

Annual Town Report  
for  
**Hancock, Vermont**



*Texas Falls*

Town Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

**Town Meeting to be held at the Town Hall  
Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 10:00 AM**

## AUDITORS' STATEMENT

Due to the fact that the outside auditors, Fothergill, Segale & Valley, are still reconciling the income accounts for the Town Checking, MMA, and the Road Commissioner's MMA, the financial statement and the Road Commissioner's report will be handed out at the Annual Town Meeting. We have, however, examined and prepared the remaining reports of the Town Officers as presented to us and verify them to be correct to the best of our knowledge. This covers the period July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. We would also like to very much thank Roger Comes and Janet Jesso for their assistance.

*Elsie Carden and Geraldine Twitchell*

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## *An Invitation*

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To All Townspeople and to Any Other Interested Parties

Please join us on historic Town Meeting day. The Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Hancock Town Hall on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. The meeting will be called to order at 10:00 AM. We will break at noon for a buffet lunch.

Only legal voters of the Town of Hancock are able to vote, but any and all are welcome to meet with your neighbor, discuss your views, and become better acquainted with your local municipal body.

For any questions, please contact the Town Office at 767-3660. Or visit us at 1027 VT RT 100 to become a registered voter.

# **Town of Hancock**

## **Informational Sheet**

### **Town Office Hours**

Monday 3–7 PM; Tuesday 10–3; Wednesday 8–noon

### **Tax Deadlines for FY 17–18**

August 15, November 15, February 15, May 15

### **Contact Information**

Town Clerk & Town Treasurer 767-3660

Email: [townclerk@hancockvt.org](mailto:townclerk@hancockvt.org)

### **Recycling**

Company: ABLE Waste Management

Location of Drop-Off: Next to Hancock Building Supply/Town Sand Pile

Time/Date of Drop-Off: 11 AM–1 PM, 2nd and 4th Saturdays

## **Town Website**

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[www.hancockvt.org](http://www.hancockvt.org)

Please visit our Town Website to keep up to date with agendas, meeting minutes, contact information, and forms.

**TOWN OFFICERS OF HANCOCK, VT  
2017-2018**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

***Agent to Convey Real Estate  
(1 year)***

James Leno

***Auditors (3 year)***

First, expires 2018

VACANT

Second, expires 2019

Elsie Carden

Third, expires 2020

Geraldine K. Twitchell

***Budget Committee (3year)***

First, expires 2018

Maurice Eaton

Second, expires 2019

Marjorie Ross

Third, expires 2020

Eva Jesso

***Cemetery Commission (3 year)***

First, expires 2018

Larry Bettis

Second, expires 2019

Geraldine K. Twitchell

Third, expires 2020

Maurice Eaton

***Constable (1 year)***

Scott Twitchell

***Delinquent Tax Collector (1 year)***

Jaime Morin (appointed)

***Grand Juror (1 year)***

John Ross

***Justices of the Peace***

Roger Comes

Maurice Eaton

John Ross

Marjorie Ross

Monica Collins

***Library Trustees (5 year)***

First, expires 2018

Joanne Lanpher (appointed)

Second, expires 2019

Gretchen Perera

Third, expires 2020

Rose Juliano

Fourth, expires 2021

Eva Jesso

Fifth, expires 2022

Jody Troumbley

***Listers (3 year)***

First, expires 2018

VACANT

Second, expires 2019

Don Crickard

Third, expires 2020

Marge Ross

***Moderator (1 Year)***

James Leno

***Road Commissioner (1 year)***

Robert Laird

***School Board (3 year)***

First, expires 2018

Rose Juliano

Second, expires 2019

Stacey Peters

Third, expires 2020

Kenneth Troumbley

**Selectboard (3 year)**

First, expires 2018

Second, expires 2019

Third, expires 2020

**Town Agent (1 year)****Town Clerk (3 year) expires 2019****Town Treasurer (3 year) expires 2019****WRVA Board Member (1 year)**

Shelley Twitchell

Monica Collins

John Ross

John Ross

Janet Jesso (appointed)

Janet Jesso (appointed)

John Ross

**TOWN OFFICERS OF HANCOCK, VT  
2017-2018****APPOINTED OFFICIALS:****E-911 Coordinator****Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer****Asst. Town Clerk****Civil Defense****Emergency Management****Energy Coordinator****Fence Viewers**

Jack Ross

Roger Comes

Eva Jesso

James Leno

VACANT

VACANT

Larry Bettis

Shelley Twitchell

John Ross

Jonathan Deering

Shelley Twitchell

John Ross

Monica Collins

**Fire Warden****Health Officer****Deputy Health Officers****Inspector of Wood, Shingles &  
Lumber****Animal Control Officer****Septic/Sewage Officer****Solid Waste/Recycle Coordinator****Stagecoach Board Member****Town Service Member****Tree Warden****Weigher of Coal**

Thomas Patterson

Mark Belisle

James Leno

James Leno

VACANT

VACANT

VACANT

John Ross

**WARNING OF  
ANNUAL MEETING  
TOWN OF HANCOCK, VERMONT  
MARCH 6, 2018**

The legal voters of the Town of Hancock, Vermont, are hereby warned to meet at the Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 6, AD 2018, at 10:00 a.m. to act on the following business, viz.

Article 1      To elect a moderator for the next year ensuing.

Article 2      To elect all officers as required by law:

- Town Clerk—one year to finish a three-year term (by ballot)
- Town Treasurer—one year to finish a three-year term (by ballot)
- Selectboard Member—three-year term (by ballot)
- Lister—three-year term (by ballot)
- Auditor—three-year term (by ballot)
- Constable—one-year term
- Collector of Delinquent Taxes—one-year term
- Grand Juror—one-year term
- Town Agent—one-year term
- Cemetery Commissioner—three-year term
- Road Commissioner—one-year term (by ballot)
- Library Trustee—five-year term (by ballot)
- Advisory Budget Committee—three-year term
- Agent to Convey Real Estate—one-year term
- White River Valley Ambulance Representative—one-year term

Article 3      Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$30,121 to the following social service agencies pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691:

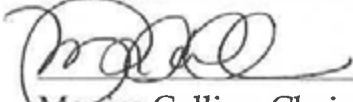
Green-Up Vermont	\$50
Vermont Adult Learning	\$115
WomenSafe	\$500
John Graham Shelter	\$350
Valley Food Shelf	\$500
Stagecoach	\$500
Capstone (formerly Central Vermont Community Action)	\$300
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$800
Park House	\$500
Clara Martin Center	\$595
Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT/NH, Inc.	\$1,475

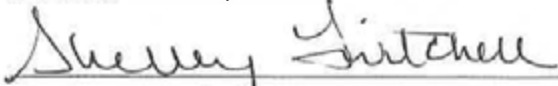


Quin-Town Senior Center	\$2,587
White River Valley Ambulance (\$63 per capita)	20,349
Granville Volunteer Fire Department First Responders (\$3.96 per capita)	\$1,280
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$100
Addison Restorative Justice	<u>\$120</u>
	\$30,121

- Article 4 To hear and act upon the reports of the Hancock Town Officers.
- Article 5 Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to apply the remaining balance in the General Fund of FY 17–18 to reducing the next fiscal year’s amount to be raised by taxes.
- Article 6 Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 4791, and, if so, to set the payment dates. The dates being of four equal installments dated August 15, 2018; November 15, 2018; February 15, 2019; and May 15, 2019.
- Article 7 Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow funds in anticipation of taxes to be received to meet the expenses of said town.
- Article 8 Shall the Town of Hancock appropriate the sum of \$371,088 to pay the current expenses for the general and highway funds for the ensuing twelve months, with 2018–2019 taxes becoming delinquent after May 15th 2019 and with the County and State taxes to be paid from the general fund.
- Article 9 To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before said meeting.

Hancock Selectboard:

  
 Monica Collins, Chair

  
 Shelley Twitchell

  
 John Ross

Dated this 29th day of January, 2018, in Hancock, Vermont

**PROPOSED HANCOCK TOWN BUDGET - JULY 01, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019**

	July 01, 2016 - June 30, 2017	July 1, 2016 June 30, 2017	July 01, 2017 - June 30, 2018	July 01, 2018 - June 30, 2019
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>PROPOSED BUDGET</b>
Advertising	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,549.93	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
Outside Audit (one year)	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 296.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
<b>Appropriations:</b>				
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00	\$ -
WomenSafe	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Clara Martin Center	\$ 595.00	\$ 595.00	\$ 595.00	\$ -
Hancock/Granville Food Shelf	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Stagecoach	\$ 508.00	\$ 508.00	\$ 508.00	\$ -
Central VT Community Action	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Central VT Council on Aging	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -
Park House	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Quin-town Senior Center	\$ 2,583.00	\$ 2,583.00	\$ 2,587.00	\$ -
Visiting Nurses of VT/NH	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 1,475.00	\$ -
WRVA	\$ 19,373.54	\$ 19,373.52	\$ 19,380.00	\$ -
John Graham Emerg. Shelter	\$ 2,450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fire Protection	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Red Cross	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Work Comp Ins.	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,553.39	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Cemetery Commission	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 3,454.67	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
Computer	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 700.00
Copier Lease	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,451.80	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Fire Department	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Insurance	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 11,472.11	\$ 18,700.00	\$ 20,000.00
Legal Fees	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,199.60	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Library	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 14,977.78	\$ 19,350.00	\$ 19,350.00
Emergency Mngmt Co-ord Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Building Maint. Cap. Fund	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Membership Dues:</b>				
Addison County Humane Soc.	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Two-Rivers Ottaquechee	\$ 430.00	\$ 443.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 468.00
VT League of Cities & Towns	\$ 1,171.00	\$ 1,229.00	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 1,355.00
VT Mun. Clerks&Treas Assoc.	\$ 35.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
<b>Municipal Buildings/Lighting:</b>				
Electricity	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,148.67	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Street Lights	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,947.61	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Phone	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,274.81	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
Fuel Oil	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 6,509.44	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Maintenance/Repairs/Wtr Testing	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 12,010.05	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Office Equipment	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,925.35	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,700.00
Postage	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,038.87	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
Printing	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 778.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Highway Capitol Project Fund	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Flood Loan	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Fire Station Loan Repayment	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 19,025.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
<b>Sub Total this page</b>	<b>\$ 181,385.54</b>	<b>\$ 166,039.60</b>	<b>\$ 222,570.00</b>	<b>\$ 170,538.00</b>

**PROPOSED HANCOCK TOWN BUDGET - JULY 01, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019**

	July 01, 2016 - June 30, 2017	July 1, 2016 June 30, 2017	July 01, 2017 - June 30, 2018	July 01, 2018 - June 30, 2019
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>SPENT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>PROPOSED BUDGET</u>
<b>Rubbish Removal:</b>				
Trash	\$ 250.00	\$ 179.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 300.00
Recycle	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 6,765.00	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 7,200.00
Bethel/Royalton Landfill	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,578.84	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,400.00
Service Contracts/Tech Support	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,649.41	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Special Officer/Sheriff's Patrol	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,658.34	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Summer Mowing Contract	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,671.95	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Taxes	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,131.38	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Health Officer	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
<b>Town Employees:</b>				
Asst. Town Clerk & Treas.	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,670.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Auditors	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,462.50	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Ballot Clerks	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 615.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 700.00
Laborers	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,883.75	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Listers	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 978.75	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Animal Control	\$ 300.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Selectboard	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
Selectboard Clerk/Grant Clerk	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 749.25	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Flood Plain Administrator	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Town Clerk & Treasurer	\$ 22,434.00	\$ 22,434.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,500.00
Reappraisal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Training	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Winter Roads	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 36,360.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Sand Pit Rental	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Town Hall Renovation	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Sub Total	\$ 208,784.00	\$ 178,887.17	\$ 149,900.00	\$ 155,550.00
Sub Total Both Pages	\$ 390,169.54	\$ 344,926.77	\$ 372,470.00	\$ 326,088.00
*Road Commissioner	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 79,076.44	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 435,169.54</b>	<b>\$ 424,003.21</b>	<b>\$ 417,470.00</b>	<b>\$ 371,088.00</b>
<b>*Road Commissioner Budget is funded by the Forestry Receipts and State Transportation Aid only. No Tax Dollars are/were used in the funding of this budget amount.</b>				

**ANTICIPATED INCOME REPORT  
JULY 01, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019**

Estimated Beginning Balance 07/01/18

Quin Town Rent	\$ 3,000.00
Delinquent Taxes/Int. on Delinquent Taxes	\$ 44,853.54
Dog Licenses	\$ 400.00
Interest from Bank Accounts	\$ 150.00
Liquor Licenses	\$ 325.00
Special Police Patrol	\$ 13,000.00
Town Clerk Fees	\$ 4,300.00
Town Hall Rentals	\$ 300.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 66,328.54</b>

Anticipated Budget July 01, 2019	\$ 371,088.00
Anticipated Income July 01, 2019	\$ 66,328.54

**Estimated Amount to be Raised by Taxes** **\$ 304,759.46**

Forestry Receipts & Transportation Aid Fund Road Commissioner Budget	
Forestry Receipts	\$ 35,000.00
Transportaion Aid	\$ 10,000.00

**Statement of Taxes Raised for Year Ending - June 30, 2018**

	<b>Grand List:</b>	<b>Tax Rate:</b>	<b>Total:</b>
Municipal	\$358,041.00	\$1.1000	\$ 393,845.10
School-Homestead	\$129,500.00	\$1.7412	\$ 225,485.40
School-Non-Homestead	\$210,790.70	\$1.5657	<u>\$ 330,035.00</u>
<b>Total Taxes to be Raised</b>			<b>\$ 949,365.50</b>

Total 17-18 Tax Rate: \$2.84 Homestead  
Total 17-18 Tax Rate: \$2.66 Non-Homestead

Selectboard Expenses for Fiscal Year July 01, 2016 - June 30, 2017				
ACCOUNT:			AMOUNT:	
<i>Salaries:</i>				
Ass't Town Clerk			\$	2,670.00
Auditors			\$	3,592.50
Auditor Assistant			\$	870.00
Ballot Clerks/Moderator			\$	615.00
School Directors Stipend			\$	1,500.00
School Treasurer Stipend			\$	1,600.00
Listers			\$	978.75
Selectboard Salary			\$	3,600.00
Animal Control			\$	250.00
Selectboard Grant/Clerk			\$	749.25
Town Clerk/Treasurer			\$	22,434.00
Town Laborers			\$	2,883.75
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees			\$	2,873.39
Advertising			\$	2,549.93
Appropriations			\$	27,299.52
Audit (Financials, Work. Comp.)			\$	296.00
Copier Lease			\$	1,451.80
<i>Electricity:</i>				
Fire Department			\$	1,153.47
Hancock School			\$	1,110.83
Library			\$	345.08
Town Clerk			\$	285.05
Town Hall			\$	2,254.24
Street Lights			\$	3,947.61
<i>*Fuel Oil:</i>				
Firehouse			\$	2,122.82
Hancock School			\$	838.40
Library			\$	-
Town Clerk			\$	121.75
Town Hall			\$	3,098.04
In and Out (Reimbursements)			\$	328.79
<i>Insurance:</i>				
Buildings/Contents			\$	11,472.11
Insurance-other			\$	-
Health/Workmans Comp.			\$	1,553.39
Legal Fees/Surveys			\$	2,199.60
Bank Fees			\$	156.00
Highway Capital Project Payment			\$	3,000.00
Building Maintenance Capital Project Payment			\$	10,000.00
<i>Maintenance/Repairs:</i>				
Town Green			\$	4,287.00
Firehouse			\$	1,172.08
Hancock School			\$	3,943.37
Library			\$	-
Town Clerk			\$	419.00
Town Hall			\$	1,908.60
Munic. Buildings - Other			\$	280.00
<i>Membership Dues:</i>				
Addison County Humane Society			\$	400.00
Two Rivers Ottauquechee			\$	443.00
VT Municipal Clerks/Treasurer's Association			\$	55.00
VT League of Cities and Towns			\$	1,229.00
Miscellaneous Supplies (incl. cleaning sply's.)			\$	63.85

<b>SELECTBOARD EXPENSES RPT. CONT'D.</b>			
Office Supplies		\$	1,861.50
<i>Phone</i>			
Town Clerk (internet also)		\$	1,618.24
Fire Department		\$	656.57
Postage		\$	1,038.87
Printing Charges		\$	778.00
Property Tax Refund		\$	1,048.08
<i>Rubbish Removal:</i>			
Rubbish Removal		\$	179.00
Bethel/Royalton Landfill		\$	3,578.84
Rubbish/Recycle Contract		\$	6,765.00
<i>Service Contracts/Tech Support:</i>			
Canon Solutions America		\$	333.96
Connecting Solutions of Vermont		\$	916.10
NEMRC		\$	1,399.35
Sheriff		\$	9,658.34
Summer Mowing		\$	4,000.00
<i>Taxes:</i>			
Taxes - Penalties & Interest		\$	75.87
Addison County Tax		\$	1,369.21
941 Quarterlies		\$	-
VT Wage & Employment Tax		\$	686.30
Town Portion of School Payment		\$	457,910.96
Training		\$	250.00
Payroll Taxes		\$	4,671.95
Sand Pit Rental		\$	-
Winter Roads		\$	36,360.00
Loan Payment - Fire Department		\$	19,025.00
Scholarship		\$	-
<i>Lister's Expenses</i>			
Computer/Program		\$	463.12
Training		\$	-
Misc. Supplies		\$	90.99
Contract Labor		\$	7,950.00
Tax Mapping Expenses		\$	-
Municipal Planning Grant		\$	5,520.13
Paving Project-Village School		\$	1,210.97
Town Hall Renovation		\$	101,849.85
Flood Loan-Mascoma		\$	25,000.00
Churchville Culvert Project		\$	49,601.20
School Renovation		\$	46,433.22
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>926,702.59</b>

## LIBRARY REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

**BEGINNING BALANCE:** \$ 2,457.66

**Income Received:**

Town Of Hancock (Budgeted)	\$ 15,500.00
Transfer from Restricted Account	\$ 1,077.98

**Total Income:** \$ 16,577.98

**Expenses:**

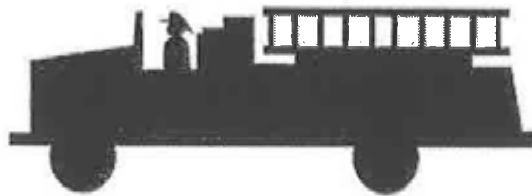
Librarian Salary	\$ 10,398.03
Computer	\$ 930.60
Computer Purchase	\$ 1,077.98
Telephone	\$ 447.22
Digital Media	\$ 80.51
Library Supplies	\$ 685.49
Petty Cash/Postage, etc.	\$ 134.94
Programs	\$ 300.00
Travel Reimbursement	\$ 81.00
Workshops/Conferences	\$ 41.99
Books	\$ 509.14
Other/Passes/Mem.	\$ 290.88

**Total Expenses:** \$ 14,977.78

**ENDING BALANCE:** \$ 4,057.86



Because the outside auditors, Fothergill, Segale & Valley, are still auditing the income accounts for the **Town Checking, MMA**, and the **Road Commissioner MMA**, there will be a **Road Commissioner report** handed out at the Annual Town Meeting.



# **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017**

## **Income Received:**

Town of Hancock (Budgeted)	\$	8,000.00
Grant for Radios	\$	-
Fire Dept Equip Fund (restricted acct.)	\$	-

## **Total Income:**

**\$ 8,000.00**

## **Expenses:**

911 Phone Charges	\$	1,333.94
Attendance	\$	1,095.00
Fire School	\$	110.00
Gas/Repairs	\$	1,016.80
Equip/Supplies	\$	1,948.05
Radio/Radio Repairs	\$	308.95
Misc.	\$	977.32
Sub Total	\$	6,790.06

Fire Dept. Bldg./Equip. Fund Draw off	\$	1,209.94
	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>

## **Total Expenses:**

## **ENDING BALANCE**

**\$**



## CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

### Income Received:

Town of Hancock (Budgeted)	\$ 5,200.00	
Reimbursement from Cemetery Comm.	<u>\$ -</u>	
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$ 5,200.00</b>

### Expenses:

Equipment Rental	\$ 418.50	
Gasoline	\$ -	
Maintenance	\$ 30.17	
Misc. Supplies	\$ 22.50	
Stone repair/cleaning	\$ -	
Labor	\$ 2,983.50	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b><u>\$ 3,454.67</u></b>

**ENDING BALANCE** **\$ 1,745.33**

## CEMETERY TRUST FUND REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 2016 - JUNE 2017

### Certificate of Deposit:

<b>Beginning Balance 07/01/16</b>	<b>\$ 13,027.07</b>
Interest Accumulated	<u>\$ 109.22</u>
<b>Ending Balance 06/30/17</b>	<b>\$ 13,136.29</b>

### Savings Account:

<b>Beginning Balance 07/01/16</b>	<b>\$ 1,071.22</b>
Perpetual Care	\$ -
Cemetery Lot	\$ -
Interest Accumulated	\$ 0.52
Dormant Fees Service Charges	<u>\$ (60.00)</u>
<b>Ending Balance 06/30/17</b>	<b>\$ 1,011.74</b>

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017**

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	\$	<b>3,230.73</b>
<b>Income:</b> Interest Earned	\$	1.62
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$	<u>-</u>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	\$	<b>3,232.35</b>

**HONOR ROLL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017**

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	\$	<b>1,682.49</b>
<b>Income:</b> Interest Earned	\$	1.68
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$	<u>-</u>
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	\$	<b>1,684.17</b>

**LIBRARY FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2016-JUNE 30, 2017**

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	\$	<b>4,434.95</b>
<b>Income:</b> Interest Earned	\$	2.10
<b>Expense:</b>		
Transfer to Library Account	\$	(1,077.98)
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	\$	<b>3,359.07</b>

**RESTRICTED ACCOUNTS for FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017**

**Highway Capital Project Fund:**

Beginning Balance 07/01/16	\$ 74,896.50
Interest Accumulated	\$ 74.83
*1 Per article 7 - 3/2/04	\$ 3,000.00
*1 R/C Draw Off Balance	\$ 52,474.36
Ending Balance 06/30/17	\$ 130,445.69
*1 Checks were drawn in FY 16/17 not deposited till FY 17/18	

**Hancock Reappraisal Money Market:**

Beginning Balance 07/01/16	\$ 4,290.17
Interest Accumulated	\$ 2.16
Per Art. 12/ 3.2.10 Town Meeting	\$ -
Service Charges	\$ -
Ending Balance 06/30/17	\$ 4,292.33

**Building Maintenance Fund:**

Beginning Balance 07/01/16	\$ 29,469.52
Interest Accumulated	\$ 29.03
*2 Dep.- Per Art.11/ 3.2.10 Town Meeting	\$ 10,000.00
Fire Suppression System Expense	\$ (14,937.50)
Ending Balance 06/30/17	\$ 24,561.05
*2 Checks were drawn in FY 16/17 not deposited till FY 17/18	

**Hancock Scholarship Fund:**

Beginning Balance 07/01/16	\$ 658.52
Interest Accumulated	\$ 0.66
Ending Balance 06/30/17	\$ 659.18

**Fire Dept. Building/Equipment Fund**

Beginning Balance 07/01/16	\$ 5,489.67
Interest Accumulated	\$ 5.48
*3 FD Draw off Bal. per Art.10 03/01/05	\$ 1,209.94
Ending Balance 06/30/17	\$ 6,705.09
*3 Checks were drawn in FY 16/17 not deposited till FY 17/18	

**Hancock Tax Mapping**

Beginning Balance 07/01/16	\$ 1,791.00
Expenses	\$ -
Ending Balance 06/30/17	\$ 1,791.00

# DOG LICENSE REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 01, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

Dogs Licensed by April 1st, 2017

37 dogs @ \$9.00/ea.	\$ 333.00
9 dog @ \$12.00 (unneutered)	\$ 108.00
6 Late Fees Collected	<u>\$ 18.00</u>

Total: \$ 459.00

\$3.00 per dog refunded to State of Vermont for rabies Fund



## TOWN OF HANCOCK VITAL STATISTICS

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

### MARRIAGES

<u>Name of Bride</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Name of Groom</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Date of Marriage</u>
Randi-Jo Locke	Hancock	Jessy Shane LaPlante	Hancock	July 23, 2016
Annie Hart Johnson	Hancock	Jordan M. Champney	Hancock	May 20, 2017
Olivia Lauren Drury	Hancock	Zak Joseph Whalen	Hancock	Sept. 10, 2016

### BIRTHS

<u>Name of Child</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Mother's Name</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Born At</u>
Nora June Champney	F	Sept. 6, 2016	Annie Hart Johnson	Jordan M. Champney	Berlin
Rally Floyd Aldrighetti	M	Dec. 28, 2016	De'Lena M. Aldrighetti	William A. Aldrighetti	Randolph

### DEATHS/BURIALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Age</u>
Frank Lewis Curtis	M	Sept. 24, 2016	Hancock	62
Paul R. Crete	M	Oct. 19, 2016	Hancock	87
Virginia L. Gooden	F	Nov. 19, 2016	Hancock	68
Effie Rice	F	Feb. 4, 2017	Randolph	82
Loren R. Andrews	M	June 21, 2017	Hancock	97

**DELINQUENT TAXES MAY '16-'17**

NAME:	2004-05	2005-06	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-2016	2016-2017	TOTAL
Andrews, Jane												\$ 4.05	\$ 4.05
Bettis, Chris												\$ 50.50	\$ 50.50
Boutwell, Steven								\$ 284.40	\$ 270.00	\$ 254.16	\$ 280.58	\$ 343.12	\$ 1,432.36
Bowen, Amanda											\$ -	\$ 2.66	\$ 2.66
Brown, Brenda Lee								\$ -	\$ 700.52	\$ 945.80	\$ 1,044.56	\$ 998.20	\$ 3,689.08
Brown, Timothy									\$ 758.36	\$ 1,755.88	\$ 1,908.84	\$ 1,782.40	\$ 5,205.48
Burke, Jerry									\$ 99.47	\$ 1,125.32	\$ 983.08	\$ 796.62	\$ 3,004.39
Burling, Anne												\$ 2,064.82	\$ 2,064.82
Cannon, John												\$ 431.92	\$ 431.92
Carden, Elsie											\$ -	\$ 7.17	\$ 7.17
Carden, Howard												\$ 6.93	\$ 6.93
Cartier, Matthew											\$ 545.86	\$ 1,953.76	\$ 2,499.62
Comes, Randy & Thomas												\$ 45.39	\$ 45.39
Curtis, Leland									\$ 1,557.56	\$ 2,635.36	\$ 2,910.48	\$ 2,745.12	\$ 9,848.52
Deering, Jon												\$ 8,653.55	\$ 8,653.55
Deering, Jon												\$ 2,596.35	\$ 2,596.35
Deering, Jonathan												\$ 2,584.36	\$ 2,584.36
Denis, James									\$ 111.32	\$ 737.64	\$ 751.68	\$ 805.35	\$ 2,406.00
Doria, David												\$ 6.44	\$ 6.44
Elms, Stacey												\$ 591.08	\$ 591.08
Englehart, Walter											\$ -	\$ 543.82	\$ 543.82
Fournier, David												\$ 158.37	\$ 158.37
Gerber, William										\$ 887.82	\$ 2,450.32	\$ 2,529.56	\$ 5,958.10
Gilbert, Stuart										\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14.96	\$ 14.96
Hall, Jane												\$ 463.12	\$ 463.12
Hall, Joseph												\$ 0.19	\$ 0.19
Heindl, Patrick												\$ 0.42	\$ 0.42
Heindl, Patrick												\$ 99.58	\$ 99.58
Heist, Michael												\$ 402.64	\$ 402.64
Hilliker, Andrew									\$ -	\$ 42.69	\$ 832.88	\$ 741.48	\$ 1,617.05
Hubbard, Karin												\$ 4,264.72	\$ 4,264.72
Killeen, Kieran												\$ 591.28	\$ 591.28
Kolesnik, Diane											\$ 266.63	\$ 6,399.72	\$ 6,666.35
LaPlante, Shellie									\$ -	\$ 1,540.52	\$ 1,704.28	\$ 2,080.44	\$ 5,325.24
Lary, Dickon												\$ 2.24	\$ 2.24
Mannix, Frances												\$ 1,018.61	\$ 1,018.61
McDonnell, Dale										\$ 3,738.56	\$ 5,282.08	\$ 5,723.56	\$ 14,724.20
Merrill, Gordon												\$ 84.20	\$ 84.20
Meyer, Bernard	\$ 1.41	\$ 20.02	\$ 164.88	\$ 94.16	\$ 557.03	\$ 483.24	\$ 413.32	\$ 508.20	\$ 482.44	\$ 454.16	\$ 501.58	\$ 377.94	\$ 4,058.35
Needham, James												\$ 5.09	\$ 5.09
Needham, Timothy											\$ 7.72	\$ 1.58	\$ 9.30
Neefe, James												\$ 1.67	\$ 1.67
O'Connor, Teresa												\$ 55.68	\$ 55.68
Ouellette, Homer												\$ 495.50	\$ 495.50
Papa, Leslie											\$ -	\$ 281.61	\$ 281.61
Perry Family Trust												\$ 14.33	\$ 14.33
Resnik, Benjamin												\$ 2,520.72	\$ 2,520.72
Schoennagel, Edward												\$ 151.71	\$ 151.71
Tobin, William												\$ 477.52	\$ 477.52
Tuggle, Clyde												\$ 19,021.60	\$ 19,021.60
Van Der Waag, Albert												\$ 895.04	\$ 895.04
Van Der Waag, Albert												\$ 506.32	\$ 506.32
VT. Home Bakery												\$ 5,886.20	\$ 5,886.20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 1.41</b>	<b>\$ 20.02</b>	<b>\$ 164.88</b>	<b>\$ 94.16</b>	<b>\$ 557.03</b>	<b>\$ 483.24</b>	<b>\$ 413.32</b>	<b>\$ 792.60</b>	<b>\$ 3,979.67</b>	<b>\$ 14,117.91</b>	<b>\$ 19,450.65</b>	<b>\$ 82,491.54</b>	<b>\$ 122,556.43</b>
												page check	\$ 122,556.43
<b>Summary of Delinquent Taxes as of May 15, 2017</b>													
Delinquent Taxes Due as of May 15, 2017		\$ 160,074.52											
Less Delinquent Taxes Collected as of June 30, 2017		\$ (37,558.09)											
Check Rec'd into QB but not applied to NEMRC		\$ 50.00											
		\$ 122,566.43											

## SELECTBOARD REPORT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As always, it's been a busy year. This year both our Town Clerk, Olivia Whalen and our Assistant Town Clerk moved on to new jobs. We are very happy to have Janet Jesso as our new Town Clerk, Roger Comes returns as our Assistant Town Clerk along with Eva Jesso (also an Assistant Town Clerk) who has been volunteering to help with recording. Jamie Morin joined us as the Collector of Delinquent Taxes. Many thanks to all of them for their hard work.

The job of Town Clerk is an extremely difficult and important position and the challenges we encountered during the transition highlighted the necessity for attention to detail. Janet, Roger, Eva and our auditors, Jakey Twitchell and Elsie Carden have been working hard to ensure that our finances are in order. In addition, we are also undergoing an independent audit with the firm of Forthergill, Segale and Valley, experienced in working with municipal governments. By Town Meeting, that audit may be completed. The final audit report will be available for anyone to review at the Town Clerk's office. We have also decided to move from our current computer accounting system to one used by most towns in Vermont. We anticipate that the new software will be in place at the beginning of this upcoming fiscal year, 2018/2019 and that this change will be more compatible with how municipal finances work.

This year also saw the completion of the Disaster Relief Community Development Block Grant (DR-CDBG) for repair of an undersized culvert on Churchville Road. The work on this project was completed in August. No tax dollars were used for that project as the grant covered 90% and the White River Partnership assisted us with the additional 10%. This project has been celebrated by organizations such as the High Meadows Fund as an example of flood mitigation projects in Central Vermont.

Work on the Town Hall was also completed. Repairs included replacement and repair of rotted clapboards and trim, structural repairs to foundation, replacement of the flooring in the hall and entryway and painting both inside and out. This year we will need to replace the furnace due to its inefficiency and age, and replace the exterior double doors. We are also looking into updating the kitchen area. We hope to take on these repairs in stages so as to be able to budget and save up for the work. This is part of our effort to implement our Capitol Budgeting program and dealing with upkeep proactively rather than reacting to emergencies.

This year we will also update the Town Plan as required by law. We will be working with Two Rivers Ottaquechee to undertake this work. If you would like to be part of the Planning Commission and help us work on updating this document, please contact Monica Collins.

You can see from our list of Town Officials here in the report, that we have vacant offices. We would appreciate more volunteers for these positions. For quite a while there's been a core group of folks who have been generous with their time and have taken on multiple positions due to a lack of volunteers. We'd love to have more people be part of the process. Please contact the Town Clerk or a Select Board member if you're interested. We would like to thank those that do volunteer and/or are employed by the Town for all they do keep things running.

As always, select board meetings are open to all and are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of every month at 6 pm at the Town Clerk's office and we look forward to having you share your concerns and ideas with us. If you can't make the meeting, please contact us to share your thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

Hancock Select Board — Monica Collins, Chair, Shelley Twitchell and John Ross

## TOWN CLERK REPORT

I stepped in to the town office fully on board on August 14. As I began to implement improved office procedures and policies, it immediately became apparent that the relocation from the old town office and the resultant unfinished sorting would be just one of many challenges for a smooth transition—it was clear that the state of the office never fully recovered from the move. As described by colleague in a letter to the selectboard, the office was “in chaos.” The struggle has been not only to bring order to the piles but also to establish the veracity of our legal and historical records and confirm the accuracy and transparency of the town’s finances. Consequently, one of my first orders of business was to obtain a professional audit. Fothergill, Segale & Valley were hired in October to conduct a professional audit. They have gone back to the records of 2013, moving forward to the end of FY 16–17, and have been in close communication with our office and the financial institutions with which we work. The process has been a bit like puzzle night! As of this writing, these outside auditors have not finalized their findings and recommendations, but their report will be available at the town office once completed.

I would like to thank Roger Comes for his unwavering presence. Roger has been key in helping me to reestablish the course of best practices for municipal accounting, and his guidance has been invaluable. We have worked tirelessly with our local auditors as well as the professionals as we attempt to validate whether all of our accounts are in good standing.

In addition, Eva Jesso has graciously donated a multitude of hours and years of wisdom regarding myriad municipal topics in a dedicated effort to bring the town office back on line. Her time and expertise in the vault (even in January when the heat stopped working!) and with the records are greatly appreciated. One attorney exclaimed, “The progress that has been made with the utter disaster in the vault alone has been nothing short of amazing!”

Stacey Peters generously re-created the town’s website and has provided us with a professional email address and account. Soon we will begin the process of repopulating the website. There you will be able to find town news and events, and selectboard minutes will be published unedited and “as written” by the board.

Replacing our dinosaur of a computer with the purchase of an up-to-date model this past fall has been a great assist as we institute the plethora of positive changes occurring in the office. There is still much work to do—sorting and organizing and rethinking procedures—but soon we will be shipshape! We have a town office building of which we can all be proud, and shortly not only will the building be an asset but so too will the records it contains. A fitting homage to and reflection of our beautiful, unique, close-knit community.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet Jesso*



## HANCOCK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

We moved March 1, 2017 and have made our new home in the former Village School for a year now. We share the building with the Town Clerk's Office. The new use of this space is a wonderful addition to our town. In addition, we now have a kitchen and a bathroom.

Through our membership in the Green Mountain Consortium we are able to provide services that include Listen Up Vermont, Vermont Online Libraries, Universal Classes, and the Gale databases. Available technology includes two new patron computers, a Leap Frog, an iPad, and a Kindle. The computers were a gift from the Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library. They also provide support and activities, which attract new visitors to the library.

We continue to offer free passes to the American Precision Museum, Billings Farm and Museum, Hildene, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Montshire Museum, Southern Vermont Museum of Natural History, Vermont History Museum, Vermont State Parks, and Vermont State Historic Sites. A discounted pass is available to the Echo Museum Lake Aquarium and Science Center.

The Birth to Five program remains an ongoing program. It is in collaboration with the Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library, the Addison County Readers Inc., the Walter Cerf Community Fund, and Dolly Parton's Imaginary Library. Please help to spread the word about this special program.

We wish to thank our volunteers who have been so generous with their time, energy, and resources.

Come and enjoy the services we offer. Our hours are Wednesday 12:30–5:30 pm; Thursday 12:30–6:30 pm; and Saturday 9:00am–12:00 pm.

### **Hancock Library Trustees:**

Eva Jesso, Chair

Jody Troumbley, Treasurer

Gretchen Perera, Secretary

Rose Juliano

Joanne Lanpher

Caroline Meagher, Librarian

### **Library Statistics for October 2016–October 2017**

(Vermont Department of Libraries reporting schedule)

Patrons—395; annual visits—900

Home deliveries—24

ILLs from other libraries—28

ILLs to other libraries—2

Reference transactions—135

Circulation—809

Programs—1; attendance—53

## **Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library Report**

The Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library was formed in 2012 to support the Hancock Free Public Library (HFPL). Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

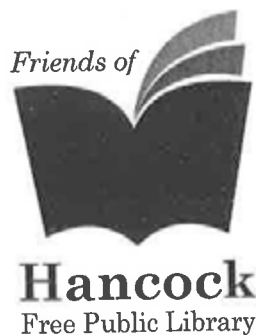
During the late winter of 2017 the Friends helped the HFPL move in to its new location in the former Village School and in early spring hosted an Open House to celebrate the new space.

In April the Friends partnered with the Quin Town Center for Seniors and wrote a grant to the Vermont Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau. This allowed the groups to co-host a program called "The Old Country Fiddler—Charles Ross Taggart, Vermont's Traveling Entertainer." The program took place before lunch at Quin Town and was very well received.

There are many ways to support or join Friends:

- The Friends sponsor a book sale cart with books in all genres at the Library. Money raised helps add to the collection and supports programs and events.
- The Valley Readers book discussion group has been going strong for five years. The group meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM, and anyone is welcome to join.
- There is a new Adopt an Author program to expand the Library's collection. Ask at the HFPL about how you can take part.
- A nice way to remember a loved one or honor a friend or family member is to make a donation to the Friends. The money is used for books and programs in support of the HFPL.
- Friends of the Hancock Free Public Library has a Facebook page with information on events and activities, so please "like" it to keep up with the latest happenings.
- Consider joining the Friends group. Donation levels start as low as \$10/year.

If you would like more information on the Friends, please contact Jill Jesso-White at 767-4128.



## **Hancock Town Pride Annual Report**

Hancock Town Pride had another busy year working toward its three goals of beautifying the town, holding events and activities, and fostering community spirit. In April we hosted our annual Coffee House. It was well attended and a fun evening. Donations from this annual event help to buy flowers for the barrels around town and help pay for the summer concert series.

We continued our tradition of distributing sunflower and other seeds to anyone interested at the Memorial Day parade. Thanks to Ross Parker and Denise Chapin for the donation of seeds. We also once again planted the beautiful planters at the base of the bandstand and the wooden barrels located around town with flowers.

The 2017 Concert Series on the beautiful Hancock Town Green opened on July 11 with a concert by Rick Redington and the Luv, followed two weeks later by the South Royalton Town Band. At the end of July we were entertained by the music of Scott Forrest and Jake Wildwood. Two more concerts in August rounded out the season: the Pete Seeger Memorial Concert featuring musicians from Camp Killooleet and the valley, and the duo of Greg Ryan and Rani Arbo. For 2018 we can expect another varied concert series, which will include the Pete Seeger Memorial Concert in early August. We encourage everyone to attend these free concerts on the Hancock Town Green—bring the whole family, some chairs, and a picnic if you wish. All concerts start at 6:30 PM.

We again put together a crew of volunteers in August to provide support to the runners of the 100 on 100 Relay Race at their stop on Route 100 in Hancock. In October we held our first annual fall Coffee House, which was well attended and in keeping with the spring Coffee House helped us raise donations for our flower barrels, concert series, and other events.

In late November we gathered to make evergreen sprays to hang on the utility poles in town. Then in December, Scott and Bobby at the Huntington House graciously hosted their annual dinner and silent auction to benefit Hancock Town Pride. Our thanks to them for contributing a percentage of the receipts from that night. Thanks also to everyone who donated to the silent auction, bid on items, or who came out to eat.

We always welcome new members to join us! We'd love to hear your ideas and feedback as we work toward adding to the beauty and community spirit of our town.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hancock Town Pride

## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

2017 was quiet, with only 9 calls. But it was a busy year for the firemen.

First, I would like to thank the voters for the money to buy a used tanker. We found a nice used tanker pumper in New York with everything we wanted. It was close enough to us so we could drive out and look at it. We eventually purchased the truck through Firetec Used Fire Truck Sales in Randolph, VT. It was nice to be able to go and talk to them in person.

We had \$50,000.00 that we could spend. The truck was priced at \$45,000.00, but we were able to purchase it for \$40,000.00. We used \$5,000.00 from the Fire Department fundraiser money and \$5,000.00 from the equipment fund. We used only \$30,000.00 of the \$50,000.00. Thank you again.

Second, we took over the prime rib dinner from the church. We feel that it was a success, so we are planning on having it again on April 21, 2018.

Third, we tackled our water supply. After using the hydrant at the southern end of the mill, we found a lot of mud, leaves, and debris. We went up to the pond on the hill and found it was hard to see anything and consequently had to drain the pond. After the water was out, we found a big mess of mud. It had to be cleaned out in order for the hydrant to function correctly.

We applied for a grant through the dry hydrant program. This is a matching grant. We paid 25% of the total cost. This pond is on private land as is the hydrant, so we got permission from the landowner to start the work. With his help, we got the mud out of the pond. The landowner paid to remove gravel from the pond for his own use. This made the pond a lot bigger, which means more water volume. We also had to fix the inlet box that feeds our hydrant. We seeded and hayed the area upon completion. Thanks to the firemen for their help and the donated hay from Camp Killooleet. We used our own labor and value of the hay for our matching fund and paid the balance with fire department fundraiser money. There were no tax dollars used for this project.

Fourth, our bi-annual auction was held in August. We had a lot of donations, and there was a great turnout for the auction and coin drop. Thank you.

Fifth, is the community calendar. You may have seen our calendar around the valley. We took over this project from the VFW. Thank you to all the advertisers; please support them. We will do this again in 2019.

I would like to thank all the firemen and firewomen and others who helped with our fundraisers.

Thank you,


*Jacques Veilleux*

Fire Chief

## TOWN FUNDS REQUEST

AGENCY NAME: Vermont Adult Learning – Addison

ADDRESS: John V. Craven Community Services Center  
282 Boardman Street  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

CONTACT PERSON: David Roberts, Regional Manager 

CONTACT INFORMATION: droberts@vtadultlearning.org  
802-388-4392, ext. 1011

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: We provide adults with basic skills instruction in reading, writing and math, GED prep and testing, a high school diploma program, and classes for English Language Learners.

AMOUNT REQUESTED FY14: \$115.00  
AMOUNT REQUESTED FY15: \$115.00

HANCOCK RESIDENTS SERVED: 2

TOTAL SERVED STATEWIDE: 1780

SOURCES OF INCOME/EXPENSES IN PERCENTAGES\* (Fiscal Year 2017: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017):

<b>Sources of Income</b>	<b>\$437,883</b>	<b>Major Expenses</b>	<b>437,883</b>
Rec'd from federal taxes:	9.25%	Salaries and benefits	77.89%
Rec'd from state taxes:	88.02%	Office expenses	1.66%
Rec'd from municipal tax:	2.47%	Facilities	8.78%
Rec'd from donations:	0.26%	Programs	11.67%
Rec'd from United Way	0.00%	Other	%
Rec'd from grants & other:	0.00%		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*This data pertains to the Middlebury site only, not VAL as a whole.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) offers a variety of learning opportunities to help adults achieve their educational goals and enhance their quality of life. We work with each student to develop an individualized learning plan that includes a transition to further education or employment. We offer GED testing, programs for completing a high school diploma, basic skills instruction in reading, writing, and math and classes for English Language Learners (ELL). Instruction is also available to students who need skill preparation for college or employment purposes.

VAL also offers WorkKeys® certification, a nationally recognized career readiness certificate based on “real world” skills that employers look for in employees. In addition, we are contracted by the Vermont Department of Children and Families to place and support Reach-Up participants in unsubsidized work experiences. Our programs are free and confidential.

*We are grateful to the townspeople of Hancock for supporting the services we provide.*

**WomenSafe, Inc.**  
**Kerri Duquette-Hoffman, Executive Director**

Last year **WomenSafe** staff and volunteers provided the following services:

- 4,142 in-person meetings and phone calls to 468 women, children and men who accessed services.
- Worked with relatives and caregivers of a total of 337 children affected by the violence in their lives.
- 433 supervised visits and monitored exchanges through The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe.
- WomenSafe's Transitional Housing Program funded through the Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has helped 40 families find and maintain secure, stable housing.
- The Training & Education Program reached 1,477 adults and youth through 171 presentations, trainings and community outreach events that covered healthy relationships, preventing child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and consent.
- Seventy-five community volunteers contributed 9,382 hours by providing services such as: staffing the 24-hour hotline, in-person office support, court accompaniment and administrative support.
- WomenSafe assisted Middlebury College in their response to stalking, dating and sexual violence by assisting with the training of on-campus volunteer advocates (MiddSafe).

**Hancock:** WomenSafe provided direct services to at least **5\*** people including the parents of at least **3** children exposed to violence.

\* For their safety some people accessing services do not share their town of residence.

**Contact Information:**

Advocacy services are Free and Confidential.

**24-hour Hotline: 802-388-4205 or 800-388-4205**

**The Supervised Visitation Program @ WomenSafe: 802-388-6783**

Business: 802-388-9180

Fax: 802-388-3438

E-mail: [info@womensafe.net](mailto:info@womensafe.net)

Web: [www.womensafe.net](http://www.womensafe.net)



## JOHN GRAHAM SHELTER

---

69 Main Street, Vergennes, VT  
802-877-2677

November, 2017

Dear Hancock Selectboard,

This year the John Graham Shelter located on Main Street in Vergennes, marks 37 years of service to Addison County's homeless families and individuals. We are writing to ask for your continued support at Town Meeting 2018 in the form of a \$350 allocation. Mindful of the impact on property taxes, we have not increased our request for many years.

In 2017, with generous help from Addison County municipalities the John Graham Shelter:

- Provided more than 16,000 bed nights of food, shelter, services and hope to more than 300 people, many of whom were children;
- Provided rapid rehousing to families at our own buildings in Vergennes, Middlebury and Bristol and at many scattered sites;
- Helped dozens of households find permanent housing and employment;
- Provided counseling, case management and support services that help people take the next step in their lives.

Who are Vermont's homeless? It used to be a single man, out of work and down on his luck, struggling to overcome alcohol or drug addictions.

**But today the face of homelessness is a beautiful young woman, striving to balance a job while caring for her young children. Nearly everyone we work with at John Graham is working!**

In Vermont, the number of homeless school-aged children increased making families with children one of the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. We see each day at the John Graham Shelter how homeless children are more likely to be sick, hungry, exposed to violence and at risk of school failure. The John Graham Shelter provided housing to more than 100 families with children this year. Now, in these difficult financial times, your ongoing support is needed more than ever!

Elizabeth Ready  
For the Residents, Board and Staff of the John Graham Shelter

PS: Please visit our website at [www.johngrahamshelter.org](http://www.johngrahamshelter.org) for more information.



PO Box 356, 1 L Street, Randolph, Vermont 05060  
Phone 802-728-3773, Fax 802-728-6232  
www.stagecoach-rides.org

**Board of Directors**

Paul Kendall, Chair  
*Braintree Representative*

Adam Lougee, Vice-Chair  
*Addison County Regional  
Planning Commission  
Representative*

Tom Burgos, Treasurer  
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*Bristol Representative*

Renny Perry  
*Vergennes Representative*

Bobette Scribner  
*Bradford Representative*

Ann Jones-Weinstock  
*Middlebury Representative*

December 4, 2017

Hancock Selectboard  
PO Box 100  
Hancock, VT 05748

Dear Selectboard Members,

On behalf of Stagecoach Transportation Services, I am writing to thank you for the Town of Hancock's generous support last year. **In FY17, your support helped us provide 89,000 rides including 2,241 door-to-door trips for Hancock Residents.**


The state and federal grants which primarily fund these rides require us to raise up to 20% of the cost of the programs through "local match" dollars. Stagecoach's requests of towns account for less than 1/4 of the 20% requirement. **To help us meet this requirement, we respectfully request level funding of \$500 for FY19 to be placed before the Hancock voters for consideration.**

We are requesting this contribution because:

1. Hancock residents can access bus services to employment and shopping centers in Montpelier, Randolph, White River Junction, and Hanover-Lebanon NH;
2. Hancock residents can utilize transportation alternatives that Stagecoach provides for seniors, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations to access a variety of destinations including grocery shopping, medical appointments, errands, and social events;
3. Stagecoach provides transportation to Senior Citizens from their home in Hancock to Gifford Adult Day the Quin-Town Senior Center for meals and social events.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request – we greatly appreciate it!

Sincerely,

  
Jim Moulton,  
Executive Director



## **Capstone Community Action Fall 2017 Report to the Citizens of Hancock**

Since 1965, Capstone Community Action (formerly known as Central Vermont Community Action Council) has served low-income residents of Lamoille, Orange, and Washington Counties and nine communities in Windsor, Addison, and Rutland Counties. We help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. This year, Capstone Community Action served 14,460 people in 8,162 Vermont households through Head Start and Early Head Start, business development, financial education, food shelves and nutrition resources, housing counseling, tax preparation, teen parent education, emergency heating assistance, home weatherization, workforce training, healthcare navigation, and more.

Programs and services accessed by 10 Hancock households representing 12 individuals this past year included:

- 1 household with 3 family members were able to keep heating their homes with help from our Crisis & Supplemental fuel programs as well as other utility costs.
- 1 household received an emergency furnace repairs at no charge, making it warmer and more energy efficient for residents.
- 2 people found and maintained reliable transportation with support from the Capstone Transportation Project, including car purchases.
- 1 entrepreneur received counseling and technical assistance on starting or growing a business.
- 4 people received information and assistance for signing up for Vermont Health Connect.
- 1 resident received a referral for the Jobs for Independence program.

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

**Central Vermont Council on Aging  
Report of Services to Hancock FY17  
December 8, 2017**

Central Vermont Council on Aging is a private, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the mission of supporting elders and family caregivers in leading self-determined, healthy, interdependent, meaningful and dignified lives in their homes and communities.

For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters aged 60 and up to remain independent for as long as possible. We connect the elders in our communities to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive. All services are made available to our clients at no charge without regard to health, income or resources.

Some of the options we make available include:

- Senior Help Line - (800) 642-5119 - has the answers to hundreds of common questions from elders, families and caregivers.
- Information & Assistance staff counsel elders and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, and more.
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.
- Nutrition Services oversees the menu development for home-delivered and community meals and provides the largest source of funding for the 14 meal sites that prepare and deliver these meals.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, group training, and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Support promotes the well-being of the family members who help to make it possible for seniors to remain in their home.

During the last year, Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more of the above services to 40 Hancock residents. Case Manager Kathryn Schenkman is designated to work directly with the seniors in Hancock. Central Vermont Council on Aging devoted a total of 422 hours of service to Hancock seniors.

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



RCCH, Inc.  
16 Park Row, #4  
Rochester, VT 05767  
802-767-3416  
[www.Parkhousevt.org](http://www.Parkhousevt.org)

#### **Board of Trustees**

Wendy Benedict

Madeline Benson

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Joan Hubbard

Margaret Hudson

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Sue Moulton

Diane Teetsel

Geraldine Twitchell

#### **Executive Director**

Juli Reiderer

Dear Friends in Hancock,

Since its beginning in 1991, Park House (Rochester Community Care Home, Inc), a non-profit organization, has been providing affordable top quality housing for the older members of our community. This was made possible when the Select Boards and other interested people from the five towns of Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Rochester, and Stockbridge joined together to investigate finding an affordable shared residence for independent living in the valley. The Park House project was able to proceed with the receipt of a Community Development Block Grant and other grants from the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board and the renovation of the old Rochester Inn, adjacent to the Rochester Park began. Stipulations of the grants guarantee that rents for eligible elders living at Park House will remain perpetually affordable, and that approved income guidelines will be followed in admitting residents.

I am happy to tell you that the renovations we have been talking to you about for the past several years have been completed and our Open House in December was very successful. These improvements were paid for by grants we obtained from various agencies, and we were very pleased at how we were able to upgrade and modernize our century old home to allow us to sustain the building for many years to come.

Park House is many things to many people, including a community center and an historical landmark, but above all it is home to up to 16 residents seeking out companionship, assistance, and community. Residents of Park House are as diverse as all of our community's members. Some live on fixed incomes while others are more financially comfortable; some are healthy and vibrant while others are more physically limited.

Park House has maintained its commitment to provide affordable housing in our community, serving 145 seniors in the past 26 years. Due in part to code upgrades performed during the renovation, we now have a limited number of Project Based Vouchers associated with Park House. Eligible seniors can apply for rental assistance through the State of Vermont. This is exciting and will allow Park House to be accessible to even more community members.

Thank you for the past generous support of the service we provide. Your contribution helps provide residents with nutritious meals, a warm and welcoming environment and above all the comfort and peace of mind that comes from knowing they have a safe and secure place to call home. We hope your community will continue to provide funding for Park House with your contribution of \$500 again this year.

Sincerely,

Juli Reiderer  
Executive Director

## CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Child and Family Services  
Ayers Brook., Randolph, VT 05060  
(802) 728-4466

Community Support Services  
24 South Main St., Randolph, VT 05060  
(802) 728-6000

Adult and Children Outpatient Services  
1483 Lower Plain Rd., Bradford, VT 05033  
(802) 222-4477

Farmhouse  
P O Box 278, Bradford, VT 05033  
(802) 222-4477

East Valley Academy  
579 VT Rte. 14 So., East Randolph, VT 05041  
(802) 728-3896

Central VT Substance Abuse Services (CVSAS)  
100 Hospitality Drive, Berlin, VT 05601  
(802) 223-4156

Safe Haven  
4 Highland Ave., Randolph, VT 05060  
(802) 728-5233

Regional Alternative Program  
Norwich Avenue, Wilder, VT 05088  
(802) 295-8628

Wilder  
PO Box 816, Wilder VT 05088  
(802) 295-1311

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

- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ➤ Outpatient Counseling          | ➤ Hospital Diversion               |
| ➤ Psychiatric Services           | ➤ Walk-in Clinic                   |
| ➤ Short-term crisis intervention | ➤ Vocational Services              |
| ➤ School and Home-based services | ➤ Alcohol and other drug treatment |
| ➤ Education for families         | ➤ Respite Care                     |
| ➤ Community resource assistance  | ➤ 24-hour emergency system         |

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

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

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

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

For more information about Clara Martin Center services, visit our website at [www.claramartin.org](http://www.claramartin.org).

<b>FY16 TOTAL SERVED AT CMC</b>		<b>TOTAL SERVED Hancock</b>	
<b>Children &amp; Family Services</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>Children &amp; Family Services</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>School Services</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>School Services</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>JOBS</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>JOBS</b>	
<b>Adult Services</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>Adult Services</b>	
<b>CSP Services</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>CSP Services</b>	
<b>Supportive &amp; Transitional Housing</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>Supportive &amp; Transitional Housing</b>	
<b>Substance Abuse Services</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>Substance Abuse Services</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Corrections Services</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>Corrections Services</b>	
<b>Emergency Contacts/Walk-In Clinic</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Access</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Served - unduplicated</b>	<b>2234</b>	<b>Total seen:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CVSAS</b>	<b>1286</b>	<b>CVSAS</b>	<b>2</b>

**VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VT AND NH**  
***Home Health, Hospice and Maternal Child Health Services in Hancock, VT***

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

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

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 VNH made 41 homecare visits to 7 Hancock residents. This included approximately \$5,936 in unreimbursed care to Hancock residents.

- Home Health Care: 41 home visits to 7 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.

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

Hancock's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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

**Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens**  
**PO Box 113**  
**1097 Route 100**  
**Hancock, VT 05748**

**802-767-3763**  
**quintownsnrcetr@myfairpoint.net**

December 1, 2017

To the Town of Hancock Select Board/Budget Committee:

Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens is based in Hancock and since 1972 has given the senior citizens in our valley a place to go for onsite meals on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon. We also provide nutritionally balanced meals delivered to homebound members through our Meals on Wheels program. But the much-appreciated reimbursement we receive from the Central Vermont Council on Aging just isn't enough to meet our needs.

The Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens is requesting a donation from each of the surrounding towns that comprise Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens. Our request from Hancock is **\$2,587.00** for the coming year. We have supplied nearly 5,000 meals this past year to seniors at the center and through our Meals on Wheels program. Our doors are open to meet our seniors' needs. We create a warm and inviting atmosphere for our seniors to socialize, we serve local foods as much as possible, and we provide nutrition information and education. Our Meals on Wheels program not only provides healthy meals to seniors but also provides us with an opportunity to perform a wellness check for our senior neighbors. If our Meals on Wheels clients are not home or don't answer the door when we attempt to deliver their meals, we follow up with them later in the day and/or call their emergency contact so they can check in as well.

Our donation request will cover a portion of our operating budget not reimbursed by our contract with the Central Vermont Council on Aging. Therefore, each contributing town and its citizens become participants in the successful operation of our program, which provides quality meals and social enrichment for our aging neighbors and relatives within our five communities.

We continue to supplement our funds with a very successful annual appeal each fall and have increased our search for grants and other fundraising events. We would be glad to meet with you if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous support in the past and for considering our current request.

Sincerely,

Quin-Town Board of Directors

**Board of Directors**

**~ Natalie Clook, President ~ Kent Butterfield, Vice President & Treasurer ~ Barb Harvey, Secretary ~**  
**Members: Mary Dorman, Annette West, Bev Allen**

**Staff**

**~ Jody Troumbley, Executive Director ~ Wendy Heist, Cook ~ Marjorie Foley, Dishwasher ~**

**GRANVILLE VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

PO Box 51

Granville, VT 05747

Tel.: (802) 767-3033



*"Proudly serving Granville, Vermont and the surrounding communities since 1951"*

<b>Incident Response Statistics July 2016 - June 2017</b>			
Structure Fires	4		
Chimney Fires	1		
Outside/Wildland Fires	0		
Motor Vehicle Collisions	13		
Tree/Power Lines Down			
Flooding/Traffic Control	5		
Fire Alarm Activations	8	Granville	34
Emergency Medical	91	Hancock	22
Service Calls	4	Rochester	71
HAZ-MAT	1	Total Calls	127

<b>Emergency Response Roster</b>		
Danial Sargeant, Fire Chief	Benjamin Smith	Kerin Vadnais
Brian Sargeant, Assistant Chief	Kira Sargeant	Nicholas Beattie
Theodore Smith, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief	Nancy Shaw	Brandon Stone
Gregory Millard, Captain & Treasurer	Victor Ribaud	Brennan Bordonaro
Harley Vadnais, Lieutenant	David Chase	Semous Doyle
	Rebecca Yon	
<b>Auxiliary Fire Department</b>		
David Winborn	James Parrish	Victoria Crowne
Tammi Beattie	Douglas Fuller	Lyndsay Sargeant
Luke McSweeney	Nathan Reinhold	Janice McCann



## WHITE RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC

White River Valley Ambulance (WRVA) serves the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Rochester, and Stockbridge as a non-profit licensed provider of Critical Care Paramedic service. This is the highest level of pre-hospital emergency medical care available in the state. In 2017, we responded to 1,173 calls for help within our nearly 500 square mile area of operations. This includes transporting 290 patients from Gifford Medical Center to other healthcare facilities, at times providing Critical Care level transport services for those patients. We thank you for continuing to entrust us with providing compassionate care to you and your families in your time of greatest need.

After holding our per capita funding request constant for 4 years in a row, we now find it necessary to request a 5% increase this year, going from \$60 to \$63. This is due to several factors. Following a review of response times to northern Brookfield, we concluded that the distance from WRVA Base was such that those residents would be better served by Barre Town Ambulance. A plan was developed in collaboration with Barre Town and the Brookfield Select Board to transfer the north Brookfield service area to Barre Town effective January 1, 2018. However, this meant a loss of \$36,000 in annual per capita revenue. Another factor is that the number of billable ambulance runs in 2017 was 19% below budget, which led us to project fewer billable runs in 2018. Ambulance services in other rural areas of Vermont experienced a similar decrease in call volume. ER visit volumes at some hospitals around Vermont were also below expectations last year. Though the cost to staff and support 2 ambulances 24/7 is largely fixed, we reduced the 2018 expense budget 4.6% below the 2017 budget. Our staff have absorbed a significant portion of the 2018 cost pressure by covering a greater portion of their health insurance premiums and no budgeted raises for the second consecutive year. Another way to think of this per capita increase is a 5% increase spread over 5 years, or 1% each year.

In 2018, we will continue to provide outstanding pre-hospital medical care focused on quality and economy. As always, our service to our member communities will be guided by our core values of caring, compassion, honesty, and integrity.

- We operate 2 fully staffed ambulances 24/7 out of our Bethel station
- We have 10 full-time and 20 part-time clinical employees
- We have a full-time Executive Director who splits time 50/50 between ambulance duty and office time
- We have a part-time administrative assistant who works 4 days a week in the office
- We are an American Heart Association Regional Training Center, facilitating the instruction of CPR and First Aid courses throughout central Vermont
- We offer EMS education programs, including no-cost EMT classes and many advanced programs

### 2017 Call Summary

Randolph	371	31.6%
Gifford Medical Ctr.	290	24.7%
Bethel	130	11.1%
Rochester	90	7.7%
Other Towns	65	5.5%
Stockbridge	48	4.1%
Barnard	45	3.8%
Brookfield	38	3.2%
Braintree	35	3.0%
Pittsfield	27	2.3%
Hancock	24	2.1%
Granville	10	0.9%
Total	1173	





## Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)

14 Crab Apple Ridge, Randolph, VT 05060

(802) 828-4582 | [dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com](mailto:dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com) | [www.vacd.org](http://www.vacd.org)

November 9, 2017

Re: Request for FY18 Appropriation, Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program

Dear Board of Selectpersons, Town Clerks and Auditors:

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction. During the **19 years** of the program, **1054 grants** totaling **\$2.32 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

Over the past several years, the Rural Fire Protection Program has made a successful transition from the Northern Vermont and George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservation Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

We have made several adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program in recent years, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. In 2017 we increased the maximum grant award amount from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per project. New Rural Fire Protection systems along with repair, replacement, relocation, and upgrades of existing RFP systems are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. In 2015 we began considering applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year. Please be on the look-out for the grant announcement post-card in March 2018.

The annual budget of the Rural Fire Protection Program is \$190,000 per year, \$110,000 of which is awarded in grants to Vermont communities for construction costs. The remaining budget covers site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Vermont Department of Public Safety through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the

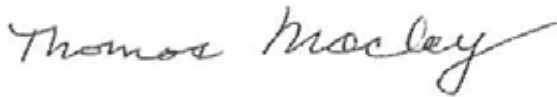
program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your 2018 town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. Since last year's appropriation request, we have received almost \$10,000 in town appropriations from almost 100 towns, with contributions still coming in. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing support.

214 Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities.

Enclosed please find a summary report of the Rural Water Supply Grant Program, as well as an invoice and W-9 from VACD in case it is required. Please feel free to contact me, Troy Dare, or Jill Arace, Executive Director of VACD, with any questions you may have. Our contact information is provided below. If you would like to receive this appropriation request by mail instead of by email, please contact Troy Dare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Maclay, Chair  
Rural Fire Protection Task Force  
(802) 426-3265 | [83creameryst@fairpoint.net](mailto:83creameryst@fairpoint.net)

Troy Dare, Program Manager & contact person Town Appropriation business  
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program  
(802) 828-4582 | [dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com](mailto:dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com)

Jill Arace, Executive Director  
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)  
(802) 496-5162 | [jill.arace@vacd.org](mailto:jill.arace@vacd.org)

**Rural Fire Protection Task Force Members:**

Tom Maclay, Chair, Marshfield VFD  
Bill Sanborn, Vice-Chair, Town of Maidstone  
Bill Barry, Berlin VFD  
Tess Greaves, Vermont Forest Parks & Recreation  
Tyler Hermanson, VT Enhanced 9-1-1  
Jenny Nelson, Senator Bernie Sanders' Office  
Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety  
Christine Kaiser, Kaiser Farm, Stowe VT



**Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Inc.**

*A Community Approach to Repairing Harm and Restoring Relationships*

**P. O. Box 881, 282 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753**

**Phone: 802-388-3888 Fax: 802-388-5754**

December 15, 2017

Addison County Restorative Justice Services is requesting \$120 from the Town of Hancock in the 2018 budget.

ACRJS provides community restorative justice responses focusing on the “balanced approach”<sup>41</sup> in meeting the needs of the victim, the community and the offender. The goal is to help the offender develop empathy and accept responsibility while providing compensation of loss for the victims, and compensation of resources for the community. Anyone given the opportunity to participate in our programs is supported to take responsibility for their actions, connect with the community in a positive way, and learn from their experience so as not to reoffend and cause harm to yet another person.

We have expanded our programs beyond Court Diversion and the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program to include the Driving With License Suspended Program, Safe Driving Program for Adults, Reparative Restorative Panels, Reentry Navigation and Circles of Support and Accountability for those reentering the community from incarceration, and Pretrial monitoring for those community members who have committed a crime and have a mental illness or substance abuse problem. All programs have the goal for the participant of instilling a sense of belonging and commitment to contribute to the Addison County Community as positive, proactive member and to not create any more victims, essentially decrease crime in the county.

The following is a breakdown of the number of individuals from the Town of Hancock who were provided services through our agency in FY 2017.

Court Diversion:	1
Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program:	0
Reparative Restorative Panels:	1
COSA:	0
Reentry Navigation:	0
Driving With License Suspended:	2
Pretrial Services:	0
Safe Driving	0

Thank you for your continued support!

*Addison County United Way Member Agency*



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Affairs Medical Center**  
**215 North Main Street**  
**White River Junction, VT 05009**  
**866-687-8387 (Toll Free in New England)**  
**802-295-9363 (Commercial)**

January 29, 2018

Dear Veteran,

The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services. If you currently receive our services, please pass this note on to a Veteran who may benefit.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans. We are able to help those who are homeless or unemployed, and also offer high quality healthcare for both primary care and a variety of specialty care options. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans! Please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us, in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363, extension 5118. A single form - VA form 10-10EZ - and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time Service Officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans, including nonmembers, in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
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Disabled American	802-296-5167
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Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168
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Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

**Matthew J. Mulcahy**  
**Acting Medical Center Director**

**Bennington CBOC**  
**186 North Street**  
**Bennington, VT 05201**  
**(802) 440-3300**

**Brattleboro CBOC**  
**71 GSP Drive**  
**Brattleboro, VT 05301**  
**(802) 251-2200**

**Burlington CBOC**  
**128 Lakeside Avenue**  
**Burlington, VT 05401**  
**(802) 657-7000**

**Littleton CBOC**  
**264 Cottage Street**  
**Littleton, NH 03561**  
**(603) 575-6701**

**Rutland CBOC**  
**232 West St**  
**Rutland, VT 05701**  
**(802) 772-2300**

**A MEMBER OF THE VA NEW ENGLAND HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**  
Visit us at our web site <http://www.vishl.med.va.gov/wrj/>

## **ECFiber Annual Report – Hancock**

ECFiber, the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, is a joint venture of 24 Vermont towns, including Hancock, seeking to build and operate a municipally-owned universal, open access, fiber-optic telecommunications network. ECFiber is owned by its 24 member towns, and is self-sustaining through the issuance of municipal revenue bonds. Local taxpayer funds cannot be used to subsidize the District's operations.

The Hancock Select Board has appointed Scott Gillette as delegate and Stacey Peters as alternate delegate to the ECFiber Governing Board. The Governing Board adopts by-laws and operating policies and procedures, and elects an Executive Committee to handle matters that may arise between monthly meetings of the full Governing Board.

Hancock delegates are substantially involved in the activities of ECFiber. Monthly Governing Board meetings are generally held at Vermont Law School, Oakes Hall, starting at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of every month. ECFiber Governing Board meetings are open to the public.

Additional information about the ECFiber project and deployment updates can be found at [www.ecfiber.net](http://www.ecfiber.net).

### **Revenue Bond issue**

The VT Legislature's creation of Communication Union Districts in 2015 provided ECFiber with the ability to reorganize as the first of such districts in Vermont, and in doing so, enter the municipal bond market. In April 2016 ECFiber successfully floated a \$10 million bond issue through MCM Capital Management, ECFiber's investment partner. A portion of the 2016 proceeds was used to repurchase private debt that had been issued to start the network in its early years, and the remaining funds were earmarked to continue the build-out of the network.

In April 2017 the District completed a \$14.5 million offering of Series 2017A Bonds to refinance the remaining original debt, cover 2017 capital expenditures, and complete the design and make ready for 250 miles of new construction in 2018.

## **Implementation Plan**

As of December 2017, 529 miles of fiber-optic network had been built and “lit” in parts of 21 member towns, serving about 2300 customers. ECFiber plans to continue to raise capital through the municipal bond market in 2018, 2019, and 2020, and to complete 1400 miles of network covering all underserved locations in its 24 towns by 2020. Hancock currently has 4 miles of ECFiber cable run, and ECFiber is already serving 23 Hancock customers.

ECFiber's not-for-profit partner, ValleyNet, is in charge of the actual implementation of the network. ValleyNet determines its construction schedule by balancing areas of high demand, current levels of service, and geographic contiguity. Assuming that the municipal bond market continues to be robust and that ECFiber revenues are sufficient to justify the financing, ECFiber's Internet will reach all underserved portions of all 24 towns by the end of 2020.

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

## **Current Connectivity Status for Hancock**

Hancock is one of 6 towns selected for a complete build-out in 2018, along with Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Rochester, and Stockbridge. This means every resident in Hancock will be able to subscribe and take advantage of ECFiber's service this year. As of January 25, 2018, connectivity is available to residents of Route 100 from the Route 125 intersection south into Rochester, and along Route 125 shortly west of Texas Falls.

If you have questions about ECFiber, please contact Scott or Stacey at [hancock@ecfiber.net](mailto:hancock@ecfiber.net)

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Gillette and Stacey Peters, Hancock ECFiber Delegates



State of Vermont  
Department of Health  
Middlebury District Office  
156 South Village Green  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
[HealthVermont.gov](http://HealthVermont.gov)

[phone] 802-388-5732  
[fax] 802-388-4610  
[toll free] 888-253-8804

*Agency of Human Services*

## Vermont Department of Health Report for Addison County

**Your local health district office** is in Middlebury at the address and phone number above. Come visit or give us a call! At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With twelve district offices around the state, and state office and laboratory in Chittenden County, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. For example, in 2017 the Health Department:

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

**Provided WIC nutrition services and healthy foods to families:** We served 1,005 women and children in Addison County with WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). WIC provides individualized nutrition counseling and breastfeeding support. We partner with grocery stores across the state to enable participants to use a debit-like card to access nutritious foods. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month.

**Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease:** In 2017 we responded to 11 cases of infectious disease in Addison County. In 2017, 16,751 doses of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases was distributed to healthcare providers in Addison County.

**Aided communities in addressing substance abuse and misuse:** Regional Prevention Partnerships statewide worked to increase state and community capacity to prevent underage and binge drinking, and reduce prescription drug misuse and marijuana use. The United Way of Addison County is our local Regional Prevention Partner. United Way staff have been working with local law enforcement agencies to increase the number of prescription drug take back locations as well as other proactive efforts to address underage drinking and binge drinking.



For more information, news, alerts and resources: Visit us on the web at [www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov).

Join us on DISTRICT FACEBOOK ADDRESS and follow us on [www.twitter.com/healthvermont](https://www.twitter.com/healthvermont).

## Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association 2017 Report to the Town of Hancock

2017 was the sixth year that the Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association conducted non-native invasive plant surveys, outreach and control projects along town roads and trails located in the Upper White River watershed. See map showing the project area boundary, below.



CWMA partners include the **Green Mountain National Forest, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, Town of Rochester, and White River Partnership.**

The members are working together to raise awareness about and manage non-native invasive plants.

Non-native invasive plants are plants that are not originally from this area that have exhibited invasive tendencies, spreading rapidly and taking away habitat that native plants need to thrive. They have the potential to negatively impact land and water resources, recreational opportunities, biodiversity, wildlife, and property values. However, the community at large can play a hand in controlling invasives on their own properties and community roads through early detection and rapid response activities.

### 2017 Summary:

**CWMA Coordination:** A coordinator was hired with funding through a grant from the National Forest Foundation.

**Monitoring and Control:** The coordinator monitored 34 small infestations of non-native invasive plants previously controlled as part of an Early Detection/Rapid Response effort in Granville, Hancock, Rochester, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield. Roughly half of the sites (18) had expanded and could no longer be considered "Early Detection Rapid Response"; the remaining 16 sites were hand-pulled. Other infestations were controlled by staff, volunteers, and partner organizations, and Vermont Youth Conservation Corps Crews (funded by retained receipts from Stewardship Contracting). While these infestations represent only a fraction of known infestations, and many more are unmapped, they were chosen because they are in strategic locations or because they are relatively more feasible to control than others. In Hancock, wild chervil was pulled along Churchville and Buttles Roads.

**Education & outreach:** Education involved writing 12 articles to be published, one per month, in The Herald of Randolph.

Interested landowners are encouraged to take action to control non-native invasive plants on their own properties, or to get involved with the Cooperative Weed Management Association. To get involved locally, contact MaryBeth Deller at the Green Mountain National Forest at [mdeller@fs.fed.us](mailto:mdeller@fs.fed.us) or 802-767-4261 x 524. To learn more about invasives in Vermont, visit the Vermont Invasives website:

<http://vtinvasives.org>



# Alliance Solid Waste Management Facility

122 Waterman Rd. Royalton, VT 05068

802-763-2232

## Hours of Operation

Tuesday – Thursday – Friday 7am-3pm





Saturday 7am-1pm

**Sunday - Monday – Wednesday CLOSED**

## PRICES:

Bulk Waste /	\$145/ Ton	\$20 Minimum	
Per Bag	\$5.25/ 45 Gallon	\$3.50 /30 Gallon	\$2.00 /15 Gallon
SCALE FEE		\$20.00	
Mattresses		\$12.00	
Couch/ Sofa		\$15.00	
Rugs & Large Chairs		\$10.00 Each	
Appliances (w/ Freon)		\$15.00 Each	
Scrap Metals		\$5.00 Cubic Yard	
Batteries		\$1.00 Each	
Waste Oil		\$.10/Quart	
Antifreeze		\$.50/Quart	
Fluorescent Bulbs		\$.00/N/C	
Tires		\$3.00 Car/Pickup NO Rim	
		\$4.50 Car/Pickup W/rim	
		\$10.00 Large Truck	
		\$25.00 Heavy Equipment No Rims	
<b>Electronics</b>			
MP3 Player	\$5.00	Microwaves- Fax Machines- VCR	\$10.00
Phones – Chargers	\$5.00	Stereos- Game Consoles	\$10.00
	Covered Entities**	All Others	
Large TV/ CRT	FREE	\$20.00	
Regular TV/CRT	FREE	\$10.00	
Towers/Monitors/printers	FREE	\$10.00	
Associated Computer Apparatus	FREE	\$5.00	

\*\* Covered Entities are: Vermont Households, Vermont Charities, Vermont Businesses with up to 10 Employees.

	Material	 <b>YES</b>	 <b>NO</b>	Preparation
<b>Glass</b>	Glass bottles & jars	Food and beverage containers only.	No light bulbs, dishes, Pyrex, drinking glasses, window panes, or ceramics.	<b>Rinse clean.</b> Remove all lids. Labels OK. Recycle plastic lids over 2" in diameter in blue bin; discard smaller plastic lids. Neck rings OK. Recycle metal lids as scrap metal at Drop-Off Centers.
	Aerosol cans	Cans must be completely empty. <b>Non-hazardous product cans only.</b>	<b>Empty containers only.</b> No cans from paint, cleansers, automotive sprays, or other hazardous fluids.	<b>Empty.</b> Do not puncture. Separate caps from container. Recycle plastic caps over 2" in blue bin. Discard smaller caps.
<b>Metal</b>	Aluminum	Cans, foil, and pie plates.	No stuck-on food or grease.	<b>Rinse clean.</b> Labels OK.
	Metal cans	Food and beverage cans only.	No oil filters, propane tanks, batteries, bottle caps, or scrap metal (recycle these at Drop-Off Centers).	<b>Rinse clean.</b> Labels OK. Lids OK placed inside cans for safety.
<b>Plastic</b>	Rigid plastic packaging & containers labeled  through  . <b>NOTE: Not everything with a number on it is recyclable! Not everything without a number isn't recyclable!</b>	<b>Minimum 2" on any 2 dimensions. Maximum 2' on any one dimension.</b> Bottles, jugs & trays for foods, beverages, beauty, and cleaning products, detergents; dairy tubs (yogurt, sour cream, etc.), 5-gallon pails, take-out containers, flower pots and trays.	<b>No filmy or pliable plastic</b> (grocery bags, bubble wrap, etc.). <b>No Styrofoam</b> (e.g. cups, take-out containers, packaging blocks, peanuts). No laundry baskets, housewares, office products, etc. No containers for hazardous products (motor oil, pesticides, etc.). No electronics housing. No biodegradable plastics (PLA).	<b>Rinse clean.</b> Labels OK. <b>IMPORTANT: Remove paper inserts for recycling. Caps &amp; lids under 2" recycled only if attached to container.</b> Remove handles from pails and recycle as scrap metal at Drop-Off Centers.
<b>Paper</b> (NOTE: Must be clean & dry.)	Boxboard	Shoe & clothing boxes, 6- & 12-pack soda & beer carriers, paper egg cartons, dry-food boxes (pasta, rice, cereal, grains, etc.), tissue boxes, paper towel and toilet paper cores, etc.	No laundry detergent boxes; refrigerated- or frozen-food boxes; drink boxes; aseptic packaging; or milk, juice, or other beverage cartons. No paper plates or cups.	<b>Empty and flatten.</b> Remove and discard plastic liners. Recycle metal pour spouts as scrap metal at Drop-Off Centers.
	Corrugated cardboard	Boxes with a wavy center layer.	No oil-, paint-, or chemical-stained; wet; unclean; or wax-coated cardboard. No strapping or string. No plastic, filmy, or foam packing materials.	<b>Empty and flatten.</b> Up to one cubic yard of up to 4-ft. sections accepted at Drop-Off Centers (2-ft. sections for curbside pickup). Staples, tape, and labels OK.
	Envelopes & opened mail	White, manilla, colored, gummed, and window envelopes.	No Tyvek or plastic envelopes. No mailers padded with bubble wrap.	Remove nonpaper enclosures (e.g., CDs, plastic cards, etc.) and strings. Labels OK.
	Magazines, catalogs, & soft-cover books	Glue- or staple-bound publications, paperback books, phone books, etc.	No plastic wrapping, non-paper inserts, spiral or 3-ring notebooks, or plastic covers.	Must be clean and dry. Phone books OK.
	Newspaper	All sections and inserts.	<b>None</b> that are soaking wet or contaminated with food, paint, oil, pet waste, etc. No plastic bags.	Must be clean and dry. Remove from plastic bags. Do not tie with string.
	Paper bags	All colors.	No plastic-coated or -lined bags. No animal food or kitty-litter bags.	Must be clean and dry. Remove twine and plastic handles.
	Shredded paper	Confidential documents.	No shredded plastic or pressure-sensitive paper.	Place in clear plastic bag and tie bag shut.
	White & colored paper	Printed, letterhead, copier paper, glossy flyers & brochures, file folders, kraft paper, manilla folders, index cards, construction paper, non-metallic wrapping paper, tissue paper & cards.	No pressure-sensitive duplication forms. No foil paper. No paper towels, facial tissue, napkins, paper plates, or cups. No stickers or sticker backing material.	Must be clean and dry. Remove plastic tabs, paper clips & metal hanging-file strips. Staples OK.

## "Love is in the Air"

He searched for her for days, intent in his mission despite the dangers he faced. At any moment he could be hit by a passing car, as he traveled at night blending into the darkness. He knew he had competition. Her scent drifted in the air and he, as did other males, would follow her with no regard for safety. If their paths crossed, there would be a battle, not ending well for either. But they were looking for the same creature.

On the other end of town, she reluctantly went home after wandering the neighborhood for hours that night, crying. It was still winter. Usually she preferred to be curled up by the fire, but this year was different. She felt drawn to wander at dark, seeking something undefined.

Her family regretted allowing her outside, but they were besides themselves with anxiety listening to her moaning. Their sweet Kathleen, nicknamed 'Kit' seemed to have transformed overnight. She had moments resembling the sweet, loving, playful 'Kit' they had known since birth, but now she was a teenager. New emotions confused her.

Outside he caught her scent and called out. Creeping through fields he came close to her home. Finally, he saw her inside - his new love! She seemed to be crawling, singing a mournful song. She turned and saw him at the window watching, he wanted in.

To her family at first her behavior was unusual, somewhat comical for one so young, but after a while, it became disturbing. It was up to them to 'fix' this situation before it was too late.

In the morning their veterinarian was called to schedule an appointment to spay Kit, who was only four months old. They learned that her heat would always continue and the chance of mammary cancer increased as she got older if left unspayed. The same applied to female dogs.

They made an appointment for her admirer, too, as he had taken up residence near their home. Just one male will impregnate dozens of cats, resulting in hundreds of kittens. The likelihood of developing testicle cancer increased if he wasn't neutered, and that also applied for dogs. The cats soon became best friends.

For low income Vermonters, the solution may be the VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program, "VSNIIP". Participating veterinarian offices throughout Vermont are the heroes of this wonderful program!

For applications send a S.A.S.E. to VSNIIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034, or download and print: [VSNIIP.VT.GOV](http://VSNIIP.VT.GOV) or [VSAHS.org](http://VSAHS.org). Cost per cat/dog is \$27.00, including a rabies vaccination and one distemper series. The balance is paid through a designated fund, collected by a nominal fee of \$4.00 added to the registration of dogs. REGISTER and tag by April 1st! The ability to identify your dog in event of loss, and to be sure that animals (and people) are protected from rabies is critical.

New Hampshire offers a similar program through the Department of Agriculture. Call 603-271-3677.

Sue Skaskiw, 802- 672-5302 Director, VT Volunteer Services for Animals H.S./Administrator, VSNIIP

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING  
TOWN OF HANCOCK, VERMONT  
MARCH 7, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. Moderator James Leno introduces Peter Conlon our state representative. Peter talks about the inflation issues being handled in Montpelier. States that there is a sum of roughly 50 million dollars that is their focus and cutting expenses or raising revenue are two of the ways they plan to handle that matter. He states that Phil Scott's focus had been to bring in money for things like child care and college funds, etc. With the educational fund costs brings property tax fund increases. He informs the room that 30-50 million dollars is utilized for mandatory clean ups of some of the state's bodies of water. He briefly touches on replacing the Affordable Care Act. He mentions that there could be a build on minimum wage by the year 2020 to \$15 an hour and that there has been research done on effects of wage to employers. Also he touches on the works of a family leave insurance plan that would cover up to twelve weeks of leave. Jim Leno asks about the 3.9 billion dollars of debt due to pensions and healthcare. Peter states that this debt started roughly three decades ago from not enough revenue and that there are plans to have this debt straightened out over the next 20 years. Jim also questions Vermont Health Connect and the debt of 3.5 million dollars due to this program. Peter mentions that he does not sit on the committee that handles these issues so he does not feel comfortable speaking on behalf of it.

Moderator Jim Leno states that both of Annual Town Meeting and the Annual School Meeting were both warned for 10:00 am and that the school board of directors would like to hold their school meeting first. School meeting called to order at 10:19 am.

*Annual School Meeting proceeds. Adjourns at 10:50 am.*

Richard Andrews stands to speak. He states that as a Hancock tax payer he is proud of the Volunteer Fire Department building and the amount of housekeeping that went into the building before the meeting was held there. He states he is glad to see everyone meeting there and that he hopes everyone also appreciates that the building is there to do so.

Annual Town Meeting called to order at 10:53 am.

Jim Leno reads the warning for Annual Town Meeting.

**Article 1 To elect a moderator for the next year ensuing.** – Nomination for James Leno. No further nominations. Motion for the clerk to cast one ballot for Leno, seconded, Leno elected.

**Article 2 To elect all officers as required by law:**

**Selectboard Member – three year term (by ballot)** - Nomination for John "Jack" Ross. No further nominations. Motion for the clerk to cast one ballot for Ross, seconded. Ross elected.

**Lister – three year term (by ballot)**– Nomination for Marjorie Ross. No further nominations. Motion for clerk to cast one ballot for Marjorie Ross, seconded. Ross elected.

**Constable- one year term** – Nomination for Scott Twitchell. Twitchell declines. Nomination for Kenneth Troumbley, Troumbley declines. No further nominations.

Twitchell asks if the position has to be filled. Select board states that they would need to find out. Leno makes a motion to pass over, seconded.

**Town Agent – one year term** – Nomination for John Ross. No further nominations. Voted in the affirmative. Ross elected.

**Grand Juror – one year term** – Nomination for John Ross. No further nominations. Voted in the affirmative. Ross elected.

**Auditor – three year term (by ballot)** – Nomination for Geraldine Twitchell. No further nominations. Motion for clerk to cast one ballot for Carden, seconded. Carden elected.

**Road Commissioner – one year term (by ballot)** – Nomination for Robert Laird. Motion for clerk to cast one ballot for Laird, seconded. Laird elected.

**Library Trustee – five year term (by ballot)** – Nomination for Stacey Peters. Peters declines. Nomination for Jody Troumbley. No further nominations. Motion for clerk to cast one ballot for Troumbley. Troumbley elected.

**Budget Committee – three year term** – Nomination for Eva Jesso. No further nominations. Voted in the affirmative. Jesso is elected.

**Agent to Convey Real Estate – one year term** – Nomination for James Leno. No further nominations. Voted in the affirmative. Leno is elected.

**Delinquent Tax Collector-one year term** – Nomination for Olivia Whalen. Voted in the affirmative. Whalen is elected.

**Article 3 To fill any vacancy** – Moderator James Leno states it is an illegal Article and that any available office needs to be warned 30 days prior to vote. Motion to pass over Article, seconded.

**Article 4 To see if the town will vote to support the following appropriations:** James Leno states that the article cannot be warned as an article and also be included in the budget to be voted on and that it needs to be removed from one or the other. Dick Robson asks if we could pass over the article. Eva Jesso makes a motion to pass over the article, Robson seconds. Article is passed over.

**Article 5 To hear and act upon the reports of the Hancock Town Officers.–** Wendell Thurston brings up that the auditor's report is not included and would like an explanation. Geraldine Twitchell responds stating that it has not been included over the last several years because the Town Report itself is the Auditor's Report. Thurston expresses his frustration that the Town Clerk's Report should not list business names individually. It is brought to the town's attention that the line item in the budget stating Town Pride should read School Renovation instead. Winona Walker suggests that in future reports the outstanding loan balances should be included in the town report. Dan Delorm asks if the report shows grant money that we have received. Monica Collins answers yes that it shows as an in and out fund. James Leno asks select board member Monica Collins about the bidding paperwork for the Churchville Culvert project that is upcoming. Monica mentions that the town did not handle the bidding process that it was something Two Rivers handled and that she will be sure to make sure all documentation pertaining to the project is properly lodged at the town office.

**Article 6 To see if the legal voters of the Town of Hancock will appropriate the sum of 50,000.00 dollars for the purchase of a used tanker truck.** – So moved, seconded. Discussion ensues. Dan Delorm asks if the Fire Dept. has considered financing rather than a line of credit. Select board responds that we have looked into several options. Scott Gillette asks about the remaining life and quality of the 1974 tanker. Jacques Veilleux responds giving feedback to this matter. Richard Andrews states that the truck is a 43 year old truck and it had its issues. He mentions that there was a truck

available for \$30,000 that was used but it has since sold. He also states that they are actively trying to find a truck that will cost less than what they are asking to borrow. Jeannette Bair asks if this will be a reserve or will it have to be spent during the fiscal year. Shelley Twitchell speaks and states that it will not have to be spent during the fiscal year and that these types of trucks sell fast. She also states that we do not want to consider financing because it would mean more debt. Richard Andrews mentions that just because we are asking for \$50,000 does not mean that they will need to spend the full amount. He brings up the Equipment Fund that is in place and that they could utilize those funds towards the purchase as well, as well as saved auction monies. Dan Delorm asks if we still would need to raise \$10,000 for the Fire Dept. budget if there could be funds left over from the Line of Credit. Richard Andrews states that there is no way of knowing how much a truck will cost them so they would need to make sure they raise budgeted money for the Fire Dept. needs separately. Eva Jesso mentions that if the funds are used up completely by the purchase of a truck they could be used to offset the budget next fiscal year. Jack Ross briefly goes over some of the issues and safety of the old tanker. Winona Walker states that she would personally want working and correct equipment to be used should she be the one receiving the fire departments services to extinguish a fire. She asks how much water the old tanker carries. Jacques Veilleux answers stating that it carries roughly 1,600 where the new tanker would carry roughly double that. Janet Smyrychynski asks if a new tanker could make it to the top of Blair Hill. Jacques states yes that they would hope for a new truck to be able to make it anywhere in town but the old tanker that they use now would not. Richard Andrews goes over some of the facts old tanker vs. new tanker. (Gallon of water hold, power of truck, etc.) Scott Gillette questions what would happen to the old tanker should they buy a new tanker. Richard Andrews mentions that a farmer may be interested in purchasing it for \$1,500 or so. He also states that there has been roughly \$2,000- \$3,000 in maintenance costs alone on the old tanker in the last couple of years for things such as belts, filters, etc. Wendell Thurston makes a motion to accept, seconded. Hand vote in the affirmative. So moved.

**Article 7 To see if the town of Hancock will vote to authorize the Selectboard to apply the remaining balance in the General Fund of 17-18 to reducing the next fiscal years amount to be raised by taxes.-** So moved, seconded. James Leno mentions that the dates need to be changed from 17-18 to 16-17. Amendment to change dates from 17 18 to 16-17. James Leno re-reads article with amended dates. Hand vote, passed in the affirmative.

**Article 8 To see if the town of Hancock will vote to pay taxes to the Town Treasurer as provided by law, and if so, to set the payment dates. The dates being of four equal installments dated August 15, 2017 - November 15, 2017 - February 15, 2018 and May 15, 2018.-** Motion made to approve, seconded.

**Article 9 To see if the Town of Hancock will vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow funds in anticipation of taxes to be received to meet the expenses of said town. –** Motion to approve, seconded. Dan Delorm asks if the funds borrowed would get paid off in the same fiscal year. James Leno states yes.

**James Leno makes a motion to go to lunch, seconded. Re-adourn at 1:01 pm.**

Marge Ross stands to thank everyone who has donated dishes over the last few years. She talks briefly about the church closing but mentions that the building will still be available for weddings, etc.

Dorothy Robson talks about the concert series over the summer. She mentions that there will be several musicians to play and there will be posters and flyers hung with more information. She states that the concerts are free and that donations and event monies fund the event. She also states there will be a coffeehouse at the town hall on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Jack Ross states that May 1<sup>st</sup> is Green Up Day and we are in need of a coordinator.

**Article 11** Shall the Town of Hancock appropriate the sum of \$417,470.00 to pay the current expenses for the general and highway funds for the ensuing twelve months, with 2017-2018 taxes becoming delinquent after May 15<sup>th</sup> 2018 and with the County and State taxes to be paid from the general fund.— Motion to approve, seconded. Discussion ensues. Joel Tidd speaks asking how many roads does the town have or miles. He is answered, 8 miles worth. He would like to know why it costs so much to maintain them. Richard Andrews answers stating one of the biggest expenses is materials. He explains in further detail the difference between winter road maintenance and summer road maintenance. He brings to the town's attention that winter roads monies is tax dollars and summer roads money is paid for by forestry receipts and money received by the state. Joel mentions that we should be using the gravel pile to grade our roads. Monica explains that the winter roads contract only had one bidder so we had only one option for a winner. Joel Tidd mentions he has been turned away from Clara Martin Center. Tammy Austin whom is a representative for Clara Martin speaks and states that she is not sure why he would be turned away but they do cater to folks from our town and are currently serving 12 Hancock residents. She mentions that the appropriation request of, \$595 is to pay for direct services for people in need of help. Frances Mannix asks what the average cost per person is. Tammy answers stating it depends on what services the person is in need of. Jacques Veilleux questions why we raise appropriation money for the Parkhouse in Rochester. Rose Juliano states that they are independent and they have housed many residents from Hancock over the years. She also mentions that there are several renovations being done there and they are utilizing any grant monies available to them. The appropriation helps keep rent costs down for the resident and they are a nonprofit business. Jacques states that he personally supports them but does not completely understand why our tax dollars should be raised for them. Eva Jesso speaks and mentions that when applying for grant monies the Parkhouse would have to show that they are receiving support to the business from people in the area. Richard Andrews states that he believes is folks feel strongly about the Parkhouse that is should be a personal donation and not necessarily a town appropriation and mentions that we do have Johnsons homecare. Rose Juliano mentions the fact that Parkhouse is a non-profit organization where Johnsons is a profitable business. Gretchen Perera mentions that most appropriation line items could be argued based upon these facts. Geraldine Twitchell states that we do not know when we could personally need any of these services so we should support them. Joel Tidd asks for further explanation of the John Graham Emergency Fund. Monica Collins explains that it is a shelter but it is not included in the appropriations this year because they did not submit a petition. Dick Robson lends his opinion that the appropriations is a community infrastructure that we need to continue with. Wendell Thurston raises questions about the budget as a whole. Monica Collins mentions that the budget is actually less this year than the last. Wendell questions the \$25,000 additional funds needed for building maintenance. Monica Collins states that there were additional funds needed for the town hall renovation because of issues with the floors. She mentions that fuel costs have been increased because the heat was higher during the renovation at the town hall as well as the village school building being larger and more costly to heat now that the clerk's office and library are located there. Jack Ross explains the cap program we utilize for heating costs. Wendell questions the increase of winter roads contract. Monica states that the contract went out to bid several

times and we only had one bidder each time. Wendell asks the questions of how many years the contract is for. Jack Ross states 3 years, he also mentions that the bidder was aware they he was the only bidder and increased his hourly rate from \$50 to \$70. Scott Gillette asks if the public can be present at the budget meetings. Jack states yes. Gretchen Perera asks if the Town Hall Reno project went out to bid and how many bidders were there. Monica states yes it did and there was 4 bidders. Emma Patterson brings up concerns about the heat not being turned down when folks are not at the town hall. Frances Mannix asks that we explore options for other heating sources. Monica mentions that the increase in building maintenance fund is so that we have funds available in the future when things are in need of repairs. Wendell Thurston asks if the old town clerk's office has been sold. Monica Collins states that it has not yet been sold. Janet Smyrychynski brings up her concern about her and her husband coming to meetings with concerns about work needed on Blair Hill and that there still has not been any work done. James Leno calls for an amendment and for the budget to read \$467,470.00. So moved, seconded. Amendment passes. No further discussion, passed.

**Article 12 To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before said meeting.** - Olivia Whalen speaks and mentions the newly installed drop box located outside of the town clerk's office. Dorothy Robson would like to thank all paid and non-paid employees of the town. Scott Gillette introduces himself to the town and also Samantha Sheehan. Geraldine Twitchell thanks all of those involved in the move of the town clerk's office. Rose Juliano thanks Geraldine Twitchell for her years as Library Trustee.

Motion to adjourn at 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Olivia Whalen



**WARNING  
ANNUAL MEETING  
HANCOCK TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the Hancock Town School District, Hancock, Vermont ("District") are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to meet at the Hancock Town Hall on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 10:00 AM** to transact the following business:

**Article 1:** To elect a Moderator.

**Article 2:** To act upon the reports of the Town School District Officers.

**Article 3:** To elect District officers and directors as follows, each for a term that will expire on the date the District ceases to exist pursuant to the Merger Study Report and Articles of Agreement as approved by the Vermont State Board of Education on February 21, 2017:

A. One (1) School Director for Hancock Town School District.

**Article 4:** To establish salaries for the Hancock Town School District officers for the period from their taking office to the date the District ceases to exist pursuant to the Merger Study Report and Articles of Agreement as approved by the Vermont State Board of Education on February 21, 2017.

**Article 5:** To transact any other legal and proper business coming before said meeting.

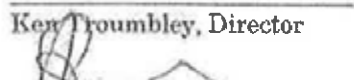
**Article 6:** To adjourn the meeting.

The legal voters of Hancock Town School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated: January 17, 2018

Hancock Town School District Board of Directors:

  
Rose Juliano, Chairperson

  
Ken Troumbley, Director

  
Stacey Peters, Director

## HANCOCK SCHOOL DIRECTORS REPORT

As of July 1, 2018, the Granville Hancock Unified District (GHUD) School Board will replace the Hancock School Board as a result of the consolidation mandated in Act 46. This new 6-member Board will be made up of 3 elected residents from each town. There will be one combined budget for the district. The Board will be responsible for tuitioning all students Pre-K through 12th grade to approved schools of their choice.

There are currently approximately 100 students in the 2 towns, attending over 15 schools. The unification should help taxpayers in a number of ways. Most importantly, the change in each town's student population should not negatively affect budgeting and tax rate.

The new School Board will continue to play an important role in representing our students at the district and SU level. Residency determination is the most challenging issue that members undertake. School choice is a major attraction to families. Tuitioning towns must pay whatever the tuition receiving schools set with no obligation to parents or guardians.

Determining residency can be complex. Split families, children living with relatives or guardians, and parents that own multiple properties in different towns are all considerations that must be evaluated by the school board. The determining factor is most often where the student resides.

Our Superintendent, Bruce Labs, and the entire staff at the 10-town WRVSU have done an incredible job the past few years. The complexities of Act 46 have resulted in many different combinations of mergers and numerous votes and revotes. Consolidation work is finally over and now merged boards can move forward.

Finally, our chair, Rose Juliano, will not be seeking a term on the new board. Please join us in thanking Rose for her leadership, knowledge, and insight in her many years serving on the board. Samantha Sheehan will take her place on the combined board, and has begun attending meetings.

**Please join us on May 8th at 6:00 PM at the Hancock Town Hall for the Granville-Hancock Unified District annual meeting to obtain more information and detail concerning tuition, budgets, and student achievement.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hancock School Board

*Rose Juliano, Ken Troumbley, Stacey Peters*

White River Valley Supervisory Union  
Superintendent's Report  
December 2017

I feel privileged to offer this report to the voters in the ten towns that comprise the White River Valley Supervisory Union. If you have followed the news at the state and local level, I'm sure you're familiar with the activities within each of the school districts and how they chose to align with Vermont's 2016 school consolidation law: Act 46. Our school districts faced the choice of merging their districts (not schools) and collecting the tax benefits offered by the state or standing alone and seeing what potential consequences came from not acting and asking for State Board approval by November 30, 2017. Each of our school districts decided what was in the best interest for their futures and met the deadline.

This decision-making process was labor intensive and took an extensive amount of the board's time this past year. Besides the planning meetings in each town, there were public hearings and information sessions held in each district to include voters in the deliberations around the nuances of this new law. There was a series of votes, and in some cases re-votes (in some of the towns) as each potential configuration was considered. As a result, Rochester and Stockbridge, Bethel and Royalton, Hancock and Granville, and Chelsea and Tunbridge all formed merged districts. Strafford and Sharon decided to ask the state to let them stand alone within the SU. We hope to hear the outcome of this request within the next two months.

Besides dealing with school consolidation this last school year, the School Board has engaged in intense and public discussions with the Teachers' Union for both professional staff and support staff around negotiating and approving a contract agreement for the newly configured SU. Throughout the year, we have had between fifteen and twenty sessions with each of these groups yet still find ourselves working to reconcile our differences. The recent changes in health care has been a major stumbling block and has taken a long time to sort out. However, I am optimistic that we will reach a resolution within the next few months.

The boards are currently working on a new bussing contract for the future. We have the large task of developing single, required policies for the entire SU. We are also working to put the new plans into place as well as the changes we assured the public that we would enact for each of the new mergers.

Lastly, I would again like to direct your attention to the finished Strategic Plan that the White River Valley SU Boards created in 2016. This plan is still in the process of implementation and can be found on our website: [www.wrvsu.org](http://www.wrvsu.org) under the "School Board" tab located at the top of the page. We are determined to have this plan- which also serves as our state-mandated Continuous Improvement Plan- continue to be a living document that we use to guide our future work. When we are able to implement it fully, the school district will be an improved, more student-centered learning environment for each of the students we serve.

I feel fortunate and am indeed grateful to lead this SU. I want to thank all of the residents and taxpayers of the White River Valley SU for their support of the 1,700 students within the combined districts this year. Please contact me with any questions and/or concerns you have. Our office is located at 461 Waterman Road in Royalton. I will do my best to respond to every call, email, or letter. My devotion to earning the public's trust continues with each day I work here as Superintendent and I assure you, as it's earned, I will never take it for granted.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bruce C. Labs  
Superintendent of School  
White River Valley Supervisory Union

**Hancock School District  
FY 2016-2018 Budgets**

	Budget 2015-2016	Actuals 2015-2016	Budget 2016-2017	Actual 2016-2017	Budget 2017-2018	Proposed Budget 2018-2019 **
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Fund Balance Carryover	\$ (55,790)	\$ (55,790)	\$ (10,126)	\$ -	\$ (74,700)	\$ -
Prior Year Adjustment	\$ -	\$ 2,963	\$ -	\$ (18,882.28)	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 18,543	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State:						
Education Spending Grant	\$ 819,949	\$ 819,949	\$ 849,537	\$ 849,537	\$ 882,660	\$ -
Vocational - State match	\$ 29,048	\$ 29,048	\$ 29,979	\$ 29,979	\$ 26,694	\$ -
Mainstream Block Grant	\$ 20,326	\$ 20,326	\$ 15,624	\$ 15,624	\$ -	\$ -
Expenditure Reimbursement	\$ 122,648	\$ 97,118	\$ 47,013	\$ 63,636	\$ -	\$ -
Extrordinary Reimbursement	\$ 14,209	\$ 15,712	\$ 6,717	\$ 8,784	\$ -	\$ -
EEE Grant	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,750	\$ 3,469	\$ 2,532	\$ -	\$ -
Green Mountain Forest	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,113	\$ 13,800	\$ 8,152	\$ 13,000	\$ -
Subgrant from SU - IEP Medicaid	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,496	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>\$ 968,140</u>	<u>\$ 942,226</u>	<u>\$ 956,013</u>	<u>\$ 1,003,858</u>	<u>\$ 847,654</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>BOARD OF EDUCATION</b>						
Stipends - Board of Education	\$ 1,615	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,615	\$ 3,100	\$ 1,615	\$ -
Liability Insurance	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,700	\$ -
Legal	\$ -	\$ 375	\$ 500	\$ 475	\$ 40	\$ -
Advertising	\$ -	\$ 103	\$ -	\$ 828	\$ -	\$ -
Dues/Fees	\$ 250	\$ 539	\$ 275	\$ 398	\$ 500	\$ -
	<u>\$ 3,365</u>	<u>\$ 2,517</u>	<u>\$ 4,090</u>	<u>\$ 6,301</u>	<u>\$ 3,855</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>FISCAL SERVICES</b>						
Stipend - Treasurer	\$ 1,722	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,722	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ -
Audit	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	\$ -
	<u>\$ 2,922</u>	<u>\$ 2,800</u>	<u>\$ 2,922</u>	<u>\$ 1,200</u>	<u>\$ 3,100</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>SUPERINTENDENTS OFFICE</b>						
Central Office Assessment	\$ 36,434	\$ 36,432	\$ 25,132	\$ 25,132	\$ 16,995	\$ -
Special Education Assessment	\$ 265,162	\$ 221,480	\$ 121,585	\$ 143,028	\$ 77,253	\$ -
EEE Assessment	\$ 5,900	\$ 5,900	\$ 11,207	\$ 6,843	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>\$ 307,496</u>	<u>\$ 263,812</u>	<u>\$ 157,924</u>	<u>\$ 175,003</u>	<u>\$ 94,248</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>						
Short Term Interest Exp	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,464	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,968	\$ 4,000	\$ -
	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,464</u>	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,968</u>	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>SCHOOL INSTRUCTION</b>						
Tuition Elementary	\$ 251,262	\$ 397,375	\$ 392,768	\$ 377,898	\$ 414,250	\$ -
Tuition Secondary	\$ 335,617	\$ 344,646	\$ 337,100	\$ 283,696	\$ 273,507	\$ -
Contract Service 504/EST	\$ 9,200	\$ 6,932	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition- Vocational Match	\$ 29,048	\$ 29,048	\$ 29,979	\$ -	\$ 26,694	\$ -
Tuition - Vocational	\$ 27,230	\$ 27,187	\$ 27,230	\$ 58,172	\$ 28,000	\$ -
	<u>\$ 652,357</u>	<u>\$ 805,188</u>	<u>\$ 787,077</u>	<u>\$ 719,766</u>	<u>\$ 742,451</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$ 968,140</u>	<u>\$ 1,075,781</u>	<u>\$ 956,013</u>	<u>\$ 905,238</u>	<u>\$ 847,654</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**Note:**

*The "Granville-Hancock USD" FY 2018-2019 Budget will be prepared and shared with the community in the near future in preparation for a budget vote at a later date.*

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING  
FOR THE TOWN OF HANCOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MARCH 7, 2017**

Meeting is called to order at 10:19 A.M. Meeting began with Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator James Leno states that both school and town meetings were warned for 10:00 A.M. The School Board of Directors have asked that the Annual School Meeting take place before the Annual Town Meeting.

**Article 1**      To elect a moderator for the next year ensuing.

Clerk cast one ballot for James Leno, seconded. Moved to Article 6 to allow guest speakers.

**Article 6**      To discuss Act 46 and the proposed merger with the Granville Town School District.

Ken Troumbley introduced Bruce Hyde to explain Act 46 and the updated school board budget. Bruce discusses the necessary merger of supervisory unions under Act 46, which, for the White River Valley SU, includes 10 towns comprising 4 high schools. Granville and Hancock are the only 2 towns in the SU with no school and full school choice. Act 46 will preserve choice as long as all schools in the SU successfully merge according to Act 46 guidelines. There are currently around 100 kids in Hancock and Granville combined, tuitioned to around 25 different schools. Bruce discusses the vote on April 11th regarding the Hancock/Granville district merger. Both Hancock and Granville are predicted to see an 8-cent tax reduction with a successful merger.

Per the recommendations from the study committee, Rochester, Bethel, and South Royalton are expected to merge, creating a combined K-12 district. Each town will maintain K-5th in town, with Bethel hosting middle school and South Royalton hosting high school.

Act 46 will reduce the effects of population change on the school board budget. Granville was home to 72 students in 2002, and 22 students 5 years ago. With such a small population, this jeopardizes the school board budget. The combined school-aged populations of Hancock and Granville will result in a lessened gap in the budget as kids move in and out of the area, with no effect on the budget for kids moving between the two towns.

An informational meeting will take place April 10th at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Clerk's Office, with a vote on Merger and new town officers on April 11. The new merged board begins operations July 1, 2018, if vote is passed.

Don Crickard asks if the merger affects our participation in the WRVSU. Will we get a projected estimate of the tax rate? Stacey Peters notes the projection on page 62 of the Annual Report. Scott Twitchell asks if we will have to hire more teachers if kids all merge to South Royalton. Shelley asks about an outstanding bill back issue. Bruce Hyde states this was paid off 2 to 3 years ago.

The question was raised as to whether Hancock was invested an equal 50% in the new district regardless of the student ratio from town to town. Bruce answers that there will be a slight difference in rate because of Towns CLA (real estate sales), but that Hancock receives equal votes to Granville on the new board.

**Article 2** To hear and act upon the reports of the Town School Officers.

Rose Juliano reports that Hancock has been working with Granville, checking student status and residency diligently. There are currently 50 students with proof of residency, with 1 more added in the past week. Kids are going to all surrounding towns. Jim asks about school choice remaining. Rose confirms that we will maintain school choice. Jacques asks if the School Board thinks merger is smart. Rose states as a taxpayer yes. Stacey Peters says with kids moving in and out the merger will help the budget remain level.

Motion to accept school board report made and seconded. Passed.

**Article 3** To see if the Town School District will vote to pay taxes to the Town School Treasurer as provided by law.

Don so moved. Second. Passed.

**Article 4** Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$847,654.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$17,344.15 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.22% higher than spending for the current year.

Motion, so moved. Second. Passed.

**Article 5** To elect a School Board Director for a three (3) year term starting in March 2017 and ending in March 2020.

Rose nominates Ken Troumbley. Motion to close, so moved. Clerk cast 1 ballot.

**Article 7** To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Don Crickard mentions that budget discussion was skipped, and has questions. What was the cause of this year's budget deficit? Hancock saw an increase in students moving into the district after the budget was established. Don further inquires if the assessment is based on 3-year average? Donna Benoit, the SU Business Manager, explains that there are 2 assessment formulas—if no enrollment you only pay a percentage. 2nd formula is based on special education average of ABM and enrollment because we do not operate a school.

Jim Leno reminds voters of informational meeting on April 10th at 6:00 P.M. at Town Clerk's Office, and voting April 11th from 7 to 7 at Town Clerk's Office.

Adjourn at 10:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Eva Jesso and Stacey Peters*

NOTES/BALLOT PAPER



NOTES/BALLOT PAPER