

BENNINGTON

2020 Annual Report



Bennington Town Office

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EMPLOYEE MISSION STATEMENT PREAMBLE

The role of government is to serve and protect its people; to provide a quality of life which is environmentally safe, community oriented, and visionary. Furthermore, government can help to make its citizens' lives rich in educational, cultural and social opportunities. In the Town of Bennington that role extends to administrative and fiscal services, police, fire, water, sewer and highway maintenance and construction, recreation, health, housing, planning and community development.

Our mission is to provide the necessary municipal services in an atmosphere that is helpful and caring, yet professional and efficient.

We must have a commitment to excellence, take pride in our work, have a desire to succeed, have a sense of community, and a belief that a responsive government is the foundation for success.

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Select Board

Donald Campbell, Select Board Chair

2020 is a year we are unlikely to forget. It will figure significantly into future literature, medical texts, political science classes, and many of us will be questioned about it by upcoming generations.

You probably have had a very difficult year. To those of you who have experienced especially tragic loss, hardship, or frustration, please know that your pain is felt in this community. Covid-19 is stress-testing us, compounding income disparities, racial inequities, health and housing shortcomings, and other weaknesses in our society. Perhaps the closest thing to a silver lining is a new shared commitment to doing better for people, all people, and doubling down on creating a more perfect union. Thank you for the immense personal effort you have made to push through the worst pandemic in 102 years and hold Bennington together.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our first responders, our healthcare system, our educators, and many, many other frontline workers who have served us so well under extremely difficult conditions. To this list I add Bennington town staff who have consistently gone the extra mile, pulled the extra shift, made the necessary adaptation, and fought to keep us moving forward with creativity and hard work. Amidst the difficulty of the pandemic, town staff managed to finish three lovely parks at minimal cost to the town. Flourishing partnerships with UCS and the YMCA are vastly expanding recreation programs and much-needed childcare, bringing millions of federal dollars to upgrade our facilities. Besides keeping us safe, the police department has embraced new community policing concepts and with robust community involvement is making significant policy changes. Miles of roads and walkways have been improved, the completed sewer plant will last us for decades, and the new salt shed saved us almost \$25,000 in material not washed away. PFOA and lead service lines are being eliminated from our water system at no cost to residents. And along with many other achievements, elections were fairly administered, despite massive logistical challenges.

Many other partners stepped up, too. Libraries adapted to offer new services, Southwestern Vermont Health Care acquired the former Southern Vermont College, and social service agencies have kicked into high gear to provide food, medical assistance, mental health services, and housing to those most in need. And almost without notice, after a Herculean redevelopment effort, the first new residents moved into the Putnam Block. So many people doing so much for Bennington.

Thank you all for your hard work, sacrifice, and compassion. It has been an honor to serve this wonderful community.

And finally, we note with sadness the passing of Select Board member Bill Scully after a courageous battle with cancer. Throughout his fight, he stayed engaged and in touch with the Board to the extent he could. An entrepreneur, a quality chef, a loving father and husband, Bill is missed by all who knew him.

Boards and Commissions

The following list of the Town of Bennington Boards and Commissions includes a brief description of the duties of each office and those positions that will be available in March and May 2021.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS - An elected position with a salary currently set at \$1,400. per year with terms of three years. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month plus the Annual Town meeting each year, and any special meetings which may be required. Select Board Members are empowered by statute and charter to determine policy, finances, ordinances and general direction of Town business, appoint the Town Manager and members of Boards and Commissions.

(elected 3-year term)

Donald A. Campbell	3/2021
Jim Carroll	3/2021
Position Open	3/2022
Jeanne Connor	3/2022
Jeannette Jenkins	3/2022
Bruce C. Lee-Clark	3/2023
Sarah Perrin	3/2023

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD - The Development Review Board hears and decides upon permit applications regarding development in the Town of Bennington including, Variance Requests, Conditional Use Requests, Site Plans, Design Plans, Planned Unit Developments, Planned Residential Developments, Subdivisions, and Appeals of the Zoning Administrator's decisions. Board members will be expected to attend at least one training session annually to develop and maintain the skills and knowledge necessary to perform their powers and duties on the Board.

(appointed to 3-year term)

Charles W. Copp	5/2021
Barry Horst	5/2021
Daniel Malmborg	5/2022
Jane Griswold Radocchia	5/2022
Ron Alderman	5/2023
William Barney	5/2023
Charles N. Kokoras	5/2023

FOREST FIRE WARDEN - An appointed position by the State of Vermont with Town Approval with a term of 5 years.

(appointed to 5-year term)

VERMONT TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN – Matthew G. Hathaway	06/30/24
VERMONT DEPUTY TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN – Henry Higgins	06/30/24
VERMONT DEPUTY TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN – Position Vacant	06/30/24

HEALTH OFFICER - An appointed position by the State of Vermont with Town Approval with a term of 3 years.

(appointed to 3-year term)

HEALTH OFFICER – Paul Dansereau	06/30/2022
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER – Bridget M. Gallant	05/31/2022

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - An appointed position with a term of three years and requires expertise or qualifications in the fields of architecture, historic preservation, etc. Meetings are held twice per month. The Historic Preservation Commission is empowered by ordinance to act in the preservation and identification of Bennington's historic sites and structures; oversee the survey and review of historic sites eligible for the National Register, educate and advise other boards and commissions as well as the general public with regard to historic preservation matters.

(appointed to 3-year term)

Anne G. Bugbee	3/2021
Michael P. McDonough	3/2021
Kelly Clarke, RA	5/2023
Jeffrey Goldstone	5/2023
Joseph H. Hall	5/2023

HOUSING AUTHORITY - An autonomous body appointed for terms of five years by the Select Board which acts as the Board of Directors for Housing Authority properties (Willowbrook, Brookside Apartments, Beech Court, and Walloomsac Apartments) and oversees the staff and sets policies for operation.

(appointed to 5-year term)

Sandra Bessette	3/2021
Sharyn L. Brush	3/2022
Christopher Oldham	3/2023
Nancy V. Messina	3/2024
Paul Walden	5/2025

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(elected 2-year term)

Barbara Bluto	1/31/2023
Catherine Canning	1/31/2023
Thomas Haley	1/31/2023
Michele Hogan	1/31/2023
Jacqueline Kelly	1/31/2023
Albert Krawczyk	1/31/2023
Vickie Lampron	1/31/2023
Brian Maroney, Jr.	1/31/2023
James Marsden	1/31/2023
Anne Mook	1/31/2023
Mary A. Morrissey	1/31/2023
Joan Pinsonneault	1/31/2023
Marjorie Robinson	1/31/2023
David B. Shaffe	1/31/2023
Anna K. Swierad	1/31/2023

BOARD OF LISTERS - An appointed position with a term of two years. Meetings are held once or twice per month or as needed. The Listers inspect properties, approve assessments developed by the Assessor's Office and hear and act upon appeals by property owners.

(appointed to 2-year term)

Robert W. Ebert	3/2021
Peter Greene	5/2022
Carol L. Holm	5/2022

TOWN MODERATOR
(elected to 3-year term)
Jason P. Morrissey

3/2022

PLANNING COMMISSION - An appointed position with a term of four years. Meetings will be established when the Commission meets. This is a five-member board. The Planning Commission drafts, revises, updates and upholds the provisions of the Town Plan; makes recommendations to the Select Board regarding amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, sign ordinance, and subdivision regulations; actively participates in the preservation of historic sites and agricultural lands; and is charged with the overall planning of Bennington.

(appointed to 4-year term)

Charles W. Copp	5/2021
Michael P. McDonough	5/2021
Nicholas T. Lasoff	5/2022
Kenneth Swierad	5/2023
Robert W. Ebert	5/2024

REGIONAL COMMISSION - An appointed position with a term of two years. The Regional Commission, part of a county-wide planning commission charged with development of the overall regional planning policies, is empowered to develop budgets, employ staff and assist in development of a regional plan.

(appointed to 2-year term)

Jon E. Hale	3/2021
Daniel Monks	5/2022

TOWN SERVICE OFFICER - An appointed position with a term of one year. The Town Service Officer acts as an agent for the Town and operates a voucher system to provide housing and meals to transients in emergency situations.

(appointed to 1-year term)

Position Open	4/14/2021
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Notes:

Manager's Message

Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

We, in Bennington's government, work hard to provide the services our residents deem necessary, police and fire protection, highway maintenance, recreation opportunities for people of all ages, and municipal water and sewer services, where feasible. We also work to improve opportunities for jobs, housing, and viable and sustainable economic development through responsible land use planning principles.

As I have done in the past, I would now like to outline the proposed FY2022 fiscal year budget, to be voted on March 2, 2021. The Town budget presented to the voters this year is increasing \$222,150.00 or 1.58 %. These calculations include the Bennington Free Library, \$498,000.00, the John McCullough Library in North Bennington, \$40,000.00, North Bennington Recreation, \$6,000.00, Lake Paran, \$2,700.00, and the Bennington Rescue Squad, at \$206,250.00. All are included as line items in the budget following reviews of their requests and subsequent approval by the Select Board. All are level; funded. Once again, the Town staff and Select Board worked very hard to present a budget that is increasing at the cost of living. In fact, when projected revenues are considered, the amount to be raised by taxes is only up 3.43%. Please remember, we are projecting revenues that do not include potential grant funds not yet available. These grants, if awarded, will reduce the amount to be raised by taxes.

Calculating the tax rates based on this budget, level funded ballot agencies, and known revenue we project a \$0.0314 increase in the General Fund tax rate, a \$0.0038 decrease in the Highway Fund tax rate, and a \$0.0025 decrease in the Fire Fund tax rate. Combined the total projected increase in the Town's tax rate is \$0.0251 or 2.02%. We ask you, the voters, for your support.

The Agencies on the ballot are all requesting the same amounts as last year. The total amount requested by the agencies is \$131,850.00.

This year, the Select Board's pay will be placed on the ballot due to zoom restrictions for the Floor Meeting. No votes can be taken. The proposal asks the voters to reduce the pay from \$1,400.00 to \$1,300.00.

A second new article asks the voters to add \$0.01 to the General Fund tax rate to create a reserve to support our parks. Monies raised will fund such things as the replacement of the Community Built Park which must be removed due to its age and now unsafe materials. I ask for your support.

And once again, voters are asked if they wish to support a mayoral form of government. This is the fifth time the mayoral question has been put before the voters. It has failed every time.

I have been very fortunate to work with many talented people, staff, and Board members. We all work hard to find solutions that are in the best interest of the residents of Bennington. Thank you all, and a special thank you to the community for your support and patience throughout the year.

Town of Bennington Goals for 2020

Provide a safe Community	Didn't meet goal	Met goal	Reason
1. Increase officer involvement in the local schools	X		Schools opted out
2. Update all Police policies and procedures	X		Implemented; 50% complete
3. Continue drug enforcement		X	See statistics
4. Improve recruitment and retention in the Police and Fire Departments		X	Program in place, 2 new Police Officers Replaced two retired
5. Improve Community involvement		X	Community involved in Policy review; Officer sponsored programs increasing
6. New ladder truck for the Fire Department		X	Truck to be delivered soon

Provide opportunities for recreation

1. Continue to improve programs		X	Berkshire Y Management agreement approved
2. Continue to improve Senior programs		X	Providing many new programs
3. Increase participation at the Rec Center		X	See statistics
4. Continue to develop pathways and trail systems	X		White Rocks trail parking, Kocher Dr pedestrian path completed. Ninja Trail, Applegate pathway and Benmont pedestrian improvements designed.
5. Enhance youth programs		X	New Experience Camp offered by Police Dept., Northern Berkshire Y partnering with town at Rec Center

Encourage new development and growth

1. Assist in Putnam Block redevelopment		X	\$350,000 loan; 1.0 million CDBG
2. Provide an efficient and effective permitting program		X	See statistics
3. Encourage new developments to improve grand list		X	See Permitting report

Enhance the quality of life

1. Northern Berkshire Y operating Rec Center		X	Fully operational
2. Develop downtown parks / green spaces		X	Park at 336, Merchants Park, and Stark St. plan completed
3. Complete the Pleasant St. Enhancement Project		X	Completed

Improve Infrastructure

1. Continue lead service line replacements (10 Min.)		X	\$11.0 million grant awarded to Town to remove all lead service lines
2. Continue Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade		X	Construction completed 2020; RBC's completed
3. Continue road paving (10 Miles Min.)	X		3.06 Miles completed
4. Continue sidewalk replacement (2500 lin. Ft. Min.)		X	2,612 lin. Ft. completed

Statistics

	2018	2019	2020
Police Department			
Criminal arrests	893	1,119	965
# of offenses	1,298	1,534	1,411
# of calls	10,076	11,556	10,559

Fire Department			
# of calls	243	240	195
# of structure fires	4	0	6

Highway Department			
Miles paved	886	3.06	3.06
Lineal feet sidewalk	3,162	2,578	2612
Lineal feet storm drain	0	0	0

Water/ Sewer Department			
Waterline / Hydrant repairs	15	33	62
Lead line service replaced	3	7	0
Manholes repaired	81	65	35
Sewer mains cleaned televised (lin. Ft)	1,800	1,100	900

Permitting			
# of permits issued	204	189	159
Estimated cost	\$47,580,585.00	\$10,002,203.00	\$9,413,223.00

Notes:

Police

Paul J. Doucette, Chief of Police

Officers from the Bennington Police Department effected 965 criminal arrests for a total of 1,411 criminal offenses in 2020. Officers responded to 10,559 calls for service, issued 2,043 Vermont Civil Violation Complaints as well as 1,696 warnings for observed motor vehicle violations. Officers investigated 338 motor vehicle crashes: 304 crashes involved property damage only and 34 involved personal injury.

During 2020, three full-time employees retired from the Bennington Police Department. Dispatcher Beverly Mattison retired after 19 years of Service, Detective Larry Cole retired after 40 years of service and Detective Sergeant Christopher Lauzon retired after 18 years of service. We wish these employees well as they move on in their lives after providing excellent service to the Bennington Community. As a result of these retirements, two full-time employees joined the Bennington Police Department. Officer Michael Strizzi and Officer Nicholas Jones attended the 109th Basic Course for Police Professionals and graduated in May 2020. Both Officers completed their trial period and are performing well. We also continue working with the Vermont National Guard Counterdrug Program and have an analyst assigned to the Department working with Detectives on drug related investigations. This position is a huge asset as we continue to combat the opiate issues in and around our community.

We continue our work with drug take back efforts and continue to collaborate with Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, Drug Enforcement Administration, Consumer Value Store, The Pharmacy, Shires Prescription Drug Alliance and surrounding law enforcement agencies in an effort to remove unused or unwanted prescription medication with safe collection and disposal. Although the police facility lobby remains a controlled access location, we are still collecting prescription medications for disposal.

All members of the Bennington Police Department received training on a variety of different topics beyond the mandated training required by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council in 2020. All law enforcement officers and supervisors attended a two-day Community Engaged Policing training. We worked alongside town administrative staff and select board members with the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity participating in fair and impartial training. We continue to work with members of the Department and the community on professional development as we navigate through police reform. All supervisors attended a four-day program detailing internal affairs investigations at Roger Williams University.

During 2020 members of the Bennington Police Department worked closely with the Bennington Select Board, community members and town management on reviewing police department policies, the mission statement and vision statement. Policy reviews, with community input, will continue in 2021. We thank community members for supporting the Bennington Police Department.

COVID-19.....Soooo much to be said about COVID-19 and all of the effects experienced by the entire Department and the community. COVID-19 required a new approach to law enforcement and the way we respond to calls for service, training, meetings and even the

way we present ourselves on a daily basis. Uniforms worn by Officers were changed to “wash and wear” during this pandemic. Members of the Department continued to show support for the community by volunteering at food drives, food distribution points and assisting local stores allowing groceries and services to be more readily available.

The outpour of support from the Bennington Community toward the Police Department staff has been AMAZING and VERY MUCH APPRECIATED by our members. The same support continues today! Thank you.

As mentioned in previous yearly reports, members of the Bennington Police Department and Bennington Police Association continue to collaborate with our community partners conducting several community events while maintaining social distance and promoting safety and personal hygiene. Despite restrictions, we were able to take our Copsicle trailer to many events throughout the community and hand out special treats as well as healthy treats. We also promoted dental hygiene by handing out dental products, including toothbrushes and floss. The New Experience Camp committee was concerned about being able to operate a camp during COVID-19. With lots of pre-planning and commitments, we were able to have a successful camp...Our largest yet! The camp was supported by many parents and community partners.

PINK!!! For the first time male officers in the Bennington Police Department were able to grow facial hair and female officers wore pink headbands while all wore pink shirts and patches. This was done in order to support cancer awareness in the month of October and November. Civilian staff wore pink shirts and jeans on certain days of the week in an effort to show their support. White Rocks Studio applied special pink decals on one of our police vehicles in order to help us raise cancer awareness. A total of \$3,000.00 was collected by the Bennington Police Association and was given to the Southwestern Vermont Regional Cancer Center in Bennington.

In 2021 we will be collaborating with community partners and planning for the 20th anniversary of the tragic events that unfolded on September 11, 2001.

We appreciate the support from community members and local businesses we received this year. From masks and gloves, hand sanitizer to eye protection you helped make us safe. Food donations, cards of support and well wishes during stressful times certainly improve morale and let us know how much the community cares and supports the Bennington Police Department. THANK YOU!

As always, I welcome questions, comments, or suggestions, and I always welcome feedback on how members of the Bennington Police Department may improve the quality of life for residents and visitors in our community. Please visit our website at www.benningtonpolice.com.

Fire

Jim Wright, Chief

Year 2020 was very different from past years as we had to deal with COVID-19, restrictions, new protocols and changes in the way we respond to calls for service. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, members of the Bennington Fire Department participated in online training when members could not meet in person in order to conduct live drills and training. We are confident in our abilities to provide a high level of service to the Town of Bennington.

The Bennington Fire Department responded to 195 calls for service during 2020. The breakdown on calls for service includes: 5 good intent, 85 fire alarm activations, 3 stuck elevators with people inside, 5 standby, 10 mutual aid, 2 received mutual aid, 9 service calls, 4 permitted burns, 1 unpermitted burn, 2 furnace malfunctions, 17 power lines down, 4 kitchen fires, 21 odor of smoke, 4 motor vehicle crashes with injury, 7 motor vehicle crashes without injury, 2 EMS assists, 6 structure fires, 1 investigation, 1 dumpster fire and 3 motor vehicle fires.

Each year, members of the Bennington Fire Department participate in fire prevention programs at local schools and assisted living facilities. As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to conduct presentations this past year. Instead, we dropped off fire safety materials to the local schools and assisted living facilities when requested. We are prepared to resume regular fire safety and fire prevention programs once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

The new aerial truck was ordered in 2020 and we anticipate delivery no later than March 2021. The aerial truck has taken just over one year to build, and we are looking forward to the delivery from the manufacturer. COVID-19 delayed the building process, but the manufacturer has stayed in touch with us each step of the way. This truck has many enhancements as compared to the existing ladder truck, which is almost 25 years old. The aerial truck will be an excellent addition to our existing fleet of fire apparatus.

The Bennington Fire Department will be launching a new program in 2021 in an effort to place reflective numbers on area homes and businesses allowing first responders to locate an address quicker. The reflective numbers will enhance a first responder's ability to locate an address and allow for improved response times. To purchase reflective numbers through our program, please email bennfirenumbers@gmail.com or leave a message at the Bennington Fire Department, 802-442-1051.

The Bennington Fire Department is accepting applications for new members. You may speak with an active member at the Bennington Fire Department or call the Department and leave your contact information. We would like to explain the training requirements and time commitments to prospective members. It is truly a rewarding experience to serve the Bennington Community as a volunteer firefighter.

On behalf of the Bennington Fire Department, I would like to thank the Bennington Community, Town of Bennington staff and administration, Bennington County Mutual Aid and all of our volunteers for supporting the Bennington Fire Department throughout the past year.

Department of Public Works

R.J. Joly, Public Works Director

Larry Gates, Assistant Public Works Director

Highway

The Highway Department is made up of a crew of 14-Laborers, 2-Working Foremen, a Public Works Director and an Assistant Public Works Director. The Department manages and maintains 128 miles of roads, 13 bridges, 475 catch basins, 40 miles of sidewalk, and hundreds of miles of ditches, culverts, and swales. The Highway Department is also responsible for Transfer Station tasks, cemetery upkeep in 4 locations, downtown sweeping, sidewalk cleaning, trash removal, and roadside mowing.

2020 Accomplishments

- Paved 3.06 miles of road.
- Paved sidewalk (2,612 linear feet).
- Prepared and paved all walking paths at sewer treatment plant.
- Cleared and built a gravel road from Coleville Road to the Town woodlot in Woodford.
- Finished all excavation work at the Splash Pad on North Street.
- Cleaned and painted Brooklyn Bridge steel beams.
- Prepare roads for paving.
- Vacuum all storm drainage catch basins.
- Installed new culverts in roads that were paved.
- Trimmed back and removed trees/brush out of the town right-of-way.
- Cleaned out miles of drainage swales and ditches.
- Repaired Cemetery access road across from Museum.
- Installed new Bridge on Rice Lane.
- Connected or replaced additional piping at the Recreation Center project.
- Repaired concrete culvert on Weeks Street.
- Replaced complete sewer main on Polygraphic Lane in North Bennington.
- Excavated and installed conduits and concrete slabs at sewer plant.

2021 Priorities

- Main Street and Beech Street bridge replacement.
- Install 4 miles of new pavement.
- Install 2,500 linear feet of new concrete curb and sidewalk.
- Replace and install storm drainage in areas to be repaved.
- Help other departments when needed.
- Log more highway information in the Utility Cloud.
- Manage town forest lands.

Water

The Water Department has a four-person crew, plus a Working Foreman. Together they are responsible for supplying clean drinking water to approximately 15,000 users through 86-miles of water main and 4,300 connections. The crew also runs and maintains the Water Filtration Plant in Woodford, (6) pumping stations and (5) water tanks throughout town.

Additionally, they maintain and flush (semi-annually) approximately 650 fire hydrants. Bennington's water system gained an additional 6.2 miles of water main and another 73 fire hydrants in 2020 with the continuation of the PFOA Water Main extension project. We were also able to secure a Federal and State funded grant of \$11 Million Dollars to replace any remaining private lead service lines in town. These repairs therefore will be at no cost to the homeowner.

2020 Accomplishments include:

- Total hydrant repairs	62
- New fire hydrant installations	57 (PFOA)
- Flushing hydrants installations	15 (PFOA) / 1 (Town)
- Water main breaks/leak repairs	24
- Leak Detection Survey throughout town	
- Service line inspections for lead grant work	
- Water system bacteria samples taken	240
- Total water produced	594 million gallons
- Average water used per day	1.62 million gallons
- Bulk water sold	12.7 million gallons
- Utility Cloud System information additions	
- Slip Lined 720 feet of 30" culvert for a Morgan Spring drain line	

2021 Goals

- Add additional information to the Utility Cloud mapping system
- Continue next phase work with PFOA water main contractors
- Install new water main on Dewey Street from Harwood Drive to Weeks Street
- Increase water flow and pressure to low pressure areas
- Replace water main on Observatory Street
- Install additional flushing hydrants on remaining dead-end lines
- Work to train and certify two new water operators

Sewer

The Wastewater Crew is a five-person crew plus a Laboratory Technician and a Chief Operator. Together they are responsible for treating over 12.7 Billion Gallons of wastewater each year through 67 miles of sanitary sewer mains. These sewer mains range in size from (4) inches to (36) inches. There are also 1,300 manholes and (5) pump stations to maintain. The crew also runs and maintains the Town's Sludge-Dewatering and Composting facility. The recently bonded Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade work was completed in 2020. The Treatment Plant has seen many other improvements in addition to the upgrade. This includes grading and new blacktop of the lower parking lot as well as pathways around plant and a new secure chain link fence along Harrington Road. We were also able to finance a new John Deere 344 loader to replace the 29-year-old Caterpillar loader. Another large undertaking in 2020 was replacing 740-feet of (6") sewer main pipeline on Polygraphic Lane in North Bennington. This particular sewer main was old clay pipe and had been a constant maintenance issue. The Highway crew was a great help on this project.

2020 Accomplishments

- Sewer manholes rebuilt 35
- Sewer lines cleaned and televised 900 feet
- Sewer slip lining 650 feet
- Total wastewater treated 12.7 Billion Gallons
- Average gallons per day 3.49 MGD
- Average % BOD / Solids removed 93.4% BOD / 97.4% TSS
- Compost made 1,340 yards
- Finished upgrade at Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Continued to run and improve our Composting Facility
- Replaced two 36-year-old grit pumps

2021 Goals

- Install a backup generator to run all the new Rotating Biological Contactors (RBC's)
- Rework the Vishay sewer pump station system
- Rebuild and repair additional manholes
- Continue to put assets on Utility Cloud
- Camera and slip line troubled areas across town
- Work to get pump stations connected to new SCADA monitoring system
- Work to train and certify two new wastewater operators

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance works to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills by promoting recycling and reuse as well as resource conservation. The Alliance offers education and outreach to businesses, schools, institutions, and event organizers in complying with the Universal Recycling Law and other solid waste management requirements primarily by increasing reuse and recycling. These programs help residents, businesses, schools, and institutions find solutions to recycling, food scrap diversion and the disposal of items such as electronic waste, fluorescent bulbs, paint, and others that are banned from landfills.

The Alliance website at www.bcswavt.org and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/solidwastealliance) provide information on:

- battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program
- disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and transfer stations that accept motor oil
- recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including retail stores that accept paint
- prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- recycling of textiles by the One World Center, Goodwill, and others
- events for disposing household hazardous waste

- disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations, retail establishments and at household hazardous waste collection events
- disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill, and retail establishments
- diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen containers

This past year the Alliance assisted 40 businesses as well as several major event organizers primarily via phone, email, and webinars due to COVID-19. Given COVID-19, meals and snacks in most schools are served in classrooms rather than lunchrooms. To help with this, the Alliance received 170 food scrap buckets from the Agency of Natural Resources that we distributed to 17 schools along with instructional signage to allow for food scrap collections within classrooms.

The Alliance held two household hazardous waste events with nearly 500 participating households. We also sold over 180 backyard compost bins and 60 green cones to residents. In 2021, we will hold three household hazardous waste events for residents and small businesses of all thirteen towns. The spring event will be in Bennington and the fall in Dorset. We will hold a third event for residents and businesses of Searsburg and Stamford given the long driving distance they have to either of our other events. Check the website above for updates and details. The Alliance receives most of its funding from the 13 towns, but this past year received grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.

Community Development

Shannon Barsotti, Director

The Office of Community Development provides oversight of the municipality's efforts related to the advancement of the Bennington community in the areas of public health, recreation, the arts, thriving schools, healthy homes, safe neighborhoods, and economic vitality.

The Community Development Director administers the Town's Revolving Loan Programs, identifies grant opportunities with community partners, manages the Community Development Block Grant funding, and acts as the Town's liaison to local, state, and federal agencies related to community and economic development. Activities in 2020 include:

Revolving Loan Program: The Town's Revolving Loan Program provides financing to businesses and individuals with limited access to commercial lines of credit, with the aim of nurturing small businesses and improving the housing stock. New loans in 2020 include \$70,000 for small business development.

Community Development Block Grants: Over 1.4 million dollars in CDBG funds came to the Town of Bennington in 2020. These funds supported the Putnam Block redevelopment, affordable housing projects at 219 Pleasant Street (Hale Resources) and 300 Pleasant Street (Shires Housing) and provided Covid-19 relief funds for childcare agencies (United Children's Services, Berkshire Family YMCA, and Sunrise Family Resource Center) and the

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless. The Community Development Director assists community agencies in applying for community development block grants and provides reports to the State on grants awarded.

Franklin Lane Improvement Project: The Town received a \$50,000 grant from the State's Downtown Transportation Fund to redesign and improve Franklin Lane to make it more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Franklin Lane connects South Street to the back side of the Putnam Block and the Town's municipal parking lot.

Energizer Property Re-Use Plan: The Town received a \$20,000 Municipal Planning Grant from the State to fund a market study and reuse plan for the former Energizer facility. The Bennington County Regional Commission will assist the Town with outreach and coordination for the study.

Town-wide Marketing Campaign: The Town funded "Vermont Begins Here" marketing campaign was launched in September 2019. The tourism website includes an extensive listing of dining, lodging, shopping, Bennington area attractions, and resources for moving to Bennington. Eight Oh Two Marketing designed the website and is managing the digital marketing campaign.

Bennington Battle Day: The Town worked with the Bennington Battle Day 2020 Committee to create a Covid-19 safe event at the Vermont Veterans' Home that honored the history of Bennington Battle Day as well as our essential workers during the pandemic.

Garlic Town, U.S.A.: The Town worked with the Southwestern Vermont Chamber of Commerce to create a Covid-19 safe event as an alternative to its traditional Garlic Fest. The Town received a \$10,000 marketing grant from the VT Department of Tourism and Marketing to support this event, which included outdoor vendors spread across downtown Bennington.

Stark Street Park: The renovation of Stark Street playground included an installation of a new bicycle pump track by Bennington Area Trail Systems, a new natural playground funded with grants from the Vermont Department of Health and the Home Depot Foundation, and an accessible walking loop funded by a grant from AARP. The park was fully completed in late spring 2020 and is now open to the public.

Merchants Park: The Town, in partnership with local contractors, completed the stage, public restroom, walkways, and splash pad at Merchant's Park. A celebration of the park's competition was held with project sponsors in the fall of 2020. Landscaping will be added in spring of 2021 and the splash pad will reopen in early summer.

Park at 336: The Town, in partnership with the Better Bennington Corporation, completed the "Pocket Park" installation at 336 Main Street that was funded with a Downtown Transportation Fund Grant. The park includes a dramatic steel wall, curving concrete bench, landscaping, lighting, and a water feature.

YMCA Partnership with the Bennington Recreation Center: The new three-year management agreement with the Berkshire Family YMCA has the Y managing all programming and program staff at the Rec Center, and the Town maintaining the Rec Center buildings and grounds. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, the Y was able to expand youth

programs at Willow Park, youth swim classes, teen fitness classes, and outdoor fitness classes for adults and seniors. They also started a school age hub to provide childcare during hybrid learning. The hub was based at Lake Paran and will be moving into the former Benn High building on Main Street. The gym at Benn High is also being renovated for community use in summer of 2021.

UCS/Head Start Partnership with the Bennington Recreation Center: United Counseling Service is constructing a new Early Childhood facility addition to the Bennington Rec Center that will house early childhood classrooms and related services, as well as a community room. The addition will provide a new building main entrance, lobby, and elevator. Twenty-five new parking spaces will be created, along with a new playground and ballfield. The opening date for the new facility is expected in April 2021.

Appalachian Trail Community Designation: The Town worked with the Bennington AT Community Advisory Committee to submit an application to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and has been designated as an official AT Community. This designation will bring enhanced marketing of Bennington to AT hikers and more promotion of the trail within the Bennington community.

Bennington Outdoor Recreation Collaborative: The Town has facilitated meetings with local recreation managers from the Green Mountain Club, Bennington Area Trail System, Lake Paran, and Prospect Mountain Association to strengthen outdoor recreation marketing and events. The Vermont Community Foundation awarded the Town \$10,000 for outdoor recreation wayfinding signs, photography, print media, and an improved town recreation website.

Bennington County Regional Commission

Jim Sullivan, Director

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) works with and on behalf of its member municipalities to build strong, resilient, and sustainable communities, to foster economic prosperity, and to promote a high quality of life for residents of the region. The BCRC plays an important role in coordinating work among local governments, state and federal agencies, regional public and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private interests.

In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials and volunteer boards and commissions, the BCRC serves as a regional center for work in community and economic development, transportation, energy, environmental conservation, water quality, solid waste management, and emergency management. The BCRC regularly conducts and sponsors public meetings and workshops on these topics.

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning in the region has become one of the BCRC's main program areas. Economic development planning at the BCRC, including dedicated staff directed by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation,

supports business retention, growth, and recruitment. The BCRC also has provided support for the Putnam Block project in Bennington's downtown and is cooperating with local and state officials on new redevelopment initiatives in downtowns and village centers. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property. Other important accomplishments have included: assistance with updates to several municipal comprehensive plans and land use bylaws, development of municipal energy plans and support for local energy committees, village center and neighborhood development area designations and successful grant applications, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan in cooperation with the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, and planning for roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, public transportation improvements.

Like everyone, the BCRC has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The office transitioned to remote work and meetings in April and, while staff have recently started spending some time in the office, it generally is easiest to contact us via email (see contacts at www.bcrcvt.org). Fortunately, technology has allowed us to continue work on all of our projects with little interruption in progress. Of course, significant staff resources have been dedicated to providing assistance to businesses and municipalities as they work to navigate the challenges associated with changes to the way operations are conducted, with staffing and revenue disruptions, and to chart a course forward through and beyond the current crisis.

The BCRC is governed by locally appointed commissioners from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. As of January 2021, our offices will have relocated to 210 South Street in Bennington, and post-pandemic, we expect to have regular office hours at the Manchester Town Offices as well. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: www.bcrcvt.org).

Historic Preservation Commission

Shannon Barsotti, Community Development Director

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) members serve the Development Review Board, Select Board, and Planning Commission in an advisory capacity, and in so doing, help to coordinate activities that are important to Bennington's preservation goals for its historic and archaeological resources. As a participant in Vermont's Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, the HPC promotes the value of historic resources in local community development efforts. Through partnerships at the local, state, and federal levels, the CLG program can provide grants and technical assistance to the HPC for a range of activities that encourage preservation of our historic and archaeological resources. In 2020, the HPC received a CLG grant that will fund another downtown kiosk. The new three-sided kiosk will highlight Bennington's historic sites, outdoor recreation, and arts and culture. It will be installed in summer of 2021.

The Bennington HPC maintains a page on the Town of Bennington website. The Commission's web page provides homeowners, residents, and developers with information and guidance for Bennington's historic downtown architecture, streetscapes, and historic resources. The resources on the website encourage the preservation of Bennington's architectural history and enable property owners to understand their historic buildings better and make informed choices in planning design changes to their buildings. The site includes the HPC's preservation manual, *Time and Place in Bennington: A Handbook for the Central Bennington Historic District*.

The Bennington HPC website can be viewed at: <http://benningtonvt.org/boards-commissions/hpc/>

Better Bennington Corporation

John Shannahan, Director

It would be easy for me to just recap all the challenges that business owners have had to face this year, but doing so wouldn't really portray the actual state of affairs in downtown Bennington. Instead, I'll share some of the accomplishments that required incredible determination and resiliency.

The big story of the year in downtown Bennington is that our residents came out in full force to support our business community like never before. This past holiday season, which could have easily been dismal in terms of business, instead has been recorded as "one of the best ever" by multiple businesses, and some even had their most successful year ever. In part, because of the creative and diligent steps they took, but mainly because they received encouragement and support from those who understand the importance of a locally owned economy. On behalf of the entire downtown community, Thank You for supporting them now so they can still be here for you when the current situation has ended.

When it is finally over, I think you may be surprised to find that downtown Bennington has been going through one of its greatest transformations ever, and it all happened while you were quarantined. New shops and restaurants, new industries, new residences, and new amenities are all in the works and will be awaiting you once we return to normal.

The Putnam development is the star of the show with people moving in and businesses opening up, but that's just the beginning. A dilapidated old garage is becoming a spectacularly designed new distillery, beer is already brewing in the newest addition to downtown's craft beer market, multiple new restaurants are in the wings, and a few interesting new businesses have already been added to downtown's selection of shops. Investment continues to be made on exterior renovations, and existing businesses have been purchased - two of the strongest signs of a healthy marketplace. The completion of the Park at 336 and the opening of the new splash pad and stage at Merchants Park have added to the vibrancy of the streetscape and the excitement of being downtown. We are really looking forward to seeing them being enjoyed by everyone.

It's been a tough year for many people, both financially and emotionally. So, to help lift the spirits of the community and to support our downtown businesses, the BBC has created non-

contact events and activities, enhanced our holiday light displays, installed public art exhibits, and helped our business community utilize all the tools and assistance that's available to them. We are happy to report that we haven't experienced an increase in the permanent closures of businesses any higher than average. That data alone is a testament to the importance of an economy that is locally owned, locally operated, and locally supported.

Recreation

Parks

The Town operates and maintains multiple, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, green spaces. Some specific locations include Willow Park, Headwaters Park, Greenberg Reserve, Beech Street Ballfield, the Ninja, as well as other locations. This past year saw the completion of playground equipment installation at the Stark Street Playground, completion of the Merchant Park/Splashpad, continued improvements to the Headwaters Park and the Greenberg Reserve Trails.

The ongoing COVID19 pandemic has affected the use of Town facilities by Sports Teams, Leagues, Tournaments, and individual. All facilities will continue to be made available for use as the State of Vermont COVID19 guidance and restrictions permit. The Buildings and Grounds Department continues to ensure the safe cleaning and maintenance of the facilities. Guidance on facility use restrictions due to COVID19 will be published and updated on the Town of Bennington social media and web pages.

Senior Center

It is the mission of the Bennington Senior Center to engage persons 50+ in the lifelong learning process and promote their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being by providing social, recreational, and cultural programs. This enables active participation in the center and the community. Program costs are based on a non-profit basis; there are no dues for participation. We strive to meet our goals through increasing participation, passionate instruction, and a variety of programming.

The center is town-owned, taxpayer-funded, and currently on the second floor of the Senior Citizens' Service Center at 124 Pleasant Street. Under normal circumstances, we offer a wide variety of activities; crafts, ukulele group/lessons, BINGO, movies, and various exercises are just examples. We normally schedule one out-of-town shopping trip and one out-of-town dining trip each month, as well as offer opportunities for domestic and world travel at economical prices.

This past year was anything but "normal". We were closed for six months from mid-March through mid-September. Travel plans and theatre trips were cancelled. Shopping and dining trips could not happen. Annual events like the Humanities Tea and Lake Shaftsbury Picnic were missed. Although this gave a chance to clean out and update the facility, it was (and continues to be) hard for those who see the Senior Center as a focal point of their socialization.

We reopened briefly from mid-September to mid-November. Although we were limited in what we could offer, we managed to bring back RSVP Bone Builders classes (and added two extra days to accommodate census limitations), painting, and crafts. We collaborated with the YMCA and Andrea Malinowski to offer chair yoga, Tai Chi, and two classes targeting balance and muscle strength with the goal of fall prevention.

Currently, the Program Manager is the only Town of Bennington paid staff. Where we usually have around 15 volunteers, many were unable to return for the short time we reopened. Four dedicated women were the volunteer group leaders for the Bone Builder's classes and I am eternally grateful for them, and all my volunteers. Although their opportunities for volunteering were cut short, they still provided many hours of unpaid support. This center could not do what it does without them, and we earnestly thank them again for another year.

As we wait to reopen, we continue to collaborate with the YMCA in developing more exercise programs for the future and learning how we can work together for better outcomes, possibilities, and opportunities for those we serve. When we re-open, I certainly encourage people to stop by the center and let us show you what we offer.

The YMCA

Through a management agreement, the Berkshire Family YMCA supports recreation opportunities in Bennington. The Y manages staff and operations at the Rec Center as well as additional programs throughout the community. The Town maintains facilities and works in partnership with the Y to provide increased programs and opportunities for recreation at the Rec, playgrounds, athletic fields and trails, and parks. This summer, the summer youth camp with the Rec/Y was held at Willow Park Pavillion and surrounding grounds.

Although some traditional, large events such as the annual Egg Hunt were not able to be held this year, a variety of programs were offered for youth and adults: soccer, outdoor group fitness classes, and drop-in care at the park. Youth programs extended after the end of summer with extended "camp" and remote learning support opportunities at Willow Park and the Senior Center.

The Town continues to manage the rental of pavilions and fields. These are frequently utilized for children's birthday parties and for various sports and community organizations.

Sollwan and Mary Alexander Sleeman Memorial Fund

This Fund was created in September 1998, in concert with the Richard A. Sleeman family from funds historically collected to complete the Recreation Center (formerly owned by the YMCA). As custodian of the funds, Richard A. Sleeman preserved them and helped established this Fund to assist the Town with accessibility issues at the Recreation Center. The Fund guidelines follow below.

- 1. This memorial fund is for the exclusive use of the Bennington Community Recreation Center located on Gage Street in Bennington, Vermont.*

2. Special consideration will be given to benefit the handicapped through capital improvements, equipment, or tuition for those in need as it relates to the Recreation Center.

3. The Fund will be expended on a ten (10) year annuitized basis for the uses noted above.

4. Dr. Richard Alexander Sleeman, Professor, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams, Massachusetts, represents the Sleeman Family.

The original Fund contained \$52,156.27. During this year, \$0.00 was expended at the Recreation Center. Interest earned was added to the Fund leaving a reserve fund balance of \$6,738.23.

Notes:

Permitting, Planning & Code Enforcement

Paul Dansereau, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Marshal

Permit Type	2019 Permits	Dollar Volume	2020 Permits	Dollar Volume
Single Family Dwelling	8	\$980,245.00	4	\$835,000.00
Duplex	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Mobile Homes	7	\$267,819.50	2	\$84,600.00
Apartments	1	\$30,000.00	1	\$10,000.00
Apartment Renovations	10	\$1,047,400.00	8	\$1,614,000.00
Condominiums	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Residential Renovations	12	\$116,310.00	18	\$3,254,700.00
Residential Additions	6	\$335,000.00	2	\$70,000.00
Commercial Construction	3	\$419,000.00	1	\$6,800.00
Commercial Renovations	21	\$1,284,538.00	11	\$2,022,703.00
Industrial Construction	1	\$3,000.00	0	\$0.00
Industrial Renovations	2	\$275,000.00	0	\$0.00
Garages	10	\$241,800.00	7	\$97,500.00
Sheds	32	\$61,781.75.00	29	\$142,695.00
Decks	18	\$117,740.00	46	\$234,230.00
Institutions	7	\$3,728,500.00	4	\$744,512.00
Signs	30	\$30,384.00	7	\$12,005.00
Use and Zoning	6	\$0.00	3	\$4,000.00
Subdivisions	2	\$0.00	4	\$0.00
Home Occupation	0	\$0.00	2	\$0.00
Propane Tank/Storage Tank	0	\$0.00	1	\$16,525.00
Boilers/Furnaces, A/C, RTU's	1	\$48,000.00	0	\$0.00
Tents	2	\$0.00	1	\$300.00
Handicap Access/Ramps	4	\$3,500.00	4	\$7,333.86
Concreate Slabs	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Cell Towers	1	\$105,000.00	0	\$0.00
Solar Installations	3	\$837,185.00	2	\$256,329.00
Camps	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Demolition	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Totals	189	\$10,002,203.25	159	\$9,413,232.86

Health Officer

Paul Dansereau, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Marshal
Bridget Gallant, Building Inspector/Deputy Health Officer/Fire Marshal

The Health Officer is the Town Official who is responsible for Public Health Problems in Town. Health Officers have the power of the Vermont Commissioner of Health and are agents of the State Health Department. Health Officers have the authority to enforce any of the Vermont Health regulations in their town. The Select Board is the local Board of Health with the Health Officer serving as the secretary and Executive Officer for Bennington, North Bennington and Old Bennington. The responsibilities of the Health Officer can be wide ranging, however, most of the time is spent in the following categories:

Rabies Management

We received and investigated 42 reported animal bites to humans in 2020, 29 from dogs, 10 from cats and 3 from bats. This compares to 36 in 2019, 39 in 2018, 47 in 2017, 52 in 2016, 46 in 2015, 38 in 2014, 33 in 2013, 46 in 2012, 41 in 2011. We want to remind medical providers that all bites must be reported within 24 hours.

Rental Housing

We investigated numerous complaints pertaining to Rental Housing Health Code issues. The Vermont Rental Housing Health Code is a State-wide uniform code that specifies the minimum standards for all rental housing. As the Building Inspectors and Fire Marshals for the town, we can now include the Health Code Requirements in all of those type inspections.

Other Public Health Issues

The balance of time was spent investigating such matters as garbage complaints, inadequate water supplies, rodent/roach/bed bug complaints, lead, mold and asbestos concerns from tenants in rental housing.

Another persistent health concern is dry scraping and power washing of exterior paint containing lead. We remind all residents that this practice is illegal in the State of Vermont. We were successful in obtaining voluntary compliance with almost all public health problems this year and appreciate the cooperation from all involved. Please feel free to contact us regarding any questions or concerns you may have.

Planning

Daniel W. Monks, Permitting Director

The Planning Commission, along with the Planning Department, performs municipal planning functions for Bennington, including the development of the Town Plan and Land Use and Development Regulations. Although the COVID-19 Pandemic presented numerous challenges, work continued in many priority areas.

In 2020, The Planning Department continued to work with consultants to design and acquire rights of way for five bike/ped projects that will serve as the backbone for a bike/ped network in Bennington. The Kocher Drive bike/ped improvements project was completed in December of 2020. The Applegate/Willowbrook pathway project went out to bid in December of 2020 and construction is scheduled for the spring/summer of 2021.

In 2020, the Planning Commission completed a hearing draft of an update to the Town of Bennington's Land Use and Development Regulations to include Form-Based-Design Standards for the zoning districts in and around downtown. The Bennington County Regional Commission worked as the Planning Commission's consultant in the development of the Form-Based-Design Standards. The Planning Commission also reviewed solar energy projects and cell antenna proposals; and continued its support of numerous ongoing efforts to construct trails, bike paths and sidewalks.

In 2021, the Planning Commission will hold public hearings on the proposed update to the Land Use and Development Regulations and submit the update to the Select Board for adoption. The Planning Commission will also continue to work with the Select Board regularly to better coordinate Commission and Select Board efforts.

The Development Review Board is responsible for reviewing and issuing land use permits for all significant development within the Town. In 2020 the pandemic severely limited new development projects. However, among the projects reviewed in 2020 by the Development review Board were: an 18 unit (9 duplexes) Planned Residential Development on Convent Avenue, and the demolition of an existing structure and the construction of a new building to house Greater Heights Tree and Land Management at 1246 Burgess Road.

Notes:

Board of Listers

John M. Antognioni, Assessor

With no reassessment activity in 2020, this office sent 157 Change of Appraised Value notices to property owners on June 10, 2020. These notices were sent to owners of property in which a material change had occurred from April 1, 2019 to April 1, 2020. The Board of Listers had 62 property grievances, none of which were forwarded to the Bennington Board of Civil Authority. There are no outstanding grievances for 2020 or for prior years.

The Town of Bennington's grand list for 2020 of all properties was \$1,010,393,499. The State's Equalization Study for 2020 (effective January 1, 2021) shows Bennington's common level of appraisal at 93.80 percent and our coefficient of dispersion at 15.62 percent. The common level of appraisal is essentially a measure of how close local assessments are to sale prices. The coefficient of dispersion measures uniformity of assessments for all grand list property and is the average deviation of a group of ratios from the town-wide median expressed as a percentage of the median. The 2020 Equalization Study used sales data from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020.

Peter Green and Carol Holm were reappointed to the Board of Listers by the Select Board in 2020, joining Robert Ebert.

Town Clerk

Cassandra Barbeau, Town Clerk

I am sure many of the statements you will read in this Annual Report will be of the struggles we all faced dealing with COVID-19 and trying to keep ourselves and our residents safe. This is also true with the Town Clerk's Office. While our office was deemed essential and we were here to assist you the entire time, we continue to be officially closed to the public with very few exceptions. Kayla and I often have our running shoes on to try to catch all the phone calls and knocks at the side door, given our very long office! Most of you have been forgiving if needing to leave a message or knock twice. I thank you for that.

The pandemic, combined with low interest rates, created a real estate boom in Vermont and after the initial six weeks of shutdown, we opened our land records by appointment, one at a time to attorneys, abstractors and agents, which increased our cleaning requirements, but has seemed successful and well received by those needing to get their jobs done.

Our biggest struggle, of course, was managing a State Primary and Presidential Election in the middle of a pandemic. All my years of experience went out the window as temporary laws were put in place, and continually changed, on election processes. Add to this, changes to polling places, social distancing requirements to keep our voters and poll workers safe and massive early balloting! Over 7,100 residents cast ballots in the 2020 Presidential Election, with nearly 5,000 being early absentee ballots. This was a record for Bennington on both. Although I have not always agreed with his policies, I must commend the Secretary of State and his staff for their guidance and foresight early in the pandemic to keep us all safe. I feel both the Primary and the General Election were very successful and aimed to keep

everyone safe. I was impressed with nearly 100% mask compliance on Election Day, and just the general good attitude of most voters. We look forward to Town Meeting and plan on following many of the same protocols for those choosing to vote in person.

We all look forward to getting back to normal, hopefully in the not-so-distant future.

As always, should you ever have any questions regarding the function and responsibilities of the Town Clerk's Office, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Notes:

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
205 South Street
Bennington, VT 05201
802-442-1037
7/17/20

Cash Flow and Account Balances as of June 30, 2020

CASH FLOW:	<u>06/01/20 - 06/30/20</u>	<u>07/01/19 - 06/30/20</u>
Beginning Balance	\$5,894,149.85	\$5,350,010.95
ADD:		
Interest	\$7,490.58	\$65,383.09
Various Town receipts	\$1,145,563.86	\$35,320,794.72
Capital Equipment Note advances	\$0.00	\$568,289.82
Total available cash	<u>\$7,047,204.29</u>	<u>\$41,304,478.58</u>
 SUBTRACT:		
Disbursements:		
Payroll Warrants	\$563,452.48	\$7,764,761.01
Vendor Warrants	\$355,446.65	\$26,873,060.13
Prepaid checks	\$2,206.03	\$266,124.51
Vendor payments - Choice Strategies	\$25,980.55	\$299,341.22
Check order & deposit slip charge	\$177.01	\$237.50
Bank Analysis Fees - Fraud Protection & Positive Pay	\$19.00	\$1,031.64
Total Disbursements	<u>\$947,281.72</u>	<u>\$35,204,556.01</u>
 Cash Balance on June 30, 2020	<u>\$6,099,922.57</u>	<u>\$6,099,922.57</u>

Respectfully submitted,



Joan E. Pinsonneault
Town Treasurer

Operating Accounts

	<u>INTEREST</u>		<u>BALANCE</u>
	06/01/20 -	07/01/19 -	
	<u>06/30/20</u>	<u>06/30/20</u>	<u>06/30/20</u>
<u>People's United Bank:</u>			
MBA Affiliate Dep.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$190,000.00
MBA Depository	\$852.89	\$54,099.01	\$5,864,921.97
General Fund Checking Acct	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.60
Payroll Checking Acct	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
Flexible Spending Acct	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
DPW Facility Account	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Certificates of Deposit:			
July 2019	\$0.00	\$4,646.39	\$0.00
June 2020 - 6 months	\$6,637.69	\$6,637.69	\$0.00
TOTALS:	<u>\$7,490.58</u>	<u>\$65,383.09</u>	<u>\$6,099,922.57</u>

Notes:

Agencies

The Select Board approved the following agency appropriations totaling \$786,630.00 to be included within the Town of Bennington's General Fund in FY 2021:

Bennington Free Library - \$498,000.00
Bennington Rescue Squad - \$206,250.00
John G. McCullough Free Library - \$40,000.00
Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) - \$33,680.00
North Bennington Recreation - \$6,000.00
Paran Recreations, Inc - \$2,700.00

The Bennington voters approved the following agency appropriations totaling \$131,850.00. to be included within the Town of Bennington's General Fund in FY 2021:

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless - \$25,000.00
Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice - \$21,600.00
Sunrise Family Resource Center - \$15,000.00
Bennington Project Independence - \$11,000.00
The Tutorial Center - \$10,000.00
Bennington Free Clinic - \$12,500.00
BROC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont - \$6,750.00
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc. - \$7,500.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living - \$7,000.00
Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program - \$5,500.00
Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse - \$5,000.00
Project Against Violent Encounters - \$5,000.00

Notes:

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY
130 RIVER STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201
MARCH 2, 2020
MINUTES**

MODERATOR: Jason Morrissey

ALSO PRESENT: Bennington Select Board Members - Donald Campbell-Chair; Jeannie Jenkins-Vice Chair; Jim Carroll; Bruce Lee-Clark; Chad Gordon and Jeanne Conner; Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Dan Monks-Assistant Town Manager; Joan Pinsonneault-Treasurer; Cassandra Barbeau-Town Clerk; Shannon Barsotti-Community Development Director; Representative Mary Morrissey; Elizabeth Fredlund-Council on Aging; Charlie Murphy; Peter Fish; Joy Kitchell; Sandy Bissett; Catherine Albert; Ken Swierad; Ned Perkins; Sam Restino; Nancy White; Jason Flanders; Beth Artistry; Jason Erikson; Joe Hall; Rosa VanWeet; Al Bashevkin; Suzanne Fitzpatrick; Linda Putney; Janice Lerrigo; Dan Lucy; 100 citizens; CAT-TV and Nancy H. Lively-Secretary.

At 7:10 p.m., Moderator Jason Morrissey called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mr. Morrissey read the following Warning:

**WARNING
TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The residents of the Town of Bennington qualified by law to vote in Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance) in said Town on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., or immediately following the Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District's Annual meeting should that run over, to transact the business specified to be done from the floor.

If you are a resident of the Town of Bennington, intend to be present at the meeting and are hearing impaired, arrangements will be made for a sign interpreter to be present at this meeting. For necessary arrangements, please contact Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager at the Bennington Town Offices, 205 South Street, P.O. Box 469, Bennington, VT - (802) 442-1037 no later than Friday, February 14, 2020.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at The Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance). The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the election of officers and voting on all ballot articles specified. However, those on the checklist to vote in the Village of North Bennington shall vote for the election of officers and on all ballot articles at the North Bennington Village Office on Main Street in North Bennington. The Bennington Fire Facility above mentioned, is hereby established as the central polling place for those on the checklist to vote in said Bennington. Residents of Bennington and North Bennington may register to vote at the

Town Clerk's Office, 205 South Street, Bennington, Vermont. Eligible residents registering on Election Day must do so at the polling place where they will cast their Town Meeting ballot.

Jim Carroll read a letter of congratulations from Governor Philip B. Scott to the Mt. Anthony Wrestling Team for their 32nd Consecutive Vermont High School Wrestling Championship. The team received a well deserve standing ovation from those present.

Treasurer Joan Pinsonneault reminded everyone to file their State of Vermont Homestead tax forms, HS144 and HS122, even if you have filed for an extension.

Representative Mary Morrissey read a Proclamation from Governor Philip B. Scott to recognize March 2020 as Multiple Myeloma Cancer Month in the State of Vermont, with special mention to Jim Markenthal, a national advocate for the disease who passed away this past fall. Ken Swierad shared that he had contacted the disease from Agent Orange in Vietnam.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR

Monday, March 2, 2020

7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 1. TOWN REPORT: To hear the report of Town officers and to take appropriate action thereon.

Community Development Director Shannon Barsotti shared a slide show presentation on some of the achievements in the Town during 2019 that have affected the following areas and departments:

- Putnam Block
- United Counseling Service expansion of the Bennington Recreation Center
- Town Garage sale to become a distillery
- Development of Bicycle and Pedestrian Network
- Department of Public Works - Highway Division
- Water Department - Lead Line Replacement
- Sewer Department - Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Merchants Park - Splash Pad
- Stark Street Playground
- Office of Community Development - Loans, Block Grants, Housing Rehabilitation
- Town of Bennington Marketing - www.VermontBeginsHere.com
- Berkshire Family YMCA Management Agreement for the Bennington Recreation Center and Senior Center
- Police Department
- Fire Department

Ned Perkins asked what properties were purchased by the BCIC, and Mr. Hurd answered that some funds were used for the former Plasan Building on Shields Drive. Other funds went into the Putnam Block, the Ramunto building, and the Taco Bell building. The commitment by the investor in the Opportunity Zones is to spend twice as much in redeveloping the building as it cost to purchase it.

Mr. Perkins further asked about, and Mr. Hurd responded to, the following budget line items:

- Permit-Plan-Code Enforce - \$86,000 increase, due to moving a Rec Center full time employee to the Town offices.
- Buildings & Grounds - \$63,000 increase, due to the health insurance 11% increase and vehicle purchase.
- Police - \$365,000 increase, due to the contract with the School Superintendent to have a resource officer in every elementary school. 2/3 of their expense will be paid for by the school district and 1/3 paid by the Town so the town has gained 3 officers when they are not in the schools.
- Senior Citizens - \$55,000 increase. Not addressed.

Nancy White inquired if the Town had looked into purchasing the Southern Vermont College property, and Mr. Hurd answered that we had briefly, however, a private individual may purchase it which would put it back on the tax rolls.

Ms. White expressed her concern for the initiative by the BCRC to bring individuals to Bennington from other countries and feels that this should be discussed as a town at public hearings before this moves forward. Mr. Hurd stated that this is not a town initiative and our contract with the BCRC is only for economic development. Ms. Jenkins added that BCIC and the Windham County Economic Development successfully obtained a grant to do some planning to look at the possibility of various ways to repopulate southern Vermont. It is anticipated that as part of this planning process, the towns will be given the opportunity for their voices to be heard.

Jason Flanders had the following comments:

- ✓ He doesn't understand the partnership with the out-of-town YMCA when our community used to operate that Rec Center. Mr. Hurd stated that the three managers at the Rec Center are all Bennington residents.
- ✓ He doesn't understand the UCS Daycare at the Rec Center. Mr. Hurd explained that there are no town dollars paying for the UCS Daycare. It is a program of Headstart that has been at a rented facility in North Bennington for decades. The Town bears no responsibility to finance or maintain the UCS addition to the Rec Center.
- ✓ When grant monies run out, does that project stop or do the taxpayers then pay for the rest of the project?
- ✓ As a retired senior citizen living on a fixed income, he cannot support the Local Option Tax.
- ✓ The Town should live within their means.

Jason Erikson clarified what the local option tax allocations were set at for this year, and Mr. Hurd answered 40% property tax and debt reduction, 35% economic development, 15% marketing, and 10% Willow Park Community Park.

It was moved and seconded to accept ARTICLE 1. TOWN REPORT as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 2. SELECT BOARD MEMBERS COMPENSATION: To determine what compensation shall be paid to the Town Select Board Members.

Sam Restino spoke in favor of increasing the Select Board members' compensation by decreasing the salaries of the Town Manager and Town Clerk.

Joe Hall spoke in favor of the compensation remaining the same because those that run don't run for what they'll be paid, but rather as a community service.

A citizen asked about the history of the compensation, and Mr. Morrissey stated that the amount has been the same for about 15 years.

Joe Hall moved and it was seconded to accept ARTICLE 2. SELECT BOARD MEMBERS COMPENSATION with the compensation to remain at \$1,400/year/member from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. The motion carried with two opposed.

ARTICLE 3. OTHER BUSINESS. To transact such other proper business when met.

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020
THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE**

SELECT BOARD ELECTION. Two Select Board Members residing in the Town shall be elected for terms of three (3) years.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the total sum of \$13,921,440.00 consisting of the following: \$4,135,250.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$9,786,190.00 for the payment of the following: Any indebtedness not otherwise specifically provided for, interest on indebtedness, legally authorized State and County taxes, the prosecution and defense of the common rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Town, and for other necessary incidental expenses?

The proposed budget includes \$60,000.00 for fire equipment, \$13,000.00 for parking improvements, and \$411,540.00 for healthcare reserve and workers compensation insurance, \$50,000 for marketing, \$50,000 for bridges, any unexpended portion of which will be reserved to subsequent years for that purpose.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the bonds of the Town of Bennington in an amount not to exceed \$9.5 million be issued for the purpose of replacing lead service lines throughout the Town such monies expended to be fully reimbursed from State and Federal grant funds?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters assess a 1% local option tax as provided in Section 511 (a) of the Bennington Town Charter

1. A one percent rooms tax;
2. A one percent rooms tax;
3. A one percent alcoholic beverage tax; and
4. A one percent sales tax?

Rosa VanWeet began speaking on State Legislation on reproduction and was ruled out of order.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Bennington join the Southern Vermont Communications Union District?

Beth Artistry, a resident of North Bennington, encouraged voters to vote yes to joining the Southern Vermont Communications Union District to avail rural residents of high speed internet service. By State law, the cost will be borne by those that wish to participate and no local taxes can be used for this project.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

Joy Kitchell spoke to the work of the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse in that they provide counseling, family assistance, and whatever supports people of all ages need, not just children. They are also the home for the Bike Drives to provide transportation to those in need.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?

Suzanne Fitzpatrick read a letter from the PAVE Executive Director that highlighted the services that PAVE provides, such as a 24-hour hotline, legal services, financial support, emergency housing, parenting support, supervised visitation, and school based education. PAVE has served many more individuals this year than last.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$5,500.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

Catherine Albert cited all of the beneficial work that the 88 volunteers do for the community, such as, Meals on Wheels, food drives, tax assistance, companionship, and more.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$6,750.00 for BROCC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?

Sandy Bissett stated that BROCC has served 1,460 community members with food and aid to prevent homelessness. They also provide tax preparation, food shelf, lodging, heat, electric, job training and help starting a business.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$7,000.00 for Vermont Center for Independent Living?

Charlie Murphy noted that the Vermont Center for Independent Living has offices throughout the State. They help people to live with all kinds of disabilities that include counseling, finding resources, financing, home access program, Sue Williams Freedom Fund, Vermont Equipment and Distribution Program, Meals on Wheels, American signing classes, and more.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?

Elizabeth Fredlund stated the various services provided by the Council on Aging, such as, case management, Meals on Wheels, counseling, etc., and requested the continued support from the Town.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?

Peter Fish noted that everyone that needs tutoring gets it, as well as, job skills and computer skills trainings throughout Bennington and Woodford.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 Bennington Project Independence?

Linda Putney stated that they provide adult day services to individuals and respite to their families. She, personally, has utilized the services from BPI for two years for her mother who had Alzheimer's and shared similar stories from others. They provide mental and physical stimulating activities, nutritious meals, art induced therapy, and much more.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$12,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?

Janice Lerrigo, a Board member of GBICS, who host the Bennington Free Clinic, stated that they served over 300 uninsured adults with a nearly all volunteer staff this past year. The dental clinic at Molly Stark School, which ranks at the bottom of dental health in schools within the State, saw 93 students last year with 85 of those referred onto dentists for more serious problems. As funding allows, we will expand our dental clinic to Bennington Elementary.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$15,000.00 for Sunrise Family Resource Center?

Al Bashevkin spoke to the work of Sunrise Family Resource Center and that their primary goal is working with families with young children. They offer free services for housing, child care, economic development, and the prevention of child abuse with over 950 families coming from Bennington.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?

There was no representative to speak on behalf of the Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice.

ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2021 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

Dan Lucy stated that the Coalition has been serving the homeless for over 20 years. We currently have two facilities - one for families and one for individuals. This past year we housed 197 individuals, 29 families, and over 1,000 for drop-in services. We also provide case management and skills training to people to help them be able to provide themselves permanent housing. In addition, we have sponsored the Warm the Children program that provided over 200 coats to needy children.

All that spoke on Article 5 through Article 16 thanked the Town for their support.

At 8:36 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting until tomorrow, March 3, 2020, at 7:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy H. Lively, Secretary

Town Meeting Election - March 3, 2020

	Total
SELECT BOARD (elect 2)	
Peter J. Brady Sr.	946
Tom Haley	988
Colleen M. Harrington	504
Bruce Lee-Clark	1403
Sarah Perrin	1316
Nancy White	866

And the said LEE-CLARK and PERRIN were declared elected.

ARTICLE 1: Budget

Yes	2344
No	1153

And it was so voted.

**ARTICLE 2: Lead Line
replacement Bond**

Yes 2898

No 635

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 3: Local option taxes

Meals

Yes 1149

No 2322

And it was not voted.

Rooms

Yes 1509

No 1968

And it was not voted.

Alcohol

Yes 1697

No 1808

And it was not voted.

Sales

Yes 935

No 2498

And it was not voted.

**ARTICLE 4: So. VT
Communications Dist.**

Yes 1928

No 1108

And it was so voted.

**ARTICLE 5: Benn County Assoc.
Against Child Abuse**

Yes 2698

No 807

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 6: PAVE

Yes 2457

No 1069

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 7: RSVP

Yes 2576

No 930

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 8: BROCC

Yes 2134

No 1328

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 9: Ctr for Independent Living

Yes 2468

No 1024

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 10: Council on Aging

Yes 2436

No 1055

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 11: Tutorial Center

Yes 2088

No 1412

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 12: BPI

Yes 2280

No 1172

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 13: Benn Free Clinic

Yes	2530
No	974

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 14: Sunrise

Yes	1995
No	1436

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 15: VNA & Hospice

Yes	2512
No	931

And it was so voted.

**ARTICLE 16: Coalition for
Homeless**

Yes	2435
No	1043

And it was so voted.

-WARNING-

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2021 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

VIA ZOOM

The residents of the Town of Bennington qualified by law to vote in Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet (via Zoom) in said Town on Monday, March 1, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., (or immediately following the SW. VT Union Elementary School District's Annual meeting should that run over) to transact the business specified to be done from the floor.

If you are a resident of the Town of Bennington, intend to be present at the meeting (via Zoom) and are hearing impaired, arrangements will be made for a sign interpreter to be present at this meeting. For necessary arrangements, please contact Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager at the Bennington Town Offices, 205 South Street, P.O. Box 469, Bennington, VT - (802) 442-1037 no later than Friday, February 12, 2021.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at The Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance). The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the election of officers and voting on all ballot articles specified. Those on the checklist to vote in the Village of North Bennington shall vote for the election of officers and on all ballot articles at the Bennington Fire Facility. The Bennington Fire Facility above mentioned, is hereby established as the central polling place for those on the checklist to vote in said Bennington. Residents of Bennington and North Bennington may register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office, 205 South Street, Bennington, Vermont. Eligible residents registering on Election Day must do so at the polling place where they will cast their Town Meeting ballot.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE "FLOOR"

Monday, March 1, 2021

7:30 P.M.

ARTICLE 1. TOWN REPORT: To hear the report of Town Officers.

ARTICLE 2. OTHER BUSINESS: To transact such other proper business when met.

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021**

**THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE**

SELECT BOARD ELECTION. Two Select Board Members residing in the Town shall be elected for term of three (3) years, One Select Board Member residing in the town shall be elected for term of one (1) year.

TOWN CLERK ELECTION. A Town Clerk residing in the Town shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, the total sum of \$14,275,440.00 consisting of the following: \$4,148,910.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$10,126,530.00 for the payment of the following: Any indebtedness not otherwise specifically provided for, interest on indebtedness, legally authorized State and County taxes, the prosecution and defense of the common rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Town, and

for other necessary incidental expenses?

The proposed budget includes \$25,000.00 for fire equipment, \$5,000.00 for fire facilities, \$13,000.00 for parking improvements, \$400,680.00 for healthcare reserve and workers compensation insurance, \$40,000.00 for marketing, \$100,000.00 for bridges and \$2,000.00 for well maintenance, any unexpended portion of which will be reserved to subsequent years for that purpose.

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town of Bennington add \$0.01 to the General Fund tax rate for the purpose of creating a reserve to support Parks, so Designated as "A Penny for Parks"?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 3. \$103-407. Mayoral form of government

(a) In lieu of a town manager, the voters may adopt a mayoral form of government, by vote at a duly-warned annual meeting, warned pursuant to a petition signed by five percent of the voters or on the Select board's own motion. Once a vote in favor of this form of government is successful, the voters shall elect a mayor at the next annual meeting for a three-year term. Once the mayor takes office, the Town Manager system of governance shall end for Bennington.

(b) The mayor shall be responsible for the management of the administrative affairs of the Town, in the same manner and with the same powers and responsibilities as the Town Manager, as stated in statute and this charter.

(c) The mayor shall have the power to veto any action of the Select board.

(d) The Select board shall have the authority to override the mayor's veto by a vote of five members of the board taken at a regular meeting. Within 30 days of the vote to override, voters may petition for a binding referendum on the issue by a petition signed by five percent of the voters. At a special meeting held within 60 days of the receipt of the petition, the voters shall decide whether to uphold the mayor's veto.

(e) The compensation for the mayor shall be set by the Select board based on comparable salaries and benefits for a town manager.

(f) The mayor shall serve as the voice of the Town of Bennington, taking responsibility for implementing the policies of the Select board, leading the Town toward greater prosperity and a healthy economy, and a better life for all its residents.

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 4. Shall the town authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? “Cannabis retailer” means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to sell cannabis and cannabis products to adults 21 years of age and older for off-site consumption.

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 5. Shall the town authorize integrated licensees in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? “Integrated licensee” means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to engage in the activities of a cultivator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, and testing laboratory in accordance with state law.

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters decrease the Select Board’s pay by \$100.00 to \$1,300.00 annually?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$5,500.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$6,750.00 for BROCC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$7,000.00 for Vermont Center for Independent Living?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$12,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$15,000.00 for Sunrise Family Resource Center?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 17. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 18. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2022 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

YES ☐
NO ☐

BY THE SELECT BOARD



Donald A. Campbell, Chair

Jeannette Jenkins, Vice Chair

Jim Carroll

Sarah Perrin

Bruce C. Lee-Clark

Jeanne Conner

Dated at Bennington, Vermont this 25th day of January, 2021.

**Primary Election, August 11, 2020
Official Tally Sheet – Democratic Party**

	Dist 2-1	Dist 2-2	Total
For Rep. To Congress			
Ralph Corbo	53	58	111
Peter Welch	1015	826	1841
For Governor			
Ralph Corbo	16	8	24
Rebecca Holcombe	279	200	479
Patrick Winburn	394	354	748
David Zuckerman	346	260	606

	Dist. 2-1	Dist 2-2	Total
For Lieutenant Governor			
Tim Ashe	211	201	412
Molly Gray	612	485	1097
Debbie Ingram	89	72	161
Brenda Siegel	130	89	219
For State Treasurer			
Beth Pearce	944	779	1723
For Secretary of State			
Jim Condos	948	782	1730
For Auditor of Accounts			
Doug Hoffer	318	261	579
Linda Joy Sullivan	644	537	1181
For Attorney General			
TJ Donovan	930	760	1690
For State Senator			
Brian Campion	980	761	1741
Dick Sears	970	790	1760
For State Representative 2-1			
Timothy R. Corcoran II	804		804
Michael Louis Stern	232		232
Dane Whitman	780		780
For State Representative 2-2			
Jim Carroll		737	737
Michael Nigro		647	647
For High Bailiff			
Frederick Gilbar	903	765	1668

Republican Party

For Rep. To Congress

Miriam Berry	79	86	165
Jimmy Rodriguez	43	60	103
Justin Tuthill	77	80	157
Anya Tynio	31	56	87

For Governor	Dist. 2-1	Dist 2-2	Total
Douglas Cavett	5	14	19
John Klar	73	73	146
Bernard Peters	5	9	14
Emily Peyton	19	24	43
Phil Scott	220	236	456
For Lieutenant Governor			
Dana Colson Jr.	20	27	47
Meg Hansen	148	200	348
Jim Hogue	11	18	29
Scott Milne	96	78	174
Dwayne Tucker	22	18	40
For State Treasurer			
Carolyn Whitney Branagan	220	273	493
For Secretary of State			
H. Brooke Paige	225	273	498
For Auditor of Accounts			
No Candidate	0	0	0
For Attorney General			
H. Brooke Paige	105	114	219
Emily Peyton	137	179	316
For State Senator			
Michael Hall (write-in)	30	16	46
For State Representative 2-1			
Colleen Harrington	224		224
For State Representative 2-2			
Mary A. Morrissey		356	356
For High Bailiff			
No Candidate	0	0	0

Progressive Party

For Rep. to Congress	Dist. 2-1	Dist 2-2	Total
Chris Brimmer	4	4	8
Cris Ericson	3	6	9
For Governor			
Cris Ericson	5	6	11
Boots Wardinski	2	3	5
For Lieutenant Governor			
Cris Ericson	5	9	14
For State Treasurer			
Cris Ericson	5	9	14
For Secretary of State			
Cris Ericson	5	9	14
For Auditor of Accounts			
Cris Ericson	4	9	13
For Attorney General			
Cris Ericson	4	8	12
For State Senator			
No Candidate	0	0	0
For State Representative District 2-1			
No Candidate	0		0
For State Representative District 2-2			
No Candidate		0	0
For High Bailiff			
No Candidate	0	0	0

Official Tally Sheet

November 3, 2020 General Election

Total voters: 7152

	Total	Dist 2-1 Total	Dist 2-2 Total
FOR PRES. & VICE-PRES.			
Biden & Harris (Democratic)	4369	2226	2143
Blankenship & Mohr (Constitution)	3	1	2
Carroll & Patel (Amer. Solidarity)	6	1	5
Collins & Parker (Prohibition)	5	2	3
DeLaFuente & Richardson (Alliance)	0	0	0
Duncan & Bupp (Independent)	3	1	2
Hawkins & Walker (Green)	35	16	19
Huber & Atwood (Approval Voting)	3	2	1
Jorgensen & Cohen (Libertarian)	63	26	37
Kennedy & Jarrett (Socialist Workers)	8	3	5
Kopitke & Iwanow (Independent)	0	0	0
Lafontaine & Speed (Independent)	24	13	11
Lariva & Freeman (Liberty Union)	3	2	1
McCormic & Blasiak (Bull Moose)	4	4	0
Paige & Witman (Grumpy Old Patriots)	22	8	14
Pierce & Ballard (Unaffiliated)	2	2	0
Scalf & Lyda (Independent)	1	1	0
Segal & deGraaf (Bread & Roses)	2	2	0
Swing & Olszta (Boiling Frog)	4	3	1
Trump & Pence (Republican)	2473	1193	1280
West & Tidball (Independent)	31	21	10
FOR REP. TO CONGRESS			
Peter R. Becker (Independent)	325	145	180
Miriam Berry (Republican)	1880	922	958
Christopher Helali (Communist)	60	32	28
Marcia Horne (Independent)	105	54	51
Shawn Orr (Independent)	50	19	31
Jerry Trudell (Independent)	48	19	29
Peter Welch (Democratic)	4036	2198	1838

	Total	Dist 2-1 Total	Dist 2-2 Total
FOR GOVERNOR			
Wayne Billado III (Independent)	29	10	19
Michael A. Devost (Independent)	28	12	16
Charly Dickerson (Unaffiliated)	23	9	14
Kevin Hoyt (Independent)	627	311	316
Emily Peyton (Truth Matters)	89	43	46
Phil Scott (Republican)	3784	1869	1915
Erynn Hazlett Whitney (Independent)	134	63	71
David Zuckerman (Prog/Dem)	2157	1138	1019
FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR			
Wayne Billado III (Independent)	189	75	114
Ralph Corbo (Banish the F35)	43	23	20
Cris Ericson (Progressive)	210	102	108
Moly Gray (Democratic)	3733	1937	1796
Scott Milne (Republican)	2555	1231	1324
FOR STATE TREASURER			
Carolyn Whitney Branagan (Republican)	2176	1043	1133
Cris Ericson (Progressive)	304	148	156
Beth Pearce (Dem/Rep)	3551	1816	1735
Alex Wright (Independent)	476	231	245
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE			
Jim Condos (Democratic)	3708	1889	1819
Cris Ericson (Progressive)	274	137	137
H. Brooke Paige (Republican)	2067	1005	1062
Pamala Smith (Independent)	513	240	273
FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS			
Cris Ericson (Progressive)	1275	613	662
Doug Hoffer (Dem/Rep)	4593	2297	2296

	Total	Dist 2-1 Total	Dist 2-2 Total
FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL			
TJ Donovan (Democratic)	3951	1993	1958
Cris Ericson (Progressive)	449	226	223
H. Brooke Paige (Republican)	2119	1024	1095

FOR STATE SENATOR (2 to be elected)

Brian Campion (Democratic)	3888	2065	1823
Michael "Mike" Hall (Republican)	1542	737	805
Meg Hansen (Republican)	1863	870	993
Kevin Hoyt (Independent)	807	367	440
Dick Sears (Democratic)	3878	2002	1876

FOR STATE REP. DIST. 2-1(2 to be elected)

Timothy R. Corcoran II (Democratic)	2220	2220	0
Colleen Harrington (Republican)	1116	1116	0
Dane Whitman (Democratic)	1889	1889	0

And the said CORCORAN AND WHITMAN were declared elected.

FOR STATE REP. DIST 2-2 (2 to be elected)

Peter J. Brady Sr. (Independent)	773	0	773
Jim Carroll (Democratic)	1416	0	1416
Mary A. Morrissey(Republican)	1940	0	1940
Michael Nigro (Democratic)	1491	0	1491

And the said MORRISSEY and NIGRO were declared elected.

FOR HIGH BAILIFF

Frederick C. Gilbar (Dem/Rep)	5702	2820	2882
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	Total	Dist 2-1 Total	Dist 2-2 Total
FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (15 to be elected)			
Gerald "Jerry" M. Albert (Libertarian)	1625	817	808
Holly Anne Andersen (Ind.)	1656	846	810
Barbara Bluto (Dem)	3267	1686	1581
Catherine D. Canning (Dem)	2428	1232	1196
Asher Edelson (Dem)	1963	1024	939
Tom Haley (Dem)	2696	1358	1338
Michele Hogan (Dem)	3292	1696	1596
Kevin Hoyt (Ind.)	1623	792	831
Jackie Kelly (Dem)	2355	1220	1135
Albert C. Krawczyk (Rep)	2461	1180	1281
Vickie Lampron (Dem)	2437	1265	1172
Bruce P. Lonergan (Rep)	1642	774	868
Brian "BJ" Maroney (Ind)	2721	1279	1442
James Marsden (Dem)	3197	1633	1564
Anne Mook (Dem)	3514	1759	1755
Mary A. Morrissey (Rep)	3855	1829	2026
Joan E. Pinsonneault (Ind)	2533	1237	1296
Warren Roaf (Rep)	2108	1007	1101
Marjorie Robinson (Dem)	2782	1425	1357
David Shaffe (Dem)	3100	1583	1517
Anna Kinney Swierad (Rep)	2147	1009	1138
Kenneth Swierad (Rep)	1978	941	1037

And the said BLUTO, CANNING, HALEY, HOGAN, KELLY, KRAWCZYK, LAMPRON, MARONEY, MARSDEN, MOOK, MORRISSEY, PINSONNEAULT, ROBINSON, SHAFFE AND ANNA SWIERAD

were declared elected.

Recorded on November 5, 2020 at 9:45 AM

Cassandra Barbeau, Town Clerk

Municipal Budget

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Proposal

TOWN OF BENNINGTON FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FY2020	ACTUAL FY2020	BUDGET FY2021	ACTUAL FY21 PRD6	PROPOSED FY2022	FY21 vs FY22 % INC/(DEC)
SELECT BOARD	16,550	16,060	20,250	6,971	22,350	10.37%
TOWN MANAGER	238,050	235,505	243,070	120,735	251,230	3.36%
TREASURER	17,030	16,981	17,350	8,449	17,670	1.84%
ACCOUNTING	248,870	254,946	268,430	139,128	287,460	7.09%
LISTING	142,690	134,172	144,160	68,296	148,730	3.17%
COLLECTIONS	150,350	148,355	156,780	76,627	162,340	3.55%
TOWN CLERK	186,380	182,138	203,350	104,949	195,600	-3.81%
PERMIT-PLAN-CODE ENFORCE	262,220	246,530	348,160	153,592	289,010	-16.99%
COMM DEVELOPMENT	184,310	173,774	215,030	88,682	216,810	0.83%
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	812,820	860,857	870,210	594,333	893,640	2.69%
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	697,800	689,847	759,110	414,299	798,420	5.18%
FLOOD CONTROL	6,450	834	6,950	4,668	7,300	5.04%
POLICE	3,785,650	3,799,376	4,150,210	1,921,144	4,186,920	0.88%
DEBT-POLICE	22,070	22,004	1,530	1,431	0	-100.00%
SOLID WASTE MGMT	146,680	187,894	145,130	119,397	196,360	35.30%
CERCLA	0	14,648	0	17,173	0	0.00%
CEMETARY	29,650	36,913	32,600	25,474	32,600	0.00%
HEALTH OFFICER	8,070	7,825	8,190	3,869	8,070	-1.47%
PARKS & RECREATION	510,300	577,590	533,200	286,656	639,650	19.96%
DEBT-RECREATION	41,830	1,928	0	0	9,710	100.00%
SENIOR CITIZENS	141,540	122,648	196,660	63,700	149,160	-24.15%
GRANTS & SUBSIDIES	749,880	881,730	786,630	910,480	786,630	0.00%
HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS	30,100	29,783	30,100	11,478	30,100	0.00%
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS	41,000	33,436	38,200	7,500	33,200	-13.09%
MISC CONTINGENCIES	40,000	39,617	33,000	5,600	33,000	0.00%
DEBT-IRENE BOND	121,960	120,568	119,700	106,636	137,450	14.83%
COUNTY TAX PAYMENTS	84,500	86,300	86,300	88,353	90,000	4.29%
RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURES	0	658,388	0	328,194	0	0.00%
HIGHWAY FUND	3,552,800	4,415,057	3,597,270	2,561,471	3,595,970	-0.04%
DEBT-HIGHWAY FUND	582,450	527,393	537,980	421,953	552,940	2.78%
FIRE FUND	370,500	268,803	371,890	147,910	352,300	-5.27%
DEBT-FIRE FUND	0	0	0	0	18,970	100.00%
Expenditures Subtotal	12,454,190	14,120,008	13,262,230	8,279,126	13,424,520	1.22%
Debt Management Subtotal	768,310	671,892	659,210	530,020	719,070	9.08%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	13,222,500	14,791,901	13,921,440	8,809,145	14,143,590	1.60%
Less Transfer To Parking Fund	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(13,000)	-35.00%
NET OF TRANSFERS OUT	13,202,500	14,771,905	13,901,440	8,789,145	14,130,590	1.65%

APPENDIX

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Financial Statements and Schedules
June 30, 2020
(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

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SECTION I

FINANCIAL SECTION



Independent Auditor's Report

The Select Board
Town of Bennington, Vermont

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Bennington, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bennington, Vermont, as of June 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 - 10, the budgetary comparison information on pages 40 - 44, the schedule of pension liabilities and contributions on page 45, and the schedule of changes in the total OPEB liability and related ratios on page 46 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 16, 2020, on our consideration of the Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs, P.C.

December 16, 2020

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

The management's discussion and analysis of the Town of Bennington, Vermont's financial performance provides an overview of the Town's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. It focuses on the year-end results and provides an objective analysis of the various funds the Town operates in the conduct of its business from a management perspective. It discusses both the government-wide and fund-based financial statements. Please read it in conjunction with the Town's financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Town's combined net position was \$34,032,713 at June 30, 2020, an increase of \$841,325 from last year.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial section of this report consists of three parts: Managements' Discussion and Analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and additional required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the Town. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the Town as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Town's finances. Fund financial statements for governmental activities tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the Town's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the Town's most significant funds. The remaining statements provide financial information about activities for which the Town acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of those outside of the government.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities are also referred to as the Government-wide financial statements. These statements report information about the Town and its activities as a whole. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Town's net position and changes in net position. You can think of the Town's net position - the difference between assets and liabilities - as one way to measure the Town's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Town's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. You will need to consider other non-financial factors, however, such as changes in the Town's property tax base and the condition of the Town's roads, to assess the overall health of the Town.

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, report two kinds of activities:

- Governmental activities - Most of the Town's basic services are reported here, including the police, fire, public works, community development, and recreation departments, and general administration. Property taxes and state and federal grants finance most of these activities.
- Business-type activities - The Town charges a fee to customers to help it cover all or most of the cost of certain services it provides. The Town's water and sewer system and parking facilities are reported here.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

Fund Financial Statements

The remaining statements are fund financial statements that focus on individual parts of the Town, reporting the Town's operations in more detail than the Town-wide statements.

- The Governmental Funds - Most of the Town's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Town's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Town's programs. The differences between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds are reconciled in the schedules following each of the governmental fund financial statements.
- The Proprietary Funds - When the Town charges customers for the services it provides - whether to outside customers or to other units of the Town - these services are generally reported in Proprietary funds. Proprietary funds are reported in the same way that all activities are reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of the Town's General Fund budget to reported results for the year.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

The following table summarizes the major features of the Town's financial statements, including the portion of the Town's activities they cover and the types of information they contain.

Major Features of the Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

	Government-Wide Statements	Fund Financial Statements	
		Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
Scope	Entire Town (except fiduciary funds)	The activities of the Town that are not proprietary or fiduciary. Includes general fund and special revenue funds.	The activities of the Town for which a fee is charged to external users (such as water and wastewater treatment activities).
Required financial statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statement of net position - Statement of activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balance sheet - Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statement of net position or balance sheet - Statement of revenues, expenses and changes in fund net position - Statement of cash flows
Accounting basis and measurement focus	Accrual basis of accounting and economic resources measurement focus	Modified accrual basis of accounting and current financial resources measurement focus	Accrual basis of accounting and economic resources measurement focus
Type of asset/liability information	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term	Generally, assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets or long-term liabilities included	All assets and liabilities, both short-term and long-term; including capital assets
Type of inflow/outflow information	All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and the related liability is due and payable	All additions and deductions during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TOWN AS A WHOLE

This section summarizes information and data as related to the Statements of Net Position as of June 30, 2020 and 2019 and the Statements of Activities for the years then ended.

Government-Wide Statements

The Town's combined net position increased by \$841,325 to \$34,032,713 at June 30, 2020. Our analysis below focuses on the net position (Table 1) and changes in net position (Table 2) of the Town's governmental and business-type activities.

**Table 1
Net Assets
(in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Current and other assets	\$ 6,391	5,914	8,031	6,531	14,422	12,445
Capital assets	18,533	18,532	27,331	25,584	45,864	44,116
Total assets	24,924	24,446	35,362	32,115	60,286	56,561
Deferred outflows of resources	1,000	991	149	162	1,149	1,153
Total assets and deferred outflows	25,924	25,437	35,511	32,277	61,435	57,714
Current liabilities	2,101	1,696	938	837	3,039	2,533
Long-term liabilities	8,866	8,750	15,257	13,117	24,123	21,867
Total liabilities	10,967	10,446	16,195	13,954	27,162	24,400
Deferred inflows of resources	222	105	18	17	240	122
Total liabilities and deferred inflows	11,189	10,551	16,213	13,971	27,402	24,522
Net position:						
Invested in capital						
assets, net of debt	13,802	13,621	11,940	12,287	25,742	25,908
Restricted	5,690	5,860	-	-	5,690	5,860
Unrestricted	(4,757)	(4,595)	7,358	6,019	2,601	1,424
Total net position	\$ 14,735	14,886	19,298	18,306	34,033	33,192

The Town's liquidity - the ability to pay for its immediate obligations - is measured by comparing current assets to current liabilities. The Town has current assets approximately 4.8 times greater than its current liabilities.

The Town's solvency – the ability to fulfill its total obligations – is measured by comparing debt-to-assets ratio and debt-to-net assets ratio. Debt-to-assets ratio, which equals approximately 45%, computes the percent of assets financed with debt. Debt-to-net assets ratio, which equals approximately 80%, computes the amount owed for debt on every dollar that the Town has available for use providing programs.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

Based on liabilities of \$27.2 million and total assessed property value of \$1,030 million, the Town's total obligations represent approximately \$2.63 per \$100 of 2019-20 assessed property value. Per capita obligations - the amount of total liabilities per person - is approximately \$1,698 for the Town, based on total population of approximately 16,000 as reported in the 2010 Federal Census Report.

The Town's capital assets (Table 1), such as infrastructure, buildings and equipment, less outstanding debt used to acquire them, amounted to \$25.7 and \$25.9 million at June 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively. These assets represent the largest portion of the Town's net assets. Although the \$25.7 million of the Town's net capital assets are reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

At June 30, 2020, net assets of \$5.69 million (Table 1) have been restricted by the voters or sources external to the Town to be used for specific purposes.

**Table 2
Changes in Net Position
(in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Revenues:						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 605	652	5,690	5,237	6,295	5,889
Grants and contributions	2,174	1,326	-	4,923	2,174	6,249
General revenues:						
Property taxes	11,666	11,262	-	-	11,666	11,262
Other general revenues	1,043	1,772	38	61	1,081	1,833
Total revenues	15,488	15,012	5,728	10,221	21,216	25,233
Program expenses:						
General government	4,158	3,683	-	-	4,158	3,683
Public safety	4,477	4,168	-	-	4,477	4,168
Public works	225	170	-	-	225	170
Community development	1,020	738	-	-	1,020	738
Health and welfare	8	8	-	-	8	8
Recreation	722	709	-	-	722	709
Highways and roads	4,548	4,552	-	-	4,548	4,552
Library	520	492	-	-	520	492
Interest on long-term debt	141	160	-	-	141	160
Water	-	-	2,260	2,109	2,260	2,109
Wastewater treatment	-	-	2,279	1,850	2,279	1,850
Parking	-	-	17	17	17	17
Total expenses	15,819	14,680	4,556	3,976	20,375	18,656
Excess (deficiency) before transfers and adjustments	(331)	332	1,172	6,245	841	6,577
Transfers	180	180	(180)	(180)	-	-
Increase (decrease) in net position	\$ (151)	512	992	6,065	841	6,577

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

Net position of the Town's governmental activities (Table 2) decreased by approximately 1.0% or \$151 thousand as reported in Table 2 for the year ended June 30, 2020, including net operating transfers from business-type activities of \$180 thousand. The unrestricted net position deficit comprises approximately 32.3% of the total net position of governmental activities at June 30, 2020.

The net position related to business-type activities increased by approximately \$982 thousand for the year ended June 30, 2020.

**Table 3
Governmental Activities
(in Thousands)**

	2020		2019	
	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services
General government	\$ 4,158	3,483	3,683	3,170
Police department	4,184	3,933	3,844	3,541
Fire department	293	289	324	320
Public works	225	207	171	150
Community development	1,020	83	738	101
Health and welfare	8	8	8	8
Recreation	722	678	709	595
Highways and roads	4,548	3,698	4,552	4,166
Library	520	520	492	492
Interest on long-term debt	141	141	160	160
	<u>\$ 15,819</u>	<u>13,040</u>	<u>14,681</u>	<u>12,703</u>

The costs of providing governmental services (Table 3) amounted to approximately \$15.8 and \$14.7 million for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019, respectively. The cost of providing services is offset by charges for services and program-specific operating and capital grants, resulting in a net cost of services amounting to approximately \$13.0 and \$12.7 million for the years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019. The net cost of services is funded by property taxes, investment earnings and grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

**Table 4
Capital Assets at Year-end
(Net of Depreciation, in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Land and land improvements	\$ 1,279	1,124	172	186	1,451	1,310
Construction in progress	1,102	1,043	238	3,220	1,340	4,263
Distribution and collection systems	-	-	20,128	14,667	20,128	14,667
Buildings and improvements	4,674	4,404	5,467	6,006	10,141	10,410
Equipment and vehicles	3,166	3,139	1,326	1,505	4,492	4,644
Infrastructure	8,332	8,821	-	-	8,332	8,821
Totals	\$ 18,553	18,531	27,331	25,584	45,884	44,115

The final phase of the \$9.85 million RBC and wastewater treatment facility upgrade was substantially completed by June 2020. Ongoing improvements in the water system include additional waterline extensions improving water pressure at the higher elevations on the south end of Town and ongoing PFOA-related waterline connections.

**Table 5
Outstanding Debt, at Year-end
(in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Bonds and notes payable	\$ 4,946	5,158	15,390	13,220	20,336	18,378
Capital lease obligations	858	900	39	77	897	977
Totals	\$ 5,804	6,058	15,429	13,297	21,233	19,355

The Town uses capital lease obligations to finance the acquisition of certain vehicles and equipment.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TOWN'S FUNDS

In reviewing the detailed expenditures, it is important to note that some completed projects appear to be over-expenditures, but are then offset on the revenue side by grants. Examples of this include the Kocher Drive Pedestrian Walkway for \$406k and \$175k for the Rice Lane Bridge Project. In addition, use of reserve funds for the Town's self-insured health HRA (\$300k), police building HVAC upgrade (\$157k) and 336 Main Street Pocket Park (\$86k) which are accumulated in prior years or funded by other sources/donations, will also appear as over-expenditures during the current fiscal year.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2020**

CONTACTING THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the finances of the Town and to demonstrate the Town's accountability with the funds it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need any additional financial information, please contact:

Mr. Stuart Hurd, Town Manager
205 South Street
Bennington, VT 05201

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2020

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 6,353,348	-	6,353,348
Accounts receivable, net	853,040	1,774,433	2,627,473
Bond proceeds receivable	-	-	-
Property taxes receivable, net	1,524,243	-	1,524,243
Interest receivable	12,365	-	12,365
Prepaid expenses	87,204	18,842	106,046
Notes receivable, current	155,829	-	155,829
Internal balances	(6,238,182)	6,238,182	-
Notes receivable, non-current	3,622,814	-	3,622,814
Capital assets:			
Land and construction in progress	2,381,505	458,480	2,839,985
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	16,171,569	26,872,209	43,043,778
Total assets	24,923,735	35,362,146	60,285,881
Deferred Outflows of Financial Resources:			
VMERS pension plan	919,861	140,188	1,060,049
OPEB - health insurance	80,710	8,621	89,331
Total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources	\$ 25,924,306	35,510,955	61,435,261
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 992,351	249,572	1,241,923
Accrued liabilities	328,814	30,373	359,187
Deferred revenue	40,275	-	40,275
Accrued landfill post-closure costs:			
Due within one year	40,610	-	40,610
Due in more than one year	347,182	-	347,182
Bonds payable:			
Due within one year	497,092	619,585	1,116,677
Due in more than one year	4,448,512	14,771,165	19,219,677
Lease payable:			
Due within one year	201,906	38,665	240,571
Due in more than one year	656,282	-	656,282
Obligation for other post employment benefits	752,083	80,332	832,415
Net pension liability - VMERS	2,661,757	405,657	3,067,414
Total liabilities	10,966,864	16,195,349	27,162,213
Deferred Inflows of Financial Resources:			
VMERS pension plan	115,266	17,567	132,833
OPEB - health insurance	1,131	121	1,252
Accrued interest on long-term note receivable	106,250	-	106,250
	222,647	17,688	240,335
Net position:			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	13,802,282	11,939,939	25,742,221
Net restricted for:			
Capital projects	274,813	-	274,813
Community development projects	3,672,393	-	3,672,393
Other purposes	1,742,797	-	1,742,797
Unrestricted (deficit)	(4,757,490)	7,357,979	2,600,489
Total net position	\$ 14,734,795	19,297,918	34,032,713

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Activities
June 30, 2020

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Primary Government		
					Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Primary government:							
Governmental activities:							
General government	\$ 4,158,287	287,882	387,167	-	(3,483,238)	-	(3,483,238)
Public safety:							
Police	4,183,964	251,102	-	-	(3,932,862)	-	(3,932,862)
Fire	292,869	3,570	-	-	(289,299)	-	(289,299)
Public works	224,807	18,179	-	-	(206,628)	-	(206,628)
Community development	1,020,349	-	936,997	-	(83,352)	-	(83,352)
Health and welfare	7,825	-	-	-	(7,825)	-	(7,825)
Recreation	722,320	44,646	-	-	(677,674)	-	(677,674)
Highways and roads	4,547,873	-	-	849,868	(3,698,005)	-	(3,698,005)
Library	520,000	-	-	-	(520,000)	-	(520,000)
Interest on long-term debt	141,423	-	-	-	(141,423)	-	(141,423)
Total governmental activities	15,819,717	605,379	1,324,164	849,868	(13,040,306)	-	(13,040,306)
Business-type activities:							
Water	2,260,285	3,433,757	-	-	-	1,173,472	1,173,472
Sewer	2,278,923	2,249,322	-	-	-	(29,601)	(29,601)
Parking	17,395	7,245	-	-	-	(10,150)	(10,150)
Total business-type activities	4,556,603	5,690,324	-	-	-	1,133,721	1,133,721
Total primary government	\$ 20,376,320	6,295,703	1,324,164	849,868	(13,040,306)	1,133,721	(11,906,585)
General revenues:							
Property taxes					11,665,754	-	11,665,754
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					479,695	-	479,695
Investment earnings					71,175	38,473	109,648
Miscellaneous					492,813	-	492,813
Transfers					180,000	(180,000)	-
Total general revenues and transfers					12,889,437	(141,527)	12,747,910
Change in net position					(150,869)	992,194	841,325
Net position - beginning					14,885,664	18,305,724	33,191,388
Net position - ending					\$ 14,734,795	19,297,918	34,032,713

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2020

	General Governmental Activities Fund	Special Revenue Funds Community Development Fund	Downtown Improvement Commission	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,908,905	444,443	-	6,353,348
Delinquent taxes receivable, net of allowance uncollectible accounts of \$295,517	1,524,243	-	-	1,524,243
Accounts receivable	853,040	-	-	853,040
Interest receivable	-	12,365	-	12,365
Prepaid expenses	87,204	-	-	87,204
Notes receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$28,000	-	3,778,643	-	3,778,643
Due from other funds	-	-	21,190	21,190
Total assets	\$ 8,373,392	4,235,451	21,190	12,630,033
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 930,954	-	-	930,954
Accrued liabilities	328,814	-	-	328,814
Due to other funds	5,047,516	1,211,856	-	6,259,372
Unearned revenue	40,275	-	-	40,275
Total liabilities	6,347,559	1,211,856	-	7,559,415
Deferred Inflows of Resources:				
Unavailable revenue - delinquent property taxes	351,459	-	-	351,459
Accrued interest on long-term note receivable	-	106,250	-	106,250
Total deferred inflows	351,459	106,250	-	457,709
Fund Balances:				
Nonspendable	-	3,672,393	-	3,672,393
Restricted	1,996,420	-	21,190	2,017,610
Committed	188,575	-	-	188,575
Assigned	3,817	-	-	3,817
Unassigned	(514,438)	(755,048)	-	(1,269,486)
Total fund balances	1,674,374	2,917,345	21,190	4,612,909
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	\$ 8,373,392	4,235,451	21,190	12,630,033

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2020

Total fund balances - governmental funds (from page 13)	\$ 4,612,909
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	18,553,074
Deferred outflows of financial resources related to pension activities are not recognized in the funds.	1,000,571
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and are deferred in the funds.	351,459
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(9,666,821)
Deferred inflows of financial resources related to pension activities are not recognized in the funds.	(116,397)
Net position of governmental activities (page 11)	\$ <u><u>14,734,795</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	General Governmental Activities Fund	Special Revenue Funds Community Development Fund	Downtown Improvement Commission	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Property taxes	\$ 11,506,480	-	79,637	11,586,117
Permits and licenses	79,335	-	-	79,335
Intergovernmental revenues	1,716,730	936,997	-	2,653,727
Fees and charges	440,904	-	-	440,904
Fines and forfeitures	25,587	-	-	25,587
Interest	43,578	27,597	-	71,175
Rental revenue	59,553	-	-	59,553
Other	366,285	7,772	-	374,057
Total revenues	14,238,452	972,366	79,637	15,290,455
Expenditures:				
General government	2,943,895	-	-	2,943,895
Public safety	4,068,180	-	-	4,068,180
Public works	224,807	-	-	224,807
Health and welfare	7,825	-	-	7,825
Recreation	700,194	-	-	700,194
Debt management	687,162	-	-	687,162
Highways and roads	4,366,227	-	-	4,366,227
Project expenditures	-	937,099	-	937,099
Other	1,813,596	3,613	79,637	1,896,846
Total expenditures	14,811,886	940,712	79,637	15,832,235
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(573,434)	31,654	-	(541,780)
Other financing sources (uses):				
Proceeds from issuance of debt	330,072	-	-	330,072
Operating transfers in (out)	228,000	(48,000)	-	180,000
	558,072	(48,000)	-	510,072
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	(15,362)	(16,346)	-	(31,708)
Fund balance, July 1, 2019	1,689,736	2,933,691	21,190	4,644,617
Fund balance, June 30, 2020	\$ 1,674,374	2,917,345	21,190	4,612,909

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2020

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (from page 15)	\$ (31,708)
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources (property taxes not collected within 60 days of fiscal year end) are not reported as revenues in the funds. This amount represents an increase in deferred property taxes.	79,637
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlays in the current period.	(88,088)
When recognizing the sale of capital assets, the governmental funds report the total proceeds of the sale. Only the gain or loss on the sale is reported in the statement of activities.	(1,796)
Issuance of long-term obligations is recorded as an other financing source in the governmental funds, but increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets.	(330,072)
Changes in other long-term liabilities and deferred inflows and outflows which are not recognized in the governmental fund financial statements are recognized in the statement of activities.	(512,751)
Repayment of principal on long-term obligations is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets.	733,909
Change in net position of governmental activities (page 12)	\$ <u>(150,869)</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Net Position
Proprietary Funds
June 30, 2020

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Parking Meter Fund	Totals
Assets:				
Current assets:				
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$24,000	\$ 900,638	873,795	-	1,774,433
Prepaid expenses	7,525	11,317	-	18,842
Due from other funds	4,182,956	1,792,792	262,434	6,238,182
Total current assets	5,091,119	2,677,904	262,434	8,031,457
Capital assets:				
Land and land improvements	18,000	-	465,599	483,599
Distribution and collection systems	14,559,804	10,689,246	-	25,249,050
Buildings and equipment	9,222,528	19,132,181	3,014	28,357,723
Construction in progress	224,221	13,425	-	237,646
Less accumulated depreciation	(8,922,433)	(17,760,460)	(314,436)	(26,997,329)
Total non-current assets	15,102,120	12,074,392	154,177	27,330,689
Total assets	20,193,239	14,752,296	416,611	35,362,146
Deferred outflows of financial resources:				
VMERS pension plan	63,544	76,644	-	140,188
Other postemployment benefits	7,145	1,476	-	8,621
Total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources	\$ 20,263,928	14,830,416	416,611	35,510,955
Liabilities:				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 80,339	169,233	-	249,572
Accrued liabilities	3,417	26,956	-	30,373
Capital lease obligation	38,665	-	-	38,665
Notes and bonds payable, current portion	479,376	140,209	-	619,585
Total current liabilities	601,797	336,398	-	938,195
Notes and bonds payable, less current portion	5,821,476	8,949,689	-	14,771,165
Obligation for other post employment benefits	66,582	13,750	-	80,332
Net pension liability - VMERS	183,875	221,782	-	405,657
Total liabilities	6,673,730	9,521,619	-	16,195,349
Deferred inflows of financial resources:				
VMERS pension plan	7,963	9,604	-	17,567
Other postemployment benefits	100	21	-	121
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of financial resources	6,681,793	9,531,244	-	16,213,037
Net Position:				
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	8,801,268	2,984,494	154,177	11,939,939
Unrestricted - designated	875,774	360,993	81,291	1,318,058
Unrestricted - undesignated	3,905,093	1,953,685	181,143	6,039,921
Total net position	13,582,135	5,299,172	416,611	19,297,918
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of financial resources and net position	\$ 20,263,928	14,830,416	416,611	35,510,955

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
Proprietary Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Parking Meter Fund	Totals
Operating revenues:				
Fees and charges for services	\$ 3,235,672	2,246,122	7,245	5,489,039
Other	198,085	3,200	-	201,285
	3,433,757	2,249,322	7,245	5,690,324
Operating expenses:				
Administration	733,019	838,461	-	1,571,480
Buildings	225,193	-	-	225,193
Equipment	74,997	11,378	-	86,375
Water systems	115,351	-	-	115,351
Filtration plant	225,521	-	-	225,521
Sewer system	-	85,473	-	85,473
Sewer treatment plant	-	673,550	-	673,550
Parking	-	-	3,998	3,998
Depreciation	699,659	516,747	13,397	1,229,803
Total operating expenses	2,073,740	2,125,609	17,395	4,216,744
Operating income (loss)	1,360,017	123,713	(10,150)	1,473,580
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):				
Interest income	31,746	5,294	1,433	38,473
Interest expense	(186,545)	(153,314)	-	(339,859)
	(154,799)	(148,020)	1,433	(301,386)
Income (loss) before operating transfers	1,205,218	(24,307)	(8,717)	1,172,194
Operating transfers in (out)	(100,500)	(99,500)	20,000	(180,000)
	(100,500)	(99,500)	20,000	(180,000)
Change in net position	1,104,718	(123,807)	11,283	992,194
Net position - beginning	12,477,417	5,422,979	405,328	18,305,724
Net position - ending	\$ 13,582,135	5,299,172	416,611	19,297,918

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds			Totals
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Parking Meter Fund	
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 2,947,920	1,763,320	7,245	4,718,485
Other operating cash receipts	198,085	3,200	-	201,285
Cash payments to suppliers of goods or services	(687,460)	(786,045)	(3,973)	(1,477,478)
Cash payments to employees for services	(649,884)	(735,009)	-	(1,384,893)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,808,661	245,466	3,272	2,057,399
Cash flows from non-capital financing activities:				
Operating transfers from (to) other funds	(100,500)	(99,500)	20,000	(180,000)
Advances from (to) other funds	(799,043)	(882,384)	(24,705)	(1,706,132)
Net cash provided by (used in) non-capital financing activities	(899,543)	(981,884)	(4,705)	(1,886,132)
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:				
Principal payments on bonds and capital leases	(525,402)	(137,460)	-	(662,862)
Proceeds from issuance of bonds	-	3,769,340	-	3,769,340
Interest paid on bonds	(186,545)	(153,314)	-	(339,859)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	-	-	-	-
Purchase of capital assets	(228,917)	(2,747,442)	-	(2,976,359)
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	(940,864)	731,124	-	(209,740)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Interest on cash investments	31,746	5,294	1,433	38,473
Net cash provided by investing activities	31,746	5,294	1,433	38,473
Net increase in cash	-	-	-	-
Cash, beginning	-	-	-	-
Cash, ending	\$ -	-	-	-
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:				
Operating income (loss)	\$ 1,360,017	123,713	(10,150)	1,473,580
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:				
Depreciation	699,659	516,747	13,397	1,229,803
Change in operating assets and liabilities:				
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and other current assets	(284,269)	(470,886)	25	(755,130)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	33,254	75,892	-	109,146
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 1,808,661	245,466	3,272	2,057,399

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Financial Reporting Entity

The Town of Bennington, Vermont (the "Town") is a unit of local government chartered by the State of Vermont. The Town operates under a Select Board - Manager form of government and provides services as outlined in its charter.

The accompanying financial statements of the Town of Bennington, Vermont include all of the financial activity of the general government, special revenue funds, water department, sewer department and parking meter fund. All these components are included because they are under the direct control of the Select Board and the Town Manager. The Town exercises significant oversight and financial interdependence exists. The Town is not a component unit of another reporting entity.

The Town applies all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements.

(b) Basis of Presentation

The basic financial statements include both government-wide (based on the Town as a whole) and fund financial statements.

Government-wide Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of activities) report information on all non-fiduciary activities of the Town. Eliminations have been made to minimize the effect of internal transactions between funds. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, State aid, intergovernmental revenues, and other exchange and non-exchange transactions. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants, while the capital grants column reflects capital-specific grants.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Town's governmental and business-type activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with and are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs, and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund statements provide information about the Town's funds. Separate statements for each fund category (governmental and proprietary) are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining funds are aggregated and reported as non-major funds, however because the Town has only one non-major fund in each fund type, they are reported in individual columns.

The financial activities of the Town that are reported in the accompanying financial statements have been classified in the major funds described in the following paragraphs.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)*

(b) *Basis of Presentation (continued)*

Fund Financial Statements (continued)

Governmental Funds

General Governmental Activities Fund - The General Governmental Activities Fund is used to account for all revenues and expenditures applicable to the general operations of the governmental agencies of the Town. All general operating revenues which are not restricted as to use by sources external to the Town are recorded in the General Governmental Activities Fund.

Special Revenue Funds - The Special Revenue Funds are operating funds, for which the use of revenues is restricted, generally by Federal and state governments. The Town uses two Special Revenue Funds: the Community Development Fund and the Downtown Improvement Commission.

Proprietary Funds

Enterprise Funds - Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The Town uses three Enterprise Funds: the Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and Parking Meter Fund.

(c) *Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting*

The Government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash transaction takes place. Non-exchange transactions, in which the Town gives or receives value without directly receiving or giving equal value in exchange, include property taxes, grants and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

The governmental fund statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The Town considers all revenues other than property taxes reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within one year after the end of the fiscal year. Property taxes are recognized to the extent collected within sixty days of fiscal year end.

Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(d) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Town uses the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data for the General Governmental Activities Fund reflected in the financial statements:

1. The Town Manager prepares the annual operating budget for the General Governmental Activities Fund for the Town's fiscal year ended June 30th prior to March of the preceding fiscal year. The Town Manager prepares the budget through consultation with the Town's department supervisors. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. The Town Manager submits the budget to the Select Board for approval.
2. After the budget is approved, the Select Board publishes a warning in the Town newspaper for a special Town meeting to discuss the budget.
3. Prior to July 1 of the new fiscal year, the annual Town meeting is held and the budget is legally enacted by a general Town vote.
4. Budget revisions must be approved by the Select Board. Appropriations lapse at the end of the Town's fiscal year if not encumbered.
5. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for the General Governmental Activities Fund.
6. The budget for the General Governmental Activities Fund is adopted on the modified accrual basis. The budgeted amounts are as originally adopted.

(e) Internal Balances and Transfers

Internal balances arise primarily as a result of the Town's pooling of cash deposits. Internal transfers represent administrative charges paid by the enterprise funds and community development fund to the general governmental activities fund.

(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows presented for the proprietary funds, cash equivalents include all short-term highly liquid investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and have original maturities of three months or less.

(g) Capital Assets

Property and equipment is stated at known or estimated historical cost. Net interest costs are capitalized on projects during the construction period. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets as follows: office furniture and equipment – 5 to 10 years, motor vehicles and heavy equipment – 5 to 15 years, buildings and building improvements – 10 to 40 years, and infrastructure – 10 to 40 years. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in income for the period. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to expense as incurred; significant renewals and betterments are capitalized. Deduction is made for retirements resulting from renewals or betterments. GASB No. 34 requires the Town to report and depreciate new infrastructure assets effective with the statement's implementation.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(h) Deferred Outflows of Resources

in addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, "deferred outflows of resources", represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditures) until then. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an outflow of resources in the future periods to which the outflows are related.

(i) Deferred Inflows of Resources

in addition to liabilities the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, "deferred inflows of resources", represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the future periods to which the inflows are related or when the amounts become available.

(j) Long-term Debt and Deferred Charges

In the government-wide financial statements long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable statement of net assets. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method which approximates the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Bond issuance costs are reported as deferred charges and amortized over the term of the related debt.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures. Accumulated unpaid vacation pay is accrued in proprietary funds (using the accrual basis of accounting). The current portion of accumulated unpaid vacation pay is accrued in governmental funds (using the modified accrual basis of accounting). Accumulated unpaid sick pay is paid to Town employees only while employed and is not recorded as the ultimate liability is not subject to reasonable estimation.

(k) Governmental Fund Balance/Net Assets

Beginning with fiscal year 2011, the Town implemented GASB Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions." This Statement provides more clearly defined fund balance categories to make the nature and extent of the constraints placed on a government's fund balances more transparent. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints:

Non-spendable fund balance is either not in spendable form (such as inventory), or is required to be maintained intact legally or contractually.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(k) Governmental Fund Balance/Net Assets (continued)

Restricted fund balance—amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.

Committed fund balance—amounts constrained to specific purposes by the Town itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority (i.e., Selectboard). To be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Selectboard takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint.

Assigned fund balance—amounts the Town intends to use for a specific purpose. Intent can be expressed by the Selectboard or by an official or body to which the Selectboard Council delegates the authority.

Unassigned fund balance—amounts that are available for any purpose. Positive amounts are reported only in the general fund.

The Selectboard establishes (and modifies or rescinds) fund balance commitments by passage of an ordinance or resolution. This is typically done through adoption and amendment of the budget. A fund balance commitment is further indicated in the budget document as a designation or commitment of the fund (such as for special incentives). Assigned fund balance is established by Selectboard through adoption or amendment of the budget as intended for specific purpose (such as the purchase of fixed assets, construction, debt service, or for other purposes).

In the general fund, the Town strives to maintain an unassigned fund balance to be used for unanticipated emergencies of approximately 20% of the actual GAAP basis expenditures and other financing sources and uses.

In the government-wide financial statements, net assets are classified in the following categories:

Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt – This category groups all capital assets into one component of net assets. Accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balances of debt that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of these assets reduce this category.

Restricted – This category presents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted resources are used first to fund appropriations when there are both restricted and unrestricted resources available.

Unrestricted – This category includes both designated and undesignated net assets of the Town. Designated net assets include reserves that were established by the Board, which are considered internally designated. Undesignated net assets are not restricted for any project or other purpose.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(I) Use of Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(2) Explanation of Certain Differences Between Governmental Fund Statements and the Government-wide Statements

Due to the differences in the measurement focus and basis of accounting used in the governmental fund statements and the government-wide statements, certain financial transactions are treated differently. The basic financial statements contain a full reconciliation of these items. The differences result primarily from the economic focus of the Statement of Activities, compared with the current financial resources focus of the governmental funds.

Total Fund Balances of Governmental Funds vs. Net Assets of Governmental Activities

Total fund balances of the Town's governmental funds differ from "net assets" of governmental activities reported in the Statement of Net Assets. This difference primarily results from the additional long-term economic focus of the Statement of Net Assets versus the solely current financial resources focus of the governmental fund Balance Sheets.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance vs. Statement of Activities

Differences between the governmental funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance and the Statement of Activities fall into one of the categories listed below.

1. Long-Term Revenue and Expense Differences - Long-term revenue differences arise because governmental funds report revenues only when they are considered "available", whereas the Statement of Activities reports revenues when earned. Differences in long-term expenses arise because governmental funds report on a modified accrual basis, whereas the accrual basis of accounting is used on the Statement of Activities.
2. Long-Term Debt Transaction Differences - Long-term debt transaction differences occur because both interest and principal payments are recorded as expenditures in the governmental fund statements, whereas interest payments are recorded in the Statement of Activities as incurred, and principal payments are recorded as a reduction of liabilities in the Statement of Net Assets.
3. Capital Assets - Capital related differences include the difference between proceeds for the sale of capital assets reported on governmental fund statements and the gain or loss on the sale of assets as reported on the Statement of Activities, and the difference between recording an expenditure for the purchase of capital items in the governmental fund statements and depreciation expense on those items as recorded in the Statement of Activities.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(3) Cash

At June 30, 2020 the carrying amount of the Town's cash was \$6,353,348 and the bank balance was \$6,909,964. Of the bank balance, \$506,738 was covered by federal depository insurance and the remaining balance was fully collateralized.

Custodial Credit Risk of Bank Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Town's deposits may not be returned to it. At year-end, none of the Town's investments were subject to custodial credit risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Town's investment policy reduces this risk by structuring the investment portfolio so that the operating funds are maintained in demand accounts to meet cash needs for ongoing operations, thus avoiding the need to redeem certificates of deposit prior to maturity, and investing excess, designated, or restricted funds in certificates of deposits when a favorable interest rate is available.

(4) Investments

The Town is not restricted by state statute as to the type of investments that it is authorized to hold. The Town invested primarily in collateralized and insured certificates of deposit during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.

(5) Notes Receivable – Special Revenue Funds

Notes receivable - Special Revenue Funds consist of loans to individuals and businesses under the Community Development Program of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Such notes are generally interest bearing at various interest rates between 3.625% and 6.000%; and require monthly payments over terms ranging from five to fifteen years. Certain loans are deferred for periods of 20 to 30 years. The terms of the notes receivable include security interests in personal property or real estate mortgages

The Community Development Fund's non-spendable fund balance of \$3,672,393 denotes the non-current portion of notes receivable (net of related deferred inflows) that is not available to finance the general operations of the fund.

(6) Internal Balances

Internal balances at June 30, 2020 consisted of the following:

Due To	Due From		
	General Fund	Community Development	Total
General Fund	\$ -	1,211,856	1,211,856
Downtown Improvement Commission	21,190	-	21,190
Water	4,182,956	-	4,182,956
Sewer	1,792,792	-	1,792,792
Parking	262,434	-	262,434
Total	\$ 6,259,372	1,211,856	7,471,228

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(6) *Internal Balances (continued)*

Internal transfers for the year ended June 30, 2020 were as follows:

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount	Purpose
General Fund	Parking	\$ (20,000)	Fund capital outlay
Community Development	General Fund	48,000	Administrative charges
Water	General Fund	100,500	Administrative charges
Sewer	General Fund	99,500	Administrative charges
		\$ 228,000	

(7) *Capital Assets*

Capital asset activity for the year was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements and Transfers	Ending Balance
Governmental activities:				
Land and land improvements	\$ 1,226,301	169,772	-	1,396,073
Buildings and improvements	9,810,152	552,897	-	10,363,049
Equipment and vehicles	8,910,803	713,196	(331,673)	9,292,326
Infrastructure	39,191,472	792,029	-	39,983,501
Construction in progress	1,043,064	472,588	(413,295)	1,102,357
Totals at historical cost	60,181,792	2,700,482	(744,968)	62,137,306
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Land and land improvements	(102,354)	(14,571)	-	(116,925)
Buildings and improvements	(5,405,612)	(283,808)	-	(5,689,420)
Equipment and vehicles	(5,772,093)	(682,393)	327,879	(6,126,607)
Infrastructure	(30,370,255)	(1,281,025)	-	(31,651,280)
Total accumulated depreciation	(41,650,314)	(2,261,797)	327,879	(43,584,232)
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 18,531,478	438,685	(417,089)	18,553,074

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

General government	\$ 87,751
Public safety:	
Police	161,456
Fire	110,923
Recreation	56,181
Highway and roads	1,845,486
	\$ 2,261,797

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(7) Capital Assets (continued)

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements and Transfers	Ending Balance
Business-type activities:				
Land and land improvements	\$ 483,599	-	-	483,599
Buildings and improvements	24,101,005	-	-	24,101,005
Equipment and vehicles	4,235,963	55,150	(34,395)	4,256,718
Distribution and collection systems	19,345,058	5,903,992	-	25,249,050
Construction in progress	3,220,430	80,639	(3,063,423)	237,646
Totals at historical cost	51,386,055	6,039,781	(3,097,818)	54,328,018
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Land and land improvements	(298,026)	(13,396)	-	(311,422)
Buildings and improvements	(18,323,066)	(310,776)	-	(18,633,842)
Equipment and vehicles	(2,731,305)	(234,024)	34,395	(2,930,934)
Distribution and collection systems	(4,449,526)	(671,605)	-	(5,121,131)
Total accumulated depreciation	(25,801,923)	(1,229,801)	34,395	(26,997,329)
Business-type activities capital assets, net	\$ 25,584,132	4,809,980	(3,063,423)	27,330,689

(8) Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2020 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Amounts Due within One Year
Governmental Activities					
Bonds and notes payable \$	5,157,429	330,072	(541,897)	4,945,604	497,092
Capital lease obligations	900,245	147,125	(189,182)	858,188	201,906
Governmental activities long-term liabilities	\$ 6,057,674	477,197	(731,079)	5,803,792	698,998
Business-type Activities					
Bonds payable \$	13,219,627	2,795,320	(624,197)	15,390,750	580,920
Capital lease obligations	77,330	-	(38,665)	38,665	38,665
Business-type activities long-term liabilities	\$ 13,296,957	2,795,320	(662,862)	15,429,415	619,585

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(8) Long-term Liabilities (continued)

Bonds and notes payable mature annually in varying amounts through fiscal year 2040, and interest is generally payable semiannually at rates ranging from 3 percent to 6 percent.

Maturities of bonds and notes payable are as follows:

	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities		
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
2021	\$ 497,092	141,099	638,191	619,585	371,118	990,703
2022	432,470	128,795	561,265	636,770	353,932	990,702
2023	399,042	117,858	516,900	929,400	336,259	1,265,659
2024	399,042	107,552	506,594	953,073	312,586	1,265,659
2025	399,035	97,006	496,041	977,372	288,285	1,265,657
2026-2030	1,417,924	347,298	1,765,222	4,817,412	1,053,797	5,871,209
2031-2035	921,000	163,416	1,084,416	3,459,244	556,489	4,015,733
2036-2040	480,000	26,553	506,553	2,997,894	168,935	3,166,829
	\$ 4,945,605	1,129,577	6,075,182	15,390,750	3,441,401	18,832,151

All bonds payable are secured by the general revenue raising powers of the Town. Notes payable are generally secured by the related capital asset acquired.

(9) Leases

The Town leases certain equipment under agreements, which are classified as capital leases. At June 30, 2020 equipment recorded under capital lease in the Government-wide financial statements amounted to \$1,843,282. Accumulated amortization amounted to \$647,513.

Future minimum payments required under capital leases are as follows:

Year ending June 30,	
2021	\$ 272,010
2022	181,401
2023	151,146
2024	92,215
2025	78,036
Thereafter	249,520
Total minimum lease payments	1,024,328
Less amount representing interest	(127,475)
Present value of minimum lease payments	\$ 896,853

(10) Line of Credit

The Town has available a line of credit agreement for Recreation Center improvements which bears interest at 2.85% and matured in July 2020. There were no outstanding borrowings at June 30, 2020.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(11) Property Taxes

Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of April 1st. Property taxes for fiscal year 2020 were levied August 13, 2020 and were payable November 10, 2020.

(12) Governmental Fund Balance

The Town's fund balance classifications at year-end are as follows:

		Special Revenue Funds		
			Downtown	
	General	Community	Improvement	Total
	Fund	Development	Commission	
Non-spendable:				
Notes receivable	\$ -	3,672,393	-	3,672,393
Restricted for:				
Applegate Path	21,800	-	-	21,800
Bridges	102,900	-	-	102,900
Capital facilities	84,403	-	-	84,403
Downtown improvement	-	-	21,190	21,190
DPW facility	411	-	-	411
Employee benefits and insurance	228,241	-	-	228,241
Fire equipment	398,648	-	-	398,648
Marketing	24,980	-	-	24,980
Ninja pathway	29,309	-	-	29,309
Other purposes	7,705	-	-	7,705
Parks and recreation	90,695	-	-	90,695
Pathway project	110,000	-	-	110,000
Pet seizures	1,060	-	-	1,060
Planning and zoning	4,241	-	-	4,241
Police - K-9 Fund	5,779	-	-	5,779
Property deposit	80,000	-	-	80,000
Public safety	9,781	-	-	9,781
Reappraisal	787,821	-	-	787,821
Town clock restoration	8,646	-	-	8,646
Committed for:				
Highway Improvements	188,575	-	-	188,575
Assigned for:				
Employee benefits and insurance	2,879	-	-	2,879
Parks and recreation	938	-	-	938
Unassigned	(514,438)	(755,048)	-	(1,269,486)
Total fund balances	\$ 1,674,374	2,917,345	21,190	4,612,909

(13) Deferred Compensation Plan and Pensions

Defined Benefit Plan

The Town participates in the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of Vermont. Participants are grouped by department. "Group B" participants consist of all departments except the Police department, which comprises "Group C."

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(13) *Deferred Compensation Plan and Pensions (continued)*

Defined Benefit Plan (continued)

VMERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The Retirement System Division of the Vermont State Treasurer's Office issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for VMERS. That report may be obtained by writing to Retirement System Division, Vermont State Treasurer's Office, 133 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, Plan members in "Group B" were required to contribute 5.125% of their annual covered compensation and the Town was required to contribute 5.750% of annual covered payroll. Plan members in "Group C" were required to contribute 10.250% of their annual covered compensation for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 and the Town was required to contribute 7.500% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Town of Bennington are established and may be amended by the Retirement Board, Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System.

Contributions made to VMERS by the Town for the year ended June 30, 2020 amounted to \$351,298. The Town also contributed \$638,498 for unfunded pension liability during 2020. Total covered payroll amounted to \$5,477,208.

Deferred Compensation Plan

The Town offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan permits employees to defer a portion of their salary until future years. Under provisions of the plan deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency.

(14) *Risk Management*

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to general liability, property and casualty, workers' compensation, employee health and accident and environmental liability. The Town purchases commercial insurance coverage for the risks of losses to which it is exposed, exclusive of environmental liabilities which are not covered due to the excessive cost of coverage.

(15) *Commitments*

Solid Waste Disposal

The Bennington Transfer Station is operated under a contract with a waste management company. The Town agreed, as a condition of the contract to indemnify such company from all liability, loss, cost or expense incurred in connection with the operation of the transfer station or other handling of Bennington waste. The contract also indemnifies the Town in the event that liabilities are incurred for which the company is responsible.

(16) *Contingencies*

(a) Litigation-General

The Town is party to various legal actions which normally occur in governmental operations. The amounts of any settlements under these actions are expected to be within the limits of the Town's insurance coverage and are not likely to have a material adverse effect on the affected funds of the Town.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(16) Contingencies (continued)

(b) Landfill Post-Closure Costs

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 18, the Town has recorded a liability for the present value of estimated post-closure repair, maintenance and monitoring costs in the statement of net assets amounting to \$387,792. The Town's post-closure costs for the year ended June 30, 2020 amounted to \$14,648.

(c) Federal and State Grants

In the normal course of operations, the Town receives grant funds from various Federal and State agencies. The grant programs are subject to audit by agents of the granting authorities, the purpose of which is to ensure compliance with conditions precedent to the granting of funds. Any liability for reimbursement which may arise as the result of such audits is not believed to be material.

(d) Operating Leases

The Town leases certain equipment under agreements which are classified as operating leases. Future minimum payments required under leases having non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year are as follows:

Year ending June 30:		
2021	\$	11,424
2022		6,359
2023		4,980
2024		1,885
	\$	<u>24,648</u>

Rent expense under these agreements for the year ended June 30, 2020 was \$15,829.

(e) Contingency – Health Care Benefits

On January 1, 2012, the Town changed the employee health insurance program to a High Deductible Health Plan with a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). All eligible employees who chose to participate were enrolled in BCBS-VT Plan with a \$500 maximum out-of-pocket expense. The Town is responsible for the next \$2,000 toward the maximum out-of-pocket health expenses for the single person plan. The Town is responsible for the next \$4,500 toward the maximum out-of-pocket health expenses for the two-person, parent with child (children) and family plans.

(17) Post Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions

The Town implemented the provisions of GASB Statement No. 75 - *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. Statement 75 changed the method of measuring the OPEB liability and also changes the required disclosures and required supplementary information (RSI) with respect to OPEB plans. Statement 75 provides for the presentation of the new required supplementary information prospectively, and RSI previously reported in accordance with Statement 45 is no longer reported.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(17) *Post Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions (continued)*

Plan Description

The Town of Bennington's defined benefit OPEB plan provides post-retirement health care benefits under the "Agreement By and Between The Town of Bennington and The New England Police Benevolent Association Local 419" through June 30, 2019; and the "Agreement By and Between The Town of Bennington AFSCME Council 93, Local #490 Public Works" through June 30, 2020. Post-retirement health care benefits are provided to police union employees who retire from Town employment after attaining age 55 and have at minimum 20 years of service. Benefits are provided to public works employees who retire from Town employment after attaining age 55 and have at minimum 30 years of service. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of Statement 75.

Benefits Provided

The Town will pay 50 percent of a single premium in effect until the employee reaches age 65 provided that the employee does not have access to an equivalent health plan.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms

At June 30, 2020, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Active Employees	59
Retirees, Spouses, and Beneficiaries	<u>2</u>
	<u>61</u>

Total OPEB Liability

The Town's total OPEB liability of \$832,415 was measured as of June 30, 2020.

Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs

The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2020 valuation was determined using the following assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Actuarial Cost Method: Entry Age Normal, Level Percent of Pay. Under this cost method, the actuarial present value of the projected benefits of each individual included in an actuarial valuation is allocated on a level basis over the earnings of the individual between entry age and assumed exit age(s). The portion of this actuarial present value allocated to a valuation year is called the normal cost. The portion of this actuarial present value not provided for at a valuation date by the actuarial present value of future normal costs is called the Total OPEB Liability.

Assumptions

Inflation 2.4 percent

Discount rate:

Beginning of fiscal year 2.79 percent

End of fiscal year 2.66 percent

Payroll growth and inflation 3.0 percent

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(17) Post Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions (continued) Assumptions (continued)

Health and retiree contribution trend rates:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Medical</u>
2020-2021	6.50%
2021-2022	6.00%
2022-2023	5.50%
2023 +	5.00%

Retirement rates:

<u>Age</u>		<u>Age</u>	
55	30%	62	40%
56	10%	63	10%
57	5%	64	20%
58 - 59	20%	65 +	100%
60 - 61	10%		

Mortality table: Pub. H 2010 Fully Generational Mortality Table for Males and Females projected with Scale MP-2019.

Withdrawal rates:

<u>Years of Service</u>		<u>Years of Service</u>	
0	22.50%	6	8.10%
1	16.20%	7	7.20%
2	13.50%	8	7.20%
3	12.20%	9	6.30%
4	10.80%	10 +	3.60%
5	9.00%		

Participation: 100% of all the active and retired participants are assumed to participate in the plan.

Fiscal 2020 annual per capita claims costs:

<u>Age</u>		<u>Age</u>	
55	\$ 13,588	60	\$ 17,076
56	14,254	61	17,918
57	14,933	62	18,827
58	15,600	63	19,826
59	16,337	64	20,775

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(17) Post Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions (continued)

Assumptions (continued)

Changes since the Last Valuation:

- Discount rate was decreased from 2.79% to 2.66%.
- The mortality table was changed from the RPH-2014 Adjusted to 2006 Total Dataset Mortality with Scale MP-2018 to the Pub.H 2010 Fully Generational Mortality Table for Males and Females projected with Scale MP-2019.
- Per capita medical costs were changed to the costs shown above.
- There were no other changes in assumptions since last valuation.

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Town, as well as what the Town's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (1.66 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (3.66 percent) than the current discount rate:

1% Decrease (1.66%)	Discount Rate (2.66%)	1% Increase (3.66%)
\$ 935,126	\$ 832,415	\$ 740,772

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Town, as well as what the Town's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower (5.5 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.5 percent) than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

Healthcare Cost Trend Rates		
1% Decrease (5.5%)	Current Rate (6.5%)	1% Increase (7.5%)
\$ 712,725	\$ 832,415	\$ 978,883

Funding Policy and OPEB Expense

The Town's portion of the benefits is funded on a pay-as-you-go basis and included in health care expenditures. Currently two employees are receiving benefits under the plan. For the year ended June 30, 2020 the Town recognized OPEB expense of \$15,196.

(18) Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of

Financial Resources

Pension Plan Description and Benefits Provided

A detailed description of the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS) is included in Note 13 to the financial statements.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(18) Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Financial Resources (continued)

Pension Liabilities. Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At June 30, 2019, the Town reported a liability of \$2,594,158 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for VMERS. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2018. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation dated June 30, 2018. The Town's proportion of the net liability was based on a projection of the Town's long-term share of contributions to VMERS relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. This information was provided by VMERS reports provided to the Town.

For the year ended June 30, 2020, the Town recognized pension expense of \$929,556. At June 30, 2019 the Town reported deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	\$ 208,924	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Town contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	106,319
Difference between expected and actual experience	397,414	26,514
Changes in assumptions	102,413	
Town contributions subsequent to the measurement date	351,298	-
	<u>\$ 1,060,049</u>	<u>132,833</u>

The Town's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2020. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

June 30, 2021	\$ 237,342
June 30, 2022	110,042
June 30, 2023	141,283
June 30, 2024	87,251
	<u>\$ 575,918</u>

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(18) Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Financial Resources (continued) **Significant Actuarial Assumptions and Methods**

Investment Rate of Return: 7.50%, net of pension plan investment expenses, including inflation.

Salary Increases: 5% per year

Mortality:

Death in Active Service:

Groups A, B, C - 98% of RP-2006 Mortality Tables, blended 60% Blue Collar Employee, 40% Healthy Employee with generational projection using Scale SSA-2017.

Group D - 100% of RP-2006 Blue Collar Mortality Table with generational projection using Scale SSA-2017.

Healthy Post-retirement:

Groups A, B, C - 98% of RP-2006 Mortality Table, blended 60% Blue Collar Annuitant and 40% Healthy Annuitant with generational projection using Scale SSA-2017.

Group D - 100% of RP-2006 Blue Collar Annuitant Table with generational projections using Scale SSA-2017.

Disabled Post-retirement:

All Groups - RP-2006 Disabled Mortality Table with generational projection using Scale SSA-2017.

Spouse's Age: Females three years younger than males.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments: 1.15% for Group A members and 1.30% for Groups B, C and D members. The January 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020 COLAs are 1.30% and 0.80%, respectively, for all groups.

Actuarial Cost Method: Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method. Entry Age is the age at date of employment or, if date is unknown, current age minus years of service. Normal Cost and Actuarial Accrued Liability are calculated on an individual basis and are allocated by salary, with Normal Cost determined using the plan of benefits applicable to each participant.

Actuarial Value of Assets: The valuation is based on the market value of assets as of the valuation date, as provided by the System. The System uses an "actuarial value of assets" that differs from market value to gradually reflect year-to-year changes in the market value of assets in determining the contribution requirements.

Inflation: 2.5%.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(18) Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Financial Resources (continued)

Long-Term Expected Rate of Return:

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2019, is summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Global Equity	29.00%	6.90%
US Equity - Large Cap	4.00%	5.94%
US Equity - Small/Mid Cap	3.00%	6.72%
Non-US Equity - Large Cap	5.00%	6.81%
Non-US Equity - Small Cap	2.00%	7.31%
Emerging Markets Debt	4.00%	4.26%
Core Bond	14.00%	1.79%
Non-Core Bonds	6.00%	3.22%
Short Quality Credit	5.00%	1.81%
Private Credit	5.00%	6.00%
US TIPS	3.00%	1.45%
Core Real Estate	5.00%	4.26%
Non-Core Real Estate	3.00%	5.76%
Private Equity	10.00%	10.81%
Infrastructure/Farmland	2.00%	4.89%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.50%. In accordance with paragraph 29 of GASB 68, professional judgement was applied to determine that the System's projected fiduciary net position exceeds projected benefit payments for current active and inactive members for all years. The analysis was based on the expectation that employers will continue to contribute at the rates set by the Board, which exceed the actuarially determined contribution, which is comprised on an employer normal cost payment and a payment to reduce the unfunded liability to zero by June 30, 2038. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(18) Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Financial Resources (continued)

Discount Rate (continued)

The following table presents the Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.5 percent, as well as what the proportionate share would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percent lower (6.5%) or one percent higher (8.5%):

1% Decrease (6.5%)	Discount Rate (7.5%)	1% Increase (8.5%)
\$ 5,030,096	\$ 3,067,414	\$ 1,442,675

(19) Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through December 16, 2020, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Property taxes:			
General	\$ 7,233,900	7,155,421	(78,479)
Highway	3,719,250	3,719,250	-
Fire	369,500	372,754	3,254
Penalties and interest	250,000	259,055	9,055
	<u>11,572,650</u>	<u>11,506,480</u>	<u>(66,170)</u>
Permits and licenses:			
Alcoholic beverages	6,800	5,405	(1,395)
Dog licenses	8,000	5,453	(2,547)
Marriage license	3,000	1,090	(1,910)
Building and zoning permits	40,000	45,638	5,638
Fire permits	4,000	3,570	(430)
Landfill	28,000	18,179	(9,821)
	<u>89,800</u>	<u>79,335</u>	<u>(10,465)</u>
Intergovernmental revenues:			
State shared interests:			
Federal and State Grant	150,000	276,938	126,938
Highway	216,000	849,868	633,868
In lieu of taxes	443,000	479,695	36,695
Other	57,000	110,229	53,229
	<u>866,000</u>	<u>1,716,730</u>	<u>850,730</u>
Fees and charges:			
Police sales and services	140,000	214,673	74,673
Police dispatch fees	20,400	4,500	(15,900)
Police false alarm fees	8,000	6,342	(1,658)
Vital records fees	40,000	42,502	2,502
Recording fees	90,000	128,241	38,241
Sale of cemetery lots	2,000	-	(2,000)
Recreational center charges	20,000	7,811	(12,189)
Pool membership fees	80,000	28,084	(51,916)
Senior citizens	16,000	8,751	(7,249)
	<u>416,400</u>	<u>440,904</u>	<u>24,504</u>
Fines and forfeitures:			
Fines, seizures and forfeitures	<u>29,000</u>	<u>25,587</u>	<u>(3,413)</u>

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues (continued):			
<i>Interest</i>	\$ 25,000	43,578	18,578
<i>Rental revenue</i>	21,000	59,553	38,553
<i>Gain on sale of assets</i>	-	4,795	4,795
<i>Other</i>	86,500	361,490	274,990
<i>Total revenues</i>	<u>13,106,350</u>	<u>14,238,452</u>	<u>1,132,102</u>
Expenditures:			
General Government:			
Select Board	16,550	16,060	490
Town Manager	238,050	235,505	2,545
Treasurer	17,030	16,981	49
Accounting	248,870	254,946	(6,076)
Listing	142,690	134,172	8,518
Tax collecting	150,350	148,355	1,995
Town Clerk	186,380	182,138	4,242
Planning and zoning	262,220	246,530	15,690
Economic and community development	184,310	173,774	10,536
Plant and equipment:			
Administration	812,820	860,857	(48,037)
Buildings and grounds	682,530	674,577	7,953
	<u>1,495,350</u>	<u>1,535,434</u>	<u>(40,084)</u>
	<u>2,941,800</u>	<u>2,943,895</u>	<u>(2,095)</u>
Public safety:			
Police:			
Administration	3,413,780	3,332,122	81,658
Investigation	23,040	10,022	13,018
Training	27,030	20,675	6,355
Communications	35,450	46,507	(11,057)
Police building	96,430	67,757	28,673
Equipment	156,550	136,495	20,055
Special services	33,370	185,798	(152,428)
	<u>3,785,650</u>	<u>3,799,376</u>	<u>(13,726)</u>

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures (continued):			
Fire:			
Administration	\$ 60,200	61,571	(1,371)
Fire fighting	27,000	11,106	15,894
Communications	11,660	8,155	3,505
Machinery and equipment	178,140	101,219	76,921
Buildings	93,500	86,753	6,747
	<u>370,500</u>	<u>268,804</u>	<u>101,696</u>
	4,156,150	4,068,180	87,970
Public works:			
Solid waste management	146,680	187,894	(41,214)
Cemetery and mini-park	29,650	36,913	(7,263)
	<u>176,330</u>	<u>224,807</u>	<u>(48,477)</u>
Health and welfare:			
Health officer	8,070	7,825	245
	<u>8,070</u>	<u>7,825</u>	<u>245</u>
Recreation:			
Supervision	290,170	279,834	10,336
Recreation Center	8,700	1,592	7,108
Indoor pool	21,900	17,272	4,628
Parks	59,000	80,331	(21,331)
Pathway	6,200	89,996	(83,796)
Buildings	111,180	100,240	10,940
Vehicles and equipment	13,150	8,281	4,869
Senior Citizens' Center	100,290	89,007	11,283
Senior Citizens' - building	41,250	33,641	7,609
	<u>651,840</u>	<u>700,194</u>	<u>(48,354)</u>
Debt management:			
Principal	635,640	541,896	93,744
Interest - bonds	146,110	143,338	2,772
Interest - Recreation Center improvements	1,830	1,928	(98)
	<u>783,580</u>	<u>687,162</u>	<u>96,418</u>

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures (continued):			
Highways and roads:			
Administration and buildings	\$ 1,763,910	1,706,369	57,541
Construction and maintenance - town highways	474,130	413,509	60,621
Highway projects	338,210	370,548	(32,338)
Installing and maintaining traffic control devices	98,720	112,837	(14,117)
Buildings	84,350	77,186	7,164
Sidewalks	147,900	533,852	(385,952)
Bridges	107,400	264,169	(156,769)
Streetlights	116,500	113,091	3,409
Downtown	75,750	57,639	18,111
Vehicles and equipment	345,930	717,027	(371,097)
	<u>3,552,800</u>	<u>4,366,227</u>	<u>(813,427)</u>
Other:			
BCA Against Child Abuse	5,000	5,000	-
Bennington Battle Day	15,000	15,000	-
Bennington County Regional Commission	33,680	33,680	-
Bennington Free Clinic	12,500	12,500	-
Bennington Home Health	21,600	21,600	-
Bennington Homeless Shelter	25,000	25,000	-
Bennington Project Independence	11,000	11,000	-
Bennington Tutorial Center	10,000	10,000	-
Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council	6,750	6,750	-
Bennington In Bloom	22,000	25,036	(3,036)
Bennington In Bloom - Northside Drive	10,000	-	10,000
Bennington Rescue Squad	187,500	187,500	-
Capital Facilities	-	156,750	(156,750)
CERCLA	-	14,648	(14,648)
Conservation of natural resources - tree program	9,000	8,400	600
County taxes	84,500	86,300	(1,800)
DPW Garage Project	-	11,315	(11,315)
Fireworks	6,000	12,000	(6,000)
Flood control program	6,450	834	5,616
Health management fees	-	299,341	(299,341)
Highway Improvements	-	29,420	(29,420)
Holiday celebrations	9,100	8,783	317
Information signs	-	119	(119)
Library administration	520,000	520,000	-
336 Main Street Park	-	86,333	(86,333)
Marketing	-	29,803	(29,803)
Miscellaneous contingencies	20,000	19,617	383

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures (continued):			
Other (continued):			
North Bennington - recreation	8,700	8,700	-
Planning grant	-	6,466	(6,466)
Police audit	-	66,000	(66,000)
Police equipment	-	6,519	(6,519)
Project Against Violent Encounters	5,000	5,000	-
Retired Seniors Volunteer Program	5,500	5,500	-
Reserve - bridge maintenance	-	48,125	(48,125)
Sunrise Family Resource Center	15,000	15,000	-
Vermont Council on Aging	7,500	7,500	-
Vermont CTR - Independent Living	7,000	7,000	-
Wellness	-	1,057	(1,057)
	<u>1,063,780</u>	<u>1,813,596</u>	<u>(749,816)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>13,334,350</u>	<u>14,811,886</u>	<u>(1,477,536)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(228,000)</u>	<u>(573,434)</u>	<u>(345,434)</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Operating transfers in (out):			
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	-	330,072	330,072
Administrative charges:			
Community Development Fund	48,000	48,000	-
Water Fund	72,000	72,000	-
Water Fund (Highway Dept.)	25,000	28,500	3,500
Sewer Fund	78,000	78,000	-
Sewer Fund (Highway Dept.)	25,000	21,500	(3,500)
Transfer to Parking Fund	(20,000)	(20,000)	-
	<u>228,000</u>	<u>558,072</u>	<u>330,072</u>
Deficiency of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,362)</u>	<u>(15,362)</u>
Fund balance, July 1, 2019	<u>1,689,736</u>	<u>1,689,736</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 1,689,736</u>	<u>1,674,374</u>	<u>(15,362)</u>

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
and Town Contributions
Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement Plan (Unaudited)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Proportion of the net pension liability	1.7680%	1.8441%	1.8816%	1.9951%	2.0826%	2.1243%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 3,067,414	2,594,158	2,279,716	2,567,622	1,605,609	193,875
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 5,477,208	5,424,023	5,265,571	5,016,689	4,958,552	4,911,775
Proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered employee payroll	56.00%	47.83%	43.29%	51.18%	32.38%	3.95%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	74.52%	80.35%	82.60%	80.95%	87.42%	98.32%
Contractually required contribution	\$ 351,298	339,703	323,002	307,289	304,349	291,118
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	(351,298)	(339,703)	(323,002)	(307,289)	(304,349)	(291,118)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	6.41%	6.26%	6.13%	6.13%	6.14%	5.93%

Notes to Required Supplemental Information

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Changes in the Total OPEB Liability Liability
and Related Ratios (Unaudited)

	2020	2019	2018
Total OPEB liability, beginning	\$ 693,695	655,089	550,652
Service cost	44,181	33,010	-
Interest cost	19,177	23,410	-
Changes in benefit terms	-	-	-
Actual and expected experience difference	(1,252)	30,559	-
Changes in assumptions	89,331	(31,451)	-
Employer contributions	(12,717)	(16,922)	-
Total change in OPEB liability	138,720	38,606	104,437
Total OPEB liability, ending	\$ 832,415	693,695	655,089

Annual covered payroll	5,477,208	5,424,023	5,265,571
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered payroll	15.20%	12.79%	12.44%
Net OPEB expense	49,298	32,946	
Contributions as percentage of net OPEB expense	25.80%	51.36%	
Discount rate used	2.66%	2.79%	3.62%

Notes to Required Supplemental Information

Schedule Presentation

This schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

Change in OPEB Liability for 2018

Detail of the changes in the total OPEB liability for 2018 (the first year of implementation of GASB Statement No.75) is unavailable due to the changes in measurement methods under the new standard.



**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and
on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards**

The Select Board
Town of Bennington, Vermont

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Bennington, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Town of Bennington, Vermont's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 16, 2020.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Town of Bennington, Vermont's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Love, Cody ; Company, CPAs, P.C.

December 16, 2020

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs