

STRAFFORD, VERMONT  
TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2016

# HISTORICAL NOTE

## STRAFFORD'S HISTORIC UPPER VILLAGE

Strafford's Upper Village is listed on the National Register as an Historic District for its concentration of intact early architecture. Some of the most historic structures include lawyer Daniel Cobb's house (recently Nancy Gerlach's); early settler Daniel Robinson's Strafford Inn and Tavern (recently Ned Coffin's); Judge Jedediah H. Harris's home (recently Gwenda Smith's); blacksmith Nathaniel Morrill's home and blacksmith shop (now Hemenways'); and two early stores: the Brick Store (now Phoebe Mix's) and the White Store (Stone Soup Restaurant now William Milne's and Gil Robertson's). Some of these beautiful historic structures have potential for new ownership. All of them are very important to Strafford's heritage, and their history deserves to be recognized, understood, treasured, and preserved.

The Town House has always dominated the settlement originally known as "the village at the White Meetinghouse." After more than 200 years, this iconic structure is in need of repair to its tower and spire. A major fundraising initiative is being launched in 2017 to meet this urgent need as part of an effort to preserve the historic architecture of the Upper Village.

When Strafford's Meetinghouse was constructed in 1799, there was very little else in the neighborhood. Much of the land on which the present Upper Village stands had been deeded in 1776 to Enoch Bean, a miller who built a mill dam and carding mill (to prepare raw wool for spinning and weaving) on the stream behind the site of the future Meetinghouse. By 1778, Bean had also built a small, 1½-storey home, which later (1814) became the center of what

is known as the Cobb house. Caught up in the turmoil of the Revolutionary War, Enoch Bean lost his 350 acres of land, his farm, mill, and home to a false lawsuit brought against him because, being a Quaker and opposed to war, he was considered a Loyalist to the British cause. His property was sold to settle the suit. The new owner was Daniel Robinson, a cabinetmaker who came to Strafford in 1788 from Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Daniel Robinson and his family lived in Enoch Bean's modest house (recorded in Robinson family legend as a log home) in the 1790s while Daniel and his sons built the impressive 2½-storey inn with Palladian window (recently Ned Coffin's) across the Common, as well as a small store next to it (Stone Soup Restaurant's current wing). Daniel Robinson's inn and store, and Enoch Bean's house were the only substantial structures in the area when the White Meetinghouse was being built in 1799. Many of the workers boarded at Daniel Robinson's inn while they were on that job; his store provided building materials, and his tavern supplied workers with rum and victuals. Daniel Robinson, himself, was one of the supervisors of the construction, holding planning sessions at the inn, and hosting Town Meeting later, when it was too cold in the unheated Meetinghouse. Graced with a 'ballroom' across the entire second floor front of the building, the inn had ample space, with fireplaces at each end, to accommodate a large gathering. Daniel Robinson had intended to donate the land for the Meetinghouse and Common to the town, but changed his mind because of a disagreement, so it was two of Daniel

*Continued on inside back cover*

*Front cover: The Daniel Robinson House, built c. 1790  
as an inn and tavern, was restored in 1972 by John Hemenway,  
before its purchase by Vi and Ned Coffin.*

*Continued from inside front cover*

Robinson's sons who, in 1802, deeded the land for the Town House and Common to the town for \$3.00. The Meetinghouse had already been constructed on the land in question three years previously.

For three more years this large inn, the adjacent small store, and the small structure of the former Enoch Bean house stood alone with the Meetinghouse at the Common. Then in 1805, Nathaniel Morrill constructed a small home, with an unusual corner fireplace, in the hillside across the stream from the Meetinghouse. And, in 1807 he bought water rights to build a water-powered blacksmith shop next to the dam. After his marriage in 1806, Nathaniel Morrill enlarged his house, adding the attractive 2½-storey front section. The dwelling (now Hemenways') was the boyhood home of the future senator, Justin Smith Morrill. The late John Hemenway not only carefully preserved the original features of his own house, but also restored the Daniel Robinson house in 1972 prior to its purchase by Ned and Vi Coffin.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the Common, Apollos Robinson, a son of Daniel, had built in 1805 a small house (the center section of the late Gwenda Smith's home). But, plagued by debts, Apollos Robinson soon lost the property to John Harris of Plainfield, New Hampshire. Harris had built a small store (the current wing of the Brick Store), for his two sons, Jedediah H. and Thomas Jefferson Harris to run for him. Jedediah began living in Apollos' former house and, in 1816 as he gained stature in the community, built the large 2½-storey front addition.

Nathaniel Morrill had gained ownership of the small Enoch Bean home, and between 1812-1814 built a substantial, stylish addition to the front. When lawyer Daniel Cobb purchased the home in the 1820s, he built a small

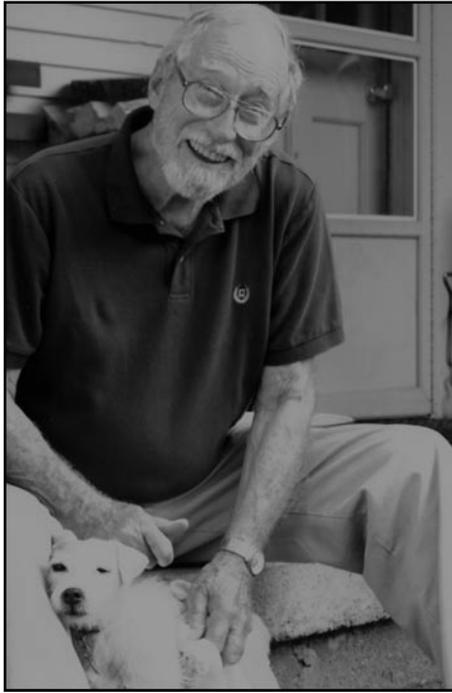
law office in the side yard (which was removed in 1870).

It was in 1834 that Jedediah H. Harris built the handsome 2½-storey brick and granite addition onto the earlier Harris Store. The old wood-frame store then became a wing, and in succession: a shed for horses and buggies; a storage area with apartment above; an African art gallery; and now it is the home of the Strafford Historical Society. During 2001 renovations by the late Kendall Mix, relics were found from this wing's former life as a general store – a huge hanging scale for weighing up to 1200 pounds, a grindstone for sharpening axes, and a wall covered with colorful advertising posters, a section of which is now on view in the Historical Society Conference Room.

The White Store was also enlarged later, probably by subsequent owner Royal Hatch, by adding a 2½-storey clapboard front section to the original small building. From general store to restaurant, craft store, and pub, the Stone Soup Restaurant was brought back to its earlier architectural style and simple beauty by Gil Robertson and William Milne in 1985.

Except for the Meetinghouse and Daniel Robinson's inn and tavern, it can be seen that the other five original structures of the Upper Village had very humble beginnings, depending on time, new owners, and/or increased affluence to be transformed into the impressive buildings we now admire around the Strafford Common. As other homes, businesses, a church, and a school joined these earlier structures, the Upper Village became one of the town's centers, but few of the later buildings rival the beauty and distinction of the fine early examples we celebrate here. We hope to keep these architectural gems preserved throughout inevitable changes, into the future of our historic village center.

*Bob Johnston*



## DEDICATION

This Town Report is dedicated to Ned Coffin. Ned and his wife Vi made Strafford their home in the early 1970s. They had a deep love for the town and its beauty, and real appreciation for its people and institutions. They gave much to our community, both of their time and resources.

Their land above the Newton School has been used for school projects, the the Lions Club Pond and the new town garage. In the 1980s, their many connections with the wider world gave rise to the Town House Series, in which such distinguished people as economist John Kenneth Galbraith, playwright Arthur Miller, and Labor Secretary Robert Reich came to Strafford to share their experiences and thoughts.

Ned was deeply interested and involved in the day-to-day work of our community. He served for many years as Lister, a job he took very seriously, and he diligently applied his talents to providing a fair and open process. He served in many capacities with the United Church of Strafford, where his strong bass in the choir was especially appreciated. He approached each day with enthusiasm and his good cheer and wit made all our lives brighter.

Ned's gifts to the Town of Strafford continued after his death, with major gifts to Barrett Hall, the United Church of Strafford, and the Town of Strafford, including a new endowment to recognize annually an organization or individual who has made a meaningful contribution to our community. Ned is remembered here with much gratitude.

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## TOWN OFFICERS

### Moderator (Town & School):

Robert Bauer ..... Term expires March 2017

### Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Kendall ..... Term expires March 2018

### Selectboard:

John Freitag ..... Term expires March 2019

Toni Pippy ..... Term expires March 2018

Stephen Marx ..... Term expires March 2018

Brian Johnson ..... Term expires March 2017

Brent Cadwell ..... Term expires March 2017

### Listers:

Mark Castro ..... Term expires March 2019

Allan Wylie ..... Term expires March 2018

Martin Mintz ..... Term expires March 2017

### Auditors:

June Solsaa ..... Term expires March 2019

Nellie Pennington ..... Term expires March 2018

Suzanna Liepmann ..... Term expires March 2017

### School Directors:

Hilary Linehan ..... Term expires March 2019

Glenn Wylie ..... Term expires March 2018

Jeff Solsaa ..... Term expires March 2018

Erik Goodling ..... Term expires March 2017

Erik Reimanis ..... Term expires March 2017

### Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro ..... Term expires March 2017

### Town Agent and Town Grand Juror:

Alan Donohue ..... Term expires March 2017

### Trustee of Public Funds:

Elizabeth Ruml ..... Term expires March 2019

Kevin Plunkett ..... Term expires March 2018

John Hawkins ..... Term expires March 2017

### Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Kendall ..... Term expires March 2019

### Harris Library Trustees:

Miriam Newman ..... Term expires March 2019

Curt Albee ..... Term expires March 2018

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

## Town Officers (continued)

### Cemetery Commissioners:

Sherm Wilson .....	Term expires March 2019
Blake Spencer .....	Term expires March 2018
Andrew Behrens .....	Term expires March 2018
Gary Kendall .....	Term expires March 2017
Alan Donohue.....	Term expires March 2017

### Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

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

### APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Road Foreman and Supervisor of Public Works .....	Jon MacKinnon
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer .....	Regina J. Josler
Selectboard Assistant .....	Lisa Kendall
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 .....	Lee Vormelker
Emergency 9-1-1 Contact .....	Lisa Kendall
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.....	Dori Wolfe
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association .....	Jeremiah Linehan
Fire Warden, appointed by the State .....	Calvin Benjamin
Fence Viewers .....	Stephen Wetmore, Greg Lewis, David Brown
South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative .....	Susan Coburn
Deputy Registrar .....	Dennis Cilley

### Development Review Board:

Terrence Garrison ( <i>Chair</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2019
Dan Ruml .....	Term expires March 2019
Martha Walke .....	Term expires March 2019
Steven Campbell ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2018
Bonnie Bergeron ( <i>Secretary</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2017
Kip Lindsay ( <i>Alternate</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2019
Fred Wolfe ( <i>Alternate</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2018
Alan Donohue ( <i>Alternate</i> ).....	Term expires March 2017

## Appointive Officers (continued)

### Planning Commission:

Martha Walke ( <i>Secretary</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2020
Chrissy Jamieson .....	Term expires March 2020
Steven Campbell ( <i>Chair</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2018
Michael Scanlan .....	Term expires March 2018
Stuart Crocker .....	Term expires March 2018
Stephen Willbanks ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2018
Bob Bushway .....	Term expires March 2017
Donald Graham .....	Term expires March 2017
John Echeverria .....	Term expires March 2017

### Conservation Commission:

Charles Sherman.....	Term expires March 2020
Tii McLane .....	Term expires March 2020
Amy Metz ( <i>Recording Secretary</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2019
Stephen Willbanks ( <i>Chair</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2019
John Hemenway .....	Term expires March 2018
J. T. Horn .....	Term expires March 2018
Jared Jenisch .....	Term expires March 2018
Michael Hebb ( <i>Trails Commissioner</i> ) .....	Term expires March 2017
Kate Root.....	Term expires March 2017

### Town House Advisory Group:

Rockwell Fuller .....	Term expires March 2018
Lori Mikusa .....	Term expires March 2018
Curt Albee .....	Term expires March 2017
Steve Willbanks .....	Term expires March 2017
Martha Manheim .....	Term expires March 2017
Therese Linehan .....	Term expires March 2017
Peter Revers .....	Term expires March 2017
Steve Handy .....	Term expires March 2017
Silas Treadway .....	Term expires March 2017

### Regional Planning Commission:

Steven Campbell .....	Term expires March 2017
<i>Vacant (Alternate)</i> .....	Term expires March 2017

### Recreation Board:

Meg Albee .....	Term expires March 2019
Scott Moore .....	Term expires March 2018
Hilary Linehan .....	Term expires March 2017
David Taplin .....	Term expires March 2017
Ellen Bagnato .....	Term expires March 2017

### East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network

#### Governing Board Representative:

Steve Willbanks .....	Term expires March 2017
David Webb ( <i>Alternate</i> ).....	Term expires March 2017
Andrew Behrens ( <i>Alternate</i> ).....	Term expires March 2017

## Appointive Officers (continued)

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:		
Stephen Willbanks .....		Term expires March 2018
Michael Scanlan ( <i>Alternate</i> ) .....		Term expires March 2018
Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:		
John Whelihan .....		Term expires March 2017
Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:		
Danette Harris .....		Term expires March 2019
Joanna Hawkins .....		Term expires March 2018
Diana Leddy .....		Term expires March 2017
Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:		
Rockwell Fuller	Joanna Hawkins	Rod Maclay
Cynthia Maclay	Maureen Wilson	
Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:		
Barbara Murray	Susan Coburn	Rose Silloway

## Notaries Public

Susan Coburn	Alan Donohue	Regina J. Josler
Lisa Kendall	Roderick Maclay	Victoria Lloyd

## 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.

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

### 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



*The Daniel Robinson House (Ned Coffin's), former Strafford Inn, c. 1895, with Henry C. Hatch and family on porch.*

# WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**March 7, 2017**

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following articles of business.

- Article 1:** To elect a Moderator.
- Article 2:** To hear a report of the Auditors.
- Article 3:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$997,752 to defray 2017 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 one year:</i> |
| Selectman (paper ballot)          | Delinquent Tax Collector       |
| Lister (paper ballot)             | Town Grand Juror               |
| Auditor (paper ballot)            | Town Agent                     |
| Cemetery Commissioner             | Agent to Deed Real Estate      |
| Cemetery Commissioner             |                                |
| Trustee of Public Funds           |                                |
| <i>For a term of two years:</i>   |                                |
| Selectman (paper ballot)          |                                |

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

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

Dated: January 31, 2017

By Strafford Board of Selectmen

Brenton Cadwell

John Freitag

Brian Johnson

Toni Pippy

Stephen Marx



*The Daniel Robinson house in need of repairs in the 1900s, before the Hemenway restoration.*

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
TOWN OF STRAFFORD  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**March 1, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Moderator Kerry Claffey. All were asked to stand and salute the flag.

Moderator Claffey read the Warning for Annual Town Meeting, and explained the rules for a qualified voter.

John Hawkins was invited to moderate Article 1.

**Article 1: To elect a Moderator**

Article 1 was moved and seconded. Robert Bauer is nominated and seconded. Kerry Claffey is nominated and seconded. Motion was made and seconded to close the nominations.

Motion was made by a show of 7 hands for paper ballot. Motion passed.

9:24 Robert's Rules of order was suspended to hear from Mark MacDonald.

9:33 Meeting was called to order and Article 1 continued. Count: Robert Bauer 83, Kerry Claffey 82. Robert Bauer is elected Moderator.

Moderator Bauer reviewed the guidelines and how the meeting will be run.

**Article 2: To hear a report of the Auditors.**

Motion was made to discuss Article 2 and seconded. Nellie indicated there were no budget corrections, apologized for the misspelling of Allan Wylie's name in the Town Report and thanked Bob Johnston for this year's historical article. Nellie thanked everyone involved in helping with the town report and thanked the Selectboard, and especially Toni Pippy for her work on the new budget format. No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 2 is closed. Article 2 passes.

**Article 3: To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,005,766 to defray 2016 budget expenses.**

Motion was made to discuss Article 3 and seconded. Selectboard member Toni Pippy spoke on the 2015 town budget. Toni indicated that we stayed within the budget and the town is in better financial state. The Selectboard would like to thank the town committees responding to our requests to level fund this year. Toni also reported that some expenses have been moved to the appropriate funds and thanked Lisa and Nellie for making the changes. Toni further reviewed the highway fund.

Various questions from the floor continued with the Selectboard responding.

No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 3 is closed. Article 3 passes.

**Article 4: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for town purposes.**

Motion was made to discuss Article 4 and seconded. No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 4 is closed. Article 4 passes.

**Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total annual taxes due. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Strafford office on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of September and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of December. An official United States Postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% (one percent) per month for the first three months and 1.5% (one and a half percent) thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% (eight percent) collection fee after the grace period ending at 4:30 p.m. seven days after the first Wednesday of December.**

Motion was made to discuss Article 5 and seconded. No further discussion, the question was called and seconded. Article 5 is closed. Article 5 passes.

**Article 6: To elect the following officers:**

Motion was made to discuss Article 6 and seconded.

**For a term of three years:**

**Selectman (paper ballot)** – John Freitag was nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of John Freitag.

**Lister (paper ballot)** – Mark Castro was nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Mark Castro.

**Auditor (paper ballot)** – June Solsaa was nominated. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of June Solsaa.

**Harris Library Trustee** – Miriam Newman was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations and seconded and the body to vote. Miriam Newman is elected.

**Cemetery Commissioner** – Sherm Wilson was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations and seconded and the body to vote. Sherm Wilson is elected.

**Trustee of Public Funds** – Elizabeth Ruml was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations and seconded and the body to vote. Elizabeth Ruml was elected.

**For a Two Year Term:**

**Selectman (paper ballot)** – Stephen Marx was nominated and seconded. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the Clerk requested to cast one ballot in favor of Stephen Marx.

**For a One Year Term:**

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

**Delinquent Tax Collector** – Jeanne Castro was nominated and seconded. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations and seconded and the body to vote. Jeanne Castro was elected.

**Town Grand Juror** – Alan Donahue was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations and seconded and the body to vote. Alan Donahue was elected.

**Town Agent** – Alan Donahue was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations and seconded and the body to vote. Alan Donahue was elected.

**Agent to Deed Real Estate** – Lisa Kendall was nominated. No other nominations, it was moved to close nominations and seconded and the body to vote. Lisa Kendall was elected.

**Article 7: To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a committee to examine options for future Town governance and administration to include: (1) reverting to a three member Selectboard, and (2) hiring a part-time Town Administrator. The completed report will be presented no later than August 1, 2016 to the Selectboard and to the voters of Strafford.**

Motion was made to discuss Article 5 and seconded. Stephen Willbanks spoke on the article. Several others suggested changes to the article. Phyllis Harmon made a motion to remove (1) reverting to a three member Selectboard, and (2) hiring a part-time Town Administrator, and make it a broader government article to read:

To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a study committee to examine options for future Town governance and administration. The completed report will be presented no later than August 1, 2016 to the Selectboard and to the voters of Strafford.

Discussion on the amendment.

David Lamb called the question on the amendment. It was seconded to end discussion.

To end discussion it requires 2/3 vote to pass. Moderator explained you are now voting to stop discussion on the amendment. The vote passes to stop

discussion on the amendment and is now closed. You are now voting on the amendment to the article.

The amendment to the article passes. The moderator explained you have the opportunity to discuss the amended article.

There was additional discussion and a question as to why the August 1 2016 deadline? Stephen Willbanks responded by no magic number, it's a deadline so it doesn't go on and on.

John Frietag said he could support this article if the date was moved to August 1, 2017 deadline to give the board time to look at a committee and take some time to form an objective committee.

Art Hanchett made a motion to table Article 7 and seconded. Moderator called a vote, yes means we cease discussion, vote no means you want to keep talking about the article and requires a 2/3 vote to table the article. A show of hands was called, the motion failed.

Sarah Root made a motion to amend the article to August 1, 2017. Motion on the floor and seconded and open for discussion on the amendment. Motion to stop the discussion on the amendment. All in favor to stop discussion, ayes have it.

Moderator explains you are now voting on the amendment to change the date to August 1, 2017. With a show of hands, the amendment passes.

The question has been called and seconded to end discussion on the article to pass by 2/3 vote. Ayes have it, discussion is closed.

Moderator explained you are now voting on the article as amended and read the article. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint a study committee to examine options for future Town governance and administration. The completed report will be presented no later than August 1, 2017 to the Selectboard and to the voters of Strafford. Article passes.

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

Andrew Behrens read a report on the progress from ECFiber.

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

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. Motion to adjourn, seconded at 12:02 p.m. Motion passes.

Robert Bauer  
Moderator

Lisa M. Kendall  
Town Clerk

John Freitag  
Selectboard

## SELECTBOARD REPORT

2016 was a big year for improvements to the infrastructure of our town. The Ward Bridge on the Brook Road was replaced and part of the Justin Morrill Highway from Strafford village to Tunbridge that had been turned to gravel was paved. A large culvert on Sawnee Bean road in danger of failing was also replaced this year. The Recreation Board and Strafford Athletic Association raised the funds and supervised the rebuilding of the tennis court. Many thanks to all who contributed. A grand opening is scheduled for May 20 after the remaining work is completed. The Conservation Commission under the direction of Elizabeth McLane raised money for and completed a project to help stem the spread of invasive buckthorn in Taylor Valley. Green Mountain Power put in new poles and three phase power from Sharon to South Strafford. ECFiber, Fairpoint, and VTel all expanded their internet services and Coverage Co. finally made the cell phone repeaters along Rte. 132 operational.

2017 will continue our ongoing improvements with the replacement of the Rte. 132 bridge in South Strafford. This major project which is scheduled for late July is anticipated to last 28 days from start to finish. It will require a detour using Mine and Tyson Roads and as with any construction project will mean some inconvenience, and we appreciate people's understanding and patience. Brent Cadwell, who has worked on the planning for this project for his three years on the Selectboard, will not be seeking another term of office. He has offered to serve as a volunteer Clerk of the Works for the Selectboard on this project and we deeply appreciate this offer.

Work putting in lines to the solar project at the Elizabeth Mine site and construction of the solar array will also take place in 2017 and there may be more work by the EPA on the Lords Brook part of the mine site this summer as well.

In response to the passage of Article 7 at Town Meeting, which authorized the Selectboard to appoint a committee to examine options for future Town governance and administration, we are pleased to report that David Grant and John Hawkins agreed to co-chair this committee and much good work by the committee has been and continues to be done. Their completed report will be presented no later than August 1, 2017.

The Town of Strafford's main source of funding is the property tax. The Selectboard realizes that for many in our community paying property taxes is a real challenge, and for the last two years have level funded the amount to be raised for the town budget for property taxes, and will slightly reduce the amount this year.

We are able to do this because of a number of factors including: a very mild winter last year which required less sand to be purchased, less truck usage, and fewer overall expenses, and low fuel prices in 2016; being able to take advantage of good gravel at a good price from a local pit and hauling the

material ourselves; and the fact that due to problems within the firm that does our crack sealing they were unable to get to Strafford this year. Finally, two of our four road member crew were faced with significant health issues, which limited the number of projects we were able to do. Both thankfully are now recovered. The Selectboard appreciates the efforts over the last year of all of our town employees to not only meet their job responsibilities but also to constantly be looking for ways to be more efficient and effective in serving our community.

Three of the Town's dedicated volunteers left their posts this past year: Beth Preston, Health Officer; Dori Wolfe, Recycling Coordinator; and Dick Josler, Cemetery Commissioner. We deeply appreciate their service to our community and are fortunate that others have stepped forward to help fill their shoes.

The new solid waste and recycling requirements from the State as well as poor markets for recyclables continue to be a challenge. This past year following the recommendation of our Recycling Committee we purchased another large bin which has helped a great deal by eliminating a rental fee and due to its size decreasing the transportation costs. We are grateful for the leadership of our Recycling Committee and the many volunteers at our recycling center.

Finally, we cannot emphasize strongly enough how much our town is dependent on volunteers to make Strafford a special community. Whether on town boards, committees and advisory groups, or civic organizations like the PTA and Lions Club, not to mention our Strafford Fire and Rescue, people giving time to our community is absolutely essential. Please take time to read the reports of these various organizations in the following pages and give some time to consider if there is a way, if you are not already doing it, to pitch in and help.

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER**

Was it just another year? It was a year of success, the work and communication between the Selectboard, Road Crew, and Town office staff all was productive and many issues that came up in 2015 had gone away. This allowed all to focus on the tasks at hand and get the work done that is important to the town and its citizens.

I was able to set up a couple of additional services, first being able to process DMV renewals. This required a meeting with the State of Vermont DMV, training, and getting the materials needed. This new service is renewals only that are less than 2 months expired for vehicles. So if you find yourself with an expired registration that's not more than 2 months old we can help. We can also process other registrations as well like snowmobiles with the exception that there is no two month restriction.

The second was a bit more of a challenge and that was accepting credit cards. To find the right company, I reached out on our Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers listserv and asked who other towns used. While there were not many, the one response that was from other local towns was MuniPay Nationwide Payment Solution. MuniPay allow any fees to be billed to the user, not the municipality. Application, paperwork, phone discussion, Selectboard meeting and finally being set up has now given us the ability to accept credit cards for most any transaction. You can go online to pay your taxes or pay for other items as well and we also can process in the office. E-checks are also another option to pay for services with only a \$1.50 charge.

This additional service gives the residents six options to pay your taxes: by stopping at the office, mailing a payment, using the drop box outside, using a credit card or e-check, or authorizing an ACH payment. If you have any question on these options please give me a call.

2016 also saw the hiring of Jane Prescott to replace a 10 hour position at the Town Office. Jane was a great asset to have, but unfortunately she resigned in November to accept a full time position at Thetford Academy. Jane was a joy to have and a pleasure to get to know and work with; she is missed.

With this change it was time to think about what should happen in the future; do we advertise and replace Jane now? Wait? What would make sense? After careful consideration and some discussion with the Selectboard, I decided not to rehire. The time, and training that goes into a new hire is a lot of work and I decided to try another route. This was to move forward with technology to get our land records on line.

Again research and discussion with other Towns led me to the Cott Systems, a records management company. A representative was scheduled to give a presentation at a selectboard meeting and the selectboard approved the go ahead to continue with setting up this system. You may ask why? This is a service to everyone that needs land records researched, including possibly you. Cott Systems will allow users to look up land record deeds on line in their own home or business. Researchers are now required to make a trip to the town office to do deed research, coming sometimes from far away costing more money to the land owner for their service. Banks do land records research as well as land surveyors to name a few. This system will allow the research to be done from any computer eliminating some people coming to the office for research and giving us more time to focus on other tasks. The Cott Systems also allows us to continue receiving revenue for copies of our land records. If a user wishes to get a certified copy they still must pay \$1.00 per page as if they were at the office. My hope is that it will be a win, win for everyone. While there is a cost to set-up, it is less than replacing the 10 hour position and once the initial work is done the cost is less than \$300 per month and savings each year will be over \$3,600 dollars.

This year in July, I will also be attending my final week of a three year training at the New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy held in Plymouth after which I can become CMC certified. A Certified Municipal Clerk certification is a distinction granted by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks to clerks who have completed three years of full attendance at a recognized institute such as NEMCI and/or fulfilled other education and non-education requirements. At the end of this last year of training, there will be a graduation ceremony as well to receive my certificate.

Training is an important part of our job. Regina and I take this as an opportunity to learn and grow which is necessary to keep up with the changes required of the job. Last year we attended many classes as we will again this year. Regina also received her second certification, for a certified Vermont Treasurer at the annual Vermont Municipal Clerks Association conference last September held at the Stowe Resort.

With the trainings and the lack of another person there may be times the office will have to reduce the hours the office is open or fine it necessary to close at times. Closing will be our last resort and if necessary it will be posted ahead of time.

I want to thank Regina for continuing to work hard for Strafford and the support to me as well. To June and Suzanna that started out new this year as Town Auditors and the changes that we continue to work on, Jeanne, Nellie, the Listers, the Selectboard, and all the others committees and the many volunteers that help make Strafford, Strafford. Thank you.

My last thought is to say THANK YOU to Brent Cadwell. Brent has chosen to not run again for another term on the selectboard, and who can blame him when he wants to focus on his kids and family. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with Brent over the past three years, his skills as a contractor brought a lot of useful knowledge to the Selectboard. He will be missed a great deal.

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

Thank you,

Lisa M Kendall  
Town Clerk/Treasurer CVC, CVT

## **REPORT OF THE AUDITORS**

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2016. Based upon our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Town of Strafford. We have found audited accounts to be consistent and well-managed.

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

Nellie Pennington  
June Solsaa  
Suzanna Liepmann

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN AGENT AND GRAND JUROR**

During 2016, I, as the Town Agent, stood ready to act in an advisory role to the Selectboard. I was not called upon for advice this year (down from one request in the previous year). As Grand Juror, I received no information about criminal wrongdoing within the Town of Strafford which would have required me to present it to the local state's attorney's office. My report, accordingly, is that I have nothing to report! A quiet year indeed for this place we love so much and that we call home.

Alan Donohue  
Town Agent/Town Grand Juror

## **LISTERS' REPORT**

When I was elected lister, I thought this was going to be a cakewalk. It's not! As our tax system has grown more complex, so has the job of the listers. While we have an automated system to help us, there are still a myriad of details involved in the production of our only product—the Grand List.

In the production of the Grand List, we can use your help and attention to meeting the necessary deadlines:

- The deadline for submission of your Homestead Declaration, (HS-122), is April 15. Failure to submit this form will affect your assessment.
- The deadline for submission of applications for Current Use is Sept. 1. Applications received after Sept. 1 will not be considered for the current year.

These two submissions are critical to the accurate evaluation of the Grand List. Strafford has 169 properties in Current Use this year, more than all but eight other towns in the state. It is therefore very important to meet the filing deadlines not only to level the workload of the listers, but also that at the state level. Note particularly that any change in ownership or acreage, for instance, will require a new application. This includes changes in Trustee.

Taxes billed on July 28, 2016 are determined from the Grand List value as of April 1, 2016 and are billed to the owner of record on that date.

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. 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.

The listers employ a professional assessor, Tom Cain, to maintain the data necessary for the Grand List and to perform ongoing assessments associated with new construction, etc. In the past he has been on an hourly contract which made budgeting difficult. We have renegotiated his contract this year to provide for four hours a week to include all assessing and database maintenance activities. This has resulted in an increase in the listers budget this year. However, the resulting increase more accurately reflects our actual expenditures in past years.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Castro

Marty Mintz

Allan Wylie

## **REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION**

The year 2016 was an easy year for the Commissioners. We met at the Evergreen Cemetery in the lower village and spent a couple of hours righting leaning stones and cleaning up. We discussed taking down the remaining post at the the Evergreen Cemetery and building a new gate at the Old City Cemetery in the coming year. We continued the yearly mowing and trimming of the inactive cemeteries. We also have the Evergreen Cemetery mowed on a regular basis.

Strafford Cemetery Commissioners,

Gary Kendall  
Blake Spencer  
Alan Donohue  
Sherm Wilson  
Andy Behrens

## **REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN**

The 2016 fire season saw a busy spring followed by a significant drought, and ending with stubborn ground fires through October. To date, there have been 140 fires that burned 385 acres. Of these, 137 fires were caused by humans, which burned 378 acres and three were caused by lightning, that burned seven acres reported to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

The fire program is pleased to welcome Neil Monteith as the District Supervisor for District 4-Central Vermont, which Strafford is a part of. Neil replaces Jay Lackey, who retired after 43 years with the department. Neil is a longtime FPR employee who brings extensive fire knowledge to this position. Neil has served as a Town Forest Fire Warden and has been involved with wild land fire as a crew member, crew boss and various single resource positions, both locally and nationally.

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

State law requires a permit for open burning with 200 feet of grass, woodlands or buildings or if there is less than one inch of snow on the ground. Although no permit is required with snow cover, it is always a good idea to call the fire warden if you are going to have a large fire. If someone happens to see it and reports it, then the Fire Department will not be dispatched unnecessarily.

Burn permits are free of charge. To acquire one or get more information, call your Fire Warden at (802)765-9920. Please remember, you cannot obtain a permit by leaving a message, you need to speak with the Fire Warden.

Thank you to all those who obtained fire permits.

Calvin Benjamin  
Forest Fire Warden

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

2016 puts us back into the 20s, with 23 zoning permits applied for. The DRB is now handling lot line adjustments. However a zoning permit still needs to be filled out, and will then be reviewed by the board. The permit fees went up, but are lower still than other towns. So do not let the fee be a deterrent to getting a permit for your project, please. Feel free to call me at home (802-765-4514) or through the town clerk's office with questions.

	2014	2015	2016
Houses	2	2	2
Additions/Decks/Porches	6	4	7
Barns/Sheds/Outbuildings	8	8	7
Garages	3	0	1
Lot Line Adjustments	0	0	1
Conditional Use Permits	0	0	0
Other	3	2	
Combined permits:			
Garage/deck			1
House/garage/shed			1
Camp building replacement/ house replacement			2
Greenhouse			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>

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. Alternate members are Fred Wolfe, and Alan Donahue. The Zoning Administrator is Brian Johnson. The Clerk of the Board is Elizabeth Clarke.

The DRB meets on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at the town office building in Strafford when there is business before the board. All meetings are open to the public, and the minutes are available to the public in the town records. The DRB met ten times in 2016 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 2016, the DRB held hearings for five (5) subdivisions and one (1) conditional use. The five applications for subdivision and one application for conditional use were approved.

Recent DRB action includes: complying with the state requirement that approved plats are signed by two members of the DRB and identifying a policy for lot survey requirements. The DRB also agreed to accept responsibility hearing and deciding on applications for lot line adjustments.

Relative to signing plats, the DRB learned that the State requires two signatures on plats filed with newly transferred deeds. The DRB reviewed deeds transferred in the past five years to assure their corresponding plats are compliant.

Relative to the requirement for a formal survey for an entire property when applying for a subdivision, the board recognized that many old farms in the town have not been documented to current standards and the cost to do so for the entire property could be prohibitive. The decision was made that for

properties that are unequivocally 25 acres or larger, only the property being considered for subdivision and transfer would require a formal survey. For property 10 acres or less, a formal survey will be required; and survey requirements for properties between the 10 and 25 acres will be decided on a case by case basis.

Relative to lot line adjustments, a DRB goal for 2017 is to develop standard processes, criteria and forms for applying, hearing and deciding on lot line adjustments.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Clarke, Clerk

## **REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION**

The members of the Strafford Planning Commission are Chair Steve Campbell, Vice Chair Steve Willbanks, Secretary Martha Walke and members Bob Bushway, Stuart Crocker, John Echeverria, Donald Graham, Chrissy Jamieson and Michael Scanlan.

Guy Denechaud and Cameron Speth tendered their resignations in 2016 and were replaced first by Sarah Root and Chrissy Jamieson. Sarah Root resigned and was replaced by Bob Bushway.

The Planning Commission spent the first few months of the year working on the Unified Bylaw, continuing to concentrate on subdivision regulations, waivers, and our flood ordinance. In April, having received a grant from the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), the Strafford Planning Commission began working with Lorelee Morrow, from TRORC, on the updating of our Town Plan which was due in August, 2016. Due to the concerns surrounding the New Vistas projected project, the wording of our plan was made firmer and our land use section stronger. In early 2017, the Planning Commission will hold both a community forum and a public hearing to review the Town Plan before it is sent to the Selectboard. The Selectboard will hold a public hearing before their decision regarding the Town Plan.

The Planning Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Education Center at the Morrill Homestead. These meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha M. Walke, Secretary

## **STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

In Memoriam: John Hemenway, our long-time, enthusiastic colleague, died on December 21st, at the age of 92. Even during this past year when he was no longer able to attend meetings, he was still keenly interested in our projects. As is well-known, John was twice Vermont's Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year and the 3,000 acre Taylor Valley Conservation Project is his legacy.

This past year the Strafford Conservation Commission was involved in the following activities:

- Two public informational forums on the threat to the rural environment posed by the New Vista project, which included presentations in May by John Echeverria, from Vermont Law School, and in October by the Alliance of Vermont Communities.
- A presentation by Ron Rhodes, River Steward for the Connecticut River Watershed Council, who in conjunction with the SCC was able to leverage nearly \$150,000 in engineering and construction funds to finance the replacement of the Maple Hill Road culvert, without using Town property tax funds.
- A team-presentation by the remarkable 8th Graders at Crossroads Academy about their remarkable progress to date in understanding and propagating the notoriously fragile wetland lady slipper plants. These young people have received a nationally competitive grant from John Hopkins University and made a presentation to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. With Mike Hebb's assistance, they have been testing their propagation model in the Strafford Town Forest.
- The Taylor Valley Buckthorn Removal project, orchestrated this fall by Tii McLane, utilized grant funds and the efforts of more than 20 local volunteers, who put in 78.5 hours of volunteer labor to remove invasive buckthorn plants from the Taylor Valley area.
- The Strafford Town Trail initiative, thanks to Mike Hebb's efforts, was extended by the addition of a new trail segment linking the Morrill Homestead with the Cross- Strafford Trail, which in effect now also connects the Town House Trail to the Cross-Strafford Trail.
- The SCC, in cooperation with the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission and the Strafford Planning Commission, participated in the update of our Open Space Plan, the development of the Strafford Hazard Mitigation Plan and the new draft of the Strafford Town Plan.
- In addition, the SCC continued its efforts to help landowners control invasive plant species, to identify and inventory Strafford wetlands and to maintain our network of trails, Whitcomb Hill and the Old City Falls Recreation Area.

The Strafford Conservation Commission has nine members: Mike Hebb, Tii McLane, Jared Jenisch, Kate Root, Chuck Sherman, J.T. Horn, Amy

Metz, Steve Willbanks and now one open position. The SCC meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Morrill Education Center. Members of the public are always welcome.

## **STRAFFORD TRAIL SYSTEM**

The trail system has grown to 17.5 miles with the addition of the Morrill Link which connects the Morrill Homestead with the ridge line between Alger Brook Road and Pennock Road. The Morrill Homestead management, the Coburn, Campbell, Gramling and Eastman families are to be thanked for this addition. This link is especially valued since it connects the 5 mile Town House trail with the 10-mile Crosstown trail.

All trails were reevaluated and reblazed with paint and plastic flagging was removed wherever possible.

Volunteers have adopted different sections of the trail. They manage most of the trail maintenance and have done an exceptional job of keeping it open over the summer.

The Pompanoosuc trail bridge just down stream from Tyson Road was replaced last summer. Volunteer labor and two 60-foot tamarack logs provided by Erin Masteller made it possible.

The trail system continues to be an asset to the town of Strafford. I still consider the usage to be fairly low and not expanding noticeably except possibly in the Whitcomb Hill area and the town forest.

The most visited attraction is still the top of Whitcomb Hill. Thanks to Mary Louise Pierson and Shawn Ward for the annual mowing, it is the most attractive part of the trail and only a short hike to the top from Alger Brook Road or Furnace Flats Road.

Second most popular was the town forest wetlands during the orchid bloom. It gets over 100 visitors each June and thanks to the new boardwalk the impact is negligible.

The whole system is appreciated by hikers, skiers, bikers, trackers, birders and hunters. We should be especially thankful for the 30 land owners who have made the whole system possible by allowing the public access to their property. Especially appreciated is the acceptance of new landowners who allow continuation of the trail on their newly acquired property. In addition, the system wouldn't be of the quality it is without the many supporters who contributed both financing and labor.

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

Please let me know if there any problems whatsoever with the trail on your property.

Mike Hebb  
Trails Manager  
Strafford Conservation Commission

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

The year 2016 presented some challenges in terms of responses to power outages and a couple of weather related issues. We also took opportunities for taking training and doing training, performing maintenance on town communications equipment and providing information to our town residents.

In January, Pikcomm, a radio supplier, spent much of a day testing the town radios and antennas at the town office, the town garage and Newton School. All the equipment passed the performance tests.

In December, I had Pikcomm return to Strafford to check out all the mobile radios in the town vehicles, the Constable's vehicle and my vehicle radio. The radio in the road grader needed some minor repair and we re-located the antenna for better performance.

We also learned that the performance of the town public safety repeater had deteriorated. It still provides the coverage needed and we will perform repairs on the antenna on the tower in spring. Finally, we determined the equipment needed for installing a public safety radio in the school principal's home and we are awaiting the antenna in order to do the installation. This will allow the principal direct contact with Jon MacKinnon early on weather mornings.

Ed Eastman and I attended the annual two day Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference at Lake Morey Resort in November. We saw a demonstration of professional-grade drones used by UVM in support of emergency incidents, mapping and search and rescue, and also saw a demonstration of a Vermont National Guard bomb detonating, remotely-controlled robot in action.

Seminars included a yearly update on terrorist threat in the U.S. and an update on the world-wide "cyber war," including state level attempts to penetrate sensitive systems and networks. We got a briefing on the heroin threat in VT and the ongoing work to seek solutions. We also attended a seminar on senior emergency manager leadership given by two long-term fire chiefs.

We got a reminder that law enforcement and other first responders need input from the public to help identify risk situations. Local "eyes and ears" can quickly spot unusual situations and residents are encouraged to contact Constable Ed Eastman, Orange County Sheriff or the Vermont State Police to report suspicious activity.

In October, I met with members of the Selectboard, our constable and road supervisor at the town office and we did a short training session on opening, operating, and closing the town Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the town office. We used our experience in Irene as the template for the

training session. This will help Selectboard members be prepared in another significant town incident in the future.

In July, we had a two-day power outage impacting Strafford village, outlying locations and some of S. Strafford. This was part of a larger area weather event and GMP responded with crews from Connecticut and New Brunswick, Canada. We did a “limited opening” of the EOC and Dave Winslow of GMP was in our EOC most of the time. We were able to help GMP with some communications issues with Lee riding with the crew chief with communications support. In addition, we did use VAlert to send out a weather and power outage alert to residents.

We had two short power outages in October, both due to downed trees and GMP responded to both events.

In April, we did our annual update to the town Local Emergency Plan and filed it with TRORC and Vermont Emergency Management.

We began putting one page articles in The Strafford News on a regular basis to provide more preparation information, including a “cut-out list” of emergency phone numbers.

Vermont Emergency Management supplied us with large number of pocket sized “Family Emergency Preparedness” booklets which are still available at the town office, the Strafford Post Office, the library and Barrett Hall.

Thank you to the office staff, the Selectboard, Fire Department and our constable who have supported our emergency management efforts!

Bill Burden  
Emergency Manager

## **STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD**

This year the Strafford Recreation Board approved the following mission statement: *The Strafford Recreation Board believes that recreation is critical to a healthy mind and body and that recreation enriches our community and our connection to one another.*

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

The highlight of the year was securing the funds to begin construction on new tennis courts at Murray Field. The Recreation Board and the Strafford Athletic Association have been working on this initiative for several years so it was with great pride that we were able to confirm over \$100,000.00 in grants, and donations from Strafford residents and property owners. Vermont Recreational Surfacing has begun construction on the courts and will finalize efforts in the spring. A grand opening celebration is being planned. More information will follow. Thanks to all of those who donated time and money to make this happen.

A disappointment for the year is the inability to put up a town ice skating rink due to lack of volunteer support. The Recreation Board is a 5 member volunteer board that works hard to fulfill our mission. In order to do this we need community volunteer support. If you are interested in making sure the ice rink is available to Strafford residents next year, please contact a recreation board member and let them know you are available to volunteer for a minimum of one day during the winter to help build and maintain the rink.

For 10 years, Scott Moore has been the main contact for Varney Field and the coordinator of the baseball program. In 2016, Scott coordinated several work days to help prepare the fields for the season. Participation in the baseball league declined. Strafford fielded only one team (B-Ball). The team went undefeated and won the tournament. For 2017, Strafford hopes to field 4 teams, as we have done in the past. In 2017, Mike Swift will be coordinating the baseball program and Scott Moore will continue to be the main contact for Varney Field.

For 8 years, Hilary Linehan has been the Recreation Board member who coordinates the summer soccer camp. In August of 2016, Challenger Soccer Camp ran a morning session for children up to grade 2 and Tetra Brazil, a subsidiary of Challenger Soccer Camp, ran an afternoon session for 4th – 8th grade students. Not many youth participated but those who did had a good time. The Recreation Board will be running the same camp next year at approximately the same time. Announcements will go out through the listserv, posters at Coburn's and through the school newsletter.

The camps allow for an exciting volunteer opportunity for families to host the coaches for the week in their home. Soccer coaches are very well-mannered young men and women from the United Kingdom and Brazil. 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, please contact Hilary Linehan.

The Recreation Board hosted a Red Barn Winter Sports Day on December 3. Hilary Linehan and John Freitag were present at the Red Barn to receive winter sports equipment donations and to help Strafford residents find and get fitted for winter sports equipment in the barn. We are hopeful that the equipment in the red barn remains a free resource to all Strafford residents. Please contact any Recreation Board member or Erin Masteller if you would like to access the red barn and it is not open.

In 2016 the mowing contract for Murray Field, Varney Field, and the parking area for Old City Falls, was coordinated by the Strafford Selectboard. Rather than having different town boards contract with multiple companies and individuals for mowing, it made financial and logistical sense to group mowing of town property into one contract. This will continue for the foreseeable future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hilary Linehan, Co-Chair  
Ellen Bagnato, Co-Chair  
Scott Moore, member  
David Taplin, member  
Margaret Albee, member  
John Freitag, Selectboard liaison

## STRAFFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Strafford Energy Committee has continued to encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in Strafford.

We began the year focusing on the development of the Thetford Strafford Community Solar Array in Thetford with a membership drive in the Spring. The project has been held up by the Public Service Board's lottery for projects and the changing of the rules which apply to net metering projects. There have been new permitting rules and siting regulations which require town plans to specify where siting of renewable projects will be allowed. The energy committee has provided a revised energy section of the new town plan using guidelines from the Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional planning commission.

The 110 kilowatt School/Municipal solar array built on the Rod and Cindy Maclay's property on Rte 132 in 2015 continues to provide energy for the Newton School, Barrett Hall, the United Church of Strafford and the library. After 6 years, if legislation allows, we hope it will become a co-operatively owned, community net metering array.

The committee is pleased to report that the 5MW solar array at the Elizabeth Mine is scheduled to be built in the spring of 2017, as it has been given a certificate of public good by the PSB.

Barbara Smith continued to add more edible and native trees and shrubs in the Edible Pocket Park in South Strafford with the continued help of her family and children from the Newton School. A fund raiser for the park was held on August 27, in the form of an garden tour which visited the park and 4 other edible gardens in town highlighting straw-bale gardening, blueberry growing at the Morrill Mountain Fruit Farm, 3 vegetable and herb gardens at the Newton School, and an extended season gardening using a greenhouse.

The Strafford Energy Committee meets the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room above the Town Clerk's office. All meetings are open to the public. We need new members and ideas, so please come and join us. On occasion, the time and date of the meeting changes, so please contact one of the members to confirm meeting prior to attending.

Many thanks to energy committee members who have contributed articles on energy efficiency, the pocket park, solar issues, and more to the *Strafford News* this year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Alton  
Barbara Smith  
Gus Speth  
Lee Vormelker  
Gail Boyajian  
Janet Cavanagh

## 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 venues 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 sixth year of pursuing our mission as the Town House Advisory Group. We have a core group of 9 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 the Strafford webpage: [www.straffordvt.org/townhouse](http://www.straffordvt.org/townhouse). Anyone interested in participating in any way is welcome to contribute. We meet monthly at the Town House during the warmer months and this past year at Martha Manheim's during the colder months.

With the completion of the backhouse we are now moving forward to address pressing needs in the Town House itself. This past year we have been focusing on the spire (top structure of the belltower) renovation. There are several deteriorating issues that need attention as soon as we can secure funding.

We are also looking into the idea of providing a safe lighted walkway in the attic of the Town House so the timber frame can be viewed, studied and appreciated. The fact that this building was erected without power tools is truly amazing.

We are marketing the use of the building online as well as through other media sources. The future rentals will further fund our ongoing projects. The season for rentals is from May 1 to October 31.

Our 7th annual Clean Up Day will be late April or the beginning of May. All are welcome to participate and enjoy a relaxed fun afternoon at our Town House, sprucing it up for the upcoming season. The announced date will be posted on the listserv 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](mailto:rockwellfuller@gmail.com) or call 802-763-8603.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Fuller

Town House Advisory Group Chair

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT**  
**BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2015, 2016, and Proposed 2017

(2015 Actual figures restated to match the new categorization, "\*" indicates prior year auditor adjustments)

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed	
<b>GENERAL FUND Revenue</b>						
<b>Taxes/Fund Balance</b>						
Balances Forward	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	a
Current Taxes	300,008.15 *	310,466.00	289,771.68	(20,694.32)	302,453.00	
<b>Taxes/Fund Balance Total</b>	<b>\$ 300,008.15 *</b>	<b>\$ 310,466.00</b>	<b>\$ 289,771.68</b>	<b>\$ (20,694.32)</b>	<b>\$ 302,453.00</b>	
<b>Governmental</b>						
PILOT/Fish and Game Tax	\$ 13,953.99	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 15,065.79	2,565.79	\$ 15,066.00	
State of Vermont Hold Harmless	128,796.00	128,500.00	130,630.00	2,130.00	130,630.00	
<b>Governmental Total</b>	<b>\$ 142,749.99</b>	<b>\$ 141,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 145,695.79</b>	<b>\$ 4,695.79</b>	<b>\$ 145,696.00</b>	
<b>Interest</b>						
1% Interest on First Payment	\$ 1,653.90	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,469.29	469.29	\$ 1,400.00	
Delinquent Tax Interest	5,505.51 *	6,000.00	8,490.38	2,490.38	9,000.00	
Interest	37.38	150.00	-	(150.00)	150.00	
<b>Interest Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,196.79 *</b>	<b>\$ 7,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,959.67</b>	<b>\$ 2,809.67</b>	<b>\$ 10,550.00</b>	
<b>Penalty</b>						
Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ 7,339.14	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,768.69	(231.31)	\$ 9,000.00	b
<b>Penalty Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,339.14</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,768.69</b>	<b>\$ (231.31)</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>	
<b>Loans</b>						
Loan Proceeds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 509,173.00	509,173.00	\$ -	c
<b>Loans Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 509,173.00</b>	<b>\$ 509,173.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	

a - Balance Forward uses a surplus from a prior year to offset taxes

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

c - Loans are now shown as revenue in Loan Proceeds and as expense in Capital Outlay or Financial Services;  
 this figure includes the Tax Anticipation Note and a loan for recycling bins

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed
<b>Fees Total</b>					
Dog License Fees	\$ 1,514.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,568.00	68.00	\$ 1,500.00
Dog Violation Fees	290.00	300.00	460.00	160.00	300.00
Liquor License Fees	185.00	185.00	185.00	-	185.00
Other Fees for Services	2,005.23	1,700.00	2,352.65	652.65	1,700.00
Recording Fees	7,626.00	7,500.00	8,360.00	860.00	7,500.00
Recording Surcharge	1,020.00	1,000.00	935.00	(65.00)	1,000.00
Subdivision Permit Fees	300.00	400.00	1,000.00	600.00	700.00
Zoning Permit Fees	570.00	1,500.00	1,550.00	50.00	1,500.00
<b>Fees Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,510.23</b>	<b>\$ 14,085.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,410.65</b>	<b>\$ 2,325.65</b>	<b>\$ 14,385.00</b>
<b>Grants</b>					
Parcel Mapping	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 100.00
State of Vermont Lister Education	390.05	400.00	-	(400.00)	400.00
Equal Education Grand List	-	-	712.00	712.00	-
State of Vermont Planning Grant	2,803.00	957.00	8,138.00	7,181.00	-
State of Vermont Reappraisal Fund	6,383.45	6,600.00	6,052.00	(548.00)	6,600.00
<b>Grants Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,601.50</b>	<b>\$ 7,957.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,937.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,980.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,100.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>					
Donations - Dogs	\$ 635.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations - Pocket Park	305.00	-	-	-	-
Donations - Town House	3,322.00	500.00	2,379.00	1,879.00	500.00
Donations - Town House Restrooms	11,090.00	-	117.00	117.00	-
Donations - Tennis Court	-	-	96,635.00	96,635.00	-
Town House Usage	1,125.00	1,200.00	575.00	(625.00)	1,200.00
<b>Donations Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,477.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 99,706.00</b>	<b>\$ 98,006.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,700.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
Evergreen Cemetery	\$ 1,274.00	\$ -	\$ 1,525.00	1,525.00	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	19,639.74	4,000.00	12,040.50	8,040.50	4,000.00
Recycling Revenue	425.40	425.00	2,245.96	1,820.96	425.00
<b>Miscellaneous Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,339.14</b>	<b>\$ 4,425.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,811.46</b>	<b>\$ 11,386.46</b>	<b>\$ 4,425.00</b>

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed	
<b>Independent Committees (Revenue &amp; Expenses from Reserve)</b>				-		
Carrie Sanborn Fund	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,060.00	4,060.00	\$ -	<i>d</i>
Conservation Commission	-	-	14,750.00	14,750.00	-	<i>d</i>
Conservation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	<i>d</i>
Energy Committee	2,711.50	-	-	-	-	<i>d</i>
Recreation Revenue	-	-	3,125.00	3,125.00	-	<i>d</i>
<b>Independent Committees Total</b>	<b>4,711.50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,935.00</b>	<b>21,935.00</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>GENERAL FUND Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 522,933.44 *</b>	<b>\$ 495,783.00</b>	<b>\$1,132,168.94</b>	<b>\$ 636,385.94</b>	<b>\$ 495,309.00</b>	
<b>GENERAL FUND Expenses</b>						
<b>Deficit Reduction</b>						
Deficit Reduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,830.00	<i>e</i>
<b>Deficit Reduction</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,830.00</b>	
<b>Administration</b>						
Select Board Salary	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ -	\$ 2,250.00	
Select Board Expenses	161.90	212.00	60.00	152.00	212.00	
Select Board Assistant	7,283.93	6,549.00	6,580.81	(31.81)	6,839.00	
Town Clerk/Treasurer	36,431.58	37,118.00	37,328.51	(210.51)	38,755.00	
Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer	35,958.93	38,035.00	37,079.47	955.53	32,298.00	
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	31,196.41	30,561.00	30,354.25	206.75	25,733.00	
Municipal Retirement	3,057.07	2,977.00	2,621.90	355.10	3,116.00	
Social Security Tax	7,799.79	6,250.00	6,118.35	131.65	7,925.00	
Unemployment Insurance	135.00	430.00	307.00	123.00	430.00	
Workers' Compensation	12,868.44	15,341.00	15,340.72	0.28	1,395.00	
Property & Liability Insurance	10,025.08	11,429.00	11,749.28	(320.28)	12,442.00	
Financial Services	4,501.16	6,200.00	506,782.66	(500,582.66)	9,269.00	<i>f</i>
<b>Administration Total</b>	<b>\$ 151,669.29</b>	<b>\$ 157,352.00</b>	<b>\$ 656,572.95</b>	<b>\$ (499,220.95)</b>	<b>\$ 140,664.00</b>	

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

*e - To offset the general fund deficit from 2016*

*f - Tax Anticipation Note*

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed
<b>General Services</b>					
Town Office	\$ 16,996.30	\$ 15,800.00	\$ 14,083.69	\$ 1,716.31	\$ 22,550.00
Records Restoration	4,565.00	-	6,080.00	(6,080.00)	- <sup>g</sup>
VLCT Dues	2,150.00	2,158.00	2,329.00	(171.00)	2,232.00
Town Meeting & Elections	148.68	1,800.00	1,334.67	465.33	300.00
Town Report	2,528.95	2,900.00	2,799.58	100.42	2,900.00
Auditing	800.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	-	1,200.00
Outside Audit/Professional Services	20,000.00 *	5,000.00	3,200.00	1,800.00	5,000.00
Delinquent Tax Collector Salary	7,339.14	9,000.00	8,768.69	231.31	9,000.00
Listers	2,257.84	1,450.00	1,981.78	(531.78)	2,050.00
Lister Contract Services	10,511.14	8,550.00	8,357.06	192.94	9,600.00
Parcel Mapping	255.00	750.00	80.00	670.00	750.00
Police Services	27,761.85	33,000.00	29,659.58	3,340.42	33,000.00
Dog Officer	1,270.96	1,050.00	1,053.69	(3.69)	1,050.00
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	36,000.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	-	37,000.00
Emergency Management	108.50	1,000.00	225.00	775.00	1,000.00
Ambulance Service	38,430.00	39,630.00	39,528.00	102.00	40,728.00
Solid Waste	16,010.28	14,090.00	13,176.00	914.00	12,078.00
Recycling	11,333.38	12,219.00	20,818.95	(8,599.95)	18,700.00
<b>General Services Total</b>	<b>\$ 198,467.02 *</b>	<b>\$ 185,597.00</b>	<b>\$ 190,675.69</b>	<b>\$ (5,078.69)</b>	<b>\$ 199,138.00</b>

*g - Records restoration is paid from reserve funds from the recording surcharge*

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed
<b>Community Services</b>					
Adult Basic Education	\$ 600.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Capstone Community Action	300.00	300.00	300.00	-	300.00
Clara Martin Center/OCMH	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	-	2,700.00
Council on Aging	600.00	750.00	750.00	-	750.00
Library	34,000.00	34,000.00	34,000.00	-	34,000.00
Orange County Court Diversion	200.00	200.00	200.00	-	200.00
Red Cross	550.00	550.00	550.00	-	550.00
Safeline	900.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Senior Citizens Center	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	3,000.00
SERG	200.00	-	-	-	-
Stratford Historical Society	1,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
Streetlights	2,526.78	2,600.00	2,733.02	(133.02)	2,600.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living	200.00	200.00	200.00	-	200.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance	3,040.00	3,250.00	3,250.00	-	3,250.00
<b>Community Services Total</b>	<b>\$ 48,816.78</b>	<b>\$ 50,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,483.02</b>	<b>\$ (133.02)</b>	<b>\$ 51,350.00</b>
<b>Planning</b>					
Development Review Board	\$ 847.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,245.00	\$ (245.00)	\$ 1,250.00
Regional Planning	1,460.00	1,504.00	1,504.00	-	1,548.00
Town Planning	-	-	-	-	800.00
Zoning	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
<b>Planning Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,307.50</b>	<b>\$ 3,504.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,749.00</b>	<b>\$ (245.00)</b>	<b>\$ 4,598.00</b>
<b>General Government</b>					
County Tax	\$ 42,219.39	\$ 42,219.00	\$ 43,444.46	\$ (1,225.46)	\$ 43,444.00
Leaseland Rent	85.00	85.00	-	85.00	85.00
Legal Fees & Consultants	562.50	2,000.00	3,073.50	(1,073.50)	3,000.00
<b>General Government Total</b>	<b>\$ 42,866.89</b>	<b>\$ 44,304.00</b>	<b>\$ 46,517.96</b>	<b>\$ (2,213.96)</b>	<b>\$ 46,529.00</b>

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed
<b>Municipal Property</b>					
Municipal Building	\$ 6,619.55	\$ 16,712.00	\$ 12,946.87	\$ 3,765.13	\$ 16,500.00
Town House	10,075.34	10,300.00	16,500.07	(6,200.07)	12,450.00
Town House Restrooms	21,718.33	500.00	352.68	147.32	500.00
Cemeteries	8,700.00	10,800.00	6,350.00	4,450.00	10,800.00
Town Common	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	-	-
Tennis Court	-	1,000.00	100,374.00	(99,374.00)	-
Recreation Areas	7,316.92	8,500.00	6,708.94	1,791.06	5,200.00
Pocket Park	1,757.58	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	10,673.00	(10,673.00)	-
<b>Municipal Property Total</b>	<b>\$ 57,387.72</b>	<b>\$ 49,012.00</b>	<b>\$ 155,105.56</b>	<b>\$(106,093.56)</b>	<b>\$ 45,450.00</b>
<b>Grant Expenditures</b>					
Miscellaneous Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,750.00	\$ (14,750.00)	\$ -
Planning Grants	3,273.14	1,914.00	10,882.15	(8,968.15)	-
<b>Grant Expenditures Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,273.14</b>	<b>\$ 1,914.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,632.15</b>	<b>\$ (23,718.15)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 12,158.97	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,094.78	\$ 655.22	\$ 3,750.00
<b>Miscellaneous Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,158.97</b>	<b>\$ 3,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,094.78</b>	<b>\$ 655.22</b>	<b>\$ 3,750.00</b>
<b>Independent Committees (Revenue &amp; Expenses from Reserve)</b>					
Carrie Sanborn	\$ 6,201.06	\$ -	\$ 7,646.07	\$ (7,646.07)	\$ -
Conservation Fund	4,337.50	-	50.00	(50.00)	-
Energy Committee	1,789.17	-	-	-	-
<b>Independent Committees Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,327.73</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,696.07</b>	<b>\$ (7,696.07)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 530,275.04 *</b>	<b>\$ 495,783.00</b>	<b>\$1,139,527.18</b>	<b>\$(643,744.18)</b>	<b>\$ 495,309.00</b>
<b>General Fund Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ (7,341.60) *</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (7,358.24)</b>	<b>\$ (7,358.24)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

*h - Capital expenditure on recycling bins*

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

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed
<b>HIGHWAY FUND Revenue</b>					
<b>Taxes</b>					
Balances Forward	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ 184,330.00 <i>j</i>
Current Taxes	684,712.82 *	695,299.00	695,299.00	-	695,299.00
<b>Taxes Total</b>	<b>\$ 684,712.82 *</b>	<b>\$ 695,299.00</b>	<b>\$ 695,299.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 879,629.00</b>
<b>Governmental</b>					
FEMA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,168.14	\$ 6,168.14	\$ -
Grants	175,000.00	350,000.00	324,951.43	(25,048.57)	-
Vermont Gas Tax	143,567.48	144,000.00	143,510.16	(489.84)	143,500.00
<b>Governmental Total</b>	<b>\$ 318,567.48</b>	<b>\$ 494,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 474,629.73</b>	<b>\$ (19,370.27)</b>	<b>\$ 143,500.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
Miscellaneous Income	260.00	-	340.00	340.00	-
Loan Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Miscellaneous Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,003,280.30 *</b>	<b>1,189,299.00</b>	<b>1,169,928.73</b>	<b>(19,370.27)</b>	<b>1,023,129.00</b>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND Expenses</b>					
<b>Labor &amp; Benefits</b>					
Highway Department Labor	\$ 189,289.31	\$ 204,472.00	\$ 193,954.66	\$ 10,517.34	\$ 208,621.00 <i>k</i>
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	65,537.34	65,620.00	64,113.00	1,507.00	46,741.00
Municipal Retirement	7,861.04	8,179.00	7,610.02	568.98	8,345.00
Social Security Tax	14,614.44	17,563.00	16,676.62	886.38	15,960.00
Unemployment Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
Workers' Compensation	-	-	-	-	15,769.00
<b>Labor &amp; Benefits Total</b>	<b>\$ 277,302.13</b>	<b>\$ 295,834.00</b>	<b>\$ 282,354.30</b>	<b>\$ 13,479.70</b>	<b>\$ 295,436.00</b>

*j* - Balance forward uses a surplus from a prior year to offset taxes

*k* - includes all highway department labor costs; costs are no longer divided by season or task for budgeting

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed
<b>Municipal Property</b>					
Contract Services	\$ 570.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 1,000.00
Materials	1,583.04	2,000.00	1,041.43	958.57	7,000.00
Recycling	2,140.67	2,200.00	231.84	1,968.16	500.00
Sidewalks	6,900.00	9,000.00	7,400.00	1,600.00	9,000.00
Mowing	-	-	-	-	8,325.00
Town Garage	24,949.72	22,510.00	24,234.10	(1,724.10)	22,510.00
<b>Municipal Property Total</b>	<b>\$ 36,143.43</b>	<b>\$ 36,710.00</b>	<b>\$ 33,387.37</b>	<b>\$ 3,322.63</b>	<b>\$ 48,335.00</b>
<b>Materials</b>					
Chloride	\$ 8,842.64 *	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,115.80	\$ (115.80)	\$ 15,000.00
Gravel	45,137.24 *	31,800.00	30,179.38	1,620.62	31,800.00
Miscellaneous Materials	610.44 *	30,000.00	932.26	29,067.74	25,000.00
Salt	52,198.75	50,000.00	51,918.08	(1,918.08)	50,000.00
Sand	30,000.00	33,000.00	20,948.45	12,051.55	33,000.00
<b>Materials Total</b>	<b>\$ 136,789.07 *</b>	<b>\$ 159,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 119,093.97</b>	<b>\$ 40,706.03</b>	<b>\$ 154,800.00</b>
<b>Bridges</b>					
Bridge Grant Expenditures	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Bridge Grant Town Match	83,904.91	17,500.00	28,672.78	(11,172.78)	88,499.00
Materials	1,746.02	5,000.00	3,182.56	1,817.44	5,000.00
<b>Bridges Total</b>	<b>\$ 260,650.93</b>	<b>\$ 197,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 206,855.34</b>	<b>\$ (9,355.34)</b>	<b>\$ 93,499.00</b>
<b>Contracted Services</b>					
Contract Services	\$ 25,090.50	\$ 39,600.00	\$ 2,205.00	\$ 37,395.00	\$ 39,600.00
<b>Contracted Services Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,090.50</b>	<b>\$ 39,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,205.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,395.00</b>	<b>\$ 39,600.00</b>
<b>Paving</b>					
Paving Grant Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 149,951.44	\$ 25,048.56	\$ 45,511.00
Paving Grant Town Match	-	17,500.00	37,487.85	(19,987.85)	-
Retreatment	25,000.00	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	30,000.00
<b>Paving Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 217,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 187,439.29</b>	<b>\$ 30,060.71</b>	<b>\$ 75,511.00</b>

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed	
<b>Equipment</b>						<i>l</i>
Capital Expense	\$ 34,427.31	\$ 34,541.00	\$ 34,427.31	\$ 113.69	\$ 123,054.00	<i>m</i>
Interest	8,871.42	6,453.00	6,354.24	98.76	1,936.00	
Debt Service	-	70,247.00	70,454.96	(207.96)	59,700.00	<i>n</i>
Gas & Oil	45,842.48	55,000.00	38,115.86	16,884.14	55,000.00	
Supplies	26,918.74	28,000.00	21,031.36	6,968.64	28,000.00	
Insurance	8,728.48	9,114.00	9,114.00	-	10,258.00	
Backhoe Repairs	324.83	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Grader Repairs	9,859.08	5,000.00	7,928.72	(2,928.72)	5,000.00	
Loader Repairs	883.70	1,000.00	250.00	750.00	1,000.00	
Mower Repairs	985.64	1,500.00	2,079.39	(579.39)	1,500.00	
Truck 1 Repairs	6,690.31	8,000.00	2,090.40	5,909.60	2,000.00	
Truck 2 Repairs	1,041.07	7,500.00	2,839.77	4,660.23	7,500.00	
Truck 3 Repairs	19,946.73	10,000.00	1,557.24	8,442.76	15,000.00	
Truck 4 Repairs	2,576.27	5,000.00	2,894.68	2,105.32	5,000.00	
<b>Equipment Total</b>	<b>\$ 167,096.06</b>	<b>\$ 242,355.00</b>	<b>\$ 199,137.93</b>	<b>\$ 43,217.07</b>	<b>\$ 315,948.00</b>	
<b>FEMA</b>						
Contract Services	\$ 1,579.50	\$ -	\$ 3,962.89	\$ (3,962.89)	\$ -	
Interest	2,858.26	-	-	-	-	
<b>FEMA Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,437.76</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,962.89</b>	<b>\$ (3,962.89)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>						
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Miscellaneous Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>HIGHWAY FUND Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 932,509.88</b>	<b>* \$1,189,299.00</b>	<b>\$1,034,436.09</b>	<b>\$ 154,862.91</b>	<b>\$ 1,023,129.00</b>	
<b>Highway Fund Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,770.42</b>	<b>* \$ -</b>	<b>\$ 135,492.64</b>	<b>\$ 135,492.64</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	

*l - Direct equipment costs were formerly recorded in the Equipment Fund; equipment use figures, which were formerly recorded as expenses in the Highway Fund and revenue in the Equipment Fund, have been discontinued*

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

*n - Principal payments for loans*

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed
<b>TOWN GARAGE BOND Revenue</b>					
<b>Taxes</b>					
Current Taxes	\$ 55,220.00	\$ 52,852.00	\$ 52,852.00	\$ -	\$ 51,438.00
<b>Taxes Total</b>	<b>\$ 55,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,852.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,852.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 51,438.00</b>
<b>TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 55,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,852.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,852.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 51,438.00</b>
<b>TOWN GARAGE BOND Expenses</b>					
<b>Bond</b>					
Debt Service	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00	35,000.00	\$ -	35,000.00
Interest	20,138.10	17,852.00	17,852.00	-	16,438.00
<b>Bond Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,138.10</b>	<b>\$ 52,852.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,852.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 51,438.00</b>
<b>TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 20,138.10</b>	<b>\$ 52,852.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,852.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 51,438.00</b>
<b>Town Garage Bond Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,081.90</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND Revenue</b>					
<b>Taxes</b>					
Current Taxes	\$ 138,360.00	\$ 136,338.00	\$ 136,360.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 134,340.00
<b>Taxes Total</b>	<b>\$ 138,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 136,338.00</b>	<b>\$ 136,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 22.00</b>	<b>\$ 134,340.00</b>
<b>HWY RECON BOND Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 138,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 136,338.00</b>	<b>\$ 136,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 22.00</b>	<b>\$ 134,340.00</b>
<b>HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND Expenses</b>					
<b>Contract Services</b>					
Contract Services	\$ 28,318.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Contract Services Total</b>	<b>\$ 28,318.80</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Bond</b>					
Debt Service	-	122,200.00	122,222.22	(22.22)	122,222.00
Interest	16,160.29	14,138.00	14,138.18	(0.18)	12,118.00
<b>Bond Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,160.29</b>	<b>\$ 136,338.00</b>	<b>\$ 136,360.40</b>	<b>\$ (22.40)</b>	<b>\$ 134,340.00</b>
<b>HWY RECON BOND Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 44,479.09</b>	<b>\$ 136,338.00</b>	<b>\$ 136,360.40</b>	<b>\$ (22.40)</b>	<b>\$ 134,340.00</b>
<b>Hwy Recon Bond Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 93,880.91</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (0.40)</b>	<b>\$ (0.40)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

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

	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2017 Proposed
<b>TOTALS</b>					
<i>(Grand Totals for each fund are listed after the fund revenues and expenses, and are repeated here)</i>					
General Fund Grand Total	\$ (7,341.60) *	\$ -	\$ (7,358.24)	\$ (7,358.24)	\$ -
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 70,770.42 *	\$ -	\$ 135,492.64	\$ 135,492.64	\$ -
Town Garage Fund Grand Total	\$ 35,081.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Hwy Reconstr. Fund Grand Total	\$ 93,880.91	\$ -	\$ (0.40)	\$ (0.40)	\$ -
ALL FUNDS Revenue	\$ 1,719,793.74 *	\$ 1,874,272.00	\$ 2,491,309.67	\$ 617,037.67	\$ 1,704,216.00
ALL FUNDS Expenses	\$ 1,527,402.11 *	\$ 1,874,272.00	\$ 2,363,175.67	\$ (488,903.67)	\$ 1,704,216.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 192,391.63 *	\$ -	\$ 128,134.00	\$ 128,134.00	\$ -

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

For Years Ending December 31, 2015 and 2016 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Town Garage	Hwy Reconstr.	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2016	12/31/2015 (Note 4)
<b>ASSETS</b>							
Cash	\$1,617,435.86	\$329,759.40	\$ 19,749.28	\$ (451.27)	\$ 34,958.08	\$ 2,001,451.35	\$ 216,540.37
Delinquent Tax Receivable	107,522.82	-	-	-	-	107,522.82	74,804.44
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	2,035.51	-	-	-	-	2,035.51	7,640.86
Accounts Receivable	30,164.24	464.89	-	-	-	30,629.13	137,346.50
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,757,158.43</b>	<b>\$330,224.29</b>	<b>\$ 19,749.28</b>	<b>\$ (451.27)</b>	<b>\$ 34,958.08</b>	<b>\$ 2,141,638.81</b>	<b>\$ 436,332.17</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>							
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
Deferred Revenue	\$ 82,168.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 82,168.75	\$ 73,026.39
Accounts Payable	1,588,860.77	72,644.72	-	-	-	1,661,505.49	74,432.92
Accrued Payroll	1,386.92	6,132.99	-	-	-	7,519.91	5,604.77
Logging Bond	-	500.00	-	-	-	500.00	500.00
Due to School District	5,525.68	-	-	-	-	5,525.68	23,036.93
Due to Tax Collector	2,038.72	-	-	-	-	2,038.72	4,158.45
Miscellaneous Liabilities	323.69	-	-	-	-	323.69	817.67
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$1,680,304.53</b>	<b>\$ 79,277.71</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,759,582.24</b>	<b>\$ 181,577.13</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>							
Restricted (Note 3)	\$ 80,683.95	\$250,946.58	\$ 19,749.28	\$ (451.27)	\$ 34,958.08	\$ 385,886.62	\$ 245,032.57
Unrestricted	(3,830.05)	-	-	-	-	(3,830.05)	9,722.47
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 76,853.90</b>	<b>\$250,946.58</b>	<b>\$ 19,749.28</b>	<b>\$ (451.27)</b>	<b>\$ 34,958.08</b>	<b>\$ 382,056.57</b>	<b>\$ 254,755.04</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,757,158.43</b>	<b>\$330,224.29</b>	<b>\$ 19,749.28</b>	<b>\$ (451.27)</b>	<b>\$ 34,958.08</b>	<b>\$ 2,141,638.81</b>	<b>\$ 436,332.17</b>

See Notes 1, 4, and 5 for more information about the Fire Truck Fund and Equipment Fund.

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

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT**  
**ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES**  
**Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2015 and 2016**

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Fire Truck Fund	Town Garage Fund	Hwy Recon Fund	Equipment Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2015	\$ 115,492.19	\$ (39,187.54)	\$ 6,920.60	\$ (390,250.72)	\$ (884,325.23)	\$ 3,493.93
Prior Year Adj ( <i>See Note 4</i> )	(31,280.05)	2,013.05	(6,920.60)	410,000.00	883,874.36	148,794.50
Adj. Fund Bal. Dec. 31, 2015	<b>84,212.14</b>	<b>(37,174.49)</b>	-	<b>19,749.28</b>	<b>(450.87)</b>	<b>152,288.43</b>
Transfers Out ( <i>See Note 5</i> )	-	-	-	-	-	(152,288.43)
Transfers In ( <i>See Note 5</i> )	-	152,288.43	-	-	-	-
Revenues	1,132,168.94	1,170,268.73	-	52,852.00	136,360.00	-
Balances and Additions	\$ 1,216,381.08	\$ 1,285,382.67	\$ -	\$ 72,601.28	\$ 135,909.13	\$ -
Expenditures:	(1,139,527.18)	(1,034,436.09)	-	(52,852.00)	(136,360.40)	-
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2016	<b>\$ 76,853.90</b>	<b>\$ 250,946.58</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 19,749.28</b>	<b>\$ (451.27)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD  
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS  
Year Ending December 31, 2016**

**2012 John Deere Grader**

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
March 30, 2017	4,179.62	53.08	4,126.54	4,152.41
June 30, 2017	4,179.62	27.21	4,152.41	-

*Terms: 2.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$224,000;  
\$110,000 repaid 3/28/13. Mascoma Savings Bank*

**2012 John Deere Grader**

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
December 31, 2017	22,880.00	440.00	22,000.00	-

*Terms: 2% interest. Original amount borrowed \$110,000. State of Vermont*

**2014 Western Star**

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
December 31, 2017	28,117.43	1,389.83	26,727.60	26,727.60
December 31, 2018	27,422.52	694.92	26,727.60	-

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

**2016 Tax Anticipation Note**

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
January 3, 2017	506,711.64	6,711.64	500,000.00	-

*Terms: 2.05% interest. Line of credit; total amount borrowed \$500,000.  
Mascoma Savings Bank*

*For other indebtedness information, please refer to Note 5 in the "Notes to Financial Statements."*

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD**  
**TOWN ENDOWMENTS AND TRUST FUNDS - SELECTMEN, TRUSTEES**  
 Year Ending December 31, 2016

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Trust Income Balance 12/31/15</b>	<b>Interest Income</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Frank Brown Fund	\$ 10,000.00	2,902.77	(44.33)	0.00	13,179.15
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	5,377.51	(22.79)	0.00	10,515.08
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					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 21,353.34</b>	<b>\$ 13,671.86</b>	<b>\$ (67.12)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 34,958.08</b>

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

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

### Equipment Inventory

- 2014 Western Star 10-Wheeler with MG Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing
- 2011 International 7400 with Everest Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing
- 2008 Ford Ton Truck with 2-way Everest Plow and MG 4-Season Side Dump
- 2007 International 5500 4x4 with Everest Side Dump Body and Plow
- 2015 John Deere 544G Loader
- 2015 John Deere 410 Backhoe
- 2012 772G John Deere Grader
- 2006 Challenger MT445B Tractor
- 2005 Dump Trailer
- 1,000 Gallon Aboveground Fuel Tank with Pump
- 2 –Chloride Tanks – 3000 gallon each
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 500 gallon
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 1,000 gallon
- 1 – Motorola Base Radio
- 1 – Lincoln Mig Welder
- 10 – Motorola 16 channel Scan Mobile Radio
- 1 – Yamaha 4500 Generator
- 2 – Motorola 2 channel Hand Held Radios
- 1 – Landa Power Washer
- 1 – 20' x 20' Sand Screen
- 1 – Hydraulic Hose Press
- 1 – Jonsered Chain Saw
- 1 – Culvert Compactor
- 4 – Husqvarna Chain Saws
- 1 – Husqvarna Pole Saw
- 1 – 225 Husqvarna Weed Cutter
- 1 – Desktop Computer
- 1 – 325 Husqvarna Power Broom
- 1 – Printer
- 1 – York Rake
- 1 – Front Mount York Rake
- 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, 2016**

**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. *Equipment Fund*—The Equipment Fund was rolled into the Highway Fund in 2016. *Fire Truck Fund*—The Fire Truck Fund was established in 2001 to purchase a new fire truck. Remaining funds have been moved to a General Fund reserve. *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. Each endowment is shown further on in these statements.

**Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Restricted fund revenue and expenditures are reflected in the General Fund statements. Net changes to restricted funds in each year will be reported in these notes.

<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>	<b><i>Beginning Balance</i></b>	<b><i>Net Change in 2016</i></b>	<b><i>Ending Balance</i></b>
Reserve-Tennis Courts	\$ 2,882.00	\$ 2,981.00	\$ 5,863.00
Reserve-Town House	8,548.68	(2,569.25)	5,979.43
Reserve-Town House Clock	338.03	-	338.03
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	10,400.39	(5,145.00)	5,255.39
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	18,013.29	6,764.00	24,777.29

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2016</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>			
Reserve-Recreation	550.00	3,125.00	3,675.00
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	4,075.00	-	4,075.00
Reserve-Dogs	580.00	-	580.00
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	11,427.79	4,675.00	16,102.79
Reserve-Pocket Park	224.17	-	224.17
Reserve-Energy Committee	1,572.33	-	1,572.33
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	4,336.77	(50.00)	4,286.77
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	4,610.72	(3,586.07)	1,024.65
Reserve-Fire Truck	6,920.20	-	6,920.20
<b>Total General Reserve Funds</b>	<b>\$74,489.27</b>	<b>\$ 6,194.68</b>	<b>\$ 80,683.95</b>

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2016</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
<b>HIGHWAY FUND:</b>			
Reserve-Equipment	\$ -	\$152,288.43	\$152,288.43
<b>Total Highway Reserve Funds</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$152,288.43</b>	<b>\$152,288.43</b>

#### **Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS**

This section contains adjustments to fund balances from adjustments made by the outside auditors. Those adjustments handle recategorization of some expenses and adjustments based on receipts and payments in the first 60 days of the audited year.

We have also changed the way that loans are reflected in the books. Loans received by the Town of Strafford will now be shown as revenue under "Loan Proceeds" and equipment purchased with those funds shown as "Capital Expense" (or, in the case of Tax Anticipation Notes, as "Financial Services"). Loan payments will be expensed to the line item where they were budgeted (e.g., "Recycling" for the recycling bins) in the year those payments are made.

We also closed out two special funds: the remaining fire truck funds were moved to a fire truck reserve in the general fund, and the equipment fund was closed and funds transferred to a reserve in the highway fund.

#### **GENERAL FUND:**

Move fire truck from separate fund to reserve	\$ 6,920.60
Adjust liabilities	( 3,640.00)
Change in deferred revenue	( 16,308.02)
Account for audit in general fund	( 20,000.00)
Reduction in School District payment due	1,747.37

***HIGHWAY FUND:***

Reduction in Accounts Receivable	(\$ 6,168.15)
Reduction in Accounts Payables	16,500.00
Account for audit in highway fund	( 8,318.80)

***EQUIPMENT FUND:***

Change treatment of Notes Payable	\$148,794.50
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***FIRE TRUCK FUND:***

Move fire truck from separate fund to reserve	(\$ 6,920.60)
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***TOWN GARAGE FUND:***

Change treatment of Notes Payable	\$410,000.00
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***HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION FUND:***

Change treatment of Notes Payable	\$855,555.56
Account for audit in highway fund	28,318.80

**Note 5: TRANSFERS**

***HIGHWAY FUND:***

Transfer in balance from Equipment Fund	\$152,888.43
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***EQUIPMENT FUND:***

Transfer out balance to Highway Fund	(\$152,888.43)
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**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, 2016, is \$109,072.



*The Cobb House (Gerlach) before 1870, with Daniel Cobb's law office building on the right.*

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD**  
**STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED**  
**Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2016**

Grand List				
	Real Estate		195,683,100	
	Plus Equipment		36,700	
	Less Exemption		(160,000)	
	Less Current Use		(18,233,500)	
	Less Local Agreements		(215,000)	
	<b>Total</b>		<u>177,111,300</u>	
Total Listed Value				
	Residential		177,111,300	
	Non-residential		109,563,900	
			67,547,400	
Taxes Billed				
			Tax rate	Tax
	General Fund	1,771,113.00 x	0.1753	310,476
	Highway Fund	1,771,113.00 x	0.3926	695,339
	Town Garage	1,771,113.00 x	0.0298	52,779
	Hwy Reconstruction	1,771,113.00 x	0.0770	136,376
	Deficit Reduction	1,771,113.00 x	0.0000	-
	Local Agreements	1,771,113.00 x	0.0016	2,834
	Homestead Educ.	1,095,639.00 x	1.5536	1,702,185
	Nonresidential Educ.	675,474.00 x	1.4870	1,004,430
	<b>Total</b>			<u>3,904,418</u>
Adjustments to Taxes Due				
	Lister errors and omissions			535
	Current use change			(10,340)
	State Homestead Declaration errors			280
	Board of Civil Authority appeal			-
	Board of Civil Authority abatement			-
	Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration			2,591
	Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties			2,344
	Rounding			-
	<b>Total Taxes Due</b>			<u><b>3,899,828</b></u>
Taxes accounted for as follows:				
	Collections			3,781,208
	Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2016)			118,620
	<b>Total Taxes Collectible</b>			<u><b>3,899,828</b></u>

**REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY****2016 Listed Values**

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education Listed Value (Homestead)	Education Listed Value (Nonresidential)	Total Education Listed Value
Residential less than 6 acres	44,408,900	34,718,500	9,690,400	44,408,900
Residential more than 6 acres	97,916,100	67,467,300	30,448,800	97,916,100
Mobile home without land	76,700	25,400	51,300	76,700
Mobile home with land	1,791,300	1,537,200	254,100	1,791,300
Vacation home less than 6 acres	1,081,300	261,900	819,400	1,081,300
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,789,600	1,815,500	8,974,100	10,789,600
Commercial	1,878,600	347,700	1,530,900	1,878,600
Commercial Apartments	715,600	-	715,600	715,600
Utilities Electric	3,872,500	-	3,872,500	3,872,500
Farm	15,049,500	9,250,000	5,799,500	15,049,500
Woodland	13,191,400	-	13,191,400	13,191,400
Miscellaneous	4,911,600	469,500	4,442,100	4,911,600
<b>TOTAL REAL ESTATE</b>	<b>195,683,100</b>	<b>115,893,000</b>	<b>79,790,100</b>	<b>195,683,100</b>
Cable	36,700		36,700	36,700
<b>TOTAL LISTED VALUE</b>	<b>195,719,800</b>	<b>115,893,000</b>	<b>79,826,800</b>	<b>195,719,800</b>
Veterans' Exemptions	(160,000)	(30,000)	(10,000)	(40,000)
Current Use	(18,233,500)	(6,209,100)	(12,024,400)	(18,233,500)
Local Agreements	(215,000)	-	(152,500)	(152,500)
<b>TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY</b>	<b>177,111,300</b>	<b>109,653,900</b>	<b>67,639,900</b>	<b>177,293,800</b>

## ANIMAL LICENSING

16	Male dogs
140	Neutered dogs
23	Female dogs
164	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,528.00

### Dog License Information

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 to 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 \$9.00 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$13.00 for an unspayed female or unneutered male dog. Dog licenses issued after April 1st will be subject to an increase in the fee. Dogs obtained after April 1st shall be licensed within 30 days. Dogs obtained after October 1st shall be licensed for one-half the fee otherwise required. One dollar of the collected fee is turned over to the State of Vermont for rabies control.

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 – \$20.00 full penalty/\$1.00 waiver penalty (waiver penalty applies when an alleged violator pays the fine without contesting the violation); Second offense – \$25.00 penalty; Third offense – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$50.00 penalty; Subsequent offenses – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$100.00 penalty; Impoundment cost – \$40.00/day.

VERMONT RABIES HOTLINE

1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)

Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

## TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

### Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Year Ending December 31, 2016

Name	Total	Name	Total
Baldwin, Paul & April	\$ 2,948.82	Mazzella, Robert & Lisa	1,744.63
Bucchi, Peter & Linda	1,150.87	McPhee, Kevin Sr. & Tanya	1,929.67
Byrne, R & Fischer-Byrne, U	5,374.83	Moses, James G	1,074.84
Claffey, Keran & Rachel	4,363.92	Osmer, Eufemia	1,662.70
Conant, James/Beth/David	3,900.59	Owen, Kate	2,466.68
Depuy, Gove D. Trust	1,724.15	Pixley, Marvin & Kandy	3,848.62
Devlin, Francis	3,953.91	Savage-Ashley, Rosamond	3,651.65
Devlin, Francis	4,767.92	Shaub, Paul & Rodney	2,248.26
Dudley, Diana	179.55	Silovich, Donald	6,316.84
Farina, Chris	10,864.09	Smith, Keston	1,466.72
Gaudreau, Kevin R	2,565.67	Stanley, Henry	7,553.44
Graber, Martha	2,682.49	Stoffell, M & Emeny, R	1,944.23
Higgins, Shannon & Amanda	1,776.36	Stone, Robert	2,166.22
Jarnot, Joseph et al.	787.53	Takacs, Edward	72.48
Kendall, Gile Jr	473.76	Traendly, K & Bohman, Y	423.78
Kendall, Gile Jr & Nicole	4,932.27	Traudt, Scott & Victoria	4,785.50
Kendall, Jesse	4,082.15	Ward, Dana & Moses, Kristina	2,044.35
Kendall, Rachel	2,443.60	Ward, Shawn & Dorothy	635.88
Lord, Edwin	1,083.39	1 Wich, C & Corcoran-Wich, L	186.29
Matson, Timothy	1,023.52	Zagaeski, Theodore	220.65
		Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2016	\$ 107,522.82

1 *Bankruptcy Court controlled collection*

	<b>Total</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Prior Years</b>
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2016	\$ 107,522.82	\$ 95,605.35	\$ 4,938.96	\$ 6,978.51
Plus December Collections	47,195.68	23,014.72	18,807.25	5,373.71
	\$ 154,718.50	\$ 118,620.07	\$ 23,746.21	\$ 12,352.22
Previously uncollected		\$ 36,098.43		
2016 Delinq. Tax Warrant		118,620.07		
Total Delinquency		\$ 154,718.50		

*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, 2016**

	Total	2016	2015	2014 & prior
Balance January 1, 2016	\$ 74,804.44		\$ 58,519.51	\$16,284.93
Delinquent to Collector	118,620.07	118,620.07		
Subtotal	193,424.51	118,620.07	58,519.51	16,284.93
Collections/abatements/discharges	(85,901.69)	(23,014.72)	(53,580.55)	(9,306.42)
Balance December 31, 2016	\$107,522.82	\$ 95,605.35	\$ 4,938.96	\$ 6,978.51

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

	Delinquent Taxes	2008 - 2016 Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2009	55,239.94	2008	3,031,833.53	1.82%
January 1, 2010	63,314.83	2009	3,178,527.69	1.99%
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%

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

	2008 - 2016 Warrants Issued	Total Bills Issued	% of Parcels Delinquent
December 1, 2008	68	683	9.96%
December 1, 2009	67	678	9.88%
December 1, 2010	72	680	10.59%
December 1, 2011	60	681	8.81%
December 1, 2012	63	682	9.24%
December 1, 2013	58	684	8.48%
December 1, 2014	59	688	8.58%
December 1, 2015	59	681	8.66%
December 1, 2016	54	688	7.85%

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
John W. Welsh	Strafford, VT	Kimberly A. Arsenault	Strafford, VT	2/20/2016	Strafford, VT
Brenton B. Cosden	Carpentersville, IL	Ashley M. Romano	Strafford, VT	6/1/2016	Strafford, VT
Cheryl A. Jenks	Strafford, VT	Sidney A. Pixley Jr.	Strafford, VT	7/2/2016	Strafford, VT
Ashley J. Chabot	Spokane, WA	Daniel B. Maguire	Spokane, WA	7/9/2016	Strafford, VT
Vanessa G. Plamondon	Strafford, VT	James R. Sawyer	Strafford, VT	7/23/2016	Strafford, VT
Michael E. Swift	Strafford, VT	Christina T. Parker	Strafford, VT	8/6/2016	Strafford, VT

### Deaths

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
Nancy T. Gerlach	F	88	Strafford, VT	4/1/2016	Strafford, VT
Elaine M. Hodge	F	72	South Strafford, VT	4/6/2016	South Strafford, VT
Mary E. Ilsley	F	98	Ayer, MA	4/27/2016	Ayer, MA
Patricia R. McHugo	F	92	Woodstock, VT	5/7/2016	Strafford, VT
Patricia S. Reynolds	F	66	South Strafford, VT	6/6/2016	South Strafford, VT
Sandra L. Dow	F	75	South Strafford, VT	8/23/2016	South Strafford, VT
Edward H. Gramling	M	94	Windsor, VT	11/17/2016	Strafford, VT
John T. Hemenway	M	92	Strafford, VT	12/21/2016	Strafford, VT

**VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)****Burials**

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
Edmund Coffin	M	94	Lebanon, NH	4/18/2016	Strafford Cemetery
Mary E. Ilsley	F	98	Ayer, MA	4/27/2016	Evergreen Cemetery
Richard C. Rice, Sr.	M	85	Hanover, NH	9/6/2016	Strafford Cemetery

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

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

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

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

## TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2011 Market Value	12/31/2012 Market Value	12/31/2013 Market Value	12/31/2014 Market Value	12/31/2015 Market Value	12/31/2016 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 65,195.13	\$ 71,947.96	\$ 80,796.76	\$ 85,455.99	\$ 85,391.11	\$ <b>89,925.47</b>	\$ 4,534.35	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,534.35
Gilman	6,396.81	7,230.21	7,921.99	8,574.92	8,718.92	<b>9,386.12</b>	667.19	-	667.19
Mix	35,838.63	40,507.77	76,305.65	82,594.73	83,981.80	<b>90,408.31</b>	6,426.51	-	6,426.51
Newton	70,337.87	79,401.67	92,389.73	99,304.45	100,172.14	<b>107,837.57</b>	7,665.44		7,665.44
Ordway	161,523.17	178,066.82	200,818.21	211,044.55	203,563.77	<b>209,961.01</b>	6,397.24	9,180.00	15,577.24
Robinson	5,318.24	6,011.12	7,001.95	7,579.05	7,706.33	<b>8,296.04</b>	589.71	-	589.71
RWW	14,229.70	16,083.58	18,734.70	20,278.80	20,619.36	<b>22,197.20</b>	1,577.85	-	1,577.85
SCE	3,284.43	4,842.62	5,440.85	5,714.28	5,635.24	<b>5,866.47</b>	231.22	200.00	431.22
SAA	35,588.70	40,225.29	46,855.76	50,717.59	51,569.33	<b>3,901.46</b>	(47,667.87)	50,000.00	2,332.13
ERF			11,648.34	12,608.39	12,820.13	<b>13,801.16</b>	981.03	-	981.03
CST *	267,374.29	296,578.20	346,943.79	370,010.33	370,023.11	<b>390,752.19</b>	20,729.08	7,628.07	28,315.15
C-B A **	-	-	-	-	-	<b>51,614.09</b>	51,614.09	-	1,614.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$665,086.98</b>	<b>\$740,895.24</b>	<b>\$894,857.73</b>	<b>\$953,883.07</b>	<b>\$950,201.24</b>	<b>\$1,003,947.08</b>	<b>\$53,745.84</b>	<b>\$69,008.07</b>	<b>\$72,711.91</b>
<i>Disbursed</i>	<i>9,830.63</i>	<i>8,652.81</i>	<i>13,559.26</i>	<i>14,728.40</i>	<i>19,701.06</i>	<b><i>69,008.07</i></b>			

Notes: \* CST: The amount added to the fund less expenses was \$42

\*\* The Community-Building Award Fund was established on September 1, 2016 with a \$50,000 bequest made by Ned Coffin

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds

Change before disbursements and additions

**7.65%**

## INVESTMENTS

<u>Cash</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Equity Funds</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Mascoma Checking (total of 2 accounts)	\$ 5,432.10	38.67% Vanguard Wellesley Inc. (VWIAX)	\$ 139,193.87
Vanguard Prime MM (VMMXX)	2,791.55	Vanguard Health Care (VGHAX)	53,872.38
VT Community Loan Fund	10,000.00	Vanguard REIT Index (VWIGX)	59,719.63
Total Cash	1.8% <b>\$ 18,223.65</b>	Primecap Odyssey (POAGX)	72,284.02
<u>Fixed Income</u>		Oakmark International (OAKIX)	57,760.64
61.33% Vanguard Wellesley Inc. (VWIAX)	\$ 220,759.24	Vanguard Extended Mkt Index (VEXAX)	101,836.50
ECFiber	10,270.83	Vanguard Dividend Growth (VDIGX)	216,821.57
Vanguard ST Bond (VFSTX)	10,644.72		
Fidelity New Markets Income (FNMIX)	16,858.79	Total Equity Funds	69.9% <b>\$ 701,488.61</b>
Met. West TR Bond (MWTRX)	25,701.24		
Total Fixed Income	28.3% <b>\$ 284,234.82</b>		
Total Cash & Fixed Income	30.1% <b>\$ 302,458.47</b>	<b>End of the year total</b>	<b>100.0% \$ 1,003,947.08</b>

## **GARDNER N. COBB CHILD WELFARE FUND**

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

## **COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD FUND**

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

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

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

## **EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

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

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

## **ROBERT I. GILMAN AND EVELYN ROBERTS GILMAN TRUST FUND**

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

## **ROBIN MIX MEMORIAL FUND**

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

## **NEWTON FUND**

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

## **ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND**

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

## **WALTER C. ROBINSON FUND**

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

## **CARRIE SANBORN TRUST**

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

## **THE STRAFFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND**

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

## **STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FUND**

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

## **RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS**

The Trustees distributed a total of \$68,608.07 in 2016 from the following Town Funds:

The Cobb Fund granted \$2,000 to the Strafford School Based Health Clinic.

The Strafford Athletic Association fund granted \$50,000 to the Town of Strafford to help cover the cost to rebuild the tennis courts in South Strafford.

The Ordway fund distributed a total of \$9,180 in 2016.

Five Strafford college students were granted \$540 each from the Ordway Fund. The three 2016 recipients were each granted a one time award of \$2,160 (4 times this year's \$540 quarterly amount).

As of 2015 all recipients have been given a one time grant. This is now our standard practice for making grants for all future first time recipients. The total amount awarded therefore was  $(5 @ 540) + (3 @ 2,160) = \$9,180$ .

The PTA received \$200 from the Strafford Community Education Fund to help provide supplemental arts programs for the benefit of our Newton Elementary School students.

The Carrie Sanborn Trust distributed a total of \$7,628.07 via the CST Committee to provide needed assistance to multiple families and individuals in our community.

A bequest of \$50,000 from the Ned Coffin estate was used to establish the "Community-Building Award Fund" on September 1, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hawkins  
Elizabeth Ruml  
Kevin Plunkett

## **ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee establishes guidelines, evaluates applications and determines award recipients. The awards are funded by proceeds derived from the Trust established by Robert H. Ordway's will.

The Trustees of Public Funds manage the Trust and their financial statement and report appear elsewhere in this report.

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

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

2016 Awards: Jay Knoerlein, Emily Masteller, Julio Linehan-Lopez

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, Cindy Maclay, Rod Maclay, Rockwell Fuller, and Joanna Hawkins.

## MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

The library's most noteworthy accomplishment in 2016 had little to do with books or other conventional services and everything to do with the spirit of the library and, in some ways, the larger community. Thanks to a generous response to our appeal, we received enough donations to clean and restore Constantino Brumidi's portrait of Justin Morrill. The portrait of our namesake and Strafford's most notable native son now hangs in restored glory above the library's fireplace, keeping an eye on the institution that is essential to creating the informed and educated citizenry he so valued. A generous donation of labor by skilled Illinois conservator Barry Bauman played a key role in making the project happen.

Mike Hebb spearheaded another restoration project — the clearing and reclamation of a small piece of land on the hill behind the library. Our Back 40, as it has come to be known, now is available to be used for outdoor children's programs. We invite others who wish to enjoy the space to check out the picnic table that Mike built and donated.

The library's finances remain in solid shape. The Friends of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library continue to successfully run our two anchor fundraisers — the July 4 booksale and the Holiday Sale in December — and otherwise remain a reliable provider of assistance, financial and otherwise. We continue to be grateful to the town for its generous support, and we're happy that for the seventh year in a row we requested no more than the previous year's appropriation. Meanwhile, the response to our annual appeals letter helped us end the year with a budget surplus.

Most importantly, our updated collection of books, magazines, CDs and audiotapes, our fast internet connection, Wi-Fi and public access computers, our online downloadable service, our regular school-year children's programs and the special summer activities, and our adult book groups, author readings and special programs all continue to make the library a dynamic community resource.

The Trustees of Morrill Memorial and Harris Library

Cindy Binzen

Curt Albee

Rachel Kurland

Miriam Newman

Carol Wilson

Marty Frank

**MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY**

**January 1 - December 31, 2016**

<b>Beginning Balance, January 1, 2016</b>		\$ 39,784
<b>Income</b>		
Town of Strafford	\$ 34,000	
Friends of the Morrill Library	10,888	
Endowed Funds	174	
Grants	4,100	
Special Projects Fundraising	1,785	
Donations & Fundraising	8,893	
Miscellaneous Income	592	
<b>Total Income</b>		\$ 60,431
<b>Expenses</b>		
Miscellaneous	\$ 264	
Materials and Programs	10,268	
Personnel	33,530	
Postage	738	
Insurance	675	
Buildings and Grounds	4,652	
Equipment	525	
Supplies	822	
Fundraising Expenses	287	
Endowment Fund Contribution	200	
Utilities (including telephone)	2,797	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>\$ 54,759</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<u>\$ 45,457</u>
<b>Reserve Account</b>		\$ 5,114

**LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

Market Value January 1, 2016	\$ 250,323.92
Transfers to the Operating Fund	
Swan Fund transfer	66.99
Downer Fund transfer	67.31
Ordway/Steele Fund transfer	39.31
Subtotal	<u>250,150.31</u>
Gifts to the Endowment Funds	
Friends of the Library 7/21	1,000.00
Library Board 12/23	200.00
	<u>1,200.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 251,350.31
Market Value December 31, 2016	\$ 270,758.90

## STRAFFORD FIRE AND RESCUE

2016 has been another busy year for Strafford Fire and Rescue. We are happy to note that, since last year's Town Meeting, we have increased our overall membership and our number of EMS providers, though, as always, we welcome additional recruits. Like last year, we have responded to about 100 calls, 58 of them FAST. Mutual Aid remains an important resource for us and our neighboring towns. With that in mind, please continue to keep your green 911 numbers visible and your driveways and doorways clear.

We are exploring options for meeting current and especially future requirements for space and equipment. One is to continue using both stations and only obtain apparatus that could be squeezed into those two buildings. In the Upper Village, the Main Station has no room for expansion and already difficult access for the trucks that are there now. There is no septic system nor prospects for installing one, and scant space for storage of firefighters' gear. Using two separate buildings makes coordinating response to calls more difficult and doubles the amount of "housekeeping" and utility cost. If the Fire department ceases to use this site the property reverts to the Town.

A second option is expanding the Substation to contain all apparatus and gear. There is enough room on the existing lot to add on, there is already a septic system and bathroom, and increasing the footprint and elevation of the current building would allow for storage space for Fire and FAST equipment and supplies, a classroom/training space, a small office, and maybe even a coffee pot!

A third option would be selling the Substation property and purchasing a site on which we could build exactly the station that meets our needs. Ideally this location would be near the Town Garage or between villages. We have not yet come up with plans or costs, but will be working on that going forward. We are aware of the huge scope of this project. We cannot do it without the support of the town and we truly appreciate the support already given by so many of you.

Another looming prospect is the need to replace an engine in the next few years. We are also trying to figure out costs and specifications for that. Like everything else, truck costs have gone way up since the last engine purchase.

Anyone who has any questions or suggestions before, during, or after Town Meeting is welcome to contact any one of us. We are not asking for a vote this year but we do want to begin the discussion of both of these admittedly expensive issues.

Officers for 2017 are: President, John Lloyd; Vice-president, Erin Masteller; Secretary, Andrew Lane; Treasurer, Craig Allen; Fire Chief, Jeremiah Linehan, EMS Chief, Beth Preston. The Board of Directors consists of Robert Bushway, Jere Linehan, Beth Preston, Sean Lewis and BJ Miller.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Preston  
EMS Chief

Jeremiah Linehan  
Fire Chief

**STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
and FIRST AID SQUAD, INC.  
January 1 - December 31, 2016**

<b>I. INCOME</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<u>Category</u>	<u>2016</u>
Town Operating Income	\$ 36,000
4th of July	4,923
Donations	4,986
Interest	52
Rabies Clinic	1,530
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 47,491</b>
<b>II. EXPENSES</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 2,393
Buildings Repair & Maintenance	1,015
Insurance Auto & Liability	11,703
Miscellaneous	1,677
Electricity	1,256
Phone/Internet	1,660
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	9,265
Heating Oil	2,299
Membership/Dues	3,074
Training	620
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 34,962</b>
<b>Reserve Fund Deposit/Withdrawal</b>	
<b>III. Reserve Deposit</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2017 is the first year of a two year biennium for Vermont state government. From a new governor and all the new cabinet secretaries in the executive branch, to new leadership in both the Vermont House and Senate and the 30+ new legislators serving in the State House, there are many, many new faces in state government this year.

While there will be much change in state government personnel, some of the challenges faced in Montpelier will be very familiar in 2017. Based on existing programs and tax policy, the legislature will need to plug an anticipated \$70 million shortfall in this year's state budget. Between the increasing demand for social services and Governor Scott's pledge not to raise taxes, bridging the budget gap will be particularly challenging. Compounding this challenge is the likelihood that Congress will cut federal funding to states in the coming year.

Beyond confronting the projected budget shortfall, the legislature and governor need to address a variety of critical issues including:

- Opiate addiction – increasing treatment access; better education regarding opiate use; curbing the supply of opiates; supporting children victimized by a parent's addiction.
- Economic development – increasing support for workforce housing, broadband, worker training, and post-secondary education.
- Act 46 – providing more time and flexibility in the school district consolidation law to allow regions with less governance uniformity to comply.
- Clean water – the Lake Champlain and VT watershed cleanup will cost more than \$1 billion over the next 20 years. A funding plan must be developed to avoid EPA penalties.
- Health care – responding to the repeal of the Affordable Care Act by Congress; considering the future of the Exchange; examining an all-payer model implementation.

Tim continues to serve on the Health Care Committee, the committee that considers matters related to mental health and health care delivery, administration, and cost. Jim serves on the Ways and Means Committee, which has responsibility for the taxes and fees necessary to fund state government.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve and represent you in Montpelier. You can follow our activities day by day at [www.leg.state.vt.us](http://www.leg.state.vt.us). We make occasional blog postings at [www.jimandtimreport.com](http://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 Jim Masland  
714 Pero Hill Rd  
Thetford Center, VT 05075  
785-4146  
[jmasland@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:jmasland@leg.state.vt.us)

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

## STRAFFORD AREA LIONS CLUB

Our club is part of a network of Lionism. We are a part of Vermont Lions District 45 and Lions Club International. Our specific dedication is in the field of sight and hearing. We are also very dedicated to our community.

Strafford Lions Club has had an active year here in our town. We had the annual Lions Variety Show in July and the annual Pie Sale in November. We sell roses that are delivered in March and are for a “just because” reason. These are major fundraisers for our club. We also hold a “Food from the Heart” food drive in February with food donations going to the Sharon and Thetford Food Shelf and monetary donations going to the Strafford Community Food Shelf. Without the community and member support we would not be able to do the following activities.

We sponsor the Lions Club Pond. The pond is the property of the Coffin Estate, who have generously let us use the pond for Strafford residents and their guests. Lions Vince Robinson and crew have maintained this area. We do need your assistance in keeping the pond and its surroundings clean and tidy. Please be sure to clean up after you use the pond area so others may enjoy our wonderful water recreation.

Ski and ride lessons are sponsored by our club and taught by many volunteers. This activity’s location is at the Dartmouth Skiway in Lyme, NH. We currently have 65 Newton School students attending. We offer scholarships for those who have financial hardship. Many thanks to those who volunteer their time to teach the children as well as to Amy Huyffer and Erin Masteller for organizing the program.

We sponsor the Saturday skiing at Harrington Hill and fund the maintenance of the rope tow. Rod and Cindy Maclay own the property and they generously let us use the hill every year. The ski tow is now run by a group of new individuals including, but not limited to, Kent Penfield and Ashley Denk. We thank them for all their hard work.

We held the Citizen of the Year dinner in May and the recipients were Bob and Stefanie Johnston.

We donate to Newton School trips and activities throughout the year and make donations to other charities to assure the health and well being of our community.

If you wish to become a Lion or know more about Lionism, please speak to any Lions Club Member or join us at one of our meetings. We meet the 2nd Monday at 7:30 in Diane White’s room at Newton School and the 4th Monday September through November and March through May at Barrett Hall for a dinner meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Melvin Coburn  
President, Strafford Area Lions Club

## STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Living History: A Celebration of Strafford's 90-Year-Olds opened to a standing room-only crowd on Sunday, June 12, 2016, in Barrett Hall. For those who may have missed it, this was the opportunity to meet and hear from Strafford's remarkable cohort of 90-year-olds.

As Phyl Harmon, the host and interviewer, put it, this group included 'a college professor, a navy pilot, a psychiatric nurse, the mother of 11 children, a librarian, a forestry conservationist, a former owner of a Nigerian chicken farm, a Super Senior and a man who had many careers.' To put their lives in perspective, the booklet accompanying the event said of them '...they have witnessed the worst economic depression, the greatest war and the most transformative technological revolution in human history...' and by a happy coincidence by living in Strafford they enriched all our lives.

Sadly, of that group, we had lost Ned Coffin a few weeks prior to the event and just before this past Christmas John Hemenway passed away.

Another transition, of particular significance for the Strafford Historical Society (SHS), was the retirement in August of our Historian, Bob Johnston. Bob served the SHS with great distinction for more than 15 years in every capacity. Most notably, of course, he was a prolific writer, author of 3 books on Strafford's history, a novel and the biography of an Irish immigrant who settled in Thetford. He also wrote Historical Notes for five Town Reports and assisted innumerable current residents and descendants of former Strafford residents in their ancestry research. He and Stefanie are responsible for the Historical Society as we now know it. It has been through their diligence and their organizational efforts that we have the extensive collection of documents and artifacts that we now available at our Brick Store quarters. Fortunately, Stef will continue awhile longer as Curator and Board member.

At our annual meeting on August 7th, the SHS was pleased to sponsor a presentation on the great engineering feat of early America, the Erie Canal. Once considered the Eighth Wonder of the World, construction started two hundred years ago in 1817. We were fortunate to have local connections to one of the experts on the engineering and construction of the canal, Dr. Andrew Wolfe, Interim Dean, College of Engineering at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, in Utica, NY. Andy is the son of the now former Strafford residents, Fred and Lorry Wolfe, and the brother of Jeff.

Andy's presentation was extensively documented with slides and old photos and he has been involved in all aspects of the historical research including archaeological examinations of long-abandoned locks and other historical features. Andy has also very generously shared the digital version of his PowerPoint presentation with the SHS and it is available for downloading by anyone interested.

Please note that we will be commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the settlement of Strafford in the coming year, 2017. It was in 1767 that Frederick Smith and Ezekial Parish, both from near Hebron, Connecticut, settled in the vicinity of Old City Falls, followed the next year by the somewhat better known James and Thankful Pennock.

The SHS has applied to the State of Vermont for a roadside historic marker to be placed adjacent to the Old City Falls Recreation Area to memorialize the founding of Strafford. At the installation of the marker, the SHS will sponsor a ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

Although the Old City area was settled first, it was not long before the focus of the community shifted to what is now the Upper Village (i.e., ‘the village with the white meetinghouse’) with its beautifully preserved and striking architecture, featuring of course the Town House. In conjunction with the Division of Historic Preservation, the SHS will be planning one or more walking tours of the Upper Village this summer.

Be on the lookout in this year’s Town Report for Curator Stefanie Johnston’s Historical Notes on the history of the houses in the Upper Village, which will serve as an introduction to the walking tours. Since several of these houses may be changing ownership in the next few years and possibly undergoing renovations, it seemed an appropriate time to tell their stories. Stefanie Johnston will supply the local history, SHS Board Member Silas Treadway will discuss the timber-framing and construction techniques in use at that time and the Division of Historic Preservation’s architectural historian will explain how they fit into Vermont’s distinctive architectural tradition.

**ACQUISITIONS:** Among the many notable items added to our collection this year were 26 carefully maintained scrapbooks from Hazel Lewis, 5,040 shares of copper mine stock, a 1953 payroll register for the Elizabeth Mine, a canvas miner’s cap with carbide head lamp, Strafford Grand Lists from 1813-17, and some early 1800s artifacts, including a handspun and woven full-length apron and two ‘hetchells’ for preparing flax to be woven into linen fabric. Altogether, with the assistance of Gwenda Smith’s son, Morgan, we have accessioned over 60 items from her house. We are indebted to the Division of Historic Preservation for providing space in the loft of the Morrill Homestead Horse Barn to store those of our artifacts which are not currently on display in the Brick Store.

**NEW PROJECTS:** It is anticipated that this year we will begin development of the scenic overlook at the bus turn-around on Mine Road, which will feature the installation of 5 interpretative panels describing various aspects of the history of the Elizabeth Mine. Altogether, the Environmental Protection Agency has collaborated with the SHS on the creation of 11 interpretative panels and over time the plan will be to locate all of them at appropriate locations throughout the mine zone.

OPEN HOURS: Current plans are for the SHS to be open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, May 7th through October 11th. Please join us to view our continuing exhibition, entitled *Strafford's First 150 Years—Charter to Motor Car*.

Stephen Willbanks  
President

## **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 2016, 1,855 people attended programs, events, and exhibits offered by the Friends and took guided tours of the historic house conducted by VDHP docents and our summer intern. Hundreds more came to take self-guided tours of the site, visit the lovely gardens and Fairy Village, and hike the Coburn Trail. Visitors arrived from around the United States, and from a number of other countries, in order to learn about Strafford's famous son, Senator Justin Smith Morrill—author of the Land Grant College Acts. All of this was made possible by the efforts of the Friends to offer public programs and to maintain the gardens and orchard, by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's dedication to preserving the buildings and collections, and by the strong support received from the residents of the Town of Strafford, for which we are most grateful.

In April of 2016, the Friends, working under the auspices of the VDHP, began restoring Morrill's historic orchard by planting the first round of fruit trees chosen from among the heirloom varieties that originally grew on site. We are especially thankful to the Campbell family for their long-standing commitment to replant and maintain Morrill's historic orchard. As a private, non-profit organization, the Friends greatly appreciate the financial support from the individuals, area businesses, and foundations whose generosity makes possible the orchard restoration, and indeed all of our activities.

The calendar of public events presented by the Friends is produced by Board members with help from residents of the Strafford community, VDHP staff, Master gardeners, and many hard-working and dedicated volunteers from throughout the Upper Valley. In 2016, the Friends' calendar focused on art, history, horticulture and farmstead programs for all ages, including a workshop on pruning and grafting fruit trees, a family program about trees, watercolor and nature camps and workshops for children and adults, classes on making rustic furniture and trellises, and a walk on wild edible and medicinal plants. Open House coincided with the VDHP's "Vermont Days" Weekend, featuring live music by Jeremiah McLane and Tim Cummings, a live animal program, free admission for tours of the Morrill Homestead and an Ice Cream Social offered by the VDHP to thank the Strafford Community (serving ice cream generously donated by the Strafford Organic Creamery).

The annual “Minis for Morrill” Silent Auction and Gallery in the Garden art exhibit, “A Moment in Time,” was followed by the Fairy House Festival, featuring the Homestead’s Fairy Village where children and families engage their imaginations while immersed in the natural world. Preservationist William Hosley presented a fascinating picture show and presentation, “New England Impressions—Art and the Making of Regional Identity, 1885-1950.” The Friends also partnered with the Strafford Historical Society to present complementary exhibits for the Vermont History Expo at the Tunbridge Fair Grounds, with a theme of “H2O: The Power of Water in Vermont History.” The season rounded out with the 22nd edition of our annual 19th Century Apple & Cheese Harvest Festival and Apple Pie Contest, and culminated with Putting the Garden to Bed.

Please visit the Friends’ website ([www.morrillhomestead.org](http://www.morrillhomestead.org)) for descriptions of 2017’s programs, events, and exhibits for all ages on art, horticulture, history, gardening and traditional farmstead skills, as well as an exhibit about heirloom apples, “The Fruits of Time.” Everyone’s favorite major events are also in the 2017 calendar, including Open House (June 11), Gallery in the Garden (June 30), the Fairy House Festival (July 22), and our annual Apple and Cheese Harvest Festival and Apple Pie Contest (September 24), which the Vermont Chamber of Commerce has chosen as a Top Ten Event Winner for Fall of 2017.

We were delighted to host so many visitors to the Homestead in 2016, and hope to see you and your families in 2017. Guided tours of Morrill’s historic Gothic Revival cottage will run from Memorial Day weekend (May 27) through October 15, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday (and holiday Mondays). And when spring arrives, keep an eye out for nascent apple trees blooming in the Morrill Orchard.

Respectfully Submitted  
Michael Caduto, Director  
Cameron Speth, Board Chair

## STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Located in the lower level of the Rosa B. Tyson gym, Creative Preschool is a registered 4 STAR program that serves children aged two to five years from Strafford and surrounding towns. The goal of Creative Preschool is to provide a safe, caring, nurturing and stimulating environment that will help children grow and develop into happy, secure individuals who are able to interact positively with the people and environment around them.

As a Vermont pre-qualified preschool program within Act 166, every child aged 3, 4 and 5 years old 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. The 2016-2017 academic year is Creative Preschool's third year of Pre-K collaboration with the Strafford School District within Act 166. Creative Preschool is also now collaborating with 7 other surrounding towns. This expansion can be credited to the strength of the Creative Preschool program, led by Jody Lowes (Teacher Director), Sarah Rinehimer (Teacher), Kate Reimanis (Teacher) and Katie Chesnut (Teacher Aide). The Creative Preschool staff members have demonstrated their ability to provide an incredible balance of fun, learning, and exploration for young children, both in and outside the classroom.

In addition to the day-to-day enrichment that the staff provides to each child, there are weekly visits from Karen Johnson (Early Essential Educator), Lisa Durstin (Speech and Language Pathologist), Alicia Riesterer (Occupational Therapist), Emily Zollo (Librarian from Morrill Memorial & Harris Library), Sue Barnaby (White River Valley SU Math Buddy), and Brooke Wilkinson (Music Instructor from Music Together).

The Creative Preschool Board is in the process of planning our annual fundraiser and spring-time open house. Keep your eyes open for information regarding both of these great events!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lauren Phelps  
Strafford Creative Preschool Board Member

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*Opposite: Built by blacksmith Nathaniel Morrill c. 1805, this was Senator Justin S. Morrill's boyhood home (now Hemenways').*

## CABIN FEVER UNIVERSITY

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

Cabin Fever University offers informal classes, presentations, and slide-shows which feature travel photos. Some of the most popular offerings have involved food preparation: Moroccan feasts, baklava, chocolates, and cupcakes. Other workshops of interest have included basket-making, Pysanky egg decorating, herbal instruction, wool felting, guided meditation, and home brewing. At this institute of random learning, any topic is possible. Classes take place at the Newton School, Barrett Hall, Morrill Library, and private homes. Held in late winter, these workshops are a wonderful chance to meet and learn from our neighbors. We welcome volunteers and ideas for new or rerun classes.

Ellen Bagnato, Leslie Berger, and Therese Linehan are the current board members. Contact them with your ideas or wishes.



## **EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK**

Strafford is a member of ECFiber, the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, Vermont's first Communications Union District. This Union District commenced operations on January 1, 2016, replacing the 24-town inter-local contract, originally approved by Strafford at Town Meeting in 2008. ECFiber is still owned by its 24 member towns, and, as was true under the inter-local contract, local taxpayer funds cannot be used to subsidize the District's operations. The district must be self-sustaining and there is no recourse to taxpayers.

On April 15, 2016, the District announced that it had completed a \$9 million offering of Series 2016A Bonds to refinance a portion of its debt, cover 2016 capital expenditures, and complete the design and make ready for 250 miles of construction in 2017. As of December 1, 2016, 326 miles of fiber-optic network had been built and "lit" in portions of 18 member towns, serving about 1550 customers, including, as of November, 149 customers in Strafford. ECFiber plans to continue to raise capital through the municipal bond market in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and to complete 1400 miles of network covering all underserved locations in its 24 towns by 2019. ECFiber is pleased to offer:

- Reliable, high Internet speeds, which are symmetrical (the same in each direction) and are not "up to" (that is, ECFiber strives to actually provide the speeds for which its customers are paying at all times).
- Simple, stable pricing with no contracts, fine print, or data caps. Over the past two years ECFiber has increased its speeds but not its prices.
- Local and personable customer service. Phones are answered by an employee during business hours without an automated queue.
- Local ownership and control, as governing board members meet monthly to set policy and are actively involved in promoting ECFiber within the community.
- Valued community services. For example, ECFiber offers over 25 community anchor institutions (including Newton School, the Town Office and the Morrill Library in Strafford) its highest level of service for its lowest monthly fee.

In 2016, ECFiber continued its practice of raising speeds, but not prices, by announcing that the District's tiers of service would now be set at 10/25/100/500 Mbps (versus the previous 7/20/50/100/400).

Strafford is one of the six towns selected for construction in 2017, meaning that efforts will be made to extend the network to nearly every property served by utility poles.

For additional information, please visit our website, call or email the office or any of Strafford's 3 delegates to the ECFiber Governing Board.

Website: [www.ECFiber.net](http://www.ECFiber.net) | Office: (802) 763-2262 | Email: [support@ecfiber.net](mailto:support@ecfiber.net)

Delegates: Steve Willbanks, 765-4530, [stephen.willbanks@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.willbanks@gmail.com); David Webb, 765-4025, [dvwebb@gmail.com](mailto:dvwebb@gmail.com); Andy Behrens, 333-3531, [andy@behrens.net](mailto:andy@behrens.net); or Chuck Sherman, 765-9630, [chucksherman@mac.com](mailto:chucksherman@mac.com) (Board member of ECFiber's operational partner, ValleyNet).

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Willbanks



*The Brick Store c. 1930, run by the Udalls. The horse and wagon shed had been the 1805 Harris Store.*

## **THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**

The Strafford Cemetery Association is a private, non-profit organization responsible for the care and maintenance of the Strafford Cemetery. Though burials began there much earlier, the Association was incorporated only in May, 1868, as the Orchard Hill Cemetery. The name was changed to the Strafford Cemetery Association in 1900. Justin Smith Morrill is buried there in the impressive Morrill Mausoleum,. Graves of veterans of wars from the American Revolution through the Vietnam War are marked in the cemetery by small American flags beginning Memorial Day until after Veterans' Day. This year two more veterans were buried in the cemetery, one a World War II veteran and the other a Korean War veteran, making a total of at least 82 veterans. If anyone knows of a veteran buried in the cemetery that has not been marked with a flag, please contact one of the officers of the association.

All lot owners are members of the Association, but only those members who show interest by attending the quarterly meetings and pay a small one-time fee of ten dollars become voting members. Meetings are held on the third Monday of February, May, August and November. Meetings are warned at the store, town clerk's office and the Strafford post office. Current board members are: President – Gary Kendall, Vice-President – Greg Lewis, Secretary – Bob Murray, Treasurer – Kerry Claffey, Sexton – C. Punka Brown, Directors – Ed Eastman, Melvin Coburn, and Barbara Murray. Any board member will be glad to answer questions about the cemetery. New members are always welcome and encouraged to join the association.

New cemetery plots are currently available for purchase in the new section. Plots are of two sizes: full plots and half plots. The purchase includes four corner markers, which the SCA will install. Included also is perpetual care: mowing, trimming, and stone cleaning as necessary. A ten dollar recording fee is also required when purchasing a plot. A full plot allows installation of one monument and four normal size caskets with headstones, or, twelve burial urns with headstones. Half plots allow one monument and two caskets of normal size or six burial urns with headstones. We ask that headstones be installed flush with the ground to allow for mowing. Ownership is limited to residents, former residents and relatives of former residents. We ask that all artificial flowers be removed by September 15th and that no solar devices are placed on the graves. The Association voted to not allow "green burials" at this time.

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

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

## **VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

Since 1979, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with significant 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 FY2016 (10/2015-9/2016), VCIL responded to over 2,711 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 360 individuals to help increase their independent living skills, and 24 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program assisted 196 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 95 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 92 individuals with information on assistive technology; 35 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 559 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 35 people and provided 23 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. Also new this year, 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 FY2016, 2 residents of Strafford received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (resident on the waiting list for home modifications in 2017)
- 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](http://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 47 Strafford and South Strafford residents. Case Managers Penny Walker-Reen and Bonnie Hanson are designated to work directly with the seniors in Strafford. Central Vermont Council on Aging devoted a total of 236 hours of service to Strafford and South Strafford seniors.

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

## **CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION**

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

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

CVABE has six welcoming learning centers located throughout the organization's tri-county service region, including centrally located sites in Randolph and Bradford. We collaborate closely with schools, libraries, employers, and a great number of other community resources to make our unique service locally accessible. Our welcome extends to everyone.

Over the past 10 years, an average of one Strafford resident has enrolled in CVABE's free programs annually. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving one's job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more. As parents gain literacy, their children are twice as likely to grow up literate themselves.

In recent years, CVABE has provided free instruction approximately 500 people annually in its overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. Nearly all students are low income. It currently costs CVABE \$3,191 per student to provide a full year of instruction. Over 125 community volunteers work with CVABE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We are deeply appreciative of Strafford's voter-approved past support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVABE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, or we could not help many of the 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](http://www.cvabe.org)

## **VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.**

The 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 support 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, 2015 and June 30, 2016, VNH made 838 homecare visits to 30 Strafford residents. This includes approximately \$25,950 in unreimbursed care to Strafford residents.

Home HealthCare: 286 home visits to 23 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.

Long-Term Care: 1 home visit to a resident with chronic medical problems who needed extended care in the home to avoid admission to a nursing home.

Hospice Services: 551 home visits to 6 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.

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

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

Sincerely,

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

## **SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER**

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

The Board of Directors is composed of three representatives from each of the four towns. Sue Pirie is the director for both meal sites: in South Strafford at Barrett Hall, serving meals on Wednesday, and at the Royalton Academy building in Royalton, serving meals on Tuesday and Thursday. We are very fortunate to have Ed Eastman as the cook for Strafford. Linda Ducharme retired at the end of September after many years of cooking for Strafford. Mary Lamb is the cook for Royalton; she has been with us a few years. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional requirement. We served a total of 13,752 meals for the year 2015-2016. The food cost per meal was \$2.74, total cost per meal \$10.93.

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. This year we will be adding a few more fundraisers to help cover the rising cost of meals and running the senior centers.

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

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

Each year, about four 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

## CLARA MARTIN CENTER

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

- Outpatient counseling
- Psychiatric services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School- and home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital diversion
- Walk-in clinic
- Vocational services
- Alcohol and other drug treatment
- Respite care
- 24-hour emergency system

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

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

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

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

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

<u>FY2016</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	634	7
School Services	107	4
JOBS	158	
Adult Services	657	9
CSP Services*	180	1
Supportive and Transitional Housing	44	2
Substance Abuse Services	637	2
Corrections Services	91	
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	470	10
Access	1231	
<b>Total Served by Program (unduplicated)</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>21</b>
CVSAS	752	

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

### **SAFELINE**

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

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, Safeline's staff and volunteers provided 2,222 services for 344 victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. 23 services were provided for 6 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 assault, and stalking.

## UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

The mission statement of Upper Valley Ambulance is: *Upper Valley Ambulance is a pre-hospital service whose primary focus is to provide high quality emergency care to our nine member towns. Our organization is committed to providing efficient, prompt, and creative transportation systems both on a local and regional basis. We will meet the ongoing healthcare needs of the communities that we serve, and strive to provide total customer satisfaction. We will be proactive in seeking new opportunities to fulfill this mission.*

We are in our 26th year of providing emergency ambulance service to our member towns, and we continue to strive to meet our mission statement on a daily basis.

We would like to recognize the generosity of the residents of the Upper Valley in their support of our efforts to raise funds for a nitrous oxide (laughing gas) field unit. The successful fundraising event – matched by a \$2,000 donation by the Orford-Fairlee Lions Club – allowed us to purchase the device. This piece of equipment will go a long way toward improving the comfort of folks experiencing serious pain. We extend our thanks to those who donated to this worthy cause.

UVA is governed by a board of directors with a member from each town. The board, management, and staff continue to address the many challenges of operating a rural emergency ambulance service. Rural ambulance services everywhere are having to cope with markedly increasing costs, without an ability to increase revenues to meet those rising costs. Medicare, the largest payer of ambulance services for the UVA, sets compensation substantially lower than what our rates are. Medicare payments often don't cover the cost of the service, and Medicaid pays well below cost.

There are several other factors which contribute to our challenges: equipment upgrades, maintenance, medications and medical supplies, as well as the higher costs of the more and more high-tech devices we need to use to provide diagnostic and life-sustaining therapy. Having a compensation plan that attracts talented EMS professionals in a tight workforce is vitally important. Aggressively building our capital reserve to ensure a highly reliable ambulance fleet is an important goal.

In early 2016, we were confronted by nearby ambulance services who we have relied on in the past to help us cover when our ambulances were tied up on other calls. These services, who are facing the same challenges we are, demanded compensation for responding to our area. The UVA Board of Directors discussed this situation, which was ultimately determined to be reasonable. As such, UVA began paying our neighboring ambulance services every time they responded to a call in our nine towns because we were already on an EMS call. The estimated impact on our budget to add this cost for 2016 is \$30,000. UVA absorbed this cost.

In the face of our challenges, we work hard to keep costs to the taxpayer down controlling expenses and by pursuing revenue from other services such as non-emergency ambulance transport for DHMC; however this source of revenue continues to decline and our income from this source has diminished substantially. Despite increasing costs, decreasing reimbursements, and limited opportunities for growth, the Board of Directors decided to hold ourselves to the commitment we sent to the towns last year, which set the 2017 funding request at an increase of only \$1.00 per capita to a total of \$37.00 per capita.

The leadership and staff of UVA are proud of the organization's accomplishments and look forward to serving you in the future. We vow to continue our commitment to providing high quality emergency medical care to all the citizens we serve.

Clay Odell, Executive Director



*The Jedediah H. Harris House (Gwenda Smith). Harris added the front section in 1816 to Apollos Robinson's 1805 home.*

## **CAPSTONE COMMUNITY ACTION**

Since 1965, Capstone Community Action (formerly known as Central Vermont Community Action Council) has served low-income residents of Lamoille, Orange, and Washington Counties and nine communities in Windsor, Addison, and Rutland Counties. We help people build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. This year, Capstone Community Action served 15,064 people in 8,931 Vermont households through Head Start and Early Head Start, business development, financial education, food shelves and nutrition resources, housing counseling, tax preparation, teen parent education, emergency heating assistance, home weatherization, workforce training, healthcare navigation, and more.

Programs and services accessed by 10 Strafford households representing 24 individuals this past year included:

- 3 households with 13 family members were able to keep heating their homes with help from our Crisis & Supplemental fuel programs as well as other utility costs.
- 5 residents had their taxes prepared at no charge by Capstone's IRS certified volunteers ensuring them all the refunds and credits they were due.
- 6 people received information and assistance for signing up for Vermont Health Connect.

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

## **VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

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

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

Vermonters use local government services on a daily basis – highways, police, fire, recreation, libraries, sewer, and water. These local efforts are led largely by volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials.

VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns, to assist them in providing their citizens with quality services at affordable costs:

**Legal, consulting, and education services.** VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) provides training, information and assistance to municipal officials to help them carry out their legal responsibilities. Responding to member inquiries about Vermont law and best practices in municipal governance is a key MAC service. Attorneys and staff answer 4,000 member questions each year. In 2016, nearly 1,500 people received training at 30 day-long and on-site workshops covering topics that included Open Meeting Law compliance, financial management, and conducting effective property tax appeal and land use hearings. Consulting services include legal drafting and review of policies and ordinances, governmental accounting, and town manager recruitment. Members who respond to MAC's annual compensation and benefits survey receive a complimentary copy of the research report. MAC also offers in-depth technical assistance through our Water Resources Protection and Human Resources assistance programs. Publications including model documents, technical papers, handbooks, and past newsletter articles are available on VLCT's website.

**Advocacy representation at the state and federal levels** to ensure that municipalities have the resources and authority needed to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the renewable energy debate, enhancing voter authority in local governance decisions, municipal efforts to clean up Vermont's lakes and rivers, and securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs. Municipalities will face significant challenges in the 2017 legislature as limited financial resources at the national and state level continue to force more demand for services at the local level. VLCT also provides a *Weekly Legislative Report* that details legislative issues affecting municipal government. It is available free-of-charge on the VLCT website.

**Opportunities to provide purchasing of needed services at the lowest cost.** Members may purchase municipal unemployment, property, casualty, and workers' compensation insurance coverage for local operations. The **VLCT Employment Resource and Benefits (VERB) Trust** continued to help towns navigate the complexities of health insurance procurement and to secure group life, disability, dental and vision insurance. When substantial municipal damages result from weather events, or towns suffer from other covered losses and lawsuits, the value of membership in the **VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF)** is quite clear, as members benefit from the broad coverage, excellent re-insurance, and prompt service and claims payments provided. The Trusts are stewards of \$26 million in municipal tax dollars spent for insurance and risk management services in 2016. More than \$1 million in ownership dividends was returned to PACIF and VERB members as contribution credits.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including its audited financial statements, visit the VLCT website at [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org).

## **COUNTY OF ORANGE**

This report highlights the activities and expenses of Orange County during the county's 2016 fiscal year which began February 1, 2016 and ended January 31, 2017.

### **County Support for the Sheriff's Department**

Very little changed in terms of county support for the OCSO during 2016. The Orange County budget supports operations at the Sheriff's Department except the salaries of the Sheriff and deputies. The Sheriff's Department budget accounts for about 60% of the total county budget. We support the Sheriff's department at a higher level than many surrounding counties due to the fact that there are no other 24/7 staffed law enforcement agencies in Orange County. This 24/7 capability is most vital as it applies to domestic violence cases. Costs for 24/7 staffing are shared between the county and the Sheriff's law enforcement budget. We attempt to level fund the department's portion of the county budget where appropriate.

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

### **County Courthouse**

We are in the final year of repaying the bond that was issued in 1997 to build the addition to the courthouse. Thanks to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank's debt restructuring, the county will be reimbursed modest amounts for the next 10 years, representing lower retroactive interest rates.

Our largest capital expenditure in 2016 was for replacement of the oil-fueled boiler to heat the courthouse. After much research and serious consideration, we decided against switching to a commercial wood pellet boiler system. Instead, we installed a much more efficient oil system. This new system was less than one-third the cost of a pellet system. We continue to see big savings over previous years in the cost of heating the courthouse.

We continue to consider the ongoing maintenance issues of our 1847 courthouse. The next large will be repainting the south side of the building in the summer. Tackling this job will require lead paint remediation which increases the cost considerably.

Annual contributions to the Capital Reserve Fund mean that we have a savings account to rely on for large items such as the exterior painting. With the handicapped accessibility project, the bell tower restoration project and the boiler replacement, the most expensive pressing issues have been met. We continue to look for ways to keep regular costs in check.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce E. McKeeman  
Assistant Judge from Corinth

Victoria N. Weiss  
Assistant Judge from Tunbridge



*The White Store (Stone Soup Restaurant), run by Chester Dow,  
with a Post Office sign over the door  
and the small building of the Men's Club on the left.*

## **TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

The Two Rivers-Ottawuechee Regional Commission (TRORC) is an association of thirty municipalities in east-central Vermont that is governed by a board of representatives appointed by each of our member towns. As advocates for our member towns, we seek to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region's quality of life. Our staff provides technical services to local, state, and federal levels of government and to the region's citizens, non-profits, and businesses. The following are highlights from 2016:

### **Technical Assistance**

In 2016, TRORC staff assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, ranging from minor updates to comprehensive, substantive overhauls. A number of our towns incorporated a new flood resiliency element that is required for all plans adopted after July, 2014. Many towns have improved and clarified implementing regulations, easing permitting by making results more predictable. Collaborative efforts to improve town plans, zoning, and other ordinances demonstrate a regional commitment to foster vibrant, resilient towns and villages.

### **Emergency Management and Preparedness**

Our LEPC #12 efforts with local emergency responders and town officials continue across the region. With TRORC's help, all thirty member towns successfully completed annual updates to Local Emergency Operations Plans, which are critical components to disaster response efforts. Further, we have been working diligently with numerous TRORC towns to update Hazard Mitigation Plans, often in tandem with the remaining TS Irene property buy-outs in the region.

### **Regional Energy Plan**

With funding from the Vermont Department of Public Service, TRORC is drafting a Regional Energy Implementation Plan outlining a total energy pathway to implement the goals and policies of the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan at the regional level. The plan sets regional targets for specific energy conservation, generation and fuel switching strategies to help the state meet 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. The plan outlines specific strategies for conservation, energy efficiency and reduced use of fossil fuels and identifies regional energy resources and areas with potential for renewable energy projects. TRORC will work with a number of towns on Enhanced Energy Plans that meet the new state standards and recommendations.

### **Transportation**

Transportation infrastructure and public transit services are integral components to safety and growth. We continue to work with towns on grants

to enhance our roadways, inventory infrastructure, establish new park and ride locations, and make downtowns and village centers more accessible and pedestrian-friendly. We also have continued sponsoring Transportation Advisory Committee meetings and facilitating meetings with our region's road foremen.

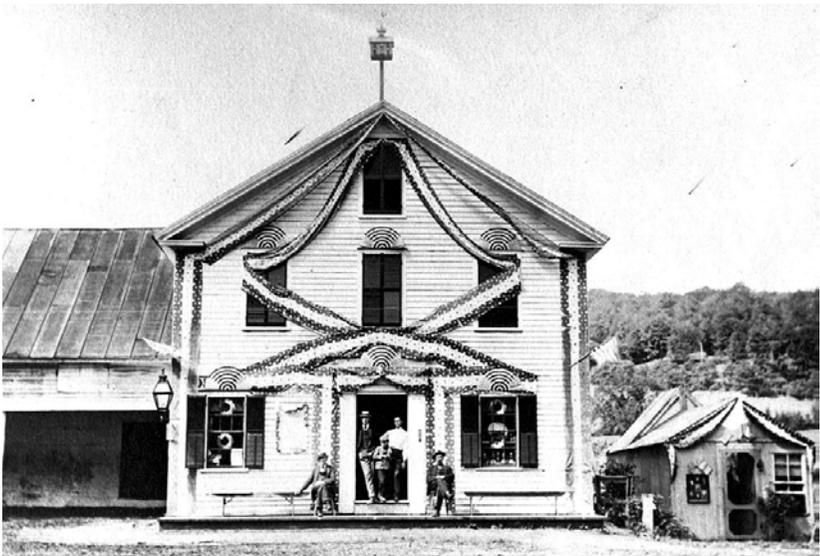
Specifically in Strafford this year, we assisted with managing the highway timesheet program and provided technical assistance on a previous speed study conducted for the Town back in 2010. TRORC secured a Better Roads Grant for a Road Erosion Inventory. TRORC is currently finalizing the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and working on updating the Town Plan.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

William B. Emmons, III, Chairperson, Pomfret



*Chester Dow's White Store (now Stone Soup Restaurant)  
on July 4, 1895, its earlier store a wing, and  
George H. Johnston's photography studio on the right.*

## **ORANGE COUNTY COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM**

The Orange County Court Diversion Program (OCCDP) is a community based, cost-effective alternative to the criminal court system for eligible offenders referred by the State's Attorney. The State's Attorney dismisses the charges of participants who successfully complete diversion.

A citizen review board, comprised of volunteers throughout Orange County, interviews each offender. The main criteria for acceptance into the program are an admission of wrongdoing and a willingness to take responsibility for the offense. Throughout the discussion, the client is made aware of the concerns and needs of both the victim and the community, and held responsible for amending the wrongdoing. Approximately 85% of the clients who participate in the Orange County Court Diversion program successfully complete the program. Those who fail have their cases returned to court for prosecution.

The Orange County Court Diversion program also administers Orange County's Teen Alcohol Safety Program for civil offenses of underage drinking and minors in possession of marijuana.

A total of 177 clients were referred for services during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016. Of this number, 46 clients were referred from juvenile and adult court for criminal offenses and 131 clients were referred for a civil offense of underage drinking and/or possession of marijuana. During FY2016, OCCDP processed 5 cases in which either the offender resided in Strafford and/or the offense occurred in Strafford. OCCDP's FY2016 operating budget was \$106,766.

For a number of years we have been proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. Strafford appropriated \$200.00 for FY2016 to support OCCDP. Our program is requesting the same appropriation for FY2017.

Thank you for your continued support. Questions and additional information concerning the program should be directed to David Savidge, Executive Director, Orange County Court Diversion, P.O. Box 58, Chelsea, VT 05038 (802-685-3172).

## STRAFFORD RECYCLING

There were a number of important changes in the operation of the Recycling Center in 2016. The most important was the loss of Dori Wolfe as the Recycling Coordinator due to her move to Texas. But thanks to her efforts in 2016 and previous years she is leaving the Center in what we hope will be a stable situation for the next few years. In 2015 she convinced the Lions Club to buy one of the 30 yard containers that we are currently using. In 2016 she persuaded the Selectboard to take out a loan to buy two additional containers. This has given us a situation where we are at least in control of the cost of the containers and are not dependent on haulers to provide them. Also in 2016, our old scrap metal recycler closed their operation in Claremont and so we needed to find a new metal recycler. We are now getting a bin provided by Evergreen Recycling in Wilder which makes more sense for us in terms of location.

The main concern of the Recycling Committee as we go on into 2017 is to try to reduce the cost of operating the Recycling Center. For 2017 we have given the Selectboard an estimate of about \$15,500 to operate the Center. This is much more than we want the cost to be. For an operation like ours we don't have much control over what the available haulers and processors charge. The one thing we can control, to some extent, is how often we need to pay to have the containers hauled. This is why we have put an emphasis on breaking down cardboard boxes, crushing easily crushable plastic containers, etc. Scott Moore did a great job in 2016 getting the Strafford Stompers going as part of this effort, while also providing funds for Newton School trips. The town crew has been coming and tamping the cardboard and mixed paper with the backhoe to pack it better than the volunteers can do just by jumping up and down on it. All of this is tedious, but it makes a difference in how often we have to pay for hauls.

The committee has also been trying to keep up with the various changes in what can be, and can't be recycled. We have been taking fluorescent lights, both the straight tubes and the compact CFLs, because they contain mercury. (Plain old incandescent bulbs go in the trash.) In 2016 we have also started taking old batteries, both nonrechargeable ("primary") and rechargeable. See the poster on the shed door by the river which explains the kinds we take. Also in 2016 we started looking for old mercury switches in appliances like stoves and washers that people bring for the metal bin. If you bring one of these, leave it on the ramp by the metal bin, so it can be checked for mercury before it is tossed in the bin. In 2016 we also gave up on collecting old plastic plant pots, since we didn't have someone who wanted to take large quantities for reuse. If they have a recycle number on them, they can go in the commingled bin. Similarly, we stopped collecting Styrofoam packing peanuts because we didn't have anyone interested in taking them. We do not take Styrofoam in any form, even though it has a 6 recycling number on it.

The Strafford Recycling Center works because of the many volunteers who come out on four Saturdays a year, winter, spring, summer, fall to make it work. They collectively contribute 364 volunteer hours to the town each year. Strafford recycling is only possible because of them. We thank them profusely for their loyalty. That said, some of these volunteers have been showing up for many, many years and are getting eligible for recycling retirement. So, we are always looking for new people who want to get to see a good selection of the town on Saturday morning. Committee member Scott Moore has taken on the job of coordinating volunteers and he will be happy to tell you about it if you contact him. The other current committee members are Vince Robinson and David Harris. Vince is the one who redeems the bottles and cans, and collects money for the aluminum. David is keeping track of mercury switches, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, and comes with his snowblower to clear what the town plow can't get after a storm. If you have any questions about recycling, either how to do it or how you can help, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Scanlan, Chair

## GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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

In 2016, the District refinanced its bonds which resulted in \$180,000.00 reduction in interest payments. In addition to the refinancing of the bonds, the Board of Supervisors voted to contract with the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission to provide administrative, management and operational services to the District in an effort to reduce operating costs.

Direct services provided by GUV to Strafford and District residents in fiscal year 2016:

- Events were held in Woodstock, Bridgewater, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, and Vershire where we collected 1,564 tires; 6.85 tons of scrap metal; 8 tons of electronics; 12 tons of “big” trash/construction & demolition debris; hundreds of fluorescent bulbs and thousands of batteries.
- 319 GUV residents participated in household hazardous waste events held in Thetford in September 2015 and Hartford in June 2016. 7.15 tons of hazardous material were collected, including 967 gallons of paint.

In FY2016, Stephen Willbanks and Michael Scanlon were Strafford’s representatives to the GUVSWD Board of Supervisors. We thank them for their service.

Tips to remember:

- The next household hazardous waste collection will be Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Hartford Recycling Center.
- Recycle paint and all batteries (except vehicle/lawn mower) throughout the year. Visit [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org) or [www.call2recycle.org/vermont/](http://www.call2recycle.org/vermont/) for more info.
- Leaves, yard waste and clean wood were banned from landfill trash as of July 1, 2016.
- Food scraps will be banned from landfill trash as of July 1, 2020.

The District’s *Green Guide* will be available at Town Meeting and then at your Town Clerk’s office at [www.guvswd.org](http://www.guvswd.org). Contact the GUVSWD at 802-674-4474 or [hgillet@swcrpc.org](mailto:hgillet@swcrpc.org).

## STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS



*Newton School Class of 2016 – Front row: Louisa Pyle, Cassidy Lewis, Maddison Cross, Laila Reimanis, Jordan Smith, Thomas Kynor, Aidan Moore, David Stoffel; back row: Jade Jamieson, Cedric Rule-Becker, Aiden Solsaa, Graham Okai, Luis Caez, John Longshaw and Zachary Lepenven. (Photo by David Kynor)*

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

**March 7, 2017**

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 7, 2017, at 1:00 P.M., to transact the following business:

- Article I.** To Elect a Moderator.
- Article II.** To Hear and Act upon the report of the School Directors.
- Article III.** Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,150,021.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,348.79 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.08% higher than spending for the current year.
- Article IV.** To Vote a sum of \$8635.00 from the 2015-2016 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund.
- Article V.** To Vote a sum of \$50,000.00 from the 2015-2016 school year general fund balance to be added to the Building Reserve Fund.
- Article VI.** To Vote the sum of \$91,576.00 from the 2015-2016 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tuition Reserve Fund.
- Article VII.** 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 10, 2017

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

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

**March 1, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 1:17 p.m.

The Strafford School District warning was read in its entirety.

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

Article 1 was moved and seconded. Robert Bauer was nominated. Kerry Claffey was nominated. Motion was made to close nomination. Robert Bauer 47, Kerry Claffey 41. Robert Bauer was elected.

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

Article 2 was moved and seconded.

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

The board referred to page 111 for the School Directors' Report. The vote was called and seconded and the report of the school directors was accepted.

**Article 3: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,319,148.00, 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 \$15,511.50 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 1.08% higher than spending for the current year. \*(It is estimated that this proposed budget and the following article, if approved, will result in total education spending of \$15,558.90 per equalized pupil. This projected total spending per equalized pupil is 1.30% higher than spending for the current year.)**

A motion was made to call the question and seconded. The article was open for discussion. Hilary Linehan reviewed the budget.

Motion was made to end discussion and seconded. Article 3 passes.

**Article 4: To vote a sum of \$8,466.00 to be added to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund.**

A motion was made to call the question and seconded. The article was open for discussion.

Motion was made to end discussion and seconded. 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.**

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

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

**Article 6: To address any other business proper to come before the meeting.**

Article 6 was moved and seconded. The article was open for discussion.

Hilary Linehan spoke more on Act 46 and explained the handout related to Act 46. There was a motion on the floor, which is non-binding: That sentiment of the citizens of Strafford assembled in the Strafford School District meeting that Act 46 should be repealed. The motion was seconded. The motion was open for discussion. Motion was made to close discussion and seconded. Motion passed.

Robert's Rules of Order was suspended at 3:13 p.m. to hear from Bruce Labs and State Representative James Masland.

Meeting continued at 3:18 p.m., with further discussion on Act 46.

Erik Goodling gave thanks to John Freitag for his 32 years of service at Newton School.

Motion was made to close discussion and seconded. Article 6 passes.

Motion was made to close the school district meeting and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Robert Bauer  
Moderator

Erik Goodling  
School Director

Lisa M. Kendall  
Town Clerk

# **SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT**

## **Newton School Mission Statement**

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.

## **Creation Of White River Valley Supervisory Union (WRVSU)**

On July 1, 2016, the ten towns previously making up the Orange Windsor Supervisory Union and the Windsor Northwest Supervisory Union formally united into the White River Valley Supervisory Union with Bruce Labs as our superintendent. Because of the tireless work of school board members from all towns involved and the staffs of both supervisory unions, this transition happened incredibly smoothly. In fact, and to the credit of all involved, in many respects it has felt like nothing more drastic than a change in name.

Following state law, special education and transportation services have been consolidated for all towns under the Supervisory Union's aegis. Steps to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan, designed to strengthen the quality of education for all students in the SU, are also being developed.

While the Supervisory Union's operating budget is increasing this year, due to careful consideration and restraint, the increase has been limited to \$13,341 or 1.06%. Last year, however, the SU allocation formula was manipulated to more evenly distribute the budgetary impacts of consolidation among all the towns. Because of this, several towns' SU assessments, including Strafford's, were artificially lowered last year. This year, the WRVSU full board, without Strafford's support, voted to discontinue this manipulation thereby removing the buffer from those towns. As a result, our assessment will be proportionally larger than the budget increase, increasing by \$12,027 or 14.11%.

## **Act 46 – Governance Consolidation**

At Town Meeting last year, those assembled passed a non-binding resolution asking the State Legislature to repeal Act 46. Needless to say, no such action was taken. Further, several towns that could easily fit into the "Preferred Structure" and thereby take advantage of the offered tax incentives did so, providing evidence for some that the Act was working. Meanwhile, for towns where that option was not so readily available or did not exist, the landscape continued to shift and transform under our feet.

At a public meeting at Barrett Hall in March of last year, the board presented the then current options to the town and gathered feedback both at the meeting and through an online survey on the educational priorities of the town. It is that feedback that has guided our work ever since.

To that end, we have continued to talk with the towns of Thetford, Sharon, and Tunbridge about forming an "Alternative Structure" that could focus

efforts on all students in pK-8 while allowing for the continuance of the current operating and tuition structures and maintaining independent town school boards. We are currently investigating whether forming this structure, by itself a new SU, would be both financially viable for the town and would be approved by the state. Unfortunately, throughout this process there has been very little information or guidance available from the state about what an Alternative Structure could or should be. Only in late August did the State Board of Education put proposed rules for the creation of such a structure into the legislative Rules Making process. However, some people throughout the state at both the school board and legislative level think and have argued that the proposed rules overstep the intent of the legislation and place an undue hurdle in the way of towns attempting to create what is delineated in statute. Because the Rules Making process is ongoing and will not be finalized until this coming summer, this further confuses those attempting to pursue this option and leaves very little time to meet the deadlines imposed by statute once the rules are finalized. Fortunately, at the beginning of this legislative session, several bills were introduced in the legislature to address both the formation of alternative structures and the timelines of Act 46 that can be seen to be forcing a rushed decision rather than an educationally sound one. We will be watching the progress of these bills carefully as the legislative session moves forward.

In addition to looking at a possible Alternative Structure, Strafford has also been a member of a WRV SU §706 Study Committee, looking at the merger of pK-6 and/or pK-8 schools with the towns of Sharon, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge. Ultimately, no solution that would be educationally beneficial or that would meet the stated desires of the town was presented by that committee, and we concluded that Strafford would not be a part of any merger that would result from that Study Committee.

Finally, in December we were told that if the current merger options in the WRV SU – for the non-operating towns, the pK-12 towns, and now Tunbridge and Chelsea – are adopted, those new districts and the remaining towns in the SU – Strafford, Sharon, and Stockbridge – combined would make up an Alternative Structure and the WRV SU, as a whole, would present a corresponding plan to the State.

While this final option could be a completely acceptable solution, one that would satisfy the town's stated preferences, we are continuing to look at all options with the goal of finding the solution that will provide the best solution for all of our students and our taxpayers.

### **Transference Of Special Education Expenses And Revenues To The Supervisory Union**

Because Special Education expenses have moved to the Supervisory Union this year, there is an apparent decrease in our overall education budget.

While this may look good on one side of the balance sheet, the local revenue from the state has also been transferred directly to the SU.

The net change in the Special Education budget for the SU as a whole is up by just over \$1.3M or 24.18% due to changes in the overall student population and the need for services. This SU-wide budget is assessed proportionally to the member towns based on total student population (ADM). This centralization of accounting, required by state law, is intended to reduce the financial exposure of each member district to sudden and unexpected changes in Special Education costs.

As of this writing and using estimates of state funding that could increase thereby reducing our assessment, Strafford's net change in Special Education spending (comparing this year's SU assessment with last year's local cost minus state reimbursements) will be an increase of \$20,027 or 8.67%.

### **Fiscal Year 2017-18 Proposed Budget**

We propose a budget of \$3,150,021. This is a decrease of \$169,127 or 5.10% over last year's budget of \$3,319,148.

However, when budgets are compared year to year without Special Education expenses figured in (see above) the budget proposed is \$18,423 or 1.06% higher for K-8 instruction.

We will also see a \$5,720 or 18.50% decrease in Preschool expenses, but a \$112,482 or 11.23% increase in Secondary Tuition.

Due primarily to the increases in secondary tuition, special education costs, and the change in the way the supervisory union budget is assessed, all things we have little to no control over, Strafford's overall per-pupil spending will increase by \$75.89 or 5.08% this year.

However, through the use of funds from the 2015-16 General Fund balance and the Tuition Reserve Fund, set up for precisely this reason, in addition to a favorable increase in both Strafford's Common Level of Appraisal and the announced Property Yield, the impact of this increase has been completely mitigated.

At the time of this writing, and using the numbers currently provided by the state, the Residential School Property Tax will remain unchanged this year at \$1.553.

### **Major Budget Components:**

Secondary Tuition:

The single largest increase in education expense for Strafford this year, \$112,482, is in Secondary Tuition. This is primarily due to new students moving into Strafford and a larger number of students who have graduated from the Newton School currently attending high school.

However, there are other factors as well. After several years of an essentially flat tuition trend, Thetford Academy, due to salary needs and new initiatives or changes in various school departments and programs, has announced a 3.5% increase in secondary tuition bringing their rate to \$18,628, a figure that remains lower than that of the previous two years. In addition, they have implemented a \$1000 administrative fee for each student on a 504 educational plan.

#### Foodservice Subsidy:

While the goal of the foodservice program is to be self funding, the reality is that a locally run, small school foodservice program needs to be subsidized by the town. For several years, our budgeted subsidy has been set at \$16,000. At this amount the program has also run a deficit that has needed to be made up at the end of the year. In order to more accurately reflect the true cost of the food service program and hopefully eliminate a future deficit, we have increased the subsidy to \$25,000 this year.

The Newton School Board of Directors



*The Town House c. 1900 before the tower clock was installed in 1935. Note the bare hills – pastures for sheep and cattle.*

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL**

During the past year, the Newton School has remained busy as forces both external and internal influence the direction of our K-8 institution. As Orange Windsor Supervisory Union evolved into the larger White River Valley Supervisory Union a comprehensive strategic plan (this document can be found at [newtonschool.org](http://newtonschool.org)) was created. This document will help direct planning of our school until 2021. There were also community forums and several surveys in order to get community input on what we value as we continue to navigate Act 46. Keeping a local school board, a designated high school, a generous waiver system, a middle school, and an effective curriculum seemed to be most appreciated.

For the Town Report last year, I communicated the goals of the school's new action plan. Teachers, parents, community members, and administrators developed this plan. The goals of this action plan are aligned to the School's Definition of Learning, Mission, and Core Values. Below is an update on each goal.

### **Goal #1 – Develop Each Child's Potential for Academic Success**

- The staff at Newton continues to monitor each student's academic achievement through weekly meetings and quarterly progress monitoring. We want to see each child improving, no matter where they started. Students in grades 3-8 also take the Smarter Balanced Assessment. For the 12 tests that our students took (six grade levels one test in math and one test in English), our students scored in the top ten in the State eight times.
- We have a math teacher that now has designated responsibilities to work with staff in order to promote best practices in math. We have adopted a K-5 and a 6-8 math program that we believe focuses on the essential skills needed for math (numeracy and problem solving).
- A committee has articulated our multi-tiered system of support so that any student that struggles has a lower chance of falling through the cracks.
- The school was able to increase our Spanish class 100% from two to four days a week.

The results for the SBAC (which replaced the NECAP):

**Spring 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment Results**

Grade	Mathematics			English Language Arts		
	Newton School	Improvement from 2015	State Average	Newton School	Improvement from 2015	State Average
3 <sup>rd</sup> - % of Students <i>Proficient or above</i>	82%	NA	56%	92%	NA	53%
4 <sup>th</sup> - % of Students <i>Proficient or above</i>	56%	6%	50%	75%	19%	55%
5 <sup>th</sup> - % of Students <i>Proficient or above</i>	75%	0%	43%	92%	0%	53%
6 <sup>th</sup> - % of Students <i>Proficient or above</i>	61%	19%	41%	72%	9%	57%
7 <sup>th</sup> - % of Students <i>Proficient or above</i>	80%	9%	47%	80%	9%	57%
8 <sup>th</sup> - % of Students <i>Proficient or above</i>	73%	5%	44%	67%	-10%	58%

For more detailed results, please see our “Report Card” on the school’s website (<http://newton.owsu.org/>)

**Goal #2 – Reach Each Child’s Potential for Well-Being**

- We have hired a full-time certified school counselor to teach guidance lessons and expand our small group and one to one counseling.
- There are now designated times for teachers to discuss the transition of students from one cluster to the next.
- Several faculty members from a variety of positions in the school plan and execute three triad activities throughout the year (Hike for Hunger, Literacy, and Pi Day).
- The Habits of Learning (Collaboration, Engagement, Responsibility, and Respect) are now assessed and reported on report cards.

**Goal #3 – Develop Each Child’s Potential for Engagement**

- 7th and 8th grade students now have electives to choose from in art, fitness, music, technology, advanced math, and world language.
- We increased the time 8th graders were at Hulbert Outdoor Center and had facilitators from Hulbert instruct teamwork at Newton to students in grades 6-8.
- Our librarian’s time has increased in order to integrate more technology into the classrooms.

- We have secured several grants to purposefully integrate outdoor learning into K-8 classrooms.

#### **Goal #4 – Enhance Communication**

- I have reinstated the principal chat to facilitate better communication with parents.
- We have redesigned our report cards in order for parents and students to better understand student achievement in academics and the Habits of Learning.
- We are continuing to pursue web-based programs to decrease paperwork and increase effective communication with parents (field trips, registration, notices, events, student needs, etc.).

In addition, professionally, all kindergarten through grade 5 teachers are taking a year-long class to better understand how children develop their literacy skills. The knowledge gained will help us toward our goal of supporting all students and getting them to “grade level” by third grade. Teachers in grades 6-8 are in a professional learning group to discuss and implement initiatives that promote personal learning plans.

Finally, last summer we hired seven new staff members. This transition has been challenging, but the culture of the school and the hard work by new teachers and veterans alike has made these transitions very positive. The staff at Newton School works exceptionally hard. Teachers at Newton have a vision on how to reach each individual student and pursue this ideal until they are successful.

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

Sincerely,  
Greg Bagnato  
Principal

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

It is my extreme privilege to report to the ten towns that compose the new White River Valley Supervisory Union. As all of you are aware, the White River Valley SU joined the former Windsor Northwest SU and the former Orange Windsor SU into one. The Supervisory Union now consists of Bethel, Chelsea, Granville, Hancock, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge, Strafford and Tunbridge. The work it took over the last two years to bring us together was a long and tedious process, to say the least. The task in which we are currently engaged is to comply with the elements of Act 46 to consolidate and reduce the districts in the current configuration from ten districts to six by July 1, 2017 is arduous. I have decided to keep my remarks brief about Act 46, and instead include many of the activities that have taken place or are ongoing in our newly configured SU.

It is hard to believe that anyone living in the towns in the SU could not have heard about Act 46 by now. It was created by the legislature and signed into law in June of 2015. The intent of the law is to provide a quality education by creating increased educational opportunities for all Vermont students at a cost savings to parents and tax payers and to increase district efficiencies that will make it possible to organize, share, and manage resources.

As a result of the consolidation efforts, there will be tax incentives and other savings to help with transition costs over the next three years. The districts in the White River Valley SU must approve mergers by July 1, 2017, and they must be operational by July 1, 2018 to get the largest amount of the tax incentives possible. A list of complete goals of the Act can be found in Section 2 of the law. At this time, there are seven towns in the SU that are working hard to merge by the deadlines. Hancock and Granville intend to merge as a non-operational district, Tunbridge and Chelsea as a PK-8 operational district, and Bethel, Rochester and Royalton as a PK-12 operational district. Voters will be asked to vote on these mergers on April 11, 2017.

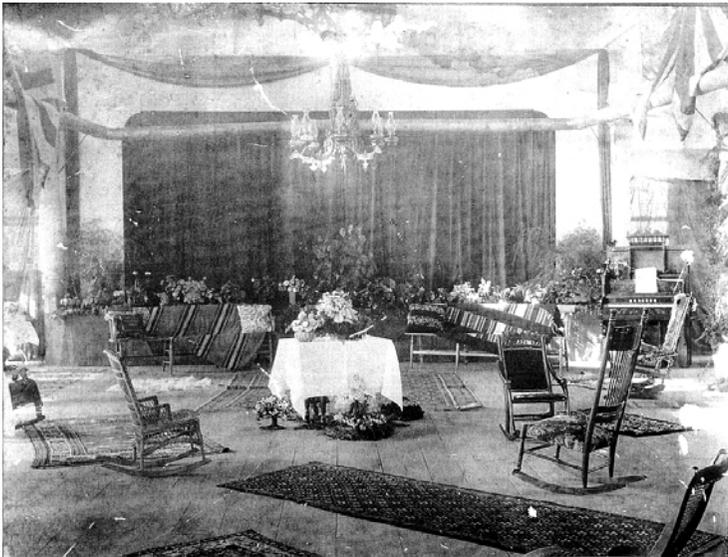
The boards are also currently involved in developing and approving new policies. This work is very labor intensive but is very necessary to have boards and school districts function well. One such policy approved recently was a comprehensive Wellness Policy developed by the White River Valley Wellness team. This team has been meeting regularly and includes health staff from each school as well as community members. The team worked to rewrite our wellness policy last year to ensure that a modern, robust policy is in place to advance student health at all of our schools. We feel that because of the efforts of the Wellness Team and development of our comprehensive Wellness Policy, we have made significant strides in advancing wellness across the White River Valley SU.

Finally, I would like to call your attention to the Strategic Plan that the White River Valley recently finished and can be found on the website at

www.wrvsu.org under the School Board tab at the top of the web page. Developing this plan required a year and a half of work by many people. We believe that it gives residents some understanding of the work we will do here in the future.

I want to thank all the residents and taxpayers of the White River Valley SU for their support of the students within our district this year. Please feel free to contact me at our office located at 461 Waterman Road, Royalton, if you have any questions or concerns. I will, as always, try to be worthy of the public's trust every day I am in this position. I assure you that I will never take the public trust for granted.

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



*Town House interior: pulpit and pews were removed in 1886 for receptions (pictured), dancing and stage shows, complete with proscenium and curtains obscuring the large central window.*

## REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

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

TA's official 2016-17 enrollment of 338—its highest in eight years—includes local students from Brownsville, Corinth, Hanover, Hartland, Lyme, Norwich, Orange, Sharon, Strafford, Thetford, Topsham, and Washington, as well as international students from China, Greece, and Rwanda.

This report highlights school accomplishments since March 2016 in STEM, outdoor education, the arts, and service:

### STEM

- Inspired by reading William Kamkwamba's book, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, and supported the Vermont Energy Education Program, Marc Chabot's high school physics students recently built do-it-yourself solar-based charging units, which were designed to power a device being used in students' day-to-day life.
- In a partnership with the Montshire Museum of Science, Google, and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Thetford Academy was selected as a Project School in the "Making Spaces: Expanding Maker Education Across the Nation" initiative. Over the next year, TA will work with the Montshire Museum to design, fund, and implement a new makerspace on campus.
- Thetford Academy's Robotics Team "4886A" was named tournament champion in the alliance category of the NH-VT State VEX Robotics Championship at the New Hampshire Technical Institute last winter, one of only five teams from the Twin States to earn an invitation to VEX's World Championship in Louisville, KY.

### OUTDOOR INITIATIVE

- The Woodbury Foundation awarded TA a \$55,000 grant to support a second year of the Environmental Science and Outdoor Education Initiative. The program aims to "nurture emerging areas of excellence in environmental studies and outdoor education."
- A team of eight TA students spent a week in the woods improving and expanding TA's trail network in TA's forests and the adjoining Thetford Hill State Park. They added 1200 feet of new trails, trail signs, blazes, two new bridges, and enhanced two existing 'ghost' trails, now named the Fireplace and Ridge Trails.

- TA received a \$100,000 grant supporting the school's efforts to build an Environmental Science and Outdoor Education Center on the recently-acquired Barrett property, south of TA's main campus and adjacent to Thetford Hill State Park. The proposed project includes the construction of a timber-framed outdoor classroom, which is now being designed and built by TA's Timber Framing class.
- Twelve members of the TA Outing Club spent the night in Hexacube shelter on the shoulder of Mt. Cube in Orford, NH, in September 2016, one of several outing trips in the fall.
- A full-year, half-day program in Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies will be offered in 2017-18, with embedded credits to be awarded in science, English, and an elective.

## **ARTS**

- Thetford Academy's 20th Annual Ten-Minute Play Festival in January 2017 featured plays written, directed, and performed by TA students and centered around the theme Voices in Your Head. This fall, Thetford Academy Drama presented Rumors, a madcap comedy by Neil Simon.
- Six Thetford Academy choral music students participated in the Winooski Music Festival at U-32 in Montpelier in the fall.
- The AVA Gallery and Art Center recognized four Thetford Academy students during the award ceremony for the Best of the Upper Valley High School Exhibition last winter. Two students took first place, and two achieved honorable mention.

## **SERVICE**

- This fall, students in Jennifer Gernhard's Meal Planning and Preparation class made nine gallons of soup and 28 mini-loaves of bread for the Empty Bowls Project, an internationally acclaimed organization whose mission is to fight hunger. The class then sold their wares at the Alumni Craft Bazaar and donated proceeds to the Thetford Food Bank.
- The cast and crew of the 2016 Mr. TA Pageant—a benefit event for Raise Rwanda—enthralled a sell-out crowd for two hours of student performances in December, raising over \$6,400 for secondary education in Rwanda. TA's international student program enrolled the school's first Rwandan student for the 2016-17 school year.

TA remains proud of its many long-held traditions, including the 74th annual Founders' Day in February, the 38th annual Frederick G. Torrey Mountain Day in September, the 31st annual TA Alumni Association Craft Bazaar in November, the 26th Woods Trail Run in October, and the 20th annual 10-Minute Play Festival in January.

To find out more about Thetford Academy, check out :

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

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

Sincerely,  
William A. Bugg III  
Head of School



*The Town House interior after the proscenium was removed in a 1972 renovation, and the wood stoves and stove pipes taken out in 2009 for a new propane heating system.*

## NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

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

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

This year the Newton School, once again, enjoyed an amazing year of arts and cultural events. Dance artist, Anna Ditursi from Just Dance Studio in Rutland, Vermont, was asked to conduct a three-day workshop with the students before Christmas break that culminated in a final performance. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative and our time with her was reduced to two days, but nonetheless the students were still able to put on a magnificent performance. For many students, the sheer act of performing in front of others is scary, but learning to push through those fears and do something outside their comfort zone provides an opportunity for tremendous growth as individuals that they will carry with them throughout life.

In addition to funding the artist in residence each year, another large item in our budget that we enthusiastically fund is two art or culturally related performances for each student. This year K-2nd-grade students saw Elephant and Piggie's *We Are In a Play* and *Her Majesty's Secret Circus*. The 3rd-5th grades saw *Story Pirates* and *ARCATTACK* while the 6th-8th grades saw *Macbeth* and *FLEXN*.

Lastly, one of the most beloved programs funded by the PTA, "Images," allows students 3rd-5th grade to travel to the Hood Museum to explore and create art in the Peter Smith Studio.

In addition to the big art events, the PTA funds many other smaller programs throughout the school year. The PTA each year sponsors 1-3 children to attend conservation camp. Kindergarten-second grade made Newton School block print t-shirts that the PTA provided to promote fun and unity during field trips and outings. Newton school graduates received survival bags from their teachers each year, and the PTA contributes to these graduation expenses.

The PTA supports these programs through an annual appeals letter and various fundraising efforts in which we are constantly searching for additional volunteers as we see older 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 p.m., 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.

Amy Donohue, President  
Shannon Varley, Vice-President  
Nicole Ekegren, Treasurer  
Denise Coté, Secretary



*Repairs to the Town House tower in the 1990s.*

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**FY 2018 Budget Summary**

	Budget FY2015	Actual FY2015	Budget FY2016	Actual FY2016	Budget FY2017	Proposed Budget FY2018	Budget to Budget %	Dollar Change Budget to Budget
<b>INSTRUCTION -K-8</b>								
Elementary Instruction	\$ 590,916	\$ 559,843	\$ 586,788	\$ 549,831	\$ 609,309	\$ 631,666	3.67%	\$ 22,357
MS Instruction	168,865	172,084	179,990	172,367	193,688	178,283	-7.95%	(15,404)
Athletics	3,945	1,275	4,053	2,137	2,710	3,690	36.16%	980
Remedial Instruction	71,530	70,256	74,654	75,294	80,790	59,092	-26.86%	(21,699)
<b>Total Direct Instruction</b>	<b>\$ 835,256</b>	<b>\$ 803,458</b>	<b>\$ 845,484</b>	<b>\$ 799,629</b>	<b>\$ 886,497</b>	<b>\$ 872,731</b>	<b>-1.55%</b>	<b>\$ (13,766)</b>
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>								
Student Support (incl Guidance/Health)	\$ 69,121	\$ 71,133	\$ 70,977	\$ 73,439	\$ 120,827	\$ 122,599	1.47%	\$ 1,773
Staff Support Services	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,718	\$ 26,932	\$ 16,432	\$ 24,150	\$ 27,550	14.08%	\$ 3,400
Library/Technology	69,093	58,948	68,380	62,615	70,605	72,104	2.12%	1,499
School Board/Admin/Treasurer/Audit	235,330	241,034	242,705	243,632	251,770	251,866	0.04%	95
Supervisory Union -	76,833	76,833	83,116	83,115	165,217	178,219	7.87%	13,002
Buildings and Grounds	197,894	189,381	196,675	200,319	201,194	204,613	1.70%	3,419
Transportation	87,000	80,779	87,000	80,338	5,000	5,000	0.00%	-
Food Service Subsidy	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	25,000	56.25%	9,000
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$ 768,771</b>	<b>\$ 751,826</b>	<b>\$ 791,785</b>	<b>\$ 775,890</b>	<b>\$ 854,762</b>	<b>\$ 886,951</b>	<b>3.77%</b>	<b>\$ 32,189</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS K-8</b>	<b>\$1,604,027</b>	<b>\$1,555,284</b>	<b>\$1,637,270</b>	<b>\$1,575,519</b>	<b>\$1,741,259</b>	<b>\$1,759,682</b>	<b>1.06%</b>	<b>\$ 18,423</b>
Preschool	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,029	\$ 30,920	\$ 25,200	-18.50%	\$ (5,720)
Local/SU- Special Education K-12	587,940	581,130	587,108	564,304	545,332	251,020	-53.97%	(294,312)
Secondary Tuition (incl vocational)	984,318	1,021,144	1,050,330	1,020,355	1,001,637	1,114,119	11.23%	112,482
<b>TOTAL ALL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$3,176,285</b>	<b>\$3,157,558</b>	<b>\$3,289,708</b>	<b>\$3,173,207</b>	<b>\$3,319,148</b>	<b>\$3,150,021</b>	<b>-5.10%</b>	<b>\$ (169,127)</b>

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION  
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EXPENDITURE BUDGET FY 2017-2018**

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
<b>Guidance Services</b>						
Guidance Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,938.00	\$ 44,698	\$ 44,348
Employer Taxes	-	-	-	301	3,419	3,393
Health Ins	-	-	-	-	15,623	15,618
Dental Ins	-	-	-	-	314	294
Life Ins	-	-	-	-	30	30
Workers Comp	-	-	-	-	358	377
Contracted Services	18,025	18,150	18,500	13,254	1,350	1,350
Books & Periodicals	150	-	100	59	90	175
Supplies	50	-	-	-	90	90
<b>Total Guidance Services</b>	<b>\$ 18,225</b>	<b>\$ 18,150</b>	<b>\$ 18,600</b>	<b>\$ 17,552</b>	<b>\$ 65,971</b>	<b>\$ 65,675</b>
<b>Health Services</b>						
Nurse's Salary	\$ 33,013	\$ 35,653	\$ 33,385	\$ 37,820	\$ 34,700	\$ 35,741
Health Insurance	13,930	13,930	14,557	14,883	15,707	15,703
Employer Taxes	2,525	2,099	2,554	2,344	2,655	2,734
Life Ins	23	24	23	25	23	23
Workers Comp.	215	262	267	234	278	304
Dental Benefits	279	231	261	-	235	-
Contracted Services	-	-	600	-	600	1,800
Supplies	550	535	435	400	392	400
Books & Periodicals	110	145	115	66	104	105
Audio Visual	50	-	50	-	45	-
Equipment	200	104	130	115	117	115
<b>Total Health Services</b>	<b>\$ 50,896</b>	<b>\$ 52,983</b>	<b>\$ 52,377</b>	<b>\$ 55,887</b>	<b>\$ 54,855</b>	<b>\$ 56,925</b>

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
<b>Support Services</b>						
Course Reimb.	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,451	\$ 12,500	\$ 9,165	\$ 12,500	\$ 13,000
Staff Mentoring	-	-	-	-	-	1,000
Contracted Services	-	-	850	-	850	850
Long Term Disability Insurance	-	-	2,000	1,087	1,800	1,300
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	19	-	27	-	-
Employer Contribution to Teacher Retirement	-	-	6,582	-	4,000	4,000
School-Wide Prof Dev	7,500	10,014	5,000	6,017	5,000	6,000
Mileage Reimbursement	-	234	-	136	-	1,400
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$ 17,500</b>	<b>\$ 17,718</b>	<b>\$ 26,932</b>	<b>\$ 16,432</b>	<b>\$ 24,150</b>	<b>\$ 27,550</b>
<b>School Library/Media</b>						
Salaries	\$ 23,170	\$ 23,170	\$ 23,633	\$ 23,991	\$ 29,774	\$ 30,668
Employer Taxes	1,773	1,772	1,808	1,835	2,278	2,346
Workers Comp	151	184	189	165	238	261
Repairs & Maint.	150	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies	200	126	200	250	180	180
Technology Supplies	-	-	400	222	400	400
Books & Periodicals	1,800	1,802	1,800	1,840	1,620	1,770
Audio-Visual	950	664	650	865	585	-
Licenses/Dues & Fees	250	262	100	-	90	300
Equipment	150	139	200	45	180	380
<b>Total School Library</b>	<b>\$ 28,593</b>	<b>\$ 28,119</b>	<b>\$ 28,980</b>	<b>\$ 29,213</b>	<b>\$ 35,345</b>	<b>\$ 36,304</b>
<b>School Board</b>						
Board stipends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Board Secretary	1,100	450	1,100	1,167	1,100	1,100
Employer Taxes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Fees	2,500	1,386	2,500	845	2,500	2,500
Other Services (sect 125 admin)	500	928	500	156	1,000	500
Errors & Omissions/Catastrophic Insurance	2,400	2,448	2,500	2,505	3,000	3,000

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
Advertising	1,500	1,195	1,500	2,270	1,500	1,500
Supplies	200	45	200	-	180	180
Dues/Fees	1,300	1,470	1,350	1,421	1,500	1,500
<b>Total School Board</b>	<b>\$ 9,500</b>	<b>\$ 7,922</b>	<b>\$ 9,650</b>	<b>\$ 8,364</b>	<b>\$ 10,780</b>	<b>\$ 10,280</b>
<b>Supervisory Union</b>						
Office of the Superintendent	\$ 30,673	\$ 30,673	\$ 31,942	\$ 31,941	\$ 28,469	\$ 30,845
Curriculum Services	7,598	7,598	8,193	8,193	8,263	9,136
Technology Director	-	-	-	-	9,615	9,745
Grant Administration	-	-	1,780	1,780	955	2,525
Fiscal Services/Central Office	38,562	38,562	41,201	41,201	37,915	44,968
Transportation Assessment	-	-	-	-	80,000	81,000
SU Pool - Special Education	587,940	581,130	587,108	564,304	545,332	<b>251,020</b>
<b>Total Supervisory Union</b>	<b>\$ 664,773</b>	<b>\$ 657,963</b>	<b>\$ 670,224</b>	<b>\$ 647,419</b>	<b>\$ 710,549</b>	<b>\$ 429,239</b>
<b>Office of the Principal</b>						
Principals Salary	\$ 86,005	\$ 86,005	\$ 87,725	\$ 87,725	\$ 90,357	\$ 92,616
Assistant Salary	500	500	1,000	500	1,000	-
Administrative Assistant	31,686	31,846	32,960	32,980	34,612	35,466
Health Ins Benefits	33,432	35,459	34,937	37,054	39,982	39,970
Employer Taxes	9,042	8,416	9,309	8,617	9,637	9,798
Life/Disability Ins Premiums	265	275	265	292	330	330
Professional Development	1,000	2,311	1,000	239	1,000	500
Retirement Contribution	1,465	1,274	1,318	1,319	1,384	1,419
Workers Comp.	916	937	973	852	1,008	1,089
Dental Ins.	810	736	758	663	683	640
Mentoring	-	1,411	-	-	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	200	-	-	-
Telephone Exp	3,500	3,694	4,000	1,464	3,600	1,800
Postage	1,200	1,310	600	561	540	600
Printing	-	-	-	-	-	-

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
Mileage Reimbursement	1,000	125	500	346	450	300
Supplies	4,500	3,742	5,000	5,064	4,000	4,000
Copier Lease / other equipment Technology/Tel System	4,500	6,836	5,000	5,689	5,500	6,000
Dues & Fees	1,500	1,777	2,000	1,817	1,800	1,800
<b>Total Office of the Principal</b>	<b>\$ 181,322</b>	<b>\$ 186,654</b>	<b>\$ 187,547</b>	<b>\$ 185,182</b>	<b>\$ 195,882</b>	<b>\$ 196,328</b>
<b>Town Services</b>						
Treasurer Services	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400
Employers Taxes	107	107	107	107	107	107
Audit Services	5,000	4,600	5,000	4,600	4,600	2,750
Postage	400	360	400	286	400	400
Dues & Fees	400	103	400	1,786	400	400
<b>Total Town Services</b>	<b>\$ 7,307</b>	<b>\$ 6,570</b>	<b>\$ 7,307</b>	<b>\$ 8,179</b>	<b>\$ 6,907</b>	<b>\$ 5,057</b>
<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>						
Director of Buildings/Grounds	\$ 37,714	\$ 38,810	\$ 39,488	\$ 40,262	\$ 40,663	\$ 41,000
Other Salaries	19,195	16,837	16,973	16,878	17,482	17,919
Health Ins.	17,873	13,855	14,729	14,453	15,873	21,187
Employers Taxes	4,354	4,118	4,319	4,214	4,448	4,507
Professional Development	1,000	-	500	-	450	200
Life Ins	23	24	23	25	30	30
Employee Retirement	1,509	1,574	1,580	1,579	1,627	1,640
Workers Comp	2,845	460	3,105	3,130	3,198	3,535
Dental Ins.	372	338	348	296	314	294
Contracted Services	-	450	-	320	-	1,500
General Liability Insurance	5,200	5,665	5,800	5,070	6,000	6,000
Supplies	10,500	14,109	10,500	10,431	11,000	11,000
Rubbish Removal	5,500	3,823	5,500	4,175	6,000	5,000
Repairs & Maintenance (incl. bldg & grounds)	17,500	20,003	17,500	21,932	18,000	19,000
Building Projects	26,000	21,236	26,000	31,197	26,000	26,000

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
Water Testing	-	-	-	-	2,000	-
Summer Painting	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Barrett Hall Rental	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	1,500
Electricity	16,000	16,513	17,000	17,991	16,000	17,000
Fuel Oil	17,000	17,871	16,000	12,880	15,000	15,000
Mowing	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,150	3,000
Snow Removal	4,000	4,208	4,000	2,043	4,000	4,000
Furniture/Equipment	3,500	1,617	3,500	3,823	3,150	3,000
Dues & Fees	210	270	210	20	210	300
<b>Total Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$ 197,894</b>	<b>\$ 189,381</b>	<b>\$ 196,675</b>	<b>\$ 200,319</b>	<b>\$ 201,194</b>	<b>\$ 204,613</b>
<b>Transportation</b>						
Field Trip Trans.	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,509	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,667	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Contracted Transportation	82,000	76,270	82,000	76,671	-	-
<b>Total Transportation</b>	<b>\$ 87,000</b>	<b>\$ 80,779</b>	<b>\$ 87,000</b>	<b>\$ 80,338</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>						
Long Term Debt (walkway)	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201	\$ 21,201
Interest (short term borrowing)	16,000	18,687	17,000	20,706	17,000	19,000
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 37,201</b>	<b>\$ 39,888</b>	<b>\$ 38,201</b>	<b>\$ 41,907</b>	<b>\$ 38,201</b>	<b>\$ 40,201</b>
<b>Art - Elementary</b>						
Salaries	\$ 11,895	\$ 11,295	\$ 11,756	\$ 10,705	\$ 11,895	\$ 12,590
Health Ins	1,410	-	-	-	-	-
Employer Taxes	910	864	899	819	910	963
Workers Comp.	89	94	94	82	95	107
Dental Ins.	75	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies	-	706	1,000	946	900	900
<b>Total Art Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 14,379</b>	<b>\$ 12,959</b>	<b>\$ 13,749</b>	<b>\$ 12,552</b>	<b>\$ 13,800</b>	<b>\$ 14,560</b>

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
<b>Phys Ed - Elementary</b>						
Salaries	\$ 18,536	\$ 17,308	\$ 17,567	\$ 17,968	\$ 18,536	\$ 19,092
Health Ins. Benefits	3,172	894	225	-	225	225
Employer Taxes	1,418	1,324	1,344	1,375	1,418	1,461
Life Ins	14	2	14	-	18	18
Workers Comp.	139	147	141	123	148	162
Dental Ins.	168	44	-	-	-	-
Supplies	500	498	500	261	450	450
Equipment	750	533	750	406	675	675
<b>Total Phys Ed - Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 24,696</b>	<b>\$ 20,750</b>	<b>\$ 20,540</b>	<b>\$ 20,133</b>	<b>\$ 21,470</b>	<b>\$ 22,083</b>
<b>Music - Elementary</b>						
Salaries	\$ 10,582	\$ 10,581	\$ 10,793	\$ 10,910	\$ 8,429	\$ 6,145
Employer Taxes	809	809	826	834	645	470
Workers Comp.	79	84	86	76	67	52
Maintenance & Repair	250	-	250	-	225	200
Supplies	200	-	420	96	378	200
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	200
<b>Total Music Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 11,920</b>	<b>\$ 11,474</b>	<b>\$ 12,375</b>	<b>\$ 11,916</b>	<b>\$ 9,744</b>	<b>\$ 7,267</b>
<b>Preschool Tuition</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,029</b>	<b>\$ 30,920</b>	<b>\$ 25,200</b>
<b>General Elementary</b>						
Salaries	\$ 373,225	\$ 353,644	\$ 364,340	\$ 370,568	\$ 387,844	\$ 391,557
Substitutes Salary	5,000	15,486	6,000	3,815	6,000	6,000
Paraprofessional Salaries	26,475	31,131	28,673	8,118	17,353	20,499
Health Ins. Benefits	80,981	67,634	86,472	71,935	95,272	105,822
Employer Taxes	30,960	31,038	30,442	27,679	31,374	31,898
Life Ins	166	194	200	212	240	229
Workers Comp.	3,035	3,209	3,192	2,599	3,290	3,553
Contracted Services- Forest K & F2S	-	-	-	3,100	4,000	6,520
Retirement Contribution	1,059	1,189	1,147	134	694	820

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
Unemployment	4,500	504	4,500	5,385	4,500	5,500
Dental Ins.	3,019	898	2,481	1,319	2,270	2,400
504/EST Expenses	1,500	1,347	500	625	-	1,000
One Planet - Tutoring	-	-	-	-	500	1,000
Supplies	5,000	4,257	6,650	5,812	5,985	5,985
Books & Periodicals	3,500	4,129	5,525	3,929	4,973	4,973
Audio-Visual	1,500	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total General Elementary</b>	<b>\$ 539,920</b>	<b>\$ 514,660</b>	<b>\$ 540,123</b>	<b>\$ 505,230</b>	<b>\$ 564,294</b>	<b>\$ 587,756</b>
<b>General Middle School</b>						
Salaries	\$ 87,571	\$ 88,071	\$ 89,322	\$ 90,034	\$ 92,497	\$ 92,735
Substitutes Salary	500	830	-	550	-	-
Paraprofessional Salaries	3,991	4,815	7,296	3,341	6,291	1,750
Health Ins.	20,156	24,878	25,319	22,386	26,667	16,806
Employer Taxes	7,043	7,400	7,391	8,247	7,557	7,228
Life Ins	38	70	42	66	52	52
Workers Comp	690	730	773	676	790	803
Retirement Contribution	160	211	292	333	252	70
Dental Ins	567	320	629	436	571	494
Contracted Serv- VTVLC	-	-	-	-	2,250	2,250
Supplies	5,000	3,326	4,000	4,392	3,600	3,600
Books & Periodicals	3,200	2,185	3,770	1,184	3,393	3,393
<b>Total General Middle School</b>	<b>\$ 128,916</b>	<b>\$ 132,836</b>	<b>\$ 138,834</b>	<b>\$ 131,645</b>	<b>\$ 143,920</b>	<b>\$ 129,181</b>
<b>Remedial Support (partial schoolwide CFP funded)</b>						
Salaries	\$ 53,191	\$ 53,191	\$ 30,242	\$ 37,456	\$ 30,760	\$ 34,018
Health Ins.	13,394	7,613	5,524	5,766	5,961	375
Retirement Contribution	-	-	-	2,169	3,298	4,082
Life Ins	12	24	23	25	30	30
Employer Taxes	4,069	3,636	2,314	2,489	2,353	2,602
Dental Ins	465	298	261	242	235	-

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
Workers Comp	399	194	242	212	246	289
Books & Periodicals	-	-	-	-	-	900
Supplies	-	-	-	-	-	385
Contracted Services	-	5,300	-	1,750	-	-
<b>Total Remedial Support</b>	<b>\$ 71,530</b>	<b>\$ 70,256</b>	<b>\$ 38,606</b>	<b>\$ 50,109</b>	<b>\$ 42,883</b>	<b>\$ 41,397</b>
<b>Local Remedial Support</b>						
Salaries			\$ 25,255	\$ 19,545	\$ 26,865	\$ 12,778
Health Ins.			8,472	4,153	8,555	3,727
Life Ins			12	3	60	30
Employer Taxes			1,932	1,307	2,055	978
Dental Ins			174	-	157	74
Workers Comp			202	177	215	109
<b>Total Local Remedial Support</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 36,048</b>	<b>\$ 25,185</b>	<b>\$ 37,907</b>	<b>\$ 17,695</b>
<b>Art - Middle</b>						
Salaries	\$ 5,948	\$ 5,563	\$ 5,878	\$ 7,137	\$ 5,948	\$ 6,295
Health Ins	705	-	-	-	-	-
Employer Taxes	455	426	450	546	455	482
Workers Comp.	45	47	47	41	48	54
Dental Ins.	37	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies	-	358	700	625	630	830
<b>Total Art - Middle</b>	<b>\$ 7,190</b>	<b>\$ 6,394</b>	<b>\$ 7,075</b>	<b>\$ 8,349</b>	<b>\$ 7,080</b>	<b>\$ 7,660</b>
<b>World Language Middle</b>						
Salaries	\$ 7,954	\$ 8,940	\$ 9,118	\$ 9,268	\$ 19,192	\$ 17,063
Health Ins	-	-	-	-	-	3,178
Employer Taxes	608	684	698	709	1,468	1,305
Worker Comp.	60	63	73	64	154	137
Dental Ins	-	-	-	-	-	118
Supplies	200	-	200	-	180	150
On Line Course	-	-	-	-	-	-

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
Books & Periodicals	500	262	200	-	180	150
<b>Total World Language-Middle School</b>	<b>\$ 9,322</b>	<b>\$ 9,949</b>	<b>\$ 10,289</b>	<b>\$ 10,041</b>	<b>\$ 21,174</b>	<b>\$ 22,100</b>
<b>Physical Education-Middle</b>						
Salaries	\$ 9,268	\$ 8,525	\$ 8,783	\$ 8,850	\$ 9,268	\$ 9,546
Health Ins. Benefits	2,115	441	150	-	150	150
Employer Taxes	709	652	672	677	709	730
Life Ins	11	1	11	-	11	11
Workers Comp.	70	73	70	61	74	81
Dental Ins.	112	22	-	-	-	-
Supplies	850	849	850	247	765	765
Equipment	800	588	700	554	630	630
<b>Total Physical Education-Middle</b>	<b>\$ 13,934</b>	<b>\$ 11,151</b>	<b>\$ 11,237</b>	<b>\$ 10,389</b>	<b>\$ 11,607</b>	<b>\$ 11,913</b>
<b>Music - Middle</b>						
Salaries	\$ 7,936	\$ 10,582	\$ 10,793	\$ 10,910	\$ 8,429	\$ 6,145
Employer Taxes	607	810	826	835	645	470
Workers Comp.	60	63	86	76	67	49
Repairs/Maint	-	-	250	-	225	225
Supplies	500	299	500	122	450	450
Books & Periodicals	400	-	-	-	-	-
Dues & Fees	-	-	100	-	90	90
<b>Total Music Middle</b>	<b>\$ 9,503</b>	<b>\$ 11,754</b>	<b>\$ 12,555</b>	<b>\$ 11,943</b>	<b>\$ 9,906</b>	<b>\$ 7,429</b>
<b>Athletics</b>						
Coaching/ Other Stipends	\$ 1,900	\$ 183	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
Employer Benefits	145	6	153	-	-	-
Supplies	1,100	611	1,100	1,437	990	990
Officials	800	475	800	700	720	700
<b>Total Athletics</b>	<b>\$ 3,945</b>	<b>\$ 1,275</b>	<b>\$ 4,053</b>	<b>\$ 2,137</b>	<b>\$ 2,710</b>	<b>\$ 3,690</b>

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
<b>Computer Technology/Instruction</b>						
Technology Support Services	\$ 18,000	\$ 12,165	\$ 16,000	\$ 10,704	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
Repairs & Maintenance	1,000	2,067	1,000	2,213	900	900
Computer Hardware	18,500	14,812	16,500	15,059	14,500	14,500
Computer Software	-	-	-	-	-	600
Assessment Tools	1,500	1,500	5,500	5,426	3,500	3,800
Internet Connection	1,500	285	400	-	360	-
<b>Total Computer Technology</b>	<b>\$ 40,500</b>	<b>\$ 30,829</b>	<b>\$ 39,400</b>	<b>\$ 33,402</b>	<b>\$ 35,260</b>	<b>\$ 35,800</b>
<b>Food Service Program</b>						
<b>Subsidy</b>	<b>\$ 16,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>				
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,191,967</b>	<b>\$ 2,136,414</b>	<b>\$ 2,239,378</b>	<b>\$ 2,152,852</b>	<b>\$ 2,317,511</b>	<b>\$ 2,035,902</b>
<b>General Secondary</b>						
Tuition to Other LEA's in VT	\$ 60,800	\$ 51,739	\$ 15,200	\$ 1,871	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition to Designated HS-TA	436,616	383,669	446,848	410,256	371,000	474,584
Tuition to LEA's Outside of VT	164,248	205,128	223,776	245,014	288,000	275,992
504 Admin Services	-	-	-	-	-	4,000
Tuition to Private Schools	244,800	285,884	288,800	243,049	261,000	273,600
<b>Total General Secondary</b>	<b>\$ 906,464</b>	<b>\$ 926,420</b>	<b>\$ 974,624</b>	<b>\$ 900,190</b>	<b>\$ 920,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,028,176</b>
<b>Vocational Ed.</b>						
Tuition other VT LEA'S	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,312	\$ 50,000	\$ 78,348	\$ 58,000	\$ 58,000
Dual Enrollment	-	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
Voc Transportation	-	16,794	-	18,611	-	-
Tuition paid by State on behalf of District	22,854	22,618	23,206	23,206	23,637	25,443
<b>Total Vocational Ed.</b>	<b>\$ 77,854</b>	<b>\$ 94,724</b>	<b>\$ 75,706</b>	<b>\$ 120,165</b>	<b>\$ 81,637</b>	<b>\$ 85,943</b>
<b>Total Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>\$ 3,176,285</b>	<b>\$ 3,157,558</b>	<b>\$ 3,289,708</b>	<b>\$ 3,173,207</b>	<b>\$ 3,319,148</b>	<b>\$ 3,150,021</b>

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION  
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REVENUE BUDGET FY 2017-2018**

Description	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Proposed Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018
<b>PRIOR YR FUND BALANCE CARRY-OVER</b>	\$ (9,545)	\$ -	\$ 33,984	\$ -	\$ 6,900	\$ -
<b>REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES</b>						
Tuition	\$ -	\$ 14,696	\$ -	\$ 21,200	\$ 11,000	\$ -
Interest	15,000	17,905	15,000	23,992	15,000	20,000
Rentals (includes Preschool)	6,000	5,716	5,500	4,730	5,500	5,000
Unspent Generator Funds	16,212	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	2,900	-	515	-	-
Prior Yr Adjustment	-	(358)	-	(2,797)	-	-
Title I/SWP from OWSU	35,000	41,280	27,000	36,096	33,394	33,394
Other Restricted Grants	-	6,900	-	-	-	-
Donations/PTA/Miscellaneous	-	125	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Local Source Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 72,212</b>	<b>\$ 89,164</b>	<b>\$ 47,500</b>	<b>\$ 83,736</b>	<b>\$ 64,894</b>	<b>\$ 58,394</b>
<b>REVENUES FROM STATE/FEDERAL SOURCES</b>						
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$ 2,576,925	\$ 2,576,747	\$ 2,678,949	\$ 2,678,949	\$ 2,751,851	\$ 2,902,134
ACT 60 Related Transportation	36,992	37,050	33,075	33,075	34,830	34,363
Vocational Transportation Reimb	-	16,794	-	18,611	-	-
Small Schools Grant	85,214	87,493	99,571	102,040	92,697	99,687
Medicaid Reimbursement(IEP & EPSDT)	35,000	39,500	35,000	39,500	30,000	30,000
<b>Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources</b>	<b>\$ 2,734,131</b>	<b>\$ 2,757,584</b>	<b>\$ 2,846,595</b>	<b>\$ 2,872,175</b>	<b>\$ 2,909,378</b>	<b>\$ 3,066,184</b>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUES</b>						
Block Grant	\$ 64,861	\$ 64,861	\$ 65,556	\$ 65,556	\$ 66,029	\$ -
Expenditure Reimbursement	247,470	235,074	248,554	228,670	209,626	-
Extraordinary	31,023	43,107	13,573	26,847	27,585	-
Early Education Grant	13,279	13,678	10,740	10,740	11,099	-
<b>Total Special Ed. Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 356,633</b>	<b>\$ 356,720</b>	<b>\$ 338,423</b>	<b>\$ 331,813</b>	<b>\$ 314,339</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<i>Note: Beginning in FY2018, all Special Education revenues will go to the Supervisory Union.</i>						
<b>SUB- TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE -</b>	<b>\$ 3,153,431</b>	<b>\$ 3,203,468</b>	<b>\$ 3,266,502</b>	<b>\$ 3,287,724</b>	<b>\$ 3,295,511</b>	<b>\$ 3,124,578</b>
<b>Vocational Tuition</b>						
Received for Tech Ctr- sent directly to Tech Ctr	\$ 22,854	\$ 22,618	\$ 23,206	\$ 23,206	\$ 23,637	\$ 25,443
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 3,176,285</b>	<b>\$ 3,226,086</b>	<b>\$ 3,289,708</b>	<b>\$ 3,310,930</b>	<b>\$ 3,319,148</b>	<b>\$ 3,150,021</b>

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM  
FY 2017-2018  
PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
(INFORMATIONAL ONLY)**

	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>Actual 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2016</b>	<b>Actual 2016</b>	<b>Budget 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2018</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Salaries	\$38,000	\$39,061	\$38,700	\$41,577	\$39,861	\$ 42,011
Benefits	5,500	5,033	5,700	5,675	5,500	23,173
Repairs/Maintenance	250	1,561	300	1,486	500	500
Food	41,000	38,813	38,150	38,724	34,000	32,766
Supplies	3,600	3,895	4,000	4,169	2,500	2,000
Propane	400	391	400	114	400	200
Commodities	4,000	3,042	4,300	3,672	3,000	3,500
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$92,750</b>	<b>\$91,796</b>	<b>\$91,550</b>	<b>\$95,417</b>	<b>\$85,761</b>	<b>\$104,150</b>
<b>Revenues</b>						
Sales	\$30,000	\$16,758	\$25,000	\$13,091	\$18,261	\$ 23,000
State Lunch Match	750	551	750	652	600	750
State Bkfst Match	500	322	500	338	400	400
Federal Lunch Reimb	25,750	25,835	28,000	25,806	28,000	30,000
Federal Bkfst Reimb	15,750	16,068	17,000	16,454	18,000	20,000
Other	-	1,231	-	930	1,500	1,500
Commodities	4,000	3,042	4,300	3,672	3,000	3,500
Transfer from General Fund	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	25,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$92,750</b>	<b>\$79,807</b>	<b>\$91,550</b>	<b>\$76,943</b>	<b>\$85,761</b>	<b>\$104,150</b>

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURES**

	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>Actual 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2016</b>	<b>Actual 2016</b>	<b>Budget 2017</b>	<b>Budget 2018</b>
<b>Transportation Expenditures</b>						
Contracted Transportation	\$82,000	\$76,270	\$82,000	\$76,671	\$ -	
SU Assessment	-	-	-	-	80,000	81,000
Contracted Field Trip Transp	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,509	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,667	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$87,000</b>	<b>\$80,779</b>	<b>\$87,000</b>	<b>\$80,338</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>\$86,000</b>

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS  
FYE 6/30/16**

<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 171,704
<b>Food Service Program</b>	\$ (18,474)
<b>Medicaid Funds</b> <i>(these funds are held at OWSU and drawn down as needed for qualifying expenditures)</i>	\$ 11,341
<b>Tyson Gym Reserve</b>	\$ 3,308
<b>Capital Improvement Fund</b>	\$ 9,241
<b>Tuition Reserve</b>	\$ 153,174

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS  
Year Ending June 30, 2016**

The Strafford School District had an outstanding loan of \$39,938 for the covered walkway as of June 30, 2016.

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION**  
**EXPENDITURE BUDGET**  
**FY 2017-2018**

Description	OWSU/ WNWSU Budget 2016	OWSU/ WNWSU Actuals 2016	WRVSU Budget 2017	WRVSU Proposed Budget 2018
<b>Office of the Superintendent</b>				
Administration Salaries	\$ 225,500	\$ 228,605	\$ 118,718	\$ 121,729
Administrative/HR Support	61,963	69,501	86,520	90,220
Board Clerk	-	-	-	2,000
Health Insurance	59,429	51,307	53,516	42,035
Employer Taxes	21,991	21,848	15,701	16,367
Life Ins Premiums	355	407	340	340
Disability Ins	579	645	-	-
Retirement Contribution	7,565	6,749	4,759	4,962
Workers Comp	2,867	1,067	1,642	1,926
Professional Development	7,000	10,404	7,000	6,500
Dental Insurance	1,795	1,764	1,420	1,332
Mentoring	2,000	3,100	-	-
Legal Fees	13,500	45,531	20,000	15,000
Contracted Services-	2,600	4,956	2,000	1,500
In-Service, Meetings, Etc.	3,000	7,346	3,000	4,000
Repairs & Maintenance	500	371	1,000	1,000
Travel	7,900	6,043	5,000	5,000
Books & Periodicals	1,600	1,401	500	500
Equipment Contingency	-	638	3,000	1,500
Dues & Fees	10,000	8,189	7,500	7,000
Fingerprinting Expense	4,500	4,389	6,000	7,000
<b>Total Office of the Superintendent</b>	<b>\$ 434,644</b>	<b>\$ 474,261</b>	<b>\$ 337,615</b>	<b>\$ 329,911</b>
<b>Curriculum, Instruction &amp; Assessment</b>				
Salaries- Director	\$ 136,801	\$ 89,301	\$ 91,980	\$ 94,280
Curriculum Coordinator	-	-	-	46,000
Employer Taxes	10,466	6,909	7,036	10,731
Health Insurance	22,252	13,934	14,926	22,362
Workers Comp, Life Ins, Dental Ins	1,520	1,281	1,489	2,017
Curriculum Support	-	-	40,000	-
Prof Development	2,600	730	2,000	2,000
Mileage	1,700	1,249	2,000	3,000
Supplies	1,250	542	1,000	1,500
Books & Periodicals	750	-	750	500
Dues & Fees	600	402	600	600
<b>Total Curriculum Services</b>	<b>\$ 177,939</b>	<b>\$ 114,348</b>	<b>\$ 161,782</b>	<b>\$ 182,990</b>
<b>Fiscal Services</b>				
Administration Salaries	\$ 84,695	\$ 95,407	\$ 146,070	\$ 156,997
Support Salaries	134,277	137,471	91,984	94,284
Other salaries	-	-	5,000	5,000
Health Insurance	36,942	45,299	48,967	55,961
Employer Taxes	16,752	16,791	18,594	19,605
Workers Comp Ins	2,772	1,187	1,944	2,307
Life Ins	390	214	370	370
Support Staff Retire. Contrib.	11,091	17,061	15,093	15,820

Description	OWSU/ WNWSU	OWSU/ WNWSU	WRVSU	WRVSU
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Proposed Budget
	2016	2016	2017	2018
Professional Development	1,500	1,138	1,500	2,000
Dental Insurance	2,217	1,715	1,834	1,721
Disability Ins	212	-	-	-
Contracted Services	78,000	155,720	-	-
Treasurer Services	2,215	-	1,000	1,000
Audit Services	11,500	12,250	7,000	7,300
Computer Maintenance	10,500	16,619	15,000	16,000
Travel/Conference	4,600	5,247	5,000	6,000
Supplies	8,500	6,606	4,000	5,000
Equipment Contingency	2,500	1,069	2,000	2,500
Interest Exp	800	-	-	-
Dues & Fees	2,000	981	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Fiscal Services</b>	<b>\$ 411,463</b>	<b>\$ 359,055</b>	<b>\$ 366,357</b>	<b>\$ 392,865</b>
<b>Central Office</b>				
Unemployment Tax	\$ 12,000	\$ 8,751	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,500
Section 125 Admin	2,000	2,863	2,000	2,500
Prof Development	-	113	-	-
Custodial Services/Other Contr Serv	6,910	10,440	5,000	5,500
Repairs & Maint.	3,500	1,753	3,000	3,000
Disposal Services	850	1,072	2,100	2,200
Rental of Building	51,120	57,795	54,396	55,483
Property & Liability Insurance/Other in	12,100	9,636	6,800	7,200
Electricity	2,200	-	-	-
Heat	5,400	56	-	-
Telephone/Internet	11,600	10,120	3,000	3,200
Postage	6,400	5,649	3,500	4,000
Advertising	4,650	487	4,000	4,000
Supplies	12,500	13,658	8,500	9,000
Software	1,000	-	-	-
Equipment/lease	5,000	7,476	8,000	8,500
<b>Total Central Office</b>	<b>\$ 137,230</b>	<b>\$ 129,869</b>	<b>\$ 104,296</b>	<b>\$ 109,083</b>
<b>Student Support</b>				
Distr Music Prog- Sals	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Distr Music Prog- Employer Taxes	27	-	115	115
Distr Music Prog- Contr Services	500	-	1,000	1,000
Distr Music Prog- Supplies	2,523	-	3,000	1,500
Distr Collaborative Projects	1,000	-	4,385	885
<b>Total Student Support</b>	<b>\$ 5,050</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>Technology</b>				
Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73,000	\$ 76,875
Employer Taxes	-	-	5,585	5,881
Health Ins	-	-	19,295	7,855
Dental Ins	-	-	473	444
Retirement Contribution	-	-	4,015	4,228
Life Ins	-	-	30	30
Mileage Reimb	-	-	-	1,000
Prof Development	-	-	-	1,500
Supplies	-	-	-	500
Contracted Services	-	193	15,000	7,500

Description	OWSU/	OWSU/	WRVSU	WRVSU
	WNWSU	WNWSU	WRVSU	Proposed
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Budget
	2016	2016	2017	2018
<b>Technology Support</b>	\$ 8,500	\$ 193	\$ 117,398	\$ 105,813
<b>Pre-School Operations</b>				
Pre-school Coordinator	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Employer Taxes	-	-	-	765
<b>Total Pre-School Operations</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,765
<b>Grant Administration (mostly grant funded)</b>				
Administration Salaries	\$ 38,269	\$ 38,269	\$ 52,557	\$ 53,871
Health Ins	1,200	1,200	1,600	1,600
Employer Taxes	2,928	2,846	4,021	4,121
Life Ins	320	-	280	280
Workers Comp	306	268	420	485
Prof Development	2,000	1,698	2,000	1,000
Dental Ins	316	536	379	355
Audit	3,900	3,150	3,000	3,000
Mileage Reimb	798	689	800	800
Supplies	500	269	500	500
Books/Periodicals	1,000	-	1,000	500
Other expenses/software	100	476	100	100
<b>Total All Grant Administration</b>	\$ 51,637	\$ 49,401	\$ 66,656	\$ 66,612
<b>LEA Title 1</b>				
LEA Services				
Early Ed Services, ie..Story Lady	\$ 32,000	\$ 24,360	\$ 40,759	\$ 41,777
Prek Coordinator	-	10,871	15,450	-
Tutoring Services	4,000	-	4,000	-
Employer Taxes	2,754	2,262	4,606	3,196
Health Ins	11,138	6,912	14,926	14,908
Workers Comp	270	32	482	376
Dental Ins	420	368	474	444
Professional Development/Training Exj	5,500	3,006	5,500	1,500
Homeless Services	1,000	13,241	1,000	1,000
Contracted Services	-	2,857	-	-
Travel/Mileage Reimb	1,400	798	1,500	1,500
Supplies	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Books & Periodicals	400	-	400	400
Dues & Fees	2,100	2,826	2,100	500
<b>Total LEA Title 1</b>	\$ 61,982	\$ 67,533	\$ 92,197	\$ 66,601
<b>Excel Program Contribution</b>	\$ 52,500	\$ 52,500	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Supervisory Union Budget</b>	<b>\$1,340,945</b>	<b>\$1,247,160</b>	<b>\$1,256,300</b>	<b>\$1,269,641</b>

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION  
REVENUE BUDGET FY 2017-2018**

	Budget 2016	Budget 2017	Proposed Budget 2018	October-16 Enrollment	%	December-15 ADM	%	Average
<b>Local Assessments:</b>								
Bethel	\$ 248,423	\$ 221,349	\$ 189,055	276	19.45%	276.34	16.37%	17.91%
Chelsea	122,269	121,356	124,521	186	13.11%	177.00	10.48%	11.80%
Granville	22,208	15,530	10,317	0	0.00%	33.00	1.95%	0.98%
Hancock	36,434	25,132	16,992	0	0.00%	54.35	3.22%	1.61%
Rochester	102,769	97,580	83,759	145	10.22%	95.40	5.65%	7.93%
Royalton	234,235	234,510	254,441	390	27.48%	349.85	20.72%	24.10%
Sharon	83,116	90,651	137,303	149	10.50%	261.90	15.51%	13.01%
Stockbridge	100,267	74,562	45,467	46	3.24%	90.70	5.37%	4.31%
Stratford	83,116	85,217	97,244	113	7.96%	176.60	10.46%	9.21%
Tunbridge	72,125	74,633	96,491	114	8.03%	173.00	10.25%	9.14%
<b>Total Local Assessments</b>	<b>\$ 1,104,961</b>	<b>\$ 1,040,520</b>	<b>\$ 1,055,592</b>	<b>1419</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1688.14</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>State/Federal Sources</b>								
Other Grant Admin Fees		\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000					
Title I/Title IIA Funding		203,080	200,349					
<b>Total State/Federal Sources</b>		<b>\$ 208,080</b>	<b>\$ 206,349</b>					
<b>Other Sources</b>								
Interest		\$ 200	\$ 200					
21ST Century Admin Fees/OP		7,500	7,500					
<b>Total Other Sources</b>		<b>\$ 7,700</b>	<b>\$ 7,700</b>					
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,256,300</b>	<b>\$ 1,269,641</b>					

**ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION**  
**STATE AID FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
**Estimated 2016-2017**

	State Block Grant	Extraordinary Reimbursement	Expenditure Reimbursement	Essential Early Education Grant	<b>Total Estimated State Aid</b>	Anticipated Special Ed Expenditures
<b>Bethel</b>	\$ 99,226	\$ 42,704	\$ 316,767	\$ 24,280	<b>\$ 482,977</b>	\$ 824,694
<b>Chelsea</b>	58,597	25,421	189,000	14,915	<b>287,933</b>	490,913
<b>Granville</b>	10,160	6,721	54,970	2,705	<b>74,556</b>	129,804
<b>Hancock</b>	15,624	4,296	26,579	3,469	<b>49,968</b>	82,957
<b>Rochester</b>	35,923	16,576	125,387	7,284	<b>185,170</b>	320,118
<b>Royalton</b>	109,373	49,577	373,203	25,980	<b>558,133</b>	957,425
<b>Sharon</b>	85,150	38,888	293,345	15,955	<b>433,338</b>	751,008
<b>Stockbridge</b>	37,872	27,593	229,262	7,631	<b>302,358</b>	532,879
<b>Stratford</b>	66,029	15,364	85,550	11,099	<b>178,042</b>	296,695
<b>Tunbridge</b>	60,940	25,546	188,018	11,457	<b>285,961</b>	493,352
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 479,668</b>	<b>\$ 209,982</b>	<b>\$ 1,565,314</b>	<b>\$ 100,495</b>	<b>\$ 2,355,459</b>	<b>\$ 4,055,151</b>

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION**  
**Estimated 2017-2018**

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

*The above information is based on the service plans that were submitted in the Fall of the previous year.  
The budgeted revenues and expenditures may reflect changes that occurred following that submission.  
Starting in FY18 all Special Education grants and reimbursements will go to the Supervisory Union.*

## WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION

### Special Education

Program Area	Combined	Combined	Budget 2016-2017	Proposed
	SU Budget 2015-2016	SU Actuals 2015-2016		Budget 2017-2018
<b>Direct Instruction - EEE</b>				
Teacher Salaries	\$ 157,911	\$ 129,765	\$ 154,671	\$ 131,856
Support Salaries	36,500	15,298	36,706	18,355
Health Ins	35,132	33,072	39,589	31,158
Employer Taxes	14,872	10,595	14,640	11,491
Retirement Benefit-VSTRS	1,854	960	953	8,163
Workers Comp Ins	1,522	910	1,531	1,187
Unemployment	-	641	-	320
Professional Development	9,575	1,046	6,000	4,000
Dental Ins	2,863	804	1,420	915
Disability Ins/Life Ins	805	271	449	456
Contracted Services	7,000	6,475	15,000	10,021
Tuition	20,000	-	10,000	-
Travel/Conference	4,000	2,306	1,000	3,169
Supplies and Materials	5,500	2,574	6,000	3,000
Equipment	2,500	965	5,000	2,000
Dues & Fees	300	-	-	-
Psychological Services	4,800	-	10,000	-
<b>Speech Pathology &amp; Audiology</b>				
Salaries	27,654	42,142	57,788	42,325
Benefits	7,923	9,952	17,336	12,697
Contracted Services	-	24,448	-	-
Travel	-	238	-	500
Occupational Therapy Services				
Salaries	27,692	19,171	65,206	21,200
Benefits	8,308	8,499	19,562	6,362
Contracted Services	17,000	5,921	-	4,000
Travel	-	38	-	500
<b>Other Support Serv</b>	40,105	-	8,750	5,000
<b>Total Essential Early Ed</b>	<b>\$ 433,816</b>	<b>\$ 316,091</b>	<b>\$ 471,601</b>	<b>\$ 318,675</b>
<b>Direct Instruction K-12</b>				
Teacher Salaries	\$ 858,418	\$ 779,905	\$ 812,012	\$ 783,876
Alt Program Prof Staff	-	-	-	170,750
Support Salaries	765,523	896,916	865,674	1,081,197
Summer Salaries	31,000	22,260	24,000	35,000
Substitutes	37,000	49,430	30,000	40,000
Health Ins/Assessment	411,784	468,862	488,036	664,108
Employer Taxes	130,618	130,164	132,474	161,478
Life Ins	1,585	369	504	1,680
Emper Retirement Contribution	23,129	33,541	53,782	59,466
Workers Comp Ins	17,687	15,509	13,613	18,637
Unemployment	13,300	7,708	10,000	9,235
Prof Development	25,000	-	-	-
Dental Ins	25,461	23,781	21,504	25,648
Disability Ins	6,823	3,321	2,355	6,107
Contracted Serv	185,884	166,678	59,523	231,095
Phone/Postage/Travel/Advertising	6,500	600	5,000	1,000
Tuition	1,099,500	1,001,244	512,841	1,073,164
Travel	10,000	2,881	5,000	4,000
Excess Cost	351,143	304,997	325,250	315,722

Program Area	Combined	Combined	Proposed	Proposed
	SU	SU		
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Budget
	2015-2016	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Supplies/Books & Periodicals	15,000	5,712	15,000	30,000
Software	10,000	4,701	15,000	5,000
Equipment	17,000	15,452	15,000	15,000
<b>Psychological Services-Contracted</b>	\$ 406,000	\$ 385,372	\$ 316,000	\$ 325,380
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,636
<b>Speech Pathology and Audiology</b>				
Salaries	\$ 260,014	\$ 190,539	\$ 193,666	\$ 184,425
Benefits	81,502	86,911	79,619	62,808
Contracted Services	8,000	48,843	30,000	50,000
Travel	3,000	2,938	3,000	3,000
Supplies/Books & Periodicals/Software	4,500	3,149	4,000	4,000
Dues/Fees	1,250	890	2,000	1,500
<b>Occupational Therapy Services</b>				
Salaries	\$ 125,659	\$ 167,777	\$ 126,531	\$ 121,032
Benefits	34,698	64,354	55,350	48,299
Contracted Services	76,500	21,247	1,500	25,000
Travel	1,000	2,587	1,500	3,000
Supplies/Books & Periodicals	2,000	4,253	3,000	3,000
Other Support Services		-	12,000	-
Instructional Staff Trainings	52,000	32,589	30,000	25,000
<b>Administration</b>				
Salaries	\$ 268,355	\$ 267,957	\$ 274,634	\$ 302,504
Benefits	84,915	81,423	94,151	109,110
Contracted Services	21,000	125,089	8,000	8,000
Legal	4,000	2,805	20,000	15,000
Repairs/Maintenance	1,000	538	2,000	2,000
Child Find Activities	2,000		2,000	2,000
Travel Reimbursement/Conference	8,500	6,757	4,000	6,000
Telephone/Postage	1,300	1,075	-	1,000
Supplies	2,750	387	1,000	1,000
Books & Periodicals	700	355	1,000	500
Equipment & Contingency	500	475	500	1,000
Dues & Fees	1,750	2,154	750	2,000
<b>Transportation</b>	451,880	266,709	281,000	325,000
<b>TOTAL ALL SPECIAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$ 6,380,944</b>	<b>\$ 6,017,295</b>	<b>\$ 5,425,369</b>	<b>\$ 6,737,032</b>
IDEA B Basic Flow Through	\$ 330,000	\$ 472,270	\$ 350,000	\$ 510,000
IDEA B Pre-School	160,000	9,665	50,000	12,000
Block Grants				703,669
Extra-Ordinary Reimbursements				456,238
Expenditure Reimbursement				2,625,593
Admin Serv	-	117,432	-	-
Tuition/Excess Cost	3,000	-	-	-
Prior Yr Adjustment	-	25,164	-	-
IEP Medicaid	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000
<b>TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 518,000</b>	<b>\$ 649,531</b>	<b>\$ 430,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,337,500</b>
<b>TO MEMBER TOWNS</b>	<b>\$ 5,862,944</b>	<b>\$ 5,367,764</b>	<b>\$ 4,995,369</b>	<b>\$ 2,399,532</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,380,944</b>	<b>\$ 6,017,295</b>	<b>\$ 5,425,369</b>	<b>\$ 6,737,032</b>

*NOTE: Beginning in FY2018, all Special Education Revenues will go to the Supervisory Union.*

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION**  
**SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
**Apportionment For Member Towns FY 2017-2018**

	FY16-17	Proposed FY 2017-2018	Change
Bethel Town School District	\$ 844,055	\$ 392,791	\$ (451,264)
Chelsea Town School District	502,544	251,589	(250,955)
Granville Town School District	84,987	46,906	(38,081)
Hancock Town School District	132,792	77,253	(55,539)
Rochester Town School District	327,554	135,602	(191,952)
Royalton Town School District	980,448	497,279	(483,169)
Sharon Town School District	768,718	372,266	(396,452)
Strafford Town School District	545,332	251,020	(294,312)
Stockbridge Town School District	303,946	128,921	(175,025)
Tunbridge Town School District	504,993	245,903	(259,090)
	<b>\$ 4,995,369</b>	<b>\$ 2,399,532</b>	<b>\$ (2,595,837)</b>



*Blacksmith's Shop (Hemenway cottage), built by Nathaniel Morrill in 1807 to use water from the dam to power a trip-hammer, grind-stone, and bellows for two forges. Rebuilt after a fire in 1871, it is pictured here c.1900 before evidence of the stone exterior seen today.*

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES ONLY

District: <b>Stratford</b> County: <b>Orange</b>		T199 White River Valley		Property dollar equivalent yield	Homestead tax rate per \$10,076 of spending per equalized pupil
				10,076	1.00
				11,875	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
1.	<b>Budget</b> (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$3,193,894	\$3,289,708	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021
2.	<i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-
3.	<i>minus</i> Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
4.	<b>Locally adopted or warned budget</b>	\$3,193,894	\$3,289,708	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021
5.	<i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-
6.	<i>plus</i> Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-
7.	<b>Total Budget</b>	\$3,193,894	\$3,289,708	\$3,327,614	\$3,150,021
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-
Revenues					
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$586,051	\$587,553	\$543,660	\$222,444
11.	<i>plus</i> Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 61	-	-	-	-
12.	<i>minus</i> All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
13.	<b>Offsetting revenues</b>	\$586,051	\$587,553	\$543,660	\$222,444
14.	<b>Education Spending</b>	\$2,607,843	\$2,702,155	\$2,783,954	\$2,927,577
15.	Equalized Pupils	172.50	176.08	178.93	179.07
<b>Education Spending per Equalized Pupil</b>		\$15,117.93	\$15,346.18	\$15,558.90	\$16,348.79
17.	<i>minus</i> Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pup	-	-	-	-
18.	<i>minus</i> Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$23.90	\$23.50	\$26.77	-
19.	<i>minus</i> Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-

20.	minus	Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	minus	Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	21.
22.	minus	Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	22.
23.	minus	Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	23.
24.	minus	Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	NA	\$37.38	\$22.36		24.
25.		Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$16,166 \$16,166.00	threshold = \$17,103 \$17,103.00	Allowable growth \$15,560.17	threshold = \$17,386 \$17,386.00	25.
26.	plus	Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	-	26.
27.		Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$15,118	\$15,346	\$15,559	\$16,348.79	27.
28.		District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	162.821% based on \$9,285	162.239% based on \$9,285	160.384% based on yield \$9,701	162.255% based on yield \$10,076	28.
<b>Prorating the local tax rate</b>							
29.		Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$16,348.79 ÷ (\$10,076.00 / \$1,000)]	\$1.5956 based on \$0.98	\$1.6062 based on \$0.99	\$1.6038 based on \$1.00	\$1.6225 based on \$1.00	29.
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 \$1.62)	\$1.5956	\$1.6062	\$1.6038	\$1.6225	31.
32.		<b>Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)</b>	110.07%	107.46%	103.23%	104.51%	32.
33.		Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.6225 / 104.51%)	\$1.4496 based on \$0.98	\$1.4947 based on \$0.99	\$1.5536 based on \$1.00	\$1.5525 based on \$1.00	33.
<p>If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a <b>PARTIAL</b> 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) [( \$16,348.79 ÷ \$11,875 ) x 2.00%]	2.93% based on 1.80%	2.92% based on 1.80%	2.86% based on 2.00%	2.75% based on 2.00%	34.
35.		Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.75%)	2.93% based on 1.80%	2.92% based on 1.80%	2.86% based on 2.00%	2.75% based on 0.00%	35.
36.			-	-	-	-	36.
37.			-	-	-	-	37.

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$10,076 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$11,875 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.550. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and the 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%.

### Comparative Data for Cost-Effectiveness, FY2017 Report

School: Newton School  
 S.U.: Orange - Windsor S.U.

16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2)(K)

A list of schools and school districts in each cohort may be found on the DOE website under "School Data and Reports":  
<http://www.state.vt.us/educ/>

#### FY2016 School Level Data

Cohort Description: K - 8, enrollment < 200  
 (33 schools in cohort)

Cohort Rank by Enrollment (1 is largest)  
 12 out of 33

School level data		Grades Offered	Enrollment	Total Teachers	Total Administrators	Stu / Tchr Ratio	Stu / Admin Ratio	Tchr / Admin Ratio
Smaller ->	Millers Run School USD #37	PK - 8	116	9.51	1.00	12.20	116.00	9.51
	Lunenburg/Gilman Schools	PK - 8	120	10.85	1.00	11.06	120.00	10.85
	Charleston Elementary School	PK - 8	122	13.80	1.00	8.84	122.00	13.80
	<b>Newton School</b>	<b>PK - 8</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>10.90</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>11.65</b>	<b>127.00</b>	<b>10.90</b>
<- Larger	Folsom Ed and Community Ctr	PK - 8	134	13.80	1.00	9.71	134.00	13.80
	Glover Community School	PK - 8	134	10.30	1.00	13.01	134.00	10.30
	Montgomery Elementary School	PK - 8	138	9.80	1.00	14.08	138.00	9.80
<b>Averaged SCHOOL cohort data</b>			<b>119.00</b>	<b>11.34</b>	<b>0.99</b>	<b>10.49</b>	<b>120.46</b>	<b>11.48</b>

School District: Stratford  
 LEA ID: T199

Special education expenditures vary substantially from district to district and year to year. Therefore, they have been excluded from these figures.

The portion of current expenditures made by supervisory unions on behalf of districts varies greatly. These data include district assessments to SUs. Including assessments to SUs makes districts more comparable to each other.

#### FY2015 School District Data

Cohort Description: K - 8 school district, FY2013 FTE < 200  
 (34 school districts in cohort)

School district data (local, union, or joint district)

Grades offered in School District	Student FTE enrolled in school district	Current expenditures per student FTE EXCLUDING special education costs
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Cohort Rank by FTE (1 is largest)  
 13 out of 34

Smaller ->	Orwell	K-8	109.28	\$13,824
	Orleans ID	PK-8	112.59	\$13,159
	Lowell	PK-8	116.55	\$11,391
	<b>Stratford</b>	<b>PK-8</b>	<b>124.24</b>	<b>\$13,325</b>
<- Larger	South Hero	PK-8	124.56	\$19,446
	Glover	PK-8	129.29	\$13,083
	Montgomery	PK-8	132.53	\$10,596

Current expenditures are an effort to calculate an amount per FTE spent by a district on students enrolled in that district. This figure excludes tuitions and assessments paid to other providers, construction and equipment costs, debt service, adult education, and community service.

**Averaged SCHOOL DISTRICT cohort data**

**117.56**      **\$13,967**

FY2017 School District Data

		School district tax rate			Total municipal tax rate, K-12, consisting of prorated member district rates		
		SchlDist	SchlDist	SchlDist	MUN	MUN	MUN
		Equalized Pupils	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	Equalized Homestead Ed tax rate	Equalized Homestead Ed tax rate	Common Level of Appraisal	Actual Homestead Ed tax rate
				Use these tax rates to compare towns rates.	These tax rates are not comparable due to CLA's.		
LEA ID	School District	Grades offered in School District					
Smaller ->	T054	Coventry	PK-8	170.42	13,761.59	1.4186	1.3774
	T210	Tunbridge	K-8	173.07	15,431.38	1.5907	1.3841
	T209	Troy	PK-8	177.95	12,893.35	1.3291	1.3335
	<b>T199</b>	<b>Stratford</b>	<b>PK-8</b>	<b>178.93</b>	<b>15,558.90</b>	<b>1.6038</b>	<b>1.5536</b>
<- Larger	T116	Lunenburg	PK-8	180.12	13,651.80	1.4073	1.3592
	T161	Putney	PK-8	182.82	17,025.61	1.7550	1.7430
	T013	Barton ID	PK-8	183.00	12,604.10	1.2993	1.3396

The Legislature has required the Agency of Education to provide this information per the following statute:

16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2) The school, at least annually, reports student performance results to community members in a format selected by the school board. . . . The school report shall include:

(K) data provided by the commissioner which enable a comparison with other schools, or school districts if school level data are not available, for cost-effectiveness. The commissioner shall establish which data are to be included pursuant to this subdivision and, notwithstanding that the other elements of the report are to be presented in a format selected by the school board, shall develop a common format to be used by each school in presenting the data to community members. The commissioner shall provide the most recent data available to each school no later than October 1 of each year. Data to be presented may include student-to-teacher ratio, administrator-to-student ratio, administrator-to-teacher ratio, and cost per pupil.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION**  
**FY 2016-2017 First Semester Secondary Enrollment**  
(as of September 2016)

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Total</b>
Thetford Academy	9	4	10	8	31
Hanover High School	3	3	5	4	15
Kimball Union		1			1
Sharon Academy	4	4	6	3	17
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>64</b>

**Secondary Education Tuition Paid during FY 2015-2016**

	<u>Tuition Paid</u>
Thetford Academy	\$ 478,920
Hanover High School	245,014
Sharon Academy	243,049
Vocational (all schools)	11,467
<b>Total Tuition Paid</b>	<u>\$ 978,450</u>

**Per pupil costs\***

	<b>2015-2016</b>		<b>2016-2017</b>	
	<u>Tuition Charged</u>	<u>Amount to be paid</u>	<u>Tuition Charged</u>	<u>Amount to be paid</u>
Thetford Academy	\$ 18,648	\$ 18,648	\$ 17,998	\$ 17,998
Hanover High School	19,373	18,648	19,275	17,998
Private Schools(state average)	varies	14,297	varies	14,773

\*vocational not included

## Congratulations, Graduates! ~ 2016 ~

### The Newton School

Luis Caez	Maddison Cross	Jade Jamieson
Clay Kynor	Zachary Lepenven	Cassidy Lewis
John Longshaw	Aidan Moore	Graham Okai
Louisa Pyle	Jackson Ray	Laila Reimanis
Cedric Rule-Becker	Jordan Smith	Aiden Solsaa
	David Stoffel	

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

#### Thetford Academy

George Essex	Jasmine Jamieson	Trevor Litchfield
Julio Lopez-Linehan	Robbie Root	Jackson Sweet

#### The Sharon Academy

Jay Knoerlein	Emily Masteller	Max Perkins
	Quinn Thomashow	

#### Hanover High School

Miriam Osheyack

### NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2006-07		14	14	11	9	13	10	9	16	15	111
2007-08		10	16	14	18	12	10	13	10	9	112
2008-09		13	12	15	15	16	12	9	13	11	116
2009-10		15	14	14	11	18	17	12	9	12	122
2010-11		13	17	10	16	11	18	19	11	10	125
2011-12		19	10	16	11	16	11	19	17	12	131
2012-13		11	15	8	17	13	15	13	20	17	129
2013-14		8	12	15	8	18	13	15	13	18	120
2014-15		14	8	11	16	10	19	14	16	12	120
2015-16	9	9	11	9	11	16	12	18	15	16	117
2016-17	8	12	9	12	9	11	16	14	17	15	123

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

## **STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS**

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

TOWN OFFICE: Telephone 765-4411

TOWN GARAGE: Telephone 765-4550

LISTERS: Telephone 765-4360

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

### **Board Meetings**

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

*Subject to change –check [www.traffordvt.org](http://www.traffordvt.org) or  
call the Town Office for current Selectboard meeting times*

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

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

Conservation Commission – Town Office – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Energy Committee – Town Office – Third Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

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

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9 1 1

Orange County Sheriff: 685-4875

### **STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE**

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

### **STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER**

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

### **MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY**

Monday 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

### **LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETINGS**

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