companionship and safety check-ins, drove people to medical and non-medical appointments, supported the Vermont Center for the Book, assisted at Whiting Library, and maintained the information booth sponsored by the Okemo Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Do you have one free hour a week? RSVP can match your interests, talents, and skills with a wide variety of important community activities from reading to children to making check-in calls to seniors, from helping at the prison to being a "steward of public lands," from being a mentor for a family in need to serving on Boards. Volunteers, by cultivating goodwill and fellowship, receive as much as they give. Check out our new web site <http://www.vtrsvp.org/> for more information. The office phone is 885-2083; email: rsvp@hcrs.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Regier, Director

**VISITING NURSE ALLIANCE OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.
Home Care, Hospice, and Family Health Services**

The Visiting Nurse Alliance is like the local police and fire departments - a strategic part of the community's safety net—with services that must be continuously available to anyone in need. The need varies dramatically from month to month and year to year. The VNA provides a comprehensive range of care, requisitioned by hospital staff and physicians, for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

We value the continued partnership with the Town of Chester to help us meet your residents' home care, hospice, and family health service needs. Town funding accomplishes the following:

- Enable your family, friends, and neighbors to remain independent and at home as they receive skilled clinical care during times of injury, recovery from surgery or accidents, disability, whether for short-term or chronic illness. For many such patients, many are addressing multiple medical, emotional, and social issues at the same time.
- Provides emotional support plus pain and symptom management during terminal illness. Hospice care extends to family members as well. More and more patients want to be at home during their end of life, and through hospice they have that control.
- Provides community-wellness programs and assistance to young families at risk. Clients range from fathers and/or mothers who want to be more effective parents through learning parenting skills or providing a balanced diet; infants who require hi-tech care; and children who grow and learn through play groups that offer interaction with other children.

The VNA provided the following services this past year (July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003):

Skilled Nursing	2,209	Hospice VNH	
Physical Therapy	495	Patient Families Served	5
Speech Therapy	55	Volunteer Hours	98
Occupational Therapy	177	Volunteer Visits	33
Medical Social Worker	42		
Home Health Aide	3,053	Clinic Attendees	
Homemaker	<u>184</u>	Flu	138
Total Visits	6,215	Blood Pressure	25
		MCH	
		Children	25
		Home Visits	126

On behalf of the people we serve in your community, thank you for your continued confidence.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan H. Larman, BSN, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer

COUNCIL ON AGING FOR SOUTHEASTERN VERMONT, INC.

The Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. (COASEV, Inc.) fosters and supports successful aging of seniors in the Chester community and throughout Windham and Windsor Counties. COASEV staff, along with seniors and other community members, develop, advocate, coordinate, and assure access to services which enhance the quality of their lives in Chester. To accomplish this mission in Chester, we provide direct services, such as those listed below, as well as work collaboratively with other organizations in Chester.

- **Community Cares Network**, a program of COASEV, coordinates an array of services to Chester residents including transportation to doctors' appointments and the hospital, friendly visiting, banking and errands, and special service days to assist with house chores. Volunteers, local fund raising, and town and COASEV funding support CCN's activities of enabling Chester residents to live independently at home.
- **Information and Assistance** -- through the Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 -- Providing resources, tips, applications for benefits, and assistance with health insurance information.
- **Senior Nutrition** -- Home-delivered meals are currently provided through a contract with Meals and Wheels of Greater Springfield.
- **Transportation** -- Providing door-to-door accessible transportation with Community Cares Network. In addition, special arrangements are made for non-Medicaid seniors requiring medical transportation.
- **Case Management** -- Providing one-on-one case management to those wishing to stay in their community and by managing the Medicaid Waiver Program which provides nursing home-like care. With self-neglect referrals, we assist the individual to become aware of and access services thus regaining control of their lives.
- **Advocacy** -- Assisting with accessing a wide array of benefits such as VHAP pharmacy, fuel assistance, food stamps, telephone Lifeline, tax rebates, and Supplemental Security Income. These services are provided through home visits.
- **Care Giver Respite** -- Through grants, we are able to provide respite assistance for care givers of those diagnosed with dementia and other chronic diseases.
- **Senior Companion Program** -- Providing friendly visiting as well as a stipend employment opportunity for older, limited income workers.
- **Planning** -- for seniors is accomplished by working with legislators, other agencies, and the communities we serve.
- **Successful Aging Initiatives** -- Providing a series of small community grants for groups and organizations to create and expand their programs.

Your Town contribution of \$2,800 generates \$15,867 in Federal matching funds to support these activities. Services are provided at no cost but participants are encouraged to make anonymous, voluntary contributions. The support of Chester citizens as well as that of the hundreds of volunteers and dedicated staff make these services possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Saunders, Executive Director

SOUTHEASTERN VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community-based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor Counties since 1965.

Our mission is to work in collaboration to foster sustainable self-sufficiency, to strengthen our communities, and to eliminate the root causes of poverty. SEVCA has a multitude of programs and services to meet this end. They include: transportation, weatherization, emergency services (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), crisis intervention, parent education, micro-business development, Head Start, Individual Development Accounts (IDA), and three thrift stores.

In the community of Chester, we have provided the following services during fiscal year 2003:

Weatherization	8 homes @ \$43,650
Family services (outreach)	43 families; 253 services
Micro-Business Development Services	5 individuals
Fuel/utility assistance	65 assists @ \$9,604
IDA Program	2 individual
Head Start	16 children

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of community action funds and town funds allows us to not only increase, but improve service.

We thank the residents of Chester for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah M. Osienski, Executive Director

MEALS & WHEELS OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD INC.

For the past seventeen years, Meals & Wheels of Greater Springfield has been delivering a hot noon meal to our elderly and homebound neighbors. For the last eight years, Meals & Wheels of Greater Springfield has expanded its delivery to residents in the Town of Chester. At this time, we deliver three days per week and provide five meals a week. Our goal this year is to deliver hot meals five days a week in Chester. There are about ten devoted volunteers from Chester who help make these deliveries possible. In addition, there are fifty volunteers from all over the community and three part-time paid employees. Last year, 6,161 meals were delivered to Chester residents, 26,942 to residents of the greater Springfield area, and 9,686 meals were served at the Congregational Church in Springfield. The program provides a well-balanced meal to those who may be unable to cook for themselves. Our delivery volunteers are a daily "visitor" who extends a caring hand and cheerful greeting with each visit.

The average meal costs \$4.27. However, no one is denied service. Recipients are asked to make a donation to help defray costs but many cannot afford to donate anything for these meals. We receive an average of \$.61 from meal recipients, as a donation, for each meal in Chester, and an average of \$1.21 per meal from recipients in the greater Springfield community. In addition, approximately 60 percent of our costs are subsidized by Federal and State programs. The balance must be raised locally. We hope that the Town of Chester will continue to help us provide this service to our elderly and handicapped population. Therefore, we ask the Town to consider granting funding of \$2,700 for this fiscal year. Your donation will be appreciated by the forty recipients of Meals & Wheels in the Town of Chester.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymond Nymalm, Chairman
Board of Directors

HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SERVICES OF S.E. VERMONT

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont requests an appropriation of \$2,791 from the Town of Chester at the 2004 Town Meeting to help defray the cost of services to its residents for the Mental Health Walk-In-Clinic. In the year ending June 30, 2003, our agency provided a comprehensive range of community-based services to 4,424 residents of Windsor and Windham Counties. The services that are available to the residents of your community are as follows:

Outpatient Mental Health Services: The mission is to provide caring, high quality, cost-effective mental health care for our community at every level of need. Our highly trained staff of professional therapists, social workers, and psychiatrists help individuals and families cope with stress and anxiety, develop their full potential and maximize control of their lives. We make it our paramount goal to ensure that children, adolescents, and adults who come to us receive appropriate, timely care. We are now offering walk-in clinics to any resident who has an urgent need to see a mental health counselor for support and more effective coordination of services.

Alcohol & Drug Treatment Services: For adults and family members who are adversely affected by the use of alcohol or drugs, we offer a comprehensive program of assessment, inpatient referral, outreach, outpatient treatment, and aftercare dedicated to aiding the recovery from chemical dependency and its effects.

Community Rehabilitation & Treatment Program: The CRT Program provides comprehensive services to adults over the age of 18 who are suffering from a mental illness so serious that it interferes with that person's capacity to function in the community. We provide help and information to concerned family members and help clients regain stability and learn how to manage their mental illness, either in the hospital setting or as outpatients.

Community Services Division: The CSD provides services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Services are available to people of all ages who have been found eligible, and each person being served receives an individually written program to meet his or her needs.

The Alternatives Program: A short-term alternative to hospitalization, the Alternatives Program provides crisis stabilization, respite, and support to clients with psychiatric disabilities or to any adult experiencing an acute mental health crisis. We also provide a transitional residence for those stepping down from an inpatient setting. Our program provides a very desirable alternative to hospitalization in being less costly and less structured, while at the same time providing individualized attention in a more homelike, community-based setting.

Emergency Services: The Emergency Services Team has a very specific mission to act quickly in critical situations. Specially trained, mental health professionals are available 24-hours a day for emergencies. Anyone may use this service when an emergency arises including individuals of any age, family or friends of an individual in crisis; hospitals and nursing homes; police; schools; clergy; businesses and other community agencies.

We thank the Board and the citizens of Chester for your past support and for your continuing interest in Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont.

Respectfully submitted,
George Karabakakis, PhD
Director of Outpatient and Emergency Services

SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Springfield Regional Development Corporation (SRDC) thanks the Town of Chester for its support of our organization and shared goals.

SRDC continues to work with businesses in Chester as well as businesses who could potentially relocate in Chester. Having Julie Ladieu-Walton (Chester resident) and Mike Walker of NewsBank on our Board of Directors are excellent additions to our Board. Their knowledge is an asset to our Board as well as being able to keep the Town more up to date with SRDC activities.

We have more recently worked with relocating businesses to the Town of Chester, the Bear Paw building being one of our focuses. We learned of its recent leasing situation with a company and have spoken with them, letting them know we are available to help them in any way. We always keep in contact with Susan Spaulding and have enjoyed working with her and her staff; they have always been helpful to us.

Our organization has made a significant commitment in establishing a marketing brand and comprehensive marketing plan for the region. The plan is expected to be completed within sixty to ninety days and will assist our region in achieving business recruitment and existing business outreach goals. Additionally, an aggressive business visitation program remains central to our economic development strategy in understanding the needs of businesses in our region and keeping pace with the micro and macroeconomic trends that affect us.

The regional economic plan for Southern Windsor County developed in 2003 is very much in the midst of implementation. This economic development "road map" offers specific strategies and initiatives to support and grow businesses and attract new ones, all focused on creating a strong foundation for a healthy economy. Your continued input to the implementation process is key; please visit our web site to view the plan www.springfielddevelopment.org and let us know your thoughts.

Again, we thank the Town of Chester for your continued support and look forward to a productive and successful 2004.

If you want additional information, have questions, or comments, please contact:

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Lighthall
Executive Director
Springfield Regional Development Corporation
14 Clinton Street, Suite 7
Springfield, VT 05156
802-885-3061
carol@springfielddevelopment.org

NEW BEGINNINGS, INC.

New Beginnings, Inc., is a nonprofit agency providing services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Staff and volunteers provide support and information to clients in the office, at police stations, and Springfield and Mount Ascutney Hospitals after hours, on weekends, and holidays. We offer a 24-hour hotline 365 days a year, assistance and support for client safety, assistance with relief from abuse complaints, court education in the final relief from abuse hearing, safe housing, social service advocacy, referrals, and community education, as well as peer support groups.

This year, the staff of New Beginnings, Inc., would like to recognize the amazing types of support by many amazing human beings throughout Windsor County, Vermont, including residents of Chester.

Thanks to:

- Every resident who voted to support town allocations...
- Every dollar donated, raised, or granted...
- Every one of the 219 individuals who wrote out a check or spent a day with us...
- Every donation of stuffed animals or books...
- Every monthly meeting attended by our fiscal year 2003 members of our Directors...
- Every weekly trip to the office by our Board Treasurer or Secretary...
- Every trip to an area business to request support...
- Every business owner who offered support and horse/rider in our Ride-A-Thon...
- Every note from a musician at our Country Jamboree and Klezmer Concert...
- Every pot of chili stewed, hot dog steamed, cookie baked...
- Every individual willing to carry a pager attached somewhere to their clothing...
- Every individual willing to wake up at 2:30 a.m. to support a victim...
- Every gardening session in our front "yard" and pamphlet and poster distributed...
- Every Thanksgiving basket of food and Christmas present donated...

We were able to provide:

- To a population of approximately 34,000 individuals...
- Over 475 square miles in 14 towns, and at times, beyond...
- At four full-time police departments and in two hospital emergency rooms...
- 8,760 hours of hotline and in-person crisis services and 48 trips to Family Court...
- 1,250 +/- pre-crisis, crisis, and post-crisis services...
- 9,462 hours of volunteer crisis services to:
 - 346 victimized women and 51 victimized men...
 - 11 physically or sexually victimized children...
 - 479 children exposed to domestic and sexual violence in-home...
 - 394 domestic violence victims and 40 sexual violence victims...

Thank you to the many located "behind the scenes" for ensuring that there will continue to be someone to provide support, education, and advocacy to those who suffer abuse and for creating a foundation on which New Beginnings builds its services.

Clearly, people of Chester recognize that domestic violence or sexual assault will touch someone in their community and they wish to ensure there is someone available to meet victims' needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela S. Burns and Terri A. Fisk, Co-Directors

GEORGE D. AIKEN RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council has been "making things happen" for towns with natural resource conservation and rural development projects over the past year. We are here to serve your community. We coordinate and facilitate assistance to town governments, school districts, fire departments, watershed groups, and nonprofit organizations in the six southern Vermont counties. By bringing together help from our extensive network of resources, we can focus technical and financial resources on your specific needs. We get technical assistance and staff help through the U. S. Department of Agriculture but private sources make up most of our budget. The Council is a self-supporting 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Highlights of our work in the six counties in 2003 include:

- Fourteen towns received funding to improve water quality and upgrade back roads through our better back-roads grants.
- Two towns received complete water supply plans identifying all potential useable water sources for fire fighting in the town.
- Sixteen towns received funding and engineering assistance to design and install dry hydrants as a source of water to fight fires.
- Six towns received Jeffords fire safety grants to purchase personal protective gear for firefighters.
- Numerous farmers received technical and marketing assistance with agritourism ventures.
- Five farmers received grants to support agritourism on their farms.
- Ten towns received assistance from a consultant to help them prepare for an ISO (Insurance Service Office) evaluation. Towns are given a rate from one to ten by the ISO and many insurance companies use that rating to set their rates. If a town can lower their ISO rate, it may lead to lower insurance costs for businesses and residents in that town.
- We continue to serve as the fiscal agent for the White River Partnership and Connecticut River Birding Trail.
- Teams of high school students from throughout the area participated in the Vermont Envirothon.

Other current projects include helping a town with flooding problems, erosion control and stream-bank stabilization in several locations, helping to develop community centers and recreation fields. We currently have funding available for low interest loans (3.0 - 5.0%) to develop agritourism ventures on farms. Do you have a project or program that could use some assistance to "make it happen?" Over the years, the George D. Aiken RC&D Council has helped many communities and organizations on a variety of projects. We work on a request basis, so the first step is up to you, giving us a call. For information and free consultation, call Kenneth Hafner, our RC&D Coordinator, at (802) 728-9526 or email: kenneth.hafner@vt.usda.gov.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Farnsworth, Chair

NAME OF CHILD		DATE OF BIRTH 2003	SEX	PLACE OF BIRTH	FATHER'S NAME	MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME
Meekah Sari Hance	July 7, 2002	F	Springfield	Jeffrey M. Hance	Julie S. Williams	
Gabriela Elizabeth Beayon	June 2	F	Springfield	Stephen C. Beayon	Vicki L. Gagnon	
Kayley Nicholle Boissonnault	June 7	F	Springfield	Christopher O. Boissonnault	Katrina M. LaBarge	
Eluria Rae Brasfield	March 17	F	Springfield	Christopher T. Brasfield	Morgan Swain	
Brianna Marie Duby	July 24	F	Springfield	Brett J. Smith	Cassandra M. Duby	
Tessa Marie Ellis	January 10	F	Springfield	David P. Ellis	Tina M. J. Jasienowski	
Selina Marie Evans	January 14	F	Springfield	John E. Evans	Sheri L. Chase	
Owynn Lawrence Foreman	January 26	M	Springfield	Jeremy L. Foreman	Jolene M. Perkins	
James Jason Wayne Gerken	April 12	M	Springfield	Jason W. Gerken	Kimberly S. A. Nagel	
Joseph Wayne Gomez	December 19	M	Springfield	Wayne G. Gomez	Laurie J. A. Skinner	
Mackenzie Logan Greenberg	July 13	F	Springfield	Reid J. D. Greenberg	Laurie A. Lambert	
Kagan Jeffrey Hance	October 5	M	Springfield	Jeffrey M. Hance	Julie S. Williams	
Jaden Allen Holden	December 12	M	Springfield	Adam C. Holden	Patricia R. Sheldon	
Gwendylan Follin Kekic	August 14	F	Springfield	Nicholas F. Kekic	Tamasin Ballou	
Skyler Anthony Klezos	March 7	M	Springfield	Jamie A. Klezos	Tabitha Hunsdon	
Graeme Bernard McGrath	January 5	M	Springfield	Ian B. McGrath	Ellen L. Gifford	
Ty Williams Merrill	February 12	M	Springfield	Norman W. Merrill, II	Tracey E. Jones	
Jeb Clark Monier	October 2	M	Springfield	Russell S. Monier	Hannah L. Turco	
Taylor Emerson Moses	December 10	M	Springfield	Matthew M. Moses	Mary L. Rickert	
Brielle Ann Proctor	October 28	F	Springfield	Adam J. Proctor	Eris A. Smith	
Chase Samuel Rawson	July 12	M	Springfield	Wayne L. Rawson, Jr.	Kimberly S. Wilson	
Anika Lucia Reitmeyer-Lankone	July 8	F	Chester	Douglas R. Reitmeyer	Krystina J. M. Lankone	
Mitchell Girvan Rounds	September 9	M	Springfield	Dennis S. Rounds	Jan E. Girvan	
Ryley Ann Smith	March 27	F	Springfield	Ryan J. Smith	Ashley D. Felton	
Gabriel Leonard Tanner	January 4	M	Springfield	Karl E. Tanner	Anna Wried	
Jacob Austin Ward	January 29	M	Springfield	Jeffrey A. Ward	Kimberly A. Sandy	
Olivia Louise Wright	May 19	F	Chester	John J. Wright	Jennifer G. Davis	

MARRIAGES

NAME OF GROOM	RESIDENCE	NAME OF BRIDE	RESIDENCE	DATE 2003	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Jason E. Aaron	W. Lebanon, NH	Denise M. Maloney	Lebanon, NH	October 25	Chester
John L. Acott	Shrewsbury, MA	Donna M. Monahan	Shrewsbury, MA	April 11	Chester
Jared N. Adams	Dracut, MA	Alisha M. Spafford	Dracut, MA	May 17	Chester
Jasper S. Ainslie	Hoboken, NJ	Marcy M. Wagtowitz	Hoboken, NJ	August 23	Cavendish
Jeffrey J. Anderson	Truckee, CA	Darcy Davis	Truckee, CA	October 11	Chester
Michael L. Anderson	Chester	Christine F. Marchini	Scarsdale, NY	November 1	Manchester Ctr.
Steven A. Bahr	Cooper City, FL	Melissa K. Bolton	Cooper City, FL	August 2	Chester
Brian T. Baird	Florence, MA	Karen L. Alistadt	Florence, MA	July 9	Chester
Steven P. Banker	Pawcatuck, CT	Julie G. Manfredi	Pawcatuck, CT	August 8	Chester
Donald H. Bartlett	Chester	Diane M. Lescord	Chester	October 11	Chester
Ronald B. Blanchard, Jr.	Chester	Holly M. Donnelly	Peterborough, NH	June 28	Chester
Christopher Boissonnault	Chester	Katrina M. LaBarge	Chester	July 19	Chester
Shawn R. Brady	Indian Rocks Bch., FL	Marie L. Krupa	Indian Rocks Bch., FL	June 30	Weston
Joseph L. Brent	Chester	Susan S. Clark	Chester	June 21	Chester
Nicholas W. Clark	Annapolis, MD	Katie L. Gilbert	Annapolis, MD	September 27	Chester
Richard J. Clow, Jr.	Chicopee, MA	Natasha A. Sefsik	Chicopee, MA	August 28	Weston
Robert J. Crowson	Chester	Brandy L. M. Tucker	Chester	December 2	Chester
Dan T. Curran	Belmont	Laurie A. Bodo	Chester	December 29	Chester
Ronald C. DeBeaumont	Spearfish, SD	Sara J. Dvorak	Spearfish, SD	October 10	Rockingham
Matthew J. Deimling	Indianapolis, IN	Nicole A. Moore	Clinton Twp., MI	December 5	Chester
Larry W. DUBY	Chester	Melinda J. Kennett	Chester	October 17	Chester
Russell L. Farnsworth	Chester	Vanessa R. Loomis	Chester	May 24	Chester
Todd F. Farr	Chester	Anya B. Perron	Chester	June 28	Cambridge
Michael E. Farrar	Chester	Linda E. Meketa	Chester	November 27	Chester
Matthew J. Henretta	Chester	Melissa S. Duarte	Orange, CT	May 24	Chester
Barrett N. Hodgdon	Stratton	Sonya L. A'Pelt	Stratton	September 20	Chester
Adam C. Holden	Chester	Patricia R. Sheldon	Chester	July 19	Chester
Erik C. Holmes	Greenville, NY	Tammy M. Whitworth	Greenville, NY	January 24	Chester
Larnel D. Jones II	Bronxville, NY	Angela M. Adams	Bronxville, NY	January 11	WindSOR

CIVIL UNIONS				PLACE OF CIVIL UNION
PARTY A	RESIDENCE	PARTY B	RESIDENCE	DATE 2003
Madalean L. Diniz	Auburndale, MA	Laura Melbin	Auburndale, MA	October 10
Mercy R. Garland	Valley Cottage, NY	Maria Gagliardi	Valley Cottage, NY	October 4
Eileen H. Hart	Phoenix, AZ	Pamela J. St. Pierre	Phoenix, AZ	July 5
Shirley M. Hedeen	Goochland, VA	Michelle B. Campbell	Goochland, VA	June 30
Stephen O. Mack	Gainesville, GA	Richard B. Corona	Gainesville, GA	April 6
Wayne A. Manske	Mesa, AZ	Michael A. Conway	Mesa, AZ	July 15
Jessica M. McFadden	Fayetteville, OH	Rachel L. Ray	Fayetteville, OH	March 21
Angela N. Neal	Dedham, MA	Jean A. Goldsberry	Dedham, MA	September 6
Robert F. Patenaude	Takoma Park, MD	Douglas A. Harbit	Takoma Park, MD	January 10
Ramon Sanchez	San Antonio, TX	Kevin L. Brown	San Antonio, TX	March 22
Kim M. Seidel	Mt. Pleasant, MI	Emily J. Harris	Mt. Pleasant, MI	April 19
Sarae D. Solomon	Wilkes-Barre, PA	Kelly M. Simmons	Wilkes-Barre, PA	October 12
Mary A. Vaughn	New York, NY	Judith E. Williams	New York, NY	August 30
Debra A. Wisler	Tempe, AZ	Becky A. Tipton	Tempe, AZ	July 24
Melanie K. Zacker	Tampa, FL	Lisa K. Rizzi	Tampa, FL	November 15
Laura I. Zimmerman	Holly Springs, NC	Josephine M. Johns	Holly Springs, NC	July 14

DEATHS		PLACE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
NAME	SEX	AGE	DATE OF DEATH 2003
Robert C. Allen	M	69	May 1
C. Virginia Brooks	F	95	January 12
Daisy Carleton	F	75	April 5
Anne Carroll	F	80	June 16
Frank J. Dougherty	M	88	September 3
Evelyn E. Douglas	F	86	March 1
Kenneth L. Farnsworth	M	81	April 17
Frank V. Garaffa	M	63	April 22
Leah G. Jacobs	F	87	March 1
Reino K. Kalinen, Sr.	M	83	July 17
Zelda S. Knisley	F	89	September 26
Raymond P. Milanesi	M	81	February 10
Ada I. Paquin	F	97	June 16
Roberta P. Putnam	F	70	December 5
Arminala Severance	F	100	December 24
Richard J. Smulski	M	67	March 8
Ellen A. Spafford	F	88	December 13
Melanie A. Spaulding	F	31	February 20
John F. Stone	M	68	June 3
Thomas Swink	M	51	July 12
Walter R. Turco, Sr.	M	86	February 17
Veontha W. White	F	85	June 3
Thomas D. Wilhelm	M	60	May 5
Ruth A. Williams	F	89	December 22
George E. Wright	M	71	March 30

SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND THE TOWN MEETING

The annual Town School District Meeting and the Town Meeting were held on the Second Floor of the Town Hall on March 3, 2003. Voting on Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Town School District Meeting and Article 1 of the Town Meeting were by Australian Ballot on March 4, 2003, on the Second Floor.

The Town School District Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator, William E. Dakin, Jr., with the Pledge to the Flag. Mr. Dakin asked for permission for nonresidents to speak if it was necessary. There were no objections and the Moderator would use his discretion on Articles that may be of interest to them.

The Warning was read for the Chester Town School District Meeting. The Moderator introduced the Town School Directors: Chairman, Erron J. Carey, George C. Cook, and Alison DesLauriers.

ARTICLE 1, 2, and 3: See page 3 of this Report.

ARTICLE 4: Voted to raise the sum of \$4,953,999.00 payable to the School District Treasurer on September 15, 2003.

ARTICLE 5: Voted to authorize the Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's indebtedness.

ARTICLE 6: Voted to authorize the Town School District to accept payment from the State Department of Taxes under Act 60.

ARTICLE 7: Voted to accept the reports of the Town School District officers for the year ending December 31, 2002.

ARTICLE 8: Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

After a short recess to allow the Town School Directors to change places with the Town Select Board, the Town Meeting began at 7:25 p.m.

Before the meeting began, a letter of appreciation and recognition was read by the Town Manager to Carol Balch for her many years of service to the Town of Chester. She will not be seeking reelection.

Representative Erron Carey read a resolution from the Vermont House outlining Carol's life from birth to grandparenting. She also received a bouquet of flowers from her fellow Board members.

Before the Articles were introduced, Representative Erron Carey spoke to the Assembly about some of the items being addressed in the Legislature: alternative energy, hydro-power, a blend of alternative power, Act 60, nuclear waste, and on a personal level, the North Street Bridge.

Mrs. Carey was thanked by the Assembly, and the Moderator then introduced the members of the Board: Carol L. Balch, Chairman, Richard Jewett, Seeley Morton, Michael LeClair, and William Lindsay. The Town Manager and the Town Clerk were also introduced.

The Moderator then read the Warning for the Town Meeting.

- ARTICLE 1:** See page 3 of this Report.
- ARTICLE 2:** Voted to accept gifts and trust funds for perpetual care of cemetery lots in accordance with conditions of said gifts and trusts as follows: Chris and Karen Conway \$75.00, Lee T. and Patricia R. Decatur \$75.00, Donald and Roseann Drexler \$75.00, Frank and Sheila Garaffa \$75.00, Charles and Catherine Hazen \$150.00, Herman and Dorothy Holland \$75.00.
- ARTICLE 3:** Voted to raise \$1,489,544.00 to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness to be paid to the Town Treasurer on September 15, 2003. This figure is the Budget less the Surplus.
- ARTICLE 4:** Voted to raise \$15,000.00 annually for four years for the reappraisal of properties located in the Town of Chester.
- ARTICLE 5:** Voted to authorize the Selectmen to spend money, a sum not to exceed \$55,000.00, from the Emergency Equipment Fund to purchase a tanker.
- ARTICLE 6:** Voted to authorize the Selectmen to spend money, a sum not to exceed \$91,000.00, from the Equipment Fund to purchase a loader.
- ARTICLE 7:** This Article will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 4, 2003. This Article is just to vote money to bring the Treatment Plant up to what it should be. The Selectmen will decide who pays for the improvements.
- ARTICLE 8:** This was a non-binding advisory Article. The Article received both ayes and nays. The Moderator stated that the Selectmen had heard the desires of the Assembly.
- ARTICLE 9:** Voted to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 toward the support of the Nutrition Program of the Council on Aging of Southeastern Vermont, Inc., and \$1,800.00 for the continued support of the Chester Cares Network.
- ARTICLE 10:** Voted the sum of \$2,500.00 to assist with the cost of operation of the Chester Meals on Wheels. This sum is to be used solely for the purpose of Chester alone.
- ARTICLE 11:** Voted the sum of \$3,000.00 for the Chester-Andover Family Center operation.
- ARTICLE 12:** Voted the sum of \$2,791.00 for Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
- ARTICLE 13:** Voted the sum of \$500.00 for New Beginnings, Inc., to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- ARTICLE 14:** Voted the sum of \$400.00 to support RSVP. Their volunteers support literacy efforts in the community and assist with the cultural and community activities in the community.

- ARTICLE 15:** Voted to appropriate the sum of \$1,000.00 to help the work of Springfield Area Hospice.
- ARTICLE 16:** Voted to appropriate the sum of \$8,496.00 to the Springfield Regional Development Corporation.
- ARTICLE 17:** Voted to appropriate the sum of \$10,275.00 to support the home health care and hospice care of patients in their homes by staff and volunteers of the Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire, Inc. This Article supports the Clinic in Chester.
- ARTICLE 18:** Voted to appropriate the sum of \$600.00 for Windsor County Partners for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County.
- ARTICLE 19:** Voted to appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 toward the Restoration of the "Academy Building." This will provide matching funds which will enable the Chester Restoration Committee to qualify for over \$40,000.00 in further grants and begin restoration work on the building.
- ARTICLE 20:** Voted the sum of \$2,000.00 to assist the Windsor County Court Diversion Program, Inc., in paying operating expenses.
- ARTICLE 21:** Voted to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 22:** Voted to accept the reports of the Town Officers for the year ending December 31, 2002.
- ARTICLE 23:** Two petitions, one on alternative energy and the other on genetically engineered seeds, were received in time for consideration at Town Meeting but because they did not directly concern the Town of Chester and any decision taken was not binding, the petitions were not included on the Warning. Both petitions received the support of the Assembly.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

The foregoing is not a complete copy of the minutes of the Annual Meetings, but only an excerpt from the record. A complete copy of the minutes may be found in General Records Volume 12 in Town Hall.

/s/ Sandra K. Walker
Town Clerk/CVC

WARNING FOR CHESTER TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The Legal Voters of the Town of Chester School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall Second Floor on Monday, March 1, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following Articles. Voting on Articles 1, 2, and 3 will be by Australian Ballot on March 2, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect Town School District Officers for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE 2:** To elect Directors for Chester-Andover Elementary School for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE 3:** To elect Directors for Green Mountain Union High School for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot.
- ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town School District will vote to raise money to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's indebtedness, if so, the amount, to whom paid, and when paid.
- ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town School District will authorize the Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 6:** To authorize the Town School District to accept payment from the State Department of Taxes under Act 68.
- ARTICLE 7:** To act on the reports of the Town School District Officers for the year ending December 31, 2003.
- ARTICLE 8:** To transact any other business deemed proper when met.

Dated at Chester, Vermont, January 28, 2004.

/s/ Erron J. Carey
/s/ Alison DesLauriers
/s/ George C. Cook
Chester Town School District Directors

**TOWN OF CHESTER
WARNING
NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING**

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall Second Floor in said Town on Monday, March 1, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1 will be by Australian Ballot on March 2, 2004, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont and citizens to serve on the Budget Committee (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to accept gifts and trust funds for perpetual care of cemetery lots in accordance with conditions of said gifts and trusts as follows: Margaret V. Daly, \$75; Theodore and Janice Hastings, \$150; Richard H. and Christine Spaulding, \$150; Keith and Joyce Hill, \$250; John and Elaine Stone, Edward and Joni Stone Lastes, \$375; William Salo, Jr., and Joyce A. Gagnon, \$125; Ulrich and Ann Waldmann, \$250; R. Judson Bolles, \$375; Carl and Linda Davison, \$125.
- ARTICLE 3:** To exempt from municipal and school taxation for a period of five (5) years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of the lands and buildings occupied by Gassetts Grange.
- ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to elect 12 Justices of the Peace as provided by Law given the 2000 Census figure.
- ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise a sum not to exceed \$70,000 for the purchase of an excavator to be financed over five years.
- ARTICLE 6:** Shall the Town of Chester APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF TWENTY SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,700.00) to assist the MEALS ON WHEELS with the expense of providing hot and cold home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to qualified residents of the Town of Chester.
- ARTICLE 7:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 to RSVP, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Windsor County, to develop opportunities for people - 55 and older - to positively impact the quality of life in the community through volunteer service.
- ARTICLE 8:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,800.00) toward the support (\$1,000) of the Council On Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. for its services of case management, information, referral, nutrition and caregiver support and the continued support (\$1,800) of the Chester Cares Network, a community based, long term care program of the Council On Aging for Southeastern Vermont.

- ARTICLE 9:** Shall the town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,900 to assist the Windsor County Court Diversion Program, Inc. in paying operating expenses.
- ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town of Chester will vote to appropriate and raise in taxes a sum of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600) for Windsor County Partners, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County, Vermont.
- ARTICLE 11:** We, the undersigned REGISTERED VOTERS OF CHESTER, petition the Selectmen of the town of Chester to include in the 2004 town warning the request of \$3,000.00 for the Chester-Andover Family Center.
- ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise money to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness; if so, the amount, to whom and when paid.
- ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 14:** To act on the reports of the Town Officers for the year ending December 31, 2003.
- ARTICLE 15:** To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not including the expenditures of Town Funds or other business acted upon in the preceding Articles.

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 21st day of January, 2004.

/s/ Seeley W. Morton, Chairman
/s/ Richard G. Jewett
/s/ Michael J. LeClair
/s/ William L. Lindsay

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TOWN MEETING

March 1, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
in Town Hall Second Floor

March 2, 2004

in Town Hall Second Floor

Ballot Boxes open 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Telephone 802-875-2173

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

First and Third Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION'S MEETING

First and (if needed) Third Monday 7:00 p.m.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT'S MEETING

Monday 7:00 p.m. as required

FOR POLICE

Emergency: DIAL 911 or 875-2233

Business: 875-2035

FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE

DIAL 911 or 875-3200

FOR FIRE SERVICE

DIAL 911 or 875-3200

FOR HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

875-2173

FOR TOWN FIRE WARDEN

875-2173

FOR TOWN MANAGER

875-2173

(Home: 875-2714)

ESTHER STEVENS ELLSWORTH MEMORIAL CLINIC

Stephen A. Saunders, D.D.S. 875-2878

Visiting Nurses Alliance of VT/NH 875-3020

ELLSWORTH FAMILY MEDICINE 875-2546

Jo Ann Herford, MD

Steve Herford, MD

The cover of this year's Town Report is a pen and ink
drawing of the Chester Town Hall
by artist Lewis Waters of Chester

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