

STRAFFORD, VERMONT TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2018

HISTORICAL NOTE

PRESERVING STRAFFORD'S VILLAGES

What is a village? One simple definition holds that a village is a place larger than a hamlet, but smaller than a town. In England, the ancestral home of most of Strafford's early settlers, a small collection of homes was considered a hamlet until it built a church. Only then could the place be called a village. Perhaps the construction of a church signified a population large enough and affluent enough to no longer use the humble term hamlet. Strafford's early settlers were English colonists and, using the just mentioned definition, we can say that the town they established consisted of several hamlets from 1767 until 1797 when the Free Will Baptists built a church in the Lower Village and the 1799 Meetinghouse was constructed for use by the town and various religious groups in the Upper Village. Until that time, the several hamlets were often called 'hollows' or 'districts,' some of which bore the names of the principal families living there. Since 1800, however, it has been commonly accepted that the Town of Strafford includes two villages within its boundaries; Strafford Village and South Strafford Village. The assignment of a post office to each by the federal government was a significant recognition of the status of the two villages. One outlying district came close to full-fledged village status – the copper mine district. That area had the requisite cluster of housing, a store, a school, its own post office, but no church. The business of the mine fluctuated greatly, however, and it often was shut down for long periods of time, unable to sustain a viable population. The copper district lacked the permanency associated with a true village.

In early Vermont, large towns and cities were few (and still are), with only a small proportion of the state's population living in them. Most Vermonters lived in hamlets or villages. The typical village was small, consisting of perhaps 5 to 30 families. Homes were situated together for sociability and practicality, and the land surrounding the dwelling places was farmed. Village populations ranged from a few hundred to a few thousand persons. Strafford's two villages have always been on the lower end of that scale. Both villages were the normal and usual form of community for people who were engaged primarily in small-scale farming.

It may seem odd to hear it, but Strafford was settled by immigrants. Their forebears, predominantly from the British Isles, had gone first to Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. There, as populations grew and good land became scarce, and as neighbors lived closer and closer to each other's dooryards, many looked elsewhere for a place to live. When inexpensive land opened for settlement to their north, our earliest Strafford settlers (mostly young men and women) found it hard to resist. It should not be presumed that inexpensive land was the most important cause of their migration to this place. Many simply longed for the freedom of wildness, the virgin landscape, and they hungered to be free of the restrictions placed upon them by a society dominated by church and state. Any account of early settlers in this area of Vermont notes the hardiness and determination of the people, but also noted is their often-untamed behavior,

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Continued from inside front cover

their fondness for liquor, their woeful lack of education, and their general disinterest in religion. Early town records indicate how often they disagreed on many matters, but the records also tell us that over time a true sense of community developed almost simultaneously with the emergence of the two villages. There is something about an agricultural society which seems to naturally bring about the shared experience of relationships. Many would watch, however, as their children and grandchildren when faced with the prospect of cheap land and adventure in the West, left Strafford after 1840. For many decades, hard times befell the town, and outward migration continued unabated. Small-scale farming became increasingly unprofitable. The changeover from sheep farming to dairy farming provided only a brief respite. The copper mine, which sometimes had employed as many as 200 workers, suffered numerous closings. National recessions left many in Strafford with substantial debts and unable to borrow. Natural disasters, such as the great floods of 1913 and 1927 exacerbated the hardship. And, the Great Depression of the 1930s was particularly difficult for the town, as it caused the copper mine to close altogether. It is not surprising, perhaps, that so many Strafford men willingly joined the armed forces in the Civil war and the two World Wars.

Remarkably, Strafford's two villages have withstood more than 200 years of such history very much as they were a couple of centuries ago. An early settler returning today would not be lost, thanks to the efforts of many of our citizens over the past 70 years. The landscape and character of each of the villages remains relatively unchanged, though

today we are no longer a town of people who are principally farmers. Our typical village resident now is more apt to work out of town, or be retired. We have neither the population diversity which the mine once supplied, nor the inter-relationships of local occupations which our predominantly agricultural society once required. In many respects, we are less dependent on one another than were the earlier inhabitants of our town. But, the strong sense of community passed down to us by those earlier residents, continues, and it is one of Strafford's greatest assets.

Very few formal steps have been taken to insure the preservation of our village landscapes and structures. We have been very lucky that so little has been demolished or constructed in the villages, activities that could greatly alter and adversely effect the historic character and beauty of the two villages and the town. The Upper Village is on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Lower Village is on the Vermont Register of Historic Places. Neither designation, however, guarantees any protection or preservation for the villages. The assurances necessary for preservation are left to us to devise; we are the sole custodians responsible for preserving Strafford's fragile, beautiful, historic legacy, including our two villages.

The preservation of Strafford's historic elements is the preservation of much that we like about our town. Our historic landscape and structures are shared equally by all of us, and the preservation of those historic features allows us to integrate the past with the present and future development of the town, a worthy legacy for those generations yet to come.

Bob Johnston

DEDICATION

Kathleen (Kay) Campbell ~ *May 14, 1923–November 20, 2018*



*Photo by
Kate Siepmann*

One of the truest and proudest life-long Vermonters, and a pillar of the Strafford community, Kay Campbell lived a life of exploration, curiosity, and a fierce commitment to the principles that she held dear. Some would say she was ahead of her time in her global interests. She would probably have said that she was *of* her time, waiting for others to catch up.

Kay grew up in Chelsea, Vermont, largely in the care of her aunt and uncle, after the death of her mother. When she was 4, an older boy named Floyd (7) often helped her put on her boots at the one-room Old City school where her mother taught. They married in 1946, after they both graduated from UVM and after Floyd returned from service in World War II. After extensive travel with Floyd's job with the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service, they returned to Strafford to run Floyd's family farm on Pennock Road. They raised six kids—Gail (deceased), Steven, Judith, Colin, Robert, and Jennifer.

Kay was an avid camper, fisher, expert birder, outdoorswoman, voracious reader, thinker, and public servant. She and Floyd were instrumental in resuscitating interest in the contributions of Senator Justin Smith Morrill's to higher education in America, through the Land Grant College Act. They contributed mightily to the preservation of the Morrill Homestead and, particularly, to the recultivation of its vintage apple orchards.

In Strafford, Kay served as a Justice of the Peace, a Lister, a Selectboard member, and—closest to her heart—as Librarian of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library. In all her endeavors, Kay's standards were high and her dedication complete. She was a woman of diminutive stature and titanic influence. For those who might have been initially intimidated by her formidable presence, she ultimately revealed a generous spirit, a lively sense of humor, a warmth of heart, and a steadfast wisdom.

For those who ever drove behind her, she anticipated the notion of a driverless car, as her head was never visible above the driver's seat.

We have been a richer town with Kay's presence.

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TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator (Town & School):

Robert Bauer Term expires March 2019

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2021

Selectboard:

Toni Pippy Term expires March 2021

Lauri Berkenkamp Term expires March 2020

Kate Siepmann Term expires March 2020

Brian Johnson Term expires March 2019

John Freitag Term expires March 2019

Listers:

Allan Wylie Term expires March 2021

Tim Denny Term expires March 2020

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2019

Auditors:

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2021

Suzanna Liepmann Term expires March 2020

June Solsaa Term expires March 2019

School Directors:

Glenn Wylie Term expires March 2021

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2020

Sarah North Term expires March 2020

Hilary Linehan Term expires March 2019

Erik Goodling Term expires March 2019

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro Term expires March 2019

Town Agent and Town Grand Juror:

Alan Donohue Term expires March 2019

Trustee of Public Funds:

Genevieve Gibson Term expires March 2021

John Hawkins Term expires March 2020

Elizabeth Ruml Term expires March 2019

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2019

COVER: The 1799 Town House has undergone many preservation efforts over the years. This August, the spire and lantern were removed for much-needed repairs. The restoration work was completed in December.

Town Officers (continued)

Harris Library Trustees:

Curt Albee.....	Term expires March 2021
Miriam Newman	Term expires March 2019
Carol Wilson (<i>Selectboard Trustee</i>).....	Term expires March 2021

Cemetery Commissioners:

David Harris	Term expires March 2021
Andrew Behrens	Term expires March 2021
Gretchen Graner	Term expires March 2020
Gary Kendall	Term expires March 2020
Sherm Wilson	Term expires March 2019

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee	Alan Donohue	Rosalind Finn
Andrew Lane	Sarah North	Vincent Robinson
	<i>Vacant</i>	

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

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

Appointive Officers (continued)

Development Review Board:

Steven Campbell (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2021
Bonnie Bergeron (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Terrence Garrison (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2019
Dan Ruml	Term expires March 2019
Martha Walke	Term expires March 2019
Alan Donohue (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Kip Lindsay (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2019

Planning Commission:

Steven Campbell (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2022
Michael Scanlan	Term expires March 2022
Stuart Crocker	Term expires March 2022
Stephen Willbanks (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2022
Brent Cadwell	Term expires March 2021
Donald Graham	Term expires March 2021
Sean Lewis	Term expires March 2021
Martha Walke (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Chrissy Jamieson	Term expires March 2020

Conservation Commission:

Micki Colbeck	Term expires March 2022
J. T. Horn	Term expires March 2022
Jared Jenisch	Term expires March 2022
Michael Hebb (<i>Trails Commissioner</i>)	Term expires March 2021
Kate Root.....	Term expires March 2021
Charles Sherman.....	Term expires March 2020
David Paganelli	Term expires March 2020
Steve Faccio (<i>Recording Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2019
Stephen Willbanks (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2019

Town House Advisory Group:

Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2022
Curt Albee	Term expires March 2020
Lori Mikusa	Term expires March 2020
Steve Willbanks	Term expires March 2019
Martha Manheim	Term expires March 2019
Therese Linehan	Term expires March 2019
Peter Revers	Term expires March 2019
Steve Handy	Term expires March 2019
Silas Treadway	Term expires March 2019

Regional Planning Commission:

Steven Campbell	Term expires March 2019
John Echeverria (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2019

Appointive Officers (continued)

Recreation Board:

Hilary Linehan	Term expires March 2020
David Taplin	Term expires March 2020
Meg Albee	Term expires March 2019
Christa Wurm	Term expires March 2019
Jason Loomis	Term expires March 2019

Historic Preservation Commission:

Ann Thorp (<i>Clerk</i>)	Term expires March 2021
Tim Utt	Term expires March 2021
Robert Johnston (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Silas Treadway (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2020
David Taplin	Term expires March 2019

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network

Governing Board Representative:

Steve Willbanks	Term expires March 2019
David Webb (<i>Alternate</i>).....	Term expires March 2019
Charles Sherman (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2019

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:

Stephen Willbanks	Term expires March 2020
Michael Scanlan (<i>Alternate</i>).....	Term expires March 2020

Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:

John Whelihan	Term expires March 2019
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Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:

Joanna Hawkins	Term expires March 2021
Diana Leddy	Term expires March 2020
Danette Harris	Term expires March 2019

Community-Building Award Committee:

Roz Finn	John Freitag	Kate Linehan
Rebecca Seibel	Lori Mikusa	

Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:

Rockwell Fuller	Joanna Hawkins	Rod Maclay
	Maureen Wilson	

Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:

Barbara Murray	Susan Coburn	Rose Silloway
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Notaries Public

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

ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

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

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

Permit Fees

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

Regional Environmental Office

For information on Sewage Disposal, Water Supply, Act 250, Act 249, Electrical and Plumbing Inspection and Fire Safety, contact the Regional Environmental Office:

Act 250 Permits Springfield Office 100 Mineral St., Suite 305 Springfield, VT 05156 885-8855	Act 249 Permits Barre Office 5 Perry St., Suite 80 Barre, VT 05641 476-0190
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STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS



Newton School Class of 2018

*Back Row: Zeke Colburn, Taj Bagnato, Ben Plottner, Bryar Daniels,
Julia Martin, Emma Moore, Mary Gage Donohue, Brandy Lewis*

*Front Row: George Yunger, Ever Tofel, Palmer Okai, Jesse Sweet,
Anya Traudt, Lexi Evans, Grace Lewandoski, Sophie Prescott*

(Photo by Ilene Kanoff)

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

March 5, 2019

The legal voters of the Strafford Town School District are hereby WARNED AND NOTIFIED to meet at the Town Hall in Strafford on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9 A.M., to transact the following business:

- Article I.** To Elect a Moderator.
- Article II.** To Hear and Act upon the report of the School Directors.
- Article III.** To Vote to establish compensation for the elected officers of the said School District.
- Article III.** Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,174,430 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,599.18 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.8% higher than spending for the current year.
- Article IV.** To Vote a sum of \$8,000 from the 2017-2018 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund.
- Article V.** To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article VI.** To Address any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 14, 2019

Strafford Board of School Directors

Erik Goodling, Chairperson

Hilary Linehan, Vice Chair

Glenn Wylie, Clerk

Sarah North, Member

Jeff Solsaa, Member

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

March 6, 2018

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

Bob Bauer welcomed all to the school district meeting.

The Strafford School District warning was read.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator.

Article 1 was moved and seconded. Moderator Bauer asked for nominations. Robert Bauer was nominated and seconded. Motion was made and seconded to close nominations and Robert Bauer was elected.

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

Article 2 was moved and seconded. Erik Goodling asked to suspend Robert's Rules to hear from Bill Bugg, Head of TA. Greg Bagnato spoke as well indicating this was his fifth year at Newton and wanted to share a few things going on at Newton School. Greg spoke of an action plan to increase academic success and is 4th in the state. Greg is working on a better system to catch kids that need assistance and mandatory basic learning. Greg also mentioned there is a full time counselor at Newton School now.

Erik spoke on consolidation districts and Act 46. Glenn Wylie spoke on school board mergers. Erik also reviewed and thanked Jeff Solsaa with help from Lisa Bragg, Allan Wylie and Nellie Pennington, who were able to appeal the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and won the appeal and reduced our taxes.

Other discussion took place, but no motion. Article 2 was moved and seconded to close discussion. Article 2 passed.

Article 3. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,107,673.00 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,536.99 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.97% lower than spending for the current year.

Article 3 was moved and seconded. Open for discussion. Hilary Linehan reviewed the budget. With no objections Article three was voted on. Article 3 passes.

Article 4. To Vote a sum of \$8,000.00 from the 2016-2017 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund.

Article 4 was moved and seconded. Hilary Linehan spoke about the Strafford Athletic Association (SAA) and indicated this is part of the agreement to set aside funds for the Tyson Gym. No questions or comments; Article 4 was voted on. Article 4 passes.

Article 5. To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years and to elect one (1) School Director to complete a term ending in 2019 .

Amendment to the Article should read “2020”.

Article 5 was moved and seconded. Glenn Wylie was nominated for a three year term. Motion was made and seconded to close nominations and seconded. Glenn Wylie was elected.

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

Sarah North was nominated and seconded to complete the term ending in 2020. Motion was made to close nominations and seconded. Sarah North was elected.

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

Article 6 was moved and seconded. Seeing none and hearing none the Moderator move to adjourn the meeting. No objections; the meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Robert Bauer
Moderator

Erik Goodling
School Director

Lisa M. Bragg
Town Clerk

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

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

ACT 46 FINAL OUTCOME

In June of last year, the Acting Secretary of Education released her Proposed Statewide Plan for School District Governance. In that report, it was determined that Strafford, due to its unique operating structure, was statutorily protected from forced merger and was therefore to remain a free-standing district. The possibility of placing the district within a different Supervisory Union was raised but not recommended by the Acting Secretary.

The ball then switched to the State Board of Education's court where they would make the final decisions. After several meetings around the state, the SBOE released its own final report in late November. This was to be the final word on Act 46 implementation. In its report, the SBOE agreed with the Acting Secretary regarding Strafford, and we will now, officially, remain a free-standing district with our own budget and local school board.

While this did work out in Strafford's favor, there were many districts that applied for Alternative Structure status, as Strafford did, but were nevertheless placed into forced mergers by the SBOE. Needless to say, this has created a great deal of conflict in the towns affected and, at the time of this writing, there were multiple lawsuits filed against the state regarding its findings. Further, a stay on the implementation of at least some of the forced mergers has been imposed by the courts. Where this will end is anyone's guess, and the outcome of these lawsuits will not directly impact Strafford. However, it will be interesting to watch how the AOE, SBOE, and the state legislature react to any outcomes of these cases and any subsequent action that they may take in the future.

While the "final outcome" of Act 46 is known, it is impossible to say that there will not be further efforts to consolidate school districts moving forward. Current Secretary of Education Dan French has even floated the idea, albeit as the result of a "visioning exercise," of a single, state-wide school district with one budget and one board at the state level. In other words, although Strafford successfully navigated Act 46, there may be future challenges ahead.

CULTURE AND CLIMATE AT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

Of great concern to many is the growing public question around the culture and climate at the Newton School. Parents have voiced concerns at school board meetings and there has been an expanding conversation happening in the community on both sides of the issue. In order to understand the causes of these concerns in a neutral setting, the Board has hired Dawn

Ellis (www.DMEhelps.com) as an independent consultant. Ms. Ellis will be observing the school and conducting interviews with parents, students, faculty, staff, and community members in order to compile a report for the Board and the Town. The findings of this report will help to direct and inform future Board plans and activities as we strive to provide the best possible education and learning environment for all of Strafford's students.

FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 PROPOSED BUDGET

We propose a budget of \$3,174,430. This is an overall increase of \$66,757 or 2.15% above last year's budget of \$3,107,603. The increase accompanied by a decrease in student population will result in an increased per-pupil spending rate of \$16,599.18 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.8% higher than spending for the current year.

TAX IMPACT

The proposed budget would result in an increase of \$.0439 on the tax rate or 3.34%.

To achieve this rate of increase, the Board has allocated the remaining sum of \$30,233 from the fiscal year 2016-17 surplus and \$50,000 from the tuition reserve fund to offset current expenses. Furthermore, and more importantly, this budget will require Principal Bagnato to make a \$35,000 reduction in his staff.

While an increase in the tax rate is never pleasant or wanted, the Board feels that this is necessary given the decrease in student population and increase in fixed costs such as health insurance premiums, high school tuitions, etc.

Furthermore, at the time of printing last year's town report, the Board expected, despite a decrease in the school budget, a drastic rise in the tax rate of \$.11. To counter this, we made an extraordinary allocation from the tuition reserve fund in order to keep the tax rate increase at \$.044. However, because of the work of Jeff Solsaa and the listers, our appeal of the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was accepted, and rather than an increase of \$.044 we saw a decrease in the tax rate of \$.074. So, while higher than the 2018-19 tax rate, this year's increase leaves the tax rate lower than both those of 2017-18 and 2016-17.

The proposed budget results in a household dollar increase of roughly \$44 on a \$100,000 property, \$88 on a \$200,000 property, and \$132 on a \$300,000 property.

If the town wished to add back the \$35,000 in staff reductions, this would result in an additional tax increase of approximately \$.019 or \$19, \$38, and \$57 on a \$100k, \$200k, and \$300k property. This would bring the total increase to \$.063 or \$63, \$126, and \$189 respectively.

MAJOR BUDGET COMPONENTS:

A note on the budget format: Because of a change in software and state requirements, several line items from previous budgets have been re-categorized and now fall under different sections or “codes.” Because of this, some items look to have large increases. Often, this is because of the re-coding and there will be a consequent decrease in one or more corresponding line items.

SCHOOL BOARD STIPEND

Several years ago, the Board, in order to mitigate a tax increase, elected to remove the Board stipend from the budget. Given the fact that without compensation some members of the community might not be able to participate, it was decided to reinstate the stipend at \$500 per member per year. Prior to doing this, the Strafford School Board was the only board in the WRVSU operating without a stipend. Because this needs to be voted on by the town, while the amount of \$2,500 is in the budget, the stipend is a separately warned item on the agenda.

FOOD SERVICE

The food service subsidy has been increased from \$40,000 to \$49,295. This brings the subsidy in line with the average of the three prior years’ actual subsidy.

SECONDARY TUITION

General tuition costs for secondary students are up by just under \$60,000. This is due to both straightforward tuition increases and change in student numbers and the schools students are attending.

SUPERVISORY UNION COSTS

The SU assessment for direct services – the Superintendent’s office, Business Manager, Curriculum Coordinator, and Technology Coordinator – has increased by \$3,134. However, there was a corresponding reduction in our auditing costs of (\$2,750) when this service moved to the SU. As of a few years ago, several key services are now centralized at the SU level as well – transportation and Special Education, specifically. The SU-wide transportation contract needed to be re-bid, and the costs of the new contract have risen by \$6,533. Finally, Special Education costs have decreased by (\$6,494) in proportion with needed services throughout the SU. All of this results in a modest increase in the amount due to the SU of \$423.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

In one of our staff meetings, we completed an activity called Compass Points. In this activity, participants associate with a “direction.” Northerners identified as folks that like to jump in and act, Easterners like to look at all the possibilities before moving forward, Southerners want to make sure everyone’s voice is heard before acting, and Westerners need answers to all the details of the initiative before moving forward. The point is, as a school and community we need to respect each other’s preferences and opinions by listening to each other and working together. There is usually not one solution that will make everyone equally happy; the challenge is to understand and empathize with each other. Hopefully, through openness and honesty, we can avoid divisiveness and some of the other rigid tendencies that seem to become more and more accepted in society.

Over the past few years, we have had several students decide not to attend our 7th and 8th grade. This fall the school board committed to hiring a consultant, Dawn Ellis, to collect data in order to answer the question, “What do students and families consider about the climate and culture of the school as they choose whether or not to keep their students at the school for 7th or 8th grade?” The data collected will inform the board about the goals and action steps that they deem necessary. This year there is also a Pre-K study group made up of parents, teachers, and administrators looking at increasing child-care and preschool capacity in Strafford.

While the work described above is what people talk about, it is more important to highlight some of this year’s initiatives that are going on that immediately benefit our students:

We continue to have some of the highest scores on statewide tests in English Language Arts and Math.

This year we have been able to align our clusters K-2, 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8 to mix students at closer developmental levels and more efficiently enable teachers to collaborate.

We have expanded outdoor learning and experiential learning in three clusters.

We have created intervention times in each cluster to help students work on specific skills that they need to work on.

Feedback from students shows that relationships at school (student to student and student to teacher) are improving. This may have to do with an emphasis on our Responsive Classroom program.

We are working on implementing math proficiencies without lowering our overall expectations.

Looking forward, in June of 2018 the school board approved our Continuous Improvement Plan previously known as our action plan. This plan is for

2018-2020 school years. We have completed some of these action steps and need to work on others.

Goal #1 - Increase Academic Success and Engagement

Action Steps:

- Develop growth mindset tools
- Provide opportunities for students to connect/interact with students and other people outside the school community.
- Continue to develop Multi-Tiered System of Support for academics, behavior, and emotional.
- Articulated Scope and Sequence for Curriculum SS (C3)/Sci (NGSS)
- Expand reading resources to instruct and assess students.
- Looking at Student Work and academic achievement through the lens of proficiencies.

Goal #2 - Reach each Child's/Adult's Potential for Well-Being

Action Steps:

- Implementing Changing Perspectives curriculum and evaluating outcomes.
- Each cluster comes up with specific strategies that will help students feel valued and appreciated.
- Staff will collaborate to establish “norms” to promote a positive adult growth culture.
- Provide staff professional development in order to further improve social-emotional supports for students.

Goal #3 - Enhance Communication

Action Steps:

- Newsletter sent to parents/Strafford Community via several means.
- Clear and consistent information on how the school and each specific cluster will communicate with parents and the community.
- Update website

I want to first thank the tremendously committed and flexible staff at Newton School. I also would like to thank the community of Strafford for consistently supporting the Newton School. The PTA consistently provides arts enrichment opportunities. This year Barbara Paulson from No Strings Marionette delivered a fantastic weeklong artist in residence program. There are also classroom volunteers, volunteer coaches, and community members who assist in fundraising or simply pass on information that they think will enhance the education of our town's school. To all of these people and groups, the Newton School community offers our sincere gratitude.

Sincerely,
Greg Bagnato
Principal

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I am once again very proud to write this annual report to the citizens of the ten towns comprising the White River Valley Supervisory Union. As a person engaged in this work for a number of years, I am pleased to have witnessed the seriousness and civility that was exhibited by all of the citizens and taxpayers in our Supervisory Union as we debated and decided the school consolidation question presented by Act 46.

Now that we know the outcome of the changes that this law brought to our Supervisory Union and to each of the towns within the region, I am sure that taxpayers are waiting to see if the promises that were made as a reason to make these changes in our district configurations will be kept.

We continue to work hard toward the goal of getting the Supervisory Union to function in an effective, efficient, and unified way. Since last school year we have negotiated our first unified teacher contract and support staff contracts. We have a new teachers evaluation model that we are now using. We have written 25 new policies and there are more being considered as I write this report to the towns. We have a unified bussing contract and we are following the work laid out in the White River Valley Strategic Plan just to name some of the areas we have worked on this last year.

The 2018 school year has been difficult with all of the decisions around Act 46 that needed to take place according to the law. It is no surprise that we finished somewhat exhausted because of the pace and the high stakes involved. Because of this grueling process and for some, many long years of faithful service, some of the board members have decided to move on. This has meant that there is a new group of board members serving now has needed board responsibility training in place to help them carry out their duties and responsibilities.

This Supervisory Union is a very special place that has been developed in the interests of students needs. We have a very successful One Planet after school program that continues to grow in all of the eight schools in the SU. We have developed three restorative classrooms, one at the middle school and two others in Royalton at the elementary school, all under the direction of Special Education Direction Deborah Matthews and Dr. William Ketterer. We have hired a parent liaison to strengthen connections with parents. At the high school we have broadened our programming to include new and varied placement classes, math and science classes and additional electives for our students. We have been working with the Tarrant Institute to develop our middle schools in Bethel and also Chelsea and Tunbridge.

I am very proud of the steps that we have made throughout the system to work towards a higher level of student achievement and classroom instruction. We will continue on this path guided by our strategic plan.

Please contact me at our office if you have questions or concerns. I will try to respond to every email, letter or phone message. I will never take the public's trust for granted. I hope to work every day to earn it.

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

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

When my family and I moved to the Upper Valley nearly seven years ago, we were excited about joining a community that values education and equity, where schools and towns enjoy positive, enduring relationships, and where students benefit from the care and concern of the adults in their community. As my family and I get ready for a new chapter in our lives, I would like to share with you some of my takeaways from my Thetford Academy experience.

Founded 200 years ago and Vermont's oldest continuously operating secondary school, Thetford Academy is a traditional New England town academy — a school that pre-dates public education, and a model that provides our students with the best of public and independent education. Because of this, TA is open and accessible like a public school, but flexible and innovative like an independent school.

Thetford Academy does a phenomenal job educating all our students, as our mission directs, providing excellent education for students of all backgrounds and abilities. The school's mission and values are compatible with our sending towns' values of inclusion and respect for all. And the children of the Town of Strafford benefit in myriad ways from the close partnership that Strafford and Thetford Academy share.

I am especially proud of the following school accomplishments the past seven years:

- As many as 85% of our seniors go to excellent colleges each year, but more importantly, colleges that are a good personal and financial fit. Others find good opportunities after graduation in the military or work force. Year after year, nearly all of our students graduate from TA.
- One-fifth of our students take college courses at Dartmouth or through Dual Enrollment with Vermont Technical College or Community College of Vermont prior to graduation.
- Eighteen of our teachers have developed 23 innovative courses since 2013, including Civil Rights Literature, C Programming and Mobile App Design, and Environmental Science on the Connecticut River.
- TA has co-developed a student internship program in high-tech manufacturing in partnership with Lebanon High School, Hypertherm, and FUJIFILM Dimatix in Lebanon, NH.

- Our drama and musical theater programs have produced big hits in our local community; our one act play last spring won state and performed in the New England Drama Festival.
- Students in visual arts, culinary arts, choral and instrumental music, and design technology have been recognized year after year for notable successes.
- Our Timber Framing class has built five impressive structures on the TA campus the past six years, including a large outdoor classroom.
- Panther basketball, cross country, and soccer teams have enjoyed state championships, and nearly all our other athletic programs have competed with distinction in the playoffs, year after year.
- The school has launched and expanded the Thetford Outdoor Program, including a half-day Environmental Studies and Outdoor Education course, a cross country ski club, outing club with monthly day and overnight trips, summer adventure trips program, and trail building crew.
- Thetford Academy's partnership with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has enabled TA to assume management responsibilities for Thetford Hill State Park just to the south of the school.
- The Why Food Matters class has engineered an aquaponics system in the school's greenhouse, as well as a potato farm, hoop greenhouse, chicken coop, and root cellar here on campus.
- Our Robotics team has competed in the VEX world championships seven consecutive years, and has finished as the top team in New England along the way.
- Our International Student Program has hosted students from China, Greece, Rwanda, and South Korea, providing tangible benefits to students from abroad as well as our local students.
- Our school's Bicentennial Birthday was celebrated on Founders' Day, Feb. 8, 2019, exactly 200 years to the day after the school first opened its doors.

With the support of our dedicated and talented faculty, staff, and administration and an exceptionally community-minded Board of Trustees, our school will be moving into a new chapter this summer, as a new leader begins her or his tenure at TA (not yet chosen at press time, but likely to be announced prior to Town Meeting). Despite our region's many challenges, I am confident that Thetford Academy's future will remain bright, and I look forward to following the school's progress in the years to come.

Sincerely,
 William A. Bugg III
 Head of School

This July, the Bugg family will be moving to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, where Bill will serve as Head of School of Good Hope Country Day School.

NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

The Newton School Parent Teacher Association is an organization dedicated to supporting Strafford's school and community. The PTA, composed of parents, school personnel, and community members, works together to provide the very best support programs which benefit the entire student body and school community. The PTA also serves as a conduit for parents and administration to discuss school issues and topics as they arise – mainly during the “principal chat” which is held monthly just before the start of the regular PTA meeting. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, school testing, school dress code policy, school action plan, and school climate. This communication platform serves to keep parents informed while also offering an opportunity for discussion and feedback with the principal.

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

This year, the Newton School welcomed Barbara Paulson with No Strings Marionette Company to join us for our winter residency in December 2018, a five-day workshop with the students before Christmas break that culminated in a final community puppet performance by our K-8. What a fun, creative December week with Barbara and Mimi from No Strings Marionette Company! We had the opportunity to work with Barbara and the kids that week on their puppet creations and two things stood out: 1. How much creativity and thoughtfulness our students (and teachers!) bring forth every day and how lovely it was getting to see it captured in their puppet creations – simply magical and 2. How engaging puppet-making is across a wide age/grade range (K-8-Adult). I loved seeing a lovely 1st-grade moon come together, the careful thoughtfulness of an 8th grader making his water nymph, and the excitement and enthusiasm of a certain 5/6 teacher making his “Boy Who Cried Wolf” puppet. Spending time with the kids and teachers during Winter residency gave me a lot of joy and left me feeling proud that the PTA continues to support these types of special programs for our kids.

This 2018 puppet residency is an example of an arts program generously supported by our yearlong fundraising efforts including annual appeals, 4th of July, fall bulb and holiday poinsettia sales, and our annual May plant sale, just to name a few. Many of these art programs are still being underwritten, and will be for some time, by the generous donation of the Dominique Dinouart Designs Jewelry Sale held in December 2017.

In addition to funding the artist in residence each year, another large item in our budget that we enthusiastically fund are art or culturally related performances for students. This year, two plays the students will have seen

are “My Mouth is a Volcano” at Pentangle Arts and “Me....Jane” at the Hopkins Center.

Lastly, one of the most beloved programs funded by the PTA, “Art Start” and “Images,” allows our students to travel to the Hood Museum of Art to explore, create, and learn. We are constantly searching for additional volunteers as we see many of our dedicated volunteers moving on from Newton School. These efforts include 4th of July Fair, sales of the PTA phone book, fall bulb and plant sale, town meeting luncheon, the spring plant sale, and holiday poinsettias.

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

2018-19 Officers: Christine Bailey-Kellogg, Co-Chair; Nicole Ekegren, Treasurer; Laura Ogden, Secretary.

Sincerely,
Shannon Varley, Chair

THE SHARON ACADEMY

The mission of The Sharon Academy is to nurture intelligent, independent and creative thinking in a small school community, awakening students to their immense potential and the difference they can make in the world.

We are proud that so many Newton graduates choose to come to TSA for their high school years. In June of 2018, TSA graduated 27 students, 7 of whom were Strafford residents. TSA’s Strafford graduates enrolled in a wide range of colleges: Berklee College of Music, Keene State College, Saint Michael’s College, University of Utah, and Northern Vermont University. Additionally, one student is currently in Shanghai, China on a Gap Year.

In the 2017/2018 school year, TSA students served their communities by donating over 5,000 hours of community service. United Church of Strafford, Justin Morrill Apple Fest, Newton’s PTA Plant Sale, Habitat for Humanity, Dartmouth Hitchcock Day Care, WISE, Green Up Day, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, the Red Cross, the Upper Valley Haven, and the White River Partnership were just some of the beneficiaries of this community service.

As always, our calendar was packed with community events. November's All-School Musical – Disney's *Newsies* – was fantastically well attended and loads of fun. Strafford's Fisher Kelley and Claire Jenisch rocked their lead roles, with support from many other Strafford students both on stage and behind the scenes. The 2018 Circus was a great success, attracting an audience of over 600 people, many of them Strafford families. The annual Free Arts Day provided a day of fun for many families from Strafford and all over the Upper Valley. We hope to see you at 2019's Free Family Arts Day (March 10th, from noon - 4:00) and this year's Circus (March 29th and 30th).

We are excited to be progressing with our transition to Proficiency-Based education, along with the rest of the state of Vermont. We recognize the amazing benefits Proficiency-Based education provides. The new assessment system will allow us to focus even more on teaching the “transferable skills” that colleges and employers are insisting that students master. Additionally, students will enjoy more flexibility and choices to complete school credits.

Thank you to all of you who have donated time, expertise and financial support to TSA and our students. Your support helps us to fulfill our mission of knowing, valuing, and challenging each student so that they may become the leaders we need. We invite to you join us in celebrating and thanking our community at our Gala on Saturday, April 27th. Please join us!

We look forward to serving Strafford and the many children and families from surrounding towns in the years to come. Thank you, Strafford residents, for your continued support. Please feel free to call us at 763-2500 to schedule a visit or just drop by. You are always welcome.

Michael Livingston
Head of School
The Sharon Academy

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY 2020 Budget Summary**

	Budget FY18	Actual FY18	Budget FY19	Proposed Budget FY20	Budget to Budget %	Dollar Change FY19-FY20
INSTRUCTION -K-8						
Elementary Instruction	\$ 631,666	\$ 585,411	\$ 591,477	\$ 603,863	2.09%	\$ 12,386
MS Instruction	178,283	165,307	200,309	229,471	14.56%	29,162
Athletics	3,690	3,095	2,690	2,747	2.12%	57
Remedial Instruction	59,092	40,137	42,109	31,647	-24.85%	(10,462)
Total Direct Instruction	\$ 872,731	\$ 793,950	\$ 836,586	\$ 867,728	3.72%	\$ 31,142
SUPPORT SERVICES						
Student Support (Health & Guidance)	\$ 122,599	\$ 103,317	\$ 100,658	\$ 107,434	6.73%	\$ 6,776
Staff Support Services	27,550	33,712	24,153	24,635	2.00%	482
Library/Technology	72,104	59,106	72,795	85,516	17.48%	12,721
School Board/Admin/Treasurer/Audit/Debt	251,866	237,880	238,295	234,699	-1.51%	(3,596)
Supervisory Union - Includes HTS Transportation	178,219	177,144	191,786	201,786	5.21%	10,000
Buildings and Grounds	204,613	162,358	203,088	192,556	-5.19%	(10,532)
Transportation-Field Trips	5,000	4,765	5,000	7,000	40.00%	2,000
Food Service Subsidy	25,000	25,000	40,000	49,295	23.24%	9,295
Total Support Services	\$ 886,951	\$ 803,282	\$ 875,775	\$ 902,921	3.10%	\$ 27,146
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS K-8 w/o Spec Ed						
Preschool	25,200	39,498	30,000	43,934	46.45%	13,934
Local/SU- Special Education K-12	251,020	268,755	258,446	251,952	-2.51%	(6,494)
Secondary Tuition (incl vocational)	1,114,119	1,111,125	1,106,867	1,107,895	0.09%	1,028
TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS	\$ 3,150,021	\$ 3,016,610	\$ 3,107,673	\$ 3,174,430	2.15%	\$ 66,757

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXPENDITURE BUDGET FY 2019-2020**

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Preschool				
Tuition	\$ 25,200	\$ 39,498	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,272
Contracted Instructional Services	-	-	4,000	3,662
Total Preschool	\$ 25,200	\$ 39,498	\$ 34,000	\$ 43,934
General Elementary Instruction				
Salaries	\$ 391,557	\$ 395,987	\$ 380,087	\$ 375,742
Substitutes Salary	6,000	7,120	6,000	8,000
Paraprofessional Salaries (moved to Purchased Services)	20,499	230	25,186	-
Health Ins. Benefits	105,822	81,616	65,794	62,409
HRA	-	-	-	5,852
Employer Taxes	31,898	30,190	31,462	29,356
Life Ins	229	276	213	834
Workers Comp.	3,553	4,994	3,496	1,784
Retirement Contribution	820	-	1,007	1,500
Unemployment	5,500	5,161	5,500	4,537
LTD	-	-	-	85
Dental Ins.	2,400	1,477	2,368	3,037
Purchased Services (One Planet/504/Para/EST)	8,520	7,677	9,250	29,535
Supplies	5,985	5,535	6,485	8,216
Books & Periodicals	4,973	3,097	4,973	5,942
Dues & Fees	-	-	-	500
Total General Elementary	\$ 587,756	\$ 543,360	\$ 541,822	\$ 537,329

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Art - Elementary				
Salaries	\$ 12,590	\$ 12,698	\$ 14,359	\$ 9,902
Employer Taxes	963	971	1,098	758
Workers Comp.	107	108	122	10
Supplies	900	393	1,050	1,519
Total Art Elementary	\$ 14,560	\$ 14,170	\$ 16,629	\$ 12,189
Foreign Language - Elementary				
Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,330
Employer Taxes	-	-	-	865
Workers Comp	-	-	-	20
Unemployment	-	-	-	30
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,245
Phys Ed - Elementary				
Salaries	\$ 19,092	\$ 19,289	\$ 19,693	\$ 20,376
Health Ins. Benefits	225	(1,131)	200	4,769
HRA	-	-	-	320
Employer Taxes	1,461	1,476	1,506	1,559
Life Ins & Disability	18	-	20	61
Workers Comp.	162	163	167	173
Dental	-	-	-	169
Supplies	450	288	450	1,955
Equipment	675	167	675	-
Total Phys Ed - Elementary	\$ 22,083	\$ 20,252	\$ 22,712	\$ 29,382

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Music - Elementary				
Salaries	\$ 6,145	\$ 6,458	\$ 8,861	\$ 10,189
Employer Taxes	470	494	678	778
Workers Comp.	52	53	75	87
Maintenance & Repair	200	-	200	325
Supplies	200	424	300	1,339
Equipment	200	200	200	-
Total Music Elementary	\$ 7,267	\$ 7,629	\$ 10,314	\$ 12,718
General Middle School				
Salaries	\$ 92,735	\$ 90,034	\$ 117,184	\$ 132,372
Substitutes Salary	-	885	-	-
Paraprofessional Salaries	1,750	-	1,875	-
Health Ins.	16,806	8,277	7,918	18,274
HRA	-	-	-	2,078
Employer Taxes	7,228	6,736	9,108	10,126
Life Ins	52	23	81	182
Disability	-	-	-	1,334
Workers Comp	803	809	1,012	1,110
Retirement Contribution	70	-	75	1,078
Dental Ins	494	235	588	885
Unemployment	-	-	-	1,696
Purchased/Contracted Serv-VTVLC/Para/One Planet	2,250	2,375	2,250	7,851
Supplies	3,600	3,500	3,600	2,387
Books & Periodicals	3,393	659	3,393	2,243
Dues & Fees-Field Trips	-	-	5,000	6,750
Total General Middle School	\$ 129,181	\$ 113,533	\$ 152,084	\$ 188,366

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Art - Middle				
Salaries	\$ 6,295	\$ 8,465	\$ 7,179	\$ 4,951
Employer Taxes	482	648	549	379
Workers Comp.	54	54	61	3
Supplies	830	-	980	490
Total Art - Middle	\$ 7,660	\$ 9,167	\$ 8,770	\$ 5,823
World Language Middle				
Salaries	\$ 17,063	\$ -	\$ 17,563	\$ 11,330
Health Ins	3,178	-	2,323	-
Employer Taxes	1,305	-	1,344	867
Worker Comp.& Un	137	146	141	48
Dental Ins	118	-	118	-
Contracted Services	-	24,326	-	-
Supplies	150	168	150	147
Books & Periodicals	150	15	150	147
Total World Language-Middle School	\$ 22,100	\$ 24,655	\$ 21,787	\$ 12,539
Physical Education-Middle				
Salaries	\$ 9,546	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,846	\$ 10,188
Health Ins. Benefits	150	-	100	2,385
HRA	-	-	-	160
Employer Taxes	730	726	753	779
Life Ins	11	-	10	17
Dental	-	-	-	84
LTD	-	-	-	28
Workers Comp.	81	82	84	17
Supplies	765	150	765	515
Equipment	630	-	630	-
Total Physical Education-Middle	\$ 11,913	\$ 10,458	\$ 12,188	\$ 14,173

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Music - Middle				
Salaries	\$ 6,145	\$ 6,458	\$ 4,431	\$ 5,094
Employer Taxes	470	494	339	390
Workers Comp.	49	53	35	43
Repairs/Maint	225	-	225	100
Supplies	450	489	450	196
Dues & Fees	90	-	-	-
Total Music Middle	\$ 7,429	\$ 7,494	\$ 5,480	\$ 5,823
Athletics				
Coaching/ Other Stipends	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,011	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Employer Benefits	-	162	-	77
Supplies	990	577	990	970
Officials	700	345	700	700
Total Athletics	\$ 3,690	\$ 3,095	\$ 2,690	\$ 2,747
Schoolwide Local Remedial Support				
Salaries	\$ 12,778	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,330
Health Ins.	3,727	-	-	273
Life Ins	30	-	-	32
Employer Taxes	978	-	-	102
Dental Ins	74	-	-	105
Workers Comp	109	109	-	34
Purchased Services	-	-	-	3,534
Books	-	-	-	882
Total Local Remedial Support	\$ 17,695	\$ 109	\$ -	\$ 6,292

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Schoolwide Remedial Support (CFP funded)				
Salaries	\$ 34,018	\$ 32,931	\$ 33,647	\$ 18,662
Health Ins.	375	250	250	1,310
Retirement Contribution	4,082	285	4,038	3,686
Life Ins	30	10	30	38
Employer Taxes	2,602	2,538	2,574	1,428
Dental Ins	-	-	-	168
Workers Comp	289	291	286	63
Books & Periodicals	900	-	900	-
Supplies	385	3,723	385	-
Contracted Services	-	-	-	-
Total Remedial Support	\$ 42,682	\$ 40,028	\$ 42,109	\$ 25,355
Guidance Services				
Guidance Salary	\$ 44,348	\$ 44,698	\$ 45,948	\$ 48,082
Employer Taxes	3,393	3,238	3,515	3,678
Health Ins	15,618	11,602	10,906	11,923
Dental Ins	294	209	294	422
Life Ins	30	-	30	30
LTD	-	-	-	24
Workers Comp	377	380	391	409
Contracted Services	1,350	222	1,200	1,200
Books & Periodicals	175	126	175	172
Supplies	90	49	90	88
Total Guidance Services	\$ 65,675	\$ 60,524	\$ 62,549	\$ 66,028

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Health Services				
Nurse's Salary	\$ 35,741	\$ 24,921	\$ 23,814	\$ 28,849
Heath Insurance	15,703	13,149	9,652	7,154
Employer Taxes	2,734	1,927	1,822	2,207
Life Ins	23	-	23	32
Workers Comp.	304	306	202	88
Dental Benefits	-	167	177	253
Contracted Services	1,800	1,175	1,800	2,210
Supplies	400	1,033	400	613
Books & Periodicals	105	-	105	-
Audio Visual	-	-	-	-
Equipment	115	115	115	-
Total Health Services	\$ 56,925	\$ 42,793	\$ 38,109	\$ 41,406
Improvement of Instruction				
Course Reimb.	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,757	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,000
Staff Mentoring	1,000	1,000	2,000	3,000
Contracted Services	850	-	-	-
Long Term Disability Insurance	1,300	1,382	1,600	-
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	2	153	235
Employer Contribution to Teacher Retirement	4,000	1	-	-
School-Wide Prof Dev	6,000	15,485	6,000	6,000
Mileage Reimbursement	1,400	1,085	1,400	1,400
Total Support Services	\$ 27,550	\$ 33,712	\$ 24,153	\$ 24,635

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
School Library/Media				
Salaries	\$ 30,668	\$ 30,760	\$ 31,510	\$ 43,036.0
Health	-	-	-	9,539
Employer Taxes	2,346	2,353	2,410	3,292
Dental	-	-	-	339
Workers Comp	261	263	268	519
Life	-	-	-	18
Retirement	-	-	-	420
Supplies	180	163	150	147
Technology Supplies	400	255	300	450
Books & Periodicals	1,770	1,786	2,000	2,156
Audio-Visual	-	-	-	-
Licenses/Dues & Fees	300	496	600	600
Equipment	380	189	150	-
Total School Library	\$ 36,304	\$ 36,265	\$ 37,388	\$ 60,516
School Board				
Board stipends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500
Board Secretary	1,100	825	1,000	1,000
Taxes	-	-	-	267
Contracted Services	-	657	100	500
Legal Fees	2,500	2,856	1,000	2,500
Other Services(sect 125 admin)	500	1,166	250	100
HRA OOP Cost	-	-	12,880	-
HRA Admin Fees	-	-	1,154	400
Errors & Omissions/Catastrophic Insurance	3,000	2,281	2,850	2,936
Advertising	1,500	561	1,500	800
Supplies	180	-	100	98
Dues/Fees	1,500	166	1,500	500
Total School Board	\$ 10,280	\$ 8,512	\$ 22,334	\$ 11,601

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Town Services				
Treasurer Services	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200
Employers Taxes	107	107	168	168
Audit Services (moved to SU)	2,750	2,750	2,750	-
Postage	400	316	350	350
Supplies	-	-	100	98
Dues & Fees	400	55	100	100
Total Town Services	\$ 5,057	\$ 4,628	\$ 5,668	\$ 2,916
Supervisory Union				
Office of the Superintendent	\$ 30,845	\$ 30,845	\$ 31,785	\$ 32,846
Curriculum Services	9,136	9,136	7,595	7,849
Technology Director	9,745	9,745	10,012	10,346
Grant Administration	2,525	2,525	5,165	5,337
Fiscal Services/Central Office	44,968	44,968	49,311	50,957
Transportation Purchased Service	81,000	79,925	87,918	94,451
Special Education	251,020	268,755	258,446	251,952
Total Supervisory Union	\$ 429,239	\$ 445,899	\$ 450,232	\$ 453,738
Office of the Principal				
Principals Salary	\$ 92,616	\$ 92,616	\$ 93,866	\$ 96,938
Assistant Salary	-	500	-	-
Administrative Assistant	35,466	34,817	36,558	38,027
Health Ins Benefits	39,970	31,310	30,640	35,175
Employer Taxes	9,798	9,032	9,977	10,325
Life/Disability Ins Premiums	330	299	300	331
Professional Development	500	846	500	500
Retirement Contribution	1,419	1,393	1,462	1,462
Workers Comp.	1,089	1,096	1,109	1,147
Dental Ins.	640	465	640	844
Purchased Services	-	2,000	-	850

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Telephone Exp	1,800	3,042	3,240	3,800
Postage	600	1,134	600	700
Printing	-	-	100	100
Mileage Reimbursement	300	789	500	1,000
Supplies	4,000	4,206	4,000	3,920
Copier Lease / other equipment	6,000	6,267	6,000	6,000
Dues & Fees	1,800	1,614	1,800	1,800
Total Office of the Principal	\$ 196,328	\$ 191,426	\$ 191,292	\$ 202,919
Computer Technology/Instruction				
Technology Support Services	\$ 16,000	\$ 3,604	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,000
Repairs & Maintenance	900	-	900	500
Computer Hardware	14,500	14,256	14,500	15,500
Computer Software	600	2,528	1,207	1,500
Supplies	3,800	2,453	3,800	1,500
Internet Connection	-	-	-	-
Total Computer Technology	\$ 35,800	\$ 22,841	\$ 35,407	\$ 25,000
Buildings & Grounds				
Director of Buildings/Grounds	\$ 41,000	\$ 38,625	\$ 43,050	\$ 44,342
Other Salaries	17,919	19,342	18,544	18,743
Health Ins.	21,187	-	15,570	6,349
Employers Taxes	4,507	4,388	4,712	4,826
Professional Development	200	-	200	200
Life Ins	30	13	-	44
Employee Retirement	1,640	1,604	1,722	1,722
Workers Comp	3,535	3,656	3,696	3,736
Dental Ins.	294	128	294	294
Contracted Services	1,500	1,305	1,500	3,500
General Liability Insurance	6,000	5,614	6,000	6,180
Supplies	11,000	9,783	11,000	13,720

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
Rubbish Removal	5,000	2,448	4,000	4,000
Repairs & Maintenance (includes bldg & grounds)	19,000	14,696	19,000	14,000
Building Projects	26,000	16,015	26,000	23,000
Water Testing	-	2,030	2,000	2,000
Summer Painting	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Barret Hall Rental	1,500	1,500	1,500	4,600
Electricity	17,000	11,944	17,000	16,000
Fuel Oil	15,000	13,464	15,000	15,000
Mowing	3,000	4,872	3,000	3,500
Snow Removal	4,000	4,468	4,000	4,500
Furniture/Equipment	3,000	4,313	3,000	-
Dues & Fees	300	150	300	300
Total Buildings & Grounds	\$ 204,613	\$ 162,358	\$ 203,088	\$ 192,556
Transportation				
Field Trip Trans.	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,765	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,000
Contracted Transportation	-	-	-	-
Total Transportation	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,765	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,000
Debt Service				
Long Term Debt (walkway)	\$ 21,201	\$ 12,201	\$ -	\$ -
Interest (short term borrowing)	19,000	21,113	19,000	19,000
Total Debt Service	\$ 40,201	\$ 33,314	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000
Food Service Program				
General Fund Support	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 49,295
Subsidy	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 49,295
Sub-Total	\$ 2,037,187	\$ 1,905,485	\$ 2,000,806	\$ 2,066,535

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	PROPOSED Budget 2020
General Secondary				
Tuition to Other LEA's in VT	\$ -	\$ 244,982	\$ -	\$ 482,296
Tuition to Designated HS-TA	474,584	242,164	529,424	-
Tuition to LEA's Outside of VT	275,992	242,773	207,988	213,169
504 Admin Services	4,000	8,500	4,000	-
Tuition to Private Schools	273,600	321,707	311,680	402,164
Total General Secondary	\$ 1,028,176	\$ 1,060,126	\$ 1,053,092	\$ 1,097,629
Vocational Ed.				
Tuition other VT LEA'S	\$ 58,000	\$ 19,217	\$ 30,000	\$ 4,449.00
Dual Enrollment	2,500	-	-	-
Voc Transportation	-	3,939	-	-
Tuition paid by State on behalf of District	25,443	27,843	23,775	5,817
Total Vocational Ed.	\$ 85,943	\$ 50,999	\$ 53,775	\$ 10,266
Total Expenditure Budget	\$ 3,151,306	\$ 3,016,610	\$ 3,107,673	\$ 3,174,430

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE BUDGET FY 2019-2020**

Description	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	Proposed Budget 2020
PRIOR YR FUND BALANCE CARRY-OVER	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,205	\$ 30,233
REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES				
Tuition	\$ -	\$ 14,700	\$ -	\$ 14,700
Interest	20,000	24,823	23,000	25,000
Rentals (includes Preschool)	5,000	5,762	5,600	5,600
Miscellaneous	-	40	-	-
Transfer in from Tuition Reserve Fund	-	-	122,500	50,000
Prior Yr Adjustment	-	(1,300)	-	-
Title I/SWP from WRVSU	33,394	32,900	27,000	25,355
Total Local Source Revenues	\$ 58,394	\$ 76,925	\$ 178,100	\$ 120,655
REVENUES FROM STATE/FEDERAL SOURCES				
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$ 2,902,134	\$ 2,900,033	\$ 2,729,380	\$ 2,832,644
ACT 60 Related Transportation	34,363	34,490	34,363	36,765
Vocational Transportation Reimb	-	3,939	-	-
HS Completion Program	-	-	-	-
Small Schools Grant	99,687	103,024	109,850	123,316
Medicaid Reimbursement (IEP & EPSDT)	30,000	32,000	25,000	25,000
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$ 3,066,184	\$ 3,073,486	\$ 2,898,593	\$ 3,017,725
SUB-TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE -	\$ 3,124,578	\$ 3,150,411	\$ 3,083,898	\$ 3,168,613
Vocational Tuition				
Ed Spending "On-Behalf" Received for Tech Ctr	\$ 25,443	\$ 25,443	\$ 23,775	\$ 5,817
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 3,150,021	\$ 3,175,854	\$ 3,107,673	\$ 3,174,430

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM
FY 2019-2020
PRELIMINARY BUDGET
(INFORMATIONAL ONLY)**

	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Expenditures				
Salaries	\$ 42,011	\$ 42,767	\$ 47,000	\$ 45,333
Benefits	23,173	21,717	23,000	22,055
Repairs/Maintenance	500	-	1,000	250
Food	32,766	28,398	35,000	30,102
Supplies	2,000	2,713	2,500	2,876
Propane	200	-	-	-
Commodities	3,500	1,124	3,500	1,191
Total Expenditures	\$ 104,150	\$ 96,719	\$ 112,000	\$ 101,807
Revenues				
Sales	\$ 23,000	\$ 22,440	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,338
State Lunch Match	750	442	500	460
State Bkfst Match	400	255	400	265
Federal Lunch Reimb	30,000	17,094	24,000	17,607
Federal Bkfst Reimb	20,000	9,014	13,000	9,284
Other incl Grants	1,500	7,114	7,600	367
Commodities	3,500	1,124	3,500	1,191
Transfer from General Fund	25,000	25,000	40,000	49,295
Total Revenue	\$ 104,150	\$ 82,483	\$ 112,000	\$ 101,807

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURES**

	Budget 2018	Actual 2018	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
Transportation Expenditures				
Contracted Transportation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SU Purchased Service	81,000	79,925	87,918	94,451
Contracted Field Trip Transp	5,000	4,765	5,000	7,000
Total	\$ 86,000	\$ 84,690	\$ 92,918	\$ 101,451

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS
FYE 6/30/18**

General Fund	\$ 38,233
Food Service Program	\$ (26,191)
Tyson Gym Reserve	\$ 11,693
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 59,241
Tuition Reserve	\$244,750

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending June 30, 2018**

The Strafford School District had no outstanding debt at the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.



One of the last tasks in this year's Town House steeple project was re-attaching the weather vane to its mast. Here, Silas Treadway, Adam King, and Joe Cotter place the newly re-gilded, seven-foot, weathervane on the mast.

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2019-2020**

DESCRIPTION	FY18	FY18	FY19	FY20	NOTES
	BUDGET	ACTUALS	Budget	Budget PROPOSED	
1400 COCURRICULAR/COLLABORATIVE	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,927	\$ -	\$ 5,000	Reinstates collaborative program
101 TEACHER SALARY	1,500	-	-	3,000	
220 FICA	115	-	-	230	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,000	-	-	1,000	
580 TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	2,385	1,927	-	770	
2212 CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION	\$ 182,990	\$ 225,213	\$ 156,894	\$ 357,893	Reflects strategic plan initiative for student achievement. Costs to be offset by existing grant funds.
101 TEACHER SALARY	-	-	-	88,000	
104 ADMIN SALARY	140,280	174,729	128,000	121,005	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	22,362	15,203	9,724	7,099	
220 FICA	10,731	13,099	9,792	13,593	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	2,000	571	2,500	5,000	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	1,263	8,158	1,218	902	
281 DENTAL INS	444	2,262	600	770	
291 LIFE	310	268	310	524	
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	-	1,419	-	35,000	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	-	-	-	20,000	
580 TRAVEL	3,000	5,430	2,500	7,500	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,500	2,156	1,250	24,750	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	518	400	28,900	
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	-	594	-	-	
810 DUES & FEES	600	806	600	4,850	

DESCRIPTION	FY18 BUDGET	FY18 ACTUALS	FY19 Budget	FY20 Budget PROPOSED	NOTES
2219 OTHER IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION	\$ 66,601	\$ 51,222	\$ 74,169	\$ 113,754	Reflects strategic plan initiative for student achievement. Costs to be offset by existing grant funds.
109 OTHER SALARY	41,777	33,443	45,000	89,000	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	14,908	11,920	18,216	11,924	
220 FICA	3,196	2,328	3,998	6,809	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	1,500	376	1,000	-	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	376	-	400	378	
281 DENTAL INS	444	262	355	444	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,000	126	1,000	1,000	
530 COMMUNICATIONS	-	-	-	-	
580 TRAVEL	1,500	2,579	2,500	2,500	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	-	188	1,000	-	
611 SUPPLIES-OTHER	1,000	-	-	1,000	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	400	-	200	200	
810 DUES & FEES	500	-	500	500	
2313 TREASURER	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,291	
104 ADMIN SALARY	1,000	806	1,200	1,200	
220 FICA	-	594	-	91	
2314 AUDITING	\$ 7,300	\$ 10,300	\$ 10,300	\$ 47,694	Transfer of expense from district to SU budget per state rules.
341 AUDITING SERVICES	7,300	10,300	10,300	47,694	
2320 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION	\$ 329,911	\$ 332,505	\$ 342,230	\$ 281,048	Transfer of support position to fiscal function
104 ADMIN SALARY	121,729	122,641	122,979	126,668	
106 CLERICAL SALARY	92,220	66,389	94,720	49,514	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	42,035	27,878	31,237	29,511	

DESCRIPTION	FY18	FY18	FY19	FY20	NOTES
	BUDGET	ACTUALS	Budget	Budget PROPOSED	
220 FICA	16,367	13,856	16,501	13,320	
240 RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	4,962	3,651	6,764	2,525	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	6,500	1,926	4,000	4,000	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	1,926	3,582	834	381	
281 DENTAL INS	1,332	769	1,455	888	
291 LIFE	340	1,352	340	340	
330 INSERVICES & TRAINING	1,500	3,452	11,500	5,000	
342 LEGAL SERVICES	15,000	57,526	20,000	20,000	
430 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	1,000	-	500	500	
580 TRAVEL	5,000	5,424	5,000	5,500	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	4,000	5,534	4,000	5,000	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	1,144	400	400	
730 EQUIPMENT	1,500	641	1,000	-	
810 DUES & FEES	7,000	12,659	15,000	11,500	
890 FEES -SAFETY CHECK	7,000	4,081	6,000	6,000	
2400 GRANT ADMINISTRATION	\$ 66,612	\$ 61,556	\$ 67,800	\$ 66,692	
104 ADMIN SALARY	53,871	53,871	55,217	56,874	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	
220 FICA	4,121	4,217	4,224	4,351	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	1,000	485	1,000	1,000	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	485	160	424	443	
281 DENTAL INS	355	133	355	444	
291 LIFE	280	405	280	280	
341 AUDITING SERVICES	3,000	-	3,000	-	
580 TRAVEL	800	29	800	800	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	500	566	500	650	
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	-	250	250	
670 SOFTWARE	100	-	-	-	
810 DUES & FEES	-	90	150	-	
2411 ADMINISTRATIVE PREK OVERSITE	\$ 10,765	\$ -	\$ 21,425	\$ 37,112	Pre-k oversite transition
105 SUPERVISOR SALARY	10,000	-	10,914	22,677	

DESCRIPTION	FY18	FY18	FY19	FY20	NOTES
	BUDGET	ACTUALS	Budget	Budget PROPOSED	
220 FICA	765	-	835	1,735	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	27	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	-	-	-	123	
293 LTD	-	-	-	50	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	-	-	9,676	11,000	
580 TRAVEL	-	-	-	1,500	
2490 TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	\$ 105,813	\$ 104,516	\$ 107,275	\$ 118,269	Partial increase in Tech Support
105 SUPERVISOR SALARY	76,875	76,875	80,000	82,400	
109 OTHER SALARY	-	-	-	5,000	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	7,855	8,806	5,531	6,349	
220 FICA	5,881	5,783	6,120	6,686	
240 RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	4,228	4,338	4,400	4,530	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	1,500	289	900	2,876	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	-	1,783	600	448	
281 DENTAL INS	444	-	444	444	
291 LIFE	30	479	30	35	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	7,500	1,419	5,000	3,000	
580 TRAVEL	1,000	3,756	1,250	3,500	
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	-	529	500	3,000	
730 EQUIPMENT	500	459	2,500	-	
2510 FISCAL SERVICES	\$ 384,565	\$ 415,310	\$ 394,923	\$ 488,156	Position transfer of HR function to fiscal oversight
108 SALARY- GENERAL	99,284	102,309	187,572	232,212	
109 OTHER SALARY	156,997	167,416	90,000	102,700	
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	55,961	52,503	46,048	78,791	
220 FICA	19,605	19,679	20,852	25,621	
240 RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	15,820	13,206	14,991	14,991	
250 TUITION BENEFIT	2,000	1,504	2,000	2,000	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	266	

DESCRIPTION	FY18	FY18	FY19	FY20	NOTES
	BUDGET	ACTUALS	Budget	Budget PROPOSED	
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	2,307	815	2,000	1,805	
281 DENTAL INS	1,721	1,707	2,132	2,509	
291 LIFE	370	839	400	486	
293 LTD	-	-	-	822	
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	-	11,938	15,254	13,254	
430 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	16,000	28,825	500	500	
580 TRAVEL	6,000	4,778	4,500	4,600	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	5,000	7,199	5,000	7,000	
730 EQUIPMENT	2,500	1,659	3,074	-	
810 DUES & FEES	1,000	933	600	600	
2610 OPERATION OF BUILDING	\$ 109,083	\$ 106,203	\$ 130,704	\$ 128,147	
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	4,500	-	4,000	4,000	
293 LTD	-	-	9,000	4,000	
420 CLEANING SERVICES	5,500	-	5,000	5,000	
421 WASTE REMOVAL	2,200	1,211	1,500	1,500	
430 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	3,000	2,026	2,000	2,000	
441 MAINTENANCE RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	55,483	55,608	56,593	58,121	
443 RENTALS OF COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY	8,500	5,941	8,500	8,500	
520 INSURANCE OTHER THAN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	7,200	7,899	7,500	7,875	
530 COMMUNICATIONS	3,200	5,849	5,980	6,142	
533 POSTAGE	4,000	6,758	5,000	5,135	
540 ADVERTISING	4,000	3,766	2,000	2,000	
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	9,000	9,005	12,000	12,000	
211 HRA	-	-	8,128	8,372	
331 BENEFIT ADMIN FEE	2,500	8,140	3,503	3,503	
2900 ASSESSMENT TRANSFER	-	-	-	-	
Grand Total	\$ 1,269,640	\$ 1,310,152	\$ 1,306,920	\$ 1,645,055	
AMOUNT OF INCREASE DUE TO ABSORPTION OF AUDIT COSTS FROM DISTRICT BUDGETS TO SU				\$ 37,394	2.86%
AMOUNT OF INCREASE DUE TO MEETING STRATEGIC INITIATIVE-TO BE PAID BY EXISTING GRANT FUNDS				\$212,464	16.26%
AMOUNT OF INCREASE TO BE OFFSET BY OTHER GRANTS/OFFSETTING REVENUES				\$ 45,249	3.46%
NET INCREASE				\$ 43,029	3.29%

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
REVENUE BUDGET 2019-2020**

	FY18 SU Assessment		FY19 SU Assessment		FY20 Assessment		Change
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount		
BETHEL	\$ 189,055						
CHELSEA	124,521						
GRANVILLE	10,317						
HANCOCK	16,992						
ROCHESTER	83,759						
ROYALTON	254,441						
SHARON	137,303						
STOCKBRIDGE	45,467						
STRAFFORD	97,244						
TUNBRIDGE	96,491						
FBUD		19.6%	\$ 218,520	20.1%	\$ 242,411		\$23,891
GHUD		2.8%	31,037	3.3%	39,799		8,762
RSUD		11.5%	127,784	10.9%	131,457		3,673
SHARON		13.4%	149,232	14.7%	177,286		28,054
STRAFFORD		9.3%	103,868	8.9%	107,336		3,468
WRUD		43.4%	482,464	42.1%	507,737		25,273
	\$ 1,055,590		\$ 1,112,905		\$ 1,206,027		\$93,122
					\$ 1,645,056		
					\$ (24,000)		
					\$ (2,000)		
					\$ (318,021)		
					\$ (95,008)		
					\$ 1,206,027		

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET**

		FY2019-2020						NOTES
Function Object Program Area		BUDGET 2016-2017	ACTUALS 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	BUDGET 2018-2019	ACTUALS 2018-2019	BUDGET 2019-2020	
Direct Instruction - EEE								
1200	110 Teacher Salaries	\$ 154,671	\$ 128,016	\$ 131,856	\$ 134,216	\$ 129,136	\$ 120,140	
	115 Support Salaries	36,706	9,877	18,355	12,958	8,319	14,302	
	210 Health Ins	39,589	29,639	31,158	20,773	28,765	23,059	
	220 Employer Taxes	14,640	10,248	11,491	11,259	9,737	10,284	
	240 Retirement Benefit-VSTRS	953	11,406	8,163	8,163	31	9,551	
	250 Workers Comp Ins	1,531	1,512	1,187	1,325	-	1,563	
	260 Unemployment	-	-	320	320	1,285	340	
	270 Professional Development	6,000	1,487	4,000	4,000	580	4,000	
	290 Dental Ins	1,420	888	915	915	532	888	
	291 Disability Ins/Life Ins	449	318	456	400	1,657	380	
	300 Contracted Services	15,000	-	10,021	10,100	321	12,200	
	560 Tuition	10,000	-	-	3,000	-	3,000	
	580 Travel/Conference	1,000	1,712	3,169	3,300	2,588	3,300	
	600 Supplies and Materials	6,000	805	3,000	1,000	803	1,200	
	730 Equipment	5,000	491	2,000	500	-	5,000	
	800 Dues & Fees	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	
2140	300 Psychological Services	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2150	Speech Pathology & Audiology							
	100 Salaries	\$ 57,788	\$ 11,721	\$ 42,325	\$ 43,383	\$ -	\$ 24,511	
	200 Benefits	17,336	4,474	12,697	13,078	-	7,609	
	330 Contracted Services	-	-	-	-	300	-	
	580 Travel	-	15	500	500	-	500	
2160	Occupational Therapy Services							
	100 Salaries	\$ 65,206	\$ 17,974	\$ 21,200	\$ 21,836	\$ 29,305	\$ 20,294	
	200 Benefits	19,562	9,440	6,362	7,201	3,049	3,346	
	300 Contracted Services	-	-	4,000	4,000	2,242	5,000	
	580 Travel	-	-	500	500	1,318	500	
2190	Other Support Serv	8,750	-	5,000	-	-	-	
	Total Essential Early Ed	\$ 471,601	\$ 240,024	\$ 318,675	\$ 302,727	\$ 219,968	\$ 271,967	

Function Object Program Area		BUDGET 2016-2017	ACTUALS 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	BUDGET 2018-2019	ACTUALS 2018-2019	BUDGET 2019-2020	NOTES
Direct Instruction K-12								
1200	110 Teacher Salaries	\$ 812,012	\$ 745,380	\$ 783,876	\$ 837,620	\$ 780,866	\$ 926,417	16.6 FTE 3 FTEs 54.4 PARAs
	110 Alt Program Prof Staff	-	-	170,750	128,942	1,272,673	138,920	
	115 Support Salaries	865,674	1,119,251	1,081,197	1,207,768	17,728	1,217,657	
	116 Summer Salaries	24,000	34,286	35,000	35,000	97,675	36,343	
	120 Substitutes	30,000	104,900	40,000	60,000	460,085	60,000	
	210 Health Ins	488,036	529,360	664,108	426,077	162,911	438,316	
	220 Employer Taxes	132,474	148,575	161,478	173,604	(294)	171,439	
	230 Life Ins	504	1,829	1,680	1,900	47,143	1,562	
	240 Emper Retirement Contribution	53,782	47,223	59,466	66,427	18,069	72,240	
	250 Workers Comp Ins	13,613	9,893	18,637	19,884	10,242	13,353	
	260 Unemployment	10,000	8,528	9,235	9,000	(324)	5,875	
	270 Prof Development	-	4,255	-	-	19,775	3,500	
	290 Dental Ins	21,504	7,990	25,648	29,734	3,051	30,689	
	291 Disability Ins	2,355	1,818	6,107	6,523	158,185	6,138	
	330 Contracted Serv	59,523	122,527	231,095	168,200	1,214	261,000	
	500 Phone/Postage/Advertising	5,000	36	1,000	4,200	54	4,200	
	560 Tuition	512,841	952,494	1,073,164	1,208,515	1,171,282	1,100,000	
	580 Travel	5,000	4,448	4,000	10,000	5,705	11,000	
	594 Excess Cost	325,250	457,014	315,722	632,000	493,544	764,000	
	600 Supplies/Books & Periodicals	15,000	3,432	30,000	43,000	6,872	40,000	
	650 Software	15,000	4,285	5,000	5,000	5,540	5,000	
	730 Equipment	15,000	9,518	15,000	20,000	10,126	25,000	
2140	Psychological Services							
	100-20 Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,636	\$ -		\$ -	
	300 Contracted Services	316,000	280,466	325,380	316,000	338,060	395,371	
2150	Speech Pathology and Audiology							
	100 Salaries	\$ 193,666	\$ 208,983	\$ 184,425	\$ 151,669	\$ 221,832	\$ 195,924	
	200 Benefits	79,619	69,302	62,808	19,140	63,099	64,365	
	300 Contracted Services	30,000	110,058	50,000	50,000	33,239	87,800	
	500 Travel	3,000	1,603	3,000	3,000	1,421	3,000	
	600 Supplies/Books & Periodicals/Software	4,000	3,685	4,000	4,000	2,689	3,000	
	800 Dues/Fees	2,000	920	1,500	1,500	949	2,000	

Function Object Program Area	BUDGET 2016-2017	ACTUALS 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	BUDGET 2018-2019	ACTUALS 2018-2019	BUDGET 2019-2020	NOTES
2160 Occupational Therapy Services							
100 Salaries	\$ 126,531	\$ 124,312	\$ 121,032	\$ 130,351	\$ 149,562	\$ 67,645	
200 Benefits	55,350	50,045	48,299	27,268	35,232	28,389	
300 Contracted Services	1,500	36,978	25,000	25,000	29,014	5,000	
500 Travel	1,500	1,208	3,000	3,000	2,887	3,000	
600 Supplies/Books & Periodicals	3,000	2,129	3,000	3,000	2,498	20,000	
730 Equipment	-	745	-	-	167	-	
2190 300 Other Support Services	12,000	45,745	-	-	4,875	36,250	
2200 200 Instructional Staff Trainings	30,000	29,006	25,000	30,000	27,137	40,000	
2420 Administration							
							Reduction in FTE.
100 Salaries	\$ 274,634	\$ 260,700	\$ 302,504	\$ 276,917	\$ 287,648	\$ 232,244	Now 3.8 FTE
200 Benefits	94,151	83,854	106,971	71,817	78,661	51,746	
300 Contracted Services	8,000	5,631	8,000	4,000	-	4,000	
300 Legal	20,000	2,760	15,000	5,000	4,020	5,000	
430 Repairs/Maintenance	2,000	-	2,000	1,000	240	1,000	
300 Child Find Activities	2,000	-	2,000	1,000	236	500	
500 Travel Reimbursement/Conference	4,000	4,561	6,000	5,000	5,167	5,000	
500 Telephone/Postage	-	1,925	1,000	2,000	1,124	1,000	
610 Supplies	1,000	893	1,000	1,000	1,108	1,000	
640 Books & Periodicals	1,000	410	500	500	376	500	
730 Equipment & Contingency	500	2,611	1,000	2,500	-	2,500	
810 Dues & Fees	750	3,503	2,000	3,500	455	2,500	
2700 Transportation	281,000	268,047	325,000	424,174	374,522	480,000	
HRA OOP Cost				\$ 38,800	\$ 11,337	\$ 39,964	
HRA Admin Fees				2,264	60	2,264	
TOTAL ALL SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$5,425,369	\$6,157,148	\$6,734,893	\$6,999,523	\$6,639,705	\$7,385,578	5.52%
EEE TOTAL BUDGET						\$ 271,967	\$386,055.07
SPECIAL ED DIRECT SERVICES BUDGET						\$7,113,611	
TOTAL						\$7,385,578	

Function Object Program Area	BUDGET 2016-2017	ACTUALS 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	BUDGET 2018-2019	ACTUALS 2018-2019	BUDGET 2019-2020	NOTES
SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUE							
IDEA B Basic Flow Through	\$ 350,000		\$ 510,000	\$ 514,003	\$ 514,003	\$ 556,797	
IDEA B Pre-School	50,000		12,000	12,193	12,193	13,585	
EEE						143,632	
Block Grant			703,669	746,543	746,543	610,956	
Extra-Ordinary Reimbursements			\$ 456,238	\$ 362,272	\$ 458,369	\$ 400,539	90% Extraordinary Cost is reimbursed by State
Expenditure Reimbursement			\$2,625,593	\$2,883,797	\$2,479,065	\$3,128,669	
Admin Serv	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			
Tuition/Excess Cost	-		-	-			
Prior Yr Adjustment	-		-	-			
IEP Medicaid	30,000		30,000	30,000	30,000	35,000	
TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES	\$ 430,000	\$ -	\$4,337,500	\$4,548,808	\$4,240,173	\$4,889,178	
MEMBER TOWN ASSESSMENT	\$4,995,369	\$6,157,148	\$2,397,393	\$2,450,715	\$2,399,532	\$2,496,400	1.86%
TOTAL	\$5,425,369	\$6,157,148	\$6,734,893	\$6,999,523	\$6,639,705	\$7,385,578	
					\$ -		
EEE NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED						\$ 114,750	
REGULAR SPECIAL ED SERVICES NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED						\$2,381,650	

WRVSU FY20 SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

	FY19 SPED Assessment		FY20 Proposed Assessment		Change
	%	Amount	%	Amount	
FBUD	21.1%	\$ 516,445	22.1%	\$ 551,138	\$34,693
GHUD	5.6%	137,599	5.75%	143,464	5,865
RSUD	10.9%	267,915	10.5%	263,290	(4,625)
SHARON	15.1%	371,061	16.3%	406,828	35,767
STRAFFORD	10.5%	258,446	10.1%	251,952	(6,494)
WRUD	36.7%	899,249	35.2%	879,728	(19,521)
		\$ 2,450,715		\$2,496,400	\$45,685

SPECIAL EDUCATION

	FY20 Assessment	
	%	Amount
FBUD	22.08%	\$ 525,804
GHUD	5.75%	136,870
RSUD	10.55%	251,187
SHARON	16.30%	388,128
STRAFFORD	10.09%	240,371
WRUD	35.24%	839,290
		\$2,381,650

EEE

	FY20 Assessment	
	%	Amount
FBUD	22.08%	\$ 25,334
GHUD	5.75%	6,595
RSUD	10.55%	12,102
SHARON	16.30%	18,700
STRAFFORD	10.09%	11,581
WRUD	35.24%	40,438
		\$ 114,750

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

T199

Property dollar equivalent yield

Homestead tax rate per \$10,666 of spending per equalized pupil

White River Valley

10,666

1.00

13,104

Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income

Expenditures

		FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673	\$3,174,430	1.
2.	<i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-		2.
3.	<i>minus</i> Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-		3.
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673	\$3,174,430	4.
5.	<i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-		5.
6.	<i>plus</i> Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-		6.
7.	Total Budget	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673	\$3,174,430	7.
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-		8.
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-		9.

Revenues

10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$543,660	\$222,444	\$354,518	\$335,970	10.
11.	<i>plus</i> Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-		11.
12.	<i>minus</i> All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-		12.
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$543,660	\$222,444	\$354,518	\$335,970	13.

14.	Education Spending	\$2,783,954	\$2,927,577	\$2,753,155	\$2,838,460	14.
15.	Equalized Pupils	178.93	179.07	177.20	\$171	15.

16.	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$15,558.90	\$16,348.79	\$15,536.99	\$16,599.18	16.
17.	<i>minus</i> Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-		17.
18.	<i>minus</i> Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$26.77	\$14.99	\$22.62		18.
19.	<i>minus</i> Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-		19.

20.	minus	Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	minus	Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	21.
22.	minus	Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	22.
23.	minus	Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	23.
24.	minus	Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	\$22.36	\$18.36	-	\$9	24.
			Allowable growth	threshold = \$17,386	threshold = \$17,816	threshold = \$18,311	
25.		Excess spending threshold	\$15,560.17	\$17,386.00	\$17,816.00	\$18,311.00	25.
26.	plus	Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	-	26.
27.		Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$15,559	\$16,349	\$15,537	\$16,599.18	27.
28.		District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	160.384%	160.913%	152.025%	155.627%	28.
			based on \$9,701	based on yield \$10,160	based on \$10,220	based on yield \$10,666	
Prorating the local tax rate							
29.		Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$16,599.18 ÷ (\$10,666 / \$1.00)]	\$1.6038	\$1.6091	\$1.5203	\$1.5563	29.
			based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	
30.		Percent of Stratford equalized pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	30.
31.		Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.56)	\$1.6038	\$1.6091	\$1.5203	\$1.5563	31.
32.		Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	103.23%	104.51%	103.72%	103.07%	32.
33.		Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.5563 / 103.07%)	\$1.5536	\$1.5397	\$1.4658	\$1.5099	33.
			based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	
<p>If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a PARTIAL homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.</p>							
34.		Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(\$16,599.18 ÷ \$13,104) x 2.00%]	2.86%	2.73%	2.51%	2.53%	34.
			based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	
35.		Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.53%)	2.86%	2.73%	2.51%	2.53%	35.
			based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	
36.		#N/A	-	-	-	-	36.
37.		#N/A	-	-	-	-	37.

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$10,666 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$13,104 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.58. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**

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

- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION**

**FY 2018-2019 Secondary Enrollment
(as of October 2018)**

SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	Total
Thetford Academy	7	5	8	3	23
Hanover High School	5	1	3	3	12
Hartford High School	0	0	1	0	1
Kimball Union	3	0	1	2	6
Cardigan Mtn School	1	0	0	0	1
Sharon Academy	5	7	3	4	19
Total Enrollment	21	13	16	12	62

Secondary Education Tuition Paid during FY 2017-2018

	<u>Tuition Paid</u>
Thetford Academy	\$ 500,365
Hanover High School	245,641
Sharon Academy	322,957
Kimball Union	15,130
Vocational (all schools)	<u>47,060</u>
Total Tuition Paid	\$ 1,131,153

	2017-2018		2018-2019	
	Tuition Rate	Amount to be paid	Tuition Rate	Amount to be paid
Thetford Academy	\$ 18,628	\$ 18,628	\$ 19,187	\$ 19,187
Hanover High School	19,682	18,628	19,959	19,187
Hartford High School	17,200	17,200	17,200	17,200
Private Schools(state average)	varies	15,130	varies	15,618

*vocational not included

Congratulations, Graduates!

~ 2018 ~

The Newton School

Taj Bagnato	Zeke Colburn	Bryar Daniels
Mary Gage Donohue	Lexi Evans	Grace Lewandoski
Brandy Lewis	Julia Martin	Emma Moore
Palmer Okai	Ben Plottner	Sophie Prescott
Jesse Sweet	Ever Tofel	Anya Traudt
	George Yunger	

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Thetford Academy

Ian Barker	Emma Bauer	James "Clay" Goodling
Jeremy Kawalec	Nicholas Moses	Clifford Ransom
Danielle Robinson	Isabelle Rule-Becker	Nikole Spaneas
Anthony Stoffel	Sarah Ward	Thomas Worth

The Sharon Academy

Ella Atkinson	Hadley Greene	Alexi Kendall
Sam Knoerlein	Rebekah Lamb	Eliza Masteller
	Cole Ward	

Hanover High School

Kezar Berger	Charlotte Dennison	Anne Essex
Hannah Osheyack	Graham Penfield	Iva Wich

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2008-09		13	12	15	15	16	12	9	13	11	116
2009-10		15	14	14	11	18	17	12	9	12	122
2010-11		13	17	10	16	11	18	19	11	10	125
2011-12		19	10	16	11	16	11	19	17	12	131
2012-13		11	15	8	17	13	15	13	20	17	129
2013-14		8	12	15	8	18	13	15	13	18	120
2014-15		14	8	11	16	10	19	14	16	12	120
2015-16	9	9	11	9	11	16	12	18	15	16	117
2016-17	8	12	9	12	9	11	16	14	17	15	123
2017-18	12	8	12	11	12	8	10	13	9	16	111
2018-19	15	10	10	14	11	13	8	10	10	9	110

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

**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2019**

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon to transact the following articles of business.

- Article 1:** To elect a Moderator.
- Article 2:** To hear a report of the Auditors.
- Article 3:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,050,136 to defray 2019 budget expenses.
- Article 4:** To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for town purposes.
- Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total annual taxes due. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Strafford office on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of September and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of December. An official United States Postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% (one percent) per month for the first three months and 1.5% (one and a half percent) thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% (eight percent) collection fee after the grace period ending at 4:30 p.m. seven days after the first Wednesday of December.
- Article 6:** To elect the following officers:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>For a term of three years:</i> | <i>For a term of two years:</i> |
| Selectman (paper ballot) | Selectman (paper ballot) |
| Lister (paper ballot) | <i>For a term of one year:</i> |
| Auditor (paper ballot) | Delinquent Tax Collector |
| Cemetery Commissioner | Town Grand Juror |
| Trustee of Public Funds | Town Agent |
| Harris Library Trustee | Agent to Deed Real Estate |

Article 7: Shall the town establish a reserve fund to be called the “Municipal Building Reserve” to be used for “Renovations and Maintenance” in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

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

Dated: January 29, 2019

By Strafford Board of Selectmen

Toni Pippy

John Freitag

Brian Johnson

Kate Siepmann

Lauri Berkenkamp



This building was originally constructed in 1865 by Justin Morrill to serve as a library for Strafford. Since construction of a new, brick library across the road in the 1920s, this largely unchanged building has housed Strafford’s Town Offices.



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 6, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Moderator Robert Bauer. Moderator Bauer started the meeting by acknowledging Paul Kifner and the Friends of the Morrill Homestead for the work they did to receive the Audio Visual grant that we are currently using. The Rabies Clinic is scheduled for March 17, 2018 from 10-noon at the lower fire station, and Senator Mark MacDonald was there to speak before the meeting.

Moderator Bauer asked Constable Ed Eastman to lead in saluting the flag, followed by a moment of personal silence.

Moderator Bauer welcomed everyone to the Strafford Town Meeting 2018. As Moderator for 2017, Bauer started the meeting.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator.

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

Moderator Bauer explained some nuts and bolts of running the meeting, and will follow Robert's Rules of Order. Moderator Bauer read the warning.

Article 2: To elect a Town Clerk for a term of three years.

The Article was moved and seconded. Lisa Bragg was nominated and seconded. Moderator Bauer hearing no other nomination instructed the clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Lisa Bragg. Lisa Bragg was elected.

Article 3: To hear a report of the Auditors.

The Article was moved and seconded. Nellie Pennington spoke on the Article to report there were no corrections to the budget numbers and thanked Stefanie Johnston for the Historical notes and how fortunate we are to have them and to use the Town Report to get out Historical information. Nellie also reported the Selectboard is doing a great job keeping things in budget and Toni Pippy's understanding in particular of the budget; and thanked Lisa Bragg stating she can put her hand on any document within minutes to help get the Town Report done. The Auditors had no concerns. Motion was moved to accept the Auditor report and seconded. No objection the Auditor Report was accepted. Article 3 passes.

Article 4: To see if the Town will appropriate \$ 1,018,215 to defray 2018 budget expenses.

The Article was moved and seconded. Toni Pippy, Selectboard Chair, spoke on Article 3. Toni reported that 2017 ended with a surplus of \$30,449 in the General Fund and \$71,245 in the Highway Fund. For 2018 there is about

a \$20,000 increase over last year, but the tax rate will remain about the same.

Balances forward from last year will be used to support the Town House spire of \$15,000 as a onetime budget item. The Town Office needs repairs with the septic system freezing up and using a bucket for the drain to the sink so we added \$5,000 towards that to correct the problem. There is revenue in the budget from the recycling center because there was a creative solution by Scott Moore asking the students at Newton School to come and stomp the plastic. The more recyclables we can get in the bins means fewer trips to cart off recyclables and saves hauling costs. Not only did we have fewer trips but the students made money for their trips. It was a win, win.

Staff received a 2.5% pay increase and a 4% increase in their health benefit. There was a \$4,000 increase to the Assistant Town Clerk line item to cover elections and vacations to cover when we need help. Upper Valley Ambulance went up \$6,300 or \$6 per capita.

The Highway Fund has a balance forward of \$111,246. \$71,246 is from last year's surplus and \$40,000 coming from the Equipment Fund Reserve. We want to shim coat Brook Road using \$71,000, and this year we're going to buy a pressure washer and culvert thawer. Part of the revenue from the reserves is \$10,000 for the fire truck first payment.

We will be receiving three grants for \$198,000, one to pay for replacing Bridge #19 on Old City Falls Road — which is almost 100 years old — as well as an erosion inventory grant, and a Municipal Roads General Permit grant.

There was a 2.5% pay increase for highway staff, 4% increase in health benefits, a \$5,000 increase in materials and a \$10,000 increase in salt. The Fire Department came to us and explained the need to replace the fire truck. Numbers in the budget are based on \$290,000 for a new fire truck and \$35,000 from the sale of the used equipment that goes back into the town revenue. Toni explained that the Equipment fund reserve is on a good path to maintain our tax rate and taking care of the equipment we need. Toni thanked the Fire Department for the volunteer work and the amount of time they put into our town. Chief Shawn Harlow gave some background on the current fire truck.

John Freitag spoke of the challenges the town has with no state maintained highways, the town has no gravel or sand pit as well, and we have to haul everything in and have a lot of bridges. John said what we've got going for us is an extremely dedicated Road Crew and he sees the crew getting up often very early and thanked them very much.

Final question from the floor was related to a FEMA event on July 1, 2017. Nellie Pennington explained that July expenses from FEMA covers 75%, State 12.5% and the Town portion at 12.5%. The Revenue is to be paid this

year and reports this as revenue in the town report. Vermont Route 132 work is covered by the Federal Highway Administration and the work that the Road Crew did were billed to FEMA including labor, equipment and materials.

Moderator Bauer asked if there were any other questions from the floor. Seeing none or hearing none will move to vote on the article. Article 4 passes.

Robert's Rules of Order were suspended to hear from our State Representatives Tim Briglin and Jim Masland.

Article 5: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for town purposes.

The Article was moved and seconded. Floor open for discussion. No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 5 passes.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total annual taxes due. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Strafford office on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of September and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of December. An official United States Postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% (one percent) per month for the first three months and 1.5% (one and a half percent) thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% (eight percent) collection fee after the grace period ending at 4:30 p.m. seven days after the first Wednesday of December.

The Article was moved and seconded. Floor open for questions, seeing none and hearing none, move to vote on the article. Article 6 passes.

Article 7: To elect the following officers:

For a term of three years:

Treasurer (paper ballot) – Article was Moved and seconded. Lisa Bragg was nominated. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Lisa Bragg. Lisa Bragg was elected.

Selectman (paper ballot) – Toni Pippy is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Toni Pippy. Toni Pippy was elected.

Lister (paper ballot) – Allan Wylie is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Allan Wylie. Allan Wylie was elected.

Auditor (paper ballot) – Nellie Pennington is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Nellie Pennington. Nellie Pennington was elected.

Cemetery Commissioner – Andy Behrens was nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Andy Behrens was elected.

Cemetery Commissioner – David Harris was nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and David Harris was elected.

Trustee of Public Funds – Moderator Bauer called upon John Hawkins to say a few words. John indicated that 27 years ago Kevin Plunkett was elected as Trustee of Public Funds, and for 26 of those years he sat as chair. John asked that we all join him and thanking Kevin for his 27 years of service.

Nominations for Trustee of Public Funds, Genevieve Gibson was nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Genevieve Gibson was elected.

Harris Library Trustee – Curt Albee was nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Curt Albee was elected.

For a term of two years:

Selectman (paper ballot) – Lauri Berkenkamp was nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Lauri Berkenkamp. Lauri Berkenkamp was elected.

Toni Pippy indicated that Lauri is replacing Stephen Marx but would like to say no one can replace Steve, it was a pleasure to have him on board, he was the heart of the board, and we wish him well.

John Freitag wanted to note that this was an historic occasion that the Strafford Selectboard for the first time in its history has a majority of women as a selectboard.

For a term of one year:

Delinquent Tax Collector – Jeanne Castro was nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Jeanne Castro was elected.

Town Grand Juror – Alan Donohue is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Alan Donohue was elected.

Town Agent – Alan Donohue is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Alan Donohue was elected.

Agent to Deed Real Estate – Lisa Bragg is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Lisa Bragg was elected.

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

Article 8 was moved and seconded. With brief discussion Article 8 passes.

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

Article 9 was moved and seconded. With brief discussion Article 9 passes.

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

WHEREAS the State of Vermont has a goal to achieve 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, yet is making insufficient progress toward achieving that goal and WHEREAS all fossil fuels used in Vermont are imported from other states or other countries, resulting in a multi-billion dollar drain annually on the Vermont economy, while renewable energy boosts the state’s economy;

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

That the town urges the State of Vermont to:

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

Article 10 was moved and seconded. A motion was made to amend article 10, item number 3, to strike “to the lowest income people, people of color,” and add the following “to marginal groups”. The motion was moved and seconded.

The Motion was read: “Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents with no harm to marginal groups, or rural communities.” Hearing and seeing no objection, the Amendment passes.

The article was open for discussion. Hearing from many, the Article was moved and seconded to close discussion. Vote to close discussion passed. Vote on article; Article 10 passes.

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

Reminders about the Rabies Clinic, Doyle survey and Cabin Fever classes starting. Steve Marx thanked everyone for electing him and had a great time and learned a lot. Steve said he was working on cleaning up some junk yards in town and contributions can be made to Neighbors Helping Neighbors and will go to the cause. Toni Pippy asked for a straw vote to alternate meetings and have the school go first next year. All appeared to be in favor of the switch. John Frietag thanked the Town House Advisory Group and Governance Committee. Doc Bagley is the new chair of the Energy Committee and is looking for members and new projects.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, moved and seconded. Adjourned at 11:36 am.

Robert Bauer
Moderator

Lisa M. Bragg
Town Clerk

Toni Pippy
Selectboard

The Town House lantern and spire were lowered to the ground this year in August. The ground placement allowed much easier accessibility for the necessary restoration and preservation work.



SELECTBOARD REPORT

We do not live in Vermont because it is easy. Rather, we face all kinds of challenges in order to enjoy life in the midst of our incredibly beautiful natural surroundings. Much of the work of the Selectboard involves the challenging task of balancing needs with resources, as well as balancing individual desires with the good of the larger community. Here are some highlights from this past year:

Roads

There is no question that this is the largest shared interest of the Selectboard. In addition to regular maintenance, the Town replaced a bridge on Old City Falls Road, and repaired ditching and replaced a culvert on the upper portion of Old City that experienced a particularly bad mud season last year. The road crew also replaced a culvert on Alger Brook Road, and the EPA replaced three culverts on the Mine Road.

The core of our crew, longtime members Dan Prescott, P.D. Hardy, and Public Works Supervisor/Road Foreman Jon Mackinnon continue to do an outstanding job. Over the last year we have tried to fill a vacancy on the road crew. Currently a position remains open; until it is filled, the road crew's work is being supplemented by contract help when needed. Working on a road crew is a very demanding job, particularly in winter, and we appreciate the dedication and skill of those on our crew.

An important part of an effective highway department is providing the needed tools for the job. This past year we purchased a new tractor mower, and in 2019 the Town will be replacing one of our trucks. Selectboard chair Toni Pippy, Jon Mackinnon, and Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Lisa Bragg have put together a long-range equipment replacement fund that we are now following. Over the next year we will be developing long-range plans and priorities for the care of our paved and gravel roads.

Elizabeth Mine Clean Up

Last year saw what we hope will be the last of large numbers of trucks going back and forth from the Elizabeth Mine site (estimates for next year are down to around 200 trucks to finish up the project). The EPA replaced three culverts on the Mine Road and will help fund some of the work next year to fix up the Thetford section of Rout 132 as far as Tucker Hill Road. The Selectboard signed an agreement with the Town of Thetford to divide the tax benefits on the solar project, which are located equally between the two towns. We are still working on getting the old poles removed, something which involves a number of companies who need to move their lines. We hope to make progress on this in the coming year.

Agreements

The Selectboard formalized the following with written agreements this year: town sanding of the driveway and parking lot at Barrett Hall before

senior lunches; ownership and responsibility for the Creative Pre-School playground behind the gym; and the town use for parking and access of private property behind the Town House.

Village Center Designation

The Selectboard appointed a Historic Preservation Commission and approved village center designation for Strafford and South Strafford as prepared by the Planning Commission. These actions will not only increase awareness of the unique treasures of our villages but will also help in obtaining grants for their preservation and improvement in the future.

Support for Community Organizations

The 2017 Town Governance Report, which examined how our town works, detailed the critical importance of volunteers and those who give their time on town boards and commissions for little, if any, compensation. Strafford Fire and Rescue and the Town House Advisory Group (THAG) were two organizations with which the Selectboard has had significant interaction over the past year. THAG topped off years of improvements to the Town House with its most ambitious project to date: the removal, repair, and replacement of the Town House spire. Headed by chair Rocky Fuller, THAG's efforts to both to raise funds and supervise the work cannot be overstated. The needed repairs made have helped ensure the longevity of this nationally recognized architectural treasure.

Strafford Fire and Rescue asked for more town support this year. This included trading in and purchasing a new fire truck, funding the increased costs in dispatch services, and providing matching funds for replacement of equipment and gear. Recognizing all they give to our community the Selectboard included their requests in our budget.

Finally, congratulations are in order to Barbara and Wally Smith, recipients of a 2018 Vermont Tree Steward Award for their leadership creating and maintaining the Pocket Park in South Strafford.

Town Clerk's Office

While incremental repairs and improvements have been made to our municipal building, the Selectboard recognizes that the structure is in need of significant repair and upgrade. To this end, an ad-hoc committee has been formed and the Selectboard is following up with the committee's recommendation to pay a consultant for a complete assessment of the building. We are also including an article in the warning that would allow funds not used in the previous year's line item for repairs to be put in a Reserve Fund to accumulate and help with the major costs we anticipate in the future.

Right of Way Issues

The Selectboard has dealt with a number of right of way issues over the past year. We reviewed and published our policy regarding rights of way. In

summary: generally speaking, the Town right of way is 3 rods or approximately 25 feet. If you are considering doing something within the town right of way on your property, please contact the Selectboard in advance for review and approval.

Budget

For the past four years there has not been an increase in the town portion of the tax rate. This year's proposed budget has a tax increase of 2.8%. This increase is the same as the cost of living increase determined by the government for Social Security recipients this year.

Major increases in our budget include a big jump in the dispatch service fee for the Strafford Fire and Rescue, an increase in the amount for much-needed and long-delayed repairs to the Municipal Building/Town Offices, as well as addressing the need for pay and benefit increases to match inflation for our employees. The 2.8% increase translates into a roughly 1.8 cent increase in the town portion of the tax rate. Details on the budget and time for questions and answers will be provided at Pre-Town Meeting and Town Meeting.

Finally, the Selectboard would like to express our appreciation for our town employees and the many, many people who serve in office and volunteer in so many ways. There is no way our community could function without you.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

Remarks by Justin S. Morrill on the presentation by him of a Library Building to the Town of Strafford, Saturday, Sept 22, 1888, remain in the town vault. In his remarks I quote, "This act to-day is prompted, not for the purpose of obtaining the slightest benefit to me or mine, nor for the slightest notoriety. It is too insignificant for all that when compared with the magnificent gifts elsewhere of those blessed with much larger fortunes, and comes too late in life to subserve any selfish purposes." And then goes on to say, "The building is a respectful offering to my fellow-towns-men. Here my work is ended. If any one can do more or better, let us all bid him God-speed."

I quote Justin S. Morrill because of the importance of this building and the gift that was given to the town. Here his work ended, but ours must begin.

This year on the Town Warning there is a request to set up a reserve fund for the Municipal Building and to set aside money for upcoming renovations costs in the near future. While I have worked within the budget to make repairs, it has come time to really invest in our historic Municipal Building.

This year the septic system was replaced. Over the years the lines would freeze, and over a four year period cost over \$12,000 in repairs. The replacement cost was under \$8,000 so this was money well spent. In order to complete that project, we worked with Phoebe Mix and removed the hedge trees that were next to the municipal building. These trees were also not letting sunlight hit the south side of the building and caused the roof structure and posts to rot and is still in need of repairs along with the stairs leading up to the second floor.

One of the front entry way posts was hit and moved slightly off the pier. This too shows rotting wood and an estimate to replace the front concrete that is heaving and fix the posts has come in around \$7,000 dollars with an additional \$2,300 to install and repair two manholes to fix the water drainage in front of the building.

Late last year I spoke with the Selectboard about having help from others to determine what can be done to continue the needed repairs. I called on Kate Siepman, who has done grant research in the past for the municipal building, Curt Albee, and Tom Root to discuss how to move forward. We have met several times and with the Selectboard approval, have hired gbA, an architecture and planning company to assist us.

In 2018 Regina continued to scan land records into our NEMRC system, a project that we knew was going to take some time to complete. With a total of 33 books going back to 2002, Regina has completed 18 books or 11,250 pages and has 15 books or 9,375 pages to scan. Once this is completed, it will be available to view on line.

Elections went well this year and I want to thank all the volunteers that joined us during the day to help. The vote tabulator machine was used again during the 2018 elections with no issues and saves time at the end of a long day.

While many other tasks flow as normal, the State of Vermont continues to send new software and procedures our way. This year we had to renew our Notary service on line, and vital records Act 46 has not been implemented yet, although we expect it to be this year.

I want to also mention the Town WEB page. While I'm not a professional designer, I do my best to add information in hopes that this is a useful tool for residents. I have just recently added a new tab for "Natural Resources" highlighting our Town Forest, Old City Falls, Whitcomb Hill, and the Town Trails. Also new under the Municipal/Town Garage are highway maps. You can find minutes of meetings, what the Energy Committee or Conservation Committee might be up to, along with all the other committees. Under the Town House tab, you can find out about the history or view a 3D video of the Town House. And not to forgot the Listers' page with a lot of useful information on property assessments or how to submit an address change or view a Lister card. I'm always looking for pictures; if you have some you'd like to submit, please e-mail them to me as a jpg at townclerk@straffordvt.org

Thank you to Regina, the Highway Department, and the Selectboard for all that you do. Auditors, Listers, THAG and the incredible work on the Spire, and to all the other volunteers out there, thank you for your time you give to the Town.

Sincerely,
Lisa M Bragg
Town Clerk/Treasurer

LISTERS' REPORT

The purpose for the Listers office is the production of the Grand List, upon which your property taxes are based. The Grand List, however, is a complex document encompassing basic taxpayer identification, basic property assessment, Current Use (CU) calculations, and Homestead evaluations. The Grand List for the tax year 2018 consisted of 750 properties (685 taxable) assessed at \$183,744,000.

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

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

Stafford has 175 parcels enrolled in Current Use for a total of 18,024.96 acres. The deadline for enrolling in CU is 1 September. As the deadline is after the lodging of the Grand List, those who wait for the deadline can expect to see their tax bills revised and perhaps be required to pay more than necessary on the September due date. We encourage early enrollment, but again, caution that the state continues to be overwhelmed with CU applications. Late filing of Current Use applications increases the work of both the listers and the Town Clerk.

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

In response to more specific guidance from the state, the listers have begun an audit of contiguous properties to assure that all such properties are equitably assessed. A policy on contiguous properties is being developed and will be presented to the Selectboard and affected taxpayers and published on the town website.

The listers work toward two goals which are sometimes difficult to realize. We are required to assess all properties at fair market value and, at the same time, be fair to all taxpayers. Each year the state evaluates the work of the listers by comparing assessments with actual selling prices. The CLA is a

measure of our success in meeting those goals. All properties are assessed using the same algorithms which evaluate properties based on objectively measurable items combined with overall assessment of real estate quality, e.g., neighborhood or view. This year's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) indicates that we were 97% accurate.

Taxes billed on July 30, 2018 are determined from the Grand List value as of 1 April 2018 and are billed to the owner of record on that date.

Lister office hours are

Monday: 8 a.m.-12 noon

Tuesday: 3:00 -5:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Solsaa

Tim Denny

Allan Wylie

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2018. Based upon our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Town of Strafford. We have found audited accounts to be consistent and well-managed.

Auditors are responsible for setting Selectboard salaries. Following a discussion of historical Selectboard stipends in Strafford (the Selectboard stipend has not been increased since 1982, and the value of the \$450 stipend in 1982 would be worth \$1,170 today), review of stipends in other local towns, and recognizing that the complexity and responsibility of Selectboard has grown over the years, we propose to increase the stipend to \$750 in 2020.

We would like to thank Lisa Bragg, Regina Josler, the Selectboard, and other town and school officials for their continued cooperation in the auditing process and in the preparation of the Town Report.

Nellie Pennington

June Solsaa

Suzanna Liepmann

REPORT OF THE TOWN AGENT AND GRAND JUROR

During 2018, as the Town Agent, I was called upon to advise the Select Board on one occasion. I did not, however, prosecute and/or defend suits in which Strafford or the Strafford school district had an interest. Further, as Grand Juror, I was also not asked to prosecute any criminal offenses that occurred within the town by having to give information to state and/or local law enforcement. How fortunate we are, during these seemingly trying times, to live in a town such as Strafford.

Alan Donohue
Grand Juror
Town Agent

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

This past year was another slow one for wildland fire, here in Vermont, with 59 fires reported, burning a total 113 acres. There were fires reported in 10 of 12 months in 2018 and it should come as no surprise that late April and early May were the busiest time for wildland fires in 2018, as reported to the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation by the town Forest Fire Wardens.

Fires were caused by lightning (2) burning 1.1 acres; campfires (8) burning 1.63 acres; smoking (2) burning .25 acres; debris burning (19) burning 19.84 acres; equipment use (2) burning 0.75 acres; railroads (1) burning 1.5 acres; children (2) burning 1.5 acres; miscellaneous (power lines/unknown) (23) burning 88.38 acres.

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

State law requires a permit for open burning with 200 feet of grass, woodlands or buildings or if there is less than one inch of snow on the ground. Although no permit is required with snow cover, it is always a good idea to call the fire warden if you are going to have a large fire. If someone happens to see it and reports it, then the Fire Department will not be dispatched unnecessarily. Burn permits are free of charge. To acquire one or get more information, call your Fire Warden at 802-765-9920. Please remember, you cannot obtain a permit by leaving a message, you need to speak with the Fire Warden.

Thank you to all those who obtained fire permits.

Calvin Benjamin
Forest Fire Warden

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

This year we inspected some of the more remote burial sites in town, which lie peacefully undisturbed deep in the woods. The inactive cemeteries receive annual mowing and trimming, while Evergreen Cemetery is cleaned in spring and fall, and mowed and trimmed through the growing season. Our 2018 grounds contractor, Mannix Landscaping, did an excellent job, and will continue in 2019.

We contracted with Green Mountain Memorials to conduct repair work on tipping monuments in Evergreen Cemetery. Unfortunately, the early onset of winter weather meant that they were not able to complete this project on their 2018 schedule. We expect this work to begin next summer, and continue for some years to repair and maintain the most endangered monuments.

Stafford Cemetery Commissioners
Sherm Wilson
Andy Behrens
Gretchen Graner
David Harris
Gary Kendall

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

First, thanks to all that applied for permits for their 2018 building projects. We (the town) had 25 permit applications this year, up slightly from 2017, 24, and 2016, 23.

	2016	2017	2018
Houses	2	8	2
Barns/garages/carports	6	6	12
Decks/Porches	4	2	6
Sheds	6	4	2
Additions	2	1	1
Green house	1	0	0
Building renewal	2	0	0
Parcel annexation	0	1	0
Permit to move buildings	0	0	2
Permit renewals	0	2	0
Total	23	24	25

As always I can be reached at 765-4514, or through the town clerk's office.

Brian Johnson, Zoning Administrator

STRAFFORD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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

The volunteer members of the DRB are appointed by the Selectboard, as is the Zoning Administrator. Presently the DRB members are Terry Garrison, Chair, Steve Campbell, Vice Chair, Bonnie Bergeron, Secretary, Dan Ruml and Martha Walke. The Zoning Administrator is Brian Johnson.

The DRB meets on the third Wednesday of each month, at the Town Office in Strafford when there is business before the board. All meetings are open to the public, and the minutes are available to the public in the town records. The DRB met four times in 2018 to address business and hear applications.

Applications for Subdivisions, Conditional Use, and/or Variance are considered at formally warned hearings. Lot Line Adjustments do not require warned hearings. Decisions are publicly posted for a 15 day period to allow interested parties to appeal the decision.

In 2018, the DRB held 4 hearings, (3) subdivisions and one (1) zoning approval appeal. The 3 applications for subdivision were approved and the appeal was denied.

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

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

The members of the Strafford Planning Commission are Chair Steve Campbell, Vice Chair Steve Willbanks, Secretary Martha Walke and members Brent Cadwell, Stuart Crocker, Donald Graham, Christina Jamieson, Sean Lewis and Michael Scanlan. Bob Bushway resigned in February, 2018.

In 2018 the Planning Commission continued its work on the Unified Bylaws which is nearing completion. We also applied, on behalf of the town, to the Department of Housing and Community Development for village center designation for both villages. This was granted for both villages and will allow for financial incentives and tax credits towards revitalization and towards attracting businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Walke, Secretary



Mike Hebb poses with the double ball he turned in his shop. The complex, hand-crafted replacement double ball was made to sit atop the newly restored Town House spire.

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Strafford Conservation Commission (SCC) sponsored or participated in the following activities in 2018:

- In January, the SCC voted to support efforts proposed by the Alliance of Vermont Communities (AVC) and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to establish a new hiking trail on the Manning property located on Robinson Road. The property has been conserved by the Upper Valley Land Trust.
- On May 17th, a new granite bench on the Strafford Common was dedicated to the memory of John T. Hemenway to commemorate his contributions to conservation, sustainable forestry practices and historic preservation.
- Also, in May, there was a discussion, co-sponsored by the Strafford Historical Society, on the topic of ancient roads and byways, by Paul Gillies, an attorney and an authority on the history of Vermont's roads.
- David Paganelli, Orange County Forester and SCC member, made a presentation on the threat posed by the Emerald Ash-Borer, an invasive insect which will have a devastating impact on the region's ash trees, a species representing a significant percentage of all Vermont's trees.
- In July, Alex Buskey and Michael Sacca, representing the AVC and in conjunction with the Vermont Land Trust, reported on progress in acquiring the Ashley Parcel, a 268-acre property straddling Strafford and Sharon. They proposed the creation of a community forest, owned and cooperatively managed by Strafford and Sharon, which would be available to the public for recreational purposes such as hiking and skiing as well as for sustainable forestry practices and wildlife preservation. This parcel adjoins the Manning property and any trails created could link to the proposed Manning Trail.
- Trail Coordinator Mike Hebb in October discussed the addition of a new trail, the Cobb Trail, which connects to and extends the hiking opportunities on the Loop (Fen) Trail, located in the Town Forest on the west side of Hemenway Road.
- SCC member Micki Colbeck created a digital map locating not only conservation areas of specific significance in Strafford, but also, in conjunction with the Energy Committee, identifying areas suitable for the development of non-residential alternative energy infrastructure. This map is intended to assist the Energy Committee's preparation of an Enhanced Energy Plan, which as an amendment to the current Town Plan would enable the Town of Strafford to participate in Public Utility Commission proceedings on the proposed siting and installation of non-residential alternative energy infrastructure in Strafford.

- Finally, the SCC has been engaged in developing Management Plans for Town recreational parcels, including Whitcomb Hill, the Town Forest and Old City Falls Nature Area.

The SCC meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., in the Morrill Education Center. Members of the public are always welcome. The SCC has nine members: Micki Colbeck, Steve Faccio, Mike Hebb, J.T. Horn, Jared Jenisch, David Paganelli, Kate Root, Chuck Sherman and Steve Willbanks.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks, Chair

STRAFFORD TRAIL SYSTEM

This system is a resource of the town allowing access to high ridge lines, natural areas rare plant communities and town-owned properties and is managed by the Conservation Commission. Strafford's trail system is now close to 20 miles in length including the sections added in 2017 and in 2018. It is made possible by the 27 land owners who allow public access over their property. Their gift to the town is appreciated by many. Several groups from outside town like the Green Mountain Club schedule hikes on our trails.

Recently we have added a half-mile trail in the town forest we call the Cobb Hill trail in honor of Dr. Gardner Cobb, who donated the land.

New trails are planned for portions of the town forest that are difficult to access presently. We are always evaluating other expansion opportunities.

Our 9 volunteers maintain sections of the trail system, clearing blow downs and intruding growth. Erosion problems have been rare but in places are becoming evident with continued use. Litter or other abuses are nonexistent. Our policy of "human powered access" is working. Motor vehicle use is so rare as to be a non-issue.

A future improvement we'd like to see is better parking facilities. Some of the current lots are on private property and hikers feel they are intruding.

All in all, it is an ongoing but successful project.

Mike Hebb
Trails Manager
Strafford Conservation Commission

STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

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

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

This year, many of our programs continued successfully. The Jedi Camp saw an increase in participation, the addition of a camp counselor, and a week of fun for younger kids. Soccer camp participation was good, with close to 30 youth participating. The tennis courts and ice skating rink are very well used during their seasons. We expect to continue these programs for the next year.

As of this writing the skating rink is opened at Murray Field. Many thanks to Jason Loomis, who is the rec board lead on the rink. If you are interested in helping with the volunteer efforts in future winters, please be contact Jason directly. The rink does have a liner with some holes, and we may be looking at fundraising in the near future to replace the rink liner.

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

The Preschool playground was renovated this summer, with some funds coming from the Recreation Board to assist. The Newton School is also looking at renovating their playground soon, as the structure is old and beginning to show signs of deterioration.

The Recreation Board has continued to clean out the red barn of items that are no longer useable, with the assistance from the various local organizations who use the red barn for storage. We plan to continue with Open Barn dates so that the quantity of un-useable items place into the barn is managed. In case you are not aware, there is an equipment exchange area inside the red barn, which is primarily used for sports equipment like skis, skates and helmets, with a few odds and ends from other sports as well as limited medical equipment like crutches, wheel chairs and temporary beds. Please contact any of the board members if you need access to the equipment in the red barn, or if you want to place something you no longer need there.

We also encourage all community members to join the board or attend meetings. We always welcome new ideas as well as bodies to help maintain and improve recreational opportunities in the town. We try to schedule meetings quarterly, and hope to create a regular schedule and location for 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Linehan, Chair
David Taplin, member
Margaret Albee, member
Christa Wurm, member
Jason Loomis, member



The Rosa Tyson Gym was originally built in 1860 as a Baptist church. Following the Baptists move to the United Church in 1967, Rosa Tyson purchased the structure and donated it to the Strafford Athletic Association. The SAA made extensive renovations to the building during the 1970s.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Compared to some previous years, 2018 saw fewer weather incidents and the power outages were generally shorter. I was able to get better weather predictions and updates from NWS- Burlington and maintained good contact with GMP (Green Mountain Power) during events to make sure they were aware of town outages and issues.

Late in the fall, we had town radios and other communications systems checked and had radios replaced or added as needed.

As far as volunteer support for emergency management, we experienced a change in the person who is the fire department liaison when we open the town operations center in the town office. Mike Ekegren is now the liaison and will be the person who maintains coordination between the operations center and Fire/EMS during an incident. Mike is a member of the fire department and has had both fire and emergency management training.

Following the March town meeting, we updated the existing emergency operations plan. It was reviewed and approved by the Selectboard and forwarded to TRORC (Two Rivers Ottauquechee Commission) and Vermont Emergency Management. Starting in 2019, we will be using a new plan format called the Local Emergency Management Plan. In the last 3-4 months of 2018, the new format was rolled out and Selectperson Lauri Berkenkamp took the initial training session at the December meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee. We are preparing to meet and layout the format of the new report so that we will be ready for submission in April of 2019.

This report is very important in that it is the document that insures we have access to grants, FEMA support and other financial tools in the event of an incident involving considerable loss of and damage to property. (Think Tropical Storm Irene!) It is also our local “instruction manual” regarding the preparation, response, recovery and mitigation process when we open our emergency operations center and find that we need outside assistance and resources from the state and federal levels.

In 2018 we had two large weather events. In April, high winds resulted in power outages in both villages with some 10,800 customers without power across the state. While power was out in Strafford for many hours, conditions were such that we didn't have to open the EOC (emergency operations center) but we did have a shelter available in S. Strafford for water and assistance. We were able to keep constant contact with GMP to make sure that all outages in town were repaired.

And on November 27-28, a ten-inch snow storm knocked out power around the state, including Strafford. Outages persisted around town until the 29th of November. During this period, we opened Barrett Hall for a warming shelter and a source of water and toilet facilities. In addition, Ed Eastman

was at Barrett Hall and was prepared to make meals for anyone needing help. Again, constant contact with GMP assured that all residents to their power back in a reasonable time.

Experience has taught us that it is important open shelters prior to or early in incidents to help insure safety of residents.

Many people support the emergency management effort during the year and I want to thank Ed Eastman, the Selectboard, Lisa and Regina, Jon MacKinnon, Shawn Harlow, and Mike Ekegren for their help and support.

Bill Burden
Emergency Manager

STRAFFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Strafford Energy Committee (SEC) has been active this past year with ongoing activities and new initiatives. Our mission is to promote energy conservation and alternatives to fossil fuels in the heating/cooling of buildings, vehicles, and electricity generation. As an advisory committee to the Selectboard, we offer town officials and members of other committees information on energy-related policy matters, and we provide assistance to the residents and businesses of Strafford in adopting efficient, cost-effective ways to be comfortable while reducing the negative impacts of human activities on our planet's well being.

Vermont has set a statewide goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050. This not only means increased renewables-derived electricity from our utilities, but also a reduction in home heating fuel usage through weatherization, shifts to higher-efficiency equipment (heat pumps and woodchip/pellet boilers), and pursuit of cleaner options in transportation (including electric vehicles, mass-transit, and carpooling).

Visit the Energy Committee pages on the Strafford town website to find valuable information and links to organizations that can provide services and financial assistance for your future energy and cash saving projects: www.straffordvt.org/energy-commission.

Ongoing:

The 110-kilowatt School/Municipal solar array has continued to supply energy for the Town Garage, Town Office, Town House, Newton School, Barrett Hall, the United Church of Strafford, and the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library.

The 7-megawatt DC Elizabeth Mine solar array provides enough electricity to power approximately 1,300 typical Vermont homes, and offsets 7,136 tons of carbon dioxide every year. This project also generates tax revenue

for the town and will contribute to the Vermont energy goals of 90% renewable by 2050.

In 2018 we moved toward the goals set out by the Strafford Energy Committee on several fronts:

The 186-kilowatt DC (150-kilowatt AC) Thetford Strafford Community Solar Array (a project initiated and organized by Dori Wolfe of Wolfe Energy and supported by the SEC) was completed on land adjacent to the former landfill in Post Mills. It is a partnership of Thetford, Strafford, and Norwich residents, a commercial farm, and the town of Thetford itself. This mixed-use community solar farm is apparently the first of its kind in the state, and will produce approximately 230,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. The TSCS array demonstrates how a renewable energy system can benefit people and businesses from several neighboring communities. Learn more at: <http://tscs2017.wixsite.com/tscs>. Other community solar projects in the Green Mountain Power territory are in the works, so please contact the SEC for updates.

For the first time, Strafford's 4th of July celebration had a contingent of electric cars on parade (notice how quiet they were going by?). Many neighbors had a chance to see a variety of vehicles, chat with the owners, and learn more about electric vehicle performance, range, and cost. Contact the SEC or visit our webpage for more information.

Barbara and Wally Smith continue to expand on their wonderful project, the Strafford Edible Pocket Park, located on the river next to the soccer field. 2018 was a growth year for the Pocket Park. We received two generous donations, one from a local resident and one from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, and had a plant and seed sale at Coburn's. The Strafford Lions Club provided us with an information kiosk. Cat Buxton, Cedric Becker-Rule and Will Cooney created a map and information sheets. Newton School students with Operation Days Work spread loads of wood chips provided by Eli Mintz. With our donations, we were able to buy new tools and soil amendments. Finally, we had a wonderful end of season community celebration in the Park.

See: www.wallyandbarbara.com/pocketpark.

The SEC worked with Efficiency Vermont to bring the Button Up weatherization program to town. From the launch on November 8 to the December 15 deadline, 35 households signed up for no-cost home energy evaluations and job estimates by two certified energy contractors. We look forward to speaking with those who signed up in order to track their progress. Committee members are available to help participants at any point in the Button Up process. We're also eager to help other Strafford folks interested in weatherization projects, so please contact us.

Projects planned for 2019 include:

In 2018 we worked with Two Rivers–Ottawaquechee Regional Commission to help update the energy section of the Town Plan. We look forward to presenting the Enhanced Energy Plan to the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, and Selectboard in 2019 for review and approval.

We are working with the nonprofit group WindowDressers (<https://windowdressers.org>) to see about duplicating in Strafford a storm window program that has been successful throughout Maine. With volunteer help and low-cost materials, this organization has been able to provide inexpensive (free, for income-qualifying households), removable interior storm windows that can greatly increase home comfort and reduce heating costs.

We have started initial conversations to develop a Strafford Climate Series. We hope to bring in experts on residential and commercial energy efficiency, renewable energy options, home heating and transportation initiatives to reduce fossil-fuel consumption, financing and financial assistance, waste challenges and solutions, plus healthy local foods. We also hope to present films about sustainability to heighten awareness and spur action to insure a promising future for our kids and their kids.

We will continue to provide information about options in transportation: public transport, ride-sharing, electric vehicles, alternative fuels, and more.

We plan to review past energy audits done on town facilities to see what upgrades might be possible to reduce energy usage and shift away from fossil fuels.

We hope to collaborate with Newton School teachers and students in promoting awareness, education, and action toward sustainability.

The Strafford Energy Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room above the Town Clerk's office. All meetings are open to the public, and we always welcome new people with fresh ideas. On occasion, the time and date of the meeting changes, so please contact energy@straffordvt.org to confirm prior to attending.

Come join us in working toward a cleaner, less wasteful, and more sustainable energy future for our town, country, and world.

Respectfully submitted,

Doc Bagley, Chair

Jim Schley, Secretary

Janet Cavanagh

Kevin Grady

David Lutz

Jason Stableford

Barbara Smith

Gretchen May

Gus Speth

THE TOWN HOUSE ADVISORY GROUP

The mission of the Town House Advisory Group is to advise the Selectboard on policies and means of raising revenue for the purpose of using, maintaining, and preserving the historic Strafford Meeting House, and to implement such related procedures as approved by the Selectboard.

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

This was the eighth year of pursuing our mission as the Town House Advisory Group. We currently have a core group of 7 official members plus the Overseer, Paul Kifner. If you would like to be on our email list to follow our activities please provide me with your address. Our activities are posted in the Strafford News as well as on the Strafford Webpage: www.straffordvt.org/townhouse. Anyone interested in participating in any way is welcome to contribute. We meet monthly either at the Town House or Martha Manheim's house on the Common.

This past year we undertook the renovation of the spire and lantern of the Town House following a successful fund raising effort started 2 years ago. We received funding from the 2018 Vermont Historic Preservation Grant, the Byrne Foundation, the Robin Mix Memorial Fund, generous donations from individuals, and events that enabled this goal to become a reality. On September 27, the lantern (structure below the spire) with attached spire was removed in one piece with a 150-foot crane and placed on the ground. A temporary roof was lifted back up to the top to protect the belfry from the weather while the restoration was going on. Winter arrived early and slowed down the process. With perseverance, the crew headed up by Jan Lewandoski was able to finish the restoration and have it lifted back up on December 6. Mike Hebb turned the double ball that sits on top of the spire, as well as the small ball on top of the weathervane rod. Another big contributor and member of our group was Silas Treadway. He designed and implemented the construction of a demonstration timber frame cowshed building started at the 2017 Timber Framers Guild Conference. He spent countless hours building and supervising other volunteers in its construction. Following the raising of this building, our Spire Restoration Fund received another sizable financial donation from the recipients of the cowshed. It should also be noted that Silas worked part time on the spire restoration crew. We received another donation (above what we budgeted for) to gild the weathervane and top ball in gold leaf. Through the generosity of the donors and volunteers we were able to successfully complete this needed restoration without having to tap into any town funds raised by taxes. In the spring the painters will climb back up and finish the painting that had to be postponed due to cold temps.

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

Our 9th annual Clean Up Day will be held in late April or the beginning of May. All are welcome to participate in sprucing up the building for the upcoming season. The date will be posted on the list serve as well as the Town webpage.

If you have questions about plans for the Town House or if you would like to help support our efforts with a contribution, please contact Rocky Fuller at rockwellfuller@gmail.com or call 802-763-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
Rocky Fuller
Town House Advisory Group Chair

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

On December 13, 2017, the Strafford Selectboard established a historic preservation commission in order to encourage our town to develop and maintain historic preservation efforts as part of local land use planning and development.

The ordinance establishing the commission was also a step toward having Strafford officially recognized as a Certified Local Government by both the State Division of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service. Such recognition indicates our town's commitment to keeping what is significant from the past for future generations. Becoming a Certified Local Government also allows access to Federal funding for local historic preservation projects.

This past summer, Strafford was granted Certified Local Government (CLG) status by both the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service. We are one of fourteen towns in Vermont to have that status.

The ordinance establishing the commission requires that the commission be composed of professional and lay members who have demonstrated interest, competence, or knowledge in historic preservation. The Selectboard established a five-person commission and appointed Bob Johnston, David Taplin, Ann Thorp, Silas Treadway, and Tim Utt as its members.

The commission has met four times this year. Once granted CLG status, the commission made the creation and maintenance of a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties within Strafford its highest priority. To that end, an application for a Federal grant has been made. If approved, work on the survey should begin this spring.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2017, 2018, and Proposed 2019

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed	
GENERAL FUND Revenue						
Taxes/Fund Balance						
Balances Forward	\$ -	\$ 30,449	\$ 30,449	\$ -	\$ 46,942	<i>a</i>
Current Taxes	310,535	299,113 *	287,553	(11,560)	306,861	<i>b</i>
Taxes/Fund Balance Total	\$ 310,535	\$ 329,562	\$ 318,002	\$ (11,560)	\$ 353,803	
Governmental						
PILOT/Fish and Game Tax	\$ 16,900	\$ 16,900	\$ 18,174	\$ 1,274	\$ 18,174	
State of Vermont Hold Harmless	128,716	128,716	127,588	(1,128)	127,588	
Governmental Total	\$ 145,616	\$ 145,616	\$ 145,762	\$ 146	\$ 145,762	
Interest						
1% Interest on First Payment	\$ 1,970	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,542	\$ 142	\$ 1,400	
Delinquent Tax Interest	11,662	9,000	12,850	3,850	9,000	
Interest	1,474	150	1,217	1,067	150	
Interest Total	\$ 15,106	\$ 10,550	\$ 15,609	\$ 5,059	\$ 10,550	
Penalty						
Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ 9,556	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,407	\$ 407	\$ 9,000	<i>c</i>
Penalty Total	\$ 9,556	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,407	\$ 407	\$ 9,000	
Loans						
Loan Proceeds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	<i>d</i>
Loans Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

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

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

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

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

** Budget amount increased by Articles 8 & 9 approved separately during Town Meeting 2018*

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
Fees Total					
Dog License Fees	\$ 1,540	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,536	\$ 36	\$ 1,500
Dog Violation Fees	280	300	565	265	300
Liquor License Fees	185	185	185	-	185
Other Fees for Services	2,496	1,700	5,351	3,651	2,500
Recording Fees	11,573	7,500	7,841	341	7,500
Recording Surcharge	1,282	1,000	829	(171)	1,000
Subdivision Permit Fees	400	700	400	(300)	400
Zoning Permit Fees	1,540	1,500	1,260	(240)	1,500
Fees Total	\$ 19,296	\$ 14,385	\$ 17,967	\$ 3,582	\$ 14,885
Grants					
Parcel Mapping	\$ 14	\$ 100	\$ 11	\$ (89)	\$ 100
State of Vermont Lister Education	-	400	-	(400)	400
Equal Education Grand List	704	-	703	703	-
State of Vermont Planning Grant	2,974	-	-	-	-
State of Vermont Reappraisal Fund	5,984	6,600	5,976	(625)	6,600
Grants Total	\$ 9,676	\$ 7,100	\$ 6,690	\$ (411)	\$ 7,100
Donations					
Donations - Pocket Park	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ 5,485	\$ 5,485	\$ -
Donations - Town House	13,301	500	1,833	1,333	500
Donations - Tennis Court	-	-	-	-	-
Donations - Dogs	-	-	300	300	-
Town House Usage	600	1,200	2,400	1,200	1,200
Donations Total	\$ 55,415	\$ 1,700	\$ 81,844	\$ 80,144	\$ 1,700
Miscellaneous					
Evergreen Cemetery	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	17,767	4,000	8,721	4,721	4,000
Recycling Revenue	4,328	3,000	1,265	(1,735)	1,500
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 22,095	\$ 7,000	\$ 9,986	\$ 2,986	\$ 5,500

e - Primarily the Town House Spire project, offset by donations and spending from the reserve

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn Fund	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 14,045	\$ 14,045	\$ -
Conservation Commission	-	-	-	-	-
Conservation Fund	1,450	-	-	-	-
Energy Committee	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation Revenue	555	-	1,060	1,060	1,000
Independent Committees Total	13,005	-	15,105	15,105	1,000
GENERAL FUND Total Revenue	\$ 600,300	\$ 524,913	\$ 620,373	\$ 95,460	\$ 549,300
GENERAL FUND Expenses					
Deficit Reduction					
Deficit Reduction	\$ 3,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Deficit Reduction Total	\$ 3,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Administration					
Select Board Salary	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ -	\$ 2,250
Select Board Expenses	302	250	315	(65)	515
Select Board Assistant	6,841	7,017	7,145	(128)	7,398
Town Clerk/Treasurer	37,994	39,762	40,471	(709)	41,919
Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer	32,452	37,247	34,030	3,217	38,445
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	31,047	32,207	29,316	2,891	25,772
Municipal Retirement	3,107	3,201	3,358	(157)	3,560
Social Security Tax	7,176	8,390	7,846	544	9,279
Unemployment Insurance	311	-	70	(70)	-
Workers' Compensation	1,107	1,496	1,496	(0)	1,317
Property & Liability Insurance	11,603	11,686	11,686	0	9,795
Financial Services	9,822	9,382	10,148	(766)	6,300
Administration Total	\$ 144,014	\$ 152,888	\$ 148,130	\$ 4,758	\$ 146,550

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

g - To offset the general fund deficit from 2016

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
General Services					
Town Office	\$ 15,272	\$ 17,000	\$ 16,847	\$ 153	\$ 17,700
Records Restoration	6,658	-	-	-	-
VLCT Dues	2,415	2,279	2,599	(320)	2,338
Town Meeting & Elections	-	2,000	1,968	32	921
Town Report	2,704	2,900	2,791	109	2,900
Auditing	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
Outside Audit/Professional Services	3,300	5,000	3,200	1,800	5,000
Delinquent Tax Collector Salary	9,556	9,000	9,407	(407)	9,000
Listers	2,059	2,150	1,805	345	2,150
Lister Contract Services	12,776	11,815	13,088	(1,273)	13,034
Parcel Mapping	260	750	335	415	700
Police Services	33,150	33,500	21,589	11,911	33,500
Dog Officer	955	2,000	2,002	(2)	2,000
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	37,000	37,000	37,000	-	50,000
Emergency Management	149	1,000	125	875	1,000
Ambulance Service	40,626	47,126	47,214	(88)	48,236
Solid Waste	12,277	12,078	12,207	(129)	12,078
Recycling	14,242	13,000	17,217	(4,217)	16,000
General Services Total	\$ 194,599	\$ 199,798	\$ 190,594	\$ 9,204	\$ 217,757

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

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
Community Services					
Adult Basic Education	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
Capstone Community Action	300	300	300	-	300
Clara Martin Center/OCMH	2,700	2,700	2,700	-	2,700
Council on Aging	750	750	750	-	750
Health HUB School Clinic	-	500	500	-	500
Historic Conservation	-	-	-	-	500
Library	34,000	34,000	34,000	-	34,000
Orange County Court Diversion	200	200	200	-	240
Public Health Council	-	110 *	110	-	111
Red Cross	550	500 *	500	-	500
Safeline	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Senior Citizens Center	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Stratford Historical Society	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Streetlights	2,555	2,600	1,427	1,173	2,600
Vermont Center for Independent Living	200	200	200	-	200
Visiting Nurse Alliance	3,250	3,250	3,250	-	3,250
Community Services Total	\$ 51,305	\$ 51,910	\$ 50,737	\$ 1,173	\$ 52,451
Planning					
Development Review Board	\$ -	\$ 1,250	\$ 675	\$ 575	\$ 1,250
Regional Planning	1,548	1,592	1,592	-	1,592
Town Planning	149	1,000	-	1,000	400
Zoning	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Planning Total	\$ 2,697	\$ 4,842	\$ 3,267	\$ 1,575	\$ 4,242
General Government					
County Tax	\$ 41,190	\$ 41,190	\$ 42,795	\$ (1,605)	\$ 42,795
Leaseland Rent	85	85	85	-	85
Legal Fees & Consultants	1,530	3,000	1,755	1,245	3,000
General Government Total	\$ 42,805	\$ 44,275	\$ 44,635	\$ (360)	\$ 45,880

* Budget amounts approved separately during Town Meeting 2018 in Articles 8 & 9

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Municipal Building	\$ 11,122	\$ 22,000	\$ 18,371	\$ 3,629	\$ 37,720
Town House	14,320	28,450	117,277	(88,827)	23,450
Town House Restrooms	-	500	236	264	500
Cemeteries	7,800	10,800	7,700	3,100	10,800
Recreation Areas	12,861	5,700	4,821	879	5,700
Pocket Park	350	-	1,477	(1,477)	-
Municipal Property Total	\$ 46,452	\$ 67,450	\$ 149,882	\$ (82,432)	\$ 78,170
Grant Expenditures					
Miscellaneous Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Planning Grants	717	-	-	-	-
Grant Expenditures Total	\$ 717	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 11,637	\$ 3,750	\$ 8,320	\$ (4,570)	\$ 4,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 11,637	\$ 3,750	\$ 8,320	\$ (4,570)	\$ 4,000
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn	\$ 10,289	\$ -	\$ 13,272	\$ (13,272)	\$ -
Conservation Fund	-	-	866	(866)	-
Independent Committees Total	\$ 10,289	\$ -	\$ 14,138	\$ (14,138)	\$ 250
GENERAL FUND Total Expenses	\$ 508,345	\$ 524,913	\$ 609,702	\$ (84,789)	\$ 549,300
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 91,956	\$ -	\$ 10,670	\$ 10,670	\$ -

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

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
HIGHWAY FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Balances Forward	\$ 184,330	\$ 111,246	\$ 79,111	\$ (32,135)	\$ 93,029 <i>j</i>
Current Taxes	695,299	719,712	719,712	-	743,275
Taxes Total	\$ 879,629	\$ 830,958	\$ 798,823	\$ (32,135)	\$ 836,304
Governmental					
FEMA	\$ 405,767	\$ -	\$ 1,467	\$ 1,467	\$ -
Grants	6,526	198,446	197,904	(542)	216,000
State of Vermont Emergency Fund	127,019	-	-	-	-
Vermont Gas Tax	143,456	143,413	143,413	0	143,413
Governmental Total	\$ 682,768	\$ 341,859	\$ 342,784	\$ 925	\$ 359,413
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 17,845	\$ -	\$ 355	\$ 355	\$ -
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 17,845	\$ -	\$ 355	\$ 355	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Revenue	\$ 1,580,242	\$ 1,172,817	\$ 1,141,962	\$ (30,855)	\$ 1,195,717
HIGHWAY FUND Expenses					
Labor & Benefits					
Highway Department Labor	\$ 169,550	\$ 213,954	\$ 192,655	\$ 21,299	\$ 221,926
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	46,828	48,658	48,535	123	50,069
Municipal Retirement	7,856	8,558	7,838	720	9,432
Social Security Tax	14,830	16,367	14,074	2,293	16,977
Workers' Compensation	15,481	15,189	15,189	0	13,536
Labor & Benefits Total	\$ 254,545	\$ 302,726	\$ 278,291	\$ 24,435	\$ 311,940

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

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Contract Services	\$ 1,915	\$ 1,000	\$ 780	\$ 220	\$ 1,000
Materials	4,543	7,000	1,332	5,668	7,000
Recycling	180	500	247	253	500
Sidewalks	6,660	9,000	10,080	(1,080)	9,000
Mowing	8,325	8,325	8,325	-	8,325
Town Garage	22,573	25,505	27,471	(1,966)	26,600
Municipal Roads Permit	-	640	2,230	(1,590)	2,230
Municipal Property Total	\$ 44,197	\$ 51,970	\$ 50,465	\$ 1,505	\$ 54,655
Materials					
Chloride	\$ 15,730	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,263	\$ 3,737	\$ 15,000
Gravel	33,420	31,800	43,765	(11,965)	31,800
Miscellaneous Materials	1,740	30,000	25,412	4,588	30,000
Salt	64,457	60,000	68,847	(8,847)	65,000
Sand	29,853	33,000	31,406	1,594	33,000
Contract Services	37,883	34,600	58,414	(23,814)	25,985
Contract Services-Hauling	-	-	-	-	22,000
Materials Total	\$ 145,200	\$ 204,400	\$ 239,107	\$ (34,707)	\$ 222,785
Bridges					
Bridge Grant Expenditures	\$ 8,157	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ -
Bridge Grant Town Match	87,996	55,000	55,822	(822)	-
Materials	3,588	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Bridges Total	\$ 99,742	\$ 235,000	\$ 230,822	\$ 4,178	\$ 5,000
Paving					
Paving Grant Contract Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000
Paving Grant Expenditures	-	60,511	-	60,511	78,922
Retreatment	25,200	30,000	36,000	(6,000)	33,000
Paving Total	\$ 25,200	\$ 90,511	\$ 36,000	\$ 54,511	\$ 286,922
Grants for Public Works					
Highway Misc. Grants	\$ 2,814	\$ 26,028	\$ 24,441	\$ 1,587	\$ 52,919
Contract Services	-	-	180	(180)	-
Grants for Public Works Total	\$ 2,814	\$ 26,028	\$ 24,621	\$ 1,407	\$ 52,919

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

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed	
Equipment						
Capital Expense	\$ 130,101	\$ 98,630	\$ 45,248	\$ 53,382	\$ 37,383	<i>l</i>
Interest	1,855	695	680	15	695	
Debt Service	51,516	26,728	26,728	0	88,930	<i>m</i>
Gas & Oil	46,446	55,000	49,157	5,843	55,000	
Supplies	29,191	28,000	34,241	(6,241)	23,000	
Insurance	9,973	9,129	10,128	(999)	7,988	
Backhoe Repairs	677	1,000	3,141	(2,141)	5,000	
Grader Repairs	7,579	5,000	5,827	(827)	7,500	
Loader Repairs	1,525	1,000	8,831	(7,831)	3,000	
Mower Repairs	1,616	1,500	298	1,202	2,000	
Truck 1 Repairs	703	3,000	2,061	939	3,000	
Truck 2 Repairs	10,925	10,000	6,086	3,914	10,000	
Truck 3 Repairs	5,586	15,000	5,834	9,166	15,000	
Truck 4 Repairs	18,858	7,500	4,752	2,749	3,000	
Equipment Total	\$ 316,550	\$ 262,182	\$ 203,011	\$ 59,171	\$ 261,496	
FEMA						
Administrative	\$ 5,815	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Contract Services	535,865	-	-	-	-	
Labor	27,953	-	-	-	-	
Materials	12,162	-	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous Expense	1,116	-	-	-	-	
FEMA Total	\$ 582,911	\$ -	\$ 6,616	\$ (6,616)	\$ -	
HIGHWAY FUND Total Expenses	\$ 1,509,042	\$ 1,172,817	\$ 1,068,933	\$ 103,884	\$ 1,195,717	
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 71,200	\$ -	\$ 73,029	\$ 73,029	\$ -	

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

m - Principal payments for loans

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
TOWN GARAGE BOND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 51,438	\$ 47,931	\$ 47,931	\$ -	\$ 46,540
Taxes Total	\$ 51,438	\$ 47,931	\$ 47,931	\$ -	\$ 46,540
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Revenue	\$ 51,438	\$ 47,931	\$ 47,931	\$ -	\$ 46,540
TOWN GARAGE BOND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000 ⁿ
Interest	16,405	12,931	12,931	-	11,540
Bond Total	\$ 51,405	\$ 47,931	\$ 47,931	\$ -	\$ 46,540
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Expenses	\$ 51,405	\$ 47,931	\$ 47,931	\$ -	\$ 46,540
Town Garage Bond Grand Total	\$ 33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 134,340	\$ 132,321	\$ 132,321	\$ -	\$ 130,301
Taxes Total	\$ 134,340	\$ 132,321	\$ 132,321	\$ -	\$ 130,301
HWY RECON BOND Total Revenue	\$ 134,340	\$ 132,321	\$ 132,321	\$ -	\$ 130,301
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 122,222	\$ 122,223	\$ 122,222	\$ 1	\$ 122,223 ⁿ
Interest	12,118	10,098	10,099	(1)	8,078
Bond Total	\$ 134,341	\$ 132,321	\$ 132,321	\$ 0	\$ 130,301
HWY RECON BOND Total Expenses	\$ 134,341	\$ 132,321	\$ 132,321	\$ 0	\$ 130,301
Hwy Recon Bond Grand Total	\$ (1)	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -

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

	2017 Actual	2018 Proposed	2018 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2019 Proposed
TOTALS					
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 91,956	\$ -	\$ 10,670	\$ 10,670	\$ -
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 71,200	\$ -	\$ 73,029	\$ 73,029	\$ -
Town Garage Fund Grand Total	\$ 33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hwy Reconstr. Fund Grand Total	\$ (1)	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -
ALL FUNDS Revenue	\$ 2,366,320	\$ 1,877,982	\$ 1,942,587	\$ 64,605	\$ 1,921,858
ALL FUNDS Expenses	\$ 2,203,133	\$ 1,877,982	\$ 1,858,887	\$ 19,095	\$ 1,921,858
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 163,187	\$ -	\$ 83,700	\$ 83,700	\$ -

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

For Years Ending December 31, 2017 and 2018 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Town Garage	Hwy Reconstr.	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2018	12/31/2017
ASSETS							
Cash	\$ 251,278	\$ 89,853	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 34,854	\$ 395,314	\$ 931,907
Delinquent Tax Receivable	130,032	-	-	-	-	130,032	131,088
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	15,102	-	-	-	-	15,102	12,902
Accounts Receivable	85,715	69,570	-	-	-	155,285	558,383
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 482,127	\$ 159,423	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 34,854	\$ 695,733	\$ 1,634,280
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE							
LIABILITIES							
Deferred Revenue	\$ 108,851	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 108,851	\$ 107,993
Accounts Payable	211,171	21,555	-	-	-	232,726	1,079,589
Accrued Payroll	2,261	5,633	-	-	-	7,895	9,929
Prepaid Taxes	875	-	-	-	-	875	37,751
Logging Bond	-	500	-	-	-	500	500
Due to School District	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,430
Due to Tax Collector	1,876	-	-	-	-	1,876	5,116
Miscellaneous Liabilities	70	-	-	-	-	70	2,125
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 325,104	\$ 27,688	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 352,792	\$ 1,281,433
FUND BALANCE							
Restricted (Note 3)	\$ 110,081	\$ 58,705	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 34,854	\$ 222,970	\$ 251,152
Unrestricted	46,942	73,029	-	-	-	119,971	101,695
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 157,022	\$ 131,735	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 34,854	\$ 342,941	\$ 352,847
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 482,127	\$ 159,423	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 34,854	\$ 695,733	\$ 1,634,280

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

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2017 and 2018

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Town Garage Fund	Hwy Recon Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2017	\$160,808	\$ 137,816	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)
Prior Year Adj (<i>See Note 4</i>)	15,993	-	-	-
Adj. Fund Bal. Dec. 31, 2017	176,801	137,816	19,782	(452)
Transfers Out (<i>See Note 5</i>)	(30,449)	(79,111)	-	-
Revenues	620,373	1,141,962	47,931	132,321
Balances and Additions	\$766,724	\$ 1,200,668	\$ 67,713	\$ 131,869
Expenditures:	(609,702)	(1,068,933)	(47,931)	(132,321)
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2018	\$157,022	\$ 131,735	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2018

2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
August 8, 2019	\$ 22,845	\$ 5,010	\$ 17,836	\$ 121,317
August 8, 2020	22,845	4,379	18,466	102,852
August 8, 2021	22,845	3,703	19,142	83,709
August 8, 2022	22,845	3,014	19,832	63,878
August 8, 2023	22,845	2,300	20,546	43,332
August 8, 2024	22,845	1,564	21,281	22,051
August 8, 2025	22,845	794	22,051	-

*Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$139,153
Mascoma Savings Bank*

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

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
TOWN ENDOWMENTS AND TRUST FUNDS - SELECTMEN, TRUSTEES
 Year Ending December 31, 2018

Fund	Principal	Trust Income Balance 12/31/17	Interest Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Frank Brown Fund	\$ 10,000.00	2,815.08	(25.64)	0.00	13,110.15
Selected Highways	320.71				
James S. Morrill Fund	1,000.00	1,242.68	0.00	0.00	2,242.68
Municipal Building					
James Morrill Fund	3,000.00	1,370.47	0.00	0.00	4,992.74
Selected Highways	622.27				
George Brown Fund	5,000.00	5,332.43	(13.18)	0.00	10,479.61
Town House	160.36				
Francis Dunbar Fund	200.00	1,424.78	0.00	0.00	1,624.78
Cemetery-Flanders Lot					
Howard Robinson Fund	1,000.00	1,075.21	0.00	0.00	2,075.21
Robinson Cemetery					
Ada J. Smith Fund	50.00	278.44	0.00	0.00	328.44
Smith Lot - Old City Cemetery					
TOTAL	\$ 21,353.34	\$ 13,539.09	\$ (38.82)	\$ -	\$ 34,853.61

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Equipment Inventory

- 2014 Western Star 10-Wheeler with MG Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing
- 2011 International 7400 with Everest Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing
- 2017 Ford Ton Truck with 2-way Everest Plow and MG 4-Season Side Dump 550
- 2007 International 5500 4x4 with Everest Side Dump Body and Plow
- 2015 John Deere 544G Loader
- 2015 John Deere 410 Backhoe
- 2012 772G John Deere Grader
- 2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor
- 2005 Dump Trailer
- 1,000 Gallon Aboveground Fuel Tank with Pump
- 2 –Chloride Tanks – 3000 gallon each
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 500 gallon
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 1,000 gallon
- 1 – Motorola Base Radio
- 1 – Lincoln Mig Welder
- 10 – Motorola 16 channel Scan Mobile Radio
- 1 – Yamaha 4500 Generator
- 2 – Motorola 2 channel Hand Held Radios
- 1 – Landa Power Washer
- 1 – 20' x 20' Sand Screen
- 1 – Hydraulic Hose Press
- 1 – Jonsered Chain Saw
- 1 – Culvert Compactor
- 4 – Husqvarna Chain Saws
- 1 – Husqvarna Pole Saw
- 1 – 225 Husqvarna Weed Cutter
- 1 – Desktop Computer
- 1 – 325 Husqvarna Power Broom
- 1 – Printer
- 1 – 8' Sweepster Power Broom

Highway Department Buildings

- Town Garage Building
- Rear Storage Shed – Three bays
- Salt Shed
- Fuel Shed

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Year Ending December 31, 2018

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

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

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

Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS

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

GENERAL FUND:	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2018</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
Reserve-Town House	\$ 15,927.44	\$ 3,514.27	\$ 19,441.71
Reserve-Town House Clock	338.03	-	338.03
Reserve-Town House Spec Proj	42,914.61	(33,601.95)	9,312.66
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	-	829.00	829.00
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2018</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
GENERAL FUND (cont.)			
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	31,465.29	6,678.00	38,143.29
Reserve-Recreation	2,243.00	2,233.71	4,476.71
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	4,075.00	(309.12)	3,765.88
Reserve-Dogs	580.00	300.00	880.00
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	11,802.79	-	11,802.79
Reserve-Pocket Park	24.60	4,317.29	4,341.89
Reserve-Energy Committee	1,572.33	-	1,572.33
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	5,736.77	-	5,736.77
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	1,736.77	772.73	2,509.50
Reserve-Fire Truck	6,920.20	-	6,920.20
Total General Reserve Funds	\$125,346.73	\$ (15,266.07)	\$110,080.66

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2018</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
HIGHWAY FUND:			
Reserve-Equipment	\$ 66,570.43	\$ (7,865.00)	58,705.43
Total Highway Reserve Funds	\$ 66,570.43	\$ (7,865.00)	\$ 58,705.43

Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

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

GENERAL FUND:

Change in deferred revenue \$ 15,992.58

Note 5: TRANSFERS

GENERAL FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$ 30,449.00

HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$ 79,111.00

Note 6: OTHER INDEBTEDNESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of December 31, 2018, is \$77,487.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2018

Grand List				
Real Estate			202,298,200	
Plus Equipment			37,300	
Less Exemption			(160,000)	
Less Current Use			(18,897,800)	
Less Local Agreements			(215,000)	
Total			<u>183,062,700</u>	
Total Listed Value				
Residential			109,132,900	
Special Exemptions			2,550,300	
Non-residential			71,379,500	
Taxes Billed				
			Tax rate	Tax
General Fund	1,830,627.00	x	0.1631	298,575
Highway Fund	1,830,627.00	x	0.3932	719,803
Town Garage	1,830,627.00	x	0.0262	47,962
Hwy Reconstruction	1,830,627.00	x	0.0723	132,354
Local Agreements	1,830,627.00	x	0.0015	2,746
Homestead Educ.	1,091,329.00	x	1.4658	1,599,670
Nonresidential Educ.	713,795.00	x	1.5233	1,087,324
Total				<u>3,888,434</u>
Adjustments to Taxes Due				
Lister errors and omissions				2,272
Current use change				6,868
State Homestead Declaration errors				(106)
Board of Civil Authority abatement				(365)
Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration				(1,719)
Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties				2,017
Total Taxes Due				<u>3,897,402</u>
Taxes accounted for as follows:				
Collections				3,780,868
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2018)				116,534
Total Taxes Collectible				<u><u>3,897,402</u></u>

REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY**2018 Listed Values**

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education Listed Value (Homestead)	Education Listed Value (Nonresidential)	Total Education Listed Value
Residential less than 6 acres	44,665,000	33,838,200	10,826,800	44,665,000
Residential more than 6 acres	99,143,900	66,481,500	32,662,400	99,143,900
Mobile home without land	76,700	25,400	51,300	76,700
Mobile home with land	1,768,100	1,514,000	254,100	1,768,100
Vacation home less than 6 acres	947,300	261,900	685,400	947,300
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,829,000	1,366,000	9,463,000	10,829,000
Commercial	4,428,900	537,700	3,891,200	4,428,900
Commercial Apartments	715,600	-	715,600	715,600
Utilities Electric	6,191,700	-	6,191,700	6,191,700
Farm	14,806,200	8,999,500	5,806,700	14,806,200
Woodland	13,264,400	836,500	12,427,900	13,264,400
Miscellaneous	5,461,400	1,195,600	4,265,800	5,461,400
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	202,298,200	115,056,300	87,241,900	202,298,200
Cable	37,300		37,300	37,300
TOTAL LISTED VALUE	202,335,500	115,056,300	87,279,200	202,335,500
Veterans' Exemptions	(160,000)	(30,000)	(10,000)	(40,000)
Current Use	(18,897,800)	(6,532,500)	(12,365,300)	(18,897,800)
Special Exemptions			(2,550,300)	(2,550,300)
Local Agreements	(215,000)	-	(152,500)	(152,500)
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	183,062,700	108,493,800	72,201,100	180,694,900

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
Year Ending December 31, 2018

Name	Total	Name	Total
32 Downer Forest	\$ 6.52	Llorente, Lauren	484.96
Baldwin, Paul & April	2,779.47	Lord, Edwin	1,821.81
Bucchi, Peter & Linda	1,159.55	Matson, Timothy	554.72
Case, Colyn & Nancy	539.45	Mazzella, Robert & Lisa	1,295.08
Case, Colyn & Nancy	46.86	McPhee, Kevin Sr. & Tanya	1,342.92
Coburn, David	536.81	Moran, Mark/Onega, Tracy	4,776.50
Conant, James, David, Beth	70.92	Mundel, Samuel	862.03
Curley, Erin/MacPhail, Neal	2,476.49	Mundel, Samuel	1,710.44
Deak, Anthony	62.10	Nutting, Robert, Rae, Dillon/ Lacey DiFrancesco	5,720.45
Devlin, Francis	6,655.77	Odell Revocable Trust	1,447.25
Devlin, Francis	9,571.76	Owen, Kate	2,889.78
Dolph, Patrick & Maria	29.66	Rhoads, Jared	55.58
Farina, Chris	21,686.50	Schoelen, Kenneth	1,371.35
Gaudreau, Kevin	1,320.78	Silovich, Donald	12,681.28
Harmon, Mary K	33.72	Stanley, Henry	10,092.59
Jenks, Cheryl/Pixley, Sidney	3,068.56	Stone, Robert	2,145.76
Kendall, Jesse	4,112.91	Traendly, Keefe/Bohman, Yvette	1,043.92
Kerr, Rosalie/Averitt, Dawn	7,705.97	Traudt, Scott & Victoria	2,155.01
Kidder, Christopher	4,982.56	Ward, Dana/Moses, Kristina	5,017.60
Lawrence, Duane Sr.	934.70	Ward, Shawn & Dorothy	2,675.25
Lepenven, Larry & Kristen	977.85	Zagaeski, Theodore	186.35
Lewis, Jeffrey & Casey	942.67		
		Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2018	\$130,032.21

	Total	2018	2017	Prior Years
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2018	\$130,032.21	\$ 94,455.71	\$ 15,854.91	\$ 19,721.59
Plus December Collections	23,449.04	22,077.82	1,371.22	-
	<u>\$153,481.25</u>	<u>\$116,533.53</u>	<u>\$ 17,226.13</u>	<u>\$ 19,721.59</u>

Previously uncollected	\$ 36,947.72
2018 Delinq. Tax Warrant	<u>116,533.53</u>
Total Delinquency	<u><u>\$153,481.25</u></u>

Please Note: Due to legislative changes and a Supreme Court ruling regarding the confidentiality of tax bill information, individual delinquent tax information by year will no longer be reported.

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

Year Ending December 31, 2018

	Total	2018	2017	2016 & prior
Balance January 1, 2018	\$131,088.18		\$93,628.92	\$37,459.26
Delinquent to Collector	116,533.53	116,533.53		
Subtotal	247,621.71	116,533.53	93,628.92	37,459.26
Collections/abatements/discharges	(117,589.50)	(22,077.82)	(77,774.01)	(17,737.67)
Balance December 31, 2018	\$130,032.21	\$94,455.71	\$15,854.91	\$19,721.59

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

2010 - 2018				
	Delinquent Taxes	Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2011	83,451.96	2010	3,345,109.35	2.49%
January 1, 2012	78,579.70	2011	3,342,306.13	2.35%
January 1, 2013	98,441.60	2012	3,331,810.12	2.95%
January 1, 2014	60,587.42	2013	3,409,992.00	1.78%
January 1, 2015	62,386.58	2014	3,703,651.00	1.68%
January 1, 2016	74,804.44	2015	3,785,861.56	1.98%
January 1, 2017	95,605.35	2016	3,899,828.07	2.45%
January 1, 2018	93,628.92	2017	3,866,892.28	2.42%
January 1, 2019	94,455.71	2018	3,897,401.78	2.42%

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

NAME OF CHILD	SEX	DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER'S NAME	FATHER'S NAME
Juliet L. Marchant	F	3/30/18	S. Strafford, VT	Jennie R. M. Marchant	Joshua B. Marchant
Atlas C. L. Landry	M	6/3/18	Randolph, VT	Julia M. Knapp	Christopher D. Landry

Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Logan J. Scelza	Strafford, VT	Kayla M. Miller	Strafford, VT	2/15/2018	Strafford, VT
Margaret C. Weeks	Cambridge, MA	Abraham C. Adams	Cambridge, MA	6/10/2018	Strafford, VT
Lauren E. Harris	Ojai, CA	Travis M. Weedon	Ojai, CA	8/1/2018	Strafford, VT
Erica R. Holm	Strafford, VT	Aaron C. Welch Sr	Strafford, VT	9/29/2018	West Fairlee, VT
John R. Litchfield	Strafford, VT	Kim W. Dyer	Strafford, VT	10/27/2018	Strafford, VT

VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)**Deaths**

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
Mary T. Kendall-Potanas	F	62	Lempster, NH	11/26/2017	Lempster, NH
W. Blake Traendly	M	70	S. Strafford, VT	4/13/2018	S. Strafford, VT
Barbara S. Raives	F	88	Strafford, VT	8/30/2018	Strafford, VT
Anne T. Aversa	F	75	S. Strafford, VT	10/26/2018	S. Strafford, VT
Kathleen L. Campbell	F	95	Strafford, VT	11/20/2018	Strafford, VT

Burials

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
Barbara S. Raives	F	88	Strafford, VT	8/30/2018	Strafford Cemetery
Algernon C. Churchill	M	81	Hanover, NH	9/2/2018	Evergreen Cemetery

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

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

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

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

ANIMAL LICENSING

22	Male dogs
149	Neutered dogs
17	Female dogs
157	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,536.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2013 Market Value	12/31/2014 Market Value	12/31/2015 Market Value	12/31/2016 Market Value	12/31/2017 Market Value	12/31/2018 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 80,796.76	\$ 85,455.99	\$ 85,391.11	\$ 89,925.47	\$ 101,013.92	\$ 91,128.98	\$ (9,884.94)	\$ 2,200.00	\$ (7,684.94)
Gilman	7,921.99	8,574.92	8,718.92	9,386.12	10,773.12	9,953.52	(819.60)	-	(819.60)
Mix	76,305.65	82,594.73	83,981.80	90,408.31	103,768.11	80,873.64	(22,894.47)	15,000.00	(7,894.47)
Newton	92,389.73	99,304.45	100,172.14	107,837.57	121,452.37	112,212.51	(9,239.86)	-	(9,239.86)
Ordway	200,818.21	211,044.55	203,563.77	209,961.01	231,247.33	207,154.49	(24,092.84)	6,500.00	(17,592.84)
Robinson	7,001.95	7,579.05	7,706.33	8,296.04	9,521.96	8,797.55	(724.41)	-	(724.41)
RWW	18,734.70	20,278.80	20,619.36	22,197.20	25,477.32	23,539.06	(1,938.27)	-	(1,938.27)
SCE	5,440.85	5,714.28	5,635.24	5,866.47	6,523.37	5,827.08	(696.29)	200.00	(496.29)
SAA	46,855.76	50,717.59	51,569.33	3,901.46	4,477.99	4,137.31	(340.68)	-	(340.68)
ERF	11,648.34	12,608.39	12,820.13	13,801.16	15,840.58	14,635.46	(1,205.12)	-	(1,205.12)
CST *	346,943.79	370,010.33	370,023.11	390,752.19	438,204.47	396,639.46	(41,565.01)	13,272.27	(33,337.74)
C-B A	-	-	-	51,614.09	58,241.20	52,810.32	(5,430.88)	1,000.00	(4,430.88)
Total	\$894,857.73	\$953,883.07	\$950,201.24	\$1,003,947.08	\$1,126,541.73	\$1,007,709.37	\$ (118,832.36)	\$38,172.27	\$(85,705.09)
Disbursed	13,559.26	14,728.40	19,701.06	69,008.07	25,760.44	38,172.27			

Notes: * \$5,045 in Donations were received by CST for FY18

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds

Change before disbursements and additions

-7.61%

INVESTMENTS

<u>Cash</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Equity Funds</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Mascoma Checking (total of 2 accounts)	\$ 9,560.69	Oakmark International (OAKIX)	\$ 57,389.15
Vanguard Federal MM (VMFXX)	27,731.27	Primecap Odyssey (POAGX)	225,404.57
VT Community Loan Fund	10,000.00	Vanguard Dividend Growth (VDIGX)	107,233.12
Total Cash	4.7% \$ 47,291.96	Vanguard Equity Income (VEIRX)	102,514.57
		Vanguard Extended mkt index (VEXAX)	109,017.61
		Vanguard REIT Index (VGSLX)	57,391.79
<u>Fixed Income</u>		Total Equity Funds	65.4% \$ 658,950.81
Baird Aggregate Bond (BAGIX)	\$ 50,719.59		
Fidelity New Markets Income (FNMIX)	62,240.25		
Met. West TR Bond (MWTRX)	50,819.39		
Morgan Stanley 12m CD (61690UBE9)	16,995.41		
Morgan Stanley 18m CD (61760ARX9)	16,999.49		
Morgan Stanley 24m CD (61690UBK5)	17,024.48		
Vanguard ST Bond (VFSUX)	86,667.99		
Total Fixed Income	29.9% \$ 301,466.60		
Total Cash & Fixed Income	34.6% \$ 348,758.56	End of the year total	100.0% \$ 1,007,709.37

GARDNER N. COBB CHILD WELFARE FUND

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

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD FUND

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

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

A committee, appointed by the Selectboard, recommends recipients annually.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

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

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

ROBERT I. GILMAN AND EVELYN ROBERTS GILMAN TRUST FUND

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

ROBIN MIX MEMORIAL FUND

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

NEWTON FUND

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

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND

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

WALTER C. ROBINSON FUND

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

CARRIE SANBORN TRUST

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

THE STRAFFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND

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

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FUND

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

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The Trustees distributed a total of \$38,172.27 in 2018 from the following Town Funds:

The Carrie Sanborn Trust distributed a total of \$13,272.27 via the CST Committee to provide needed assistance to multiple families and individuals in our community. In addition, this year CST received a combined total of \$5,045 in donations; Neighbors Helping Neighbors donated \$1,045, and 4 Strafford community members each donated \$1,000.

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

The Community-Building Award Fund distributed a total of \$1,000 in 2018:

One \$500 award went to the Strafford Volunteer Fire Department and one \$500 award went to Hazel Lewis. These awards are based on the CBA Committee's recommendation.

The Mix Fund granted \$15,000 to Town of Strafford for the Town House Advisory Group's Town House Spire Restoration Project.

The Ordway fund distributed a total of \$6,500 in 2018:

The three 2018 recipients were each granted a one-time award of \$2,000 for a combined total of \$6,000. One student received a delayed \$500 grant, originally awarded in 2014, in 2018 from a year of deferral.

The Strafford Community Education Fund granted the PTA \$200 to support supplemental programs for the benefit of our Newton Elementary School students.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hawkins

Elizabeth Ruml

Genevieve Gibson

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

The Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee establishes guidelines, evaluates applications and determines award recipients. The awards are funded by proceeds derived from the Trust established by Robert H. Ordway's will. The Trustees of Public Funds manage the Trust and their financial statement and report appear elsewhere in this report.

The committee has developed criteria based on academic achievement, citizenship and character.

High school students must apply by June 1 of their senior year. Application forms may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office. All graduating seniors wishing to further their education beyond the high school level are encouraged to apply.

2018 Awards: Emma Bauer, Hannah Osheyak, Ian Barker

Joey Hawkins Diana Leddy Danette Harris

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD

We are delighted to announce that the Community-Building Award this year has been awarded to two of many deserving recipients: Hazel Lewis and Strafford Fire and Rescue.

The Community Building Award was established when Ned Coffin left a generous bequest with instructions to "award annually to persons and/or organizations who have made major contributions to building a sense of community in the town." Strafford's Trustees of Public Funds manage this fund, and the Selectboard has appointed a committee to annually recommend a deserving person or organization in town. This year, the committee recommended that the annual award be split between two deserving recipients.

Strafford's Fire and Rescue volunteers are an integral part of the community. All residents rely on and benefit from their dedication, willingness to commit hours of their time to training, and their readiness to respond whenever the need arises. Community members are truly grateful to these dedicated volunteers.

Hazel's day-to-day attitude is immensely valuable to the community: her thoughtfulness, generosity and support of "everything Strafford" provides a shining example for how to treat our neighbors. She has touched many lives over the years. It is with great pleasure that we honor her for helping make our community the special place that it is.

BARRETT MEMORIAL HALL

Barrett Memorial Hall continues to serve the Strafford community as a valued meeting place, assembly hall and school auditorium. The building provides space for a variety of ongoing community programs such as the weekly senior lunches, tai chi classes, drumming and dance programs, fitness classes, a winter location for the Universalist Society of Strafford, monthly Lions Club dinners, Drift Skippers' dinners, community informational meetings such as for updates on the mine clean up. Annual events include the Holiday Craft Fair, Hunter's Supper, United Church of Strafford's Rummage Sale and Lord's Acre Dinner and Show.

The Newton School, one of the main users of the Hall, hosts multiple school plays there each year and uses the building as an important overflow area for tutoring students. The school has priority usage of the hall saving the tax payers money by saving the school from having to own and maintain an auditorium of their own, costing thousands more in upkeep and repairs.

Barrett Hall is also a designated emergency shelter for the residents of Strafford. With its generator and full kitchen it is able to operate at any time at a moment's notice in the event of a power outage or other emergency.

The Hall's general operating expenses for heat, electricity, gas, cleaning, annual maintenance (we paint one side of the building each year), ongoing repairs, insurance, plowing, sanding and shoveling in the winter, mowing in the summer, way outstrip the rental funds we charge for the use of the hall. We are able to survive financially through the building's endowment which has been carefully invested in Vanguard index funds and through generous donations from individuals in town. We are truly thankful for their support each year.

In spite of our careful financial management there continue to be major repair and renovation projects that require substantial additional funds. In the past two years, thanks to a very generous bequest from the estate of Ned and Vi Coffin, we have been able to replace old leaky windows in the basement dining area, replace the old shredded stage curtains with new flame resistant theatre drapes. A thoughtful donation from the Strafford Seniors provided the kitchen with a new convection oven.

On the horizon we have several major projects that will require us to conduct a major capital campaign starting this summer. We have received numerous complaints about the dangers, particularly for seniors, walking down from the upper parking lot, especially during slippery winter conditions. We have decided to build a covered stair case down from the parking lot to the rear basement entrance. Tim Utt is generously donating his design services for the project. We hope to have plans in the very near future and an estimate of

the cost. Other anticipated repairs include dealing with a major water leak into the basement and repairs to the rotting columns on the front porch.

We hope you will find an occasion to attend a community event or class at Barrett Hall in the near future and to enjoy one of Strafford's treasures.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert C. Bushway

Gretchen Graner

David McWilliams

Trustees, Barrett Memorial Hall

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

Thanks to support from the town, the Friends of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library and individual donors, the library remains in good financial shape. Our income was down slightly this year and our expenses up a bit, but we maintained a positive operating margin. As has been the case for a number of years, we have been able to keep our request for funding from the town at the same level.

The biggest change at the library this year has been the new leadership provided by Melissa Strayton, who was hired as library director at the end of 2017. The transition went well, Melissa has familiarized herself with the community, and patrons have become accustomed to her welcoming presence. Melissa secured another round of funding from the Turrell Foundation, allowing us to continue offering children's programming after school and during the summer.

Our project to reclaim and make useable the area behind the library has been completed, and the area has been opened up and rendered much more attractive. We invite townspeople to check it out.

The Trustees of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library

Cindy Binzen

Curt Albee

Carol Wilson

Rachel Kurland

Miriam Newman

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2018

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018		\$ 47,425
Income		
Town of Strafford	\$ 34,000	
Friends of the Morrill Library	9,179	
Endowed Funds	1,374	
Grants	2,590	
Donations & Fundraising	9,257	
Transfer from Reserve Fund	2,000	
Miscellaneous Income	2,479	
Total Income		\$ 60,878
Expenses		
Materials and Programs	\$ 7,164	
Personnel	34,502	
Buildings and Grounds	8,703	
Utilities (including telephone)	3,183	
Administration	3,216	
Reserve Fund	500	
Miscellaneous	361	
Total Expenses		\$ 57,629
Ending Balance		\$ 50,674
Reserve Account		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2018		\$ 5,616
Transfer from Reserve		(2,000)
Transfer to Reserve		500
Interest		2
Ending Balance		\$ 4,118

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Value January 1, 2018	\$ 310,227
Transfers to the Operating Fund	
Swan Fund transfer	93
Downer Fund transfer	93
Ordway/Steele Fund transfer	1,187
Subtotal	<u>308,853</u>
Gifts to the Endowment Funds	
Friends of the Library 5/30	800
Subtotal	<u>800</u>
Subtotal	309,653
Market Value December 31, 2018	\$ 294,599

STRAFFORD FIRE AND RESCUE

We would like to begin by thanking the people of Strafford for their continued support. This support, combined with the assistance and support of the Selectboard, allowed for us to include ‘fire engine replacement’ in the equipment replacement schedule portion of the town budget. As our engines are the most vital and most expensive pieces of equipment that we have, this is an important milestone. As such, we are very excited to report that we expect to take delivery of a new fire engine in early spring 2019!

From time to time we get the questions of “how are you governed?” or “who do you belong to?”. The Strafford Firemen’s Association (Strafford Fire and Rescue) is a separate, self-governing entity, independent of the town. We are all volunteers who are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ready to assist you. If your call is medical in nature, we will respond in combination with an ambulance from an area provider as we do not have the means to transport patients to the hospital. If your call is a fire call, our response will depend on the type and size of the call. If it is a small incident, you may get a response from just us. If it is a larger incident, we will respond along with mutual aid from any number of surrounding departments.

In 2018 we responded to a total of 93 calls for assistance. Of these calls, 29 were fire calls and 64 were calls that required a medical response at one level or another. In the first three weeks of 2019, we have already responded to 8 calls. When we are dispatched to either a fire or medical emergency, we are given the road name along with the 911 number. Please make sure that your driveway is marked from both directions with your 911 number and that your number is reflective so that it is clearly visible at night as well.

We are also delighted to announce that we have two newly certified EMTs as well as two more currently taking the EMT class. EMT certification is a very large time commitment requiring approximately 220 hours of training. Each year we also welcome a few new firefighters to the department. If you are considering joining the department at any time please feel free to contact any of the officers listed below.

In September of 2018 we applied for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant with the goal of replacing all 12 of our 15 year old self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). If we are awarded this grant, this will mean over \$104,000 in new equipment that we won’t have to finance through other means.

The following officers were elected at our annual meeting in January: Fire Chief: Shawn Harlow; EMS Chief: Beth Preston; President: Calvin Benjamin; Vice President: Erin Masteller; Secretary: Andrew Lane; Treasurer: Craig Allen. The Board of Directors consists of both Fire and EMS Chiefs, the President as well as BJ Miller, Pat Kelly and Shawn Lewis.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Harlow
Fire Chief

Beth Preston
EMS Chief

**STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
and FIRST AID SQUAD, INC.
January 1 - December 31, 2018**

I. INCOME	Actual
<u>Category</u>	<u>2018</u>
Town Operating Income	\$ 37,000
4th of July	5,985
Donations	9,104
Grant	
Interest	107
Rabies Clinic	1,280
Total Income	\$ 53,476

II. EXPENSES	Amount
<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 11,919
Buildings Repair & Maintenance	1,875
Insurance Auto & Liability	11,200
Miscellaneous	2,405
Electricity	1,580
Phone/Internet	1,240
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	12,130
Fast Supplies	2,404
Heating Oil	4,492
Membership/Dues	3,240
Training	1,440
Total Expenses	\$ 53,926

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2019 is the first year of a two-year biennium for Vermont state government. Two years ago the Governor and the legislative leadership in both the VT House and the Senate were in their first year in these positions and early missteps were evident. We hope the experience of the last two years make for more collaborative work between the three bodies. Of the 148 members of the VT House with whom we serve, half have served for one term or less, while seven of the 14 committees will have new chairs.

While there are many new faces in the VT House, many of the challenges faced in Montpelier will look very familiar in 2019. The legislature will likely be considering bills on:

- Paid family leave insurance
- Weatherization, energy efficiency, and renewable energy production
- Clean water funding
- Alterations to Act 46, the school consolidation law
- Increasing rural access to broadband service
- Toxic substance regulation and liability
- Improvements to Act 250, VT's land use and development statute
- Increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2025
- Allowing the retail sale and commercial production of marijuana
- Expanding mental health and addiction treatment options
- More funding for Pre-K and post-secondary education

In 2019, Vermont will not be faced with some of the excruciating budget challenges faced in recent years, though our state's needs continue to be greater than the budgetary resources to address them. This year we will be debating where to apply a budgetary surplus projected to exceed \$30 million. VT's pension deficit, currently over \$4 billion, will likely receive some of this funding.

At right: An excellent example of historic preservation is the Stone Soup Restaurant in the Upper Village. In 1794, the wing was a store. The two-story addition was built in the mid-1800s. Over the years, the building has housed stores, a craft shop, a pub, and a restaurant.

Tim will be serving in a new role this term as the Chairman of the Energy & Technology Committee, the committee that considers matters related to energy policy, broadband access, and the state's technology investments. Jim serves on the Ways and Means Committee, which has responsibility for revenues of the state, namely the taxes and fees necessary to fund state government.

As always, it is an honor to serve and represent you in Montpelier. We can highly recommend the legislature's website at www.leg.state.vt.us where you will find a tremendous amount of information there about the day-to-day workings of the legislature and its committees. We also make occasional blog postings at www.jimandtimreport.com (you can subscribe at the site).

We look forward to hearing from you, whether in person, by phone, or via email. Our contact information is:

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

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



STRAFFORD AREA LIONS CLUB

The Strafford Area Lions Club was started 32 years ago to both help meet the needs of our community and to be a local component of the largest service organization in the world. Over the years the Lions Club has been very successful in being able to keep things like the swimming pond and ski hill and ski program going, but also in supporting traditional Lions Club causes in the field of Sight and Hearing. In addition the Lions Club has added to our sense of community with monthly dinner programs open to all and by annually honoring a “citizen of the year.” The 2018 Citizen of the Year was Bill Burden.

The Lions Club raises money in a number of ways. This includes an annual variety show as part of the town’s Independence Day celebrations, a pie sale, the annual memory tree, a food from the heart food drive, sale of roses in March and collection of returnables at the recycling center.

Besides running and maintaining the pond and the ski hill, this past year the Lions Club supported the pocket park, recycling center, Health Hub, Conservation Camp, help for individual situations in our community and special projects for the children at the Newton Elementary School. The Club also provided support to the Guide Dog Foundation, the Vermont Hearing Impaired Camp, Vermont Lions Charities, and the Lions Club International Foundation.

This year the Lions Club is being led by President Sue Coburn. She has already put together some fascinating programs for our dinner meetings including one on bears and one with local bird lovers sharing their knowledge. We are always looking for new members who wish to join us in serving our community. If you are interested, please speak to Melvin, Sue, Chrissy or Vince at Coburns Store or any other club member.

We have our business meetings the second Monday of the month September thru November and March thru June at 7:30 pm in Diane White’s room at the Newton School. Dinner meetings are on the 4th Mondays September thru November and March through May at Barrett Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag

Secretary, Strafford Area Lions Club

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 2018 season of the Historical Society began May 6 with a reception at Barrett Hall and a walking tour of historic South Strafford. Accompanying the tour was a booklet of early photos and information on the buildings, along with commentary by long-time resident, Barbara Murray. This event matched the tour of the Upper Village in 2017 and continued the SHS theme noting local early architecture and artifacts. Research on the lower village led to the production of a book, *South Strafford – A Village History*, by Bob Johnston for the Society.

Two discoveries were made in the course of this research. The 1775 house of William Brisco, one of only three original proprietors who actually settled in Strafford and a founder of South Strafford, was revealed as the cottage moved with oxen in 1939 from the Evergreen Cemetery area by Arthur Colby (Arthur Robinson's grandfather) uphill to Turnpike Road, where it was later owned by Jim and Roz Finn.

While searching the Tannery ledger kept by Joseph Barrett in 1821, we may have solved the mystery of a millstone found in the woods at David Paganelli's property on Blanchard Road. The millstone was not near a stream or known mill site, but the ledger records wagon loads of bark (to produce tannin for tanning hides) being sent to and from Blanchard properties, suggesting a bark mill. It would have been run by horse-power in the woods with an upright millstone, ridged on the edges as this one was, instead of on the top surface like a grist mill stone.

Coincidentally, the SHS focus on local architecture was met with a surprise donation of a large, 51-inch-tall, model of the Town House donated to Strafford by Dr. Daniel Maryland of Duluth, Minnesota, an ophthalmologist. He had never been to Strafford, but had a calendar in his office showing the 1799 Meetinghouse. Dr. Maryland obtained Gwenda Smith's book and using photos his daughter took of the interior and exterior, he built the model in great detail. Dr. Maryland, his daughter and granddaughter visited in July, for a grand tour of the Town House by Rocky Fuller.

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society was held at the Town House on August 12, with a memorable talk by William Hosley from the Vermont Humanities Council on "Reading" Places – Art, Architecture, and Gravestones in Early Vermont. We displayed gravestone rubbings of some of the earliest headstones in Old City Cemetery. The Society also honored three residents who had joined the ranks of 90-year-olds and had been interviewed by Martha Walke for a booklet: Lillian Clifford, Ada Race, and Ian Thompson.

Although the regular season of the Historical Society is from May to October, the rooms are always open by appointment, and this November twenty Polish cultural exchange students visited, on a tour given by John Freitag.

The group was led by Jean Essey, daughter of Kate and John Linehan, and the students were hosted by Hanover High School.

This year there have been more than sixty items donated to the SHS collections. Heading the list is a group of thirty scrapbooks given by Hazel Lewis covering 1969 to 1996. John Hemenway, Jr. and the John Hemenway estate donated the 1817-1823 ledger of blacksmith Nathaniel Morrill. The “Morrill Forge” was located in the stone cottage next to the Hemenway home. An interesting collection of town papers, owned by Blanche Judd Roberts, was given SHS by Priscilla Gadzinski and Roberta Parker. Carol Langstaff donated five large masks and eight smaller life-masks from her 1982 production, “Button, Button – a Dream of Nuclear War,” along with related materials. Artifacts found at the 1840 James Moore house (Gile Kendall’s former home), including a teen-size work boot, an ID tag engraved “James Morrill” and a wooden pencil box painted yellow with illustrations of the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition, were given by Karl Johnston. Jessica Tidman gave Tyson Family books and documents. A vintage, full-length dress from the Tyson family was donated by Randy Wilson Coffin. A pair of cream-colored leather and silk high-button shoes, a gift from the Coffin family, are thought to be Ned Coffin’s grandmother’s 1835 wedding shoes. Kip Lindsay contributed three large aerial photos of South Strafford. Jon Gilbert Fox gave SHS a very significant collection of color slides from Strafford, as well as some black and white photos.

To end on a very happy note, Alan Donohue has agreed to be Strafford Historical Society’s official Historian. Alan, a former SHS president, is an attorney familiar with searching deeds and records, who has completed his own family genealogy, and worked extensively on Strafford cemetery records. We look forward to having someone with Alan’s fine qualifications as our Historian.

SHS Board of Directors: Silas Treadway, Francis Devlin, Jenny Mullins, John Whelihan, Susan Cloke, and Martha Walke. Officers: President and Curator Stefanie Johnston; Vice President, John Dumville; Treasurer, Roberta Robinson.

Respectfully submitted,
Stefanie Johnston

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

The Justin Morrill State Historic Site is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), with support from the Friends of the Morrill Homestead (Friends). In 2018, over 1,900 people attended programs, events, and exhibits offered by the Friends, took guided tours of the historic house conducted by VDHP docents, visited the elegant gardens, and hiked the Coburn Trail. Visitors arrived from near and far to learn about Strafford's famous son, Senator Justin Smith Morrill—author of the Land Grant College Acts. All of this was made possible by the efforts of the Friends in offering public programs and maintaining the gardens and orchard, by VDHP's dedication to preserving the buildings and collections, and by the strong support received from the residents of the Town of Strafford, for which we are most grateful. Once again in 2018, support from the Friends made it possible for the VDHP to offer guided tours from Wednesday through Friday each week, in addition to the Saturday and Sunday tours.

It was our pleasure to host many visitors to the Homestead in 2018. The calendar of public events presented by the Friends is produced by board members with help from residents of the Strafford community, VDHP staff, Master Gardeners, and many hard-working and dedicated volunteers. In 2018, the Friends' calendar focused on art, history, and horticulture programs for all ages, including workshops on pruning and grafting fruit trees, medicinal plants and orchard walks, and watercolor workshops and children's camps. "Vermont Days" Open House offered free tours and coincided with a deeply moving homecoming celebration for graduates of Land Grant Colleges and Universities. The annual "Minis for Morrill" Silent Auction and Gallery in the Garden art exhibit was followed by the Fairy House Festival. The Friends partnered with the VDHP to create a groundbreaking interpretive exhibit, "And Justice for All: Justin Morrill and the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution," complimented by "We The People," a lively and inspirational speech by Dr. Shirley A. Jefferson and panel discussion in the Town House. The season rounded out with the spectacular 19th Century Apple & Cheese Harvest Festival.

Restoration of Morrill's historic orchard continued in 2018. This fall Friends and volunteers transplanted young trees grafted from the seven trees originally planted by the Morrill family, thus replacing the declining old trees with a new generation of genetically identical offspring. The Friends greatly appreciate the financial support from individuals, area businesses, and foundations whose generosity made possible the orchard restoration, and indeed all of our activities.

2019 is shaping up to be another exciting season at the Homestead! Please join the Friends for an Open House including free admission for guided house tours on June 9. The Minis for Morrill auction and opening of the Gallery in the Garden art exhibit, "Reflections" will take place on July 5. The ever-popular Apple & Cheese Harvest Festival will be held on

September 29. For full descriptions of our many 2019 programs, events, and exhibits for all ages on art, horticulture, history, and gardening, please visit the Friends' website (www.morrillhomestead.org).

Guided tours of Morrill's historic Gothic Revival cottage will run from Memorial Day weekend through October 13, 10:00am-5:00pm, Wednesday - Sunday. We look forward to seeing you and your families in 2019. Again, we would like to thank our neighbors and friends for your continued support of our endeavors!

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

Respectfully Submitted

Tracey McFadden, Director

Peter Floeckher, Board Chair

CABIN FEVER UNIVERSITY

Cabin Fever University, Strafford's institute of random learning, is a nonprofit adult education program based in Strafford. Established in 1995 by Eva Behrens, CFU focuses on the wealth of knowledge and experience among local people. Eva observed that craftspeople, artists, seasoned travelers, and tech wizards populate our community. With neighbors as faculty members, CFU provides affordable classes and workshops, offering enrichment and recreational opportunities while building a stronger community.

Though Eva passed away in 2014, her initiative lives on. CFU continues with fun and whimsical offerings in March and April each year. Classes from the 2018 season included Cake Design, Intro to Drumming, Ukrainian Egg Decoration, Organizing Files on a Personal Device, Chair Caning, and Pâte à Choux. Presentations included Advanced Backyard Composting and Soil Health Management. A Cabin F'Eva Jam in mid-March was a musical celebration of mud and ice in Strafford. The Cabin Fever Travel Slide Show Series, a much valued and treasured component of the season, featured presentations on Peru, the Yukon River, and Cuba by Bicycle.

Classes and workshops take place at the Newton School, Barrett Hall, Morrill Library, and at private homes. At this institution, any topic is possible. The workshops are a wonderful chance to meet and learn from our neighbors. We welcome volunteers, as well as ideas for new or rerun classes.

Leslie Berger, Therese Linehan, and Barbara Masteller are the current board members. Contact one of us with your ideas or wishes.

Website: www.cabinfever.org

Contact: info@cabinfever.org

STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

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

Also, we are once again a Vermont pre-qualified preschool program within Act 166. As such, every child aged 3, 4 and 5 years old by September 1st, 2018 enrolled at Creative Preschool is able to receive 10 hours a week, 35 weeks a year of free instruction, regardless of parental income or circumstance.

Our playground saw some big changes this summer. We took down a few of the structures in order to keep up with current state requirements. We reworked the space to more accurately reflect the wants and needs of both our team members and our children- adding a merry-go-cycle, new spring riders and a new play house. We expanded the playground with a new fence, not only increasing the square footage of the playground, but including some trees in to the fenced in area as well!

On our to-do-list this year is planning for our Third Annual Cow Pie Bingo fundraiser. Last year's successful event was again graciously held at the Strafford Village Farm. We had a great turnout, especially considering the morning rain showers, and we were able to raise over \$3,500 for Creative Preschool! As our main fundraiser, our hope each year is that we will raise enough funds to keep any tuition increase reasonable while also keeping up with our basic operating needs, such as rent, food, maintenance, supplies, and wages. Please stay tuned for information regarding the date and time of our Third Annual Cow Pie Bingo!

Respectfully submitted,
Creative Preschool Board

HEALTHHUB

At the Newton School, HealthHUB provides medical care to school children and dental hygiene services to children and adults. Nurse practitioner Ellen Gnaedinger, APRN provides well-child, sick and chronic care visits, flu shots and other immunizations, and medication monitoring.

Our dental hygienist Janine Reeves provides preventative oral healthcare with most being seen twice during the school year. Services provided are cleanings, digital x-rays, sealants, and fluoride treatments. Services are also open to adults, with many not having dental insurance but qualifying for our sliding fee scale.

While many of the children have insurance coverage, most have Medicaid that pays approximately 60% of our costs. We rely on grants, fundraising and town appropriations to meet our budget. With your help, we can continue to provide care to those with limited access to medical and dental hygiene services. We go to where the children are – at school – so transportation is no longer a barrier to care. And offering dental hygiene in your community brings the service closer to home for many adults. For more information, please visit healthhubvt.org and like us on Facebook.



THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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

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

The plots are sold in two sizes, half or full plot. The purchase of any plot includes four corner stones, to be installed by the Association. Before any burial or installation of monuments or headstones, the Sexton should be contacted to discuss location and rules. Only one monument is permitted per plot.

We also ask that all artificial flowers be removed by September 15th, and no solar devices be placed on the graves. No green burials will be allowed. The association does provide small flags for the veterans' graves, which now number upward of eighty-three. If anyone knows of a veteran's grave that does not have a flag on it, please notify any member of the Association.

Notices of meetings (four regular meetings per year) are posted at Coburn's Store, Town Clerk's office, and the Strafford Post Office.

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

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

At left: Nathaniel Morrill's 1807 blacksmith shop on Brook Road has been through both fire and flood. Today, it stands restored as a comfortable residence.

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK

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

At the end of 2018, 685 miles of fiber-optic network have been built and "lit" in parts of 21 member towns, serving over 3,200 customers, including 294 in Strafford with the fiber-optic network available along 68 miles of town roads.

ECFiber construction projects in Strafford are nearly all complete and there are still a few upgrades planned on some of the original fiber to accommodate more subscribers than had been planned for. Additionally, storm-related issues have arisen from time to time, but often return to service is dependent on prior restoration of electrical power by the utility.

In 2019, ECFiber will raise its basic service offerings to 25, 50, 200 and 700 Mbps symmetrical – again raising speeds without raising prices. ECFiber also plans to continue to raise capital through the municipal bond market in 2019 and beyond in order to complete 1,400 miles of network covering all underserved locations in its 24 towns by 2022.

ECFiber is pleased to offer:

Reliable high Internet speeds, which are symmetrical (the same in each direction) and are not "up to" as offered by other providers.

- Simple, stable pricing with no contracts, fine print, or data caps.
- Local and personable customer service with phones answered by an employee during business hours without an automated queue.
- Local ownership and control – Governing Board members meet monthly to set policy and are actively involved in promoting ECFiber within the community.



At right: In 1894, Benjamin Quimby had this store built directly across the street. Eight years later it was moved to its present location; local oral history says a meeting was held inside as it was being moved. It is still an important part of South Strafford Village's business district.

- Valued community services. For example, ECFiber offers over 55 community anchor institutions (schools, town facilities, and libraries) its highest level of service at the cost of basic residential service.

For additional information please contact one of your ECFiber Representatives at strafford@ecfiber.net or to subscribe go directly to ECFiber.net.

ECFiber delegates: Steve Willbanks, David Webb and Chuck Sherman



VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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

In FY2018 (10/2017-9/2018), VCIL responded to over 3,700 requests from individuals, agencies, and community groups for information, referral and assistance, and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors provided one-on-one peer counseling to 315 individuals to help increase their independent living skills, and 11 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program assisted 149 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 83 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 87 individuals with information on assistive technology; 45 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 532 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. VCIL is also now home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, which served 41 people and provided 33 peers with adaptive telecommunications, enabling low-income deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland, and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Windham County office now houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (previously under the Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English, and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil, and recreational settings.

During FY2018, 2 residents of Strafford received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (modification begun in FY2018 will be completed in FY2019)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling Program
- AgrAbility Program
- Information, Referral, and Assistance

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at 1-800-639-1522, or visit our web site at www.vcil.org.

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

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

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

Some of the options we make available include:

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

During the last year, Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more of the above services to 46 Strafford and South Strafford residents. Case Manager Karen Eddy is designated to work directly with the seniors in Strafford. Central Vermont Council on Aging devoted a total of 411 hours of service to Strafford and South Strafford seniors.

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

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

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

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

Strafford is served by learning centers in Randolph and Bradford. Each site has welcoming learning rooms (each with computers and internet access to support instruction). CVABE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

CVABE provides ongoing outreach to town residents. Over the last decade, an average of one Strafford resident has enrolled annually in CVABE's free programs. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving one's job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more. As parents gain literacy, their children are twice as likely to grow up literate themselves.

CVABE provides free instruction to nearly 500 people annually in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVABE \$3,055 per student to provide a full year of instruction. Nearly all students are low income. Over 100 community volunteers work with CVABE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Strafford's voter-approved past support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVABE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the many neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information about CVABE's basic education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, please contact:

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

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

www.cvabe.org

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

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

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

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, VNH made 737 homecare visits to 28 Strafford residents. This includes approximately \$21,924 in unreimbursed care to Strafford residents.

Home HealthCare: 411 home visits to 23 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.

- Hospice Services: 304 home visits to 3 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.
- Skilled Pediatric Care: 22 home visits to 2 residents for well-baby, preventative, and palliative medical care.

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

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

Sincerely,
Hilary Davis, Director
Community Relations & Development
1-888-300-8853

SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

The South Royalton Area Senior Citizen Center (SRASCC) serves the towns of Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. Many times seniors from other towns will come to the center for meals and other activities; all are always welcome. To qualify as a senior, you must be 60 years old or older.

The Board of Directors is composed of three representatives from each of the four towns. Sue Pirie is the director for both meal sites: in South Strafford at Barrett Hall, serving meals on Wednesday, and at the Royalton

Academy building in Royalton, serving meals on Tuesday and Thursday. We are fortunate to have Ed Eastman as the cook for Strafford and Mary Lamb as the cook for Royalton. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional requirement. We served a total of 13,776 meals for the year 2017-2018. The food cost per meal was \$2.01, total cost per meal \$9.09.

Each year fundraisers are held to help raise money for the services and trips. Fundraisers include raffles, half of the proceeds from the Thrift Shop, and an annual craft sale held on the first Saturday of December at the Royalton Academy building in Royalton, Vermont. We put jars out to area businesses to collect change to be used to help defray the expenses of the rising cost of meals on wheels and running the senior centers.

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

The Royalton Coop Market pays for any senior who attends the Royalton meal site for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month. The Willing Hands donated approximately 4,100 pounds of fresh produce and 150 dozen eggs to the senior meal sites this year. Panera Bakery donated bread, sweets, and bagels. Several local farms also donate lots of fresh produce and fruit. We thank them all.

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

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

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

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

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

At the Vermont Department of Health our twelve Local Health District Offices around the state provide health services and promote wellness for all Vermonters.

Your local office is in White River Junction at the address and phone number above. Available to help individuals and families at worksites, schools, town meetings, or by appointment, we work hard to provide you with knowledgeable and accessible care, resources, and services. We also partner with local organizations and health care providers to ensure we're equipped to respond to the community's needs. In 2018, we worked in partnership with communities to:

Increase capacity statewide to prevent underage and binge drinking and reduce prescription drug misuse and marijuana with Regional Prevention Partnerships (RPP).

- Prevent and control the spread of infectious disease. In 2018 we spent \$13,729,406 on vaccines provided at no cost to healthcare providers around the state to make sure children and adults are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. We also responded to 244 cases of infectious disease.
- Promote wellness by focusing on walking and biking safety, reducing tobacco exposure, and increasing access to healthy foods through the implementation of local projects and municipal strategies.
- Support healthy families by helping kids stay connected with providers and dentists following transfer into foster care.
- Serve families and children with the Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Education and Food Supplementation Program. In 2018, we served over 11,000 families.
- Provide trainings on Help Me Grow to Healthcare and Early Childhood Education Providers to support improved access to resources and services for parents and families with young children.
- Share new data and reports including the Vermont Lead in School Drinking Water Testing Pilot Report which is helping Vermonters understand and address the risk of lead in school drinking water, and the Injury and Violence in Vermont report, which is shedding light on the risk of suicide among youths.
- Work with businesses in planning and starting worksite wellness strategies to improve on-the-job opportunities for health for local residents, including creating Breastfeeding Friendly locations to support growing families.

- Work with local partners, including, schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel, to ensure we are prepared to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during a public health emergency.
- Improve understanding of how to stay healthy at work, home, and in the community through initiatives and resources related to 3-4-50, Help Me Grow, WIC, Building Bright Futures, Be Tick Smart, 802Quits, and the Breastfeeding Friendly Employer project.

Learn more about what we do on the web at www.healthvermont.gov

PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL OF THE UPPER VALLEY

Thank you to the residents of Strafford for supporting the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (PHC) in 2018.

The PHC has quickly become the largest and broadest coalition of advocates on public health issues in the greater Upper Valley region. The PHC is a dynamic organization with the flexibility to forge solutions that respond to the needs of its grassroot members with backing from governmental, philanthropic, and health care institutions. Through regular meetings and ongoing initiatives, the PHC empowers organizations, professionals, and citizens, who together make our communities healthier and better places to live, work, and play.

In 2018, PHC staff and partners worked together to address substance misuse, healthy eating, oral health, and other concerns for the region. The PHC supported a number of collaborative initiatives such as:

- Provided supportive housing for pregnant and parenting women in early recovery from opioid addiction.
- Expanded availability of summer meal programs for children in the region.
- Hosted a forum for 49 school personnel and area service providers to better match student needs with resources available in the community.
- Hosted a Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults training for 29 people who work with older adults as volunteers or as professionals to help them recognize the signs of mental illness in older adults and understand how to help them
- Brought together 18 people to explore the role of the Town Welfare/Support Officer and share ideas to do this work more effectively. Attendees requested the meetings be continued on a biannual basis.
- Hosted five flu clinics in rural communities across our region, providing over 1,100 free vaccines.

PHC greatly appreciates the support we receive from Strafford and will continue to work hard to meet your needs in 2019. For more information about PHC, visit us at www.uvpublichealth.org.

SAFELINE

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

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, Safeline's staff and volunteers provided 2,383 services for 334 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. 50 services were provided for 4 victims who identified themselves residents of Strafford. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety. Most of the victims have children within their family.

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

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking. This past year, we co-facilitated a six-week series of a survivor group at High Horses Therapy organization. Also, Safeline's staff provided a workshop on Elder Abuse at the Senior Meal site.

We thank the voters of Strafford for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse.

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

As one of 10 Designated Agencies in the state of Vermont, Clara Martin Center provides mental health and addiction recovery services for Orange County and the greater Upper Valley area.

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.

The agency continues to work with a wide variety of local partners to enhance community health and wellness including Stagecoach, local police depart-

ments, primary care providers, schools and supervisory unions, the Chelsea Health Center Board and local officials, to name a few.

With 50 years of experience and leadership under our belt, we remain positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve, such as the opiate crisis. Clara Martin Center is at the forefront of this epidemic, providing help to those in the community dealing with this problem.

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

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

<u>FY2018</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	543	7
School Services	103	0
JOBS	104	0
Adult Services	595	5
CSP Services*	170	0
Supportive and Transitional Housing	31	0
Substance Abuse Services	537	6
Corrections Services	60	0
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	460	3
Access	1,179	15
Total Served by Program (unduplicated)	2,234	21
CVSAS	632	0

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

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

VLCT’s mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 139 other municipal entities, including villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts.

Local governments in Vermont provide essential services to residents and visitors alike. From managing budgets, conducting elections, assessing property and maintaining roads to providing public safety services,

recreational programs, water and sewer infrastructure, street lighting, and libraries, the work carried out by appointed and elected officials and community volunteers is both critical and challenging. The demands on local government are complex and require resources that are not always available in every city, town or village in the state.

VLCT provides legal, consulting, and education services to its members, offering important advice and responses to direct inquiries, as well as training programs on specific topics of concern to officials as they carry out the duties required by statute or directed by town meeting voters. We represent cities and towns before the state legislature and state agencies, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and their needs are met. VLCT also advocates at the federal level, primarily through its partner, the National League of Cities, and directly with Vermont's Congressional delegation.

VLCT offers opportunities to purchase risk management and products and services that directly meet the specific and specialized needs of local government through the VLCT Employee Resource and Benefit Trust and the VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund.

During the 2018 calendar year, *VLCT News* converted to a magazine-style publication from its newsletter format, with the intent to provide more content and diverse information in each edition.

VLCT also finalized the details of moving its digital data to the "cloud," thereby increasing operational efficiency and enhancing cybersecurity and redundant protection of information. This move also reduced the need to acquire, maintain, and replace costly capital equipment. Improvements to the website are ongoing, and in concert with this effort is the research into a new customer relations management system, designed to help VLCT provide important information to members, but also to simplify ways that members provide information to VLCT that is shared among all municipalities.

VLCT conducted a series of Listening Sessions in 12 communities around the state to hear directly from local officials about services received from VLCT and whether any changes are needed, including whether new services should be initiated or outdated ones eliminated. Further discussions will be held with the Board of Directors. Members will be kept apprised of progress in setting future goals and priorities.

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

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

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

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

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

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

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

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

Clay Odell, Executive Director

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission is an association of thirty municipalities in east-central Vermont that is governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our member towns. As advocates for our member towns, we seek to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the Region's quality of life. The following are highlights from 2018:

Technical Assistance

Our staff provided technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region's citizens, non-profits, and businesses. TRORC staff assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies, and assisted towns with Municipal Planning Grant applications.

Creative Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC received a USDA Rural Development Grant to support the Region's creative economy. Staff hosted several Cornerstone Creative Community of Vermont steering committee meetings, as well as informational and networking events. TRORC also worked on several public health projects, including health planning and food access.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

TRORC conducted a Hazardous Materials Statewide Commodity Flow Study to inform and update emergency response plans, hazard analysis, and response procedures. Our Local Emergency Planning Committee efforts with local emergency responders and town officials continue across the Region. TRORC has been preparing the final municipal Hazard Mitigation Plans in the TRO Region. Staff participated in developing municipal Local Emergency Management Plans.

Municipal Energy Plans

During this second year of energy plan funding, TRORC assisted five more towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to further the state energy goals to meet 90% of Vermont's energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. Towns meeting Energy Planning Standards receive a Determination of Energy Compliance and receive Substantial Deference on their input under the Section 248 review process for electricity generation facilities.

Transportation

TRORC is managing the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)'s Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid program in our Region. This provides funding for towns to implement Best Management Practices on municipal roads ahead of the state's forthcoming Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) provisions. We have 29/32 municipalities participating

with \$460,000 grant funding in the Region to construct projects including grass and stone-lined ditches, improvement and replacement of culverts, and stabilizing catch basin outlets. TRORC continues to seek and obtain VTrans grants under many state grant programs.

Specifically in Strafford this past year, we assisted with energy planning, completed the road erosion inventory per the DEC's MRGP standards, and prepared a VTrans Better Roads Grant application for Pennock Road. We also reported completion of Maple Hill Road ditching for the DEC's Municipal Roads Grants in Aid program, and selected Mundel Road ditching for year two of that DEC's Municipal Roads Grants in Aid program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
Jerry Fredrickson, Chairperson, Barnard

COUNTY OF ORANGE

This report highlights the activities and expenses of Orange County during the county's 2018 fiscal year (February 1, 2018 - January 31, 2019).

County Support for the Sheriff's Department

The Orange County budget supports basic operations at the Sheriff's Department except the salaries of the Sheriff and deputies. The Sheriff's department budget accounts for about 63% of the total county budget. During 2018 the county addressed deterioration of the external gasoline fuel tank set-up. A new tank and concrete pad were installed with a spill barrier. Inside the building the hot water heater needed replacement. The county also took the first step to look at what might be needed to optimize the use of the building and redesign a public entrance. Vermont Architects Collaborative prepared some preliminary designs and discussions will continue through 2019 about the feasibility of this project. The Sheriff's Department is staffed 24/7 so as to provide safety to court staff and those seeking help after hours, especially regarding domestic violence situations. Improvements to the building would provide much better service to the public. Costs for 24/7 staffing are shared between the county and the Sheriff's law enforcement budget. An attempt is made to level-fund the Sheriff's department budget as appropriate. Staffing costs are the main source of budget increases.

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

County Courthouse

The primary driver of increases in the courthouse budget are the costs of maintenance and building improvements. During the summer of 2018 an

emergency generator was installed behind the courthouse which means that court will no longer be canceled in the case of a power outage. The funds for the generator were taken from the county capital reserve fund. The north side of the courthouse was repainted and the shutters repaired and painted using funds budgeted for that purpose.

Annual contributions to the Capital Reserve Fund mean that a savings account exists for large expenditures. That fund was used to pay for the fuel tank project at the Sheriff's Department as well as for the architect's design. This fund needs replenishment as it seems that there are always unexpected needs when trying to keep old buildings in good repair. In the fall it was determined that the oldest parts of the air conditioning system in the courthouse need to be replaced in spring 2019. This will involve using a crane to remove the old units from the attic and hoist up the replacements. The plan is to use capital reserve funds that for that project as well.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce McKeeman
Assistant Judge from Corinth

Vickie Weiss
Assistant Judge from Tunbridge

ORANGE COUNTY COURT DIVERSION

The Orange County Court Diversion (OCCD) is a community based restorative justice program, offering cost-effective alternatives to the criminal and civil court system. Our programs include:

- **Court Diversion** for youth and adults referred by the State's Attorney who are facing criminal charges in court. A Restorative Panel, comprised of volunteers, works with clients to address the harm they caused to victims and the community, while working on underlying factors that contributed to the criminal act. Clients must take responsibility for their actions and be accountable for completing a contract that they develop with the Restorative Panel. Approximately 90% of the clients successfully complete our Court Diversion program. Those who fail have their cases returned to court for prosecution.
- **Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program (YSASP)** for youth receiving civil complaints for underage alcohol or marijuana possession;
- **Driver's License Suspension Program**, helping Vermonters reinstate their licenses through income-sensitive fine repayment plans;
- **Pre-Trial Services Program**, providing support and services related to mental health and substance abuse for adults facing charges in criminal court.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018, 214 clients were referred for services, a 17% increase from the previous year. Of those, 92 were referred from juvenile and adult court for criminal offenses, 70 were referred for YSASP, 5 for DLS, and 47 were referred for Pre-Trial Services. With few exceptions, all cases involved offenses that occurred in Orange County. During FY2018, OCCD worked with 1 case in which the offender either resided in Strafford, and/or the offense occurred in Strafford.

OCCD's FY2018 operating budget was \$119,007. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. Strafford appropriated \$200 for FY2018 to support OCCD. OCCD requests a modest increase to \$240 for FY2019.

Thank you for your continued support. For additional information, contact Jessica Schmidt, Executive Director, Orange County Court Diversion, at 802-685-3172 or jessie@occdp.org.

STRAFFORD RECYCLING

The big news in recycling for the past year is that everything costs noticeably more. In 2018 the town spent \$3,724.98 more on recycling than in 2017. (The total operating cost was \$15,390.08.) This was due entirely to the change in the markets for recycled materials. What we had been getting a bit of money for, we started having to pay to have people take. What we had been paying for, we started paying more for. What we got some money for, we got less. This seems to have been triggered by China, and then other countries, no longer taking the recyclable material generated in the U.S., Europe and other places. It also revealed the lack of industrial capacity in the U.S. to recycle on our own. How this will play out over time is unknown. At the moment, the increases in costs have seemed to level out. The 2019 recycling budget is based on the assumption that this year will continue at the current level. Stay tuned.

Some more positive aspects of recycling in the past year were the introduction of food scrap collection and of plastic bag collection. Food scrap collection actually started in the Fall of 2017, but this was our first full year of experience with it. On July 1, 2020 individual households are no longer supposed to put food scraps in trash for the landfill. Our current food scrap collection is in preparation for that situation. Households are encouraged to compost their food scraps, as many people in town already do. But home composting of meat scraps is difficult. The collection at the Recycling Center does take meat scraps which are hauled to a larger scale operation in Corinth which can handle the composting properly. The food scrap collection has been funded through the end of 2018 by a grant arranged by Dori Wolfe. Our experience has shown the cost is reasonable and so the town has taken on the cost in the 2019 recycling budget.

At the suggestion of some people in town, we have also taken on plastic bag recycling as an additional item collected at the Recycling Center. This material is put into Hannaford's collection system and eventually goes to Trex to go into plastic decking boards. At the moment we are dependent on Rebecca Seibel to take the material down to Hannaford's. She is one of many people whose volunteer efforts are what make recycling happen in Strafford. We are always looking for additional volunteers. For instance, it would be good to have someone to give Rebecca a week off some times. We are always looking for new Recycling Committee members to talk about policy, but mainly to do behind the scenes work at recycling like moving snow and shipping fluorescent light bulbs. And we are always looking for more volunteers to help out on Saturday mornings (4 times a year).

Contact me about volunteering or anything else (to do with recycling).

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Scanlan, Chair

for the Recycling Committee (Vince Robinson, David Harris, Scott Moore)

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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

Direct services provided by GUV to Strafford and District residents in fiscal year 2018:

- Events were held in Norwich, Thetford, Sharon, Strafford, Vershire, Woodstock, and Hartford where we collected 15.6 tons of tires; 1.2 tons of scrap metal; 5.7 tons of electronics; 11.6 tons of “big” trash/construction & demolition debris; and thousands of fluorescent bulbs and batteries.
- 409 GUV residents (12 from Strafford) participated in household hazardous waste events held in Norwich in September 2017, Vershire in October 2017, and Hartford in June 2018. 11.1 tons of hazardous material were collected, including 1,456 gallons of paint.
- GUV staff provided assistance with battery and fluorescent bulb collection throughout the year as well as distributing updated recycling literature at both collection events.
- 145 GUV residents attended our four backyard composting workshops where we sold 88 Soil Saver composters and 55 Sure-Close food scrap pails.

In FY2018, Steve Willbanks represented Strafford on the GUVSWMD Board of Supervisors. We thank him for his long-term dedication and support of our work. We would also like to thank the terrific team of volunteers who help us with collection events and recycling of batteries and fluorescent bulbs.

At right: This house on the Common was built by Daniel Robinson and his son Zadock in 1792, where it served as an inn and tavern. In the 1970s, the house was purchased by John Hemenway, who had it carefully restored, preserving its original historic elements.

Tips to remember:

- The next household hazardous waste collection will be Saturday, June 1, 2019 at the Hartford Recycling Center. Stay tuned for other 2019 HHW dates and locations.
- Recycle paint, fluorescent bulbs, and all batteries (except vehicle) at the transfer station. Visit www.paintcare.org or www.call2recycle.org/vermont/ for more info.
- Food scraps will be banned from residential trash as of July 1, 2020.

The District's 2019 *What To Do With...* guide and collection event schedule will be available at Town Meeting, the Town Clerk's office, or at www.guvsd.org. For information, contact Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474 or hgillett@swcrpc.org.



STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

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

TOWN OFFICE: 765-4411 ~ TownClerk@StraffordVT.org

LISTERS: 765-4360 ~ Listers@StraffordVT.org

TOWN GARAGE: 765-4550

www.straffordvt.org

Board Meetings

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

*Subject to change –check www.straffordvt.org or
call the Town Office for current Selectboard meeting times*

Planning Commission – Education Center at Morrill Homestead –
Third Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Development Review Board – Town Office – Third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9 1 1

Orange County Sheriff: 685-4875

STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon – South Strafford Substation

Durkee Rubbish Collection - 765-4308

STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY

Monday 1:00 - 8:00 p.m. ~ Wednesday 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ~ Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

765-4037 ~ StraffordLibrary@gmail.com

www.StraffordLibrary.org

LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

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