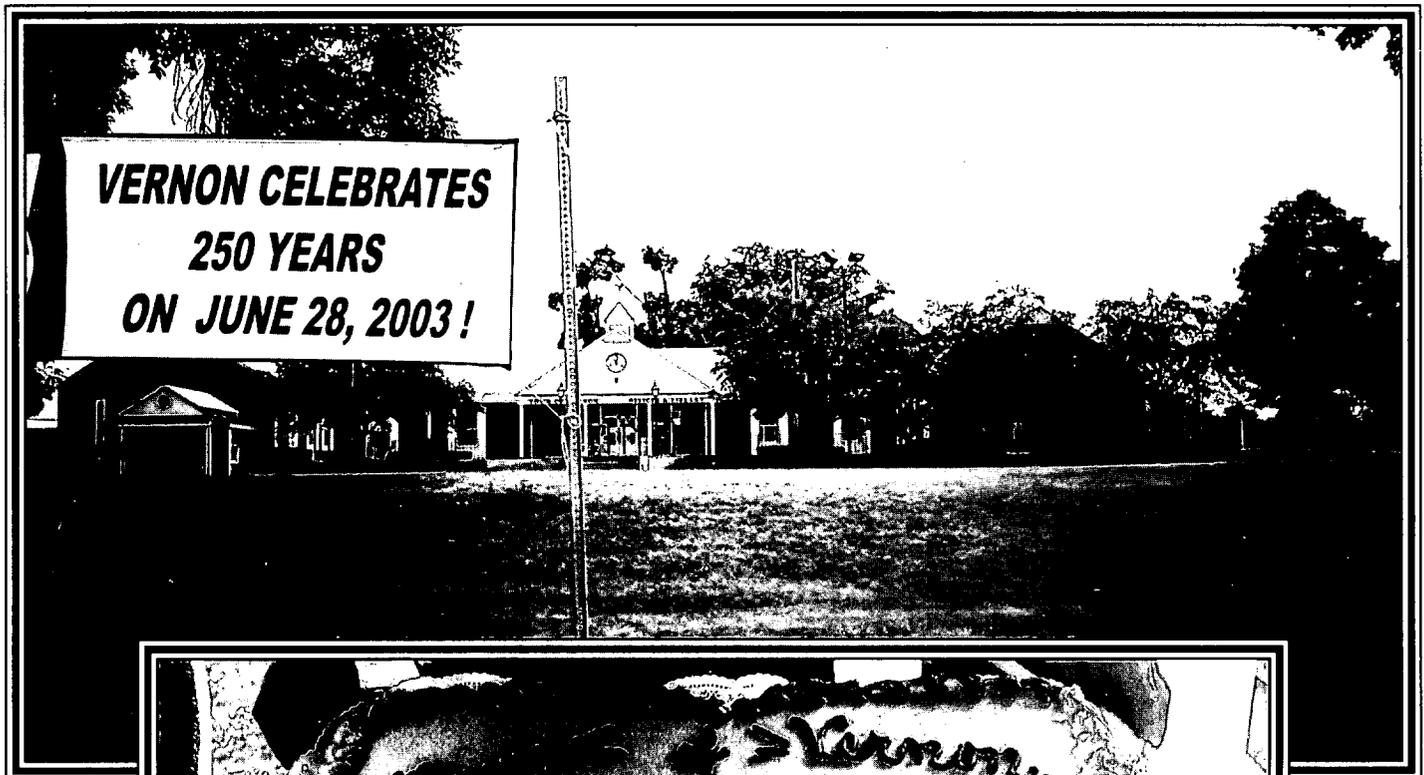
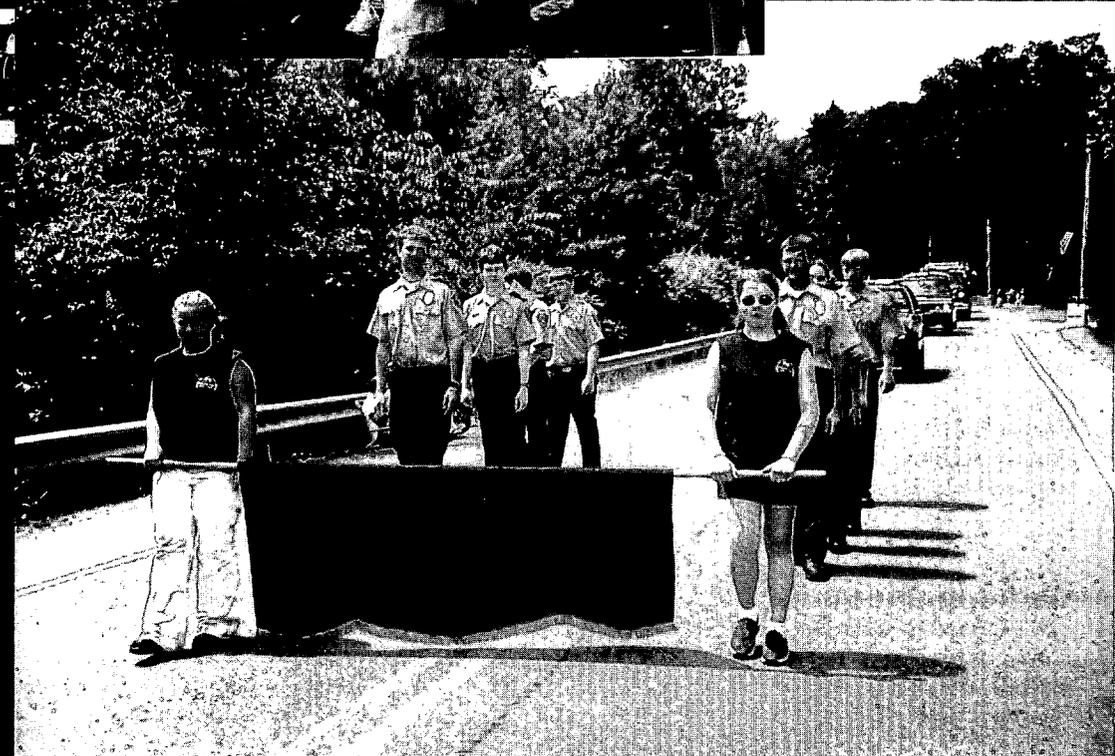
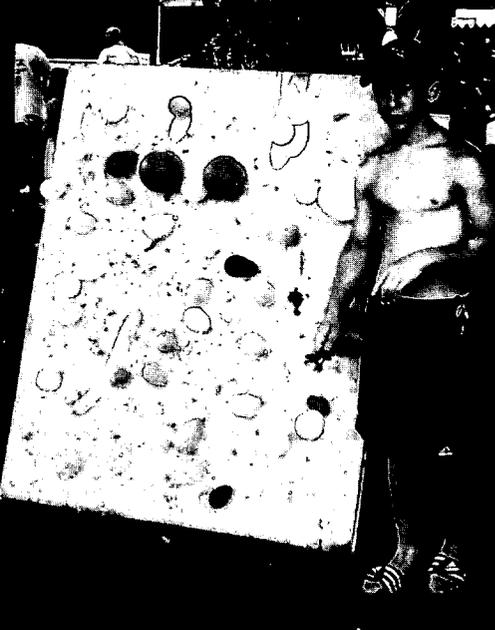


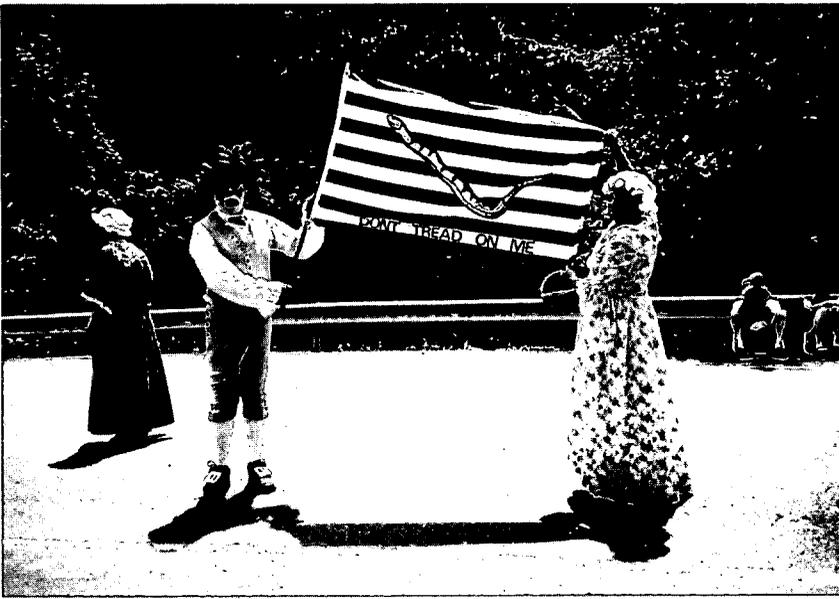
Vernon, Vermont 2003



Vernon Annual Report
year ending
December 31, 2003

Vernon School District
fiscal year ending
June 30, 2003





ANNUAL REPORT VERNON, VERMONT
for the year ending
DECEMBER 31, 2003

PLEASE
Bring This Report with You to Town Meeting
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2004 AT 6:30 P.M.
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004 AT 7:30 P.M.

250th Celebration Pictures
Courtesy: Lynda Starorypinski
Joyce Goodnow
Anita Parker

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOWN INFORMATION

Auditors' Statement	2
Town Officers	3
Office Hours	5
Town Property Inventory	6

TOWN FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Special Revenue Funds	7
Capital Project Funds	10
Fiduciary Funds	13
Cemetery Trust Funds	15
Statement of Taxes Raised	16
Statement of Delinquent Property Taxes	17
Town General Fund Comparative Balance Sheet	18
Selectmen's Six Months Budget	19
Selectmen's Budget 2004 FY 04/05	21

REPORTS OF TOWN BOARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Animal Control Annual Report	27
Cemetery Committee	27
Elderly Assistance Board	27
Volunteer Fire Department	28
Forest Fire Warden	28
Report of the Health Officer	29
Vernon Historians, Inc	29
Report of the Listers	30
250th Committee Report	30
Librarian's Report	31
Vernon Free Library Trustees' Report	31
Vernon Free Library Financial Reports	32
Recreation Director	33
Pre School Report	33
Personnel Policy Committee	33
Vernon Tax Committee	33
Report of the Vernon Police Department	34
Vernon Senior Housing, Inc.	35
Vernon Senior Citizens	35
Selectmen's Report	36
Treasurer's Report	36
Town Clerk's Report	37
Vernon Newspaper Committee	38
Rescue Inc.	38
Vermont Department of Health	39
Windham Regional Commission	40

VITAL STATISTICS

Births, Marriages, and Deaths, Civil Unions	41-42
---	-------

VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Report	45
BUHS School Board Attendance	45
School Board Report	46
Faculty and Staff	47
Enrollment	47
School District Funds	48
Capital Plan Funding Projections	49
Capital Fund Status	49
Tornado Account	50
Vernon Lunch Program & Balance Sheet	50

Cheer Fund	50
School Balance Sheet & Revenue Summary	51
Budget Summary Comparison	52
School District Budget	53
WSESU Budget Summaries	56
WSESU Special Education Funding Summary	56

MINUTES AND WARNINGS

Annual Town And Town School District Meeting	59
Town Warning for 2004	66

AUDITORS' STATEMENT

In accordance with Section 1681 title 24 V.S.A. we have examined the accounts of the Town and School District:

General Fund	Vernon Free Library
Capital Projects Funds	Town Clerk
Special Revenue Funds	Delinquent Tax Collector
Fiduciary Funds	Vernon Seniors

To the best of our knowledge, the financial statements and reports show the financial activity and position for the year ended as stated.

A School District audit was performed by Jack Laakso & Associates, PC for the school year ending June 30, 2003. In the following areas of transportation, secondary tuition and 504 tuition, the budget was overspent, resulting in a deficit at year end.

At the time of the printing of this Annual Report, the School Board was actively making changes to the proposed 2004-2005 budget. We anticipate that a revised budget handout will be available at a later date.

The actuarial study was completed by Baseline Consulting, Inc. on the Town's retirement plan but some revisions are being considered by the Selectboard.

The Statement of Delinquent Property Taxes was audited and the tax amounts still due are listed as of December 31, 2003. If a listing is questioned, please contact the Town Auditors through the Town Offices prior to March 15, 2004.

At last years Town Meeting, by Article 36, it was voted for the Town to change from calendar year to fiscal year commencing July 1, 2004. In order for this change to take place, a six month budget was passed on November 18, 2003 for January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004, and is included in this report as well as the Selectmen's twelve month fiscal year budget, from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

We wish to thank all those who helped in the preparation of this Town Report. We appreciate the assistance provided by Vernon Elementary School and the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union in compiling school reports. Several reports are not included this year as they were not submitted, even though we made several requests to obtain them.

MARTHA DUNKLEE
PHYLLIS NEWTON, Chairman
CAROL HAMMOND

TOWN INFORMATION

TOWN OFFICERS 2003-2004

TOWN MODERATOR
 Timothy Arsenault 2004

TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR
 Timothy Arsenault 2004

TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK
 Sandra B. Harris, CVC 2004

TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER
 Sally Stearns 2005

SELECTMEN - (3 Year Term)
 Leonard Peduzzi 2004
 Michael Ball-(Ch) 2005
 Douglas Fletcher 2006

SELECTMEN - (1 Year Term)
 Margaret (Peggy) Farabaugh
 James Polhemus

LISTERS
 Carol Hammond 2004
 Phyllis Newton 2005
 William Hammond-(Ch) 2006

AUDITORS
 Martha R. Dunklee 2004
 Phyllis Newton-(Ch) 2005
 Carol Hammond 2006

1st CONSTABLE Peter C. Crossmon

2nd CONSTABLE Jason Johnson

TOWN AGENT Robert Miller Jr.

GRAND JUROR Robert Miller Jr.

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR Marylynn Scherlin

SCHOOL DIRECTORS - (3 Year Term)
 Laura DeVincentis-(Ch) 2004
 Deborah Hebert 2005
 Michael Hebert 2006

SCHOOL DIRECTORS - (1 Year Term)
 Pamela Gobeille
 Leeanne Shover

UNION SCHOOL DIRECTORS - (3 Year Term)
 Michael Hebert 2006

(The above voted by Australian Ballot)

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Christine Fredericks 2004
 Kenneth Swanger-(Ch) 2005
 Nancy Burrington, *Treasurer* 2006
 Sallie May, *Secretary* 2007
 Elizabeth Eriksson 2008

MARSH FUND COMMITTEE

James Brown
 Barbara Moseley

MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

Barbara Sprague
 Edward Sprague

(The above voted at Town Meeting)

WINDHAM-5 DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Patricia O'Donnell

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Susan Arsenault	Donald L. Holland
Timothy Arsenault	Patricia O'Donnell
Sandra B. Harris	James Polhemus
Edward Sprague	

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

Susan Arsenault	Michael Ball
Timothy Arsenault	Douglas Fletcher
Sandra B. Harris	James Polhemus-(Ch)
Donald L. Holland	Leonard Peduzzi
Patricia O'Donnell	Edward Sprague
Margaret (Peggy) Farabaugh	

TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER APPOINTMENTS

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERKS

Susan Miller
 Ann Doe (*resigned*)

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Jennifer Holton

APPOINTMENTS MADE BY SELECTMEN

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER Police Department

BCTV RECORDERS

Georgia Boyce
 Joyce Goodnow (*resigned*)

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Evelyn Edelson	Leonard Peduzzi (<i>resigned</i>)
Frank Johnson Sr.	Marylynn Scherlin-(Ch)
Ann Doe	Francis Serviss
Michael Walsh	

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Richard Castine Peter Crossmon
Ted Castine Michael Worden
Walter Zaluzny

COUNCIL ON AGING - TOWN REPRESENTATIVE

Dawn Manch Tarina Swanger

DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM CONTACT

PERSON Roland D. Walker Jr.

E-911 CONTACT PERSON Sandra Harris

EAP CO-ORDINATOR James Polhemus

ELDERLY ASSISTANCE BOARD

Marylynn Scherlin 2004
Jean Waite (resigned) 2005
Marion Watson 2006
Jack Arensmeyer 2007
Joel Tidd 2008

VERNON SENIOR HOUSING, INC.

Carol Mikuski - Ch Arlene Castine
Betty Bailey George Brown
Brad Pfenning John (Fred) Green Sr.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Director (through Nov. 17, 2003) Michael Class
Ken Farabaugh - appointed

FARMLAND PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Warren Lathe 2004
Keith Franklin (resigned) 2005
Dean Shover (appointed) 2005
Michael Zaluzny 2006
Peter Miller-Ch 2007
Perley Sparrow 2008

FENCE VIEWERS - vacant

GREEN-UP DAY Co-ordinated by Boy Scouts

HEALTH OFFICER

John Skibniowsky 2005
E. James Roberts Assistant

INSPECTOR OF WOOD, SHINGLES AND LUMBER vacant

NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

Nancy Burrington Sandra Sweet
Lynda Starorypinski Michael Rosner
Richard Vesper

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS Brattleboro Reformer
..... Town Crier

PERSONNEL POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Georgia Boyce (Ch) Nancy Evans
Joyce Goodnow Christiane Howe (resigned)
Phyllis Newton Peter Crossmon (resigned)
Sally Stearns David Walker (appointed)
Lynda Starorypinski (appointed)
Peggy Farabaugh (liaison to Board of Selectmen)

PLANNING COMMISSION

Todd Chisholm Robert Miller Jr.
Thomas Revene - Ch James Edelson
Richard Kee

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police Ian McCollin

Officers Steven Holton (resigned)

Bruce Gauld
DARE Officer Kevin Turnley

Special Officers

Richard McNary (resigned) Steven Bird
Terry Parker David Manch
Edward Wilson

Office Manager Lorena Castricone

POUND KEEPER

Windham County Humane Society

PUBLIC ACCESS TV REPRESENTATIVE Michael Hebert

RECREATION BOARD

Maureen Ketcham 2004
Leeanne Shover 2004
Karen Carroll 2005
Ken Farabaugh (ch) 2006
Kathy Hale 2006

RECREATION DIRECTOR Justin Williams (resigned)

Seth Deyo (appointed)
Assistant Lance Cutler

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Alexander Shover Kelly Wunsch
Shane Shippee

RESCUE INC. - TOWN REPRESENTATIVE

Dale Merritt (resigned)
Michael Sorensen (appointed)

ROAD COMMISSIONER Roland D. Walker, Jr.

SECRETARY TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN Sandra B. Harris

SEWER RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Leonard Peduzzi Lynda Starorypinski
Jerry Unaitis

VERNON TAX COMMITTEE

William Hammond (ch) Arthur Miller
Douglas Fletcher Patricia O'Donnell
James Polhemus

TOWN ATTORNEY Charles Cummings, Esq.

TOWN FOREST - SUPERVISOR Ted Castine

Assistant Richard Castine

250th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Georgia Boyce Joyce Goodnow
Christiane Howe Marylynn Scherlin
Lawrence Shippee Sr. Sonya Shippee
Tarina Swanger

TOWN SERVICE OFFICER vacant

TREE WARDEN Roland D. Walker, Jr.

POLICE	254-6962
FIRE	603-352-1100
TOWN OFFICERS	257-0292
VERNON ELEMENTARY	254-5373
VERNON FREE LIBRARY	257-0150
TOWN GARAGE	254-9428
RECREATION AREA	254-9251
HEALTH OFFICER	254-8211
FIRE WARDEN	254-4181
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	254-2398

TOWN PROPERTY INVENTORY *

BUILDINGS AND LAND

Town Office Building
Gazebo
North School
South School
Fire Station
Recreation Area
Garages & Salt Shed
J. Maynard Miller Forest
Cemeteries
Miscellaneous Land Parcels

TOWN OFFICES

Computers & Printers
Umax Scanner
Photocopiers
Safes
Office Equipment & Furnishings
Sound System
Custodial Equipment

LIBRARY

Computers & Printers
Photocopier, Scanner & Typewriter
Equipment & Furnishings
Contents, Books, etc.

RECREATION

Area Equipment
Pool Equipment
Tools & Equipment
Games & Activity Equipment
Mowers
Office Equipment & Furnishings

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

EQUIPMENT, FURNISHINGS, ETC.

1988 Caterpillar Grader with Plow & Wing
2000 International 2574 Dump Truck with Frink Sand Body & Plow; Henderson Wing
1995 Ford L9000 Dump Truck with Everest Sand Body
2003 Ford One Ton Truck (Dump Body with Plow and Torwell Sander
1997 Case Loader Model 621B
1980 Ford Tractor with 1982 Backhoe
1983 Frink Snow Plow
1997 Frink Snow Plow
1997 Frink Snow Plow
1990 Everest Reversible Snow Plow
1988 Triumph Mowing Machine
1981 International Tractor with 1999 Alamo Rotary Mower
1994 Morbark Chipper
1991 Sweepster Model P84
Radios
HTC Shoulder Machine
IBM Computer & Okidata Printer
Miscellaneous Garage, Office & Highway Equipment

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2002 Dodge Dakota 4x4 Pickup
2000 Chevy Impala Cruiser
1997 Ford Crown Victoria Cruiser
Base Station & Other Radios
Radar Units
Office Equipment & Furnishings
Other Miscellaneous Equipment

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2000 Custom KME Pumper Truck
1996 Chevy Blazer 4x4 Squad / Utility
1994 Freightliner Pumper/Tanker
1985 Ford FMC Pumper Truck
1974 Ford Brush Truck
Scott Breathing Systems
Radios
Computers
Gas Detector
Station Equipment & Furnishings
Other Miscellaneous Equipment
Thermal Imaging Camera
Scott Air Packs and Cylinders

VERNON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Radio System
Radios & Generator
Portable Generator
Siren
Office Equipment, Books & Furnishings

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

1998 Chevrolet Pickup Truck
1994 Ford E350 Van & Radio

* Detailed Inventories on File

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

REAPPRAISAL FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 124,402.08	
ADD:			
Interest	\$	91.76	
Net Investment Gains		2,022.08	
State of Vermont Annual Reappraisal Aid		<u>6,258.00</u>	
			8,371.84
DEDUCT:			
Listers 2003 Software Upgrades	\$	1,048.00	
Listers Seminar		<u>99.00</u>	
			(1,147.00)
BALANCE December 31, 2003			\$ 131,626.92

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

TOWN UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 49,581.81	
ADD:			
Interest	\$	53.81	
Net Investment Gains		<u>760.47</u>	
			814.28
DEDUCT:			
Unemployment Payments			<u>(9,703.61)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003			\$ 40,692.48

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

J. MAYNARD MILLER FOREST FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 53,832.19	
ADD: Interest	\$	5.95	
Net Investment Gains		<u>1,123.38</u>	
			1,129.33
DEDUCT:			
Painting of Boundary Lines	\$	450.00	
Forest Management Plan Update and Inventory		<u>1,524.00</u>	
			(1,974.00)
BALANCE December 31, 2003			\$ 52,987.52

This Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

FARMLAND PROTECTION FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 253,928.56	
ADD:			
Interest	\$	218.77	
Net Investment Gains		5,350.32	
2003 Appropriation		<u>25,000.00</u>	
			30,569.09
BALANCE December 31, 2003			\$ 284,497.65 *

*Of this amount \$4,070.57 is left to be used for expenses of the Farmland Protection Advisory Committee, as voted at Town Meeting on March 6, 1984.

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

TOWN CLERK RESTORATION RESERVE FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 4,924.97	
ADD:			
Interest	\$	22.48	
2002 Accounts Receivable		446.00	
Town Clerk Remittance		<u>2,992.00</u>	
			3,460.48
DEDUCT:			
Record Preservation			<u>(356.53)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003			\$ 8,028.92*

This reserve fund is to be used only for the purpose of record preservation.

* At year end, the amount of \$475.00 was owed to the fund as an accounts receivable from Town Clerk remittances, leaving an available balance of \$8,503.92.

DOG FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 5,811.12	
ADD:			
Interest	\$	14.93	
Kennel Fees		46.00	
Vet Bill Reimbursement		40.00	
Licenses		<u>1,893.00</u>	
			1,993.93
DEDUCT:			
2002 Accounts Payable	\$	1,765.25	
Vet Services		295.05	
Dog Tags, Food, Supplies & Misc. Expenses		477.64	
Windham County Humane Society		<u>700.00</u>	
			<u>(3,237.94)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003		\$ 4,567.11*	

DOG LICENSES: All dogs six months old or older should be licensed annually by the Town Clerk on or before April 1st.

*At year end, the amount of \$9.00 was owed to the fund as an accounts receivable from Town Clerk remittances, leaving an available balance of \$4,576.11.

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 4,570.06	
ADD:			
Interest	\$	40.15	
Coalition Dues Reimbursement		100.00	
2003 Appropriation		<u>30,000.00</u>	
			30,140.15
DEDUCT			
Entergy: Sale and Uprate	\$	9,995.43	
US Gen Bankruptcy		1,361.51	
Professional Services		<u>100.00</u>	
			<u>(11,456.94)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003		\$ 23,253.27	

At Town Meeting on March 1, 1999, this fund was established by Article 11 with the remaining monies from the Act 60 Legal Services appropriation that had been raised under Article 2 in May 1997.

The purpose of the Professional Services Fund is to represent the Town of Vernon's position on issues relating to utilities.

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND
AMBULANCE SERVICE FUND**

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 96,670.31	
ADD:			
Interest	\$	3.80	
Net Investment Gains		<u>2,292.77</u>	
			<u>2,296.57</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003		\$ 98,966.88	

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

At Town Meeting on March 6, 1990, Article 28 voted to establish this fund for all Vernon residents and to authorize \$50,000.00 with interest earned to date that was raised under Article 23 at March 6, 1989 Town Meeting to be placed in this Fund. Said money to be invested by the Town Treasurer.

At such time when the balance in this Fund has reached \$100,000.00, the interest earned each year may be used upon vote of the Town to support the cost of emergency medical and ambulance service for all Vernon residents.

**TOWN OF VERNON - JAMES CUSICK
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 194,244.04	
ADD:			
Interest	\$	33.03	
Net Investment Gains		<u>3,037.32</u>	
			3,070.35
DEDUCT:			
2002 Scholarships			<u>(30,000.00)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003		\$ 167,314.39	

At Town Meeting March 6, 2000, it was voted by Article 13 that the following restriction be placed upon this fund:

No more than \$30,000.00 shall be disbursed in any year and after five (5) years the Board of Selectmen shall review the disbursement guidelines, as well as the appropriation disbursement levels.

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

**JAMES CUSICK SCHOLARSHIP FUND
TOWN OF VERNON REQUIREMENTS**

1. An application shall be submitted to the Chairman, Board of Selectmen, (or Town Clerk) no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 1st of each year.

2. Any Vernon resident as determined by VSA 16: 1075 may apply for a scholarship for assistance for up to a total of four years, each year the resident may reapply. The purpose of the scholarship fund is for the resident to further their education or training upon receipt of a high school diploma or an equivalent as determined by the Vermont Department of Education. The resident shall become eligible for the scholarship upon receipt of the application by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen within six years of the date of graduation. A resident becomes ineligible at the end of the sixth year from when his/her high school diploma or equivalent certificate was awarded.

3. Applicant must have been eligible to attend the Vernon School system for a minimum of five academic years as a resident immediately prior to receipt of the high school diploma or the equivalent.

4. Each full-time resident recipient shall receive \$1,000.00 (or the amount voted) for two semesters at an institution of higher learning, a certified training center or a vocational school. If the amount of the appropriation is not sufficient, it shall be divided equally among the students selected.

5. For less than a full-time post secondary status, a pro-rata reduction in the amount of the scholarship will be made, but in no case will a less than 50% status for an academic year, as determined by the school be eligible for the scholarship.

6. The student is responsible to provide verification to the Town Clerk by January 15 that they have completed the first semester and are enrolled for the second semester. Acceptable forms of verification are student grade report, tuition bill, letter of enrollment or any other official document from the school that satisfies the enrollment verification.

7. Checks will be issued each year during the last two weeks of January, payable jointly to the Vernon resident and the post-secondary institution or training center. Checks will be mailed directly to the school.

8. Any scholarship recipient whose status changes during or before the academic year is fully responsible for notifying the Town Clerk of the change. Any scholarship recipient who receives an award for which they are ineligible due to status, residency or other requirements outlined above, will be responsible for reimbursing the town within ninety days.

9. The Selection Committee is the Chairman of the Vernon School Board, Chairman of the Vernon Board of Selectmen, and the Principal of the Vernon Elementary School. All decisions of the Committee shall be by majority vote. The Selection Committee will review applications no later than July 15th. Students will be notified within five days of the Committee's decision.

Any request for reconsideration must be made in writing within ten calendar days following the initial decision. The request must be made by the resident and must cite the specific details needing to be reconsidered. Any reconsideration of the Committee's decision must be made by a majority vote of the Committee and the decision of the Committee is final.

Applications forms are available at the Vernon Town Offices.

Revisions of the Requirements were approved by the Selectmen February 5, 1998, with changes subject to ratification at the Annual Town Meeting.

ELDERLY HOUSING BUILDING FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003 \$ 539,910.36

ADD:
Interest \$ 19.03
Net Investment Gains 10,327.67
10,346.70

DEDUCT:
Engineer Fees:
Initial Phase of Project \$ 3,000.00
Financial Consultant 378.00
Transfer to Elderly Assistance Fund:
2001 & 2002 Interest 18,512.10
(21,890.10)

BALANCE December 31, 2003 \$ 528,366.96

At March Town Meeting on March 7, 2000, Article 3 was voted by Australian ballot to reestablish the Elderly Housing Building Fund for the original purpose of funding future costs associated with elderly housing, and with interest earned, to further extend necessary assistance to the elderly as administered by the Vernon Elderly Assistance Program Guides.

At a Special Town Meeting by Australian ballot on July 10, 2000, it was voted to sell Vernon Senior Housing, Inc. a portion of a parcel known as the former Streeter property. Said portion consists of 25.7 acres, more or less, on Huckle Hill Road. The Selectboard or its designee was authorized to sign all documents and perform all acts necessary to carry out the sale.

It was further voted to authorize the expenditure of the funds in the Elderly Housing Building Fund for the purpose of constructing elderly housing to be owned and operated by Vernon Senior Housing, Inc., a Vermont non-profit corporation, or a limited partnership controlled and managed by Vernon Senior Housing, Inc. Said expenditure to be subject to Vernon Senior Housing, Inc. receiving full financing for the balance of the project costs.

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

At year end, \$19.03 was owed to the Elderly Assistance Fund per Article 3 voted at Town Meeting on March 7, 2000.

VERNON ELDERLY ASSISTANCE FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003 \$ 9,969.17

ADD:
Interest \$ 30.88
Reimbursement for Services 170.00
Interest from Elderly Housing Fund:
2001 & 2002 18,512.10
18,712.98

DEDUCT:
Assistance to Residents \$ 11,290.55
2002 Accounts Payable 367.50
(11,658.05)

BALANCE December 31, 2003 \$ 17,024.10

At Town Meeting March, 2000, Article 3 authorized the interest earned from the Elderly Housing Building Fund for the further purpose of assistance to the elderly.

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

At year end, \$19.03 was due from the Elderly Housing Fund for 2003 interest.

CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS

EMERGENCY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003	\$ 2,028,952.95
ADD:	
Interest	\$ 5.53
Net Investment Gains	<u>70,931.73</u>
	<u>70,937.26</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003	\$ 2,099,890.21

At Town Meeting on March 6, 2000, Article 31 voted to establish an Emergency Capital Reserve Fund for the purposes of providing perpetual funds for unanticipated and emergency Capital replacements or repairs and to help defray the cost of the annual appropriation of the Capital Plan.

The Selectboard shall be authorized to make expenditures from this fund by majority vote for items of \$10,000.00 or more in value.

At Town Meeting on March 7, 2001, Article 23 voted to close out the Real Estate Reserve Fund and authorize deposit of said funds into the Emergency Capital Reserve Fund.

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

VERNON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003	\$ 360,375.48
ADD:	
Interest	\$ 57.11
Net Investment Gains	<u>5,779.27</u>
	5,836.38
DEDUCT:	
Windham Solid Waste Management District Assessment	<u>(9,853.84)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003	\$ 356,358.02

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

This fund was established in March 1987, for the purpose of funding a future study, operation, purchase or development of a landfill dump or other means of solid waste disposal.

At Town Meeting on March 7, 1989, Article 36 voted that expenditures of less than \$10,000.00 may be authorized by the Board of Selectmen; greater expenditures will require town meeting approval.

TOWN ROAD UPGRADING FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003	\$ 324,097.44
ADD:	
Interest	\$ 2,272.20
Net Investment Gains	1,533.65
State Aid	54,255.56
State of VT Highway Fines	4,002.01
2003 Appropriation	<u>80,000.00</u>
	142,063.42
DEDUCT:	
Central Park Rd & Crestwood Estates:	
Overlay	\$ 170,565.03
Line Striping	<u>9,178.20</u>
	<u>(179,743.23)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003	\$ 286,417.63

At Town Meeting on March 7, 1989, Article 38 voted that all restrictions be removed and replaced with the following restriction: this fund will be used solely for the necessary surveys, land acquisitions and construction costs required for widening or upgrading existing town roads. Disbursement from this fund shall only be authorized by the Board of Selectmen.

At year end, the amount of \$4,002.01 was owed to the Town checking account.

This Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

Future projects planned for 2005: Overlay: Basin Road, south end of Pond Road and Sartwell Road.

TOWN SEWAGE OR WATER SYSTEM FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$1,254,923.89
ADD:		
Interest	\$	1,884.07
Net Investment Gains		13,895.80
Town Loan Repayment		<u>900,000.00</u>
		915,779.87
DEDUCT:		
Loan to Town from Money Market		<u>(900,000.00)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003		\$1,270,703.76

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

At Town Meeting on March 7, 1989, Article 32 voted that this fund will be used for the future study, engineering, bid evaluation and construction of either a Town Sewage or Water System. Cost and payment for feasibility studies and option studies may be authorized by the Board of Selectmen from this fund. Final selection and approval of contractor and system will be by Town Meeting vote.

VERNON CAPITAL FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 483,151.90
ADD:		
Interest	\$	230.64
Net Investment Gains		8,442.02
2003 Appropriation		<u>45,970.00</u>
		54,642.66
DEDUCT:		
Town Office Building Heating System	\$	96.00
South School Roof		2,646.95
One Ton Dump Truck		41,533.00
Accounts payable 2002		<u>794.00</u>
		<u>(45,069.95)</u>
BALANCE December 31, 2003		\$ 492,724.61

At Town Meeting on March 6, 1990, Article 35 voted to establish a Vernon Capital Fund for the purpose of providing funding for the items authorized in the Vernon Capital Plan.

The Fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

VERNON FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Capital Plan vision continues to be effective for the Town.

There have been a number of changes since last year: failure of the investments to yield enough interest for the Capital Plan to be self-funding, lack of personnel on the Finance Committee, and the finalization of federal watershed protection act.

The drop in the stock market caused less interest to be generated by the Emergency Capital Reserve and the Capital Plan funds. Discussions before and during last year's annual meeting determined a less aggressive investment policy. The result of this policy is that the Capital Plan will have to be funded via the tax base instead of investments.

With the investment responsibilities being given to the Treasurer, only one person volunteered to be on the Finance committee. Thus, the responsibilities for the development of the Capital Plan fell to the Selectboard.

The federal government finally approved the bill in 2003 that will require two significant changes to the Town garage area: covering the sand pile and fuel pump station. The installation of the sand shed had been scheduled to be installed in 2016 and had a current funding of \$23,750.00. Neither the Selectboard nor the previous Finance Committee was aware that the fuel pumps would have to be covered. Vermont expects that Vermont towns will have a five year grace period to secure funding. If grants become available for this item, they will be actively pursued.

The intent of the Capital Plan is to provide a plan to fund the purchase of items costing over \$10,000.00 in such a way that it minimizes the impact to the tax base. The Capital Plan spreadsheet was expanded this year so that we can look forward and distribute funding costs over a longer period of time. This way the Selectboard can assure that we minimize the financial impact to all of us.

Capital Planning Guidelines:

All capital expenditures must be submitted for inclusion in the Capital Plan in advance of the need based on the projected future cost and the following minimum schedule:

Projected cost	Years in Advance of Need
\$10,000 - \$20,000	2
\$20,001 - \$30,000	3
\$30,001 - \$40,000	4
\$40,001 - \$55,000	5
\$55,001 - \$75,000	6
\$75,001 - \$95,000	7
\$95,001 - \$115,000	8
\$115,001 - \$150,000	10
\$150,001 -	15

Exceptions to this schedule will be considered for unusual circumstances on a case by case basis.

2004 CAPITAL PLAN FUNDING PROJECTIONS

DESCRIPTION	NEED YEAR	CURRENT FUNDING	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	PROJECTED COST	CHANGES FROM 2003 CAP PLAN
Dump truck Diesel (1990)	2003	100,000.00							
Bkhoe/trctr/jack hammer	2005	60,000.00							\$80K dec
Town Van~*	2006	20,000.00							\$20K inc
Dump truck Diesel (1995)	2007	50,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	18,750.00		80,000.00	\$25K inc
Frt End Loader (1997) Refurb	2007	7,500.00	18,750.00	18,750.00	18,750.00	18,750.00		125,000.00	\$40K dec
Sand Shed (Fed Req)	2007	23,750.00	27,811.00	27,813.00	27,813.00	27,813.00		135,000.00	\$25K inc
Gas Pump Cover (Fed Req)	2007				10,000.00	10,000.00		20,000.00	New
Grader—Refurbish	2008		3,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	11,000.00	25,000.00	65,000.00	\$20K inc
Pickup trk 3/4 ton (1998)	2009				12,500.00	12,500.00		50,000.00	\$18K inc
Dump truck Diesel (2000)	2012		10,556.00	15,552.00	556.00	14,556.00	20,556.00	140,000.00	\$30K inc
Dump truck 1 ton (2003)	2012					11,665.00	11,667.00	70,000.00	\$15K inc
Dump truck Diesel (2003)	2015			4,091.00	2,091.00	91.00	14,091.00	155,000.00	\$40K inc
Frt End Loader (1997) Replace	2017		13,125.00	3,125.00	1,125.00	2,125.00	13,125.00	185,000.00	\$50K inc
Tractor & Rotary Mower	2017							40,000.00	New
Town Van~*	2018							90,000.00	New
Dump truck Diesel (2007)	2019			4,333.00	11,333.00	8,333.00	11,333.00	170,000.00	New
Pickup trk 3/4 ton (2009)	2020							60,000.00	New
Dump truck 1 ton (2012)	2021							86,000.00	\$31K inc
Town Garage Roof (1991)	2021								New
Dump truck Diesel (2014)	2024							192,000.00	New
Engine #1 (1985 Ford refurb)	2005	54,250.00	7,750.00	8,000.00				70,000.00	
Brush #1 (1974 Ford)*	2010	33,250.00	4,536.00	4,536.00	4,536.00	4,536.00	4,536.00	65,000.00	\$7K inc
Engine #1 (1985 Ford-replac)	2015	45,000.00	14,584.00	584.00	14,584.00	14,584.00	14,584.00	220,000.00	
Engine#2 (1994 refurbish)	2017							100,000.00	
Brush #1 (2010 replace)*	2020							80,000.00	
Engine #3 (2002 refurbish)	2022							100,000.00	
Engine #2 (1994 replace)	2027							350,000.00	
Cruiser-Ford (1998)	2004	27,000.00	9,000.00					36,000.00	
Cruiser-Chevy (2000)	2006	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00			32,000.00	
Cruiser Dakota (2002)	2008			9,750.00	9,750.00	9,750.00	9,750.00	39,000.00	
Cruiser (2004)	2010					8,750.00	8,750.00	35,000.00	
Cruiser (2006)	2012						8,400.00	42,000.00	
Cruiser-Dakota (2008)	2014							42,000.00	\$4K inc
Cruiser (2010)	2016							45,000.00	
Cruiser (2012)	2018							45,000.00	new
Town Office Bld HVAC Sys.	2003	18,476.51							
Town Clerk Copier	2004	14,000.00						14,000.00	
Town Office Roof	2005	14,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00				28,000.00	
Vault Storage System	2005		10,000.00	10,000.00				20,000.00	new
TOTALS			154,112.00	154,534.00	154,038.00	154,453.00	154,292.00		

*= Brush #1 formerly Engine #5

~*= Contract vs. Purchase OR average # of people carried = smaller van BUT needs lift

2003 CAPITAL FUND STATUS

ITEM	NEED YEAR	PREVIOUS BALANCE	2003 APPROPRIATIONS	TOTAL AVAILABLE	2003 EXPENDITURE	FUND BALANCE	EXCESS FUNDS
Town Office Bld HVAC	1992	\$ 18,572.51	\$ -	\$ 18,572.51	\$ 96.00	\$ 18,476.51	
South School	1995	2,646.95		2,646.95	2,646.95	0.00	
Police Cruiser-Ford(1998)	2004	18,000.00	9,000.00	27,000.00		27,000.00	
Police Cruiser-Chevy(2000)	2006	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00		8,000.00	
Brush#1 (1974 Ford)	2010	27,250.00	6,000.00	33,250.00		33,250.00	
Engine #1 (1985 Ford-refurb)	2005	46,500.00	7,750.00	54,250.00		54,250.00	
Engine#1 (1985 Ford-replace)	2015	30,000.00	15,000.00	45,000.00		45,000.00	
Dump Truck 1 Ton (1994)	2001	50,000.00		50,000.00	41,533.00	8,467.00	8,467.00*
Dump Truck Diesel (1990)	2003	87,500.00	12,500.00	100,000.00		100,000.00	
Dump Truck Diesel (1995)	2007	37,500.00	12,500.00	50,000.00		50,000.00	
Bkhoe/trcr/jack hammer	2005	45,000.00	15,000.00	60,000.00		60,000.00	
Frt End Loader (1997) Refurb	2007		7,500.00	7,500.00		7,500.00	
Town Clerk Copier	2004	7,000.00	7,000.00	14,000.00		14,000.00	
Town Office Roof	2005	7,000.00	7,000.00	14,000.00		14,000.00	
Senior Van	2006	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00		20,000.00	
Sand Shed	2007	11,000.00	12,750.00	23,750.00		23,750.00	
Subtotals		\$397,969.46	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 527,969.46	\$ 44,275.95	\$ 483,693.51	\$ 8,467.00
Excess Funds		358.44		358.44		358.44	
Totals		\$398,327.90	\$ 130,000.00	\$528,327.90	\$ 44,275.95	\$ 484,051.95	\$8,467.00
2003 Interest & Income				8,672.66		8,672.66	
Totals				\$ 537,000.56	\$ 44,275.95	\$ 492,724.61	

* Designated for dump truck purchased in Jan. 2004

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Alice J. Brooks Fund

TOWN EMPLOYEE PENSION FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 669,655.77
ADD :		
Investment Income	\$	22,033.54
Realized Gains		44,053.75
Unrealized Gains		<u>83,579.49</u>
		149,666.78
DEDUCT:		
Payments to Participants	\$	14,136.48
Fees		7,448.90
Realized Losses		12,520.62
Unrealized Losses		45,045.51
Actuarial Study		5,000.00
Actuary Fee for Employee Statements		1,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		<u>118.45</u>
		(85,269.96)
BALANCE December 31, 2003		\$ 734,052.59

TOWN OF VERNON GRANGE #228 SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

BALANCE January 1, 2003		\$ 24,224.58
ADD :		
Interest	\$	1.88
Net Investment Gains		<u>495.61</u>
		497.49
BALANCE December 31, 2003		\$ 24,722.07

Guidelines and applications will be available at a later date when the interest income is sufficient to provide one or more awards.

This fund is invested with Chittenden Bank.

Mrs. Alice J. Brooks left \$5,000 in 1941, for the relief of poor children and aged persons in the Town of Vernon. The Selectmen were instructed to invest this, and interest or income alone, could be used per the will.

Total Shares 1957-2003		
Mass. Investors Trust		1,682.816 held on deposit
George Putnam Fund		728.887 held on deposit
Chittenden Bank		
BALANCE January 1, 2003	\$	10,994.80
ADD: Receipts		
Dividends	\$	409.72
Interest		5.97
Net Investment Gains		<u>177.19</u>
		592.88
BALANCE December 31, 2003	\$	11,587.68

MARSH FUND

This fund was a result of a \$2,000 legacy to the Town of Vernon in the will of Mrs. Anna Marsh in 1835. The interest is to be appropriated annually for the "Preaching of the Gospel in said Town." Each year a committee is chosen at the Annual Meeting for disbursement of the fund.

Total Shares 1957-2003
220 & 18.096 held on deposit in American Mutual Fund

Chittenden Bank		
BALANCE January 1, 2003	\$	341.99
ADD: Receipts		
Dividends and Capital Gains	\$	145.23
Interest		<u>1.27</u>
		146.50
DEDUCT: Expenses		
Vernon Advent Christian Church, Inc.	\$	101.54
Vernon Union Church		<u>101.54</u>
		(203.08)
BALANCE December 31, 2003	\$	285.41
Trustee-Selectmen		

TRUST FUNDS

Cemetery Trust Funds Trustees-Selectmen	TYLER	NORTH	SOUTH	ALEXANDER-PERRY
December 31, 2003- Shares (held by Town and on Deposit)				
Mass. Investors Trust	2,900.977			
George Putnam Fund	275.00			55.00
American Mutual Fund Investment Co. of America		151.516 298.088	102.084	
Balance January 1, 2003				
Chittenden Bank				
Original Deposit	\$ 2,815.11	\$ 1,747.15	\$ 222.16	\$ 239.78
Accumulated Income	<u>39,822.12</u>	<u>36,839.46</u>	<u>2,036.74</u>	<u>2,894.08</u>
	\$ 42,637.23	\$ 38,586.61	\$ 2,258.90	\$ 3,133.86
Add: 2003 Receipts				
Dividends & Capital Gains	360.82	310.04	74.52	19.36
Bank Interest	5.53	5.80	2.29	11.65
Cemetery Lots Sold	1,050.00	300.00		
Net Investment Gains	769.53	692.70	30.78	
Deduct:				
Cemetery Expenses	(700.00)			
Balances December 31, 2003				
Original Deposit	\$ 2,815.11	\$ 1,747.15	\$ 222.16	\$ 239.78
Accumulated Income	41,308.00	38,148.00	2,144.33	2,925.09

	Polly A. Lee Cemetery Lot		Whithed Cemetery Fund
Chittenden Bank	Deposit	Interest	
Balance January 1, 2003	\$ 125.00	\$ 473.79	\$ 232.40
2003 Interest		2.19	0.86
2003 Expenses		(-3.13)	
Balance December 31, 2003	\$ 125.00	\$ 472.85	\$ 233.26
Trustees	Treasurer		Selectmen

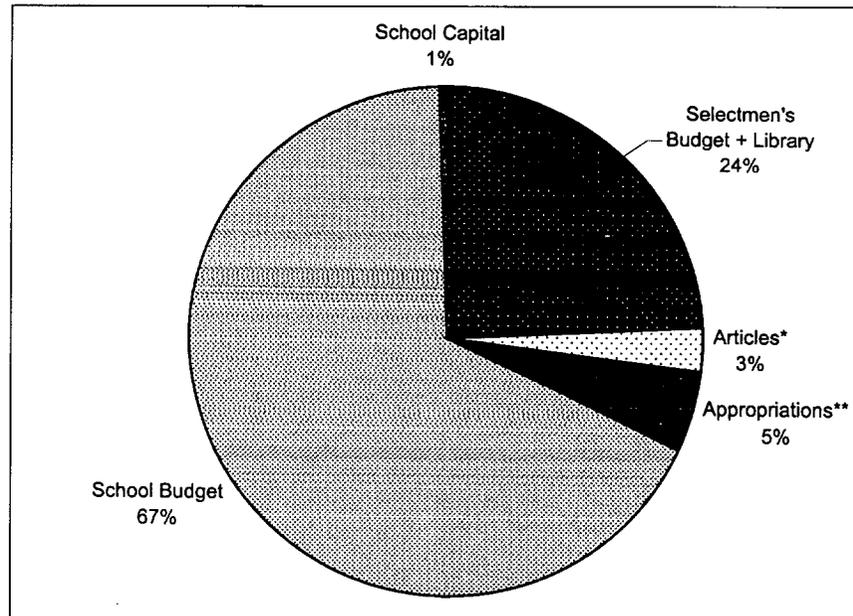
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

2003 Grand List	
Appraised Value - School	\$ 119,446,940
Appraised Value - Town	330,763,525
1% of Grand List	
	\$ 1,194,469.40
	3,307.635.25
2003 Tax Rate	
Town	\$ 0.5212
School Education Tax	0.5753
School Local Share Tax	<u>0.7075</u>
Total Tax Rate	\$ 1.8040

Taxes To Be Raised Per Vote at the March 4, 2003, Town Meeting:	
School	\$ 4,692,965.00
Less:	
State Aid and Revenue	3,160,749.00
Total State Education Property Tax	687,159.00
Total Local Share Property Tax	<u>845,057.00</u>
Total School Taxes To Be Raised	\$ 1,532,216.00
Total Town Taxes To Be Raised	<u>1,723,967.85</u>
Total Taxes Needed	\$ <u>3,256,183.85</u>
Add Amount Overbilled	<u>20.97</u>
Total Taxes Billed	3,256,204.82
Less VELCO Adjustment	<u>(59,397.87)</u>
Total Taxes Billed - Due 10/15/03	\$ <u>3,196,806.95</u>
Current Taxes Received 10/15/03	\$ 3,165,402.77
Total Delinquent Taxes Collected 2003	37,452.56
Total Delinquent Taxes Owed 2003	53,349.49
Less VELCO Adjustment	<u>(59,397.87)</u>
Total Taxes Accounted For	\$ <u>3,196,806.95</u>

TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENSE TO TAXPAYERS
FOR TOWN AND SCHOOL 2004/2005

Selectmen's Budget + Library	\$ 1,913,551.00
Articles*	\$ 227,460.00
Appropriations**	\$ 384,112.00
School Budget	\$ 5,344,686.00
School Capital	\$ 48,100.00
Total	\$ 7,917,909.00



*Articles minus library

**Appropriations= \$200,000 by Australian Ballot plus \$184,112 by article for appropriation only

**STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT
PROPERTY TAXES**

Outstanding Taxes January 1, 2003	\$ 77,353.78
ADD: 2003 Delinquent Taxes	90,802.05
LESS: 2003 Collections	<u>(93,489.88)</u>
Total Delinquent December 31, 2003	\$ 74,665.95

	To Collector	2003 Collections	Balance December 31, 2003
1998	\$ 266.27	\$ 266.27	\$
1999	632.71	632.71	
2000	2,847.47	2,847.47	
2001	18,195.51	13,353.49	4,842.02
2002	55,411.82	38,937.38	16,474.44
2003	<u>90,802.05</u>	<u>37,452.56</u>	<u>53,349.49</u>
	\$ 168,155.83	\$93,489.88	\$74,665.95

The following Delinquent Taxes are charged against the names below on the Tax Collector's books as of December 31, 2003.

Unless the Auditors are notified to the contrary before March 15, 2004, it will be assumed the tax amounts listed are correct. Penalties are added by the Tax Collector according to the Vermont Statutes.

1% interest is also added monthly per vote at Town Meeting, March 1996.

ANY PAYMENT RECEIVED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2003, IS NOT REFLECTED IN THIS LISTING.

2001	<i>Real</i>
Casey, Jean A. (Est.)	\$ 188.82*
Dawson, Roy J. Jr.	972.68*
McAllister, Daniel H. & Kelley A.	1,015.15*
Mercier, Terry J.	212.95*
Miller, Robert J. Jr.	241.52*
Miner, Arnold E. (Est.)	32.40
Paquette, Robert & Patti	364.50
Scott, Arthur B. / Lester, Pamela J.	1,814.00*
2002	
Ames, Teri M.	935.58*
Bailey, Philip & JoAnn	547.94*
Brooks, Todd A. & Maureen G.	422.95*
Casey, Jean A. (Est.)	1,000.89
Davidson, Henry W. & Birdie L. (Est.)	261.72*
Dawson, Roy J. Jr.	888.32*
Lee, Stephen H.	1,223.21*
May, Timothy A. & Laurie M.	1,569.65
McAllister, Daniel H. & Kelley A.	1,072.17
McCarvill, Robert E. & Dauna C.	1,498.37
Mercier, Terry J.	510.84
Miller, Robert J. Jr.	2,001.70*
Miner, Arnold E. (Est.)	29.70
Paquette, Robert & Patti	334.13
Scherlin, Judith A.	443.99*
Scott, Arthur B. / Lester, Pamela J.	2,453.22
Winter, Tanya	415.80
Young, Duane M. & Gay M.	864.26*

2003	<i>Real</i>
Ames, Teri M.	1,650.66
Bailey, Philip & Jo Ann	1,190.64
Bartlett, Lois & Reginald (Est.)	23.45
Boston & Maine Corp.	72.16
Boyce, James L. & Georgia A.	231.83*
Brooks, Todd A. & Maureen G.	956.12
Cadwalader, Dylan & Geraldine	939.88
Casey, Jean A. (Est.)	1,215.90
Clark, Archie S. & Lorrie A.	2.32*
Clews, Thomas E. & Stephanie A.	1,607.36
Davidson, Henry W. & Birdie L. (Est.)	853.29
Dawson, Roy J. Jr.	1,109.46
Faulkner, Todd	1,610.97
Forcier, Constance	498.31*
Forrett, Darren K. & Laura L.	3,176.84
Gale, John C. & Sabrina A.	1,760.70
Gannon, Thomas W. (Est.) & Rawson-Gannon, Anna S.	2,884.60
Hebert, Michael J. & Deborah J.	2,475.76
Howe, Christiane A.	277.37*
Jalbert, Marcel A. & Helen	1,661.48
Jones, Scott R. & Charity R.	1,908.63
Lee, Stephen H. & Monica P.	1,956.76*
Martin, Donald	2,895.42
McAllister, Daniel H. & Kelley A.	1,302.49
Mercier, Terry J.	620.58
Miner, Arnold E. (Est.)	36.08
Paquette, Robert & Patti	405.90
Plumb, Kenneth W. Jr. & Deborah	1,867.14
Rawson, Jeffrey H. & Terry	2,796.20
Raymond, Mark J.	247.15
Sage, Stanley S. & Laura M.	1,558.66
Scott, Arthur B. / Lester, Pamela J.	2,980.21
Scully, Donna M.	1,354.80
Shippee, Thurman G. (Est.)	323.64*
Shippee, Thurman N. / Todd B. / Dean E.	413.46*
Smith, Timothy S.	2,687.96
Tidd, Joel P. & Gail E.	786.59*
Tosi, Jeffrey L. & Donna M.	1,699.43*
Unaitis, Jerald A. & Marcella L.	1,134.86*
Washburn, Elliott S.	24.06*
Winter, Tanya	505.12
Young, Duane M. & Gay M.	<u>1,645.25</u>

Balance Delinquent
December 31, 2003 \$ 74,665.95

*Balance Outstanding

TOWN GENERAL FUND COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

	DEC. 31, 2002	DEC. 31, 2003		DEC. 31, 2002	DEC. 31, 2003
CURRENT ASSETS				CURRENT LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	
Cash on Hand or in Bank					
Town Checking Account	\$ 44,205.00	\$ 18,959.66		Accounts Payable	\$ 7,505.66
Invested Sweep Account	80,800.49	-		Accrued Salaries & FICA	5,720.46
Treasurer's Change Fund	100.00	100.00		Due to Delinquent Tax Collector	261.84
Office Petty Cash	50.00	50.00		Prepaid Taxes	905.00
Town Clerk's Petty Cash	50.00	50.00		Due to VELCO	73,788.05
Recreation Change Fund	25.00	25.00		Due to Other Funds	
Emergency Management Petty Cash	50.00	50.00		Professional Services Fund	100.00
Police Petty Cash	25.00	25.00		Restoration Fund	446.00
Prepaid Gas & Diesel	<u>10,798.75</u>	<u>11,803.97</u>		Dog Fund	<u>9.00</u>
	<u>\$ 136,104.24</u>	<u>\$ 31,063.63</u>			\$ 88,727.01
					\$ 40,492.88
Delinquent Taxes Receivable				Appropriation Commitments	
Real & Personal (Current)	\$ 55,411.82	\$ 53,349.49		Vernon Historians, Inc.	\$ 10,194.98
Real & Personal (Prior Years)	<u>21,941.96</u>	<u>21,316.46</u>		Vernon Historians, Photos & Supplies	149.74
	<u>\$ 77,353.78</u>	<u>\$ 74,665.95</u>		Town Audit	750.00
				Recreation-Playground Equipment	17.08
Accounts Receivable				Town's 250th Celebration	4,200.00
Vernon School District				Town Picnic	551.81
Gas	\$ 98.36	\$ 153.36		Town Veteran's War Memorial	2,000.00
Treasurer's Supplies	1,045.13	325.38		Fire Department Storage Tank	<u>12,592.50</u>
Treasurer's Dental	292.29	315.66		Total Appropriations Committed	\$ 28,456.11
Town Clerk's Remittances	3,538.57	4,146.23			\$ 22,688.20
Library Payroll & Benefits	9,148.64	1,741.12		Total Liabilities & Appropriations	\$ 117,183.12
Employees	16.00	37.69			\$ 63,181.08
Vendor Reimbursements		158.67		E 911	279.68
Health Insurance	895.18	-		Farm Daze Committee	523.18
Prepaid Expenses	1,043.91	21,500.38		FEMA Emergency Management Reimbursement	185.46
Due from Delinquent Tax Collector		44.89		Designated Funds (Reserves)	9,519.70
Due from Fire Dept Homeland Sec Grant		87,260.44			40,536.61
Vernon Newspaper		10.00		Fund Balance	105,248.61
Entergy: EOC Phone & Fax Reimbursement		212.47		Net Fund Balance	105,248.61
St of Vermont: Civil Fines		330.00			121,262.97
Due From Other Funds				Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$ 232,939.75
Polly A. Lee Cemetery Lot Fund	3.13	1.10			\$ 225,968.98
Dog Fund	1,765.25			Designated Fund Balance:	
Unemployment Compensation Fund	473.77			Canine Donation	\$ 50.08
Town Road Upgrade Fund	-	4,002.01		EOC Emergency Radios: Entergy	1,000.00
Elderly Assistance Fund	367.50			2004 RERP (EOC) Award	5,000.00
Capital Fund	<u>794.00</u>			EOC Budget Reserve	6,813.65
	<u>\$ 19,481.73</u>	<u>\$ 120,239.40</u>		Fire Pond Maintenance	7,429.64
				Grade Adjustments	8,811.17
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 232,939.75	\$ 225,968.98		Pre-school Fundraiser	673.73
	=====	=====		Tax Listing	2,500.00
				GASB 34 Compliance	8,000.00
				Recycling Bin	<u>258.34</u>
				Total Designated Fund Balance	\$ 40,536.61

NOTE: The Town of Vernon has no long term indebtedness, therefore, a schedule of maturities is not included.

**SELECTMEN'S SIX MONTHS BUDGET
JANUARY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2004**

This budget was voted by Article 7 At a Special Town Meeting on November 18, 2003, with a vote by Article 5 to have the Town collect taxes on it without discounts payable on or before April 15, 2004. A motion was passed at the January 5, 2004 Selectmen's meeting to set a Municipal tax rate only of \$ 0.2537 per hundred.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Town Clerk	\$ 18,429.00
Assistant Town Clerks	17,950.00
Ballot Clerks	2,000.00
FICA	2,936.00
Health Insurance	12,186.00
Dental Insurance	848.00
Life Insurance	-
*Disability Insurance	536.00
New Office Equipment	2,000.00
Ballots	100.00
Tapes	25.00
Postage for Ballots	200.00
*Town Meeting Sound System	600.00
Travel and Conferences	2,400.00
Miscellaneous (Elections)	<u>300.00</u>
	60,510.00

TOWN TREASURER'S OFFICE

Treasurer	17,099.00
Assistant Treasurer	11,354.00
FICA	2,082.00
Health Insurance	15,193.00
Dental Insurance	1,263.00
Life Insurance	-
*Disability Insurance	660.00
Treasurer's Supplies	1,800.00
New Office Equipment	500.00
Telephone	400.00
Travel and Conference	<u>600.00</u>
	50,951.00

AUDITORS

Auditors	13,176.00
FICA	1,008.00
Health Insurance	10,643.00
Dental Insurance	844.00
Life Insurance	-
New Equipment	-
Printing of Town Report	4,617.00
Postage	300.00
Travel and Conference	<u>150.00</u>
	30,738.00

LISTERS

Listers	20,000.00
Listers' Admin. Assistant	7,000.00
FICA	1,913.00
Health Insurance	10,643.00
Dental Insurance	844.00
Life Insurance	-
Tax Listing	-
Revision of Tax Maps	-
Travel and Conference	<u>1,500.00</u>
	41,900.00

SELECTMEN

Selectmen	-
Selectmen's Secretary	3,091.00
Pound Keeper	-
Grade Adjustment	2,500.00
FICA	581.00
Legal Services	12,000.00
GASB 34 Compliance	2,000.00
*Travel	800.00
Miscellaneous	500.00
Contributions and Gifts	500.00
Green Up	350.00
Memorial Day Committee	-
	<u>22,322.00</u>

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Not needed

GENERAL EXPENSES

Secretaries (Floaters)	1,000.00
FICA	77.00
General Office Supplies	3,000.00
Advertising	2,000.00
Telephone	3,000.00
Postage	1,300.00
Landfill (Tipping Fee)	36,000.00
Refuse Collection	20,500.00
Disposal	3,600.00
Dues and Subscriptions	400.00
VT. League of Cities and Towns	1,785.00
County Tax	-
Contracts Maint. & Repair	6,000.00
Insurance and Bonds	<u>30,000.00</u>
	108,662.00

PLANNING

Supplies, Postage, Misc.	100.00
Windham Regional Plan. Comm.	-
Professional Assistance	<u>250.00</u>
	350.00

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Director	14,431.00
Assistant Director	12,437.00
Arts and Crafts Coordinator	200.00
Maintenance Foreman	1,400.00
Water Safety Instructors/Lifeguards	2,800.00
Day Camp Staff	1,600.00
Customer Service	650.00
Pre-School Instructor	7,800.00
Pre-School Assistant	6,100.00
Counselors in Training	225.00
Weekend Supervisor	-
FICA	4,000.00
Health Insurance	27,658.00
Dental Insurance	1,714.00
Life Insurance	-
*Disability Insurance	513.00
Supplies	11,425.00
Utilities/Fuel Oil	4,700.00
Telephone	1,000.00
*Dues and Subscriptions	150.00
*Contracts and Rentals	1,400.00
Repairs and Maintenance	4,000.00
Equipment	2,000.00
*Programs	7,000.00
Travel and Conference	700.00
Communication and Education	-
Reimbursable Activities	<u>4,000.00</u>
	117,903.00

SCHOOL RENTAL: Not Needed

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Custodian	14,660.00
Assistant Custodian	10,700.00
FICA	1,810.00
Health Insurance	8,520.00
Dental Insurance	857.00
Life Insurance	-
*Disability Insurance	268.00
Uniforms	-
Supplies	1,000.00
Grounds	1,200.00
Fuel Oil	3,000.00
Electricity: Town Office, North School	8,000.00
Electricity: South School	200.00
Repairs to Equipment	1,000.00
Repairs to Building	2,000.00
Repairs & Maint. South School	100.00
Custodial Equipment	500.00
Travel and Conference	200.00
Miscellaneous: South School	<u>200.00</u>
	54,215.00

CEMETERIES

Caretaking	4,626.00
Supplies	25.00
Repairs and Maintenance	<u>25.00</u>
	4,676.00

SENIORS

Van Drivers	2,500.00
FICA	192.00
Gasoline	300.00
Activities	<u>1,200.00</u>
	4,192.00

THE VERNON NEWSPAPER

Supplies	600.00
New Equipment	500.00
Postage	800.00
Contracts and Maintenance	1,050.00
Miscellaneous	-
	<u>2,950.00</u>

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief	22,580.00
Sergeant	19,862.00
Patrolmen	16,570.00
Office Manager	9,615.00
Special Police Officers	11,340.00
FICA	6,118.00
Health Insurance	25,873.00
Dental Insurance	1,902.00
Life Insurance	-
*Disability Insurance	1,238.00
Uniforms	900.00
Supplies	700.00
Inoculations	815.00
New Equipment	600.00
Telephone	3,500.00
Postage	100.00
Support Services	8,000.00
Prisoner Lodging	375.00
D.A.R.E.	500.00
Gasoline	2,500.00
Auto Repairs and Maintenance	3,000.00
Radio Repairs and Maintenance	500.00
Other Equipment Repairs	1,250.00
Training	-
Training, Travel and Conference	<u>2,000.00</u>
	139,838.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Lost Wages	500.00
Uniforms	1,500.00
Inoculations	800.00
*EAP	180.00
Supplies	1,500.00
New Equipment	7,500.00
Fuel Oil	-
Electricity	1,800.00
Telephone	1,000.00
Southwest Mutual Aid	-
Gasoline	700.00
Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	5,000.00
Fire Pond Maintenance	-
Building Repair & Maintenance	1,300.00
Training, Travel and Conference	<u>3,000.00</u>
	24,780.00

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Not Needed

RESCUE'S OPERATING BUDGET

Subscriptions & Amb. Service	2,600.00
Monthly Payment	<u>4,872.00</u>
	7,472.00

OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY

Health Officer	1,500.00
Sewage Officer	-
Fire Warden - Permits	-
	<u>1,500.00</u>

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Equipment Rental	6,000.00
Guard Rails	900.00
Culverts	2,000.00
Gravel	5,000.00
Chloride	6,100.00
Asphalt	800.00
Salt	20,000.00
Sand	2,000.00
Tree Warden	<u>1,000.00</u>
	43,800.00

TOWN GARAGE OPERATION

Road Commissioner	21,590.00
Equipment Operator	16,801.00
Operator / Mechanic	18,330.00
Part-time Operator	1,800.00
FICA	4,477.00
Health Insurance	16,640.00
Dental Insurance	1,281.00
Life Insurance	-
*Disability Insurance	939.00
Uniforms	1,600.00
Drug and Alcohol Testing	500.00
Supplies	2,500.00
Fuel Oil	3,500.00
Electricity	2,600.00
Telephone	1,300.00
Dues and Subscriptions	200.00
Gas and Diesel	4,500.00
Road Tools and Supplies	3,000.00
Safety Equipment	1,100.00
Building Repairs & Maintenance	5,000.00
Travel and Conference	<u>400.00</u>
	108,058.00

ROAD EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINT.

Trucks	6,000.00
Grader	2,000.00
Tractor	700.00
Town Van	300.00
Snow Plows and Sanders	1,700.00
Front End Loader	700.00
Small Equipment	1,000.00
Radios	<u>500.00</u>
	12,900.00

*New in 2004

TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 837,717.00
ADJ VELCO DECISION	14,390.00
ESTIMATED INCOME	<u>(36,800.00)</u>

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED \$ 815,307.00

SELECTMEN'S BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2004/2005*

Title	Budget 2003	Expenses 2003	Receipts 2003	Budget Balance 2003	Proposed Budget 2004/2005
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE					
Town Clerk	36,100.00	35,828.87		271.13	38,410.00
Assistant Town Clerks	27,000.00	28,438.92		(1,438.92)	32,000.00
Ballot Clerks	5,600.00	2,192.39		3,407.61	6,000.00
FICA	5,260.00	5,048.31		211.69	5,846.00
Health Insurance	20,182.00	20,475.40		(293.40)	17,331.00
Dental Insurance	1,650.00	1,500.68		149.32	1,864.00
Life Insurance	500.00	323.34		176.66	433.00
***Disability Insurance	-	-		-	645.00
New Office Equipment	4,000.00	2,569.87		1,430.13	6,000.00
Ballots	50.00	89.00		(39.00)	150.00
Tapes					50.00
Postage for Ballots	300.00	115.92		184.08	500.00
***Town Meeting Sound System	-	-		-	600.00
Travel & Conferences	2,000.00	3,876.01		(1,876.01)	4,000.00
Miscellaneous (Elections)					500.00
Income			27,100.35	27,100.35	
	<u>102,642.00</u>	<u>100,458.71</u>	<u>27,100.35</u>	<u>29,283.64</u>	<u>114,329.00</u>
TOWN TREASURER'S OFFICE					
Treasurer	31,010.00	29,984.16		1,025.84	37,831.00
Assistant Treasurer	17,350.00	20,224.56		(2,874.56)	22,563.00
FICA	3,700.00	3,844.28		(144.28)	4,453.00
Health Insurance	12,582.00	17,970.21		(5,388.21)	21,773.00
Dental Insurance	1,170.00	1,036.62		133.38	2,759.00
Life Insurance	350.00	489.84		(139.84)	588.00
***Disability Insurance	-	-		-	725.00
Treasurer's Supplies	3,500.00	1,856.01		1,643.99	3,500.00
New Office Equipment	2,500.00	1,130.96		1,369.04	2,500.00
Telephone	600.00	708.81		(108.81)	800.00
Travel & Conference	1,500.00	663.95		836.05	1,500.00
	<u>74,262.00</u>	<u>77,909.40</u>		<u>(3,647.40)</u>	<u>98,992.00</u>
AUDITORS					
Auditors	25,200.00	25,778.95		(578.95)	26,775.00
FICA	1,928.00	1,972.09		(44.09)	2,049.00
Health Insurance	34,905.00	35,253.12		(348.12)	15,220.00
Dental Insurance	3,280.00	2,987.28		292.72	1,855.00
Life Insurance	400.00	366.18		33.82	200.00
New Equipment	-	-		-	-
Printing of Town Report	4,482.00	4,462.00		20.00	4,800.00
Postage for Town Reports	300.00	235.79		64.21	300.00
Travel & Conference	250.00	201.36		48.64	250.00
	<u>70,745.00</u>	<u>71,256.77</u>		<u>(511.77)</u>	<u>51,449.00</u>
LISTERS' OFFICE					
Listers	24,000.00	27,420.56		(3,420.56)	35,000.00
Listers' Admin. Assistant	8,000.00	7,216.88		783.12	10,000.00
FICA	2,448.00	2,649.76		(201.76)	3,443.00
***Health Insurance	-	-		-	15,220.00
***Dental Insurance	-	-		-	1,855.00
***Life Insurance	-	-		-	200.00
Tax Listing	2,000.00	-		2,000.00	2,000.00
Revision of Tax Maps	1,000.00	-		1,000.00	1,000.00
Travel & Conference	2,500.00	3,324.49		(824.49)	3,500.00
	<u>39,948.00</u>	<u>40,611.69</u>		<u>(663.69)</u>	<u>72,218.00</u>
SELECTBOARD					
Selectmen	16,610.00	16,610.00		-	16,610.00
Selectmen's Secretary	6,060.00	6,086.08		(26.08)	6,405.00
Pound Keeper	3,000.00	923.04		2,076.96	
Grade Adjustment	5,000.00	5,000.00**		-	1,500.00
FICA	2,730.00	2,380.88		349.12	2,700.00
Legal Services	25,000.00	3,309.63		21,690.37	25,000.00
GASB 34 Compliance	8,000.00	8,000.00**		-	4,000.00
***Travel	-	-		-	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	1,768.58		(768.58)	1,000.00
Contributions & Gifts	1,200.00	430.00		770.00	1,000.00
Green-up	400.00	303.01		96.99	400.00
Memorial Day Committee	500.00	458.88		41.12	500.00
	<u>69,500.00</u>	<u>45,270.10</u>		<u>24,229.90</u>	<u>60,115.00</u>

Title	Budget 2003	Expenses 2003	Receipts 2003	Budget Balance 2003	Proposed Budget 2004/2005
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS					
Incentives	2,000.00	1,227.32		772.68	2,000.00
	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>1,227.32</u>		<u>772.68</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
GENERAL EXPENSES					
Secretary Service (Floater)	2,500.00	2,636.85		(136.85)	3,500.00
FICA	192.00	201.64		(9.64)	268.00
General Office Supplies	7,000.00	8,158.01		(1,158.01)	7,500.00
Advertising	6,000.00	1,793.47		4,206.53	6,000.00
Telephone	8,500.00	5,173.49		3,326.51	6,000.00
Postage	4,000.00	3,352.01		647.99	4,000.00
Landfill (Tipping Fees)	67,000.00	76,024.80		(9,024.80)	93,000.00
Refuse Collection	37,500.00	34,888.00		2,612.00	40,000.00
Disposal	7,500.00	6,431.33		1,068.67	4,500.00
Dues & Subscriptions	750.00	565.40		184.60	750.00
VT. League of Cities & Towns	1,684.00	1,684.00		-	1,785.00
County Tax	16,000.00	12,933.55		3,066.45	16,000.00
Contracts Maint. & Repair	10,000.00	11,628.91		(1,628.91)	12,000.00
Insurance & Bonds	50,000.00	42,930.00		7,070.00	65,000.00
	<u>218,626.00</u>	<u>208,401.46</u>		<u>10,224.54</u>	<u>260,303.00</u>
PLANNING					
Supplies, Postage, Misc.	500.00	26.33		473.67	500.00
Windham Regional Plan. Com.	2,482.00	2,976.00		(494.00)	2,976.00
Professional Assistance	500.00			500.00	500.00
	<u>3,482.00</u>	<u>3,002.33</u>		<u>479.67</u>	<u>3,976.00</u>
RECREATION DEPARTMENT					
Director's Salary	30,021.00	31,247.59		(1,226.59)	29,966.00
Assistant Director	23,530.00	26,678.42		(3,148.42)	26,396.00
Arts & Crafts Co-ordinator	1,140.00	1,276.18		(136.18)	1,340.00
Maintenance Foreman	4,200.00	2,675.37		1,524.63	2,809.00
Water Safety Instructors	22,625.00	20,205.99		2,419.01	21,616.00
Day Camp Staff	15,565.00	11,958.02		3,606.98	12,556.00
Customer Service	5,040.00	4,150.17		889.83	4,358.00
Preschool Director	11,900.00	14,482.26		(2,582.26)	15,475.00
Preschool Assistant	8,600.00	11,084.69		(2,484.69)	12,595.00
Counselors in Training	2,100.00	1,825.00		275.00	2,000.00
Weekend Supervisor	1,020.00	128.93		891.07	500.00
FICA	10,179.00	10,192.33		(13.33)	10,750.00
Health Insurance	23,088.00	22,648.26		439.74	34,670.00
Dental Insurance	2,850.00	2,119.20		730.80	4,642.00
Life Insurance	600.00	531.24		68.76	650.00
***Disability Insurance	-	-		-	720.00
Supplies	13,221.00	19,010.82		(5,789.82)	16,775.00
Utilities	7,110.00	7,971.24		(861.24)	7,150.00
Telephone	2,200.00	2,117.15		82.85	2,200.00
***Dues & Subscriptions	-	-		-	150.00
***Contracts & Rentals	-	-		-	1,345.00
Repairs & Maintenance	10,700.00	6,760.80		3,939.20	5,000.00
Equipment	5,910.00	1,393.94		4,516.06	5,250.00
***Programs	-	-		-	16,300.00
Travel & Conference	1,779.00	247.78		1,531.22	2,500.00
Communication & Education	-	1,868.38		(1,868.38)	
Reimbursable Activities		22,131.86		(22,131.86)	
Income			51,562.54	51,562.54	
Note: Reimbursable Activities will be re- placed with Programs					
	<u>203,378.00</u>	<u>222,705.62</u>	<u>51,562.54</u>	<u>32,234.92</u>	<u>237,713.00</u>
RECREATION SCHOOL RENTAL					
	<u>97,344.00</u>	<u>97,344.00</u>			<u>111,522.00</u>
	<u>97,344.00</u>	<u>97,344.00</u>			<u>111,522.00</u>

Title	Budget 2003	Expenses 2003	Receipts 2003	Budget Balance 2003	Proposed Budget 2004/2005
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS					
Custodian Salary	29,200.00	21,382.39		7,817.61	30,968.00
Assistant Custodian Salary	16,200.00	25,493.35		(9,293.35)	17,567.00
FICA	3,474.00	3,320.33		153.67	3,713.00
Health Insurance	14,400.00	14,257.94		142.06	12,431.00
Dental Insurance	645.00	1,306.17		(661.17)	1,885.00
Life Insurance	250.00	244.02		5.98	275.00
***Disability	-	-		-	300.00
Uniforms	300.00	149.95		150.05	300.00
Supplies	4,500.00	4,394.54		105.46	4,500.00
Grounds	3,000.00	1,792.73		1,207.27	3,000.00
Fuel Oil	5,000.00	3,483.61		1,516.39	5,000.00
Electricity - Town/Lib/North	16,000.00	13,485.98		2,514.02	16,000.00
Electricity - South School	500.00	352.85		147.15	500.00
Repairs to Equipment	2,500.00	914.04		1,585.96	2,500.00
Repairs to Building	8,000.00	5,677.76		2,322.24	8,000.00
Repairs & Maint. -South School	300.00	-		300.00	300.00
Custodial Equipment	1,000.00	1,010.98		(10.98)	1,000.00
Travel & Conference	300.00	166.44		133.56	300.00
Miscellaneous - South School	600.00	320.00		280.00	600.00
	<u>106,169.00</u>	<u>97,753.08</u>		<u>8,415.92</u>	<u>109,139.00</u>
CEMETERIES					
Caretaking	8,500.00	8,500.00		-	10,124.00
Supplies	600.00	259.12		340.88	600.00
Repair & Maintenance	2,000.00	2,264.75		(264.75)	2,000.00
	<u>11,100.00</u>	<u>11,023.87</u>		<u>76.13</u>	<u>12,724.00</u>
VERNON SENIORS					
Van Driver Salaries	8,500.00	4,726.24		3,773.76	8,500.00
FICA	651.00	367.67		283.33	651.00
Gasoline	1,000.00	500.25		499.75	1,000.00
Activities	2,545.00	2,545.00		-	2,545.00
	<u>12,696.00</u>	<u>8,139.16</u>		<u>4,556.84</u>	<u>12,696.00</u>
THE VERNON NEWSPAPER					
Supplies	1,350.00	1,126.65		223.35	1,350.00
New Equipment	500.00	67.96		432.04	750.00
Postage	1,350.00	1,485.57		(135.57)	1,500.00
Contracts & Maintenance	1,200.00	1,115.27		84.73	1,350.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	-		100.00	50.00
Income			1,828.00	1,828.00	
	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>3,795.45</u>	<u>1,828.00</u>	<u>2,532.55</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>

Title	Budget 2003	Expenses 2003	Receipts 2003	Budget Balance 2003	Proposed Budget 2004/2005
POLICE DEPARTMENT					
Chief's Salary	44,302.00	44,136.68		165.32	47,237.00
Sergeant Salary	-	-		-	37,682.00
Patrolmen's Salaries	62,400.00	58,153.36		4,246.64	32,316.00
Office Manager Salary	18,600.00	15,559.95		3,040.05	20,220.00
Police Specials	21,000.00	4,600.49		16,399.51	23,360.00
FICA	11,193.00	9,266.46		1,926.52	12,303.00
Health Insurance	32,800.00	41,279.00		(8,479.00)	36,883.00
Dental Insurance	2,300.00	3,254.05		(954.05)	4,375.00
Life Insurance	900.00	578.15		321.85	900.00
***Uniforms	-	-		-	900.00
Inoculations	1,625.00	71.25		1,553.75	1,650.00
***Disability Insurance					1,500.00
Supplies	1,200.00	1,353.19		(153.19)	1,200.00
New Equipment & Uniforms	5,000.00	3,838.77		1,161.23	3,100.00
Telephone	6,000.00	6,720.28		(720.28)	5,000.00
Postage	200.00	135.01		64.99	200.00
Support Service	15,000.00	14,691.18		308.82	15,500.00
Prisoner Lodging	750.00	160.00		590.00	750.00
D.A.R.E.	750.00	697.65		52.35	850.00
Gasoline	5,000.00	4,155.45		844.55	5,000.00
Auto Repairs & Maintenance	3,500.00	4,136.39		(636.39)	3,500.00
Radio Repairs & Maintenance	1,000.00	438.89		561.11	1,000.00
Other Equipment Repairs	2,500.00	807.57		1,692.43	2,750.00
Training	4,000.00	931.40		3,068.60	
Travel & Conference	500.00	509.07		(9.07)	4,500.00
Income			2,487.10	2,487.10	
	<u>240,520.00</u>	<u>215,474.26</u>	<u>2,487.10</u>	<u>27,532.84</u>	<u>262,676.00</u>
FIRE DEPARTMENT					
Lost Wages	5,000.00	140.57		4,859.43	5,000.00
***FICA	-	-		-	100.00
Uniforms	5,000.00	4,756.92		243.08	4,384.00
Inoculations	1,625.00			1,625.00	1,625.00
***EAP	-	-		-	350.00
Supplies	1,500.00	2,677.73		(1,177.73)	3,400.00
New Equipment	18,000.00	21,978.98		(3,978.98)	14,000.00
Fuel Oil	3,000.00	3,729.60		(729.60)	3,000.00
Electricity	3,500.00	3,543.53		(43.53)	3,500.00
Telephone	2,000.00	2,491.82		(491.82)	2,000.00
Southwest Mutual Aid	6,800.00	6,700.00		100.00	13,416.00
Gasoline	1,300.00	1,120.31		179.69	1,300.00
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	10,250.00	11,375.61		(1,125.61)	10,000.00
Fire Pond Maintenance	6,000.00	6,000.00**		-	6,000.00
Building Repair & Maintenance	8,000.00	3,808.15		4,191.85	4,000.00
Training, Travel & Conference	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>6,285.44</u>		<u>(1,285.44)</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
	<u>76,975.00</u>	<u>74,608.66</u>	-	<u>2,366.34</u>	<u>77,075.00</u>
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT					
Director's Compensation	1,800.00	1,800.00		-	1,800.00
Secretary's Compensation	500.00	500.00		-	500.00
***Radiological Officer	-	-		-	500.00
Supplies	500.00	500.00**		-	500.00
New Equipment/Safety Equipment	4,000.00	4,000.00**		-	4,000.00
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	1,000.00	1,000.00**		-	1,000.00
Building Repairs & Maintenance	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00**</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>500.00</u>
	<u>8,300.00</u>	<u>8,300.00</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>8,800.00</u>
RESCUE'S OPERATING BUDGET					
Subscriptions & Ambulance Service	4,500.00	6,160.68		(1,660.68)	-
Monthly Payment	<u>9,100.00</u>	<u>9,100.00</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>11,241.00</u>
	<u>13,600.00</u>	<u>15,260.68</u>		<u>(1,660.68)</u>	<u>11,241.00</u>
OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY					
Health Officer	1,500.00	1,500.00		-	1,500.00
Sewage Officer	850.00	250.00		600.00	850.00
Fire Warden - Permits	<u>500.00</u>	<u>417.00</u>		<u>83.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
	<u>2,850.00</u>	<u>2,167.00</u>		<u>683.00</u>	<u>2,850.00</u>

Title	Budget 2003	Expenses 2003	Receipts 2003	Balance 2003	Proposed Budget 2004/2005
HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE					
Equipment Rental	12,000.00	7,110.00		4,890.00	12,000.00
Guard Rails	1,800.00	1,244.00		556.00	1,800.00
Culverts	5,000.00	2,815.54		2,184.46	5,000.00
Gravel	10,000.00	8,918.80		1,081.20	12,000.00
Chloride	5,500.00	6,003.36		(503.36)	6,200.00
Asphalt	1,500.00	1,286.48		213.52	1,700.00
Salt	28,000.00	27,697.17		302.83	29,000.00
Sand	6,000.00	5,988.00		12.00	6,100.00
Tree Warden	2,300.00	2,005.00		295.00	2,300.00
	<u>72,100.00</u>	<u>63,068.35</u>		<u>9,031.65</u>	<u>76,100.00</u>
TOWN GARAGE OPERATION					
Road Commissioner Salary	41,091.00	41,903.18		(812.18)	43,551.00
Equipment Operator	32,668.00	32,687.87		(19.87)	34,614.00
Operator / Mechanic	35,400.00	35,695.37		(295.37)	38,103.00
Part-Time Operator	3,000.00	2,801.60		198.40	6,000.00
FICA	8,581.00	8,651.01		(70.01)	9,354.00
Health Insurance	27,559.00	28,099.33		(540.33)	27,722.00
Dental Insurance	2,490.00	2,267.85		222.15	2,677.00
Life Insurance	700.00	635.16		64.84	733.00
Uniforms	2,500.00	2,436.83		63.17	2,600.00
***Disability Insurance	-	-		-	1,033.00
Drug & Alcohol Testing	1,000.00	435.00		565.00	1,000.00
Supplies	4,500.00	4,636.53		(136.53)	4,600.00
Fuel Oil	7,000.00	5,559.40		1,440.60	7,000.00
Electricity	3,000.00	3,199.23		(199.23)	3,200.00
Telephone	2,500.00	2,060.08		439.92	2,500.00
Dues & Subscriptions	400.00	252.00		148.00	400.00
Gas & Diesel	6,500.00	7,096.53		(596.53)	6,700.00
Road Tools & Supplies	4,000.00	3,916.39		83.61	4,100.00
Safety Equipment	2,000.00	1,439.98		560.02	2,000.00
Building Repair & Maintenance	8,700.00	8,740.64		(40.64)	8,700.00
Travel & Conference	800.00	245.00		555.00	800.00
Income			105.00	105.00	
	<u>194,389.00</u>	<u>192,758.98</u>	<u>105.00</u>	<u>1,735.02</u>	<u>207,387.00</u>
ROAD EQUIPMENT REPAIR & MAINT.					
Trucks	12,000.00	16,836.18		(4,836.18)	12,000.00
Grader	2,000.00	3,890.30		(1,890.30)	2,500.00
Tractor	800.00	1,661.44		(861.44)	1,000.00
Town Van	600.00	562.34		37.66	800.00
Snow Plows & Sander	3,000.00	2,961.62		38.38	3,000.00
Front End Loader	1,500.00	360.89		1,139.11	5,900.00
Small Equipment	2,200.00	1,297.02		902.98	2,200.00
Radios	1,000.00	652.23		347.77	1,000.00
	<u>23,100.00</u>	<u>28,222.02</u>		<u>(5,122.02)</u>	<u>28,400.00</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 1,648,226.00	\$ 1,588,758.91	\$ 83,082.99	\$ 142,550.08	\$ 1,826,705.00
INTEREST EARNED				2,169.06	
ADJ VELCO DECISION				(59,397.87)	
DEDUCT SURPLUS	(107,669.15)				(85,321.27)
ESTIMATED INCOME 2003	(86,000.00)				
ESTIMATED INCOME 2004					(86,000.00)
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	\$ 1,454,556.85	\$ 1,588,758.91	\$ 83,082.99	\$ 85,321.27	\$ 1,655,383.73

*Subject to change before Town Meeting

**Note: The following budgeted accounts shown as fully expended in 2003 have been placed in Reserve Funds for spending in 2004 / 2005: \$5000 in Grade Adjustments, \$8,000 in GASB 34 Compliance and \$4,429.64 in Fire Pond Maintenance. In addition, \$6,813.65 is in a Reserve fund for Emergency Management's use from January to June, 2004.

*** New Line Items

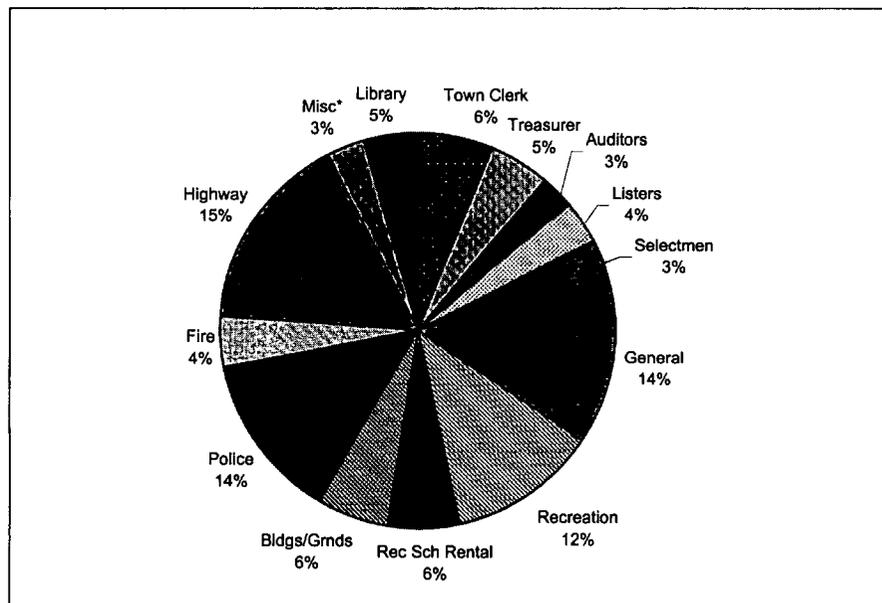
	<i>Balance Previous Years</i>	<i>Transfers and Appropriation 2003</i>	<i>Expenses 2003</i>	<i>Donations</i>	<i>Balance</i>
MISCELLANEOUS APPROPRIATIONS					
Library Administration & Operation	\$	\$ 75,691.00	\$ 75,691.00	\$	
Vernon Historians, Inc.-Storage Bldg.	10,194.98		6,453.29		3,741.69
Vernon Historians, Inc.-Photos	149.74	750.00	700.94		198.80
Town Picnic	551.81*				
Volunteer Fund of Rescue Inc.		1,000.00	1,000.00		
Rescue Inc. Ambulance/Medical Equipment Replacement Fund		4,000.00	4,000.00		
Town Audit	750.00				750.00
Water Storage Tanks with Dry Hydrants	12,592.50				12,592.50
Vernon 250th Anniversary Celebration	4,200.00	5,000.00	13,206.36	6,859.76	3,405.21**
Recreation Playground Equipment	17.08		17.08		
Veteran's Memorial		2,000.00			2,000.00

*Voted by Article 19 at March 2003 Town Meeting to be allocated to the Vernon 250th Anniversary Celebration

** Voted by Article 1 at the November 18, 2003 Special Town Meeting to allocate this balance for use toward the 2004 Annual Town Picnic

PROPOSED 2004/2005 TOWN BUDGET BY DEPARTMENT

Town Clerk	\$	114,329
Treasurer	\$	98,992
Auditors	\$	51,449
Listers	\$	72,218
Selectmen	\$	60,115
General	\$	260,303
Recreation	\$	237,713
Rec Sch Rental	\$	111,522
Bldgs/Gmnds	\$	109,139
Police	\$	262,676
Fire	\$	77,075
Highway	\$	311,887
Misc*	\$	59,287
Library	\$	86,846
Total	\$	1,913,551



*Misc. includes Planning, , Employee Benefits, Cemeteries, Seniors, Vernon Newspaper, Emergency Mgmt, Rescue's Operating Budget Other Public Safety

BOARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ANIMAL CONTROL ANNUAL REPORT 2003

The year 2003 has come and gone! How time flies! The Vernon Police Department has been handling any and all animal complaints for the past year.

To date, we have seen only one confirmed case of rabies in town, this was a raccoon shot by a Governor Hunt Road resident this past summer. The critter was sent to the State Laboratory for testing, and proved positive for rabies. This is also evident in surrounding towns, so, hopefully, this dreaded disease is finally winding down after seeing it peak in 2001/2002.

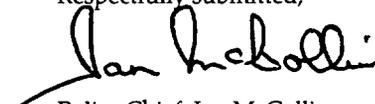
We still deal with numerous dogs running at large, where owners let their pets out to do their business and then fail to bring them in, consequently, the animals run all day long. The police receive a call from citizens concerned about the animal's safety and welfare. Again, I cannot stress the importance of an animal wearing a collar with license and rabies tags attached. Then when the dog is picked up, we can return it home to its rightful owner instead of lodging the canine at the town animal pound, sometimes with considerable expense to the owner. As in the past, I still maintain that Vernon is a "dumping ground" for dogs which are abandoned in town by owners who cannot be bothered to take their pet to an appropriate adoption shelter.

This past year has seen an increase in stray cats, which again, land up at the Humane Society for adoption. Most of the stray cats we have picked up appear to be domesticated and not the "barnyard" type, which are not very friendly, to say the least. This past winter, we did not receive too many reports about missing cats, so perhaps, the Fisher Cats did not have a stable diet of felines on their food chain!

We have seen an increase in horses breaking out of their pastures and wandering along the highways in different areas of town. I would like to remind owners to check your fences on occasion and check for broken fence panels or is the electric fence functioning properly? Is the battery dead? Remember, if Trigger gets hit by a motor vehicle and causes a serious accident, you may have a dead horse on your hands, and some serious liability issues.

The Town of Vernon now has a contract with the Windham Humane Society, whereby any stray dogs are lodged at the Town Pound for two days and then taken up to the Humane Society where their owners can claim them after paying boarding fees, or if unclaimed, they will be available for adoption. Due to the fact that our Pound does not have any facilities for boarding cats, these will be transported to the Humane Society immediately.

Respectfully submitted,



Police Chief, Ian McCollin

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee would like to thank PeeWee for his excellent work in taking care of our cemeteries this past year. The Committee would also like to thank Francis Serviss for the assistance he provided.

This past year, the Whithed Cemetery fence was painted and one tree was replaced.

The 2004 and 2005 Cemetery Caretaking Contract was awarded to Marion (PeeWee) Edwards.

We want to remind anyone having shrubs by headstones that it is your responsibility to keep them trimmed as needed. It is also your personal responsibility to remove any potted plants, pots and any floral arrangements whether real or artificial when they have gone by. Decorative rocks are also not allowed in the cemeteries. Anyone may get a copy of the Cemetery Regulations upon request to the Town Clerk.

The Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month from April through November.

MARYLYNN SCHERLIN, *Chairman*
MIKE WALSH, *Vice Chairman*
FRANK JOHNSON, SR.

ELDERLY ASSISTANCE BOARD

The Elderly Assistance Board would like to thank everyone who helped provide assistance to our Seniors this year.

The primary purpose of the Vernon Elderly Assistance Program is to help older and disabled residents to remain in their homes in independent living situations, especially those with limited incomes and in danger of depleting their savings. The by-laws have not included residents in conjugate living where services are provided by their facilities.

Often we rely on family, friends and neighbors to lend a helping hand. Area churches have been very helpful and there are many more who continue to silently assist those in need. Our greatest need is for volunteers. A little help is often sufficient to enable someone to stay at home.

Services provided this year included snow removal, help with housekeeping, putting on storm windows and transportation to medical appointments.

We have been active in connecting people to agencies for help with fuel assistance, supplemental food programs and other social services. We are committed to confidentiality for all.

The Board meets the third Tuesday of each month.

MARYLYNN SCHERLIN, *Chairman*
JACK ARENSMEYER
JOEL TIDD
JEAN WAITE (Resigned)
MARION WATSON

THE VERNON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

"NEIGHBORS ANSWERING THE CALL "

The Fire Department "answers the call" for many reasons; various fires, flooded basements, lost persons, filling swimming pools, motor vehicle crashes, and the list goes on. Usually when people don't know where to go or who to call, they call their "Neighbor". There were a total of 129 calls in 2003 with the following breakdown:

Broken Pipes	3	Brush Fires	3
Burnt Food	4	Car Fires	3
Chimney Fires	2	Electrical Fire	1
Fallen Trees	2	Flooded Basements	2
Fire Alarms	3	Hazardous Materials	2
Illegal Burns	3	Legal Burns	4
Mutual Aid	6	Motor Vehicle Accidents	15
Rescue Assistance	57	Odor/Smoke Investigation	6
Wires Down	3	Tree on Elec.Wire/Fire	1
Miscellaneous	9		

The most important parts of any organization are teamwork, training and dedication. The men and women of the Vernon Volunteer Fire Company each have something very special to bring to the team and when we are called, we pull together as one.

Training is an ongoing part of each member's evolution as a firefighter. Training consists of in house classes, hands on drills, how to's for running and operating trucks, pumps, and hose lines. It also includes specifics for various accidents, hazardous material incidents, the many fire incidences, carbon monoxide, search and rescue, as well as a host of other areas. Aside from the training that occurs during our Tuesday night meetings, we currently have 9 Members and Explorers taking Fire Fighter One and 3 Members taking EMT-Basic Training and 2 of these take both. This is a huge undertaking for these men and women as courses are one or two nights weekly and many Saturdays and sometimes Sundays, adding more time away from families in order to make themselves better servants for this community.

Our Explorer Post, chartered by the Boy Scouts of America and directed by Captain Liebfried, has proven very successful. Recently Jacob Hardy graduated to Fire Fighter and we expect Joe McNary, Joshua Carr and Keith Franklin to be moving up in the next few months.

An Explorer is a 14-21 year old who has an interest in exploring fire service. They learn the same things as Fire Fighters and work side by side with them in many cases. They do not do any interior fire fighting but can help just about anywhere else under close supervision. Captain Jim Liebfried has been working with this group since the inception a number of years ago. If you or anyone you know may be interested, the meetings are usually on Thursday evenings 7-9 p.m.

In November, Connie Faulkner was voted in as a member and has been appointed as the Department's **First Response Squad, Manager**. She has recently helped the Fire Department to apply to the Vermont Department of Health to become a licensed Emergency Medical Service First Response Squad. The Vernon Volunteer Fire Department has been responding to medical emergencies in the town for the past several years to aid Rescue Inc. in offering care to the sick and injured in our community. In the near future, Vernon Volunteer Fire Department will begin responding to 911 calls in Vernon as a licensed Emergency Medical Service providing medical care by certified First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians qualified to render medical care under the license of a Medical Director.

My goals as Fire Chief are to recognize and encourage each member's strengths, to facilitate a "family" friendly Department. I hope to provide more community services such as monthly blood pressure checks and lastly it is my utmost desire to model positive leadership and to honor the community in my service. In closing, I would like to thank the volunteers and families for their dedication and talents. Each person plays an important role in order to make this Fire Company a successful entity to this town. We are your *"Neighbors Answering the Call."*

TERRANCE PARKER, *Chief*

FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT - 2003

"The 2003 fire season proved to be a wet one keeping fire occurrence low" so states a memorandum received from the State of Vermont. They received 101 reports of fires that burned almost 100 acres but reported "0 Fires, 0 Acres Burned" for the Town of Vernon.

417 people called for fire permits. The firemen checked a few fires that were started without permits.

Thank you for obeying the law and calling before you burn.

WALTER L. BRUCE, *Forest Fire Warden*
RAYMOND CAPEN, *Deputy*

VERNON HISTORIANS, INC.

The Vernon Historians, Inc. is dedicated to realizing a better appreciation of our heritage. Membership is open to everyone. Annual dues are: \$5 for adult, \$1 for junior members under 18, \$10 for sustaining members, \$25 for institutional members and \$100 for life membership.

The Vernon Historians had a very busy year. 2003 marked the 250th anniversary of the charter which established Vernon. The Historians commemorated the occasion in several ways. Their biggest undertaking was to raise funds to restore the interior of the Pond Road Chapel. In 1968, efforts to save and restore the Chapel were the catalyst for the formation of the Historians. The Historians bought the Chapel from the Advent Christian Church for \$1.00 and restored the exterior, but the interior remained mostly in its original condition. The sad state of the historic ceiling paper, wall border and carpet discouraged wider use of the building. Restoring the interior of the Chapel to its former glory would be a birthday present that current residents and future generations could enjoy.

Many events were scheduled throughout the year to call attention to the Chapel and raise funds toward the \$23,000 needed to complete the interior restoration. In May, a town-wide solicitation of residents and businesses was begun. At the beginning of June, a tag sale was held at the Chapel. During Vernon's birthday celebration in June, the Pond Road Chapel, bedecked in bunting, was open to the public and served as headquarters for sales of commemorative T-shirts as well as Historians' wares. To mark Vernon's birthday year, the Historians were represented in the town parade by Evelyn and Jim Murray riding in their 1926 Model T Ford. In co-operation with the Vernon Free Library, a program was presented in July at the school on the founding of New England towns in general, and Vernon specifically, by Dartmouth Professor Emeritus Jere Daniell.

In August, an Antiques Appraisal took place at the Town Office Building. In September a Craft Fair was held adjacent to the Chapel and ball fields, during which Barbara Moseley hosted and narrated tours of Vernon's historic sites via the town's minibus. In October, a tour of Historic Homes offered people a chance to see the interior of five of Vernon's older homes. Throughout the year, the Historians sold commemorative Christmas ornaments and Christmas cards depicting the Chapel plus raffle tickets for a hand carved and painted decoy.

By the end of 2003, with the addition of a \$5,000 Historic Preservation Grant from a partnership of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Freeman Foundation, \$16,000 had been raised. The electrical service at the Chapel has been updated, the plaster walls have been repaired by a historic conservator, primer coats have been applied to the restored walls, and some minor repairs have been made to the "deacons" benches. Restoration of the ceiling paper and wall border is scheduled for Spring with window repairs, painting, drainage improvements and installation of a security system to follow. Finally, the Historians are working with the Town Highway Department to erect signs identifying Vernon's brooks as they cross under our roadways.

Besides all the birthday related events, the Historians maintained their regular schedule of quarterly meetings and kept the Museum in the old South School open on Sunday afternoons from June through September. Programs at the Museum included a plant sale, exhibits of advertising stoneware, old children's toys and games as well as handmade Shaker boxes and an ice cream social. The annual Classic Car Exhibit was rained out.

The January quarterly meeting featured a program by Courtland Dunklee on the Walnut Grove Dairy Farm. In April, a slide presentation of past Vernon celebrations, namely 1974 in Northfield, Mass., 1976 and 1991 in Vernon, took place and July's program was the joint presentation with the Library. In October, the Annual Meeting shared billing with an exhibit of post cards and vintage "Life" magazines.

On September 26, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Charter, the Vernon Post Office used a special Vernon pictorial cancellation stamp designed by Barbara Moseley. The annual Memorial Day service and one wedding were held at the Pond Road Chapel.

Officers for 2004:

PHILIP NELSON, *President*
 CAROL POOLE, *Vice President*
 RUTH TRIPP,
Corresponding Secretary
 CAROL HAMMOND,
Recording Secretary
 BARBARA SPRAGUE, *Treasurer*

Trustees:

RICHMOND TRIPP, *Chairman*
 WALTER ZALUZNY
 MARTHA DUNKLEE
 STEPHEN MOORE
 CAROLYN MOORE
 CAROL HAMMOND
 ANN DOE
 ANN PARKER
 CAROL POOLE

REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

One of the duties of the Health Officer is to respond to complaints of health hazards occurring in rental units. The Health Officer works with the Department of Health to insure that these hazards are managed properly. The goal is to insure that both tenant and landlord work together in resolving any problems. In some cases, such as lead paint contamination, the State Health Department takes the lead in managing the problem.

Again, I would like to remind residents that any alteration in an existing system, such as replacing a septic tank or opening a replacement area requires a Health Permit. These permits are obtained at the Town Clerk's office, and are good for one year from the date of issue.

Copies of the Town Sewage Ordinance are available at the Town Clerk's office. Residents who are considering changes or new construction are advised to consult either the Health Officer or the Town Clerk for clarification of regulations. This will help avoid delays and/or additional expense. New construction requires both a permit and a plan drawn up by a Vermont licensed engineer or site technician. The plan and the permit are recorded with the Town Clerk.

Rabies complaints are handled by the Police Department. In cases where there has been contact between the suspected animal and a human, the Health Officer works with the Police Department to insure compliance.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

New systems installed	7
Alterations to existing systems	1
Final inspections pending	8

JOHN M. SKIBNIOWSKY, *Health Officer*

REPORT OF THE LISTERS

The Listers' vision is to determine the fair market value of all real and personal property and maintain equity throughout the town to produce a defensible grand list each year.

Listers compile and maintain the Grand List, which is a listing of all properties and their assessed values. In order to receive state aid to education, towns are required to assess all properties at 100% of Fair Market Value. The State studies the sales in every town every year. As of December 2003, our CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) dropped to 90.14%. If this percentage drops below 80% of Fair Market Value, the Town is required by the State to do a town wide reappraisal. We continue to watch our sales closely as an indicator to when we need to reappraise.

The Legislature, in its infinite wisdom, in an effort to revise Act 60, the Equal Education Law, passed a new bill, Act 68 which will be effective April 1, 2004. Under this law, the Listers are required to split the Grand List between residents who declare their Vermont Homesteads by April 15 and non residents. This non resident category includes all commercial, rental properties, second homes, utilities and miscellaneous properties. Failure to declare a homestead will result in penalties by the State. **Even if a property owner is not required to file an income tax return he or she MUST file a Homestead Declaration, Form HS-131, by April 15. There is NO grace period for late filing.**

Listers are not responsible for tax increases. The data we collect on each property determines its assessment. The total value of all the properties is the Grand List. After the Select Board and School Board set their budgets, which are voted at Town Meeting, the Budget amounts are divided by the Grand List to determine the tax rate. Due to the Town's vote to change to a fiscal year to coincide with the School, we will be having an extra municipal tax bill due April 15, 2004.

In 2003, two of the Listers had the opportunity to continue their education by taking both beginner and advanced CAMA classes taught by Property Valuation and Review, an Excel class, sponsored by VLCT, and the Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal Course offered by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). We also attended the annual Municipal Officers Meetings and Vermont Association of Listers and Assessors (VALA). These meetings are invaluable to Listers as they provide forums for questions and concerns that all Listers share throughout the State.

Because of the increased activity in the real estate market, we have seen a greater volume in requests for information. We have assisted a large number of bank appraisers, real estate agents, prospective buyers, and people with inquiries on houses and land for sale, (and in some cases, not yet for sale), who have come into our office as well as those who contact us by telephone or through the mail. Again this year, the Listers were able to do all the necessary appraisals for the many new homes, additions, etc. in house. This has resulted in savings for the Town.

We would like to encourage any property owner who has had recent surveys of their properties done to please submit them to the Town Clerk's office for recording. This will insure accuracy in our tax maps.

If anyone has questions about their property, please contact our office and we will do our best to help you.

WILLIAM HAMMOND, *Chairman*
PHYLLIS NEWTON
CAROL HAMMOND

250th COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee worked diligently to put together one of the biggest events the Town of Vernon has seen. Committee members made telephone calls to area businesses and sent letters to get donations of food, drink or monetary assistance. A bake sale was held at the Interstate 91 Welcome Center. All of this volunteerism gave the Town an event to be talked about for a long time.

Sonya Shippee and Tarina Swanger organized the parade from start to finish. The parade was assembled at the intersection of Pond Road, Newton and Lily Pond Road. As the parade passed by the Chapel, Georgia Boyce narrated from cue cards put together by Tarina.

Marylynn Scherlin organized and supervised the Penny Carnival that was once again a huge success.

The Potluck Supper was enthusiastically received with more people than usual. Most of those attending stayed to enjoy the dancing to live music and then to watch the Fireworks (a big portion of the display was courtesy of Entergy Vermont Yankee).

Behind the scenes, during the preparation and on the event day itself was Larry Shippee, Sr. He made signs, flags, and carted items to and from the Recreation Area. The flags that so proudly waved up and down Pond Road were handmade by and hung by Larry.

In the coming year and years to follow, our tax rate will be steadily rising, so please consider this event when you decide what should stay and what should go. If a reduction in the amount raised and appropriated is smaller, the committee will have a greater need of volunteers and donations. Volunteers are one of the most needed commodities for the future of all our committees, boards, and events. Won't you step forward and join one or more of the committees that work hard to make our town a great place to live?

Mark your calendar for the last Saturday in June, 2004 and we will see you there.

250th Committee Members
GEORGIA BOYCE, Chair
JOYCE GOODNOW
SONYA SHIPPEE
MARYLYNN SCHERLIN
CHRISTIANE HOWE
TARINA SWANGER

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

We have changed the appearance of this report as we automate.

Number of items circulated and cataloged: Including BOOKS, BOOKS ON TAPE, and VIDEO TAPES	8,536
Number of Items circulated but not cataloged: Including PERIODICALS, PUZZLES, RECORDS ART PRINTS, and some JUVENILE AUDIO STATE BOOKS	532 245

Number of items Purchased:	
BOOKS	339
BOOKS ON TAPE	53
PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	22
NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS	3
CD'S	29
VIDEOS	3

Number of Items Donated:	
BOOKS	450
BOOKS ON TAPE	22
PUZZLES	200
PERIODICALS (MONTHLY)	25
PAPERBACK BOOKS	345
VIDEOS	145
CD'S	12
DVD'S	7

We are so proud to have nearly completed our project to get the media all cataloged and in our Athena Database.

Story hours with Lisa have been so popular that we now offer them each Monday from 10 to 11:15 a.m. This playgroup is free and open to anyone with children up to 6 years of age. We enjoy Free Play, Story, Simple Craft and Snack.

Thanks to all who have made such great donations. We have begun a very nice video collection with your generous gifts this year.

We appreciate your continued support as we go forward. The Vernon Free Library is 99 years old in 2004. Let's plan a great celebration in 2005!

Arleen, Jean and Cheryl have been a great team this year. We are fortunate to have them on staff and we appreciate the great work and dedication of our Trustees.

NANCY I. EVANS, *Director*

**VERNON FREE LIBRARY
TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Vernon Free Library had a wonderfully eventful year in 2003. The Summer Reading Program was, once again, very successful. Sixty-four children, pre-school through 8th grade finished the program and were rewarded with a book of their choice. They were also able to participate in a fun party with live entertainment provided by Magician Tom Joyce, face-painting by Jo and Meghan Astley and lots of snacks.

You may remember seeing your favorite librarians and trustees at the Penny Carnival held at the Vernon town park right before the town picnic. Hopefully you were one of the many people who came to the Library during the year to utilize the many services provided to our users. We have successfully applied for and received the second year of the Freeman Grant. This grant will be utilized to renovate the Library's bathroom to make it handicap accessible and to rework and update the Library interior to increase useable area and overall workplace efficiency.

The Library has sponsored several popular classes for the ProQuest Genealogy database taught by Arleen Huesman. This is just one of the great offerings available on the computers at the library. Also, Gale InfoTrac and MedLine are on-line databases, games, email and research opportunities. The Library is filled with many new fiction and non-fiction books, periodicals for one and all, computers, videos and books-on-tape. You can have copies made, send a fax, get your tax forms, borrow Storytime boxes, do puzzles, and take out works of art to adorn your walls. We sponsor a story hour on Mondays for children ages 0-6 years old.

All five trustees (Elizabeth Eriksson, Christine Fredericks, Nancy Burrington, Sallie May, and Kenneth Swanger) from last year returned for another year of fun and service.

There are many opportunities now available for young, old and everyone in-between at your Library. As always, if you have questions, please call the Library (257-0150) or check out the Vernon Free Library web site for more information at www.Vernonfreelibrary.org.

KENNETH SWANGER
*Chairperson
Library Board of Trustees*

VERNON FREE LIBRARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance January 1, 2003		\$ 34,553.36
ADD:		
Appropriation for 2003	\$ 75,691.00	
Interest on Checking Account	44.40	
Copier Receipts	297.25	
Book Sale	167.00	
Miscellaneous Income	<u>120.00</u>	
		<u>76,319.65</u>

Total Funds Available \$ 110,873.01

DEDUCT:		
Gross Wages	\$ 47,232.49	
Library's Share of FICA	3,613.29	
Books	7,846.72	
Renewals & Periodicals	2,429.36	
Audio	752.16	
Telephone	1,356.95	
Supplies (Office & Computer)	2,015.76	
Internet Access	323.00	
Software	744.00	
New Equipment	1,956.63	
Repairs & Maintenance	762.00	
Dues	275.00	
Workshops, Conferences, & Mileage	290.59	
Postage	378.57	
Bonding Treasurer	100.00	
Programs	782.98	
Employee Insurances	<u>11,445.90</u>	
		<u>(82,305.40)</u>

Balance December 31, 2003 \$ 28,567.61*

*Committed for expenses January, February and March 2004.

VERNON FREE LIBRARY BUDGET APRIL 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2004

Gross Wages	\$11,386.00
Library's Share of FICA	872.00
Books	2,155.00
Renewals & Periodicals	222.00
Audio	127.00
Telephone	324.00
Supplies - Office/Computer	758.00
Software	95.00
New Equipment	100.00
Repairs/Maintenance	735.00
Workshops, Conferences, & Mileage	139.00
Postage	68.00
Programs	55.00
Employee Insurance	<u>3,295.00</u>
	<u>\$20,331.00</u>

This was voted on at the November 18, 2003 Special Town Meeting by Article 4.

VERNON FREE LIBRARY PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005

Gross Wages	\$42,967.00
Library's Share of FICA	3,450.00
Books	8,000.00
Renewals & Periodicals	2,000.00
Audio	500.00
Telephone	2,100.00
Supplies - Office/Computer	2,300.00
Technology	2,000.00
Software	1,050.00
Internet Access	240.00
New Equipment	300.00
Repairs/Maintenance	1,500.00
Dues	450.00
Workshops, Conferences, & Mileage	450.00
Postage	500.00
Bonding Treasurer	100.00
Programs	750.00
Miscellaneous/Contingency	100.00
Employee Insurances	13,089.00
Capital Budget	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total	<u>\$86,846.00</u>

FREEMAN GRANT FINANCIAL REPORT

First Year Freeman Grant Financial Report

Balance January 1, 2003		\$ 3,397.28
Expenses to Date:		
Library Materials	\$ 386.99	
Contractual Services	945.00	
Supplies & Equipment	1,808.62	
Training	<u>256.67</u>	
		<u>(3,397.28)</u>

Balance December 31, 2003 \$ 0.00

Second Year Freeman Grant Financial Report

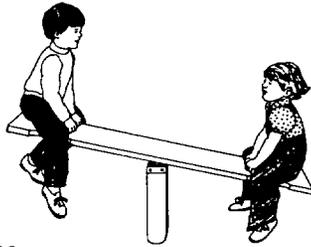
Grant Received November 4, 2003	\$ 36,284.00
No expenditures to date	
Balance December 31, 2003	<u>\$ 36,284.00</u>

REPORT OF THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

"To promote recreation services that will foster and encourage the development of a healthy lifestyle for the community"

As most of you know the Recreation Department has undergone personnel changes in the last year. Director Justin Williams has moved on and I have taken on the task of filling his shoes. I would like to thank those responsible for giving me this opportunity. Along with newly hired Assistant Director Lance Cutler we look forward to working with all of you.

Respectfully Yours,
SETH DEYO



My name is Lance C. Cutler. I am the new Assistant Director in the Recreation Department. I am a lifetime resident of West Brattleboro. Some of my many hobbies include music, movies, hiking, and athletics. I enjoy playing basketball and softball in the Brattleboro area. During my High School career, I was fortunate to be part of the Lacrosse program for four years. Including being Captain my junior and senior years.

Over the past two years the Brattleboro Rec. and Parks Department employed me as the Program Supervisor at the Gibson Aiken Center. It was there that my interest in recreation and coaching started and grew into my goal as a career. I am extremely excited for the opportunity to work in a positive environment such as Vernon. My first five months on the job have completely exceeded my expectations, and have reinforced my desire to be in the recreation field. I feel the sky is the limit for what we can achieve as a department and a community. I am looking forward to getting to know many more residents of Vernon through our programs. Thanks to all who have made my transition here as smooth as possible.

Respectfully Yours,
LANCE CUTLER

VERNON PRESCHOOL REPORT

The Recreation Pre-school Program is committed to providing a quality, diversified curriculum to meet the needs of children between the ages of three and five.

It is designed to prepare children to enter Kindergarten and the elementary grades that follow. We will work to develop a trusting relationship with each child and foster the development of individual talents, healthy self esteem and good social skills that will aid their future schooling.

This past year we have had two fundraisers to offset pre-school program expenses. In March, 2003, we held a Chinese Auction at Town Meeting raising \$1322.00. In November, 2003, we promoted a candle fundraiser resulting in \$601.00 which also went toward pre-school program expenses.

With all the help and support from our pre-school parents and the community, we are able to continue this great program.

LINDA SHIPPEE
SHARON RICHARDSON

PERSONNEL POLICY COMMITTEE

In mid 2003 the Selectboard saw the need to update and refine the Personnel Policy Handbook that employees use for benefit criteria, leave of absences definitions, and any job/employment related information.

The Committee which is comprised of seven people- two employees, two elected officials, and three residents, meets the first and third Thursdays of the month. Each member brings to the committee knowledge and expertise in one or more of the areas that the handbook covers.

Our task is to have the Personnel Policy consistent and comprehensive for all of the employees, department heads, and Selectboard. After we have reviewed and refined each section, the employees are given the opportunity to make suggestions, comments and/or corrections. Once this has happened and we have their input, we then send the section to the Selectboard for review. After the Policy Handbook has been through the Committee, the employees, and Selectboard, it will go to the Town's legal advisor for final approval. It will then be used for all employees and reviewed yearly.

Personnel Policy Committee Members
 GEORGIA BOYCE, Chair
 SALLY STEARNS
 PHYLLIS NEWTON
 NANCY EVANS
 DAVID WALKER
 JOYCE GOODNOW
 LYNDA STARORYPINSKI
 MARGARET FARABAUGH,
 (liaison to Selectboard)

THE VERNON TAX COMMITTEE

The Vernon Tax Committee was appointed by the Selectboard in June, 2002. The Committee published an extensive report which included ten years of historical data on Town and School expenses and corresponding tax rates, and a ten year projection of expenses, grand list and tax rates based on the historical data. This report was made available at the 2003 Annual Town Meeting.

In 2003, the Vernon Tax Committee was commissioned by the Selectboard to work with Entergy in drafting a new agreement. This would take into consideration the Uprate as well as reflecting the increasing viability of nuclear power nationwide.

In December, 2003, two new members, Patricia O'Donnell and Doug Fletcher were appointed to the Committee.

WILLIAM HAMMOND, Chairman
 ARTHUR MILLER
 JAMES POLHEMUS
 PATRICIA O'DONNELL
 DOUGLAS FLETCHER



REPORT OF THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The year 2003 saw some changes in the Vernon Police Department. In February, 2003, veteran part-time officer, Richard "Dick" McNary, resigned after 12 years of dedicated and faithful service to the town. Dick will be sadly missed, both as a "team player and a friend!" Dick's long-time K-9 friend and companion, "Beau" passed away peacefully on May 5, after a courageous battle with cancer. Beau assisted many of the surrounding area police enforcement agencies, and had numerous successful arrests to her credit. During the last couple of years during her life, Beau was also certified as a drug detection K-9.

In April, the Vernon Selectboard offered me the position to become the new Police Chief, after being the acting chief/officer-in-charge since November, 2002, a position I was honored to accept and will perform to the best of my ability.

May, 2003, also saw the resignation of Officer Steve Holton as a member of the department. In August, the department was fortunate in hiring Bruce Gauld, as a full-time officer. Bruce was formerly a sergeant with the Ashland, Massachusetts Police Department, and recently retired after twenty one years of service. Moving north, Bruce and his wife, Sandy, purchased a renovated farmhouse in town where they raise Boston Terriers. Sandy is an obedience trainer and has participated in dog shows around the New England area. After fulfilling his waiver training requirements, Bruce is now a fully certified Vermont police officer. With Bruce's law enforcement knowledge and expertise, he is certainly a welcome addition to the department and we are fortunate in hiring a man of his caliber. Welcome, Bruce.

During the summer months, which were fairly quiet, the department participated in the Safe Kids Program, offering bicycle helmets for sale to both juveniles and adults at great savings. This program will again be offered in the coming year.

Fall saw the department participate in a National Child I.D. Kit program, sponsored by businesses in town. These kits are available upon request from the Vernon Police Department at no cost. Fingerprints will be done by department officers, but the cards will be the responsibility of parents or guardians for safe-keeping.

Project "Childsafe", a national program to promote the handling and storage of firearms in the home, made available free cable locking devices to any Vernon resident. The locks can be picked up at the Vernon Police Department upon request at no charge.

Senior Patrolman, Kevin Turnley, taught the D.A.R.E. Program involving the two fifth grade classes at the Vernon Elementary School this past year and will be involved again this coming school year.

Department officers have been continuing their law enforcement training by attending classes at the Vermont Police Academy and participating in courses and training offered by other law

enforcement agencies and the private sector. "Table-top" drills offered by Vermont Yankee have been attended by department personnel. Classes in terrorist activities and weapons of mass destruction have been first and foremost in officer's training priorities, due to the fact that Vernon is the host town to the state's only nuclear power facility.

The department continues to act as the town's Animal Control agency, and has been dealing with the usual cases of dogs running at large, barking dog complaints, and an increase in both cats and dogs being dropped off in town for disposal.

At the annual town employee's appreciation B-B-Q, sponsored by members of the Selectboard in August, former police officer, Dick McNary, was presented an engraved plaque by Chief Ian McCollin in recognition of his service to the town over the past twelve years.

In August, 2003, the department was awarded a grant from the Homeland Security in the amount of \$15,521.00, with no matching funding required. This money will be used to update a much needed base radio at the department office, new portable radios for the patrol officers, night vision binoculars, three respirators- one assigned to each cruiser, and a multi-channel radio for the new cruiser which will be purchased after the new fiscal year commences in July, 2004. This new radio will eliminate the need to have additional radio systems installed in the new vehicle. In addition to this federal funding, the department received a \$1,100 law enforcement block grant for FY 2003/2004.

The department is further updating their "less-than-lethal" use of force equipment by training officers in the use of the ASP expandable baton; pepper spray; three shotguns that have been modified for the use and firing of rubber bullets and beanbag rounds. Hopefully, this spring will see the purchase of a Taser unit to be carried in the duty cruiser. The Taser is a device that shoots two probes up to a distance of 21 feet, and uses an electrical impulse to stun the target. This piece of weaponry can reduce injuries to both the officer and suspect and reduces liability costs in litigation cases vs. the use of deadly force. The department also received a generous grant of \$1,000 from Vermont Yankee/Entergy Nuclear Power Corporation to up-grade one of the antiquated office computers. Sincere thanks goes to Corporate & Community Relations Representative, Larry Smith, for his assistance in obtaining this donation.

The department is currently staffed by the following officers:

Ian McCollin, Police Chief
Kevin Turnley, Senior Patrolman
Bruce Gauld, Patrol Officer
Lorena Castricone, Office Manager

Part-time officers:

Terry Parker
Edward Wilson
Steven Bird (undergoing his FTO training)
David Manch

I wish to thank the above mentioned staff for their support and dedication this past year, and look forward to continuing this support for the coming year. On behalf of the members of the Vernon Police Department, we are honored to "Protect and Serve!"

IAN MCCOLLIN
Police Chief

VERNON SENIOR HOUSING, INC.

Those persevering folks on the Vernon Senior Housing Committee (VSHI) are continuing to work hard on the design and building of a Senior Housing facility at the "Streeter Property" (corner of Huckle Hill Road and Pond Road). Did you know that these efforts have been underway for some 15 years or more! It has been a difficult challenge, given the skyrocketing cost of building and the scarcity of funds for such a venture. The good news is that VSHI was awarded almost one million dollars in funding from HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) and is being favorably considered for additional monies from various other agencies. We apologize for the delay in receiving these funds, but it literally took an Act of Congress to get HUD to be able to follow through on their award of funding!

The "Mixed Finance Rule" that we needed was published in the Federal Register on December 1, and it paves the way for construction of the project. Committee members will continue to work with experts from Housing Vermont, the Brattleboro Area Community Land Trust and State Representative, Patricia O'Donnell to get the remaining funding in hand in order to start building.

If you live near the "Streeter Property", you may have noticed that initial engineering activities are already under way, including well drilling and monitoring. Adjacent property owners will have their water supplies monitored during these tests to ensure that the new well does not adversely affect others in the area. We are optimistic that the project will break ground in the fall of 2004.

If you bump into the VSHI members (Carol Mikuski, Brad Pfenning, Arlene Castine, Fred Green, George Brown, Betty Bailey), please remember to thank them for their continued hard work.

- CAROL MIKUSKI, *Chair*
- BRAD PFENNING
- GEORGE BROWN
- ARLENE CASTINE
- FRED GREEN
- BETTY BAILEY
- EVELYN EDELSON, *Recording Secretary*

VERNON SENIOR CITIZENS

Ninety seven Vernon Seniors have enjoyed another year of fun and comradeship. Our Pot-luck Luncheon / Business Meetings have given us spectacular food to enjoy the second Monday of each month at noon. We hope that those Seniors, who are unable to furnish food for our pot-luck, will come anyway. If they wish, they may contribute no more than \$1.00 each meal toward coffee, tea and cream. Our Birthday Party meetings are the fourth Monday of each month at 12:45 p.m., except December when we have our Annual Meeting the first Monday and our Christmas Dinner the second Monday.

We have enjoyed many Van trips, Fairbanks Museum, Flower shows at Smith College and U. Mass., the coast of Maine and shopping.

This year we had a special trip to Steele Hill Resort as a memorial trip for Anna Smith. Funds had been donated to us in her name that her family wanted us to use for a trip back to the resort that she enjoyed with us on our overnight trip in 2002.

We had a wonderful Picnic in August at the Town of Vernon Recreation Center Shelter, catered by Arlene Castine. The Castines also catered our bountiful Thanksgiving Dinner at the Vernon Union Church and our delicious Christmas Dinner at the Vernon Town Hall.

Many good things are being planned for this coming year. You must agree that our \$2.00 membership fee is a great bargain.

We welcome new members to come to our activities, be it a Van trip or meeting. Any of our officers will gladly answer questions. The officers for 2004 are:

- ANN DOE, *President*
- MARNIE BRUCE, *Vice President*
- BARBARA PETRIE, *Secretary*
- BARBARA SPRAGUE, *Treasurer*

VERNON SENIOR ACCOUNT

Balance January 1, 2003	\$ 756.65
ADD: Receipts	
Dues	\$ 168.00
Donations	11.50
Anna Smith Donations	440.00
Bank Interest	9.01
Town Budget Funds	<u>2,545.00</u>
Town Receipts	3,173.51
DEDUCT: Disbursements	
Supplies	\$ 298.40
Donations	75.00
Driver / Van Expense	552.23
Meals / Programs	1,929.00
Miscellaneous	<u>299.00</u>
	(3,153.63)
Balance December 31, 2003	\$ 776.53

SELECTBOARDS'S ANNUAL REPORT

The minutes of our meetings speak for themselves: 2003 was a productive year for the board. We have challenged ourselves as well as others to do the best job that they can. To that end we have established the following vision statements that the board will use as guidance while conducting business:

- To support the Departments and work together to cut costs, eliminate waste, and maintain or improve the quality of service.
- Ongoing development of a management process so that employees are empowered to improve their work environment.
- To actively support appropriate wages for honest work.

Each department was then asked to establish vision statements that capture the mission and vision that is to be considered when they do business. These vision statements will be included in department correspondence and will be posted in prominent places where that department does business.

What it comes down to is that the Selectboard, as well as the departments, need to provide services to the Town's citizens in an efficient manner so as to minimize the impact to the tax base. One example of this is the Board's support of the Treasurer's work to switch the Town employee's health insurance to a plan that will save the Town \$60,000 in just the cost of the policy. In addition, the Town employees will be paying 10% of the cost of the plan. The new plan will start on 7/1/04. Based on this change, even though health plan costs are expected to go up by 20% this year and next, the tax payers should not see an increase in health costs from the Town employees for at least two years.

Based on the recent sale of VY to Entergy, the testimony provided by Entergy to the PSB during the Extended Power Uprate hearings, as well as the capital investments made to the plant, the Selectboard no longer believes that the past tax stabilization agreement is in the best interest of the tax payers. The Selectboard has commissioned the Vernon Tax Committee made up of a cross section of individuals to negotiate a new tax agreement with Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee. This agreement needs to meet both State statutes and direction provided by the Vermont Supreme Court in regards to assessing utilities.

The Board strongly supports the Listers in their effort to maintain the Grand List in accordance with State mandates.

The Board will continue to be accessible to the Town's people via phone, email and BCTV. We are working with BCTV to improve sound quality so you can hear the meetings.

The board is very thankful to everyone who makes our town a community. Vernon is a special place where neighbors care for each other and take the time to socialize. I look forward to 2004 and our time together.

MIKE BALL, Chair
PEGGY FARABAUGH
LENNY PEDUZZI
DOUG FLETCHER
JIM POLHEMUS

2003 TREASURER'S REPORT

"Change" is the word of choice when describing what has taken place in the Treasurer's Office over the past year.

At the March 4, 2003 Town Meeting, Vernon residents voted to change the Town from a calendar based year to a fiscal based year. This vote resulted in the need to calculate a six month town-wide only budget which was voted and approved at the November 18, 2003 Special Town Meeting. What this means to the taxpayers and to the Treasurer's Office is a tax billing which will be due on April 15, 2004. This bill will cover the six month budget ON THE TOWN SIDE ONLY which will take us to a fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. When we meet again in March, 2004, we will vote the fiscal year budget, both for the Town and the School. We will also vote whether or not to change our payment from once a year to twice a year, which has been a voiced request from many taxpayers over the years. Working on two budgets has been quite a task, but I firmly believe that the Town is moving in the right direction.

Our Investment Policy was revised to invest our monies more conservatively, and after interviewing a number of sources, the Selectboard chose to invest with Chittenden Bank. The current policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis, and I am confident that we have made the right decision in protecting the Town's money while yielding modest returns on our investments.

The Selectboard voted to change our current health insurance policy from the Blue Cross Blue Shield JY plan to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Vermont Health Partnership plan with an employee contribution of 10%, beginning fiscal year 2004/2005.

The actuarial study on the Town's Retirement Fund was completed favorably, and the Selectboard is looking at bringing the fund document up to ERISA standards as well as offering employees a contributory plan. This plan would be an "employee only" contributory plan and would require no match from the Town.

In December, all Vernon residents should have received a form from the Vermont Department of Taxes called a "Declaration of Homestead" form. It is urgent that ALL residents fill one out and send it in by April 15, 2004 to avoid a penalty from the State. This form is sent as a result of Act 68, which replaces what we know as Act 60. The requirements of the Act will result in more work for the Listers and for our office as well. As is often the case, changes made by the State impact our workload and affect our budget.

Looking ahead, I am anticipating another very busy year. We will be adding the GASB 34 changes to our itinerary of tasks and will continue working closely with both the Selectboard and School board to retain fiscal responsibility in all areas of the Town and the School.

SALLY M. STEARNS, *Treasurer*

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Guarding the Past - Protecting the Future

This is the vision statement we have adopted in our office. In those six words you can find the reason we are as strict as we are about the records that are given into our trust. You may come into the office and find documents from the 1800's in good condition. You will find minutes copied onto archival document pages and compiled in books for easier searching. And in the near future you will be able to come in and search the Selectmen's minutes on a computer.

2003 has been a busy year in the Town Clerk's Office. We processed deeds for \$5,068,038.12 in property sales, sending \$52,581.64 to the State of Vermont for the Property Transfer Tax Returns. We recorded over 3700 pages of documents in the land records books as well as various liens and attachments. This year many clerks have been tracking the amount of mortgages recorded in their offices. In Vernon, we recorded \$86,957,860.28 in mortgages, and those, along with the other recordings generated \$20,705.00 in recording fees and \$3,467.00 in restoration fees. We were informed that the vault in the Town Clerk's Office had reached the "critical" stage as far as storage area was concerned and we have researched options to expanding the existing storage area within the existing vault as well as expanding the entire vault.

We would like to thank all the volunteers and election workers as well as the Town Departments and Board of Selectmen for all their help and support this past year.

With the war in Iraq, we have the opportunity to also extend special thanks to the children in the playgroup as well and the adults who work with them and others in the area. One of the Town Clerk's sons was sent to Iraq as a Chaplain's Assistant and asked for stuffed animals to distribute to children in the hospitals as well as the streets of that war torn country. The children opened their hearts and toy chests (as did some adults) and many boxes were sent.

Elected President of the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association, I also attained my CMC - Certified Municipal Clerk's status from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

As President I have learned that some towns in Vermont are facing the loss of Title Insurance due to poor management of the Land Records (some have lost it and had to work very hard over a period of time to regain it). This knowledge enforces my determination to continue to be strict in our handling of these records. We have been fortunate in the past and present with the Boards of Selectmen and voters who understood the value of these records and allow us to continue to keep them microfilmed, restored, and safe. They also authorized the use of "interns" during the year to help in the office. One of their jobs was putting card indexes into the computer for easier searches. Scott Wilson and Lindsey Norse were two who put in many hours helping us out.

We continue to attend workshops and seminars to try to keep current on the changing issues and laws that impact the Town. One of the major changes this year was the implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This is a federal law that effects the way elections are run, especially federal elections. There will be many classes pertaining to this in the future which will be attended so that the integrity of the election process in the Town of Vernon will remain high.

Election Data for 2003

Annual BUHS District #6 Meeting held on February 11, 2003

Names on the Voter Checklist: 1522
Number attending and voting: 12

Annual Town & Town School District Meeting Monday night's meeting, March 3, 2003

Names on the Voter Checklist: 1532
Number attending and voting: 138

Tuesday night's meeting, March 4, 2003

Names on the Voter Checklist: 1532
Number attending and voting: 110

Australian Ballot Voting - Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Names on the Voter Checklist: 1532
Number attending and voting: 892

Special Election for BUHS District #6 Union School Director held on May 8, 2003

Names on the Voter Checklist: 1539
Number attending and voting: 60

Special Town Meeting November 18, 2003

Names on the Voter Checklist: 1486
Number attending and voting: 78

Dogs are an important part of the families that own them and we held a rabies/licensing clinic in February with Dr. Pam Sorton again administering the shots which are required by law every 2 years. Road Commissioner Walker and his crew graciously allowed us space to hold the clinic and set up the tables for us. **Please be sure your dog(s) is (are) registered on or before April 1st, each year, or when the dog reaches six months of age.** The fee increases after April 1". Also, the State recommends that your cat's rabies shots be filed at the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk's Office continues to serve as a resource center distributing all sorts of information: e.g. the Town Van and Senior Schedule, Committee and Department events; roll off coupons; animal licensing; and various Town, State and Registry forms. We also do vehicle registration renewals for motor vehicle, boat, snowmobile, and trailer, and again we have volunteered to serve as a center for those who wish to join VAST and the Vernon Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club. Hunting and Fishing Licenses are still available through our Office as are notary services. We distribute the NOA radios for emergency notifications and sold ornaments and cards for the Historians this year to help raise funds for restoration of the Chapel and t-shirts for the 250th. The Town's Newspaper continues to be copied here and we are still utilized as a copy center by residents and Town Boards and Committees. Look for the informational notices posted at the Town Clerk's Office regarding many subjects, including but not limited to; Fish and Wildlife notices; Act 250 notices; Checklists and Election information; etc. Please read and act accordingly, for example, the Checklist is posted prior to any meetings where you will be voting. Check to see if your name is on it, if not, please contact us and we will be happy to provide you with an application for addition. Please remember that your vote is your voice and one vote can make a difference in any election. Maps of the cemeteries are maintained and cemetery deeds are prepared and recorded by the Town Clerk after they are signed by the Board of Selectmen. Please be aware that the vault on Fort Bridgman Road (a/k/a Route 142) is available for use if needed at no charge.

For your assistance the Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and by appointment if these hours are inconvenient.

SANDRA B. HARRIS, CVC/CMC, *Town Clerk*
SUSAN I. MILLER, *Asst. Town Clerk*

TOWN CLERK REMITTANCES

Burial Permits	\$	145.00
North Cemetery		300.00
Tyler Cemetery		1,050.00
Copies		1,915.22
Certified Copies/Vitals		1,323.00
DMV Renewals		1,713.00
Fax		45.00
Liquor Licenses		50.00
Marriage Licenses		112.00
Civil Union Licenses		16.00
Miscellaneous		7.25
Postage		56.88
Recordings		20,705.00
Records Restoration Account		3,467.00
Roll Off Coupons		2,750.00
Search Fees		848.00
Septic Permits		160.00
Dog Licenses		1,902.00
Illegible Signature		4.00
	\$	<u>36,569.35</u>

VERNON NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

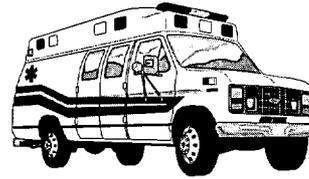
The Vernon Newspaper Committee is pleased to say we have started our twelfth consecutive year of service to the Town. Our committee members are Nancy Burrington, who is our computer expert and who downloads all of our email articles and pictures, Sandra Sweet and Richard Vesper who willingly do typing upon short notice, and Lynda Starorypinski, who is the editor, proof reader, consolidator and arranger. We make a fine paper preparer team. Speaking of team, we are only part of those who get the paper to you. Sandy Harris and Sue Miller in the office do all the copying, take in articles, flyers and ads, and direct people's questions to us. Our faithful folders and tapers do the laborious work of actually putting the paper together. There is a core group of dedicated Seniors who take on this task and they are assisted by others who volunteer occasionally. Without all of our team members, we would not exist.

Again this year we are under budget and have brought income into the general fund. Our budget this year is up \$500.00 for the anticipated purchase of a new printer. The one we are using is the original one purchased and it has been having problems lately. We have not had an increase in our advertising rates for several years. The cost of postage was over its line item budget, so after discussion with the Selectboard Chairman, we decided to raise our rates slightly to offset the increase in postage. It will also help make the paper a little more self-sufficient.

Thank you for sending in your articles, for your kind comments and for your corrective comments. We thank all of you who faithfully send in columns every month, those of you who send in your personal life stories, notices of events, poetry, informative articles and we thank those who advertise with us. We are proud of our little paper and we are happy to be of service to the Town. Keep your articles coming in! That's what makes us the "Good News in our Good Community".

NANCY BURRINGTON
SANDRA SWEET
RICHARD VESPER
LYNDA STARORYPINSKI

RESCUE INC.



Providing Rescue Inc.'s nine communities with emergency medical services is a \$1.5 million dollar effort each year. Rescue's overall expenses reflect the costs for preparedness. They include 24-hour paramedic and volunteer staffing, communications equipment, reliable emergency vehicles, vehicle maintenance, personnel training, medical equipment and supplies, support for First Response teams, medical supervision and maintenance of a physical plant. A team of over 40 volunteers from around the area contributes over \$225,000 worth of their time to offset the agency's operating expenses. Without these dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to operate as we currently do. Fee for service comes from five main sources: Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance companies, private paying clients and special service contracts.

Last year, Rescue responded to a total of 3,364 emergencies and provided transport services for a total of 2,523 patients. 139 of these calls were in Vernon.

Like many other nonprofit agencies, Rescue has been hard-hit by a significant decline in the amount of monetary contributions by both individuals and corporations. At the same time, Federal rule changes, with which Rescue is required by law to comply, have resulted in a significant increase in costs and a decrease in income.

While our income has increased at a rate of about 3% per year over the past five years, insurance and the cost of personnel benefits (e.g. health insurance, workers comp. etc.) have increased by 103%. Requisite vehicle maintenance costs and dispatch fees have risen a staggering 200%. We are in need of new vehicles, but have not purchased them due to the current financial environment.

Despite generous contributions of time and money, combined with town subsidy payments, Rescue no longer finds it possible to cover its costs. Each town was asked to increase its subsidy for the forthcoming fiscal year from \$4.50 to \$5.25 per capita. This is still a bargain as some Vermont towns are paying as much as \$21.00 per capita for emergency services. Our subscription service continues to be a source of income for us and a good value to the subscriber. Unfortunately, only about 14% of the eligible households participate in the Subscription Program.

Rescue members, both paid and volunteer, continue to upgrade their knowledge and abilities in order to make a difference in a life-threatening situation. Town residents can be assured that when they dial 911, they will receive timely, capable, and professional care.

MIKE SORENSEN
Vernon Trustee Representative

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT - TOWN OF VERNON 2003

The Vermont Department of Health works to protect and improve the health of all citizens. The following are some of the essential services available to residents of Vernon.

Bioterrorism - Emergency Preparedness: The Brattleboro District Office of the Vermont Department of Health is actively working with local, state and federal agencies to assure a rapid and effective response to bioterrorism and other public health threats or emergencies. Local health departments may be involved with: early identification of disease entities; investigating disease sources; providing accurate and timely information to the public and health professionals; collaborating with other agencies during biological, environmental or weather events; assuring availability of personnel training; planning regional responses with hospitals and LEPCs and; planning of and participation in joint exercise.

Reportable Disease Case Investigations: Infectious diseases continue to be a major source of illness, disability and death in the U.S. and Vermont, accounting for 25% of all doctor visits each year. The Health Department investigates all cases of disease such as meningitis, hepatitis, pertussis (whooping cough), and infectious diarrhea to determine their source, to recommend control measures (including current treatment standards) and to prevent further spread of the disease. In 2002, the department investigated 183 cases of disease in Windham County.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance: WNV first appeared in the U.S. in New York City in 1999 and has become well established in the United States. Birds, mammals and people can get WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito. The Vermont Departments of Health and Agriculture conduct surveillance for WNV each year from June until cold weather limits mosquito activity in the fall. In 2003, five Town Health Officers in different parts of the state also participated in the program, assisting primarily with mosquito trapping. As of November 17, 2003, 450 mosquito pools were tested with none positive for WNV. In Windham County, there were 132 dead bird reports, 52 were tested and 23 were found to be infected with WNV. Three humans were positive (two from Addison County and one from Windham County). Four horses have tested positive (three from Addison and one from Windham.)

Food & Lodging Inspections: National surveys show that more people are eating out more often. Public health sanitarians inspect eating establishments (restaurants, schools, fairs) to decrease the risk of food borne disease outbreaks. The five greatest risks for food borne outbreaks are: keeping food too long at improper temperatures, inadequate cooking, contaminated equipment, food from an unsafe source, and poor personal hygiene among food handlers. Inspections include review of a 44-item checklist to evaluate food storage, preparation and handling as well as to identify where there is a high likelihood of practices contributing to illness if left uncorrected. Of the 3 establishments in Vernon, 3 inspections were completed by a sanitarian during 2002.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children ("WIC"): One of the most effective ways to improve the health of the overall population is to improve nutrition and physical activity. WIC improves the health of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children by assuring access to health care, teaching families about good nutritional practices, and providing an individually designed package of nutritious food to eligible individuals. During 2002, 40 women, infants and children living in Vernon received foods as well as health screening and individualized nutrition education through this program. The average value of foods provided is \$35.00 per person per month.

New public health issues emerge every year. Some challenges being addressed by the Health Department include emergency preparedness and response to disease threats like SARS or potential acts of bioterrorism; expansion of substance abuse prevention and treatment; and improving health care for people with chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease.

If you would like more information about these efforts, or if you have a public health concern, please call the Brattleboro District Office at (802) 257-2880. Please visit our web site at www.HealthyVermonters.info for information on health topics, public health emergency preparedness and response, news releases, publications, reports and general public health information.



WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSION 2003 REPORT

The Windham Regional Commission works with 27 towns in southeastern Vermont to address regional issues and help towns to provide effective local government. Each town annually appoints two representatives to the commission. Vernon's current representatives are Peter Boemig and Tim Arsenault. Commissioners serve on a number of committees that mirror the concerns of the region, including both standing committees and ones that are formed on an ad hoc basis to address specific issues.

2003 brought with it some new and extensive work for the WRC. Fitting those tasks into our already full schedule has not been easy, but we have nonetheless worked to address those important issues, and we will continue those efforts in the coming year. Examples of new and unanticipated tasks have included:

■ Energy issues:

- Catamount Energy, Inc.—a Central Vermont Public Service subsidiary—is seeking to develop up to 50 megawatts of wind power on Glebe Mountain in Londonderry and Windham, which may mean construction of up to twenty-seven wind turbines. To date, the WRC has convened a series of public meetings to review and discuss major issues and worked with state and other regional organizations to better understand the potential impacts involved. We currently are participating in a series of community-based discussions, led by others, that are aimed at resolving some of the difficult conflicts that such a development presents.
- On a later schedule and therefore consuming less WRC staff time at present, is an anticipated proposal by Green Mountain Power to significantly expand the Searsburg wind farm, currently consisting of eleven turbines rated at about 6 megawatts, potentially adding up to 19 new turbines and 34 additional megawatts of rated power.
- Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee filed an application for Vermont Public Service Board approval to increase its power output by approximately 20%, from 540 to about 650 megawatts. The WRC is participating in this proceeding, which began in January 2003 and is expected to continue into spring 2004. At the same time, we anticipate that Entergy will apply in 2004 for approval of dry cask, on-site storage of spent nuclear fuel, which will extend this higher level of involvement well into 2005 or 2006.

■ Public Transportation:

- This region, along with most of Windsor County, received public transportation services from Town and Village Transportation Services (TVTS) for several years. Also known as "Town & Village Bus," TVTS experienced severe financial difficulties and ceased to exist as a non-profit transit provider at the end of 2003. Throughout the fiscal year, the WRC and our counterpart to the north worked with the Vermont

Agency of Transportation, at the Agency's request, to try and save the troubled transit provider, which efforts were not successful. Since that time, we have helped to form a new corporate entity, Connecticut River Transit, Inc. which is filling the important role of providing transportation for human services, medical needs, and travel to work.

Other on-going work has included:

- Regional transportation efforts, which included work with many towns to conduct Road Surface Management System inventories; identification of bridge and culvert issues; helping the Vermont Agency of Transportation to develop and implement its highway access management system; continued work on the West River Trail project; continued management of the Route 121 reconstruction project in Rockingham and Grafton (with phase 1 being completed in 2003 and phase 2 to follow with bids in December 2003); help to towns on lower-scale but important projects like sidewalks and other bicycle/pedestrian improvements; and others.
- Natural resource planning, which is at the core of the WRC's mission and has included work with the West River Watershed Alliance and other "basin planning" groups, review of state programs and policies aimed at improving energy efficiency in Vermont; work to improve local and regional programs and policies that affect water quality, such as stormwater management and wastewater disposal rules; and others.
- Community development and related planning work, which included major efforts like the WRC's Brownfields Reuse Initiative which now has completed assessments on 14 of over 20 nominated sites (the Brownfield program received its 3rd block of funding from the USEPA this year) and will continue through 2004; municipal planning and land use regulation assistance, which included help with municipal planning and land use regulation projects in eleven towns; increased work to provide education and information for local officials, including five "Cross-Town Talks" educational sessions, four Zoning Administrator Workshops, sponsorship and participation in three state-wide sessions over Vermont Interactive Television; help to the Vermont Environmental Board as it considered changes to its rules and procedures; the "Livable Communities" education program which wrapped up later in calendar year 2003 with a highly successful two-day course for forty-six participants; continued help on Connecticut River Scenic Byway projects, including the now completed Belows Falls Waypoint Interpretive Center; and others.
- Support of regional emergency planning and preparation efforts, which included continued work with towns and support of the Local Emergency Planning Committee; increased efforts to assist local governments to coordinate their responses to ever-increasing federal and state-sponsored security and emergency preparedness programs; efforts to continually improve homeland security and pre-disaster mitigation planning, which aim to minimize damage or disruption from reasonably predictable events, such as floods and severe storms; and others.

The WRC's core budget is partially funded by member town assessments, which are essential to receiving other state and federal support. The \$1.39 per resident rate for 2004, based on 2000 population estimates, results in a total assessment of \$2,976.00 from Vernon for the new fiscal year. For information on the WRC and its programs, contact your Town Representative or the WRC office at 139 Main Street, Suite 505, Brattleboro, (802) 257-4547; e-mail wrc@sover.net. Visit our website at www.rpc.windham.vt.us.

VITAL STATISTICS

<i>Name of Child</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Father's Name</i>	<i>Mother's Maiden Name</i>
Owen Riley Perry	M	Brattleboro, VT	February 5, 2003	Kenneth Michael Perry	Kirsten Margaret Goodband
Tara Cynthia Castricone	F	Brattleboro, VT	February 7, 2003	Joseph Ronald Castricone	Lorena Lowell
Elijah James Brow	M	Brattleboro, VT	March 18, 2003	James Harvey Brow	Brandy Shannon Slade
Benjamin Scott Lane	M	Brattleboro, VT	April 19, 2003	Scott David Lane	Jolene Mary Prouty
Adrianna Lynn Howard	F	Brattleboro, VT	April 20, 2003	Jesse James Howard	Darcy Marie Hill
Kierra McKenzie Hoague	F	Brattleboro, VT	April 23, 2003	Shane McCord Hoague	Denise Lynne Kellom
Nina Elizabeth Belliveau	F	Brattleboro, VT	April 25, 2003	Glenn Robert Belliveau	Heather Jean Hebert
Austin Hannah Grace Haskins	F	Brattleboro, VT	June 20, 2003	Paul Jeffrey Haskins	Stacy Strange
Brendan Francis Croke	M	Brattleboro, VT	July 1, 2003	Bryan James Croke	Penney Lee Evans
Kiersten Alexis Jacobs	F	Brattleboro, VT	July 11, 2003	Arthur Fred Jacobs IV	Shari Denise Annis
Genavie Nicole Cobb	F	Brattleboro, VT	July 31, 2003	John Patrick Cobb	Heather Marie Woodard
Lacy Sharyn Slade	F	Brattleboro, VT	August 3, 2003	Eric Justin Slade	Christina Marie Brunelle
Aaron Douglas Petrie	M	Brattleboro, VT	August 12, 2003	Douglas Ernest Petrie	Susan Ellen Lawrence
Samuel David Mattocks	M	Brattleboro, VT	August 19, 2003	David Glenn Mattocks	Monica Christina Vezza
Stephen Stone Haskins	M	Brattleboro, VT	September 6, 2003	Christopher Jason Haskins	Laura Lynne Stone
Rowan Donald Boudreau	M	Brattleboro, VT	September 8, 2003	Paul Joseph Boudreau	Adrienne Elizabeth Dearden
Julian Gomez-Mendez	M	Brattleboro, VT	September 25, 2003	Fermin G Gomez	Mireya Mendez
Matthew Zachary David Smith	M	Brattleboro, VT	October 7, 2003	David W Smith	Karen M Cretelle
Aaron Zephaniah Slade	M	Brattleboro, VT	October 10, 2003	Justin Aaron Slade	Lucinda Marie Harvey
Brody Hayden Bogert	M	Brattleboro, VT	December 19, 2003	Hayden Monroe Bogert	Jennifer Lauren Martino

MARRIAGES

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Name of Groom</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Name of Bride</i>	<i>Residence</i>
January 17, 2003	Vernon, VT	Corey Allen Scully	Vernon, VT	Corinne Marie Tudda	Vernon, VT
March 20, 2003	Vernon, VT	Kevin Michael Woods	Sugarland, TX	Nicole Kristine Green	New London, CT
May 11, 2003	Vernon, VT	Richard L. Stevens Jr	Ashfield, MA	Lillian Sofia Martinez Amador	Ashfield, MA
May 11, 2003	Vernon, VT	Kevin Matthew Fletcher	Vernon, VT	Sarah Lee Green	Vernon, VT
May 30, 2003	Vernon, VT	Stanley N Cleaves	Rockland, MA	Margaret M Wheeler	Rockland, MA
August 11, 2003	Vernon, VT	Alan Stanley Bernat	Winnetka, CA	Nydia Lissette Urbina	Winnetka, CA
August 23, 2003	Vernon, VT	James Edward Bezanson	Vernon, VT	Melissa Jean LaValley	Vernon, VT
August 23, 2003	Wilder, VT	Kevin Mark Wright	North Waterboro, ME	Heather Maude Hardy	Vernon, VT
August 26, 2003	Vernon, VT	Barry Walter Latourelle	East Windsor, CT	Mary Alice Mutchler	Greensburg, PA
September 20, 2003	W Dummerston, VT	Howard Scott Towle	Vernon, VT	Debra K Bessette	Vernon, VT
September 29, 2003	Vernon, VT	Karl S Kenneway	Athol, MA	Charlene Francis Erwin	Athol, MA
November 3, 2003	Vernon, VT	Robert Calvin Cramm	Athol, MA	Karen Jean Pereira	Athol, MA
November 22, 2003	Vernon, VT	Carl Edward Blankenship	Agawam, MA	Cecilia Ubana Galiza	Agawam, MA
December 29, 2003	Vernon, VT	Michael Raymond Toomey	Athol, MA	Claire Louise Lefebvre	Templeton, MA

CIVIL UNIONS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Party A</i>	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Party B</i>	<i>Residence</i>
May 23, 2003	Vernon, VT	Cassandra Ryan	Vernon, VT	Susan Vitelli	Vernon, VT
June 19, 2003	Vernon, VT	Taurie T Thayer	Long Beach, CA	Jeannie M White	Long Beach, CA

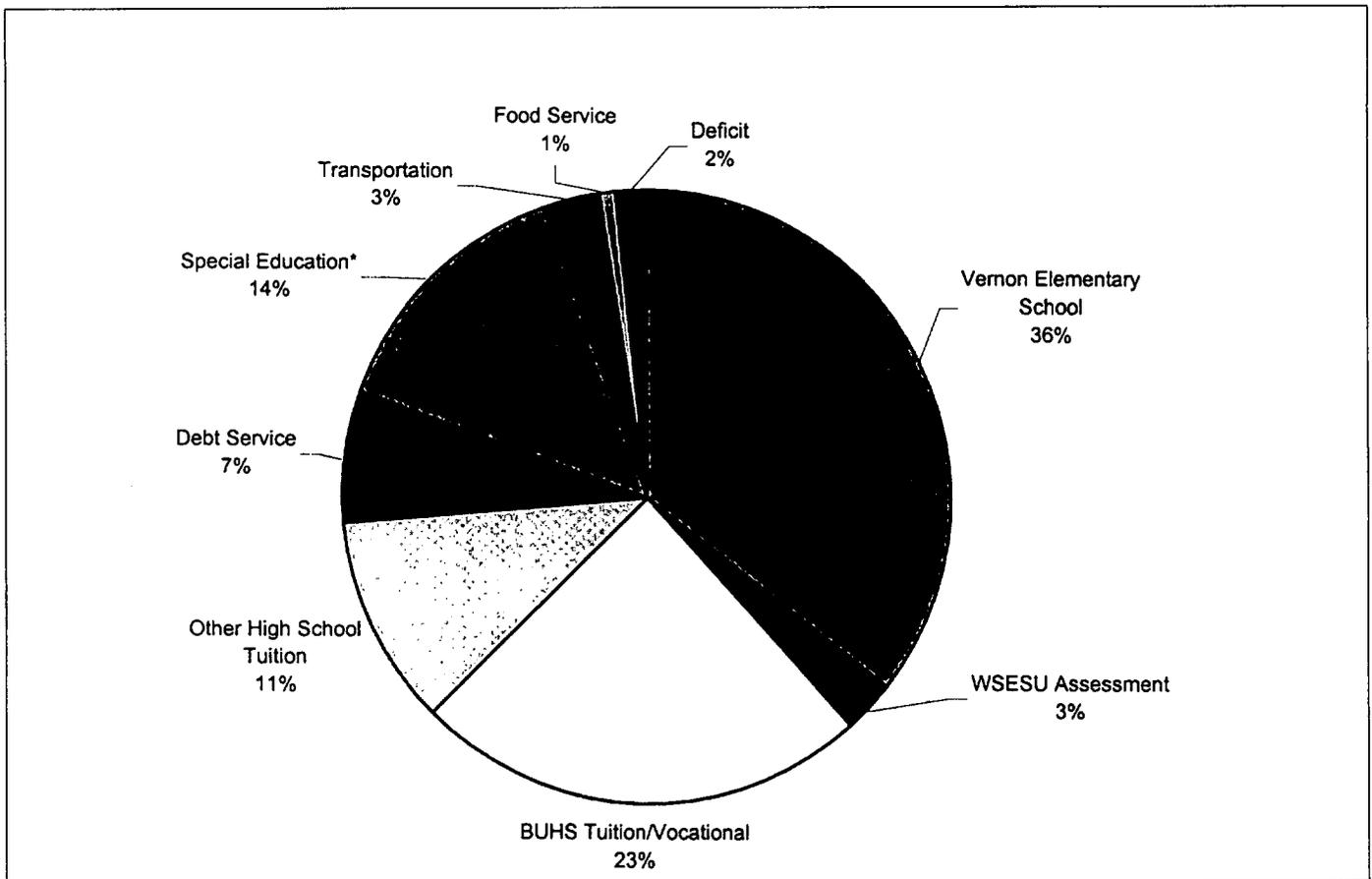
DEATHS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Residence</i>
Anna V Smith	77	January 1, 2003	Vernon, VT
George Daniel Eliphalet Olmstead	85	January 9, 2003	Dummerston, VT
Dorothy Elizabeth Garrity	89	January 29, 2003	Vernon, VT
Roger William Kozyra Sr	85	January 30, 2003	Hinsdale, NH
William Howes	94	February 12, 2003	Vernon, VT
Florence E Nelson	81	February 22, 2003	Vernon, VT
Arthur Arne Mattson	67	February 25, 2003	Brattleboro, VT
Cecile O'Brien	82	February 26, 2003	Brattleboro, VT
Shirley Ann Jones	65	March 9, 2003	Vernon, VT
Mary Ahlers	98	March 14, 2003	Vernon, VT
Charles Walter Emerson	77	April 15, 2003	Vernon, VT
Eva M Buchanan	95	May 12, 2003	Vernon, VT
Clarence Albert Pratt	99	May 12, 2003	Vernon, VT
Dorothy W Albright	94	May 20, 2003	Brattleboro, VT
Mary Teresa Cote	76	June 7, 2003	Brattleboro, VT
Richard P Stickney	73	June 14, 2003	Montague, MA
Sharon Elizabeth Finn	57	June 15, 2003	Vernon, VT
Henry Ike Robinson	88	June 18, 2003	Vernon, VT
Shirley Anne Cutler	72	June 26, 2003	Brattleboro, VT
Walter D Crossmon	84	June 26, 2003	Vernon, VT
Alexander Davidson Lyon	65	July 5, 2003	Vernon, VT
Gertrude Norton Putnam	54	July 5, 2003	Westminster West, VT
Shirley E Denyau	71	July 8, 2003	East Dummerston, VT
Timothy Pelland	44	July 13, 2003	Vernon, VT
Alice Hazel Whitney	96	July 24, 2003	Marlboro, VT
Marion C Osgood	97	July 30, 2003	Vernon, VT
Kathryn Agnes Lackard	85	August 1, 2003	Townshend, VT
Jeanne M Mansur	70	August 2, 2003	Vernon, VT
Dorothy P White	96	August 11, 2003	Vernon, VT
Floyd John Underwood	86	August 20, 2003	Brattleboro, VT
Walter Truslow Jr	83	August 22, 2003	Vernon, VT
Joseph Louis Rinfret Jr	81	August 30, 2003	Vernon, VT
Robert Alan Johnson	77	September 13, 2003	Vernon, VT
Paul W Rutkiewicz	52	September 24, 2003	Vernon, VT
Ruth Estella Chappell	95	September 28, 2003	Vernon, VT
Sallie Gillespie	101	October 6, 2003	Vernon, VT
Norma Jane Bedard	79	October 23, 2003	Vernon, VT
Lillian Sovner	87	November 1, 2003	Wilmington, VT
Gordon Leonard Young	74	November 3, 2003	Vernon, VT
Walfred A Scherlin	81	December 26, 2003	Vernon, VT
Stella Elizabeth Herbert	89	December 29, 2003	Dummerston, VT
Dauna Carter McCarvill	55	December 30, 2003	Vernon, VT
Marion E Looman	88	December 30, 2003	Brattleboro, VT

Town of Vernon School District

PROPOSED 2004/2005 SCHOOL BUDGET

Vernon Elementary School	\$	1,912,929
WSESU Assessment	\$	153,525
BUHS Tuition/Vocational	\$	1,254,273
Other High School Tuition	\$	605,428
Debt Service	\$	376,887
Special Education*	\$	744,016
Transportation	\$	177,417
Food Service	\$	33,211
Deficit	\$	87,000
	\$	5,344,686

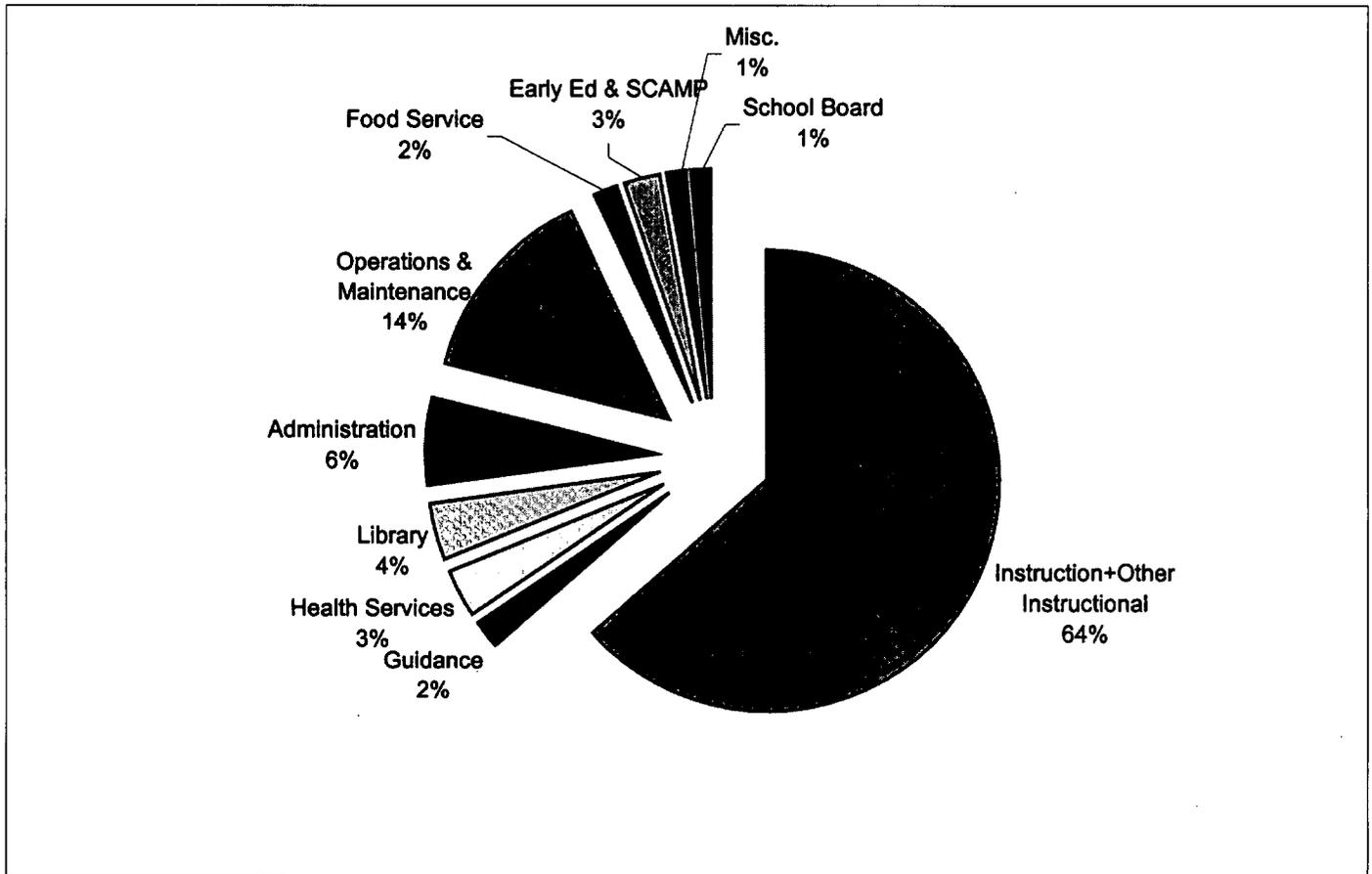


*Special Education includes 504 Tuition, Scamp, & Essential Early Education

**fiscal year ending
June 30, 2003**

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUDGET

Instruction+Other Instructional	1,266,810.00
Guidance	39,341.00
Health Services	66,050.00
Library	77,693.00
Administration	124,900.00
Operations & Maintenance	285,990.00
Food Service	33,211.00
Early Ed & SCAMP	51,634.00
Misc.	25,580.00
School Board	26,565.00
Total	1,997,774.00



TOWN OF VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

This has been an exciting time in the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union. There have been many changes and program improvements; our teachers and staff members are each committing themselves to the cause of excellence; and, from my observations in the schools, it is evident that our students are working hard and discovering new challenges.

Due to the efforts of our teachers and administrators, the scores on Vermont's Statewide Assessment Program continue to show positive results. There is much more to education than test scores, but these benchmarks indicate that our students are mastering the basic skills. In addition, our teachers and administrators are developing training programs in support of these activities. These initiatives, when linked with strong parent and community support, will help ensure that we achieve our district mission: *The WSESU mission is to develop students capable of thoughtful engagement in their own civic, economic and personal development, who will be successful members of society.*

In order to fulfill our mission, the following district goals have been established to support school action plans, administrative team goals, and individual professional goals.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Safe and Healthy Schools

- Ensure equal access of students to educational opportunities by promoting a safe school environment and healthy climate conducive to learning.
- Allocate resources to close the gap of academic achievement of students from lower socioeconomic status and those from higher income families.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

- Support implementation of WSESU Framework of Learning guided by the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities.
- Provide teachers with opportunities to support student learning through effective instructional practices.
- Ensure that teachers' individual professional development goals are aligned with schools' action plans and the district professional development plan.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION

- Promote public engagement and family involvement as well as providing sufficient information to parents, school board members, and the community.
- Support consistent and systematic grade level transitions, i.e. from pre-school to elementary, elementary to middle school, high school to post-secondary opportunities.
- Communicate the requirements and implications of *No Child Left Behind Act* and align provisions to state and district Policies.

LEADERSHIP

- Establish a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the school board, superintendent, principals, and school staff in carrying out the schools' missions.
- Promote positive, respectful, and supportive behaviors that are characteristic of a climate that nurtures a sense of pride and ownership of the school.
- Collect and analyze student data and other indicators of student success to guide our programs.

You can learn more about our schools by visiting the following web sites: <http://www.wssu.k12.vt.us> and <http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrpt/>. Please remember that our schools remain a community resource, and we welcome involvement in programs and activities that will enhance learning for our students. Plan to join us at our schools as we continue to build a tradition that promotes *An Education of Excellence*. Stop by for a visit, attend a concert or a play, or offer to provide a workshop in an area of expertise. See first hand why we are proud of our schools, and help us plan for the future.

RON STAHLEY
Superintendent

BUHS DISTRICT #6 SCHOOL BOARD ATTENDANCE

In accordance with BUHS District #6 Board Procedures Policy LBP5--Attendance at Board Meetings, below is a report of director attendance at regular and special board meetings.

Current Board Member: Vernon

January 1, 2003 to November 3, 2003

Michael Hebert

Attended 14 of 18 meetings

January 1, 2003 to June 10, 2003

Past Board Member: Vernon

John Moriarty

Attended 4 of 8 meetings

VERNON TOWN SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of students here at Vernon Elementary School. These children come to us with a wide range of talents, interests, strengths, and challenges. Every member of our school community makes contributions to help make VES a safe and caring place to learn, take risks safely, and help each other to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Our *Expectations for Community Members* states that all of us will

1. Be the Best Learners We Can Be
2. Be Safe
3. Be Respectful, and
4. Be Responsible For Our Actions

It is our pleasure to help ensure that we all work toward meeting these expectations to the best of our abilities. We began using a new curriculum this year to give support for these expectations. *Second Step Violence Prevention Curriculum* is designed to help students learn empathy, impulse control and problem solving, and anger management skills. Development of these skills help children learn to deal with problems and conflict in a positive and collaborative way.

There were three additions to our staff in the 2003-2004 year. We welcomed:

Patricia LaFrate, Paraeducator
Beth Weissmann, Fitz Vogt Hot Lunch Provider
Abbe Robichaud, Paraeducator

This past year we were saddened by the untimely passing of parent and former employee Clarinda Chisholm. By family request, the school board purchased a Sugar Maple tree and memorial stone, which was planted in front of the school in her memory. Jennifer Stavely, our guidance counselor currently in her second year, left us in February to take an extended maternity leave. We wish her well and will miss the good work she did here.

There were three major building improvement projects completed during the summer and fall. The heating, ventilating, and air handling systems were upgraded to improve fresh air intake and overall heat control. This will help to ensure consistently healthy air within the school and reduce the risk of disease. New carpeting was installed in two classrooms, the entire length of the West Wing, and in the Recreation Department hallway. New roofing was laid on the Primary Wing and Library Media Center, along with minor repairs to other areas. The building looks terrific and is kept in excellent working order by our excellent and dedicated custodial staff. We all appreciate their efforts!

We dedicate 90 minutes of literacy instruction for grades 1-6 every school day. Phonemic awareness is developed in grades 1 and 2 to lay a strong foundation for overall language development. Staff members received professional development with Thinking Maps graphic organizers to help students develop stronger writing skills. New federal guidelines require that individual schools make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on standardized testing results. I am happy to report that Vernon made AYP for the past year, 2002-2003.

To keep our school improving, we revise our Action Plan annually. This process helps us focus on specific areas to raise test scores through improved instruction. Two focus areas in our school Action Plan are to improve Writing Effectiveness and Math Problem Solving. We are working closely with WSESU curriculum coordinators to ensure we utilize current best educational practices. It is

important to remember that we are teaching children, not subject areas. As a result, we will continue to develop our abilities to reach out and meet the needs of our students, wherever that may be.

We are also thankful for the many volunteers who help in so many ways. The VES PTC/Spirit Club, ELF program, room parents, and America Reads volunteers provide valuable service to all of us. Volunteerism is alive and well here, and we are always open to people willing to assist us. Please call 254-5373 if you are interested in being a volunteer.

The Vernon Town School Board and the Vernon Select Board continue to meet and work for open, two-way communication and for the benefit of the entire community. The school board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7PM at the school. The meetings are warned in the Town Office and in the local newspaper. We encourage you to join us at any of these public meetings.

A great deal of thoughtful consideration was put forward in the creation of the proposed budget. We are sensitive to the importance of our children's education and our tax dollars being spent wisely. We are grateful for the ongoing support you have shown over the years to keep our educational community strong and vital. Together we can work to ensure that each Vernon student reaches their fullest potential. We encourage you to visit our school and contact us with questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration of our budget for the 2004-2005 school year.

Sincerely,
Laura DeVincentis, Chairperson
Michael Hebert, Vice Chairperson
Pamela Gobeille, Clerk
Deborah Hebert
Leeanne Shover

**2003-2004 ENROLLMENT
VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
BAMS AND BUHS**

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Kindergarten	13	4	17
Grade 1	14	19	33
Grade 2	17	16	33
Grade 3	20	10	30
Grade 4	22	14	36
Grade 5	13	26	39
Grade 6	21	17	38
Grade 7	6	9	15
Grade 8	11	10	21
Grade 9	12	11	23
Grade 10	12	8	20
Grade 11	12	10	22
Grade 12	17	5	22

Vernon Elementary School - 226
Brattleboro Area Middle School - 36
Brattleboro Union High School - 87

2003-2004 Other Tuition - 64

Pioneer	Grade 7 - 9
	Grade 8 -12
	Grade 9 - 13
	Grade 10 - 3
	Grade 11 - 10
	Grade 12 -3
Other	Grade 7 - 1
	Grade 8 - 2
	Grade 9 - 5
	Grade 10 - 1
	Grade 11 - 2
Grade 12 - 3	

**VERNON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2003-2004 FACULTY AND STAFF**

John Reed	Principal
Christine Nesbitt	Administrative Assistant
Carol Richardson	Kindergarten
Courtney Millerick	Grade 1
Joan Green	Grade 1
Barbara Borek	Grade 2
Erika Parker	Grade 2
Theresa Lewis	Grade 3
Lisa McKenney	Grade 3
Nancy Aleksiewicz	Grade 4
Deborah Patno	Grade 4
Joan Cook	Grade 5
Mickie Herbst	Grade 5
Noreen Cooper	Grade 6
Marcia Palmer	Grade 6
Jennifer Stavely (60%)	Guidance Counselor
Jeffrey Loomis	Resource Room
Beth Kimball	Resource Room
Elizabeth Eriksson (90%)	Reading/Enrichment
Deborah Coombs (75%)	ESL/Reading
Deborah Mann (80%)	Art
Eileen Roach	Library/Media Specialist
Joyana Damon	Classroom Music/Instrumental Music
John Stetzel	Physical Education
Fran Swanson (40%)	Speech/Language
Jill Johnson (Part Time)	Speech/Language Assistant
Dawn Grobe	Technology/Literacy
Karen Barrett	School Nurse
Mayda Berg	Paraeducator
Sharon Brissette	Paraeducator
Patricia LaFrate	Paraeducator
Abbe Robichaud	Paraeducator
Lori Skibniowsky	Paraeducator
Peggy Stetzel	Paraeducator
Caitlin Tidd	Paraeducator
Christine Jefferson (Part Time)	Paraeducator
Cheryl Deyo (Part Time)	Paraeducator
Darrell Clark	Head Custodian
Robert Howe	Custodian
James Rittenhour	Custodian
Robert Willand	Custodian
Tim Walsh	Fitz Vogt
Gina Dyer	Fitz Vogt
Beth Weissmann	Fitz Vogt

CHILD FIND NOTICE

All children need, deserve and have a right to an education. Federal Law states that this right to a free education should be available to all handicapped children too.

The Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, including the school districts of Dummerston, Guilford, Putney, Vernon, Brattleboro, and the Brattleboro Union High School need to know if there are children or youth between the ages of three (3) years and twenty-one (21) years who are disabled, out of school, and are not receiving services.

In addition, the WSESU needs to locate infants, who may be disabled, between birth (0) and two (2) years of age for evaluation and service under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

If you have or know of such a child in your home or neighborhood, please write or phone.

**Superintendent of Schools
53 Green Street, Brattleboro
254-3731, for further information**

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
FUNDS**

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESERVE FUND**

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
RICHARD W. STEENBRUGGEN SCHOLARSHIP
INVESTMENT TRUST & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
FUND**

BALANCE July 1, 2002		\$ 139,977.52
ADD:		
Income	\$ 22,665.73	
Unrealized Gain	<u>23,860.33</u>	46,526.06
DEDUCT:		
Expenses	\$ 882.38	
Unrealized Loss	<u>46,677.32</u>	(47,559.70)
BALANCE June 30, 2003		\$ 138,943.88

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
RAYMOND & ERMA PUFFER ACADEMIC
IMPROVEMENT AWARD TRUST FUND**

BALANCE July 1, 2002		\$ 1,732.15
ADD: Revenue		38.15
DEDUCT: Awards 2002/2003		<u>(50.00)</u>
BALANCE June 30, 2003		\$ 1,720.30

This Fund is for the purpose of rewarding the two most improved sixth grade students. It is invested at Chittenden Bank in a Certificate of Deposit.

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND**

BALANCE July 1, 2002		\$ 27,222.64
ADD: Revenue		
Interest		300.37
DEDUCT: Unemployment Payments		<u>(69.83)</u>
BALANCE June 30, 2003		\$ 27,453.18

BALANCE July 1, 2002		\$ 111,073.87
ADD: Interest		1,083.07
DEDUCT: Transferred Funds to Capital Fund		<u>(112,156.94)</u>
BALANCE June 30, 2003		\$ -

At Town Meeting March 3, 2003, it was voted to authorize deposit of the funds held in the Vernon School District Reserve Fund into the fund balance of the Capital Fund. (All funds as of June 30, 2003)

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
CAPITAL PLAN FUND**

BALANCE July 1, 2002		\$683,189.80
ADD:		
Interest	\$ 5,978.58	
Loan Repayment	\$ 550,000.00	
Transfer from Reserve Fund	<u>112,156.94</u>	668,135.52
DEDUCT:		
Loan to School Heating System	\$ 750,000.00	
Lawn Tractor	21,174.00	
Technology Upgrade	<u>9,527.00</u>	
		<u>(789,785.95)</u>

BALANCE June 30, 2003		\$561,539.37
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At year end, \$200,000 was owed for loan reimbursement to this fund from the School Checking Account.

**2004-2005 Vernon School District
CAPITAL PLAN FUNDING PROJECTIONS**

<i>Item</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>	<i>Projected Cost</i>	<i>Projected Need Year</i>
Boiler	\$ 40,000	\$ 9,800	\$ 9,800	\$ 9,800	\$ 9,800	\$ 282,000	2013-2014
Carpeting						72,000	2002-2003
Parking lot	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,300	45,000	2008-2009
Roof	25,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	928,000	2013-2014
Technology Upgrade	12,000					24,000	2003-2004
Tractor						20,000	2002-2003
Sewer	10,000					10,000	2003-2004
Building & Exterior	45,000					45,000	2003-2004
TOTALS	\$137,300	\$48,100	\$48,100	\$48,100	\$48,100	\$1,426,000	

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
CAPITAL FUND STATUS
June 30, 2003**

<i>ITEM</i>	<i>TOTAL APPROP/INTEREST</i>	<i>ACTUAL COST</i>	<i>FUND BALANCE</i>
Boiler	\$ 102,899.89	\$ (21,174.00)	\$ 81,725.89
Carpeting	72,000.00		72,000.00
Curtains	5,000.00		5,000.00
Parking Lot	31,800.00		31,800.00
Roof	363,000.00		363,000.00
Technology Upgrade	26,191.43	(9,084.95)	17,106.48
Tractor (Simplicity)	20,000.00	(9,527.00)	10,473.00
Excess Funds/Interest	68,277.06		68,277.06
Transfer from Reserve Fund	112,156.94		112,156.94
TOTALS	\$801,325.32	(\$39,785.95)	\$761,539.37

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

BALANCE: July 1, 2002		\$ 12,506.89
ADD: Receipts		
State Reimbursements	\$ 19,899.54	
Other Reimbursements	835.60	
Lunch Sales	<u>38,897.79</u>	
		59,632.93
DEDUCT: Expenses		
Fitz, Vogt and Associates	\$ 60,939.79	
Bank Fee	<u>20.65</u>	
		<u>(60,960.44)</u>
BALANCE: June 30, 2003		\$ 11,179.38

**VERNON SCHOOL HOT LUNCH
OPERATING FUND BALANCE SHEET****CURRENT ASSETS
JUNE 30, 2003**

Hot Lunch Checking	\$ <u>11,179.38</u>
Total Cash	\$ 11,179.38
Accounts Receivable	
Due from State of Vermont	\$ 9,310.22
Lunch Sales	<u>134.95</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 9,445.17
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 20,624.55

**CURRENT LIABILITIES
JUNE 30, 2003**

Accounts Payable	\$ <u>2,365.22</u>
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 2,365.22
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,365.22

**CURRENT FUND EQUITY
JUNE 30, 2003**

Unreserved and Undesignated	\$ <u>18,259.33</u>
TOTAL FUND EQUITY	\$ 18,259.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	\$ 20,624.55

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHEER FUND**

BALANCE: July 1, 2002	\$ 638.44
ADD:	
Deposits	882.50
DEDUCT:	
Expenses	<u>(703.93)</u>
BALANCE: June 30, 2003	\$ 817.01

This fund was established in March 2001 through contributions by staff and is used as determined by the Cheer Committee.

**VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT
TORNADO ACCOUNT**

BALANCE: July 1, 2002	\$ 1,236.40
ADD:	
Interest	\$ 1.50
Income	<u>4,232.60</u>
	4,234.10
DEDUCT:	
Expenses	<u>(3,253.30)</u>
BALANCE: June 30, 2003	\$ 2,217.20

This fund was established in May of 2000 with existing funds from the Tornado jump roping team for the purpose of funding expenses associated with the team. Money is raised through donation, fund raising, and clothing and team equipment reimbursements.

**VERNON SCHOOL OPERATING FUND
BALANCE SHEET**

CURRENT ASSETS JUNE 30, 2003	
School Checking	
Sweep Account	\$ 165,587.44
Office Petty Cash	<u>100.00</u>
Total Cash	\$ 165,687.44
Accounts Receivable	
Due from State of Vermont	\$ 96,898.00
Due from WSESU	10,154.58
Misc. Vendor Reimbursements	845.53
Prepaid Expenses	<u>15,505.48</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 123,403.59
Total Current Assets	\$ 289,091.03
CURRENT LIABILITIES JUNE 30, 2003	
Accounts Payable	
General Accounts Payable	\$ 17,311.16
Accrued Salaries	138,633.38
Due to Capital Fund	200,000.00
Due to WSESU	1,888.26
Due from Unemployment Fund	<u>0.46</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 357,833.26
CURRENT FUND EQUITY June 30, 2003	
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	\$ 84,944.12
Fund Balance Current Year (DEFICIT)	(153,686.35)
Total Fund balance	<u>(68,742.23)</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$289,091.03

**VERNON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE SUMMARY**

<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>BUDGET 2003-04</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2004-05</u>
INTEREST	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
TRANSPORTATION BUHS	\$ 51,480.00	\$ 53,539.00
RENTAL -TOWN OF VERNON RECREATION DEPARTMENT	\$ 97,344.00	\$ 111,522.00
<u>SUB-GRANTS</u>		
EPSDT NURSE	\$ 28,500.00	\$ 28,500.00
FED SE SUB GRANT	\$ 31,116.00	\$ 32,720.00
MEDICAID LITERACY ENRICH.	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
MEDICAID SUB-GRANT	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
<u>STATE</u>		
STATE SE BLOCK GRANT	\$ 109,640.00	\$ 118,640.00
STATE SE INTENSIVE	\$ 266,360.00	\$ 313,540.00
TRANSPORTATION GRANT	\$ 53,500.00	\$ 65,271.00
EEE BLOCK	\$ 18,444.00	\$ 19,884.00
<u>OTHER LOCAL</u>		
FUND BALANCE	\$ 70,525.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 756,909.00	\$ 770,616.00

**VERNON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2004-2005
BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget	2001-2002 Budget	2002-2003 Budget	2003-2004 Budget	2004-2005 Proposed	\$ DIFF.	% DIFF.
Instruction	\$1,125,221.00	\$1,120,833.00	\$1,232,651.00	\$1,262,910.00	\$30,259.00	2.45%
Guidance	\$52,775.00	\$53,581.00	\$25,241.00	\$39,341.00	\$14,100.00	55.86%
Health Services	\$56,544.00	\$59,218.00	\$61,519.00	\$66,050.00	\$4,531.00	7.37%
Library	\$64,259.00	\$66,933.00	\$75,047.00	\$77,693.00	\$2,646.00	3.53%
Administration	\$122,741.00	\$129,554.00	\$116,299.00	\$124,900.00	\$8,601.00	7.40%
Operations & Maintenance	\$245,976.00	\$252,307.00	\$278,197.00	\$285,990.00	\$7,793.00	2.80%
All Other	\$61,638.00	\$62,356.00	\$66,010.00	\$56,045.00	(\$9,965.00)	-15.10%
Total	\$1,729,154.00	\$1,744,782.00	\$1,854,964.00	\$1,912,929.00	\$57,965.00	3.12%
Secondary						
B.U.H.S. #6 Current Expense	\$1,501,558.00	\$1,367,875.00	\$1,235,152.00	\$1,193,104.00	(\$42,048.00)	-3.40%
B.U.H.S. #6 Debt Service	\$0.00	\$56,414.00	\$125,594.00	\$376,887.00	\$251,293.00	200.08%
Vocational Block Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$61,169.00	\$61,169.00	
Other Tuition	\$205,000.00	\$241,000.00	\$484,000.00	\$605,428.00	\$121,428.00	25.09%
504 Tuition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	
Total	\$1,706,558.00	\$1,665,289.00	\$1,844,746.00	\$2,263,588.00	\$418,842.00	22.70%
Food Service						
Nutrition Subsidy	\$33,211.00	\$33,211.00	\$33,211.00	\$33,211.00	\$0.00	0.00%
S.U. Assessment						
W.S.E.S.U.	\$143,894.00	\$137,573.00	\$145,699.00	\$153,525.00	\$7,826.00	5.37%
Transportation						
Contract	\$123,654.00	\$132,000.00	\$156,088.00	\$176,417.00	\$20,329.00	13.02%
Fuel	\$8,500.00	\$9,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	(\$9,000.00)	-100.00%
Maintenance & Repair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$132,154.00	\$141,500.00	\$166,088.00	\$177,417.00	\$11,329.00	6.82%
Special Education (K-12)						
Special Education	\$578,784.00	\$513,668.00	\$592,480.00	\$665,382.00	\$72,902.00	12.30%
Early Education						
Essential Early Education	\$41,121.00	\$45,281.00	\$53,277.00	\$49,134.00	(\$4,143.00)	-7.78%
SCAMP	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$43,621.00	\$47,781.00	\$55,777.00	\$51,634.00	(\$4,143.00)	-7.43%
Deficit Appropriation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$87,000.00	\$87,000.00	
Grand Totals	\$4,367,376.00	\$4,283,804.00	\$4,692,965.00	\$5,344,686.00	\$651,721.00	13.89%

**VERNON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
2004-2005 PROPOSED BUDGET**

EXPENSES	2002-2003 BUDGET	2002-2003 ACTUAL	2003-2004 BUDGET	2004-2005 PROPOSED
INSTRUCTIONAL				
Teachers Salaries	741,928.00	757,917.00	807,336.00	830,194.00
403 B Benefit	0.00	5,944.00	8,644.00	8,409.00
Extracurricular Salary	2,500.00	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Paraprofessional Salaries	78,961.00	84,532.00	83,608.00	85,043.00
ESL Teacher	0.00	22,446.00	0.00	22,394.00
Substitute Salaries	9,000.00	10,098.00	11,000.00	12,000.00
Teacher Health/Dental Ins.	142,739.00	115,200.00	150,824.00	143,588.00
Para. Health/Dental/Life Ins.	17,711.00	12,147.00	17,807.00	23,979.00
Teacher FICA	56,758.00	59,513.00	65,470.00	65,869.00
Extracurricular FICA	192.00	115.00	192.00	192.00
Paraprofessional FICA	6,041.00	6,480.00	6,396.00	6,701.00
Teacher Life Ins.	979.00	759.00	932.00	1,029.00
Other Benefits	4,860.00	4,449.00	10,810.00	6,000.00
Paraprofessional Retirement	3,316.00	1,048.00	3,512.00	3,512.00
Travel & Conference	2,000.00	957.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Course Reimb.	5,500.00	3,284.00	6,720.00	5,500.00
Environmental Studies	2,000.00	1,100.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Field Trips	2,000.00	1,162.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
General Supplies	19,948.00	19,013.00	22,500.00	21,000.00
Textbooks	5,500.00	4,415.00	5,500.00	3,000.00
New Instructional Equipment	1,400.00	0.00	1,400.00	1,000.00
Replace Instructional Equip.	3,000.00	770.00	5,500.00	3,000.00
Equip. & Copier Maint.	9,500.00	12,069.00	10,000.00	12,000.00
Misc. Supplies	5,000.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	500.00
TOTAL	1,120,833.00	1,129,918.00	1,232,651.00	1,262,910.00
OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL				
Assembly Programs	2,000.00	1,113.00	5,000.00	3,000.00
Test/Evaluation Supplies	500.00	498.00	500.00	500.00
Music Equipment Repair	400.00	139.00	400.00	400.00
TOTAL	2,900.00	1,750.00	5,900.00	3,900.00
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES				
Contracted Prof. Services	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
TOTAL	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
GUIDANCE SERVICES				
Salary	43,629.00	26,200.00	22,082.00	28,458.00
403 B Benefit	0.00	0.00	221.00	285.00
Health/Dental Ins.	5,807.00	733.00	300.00	7,618.00
FICA	3,338.00	2,001.00	1,690.00	2,199.00
Life Ins.	57.00	19.00	26.00	31.00
Travel & Course Reimb.	500.00	175.00	672.00	500.00
Supplies & Texts	250.00	333.00	250.00	250.00
TOTAL	53,581.00	29,461.00	25,241.00	39,341.00
HEALTH SERVICES				
Doctor Salary	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Nurse Salary	45,936.00	48,818.00	50,809.00	54,839.00
Nurse Health/Dental Ins.	8,470.00	3,759.00	4,384.00	4,720.00
Nurse FICA	3,514.00	3,712.00	3,887.00	4,237.00
Nurse Life Ins.	63.00	50.00	56.00	56.00
Nurse Course Reimbursement	560.00	75.00	900.00	900.00
403 B Benefit	0.00	480.00	508.00	548.00
Nurse Travel	75.00	35.00	75.00	50.00
Nurse Supplies	400.00	297.00	700.00	500.00
TOTAL	59,218.00	57,426.00	61,519.00	66,050.00

	2002-2003 BUDGET	2002-2003 ACTUAL	2003-2004 BUDGET	2004-2005 PROPOSED
IN SERVICE				
One Percent Fund	6,551.00	1,094.00	7,205.00	7,670.00
In-Service Training	2,000.00	1,939.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL	8,551.00	3,033.00	9,205.00	9,670.00
MEDIA/LIBRARY				
Media Specialist Salary	45,936.00	46,855.00	49,536.00	54,839.00
403 B Benefit	0.00	468.00	495.00	548.00
Health/Dental Ins.	8,470.00	5,798.00	11,775.00	9,313.00
FICA	3,514.00	3,557.00	3,790.00	4,237.00
Life Ins.	63.00	50.00	51.00	56.00
Course Reimbursement	500.00	57.00	700.00	700.00
Supplies	550.00	192.00	700.00	500.00
Subscriptions	900.00	843.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Library Books	5,000.00	5,232.00	5,500.00	5,000.00
Audio Visual	2,000.00	1,889.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
TOTAL	66,933.00	64,941.00	75,047.00	77,693.00
SCHOOL BOARD				
Salaries	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
FICA	765.00	765.00	765.00	765.00
Legal Services	1,000.00	761.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Audit	6,500.00	5,100.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
School Board Expenses	4,000.00	1,700.00	4,000.00	3,000.00
Advertisements	3,500.00	3,100.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Dues & Fees	1,800.00	1,440.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
TOTAL	27,565.00	22,866.00	27,565.00	26,565.00
ADMINISTRATION				
Principal Salary	74,577.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	63,000.00
Secretary Salary	24,528.00	24,528.00	25,368.00	26,920.00
Principal Health/Dental Ins.	8,470.00	9,632.00	9,064.00	12,696.00
Secretary Health/Dental/Life Ins.	8,502.00	7,637.00	9,095.00	10,049.00
Principal FICA	5,705.00	4,669.00	4,590.00	4,896.00
Secretary FICA	1,877.00	1,820.00	1,941.00	2,142.00
Principal Life Ins.	1,140.00	1,116.00	250.00	195.00
Secretary Retirement	1,030.00	981.00	1,066.00	1,077.00
Principal Annuity	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Prof. Development & Travel	1,725.00	2,171.00	1,725.00	1,725.00
Principal Supplies	2,000.00	1,292.00	2,200.00	1,200.00
TOTAL	129,554.00	113,846.00	116,299.00	124,900.00
FISCAL SERVICES				
Treasurer's Salary	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
Treasurer's Ins.	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
Treasurer's FICA	123.00	0.00	123.00	123.00
Treasurer's Supplies	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Bookkeeper's Salary	17,900.00	15,996.00	17,900.00	11,000.00
Bookkeeper's Ins.	945.00	605.00	945.00	945.00
Bookkeeper's FICA	1,369.00	1,224.00	1,369.00	842.00
Bookkeeper's Supplies	700.00	1,318.00	700.00	700.00
TOTAL	22,840.00	19,143.00	22,840.00	15,410.00
PLANT OP./MAINT.				
Custodial Salaries	95,845.00	97,256.00	100,361.00	108,107.00
Health/Dental/Life Ins.	21,374.00	27,185.00	22,843.00	34,180.00
FICA	7,332.00	7,189.00	7,678.00	8,545.00
Retirement	4,026.00	899.00	4,215.00	3,558.00
Building Repairs	6,000.00	4,904.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Insurance/Bonds	11,000.00	17,847.00	16,500.00	18,000.00
Telephone	6,300.00	3,838.00	6,900.00	4,200.00
Contracted Services	5,980.00	4,059.00	5,800.00	5,000.00
Custodial Supplies	12,000.00	14,098.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Grounds Supplies	7,450.00	6,165.00	7,400.00	7,400.00

	2002-2003 BUDGET	2002-2003 ACTUAL	2003-2004 BUDGET	2004-2005 PROPOSED
All Other Repairs	5,000.00	4,530.00	13,500.00	7,000.00
Electricity	43,000.00	42,970.00	44,000.00	44,000.00
Heat	17,500.00	16,050.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
Plant Operation Equipment	8,000.00	8,421.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
Replace Non-Instructional Eq.	1,500.00	253.00	4,500.00	1,500.00
TOTAL	252,307.00	255,664.00	278,197.00	285,990.00
ELEMENTARY TOTALS	1,744,782.00	1,698,048.00	1,854,964.00	1,912,929.00
TRANSPORTATION				
Transportation Contract	132,000.00	161,551.00	156,088.00	176,417.00
Fuel	8,500.00	403.00	9,000.00	0.00
Maintenance & Repairs	1,000.00	45.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL	141,500.00	161,999.00	166,088.00	177,417.00
FOOD SERVICE				
Hot Lunch Supplement	33,211.00	33,211.00	33,211.00	33,211.00
TOTAL	33,211.00	33,211.00	33,211.00	33,211.00
W.S.E.S.U. ASSESSMENT				
W.S.E.S.U. Assessment	137,573.00	137,573.00	145,699.00	153,525.00
TOTAL	137,573.00	137,573.00	145,699.00	153,525.00
B.U.H.S. ASSESS./SEC. TUITION				
B.U.H.S. Assessment(a)	1,424,289.00	1,424,289.00	1,360,746.00	1,569,991.00
Secondary Tuitions	241,000.00	382,984.00	484,000.00	605,428.00
Vocational Block Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	61,169.00
504 Tuition	0.00	33,324.00	0.00	27,000.00
TOTAL	1,665,289.00	1,840,597.00	1,844,746.00	2,263,588.00
SPECIAL EDUCATION				
Special Education	513,668.00	591,828.00	592,480.00	665,382.00
TOTAL	513,668.00	591,828.00	592,480.00	665,382.00
EARLY EDUCATION				
E.E.E. Program	45,281.00	44,048.00	53,277.00	49,134.00
SCAMP Salary	2,500.00	2,213.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
SCAMP FICA	0.00	121.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	47,781.00	46,382.00	55,777.00	51,634.00
OTHER				
Deficit Appropriation	0.00	0.00	0.00	87,000.00*
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	87,000.00
OTHER TOTALS	2,539,022.00	2,811,590.00	2,838,001.00	3,431,757.00
GRAND TOTAL	4,283,804.00	4,509,638.00	4,692,965.00	5,344,686.00
(a) Preliminary				

* Deficit appropriation in total is \$153,686.35
 \$87,000.00 is a partial allocation for FY 05

**W.S.E.S.U. MEMBER DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT - FINANCIAL SUMMARY
OPERATING BUDGET, COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS AND GRANTS**

	<u>2002-03 Actual</u>	<u>2003-04 Budget</u>	<u>2004-2005 Proposed (a)</u>
Revenue			
Assessments			
Brattleboro	\$ 555,055	\$ 572,989	\$ 579,950
B.U.H.S. #6	480,016	505,063	508,908
Dummerston	103,314	115,501	122,917
Guilford	111,242	105,482	109,413
Putney	169,119	156,010	149,265
Vernon	137,573	145,699	153,525
Tuition	1,777,836	1,927,067	2,454,654
Intergovernmental	2,581,438	2,146,998	2,800,000
Interest	7,721	12,000	8,000
Sather Fund	5,657	0	0
Other Local	1,932	3,250	3,250
On-Behalf of Revenue (Retirement)	72,003	0	0
Total Revenue	\$ 6,002,906	\$ 5,690,059	\$ 6,889,882
Expenditures			
Special Education	\$ 258,635	\$ 296,521	\$ 283,724
Title I/Special Services	1,687	23,692	15,047
Speech	133,758	143,157	150,383
Administrative Support	224,774	193,765	187,122
Superintendent	117,497	108,988	117,347
School Improvement	120,510	143,711	158,426
Admin. Secretary / Personnel	148,567	164,256	176,659
Business Administrator	106,985	108,407	113,858
Other Fiscal Services	318,517	312,380	346,722
District Wide	102	7,992	2,500
Technology Coordinator	70,470	98,951	79,747
Operations & Maintenance	69,211	72,172	75,972
Special Projects (Grants)	2,567,912	2,089,000	2,925,000
Special Class Programs	1,777,859	1,927,067	2,454,654
Sather Fund	4,410	0	0
On-Behalf of Expenses (Retirement)	72,003	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$ 5,992,897	\$ 5,690,059	\$ 7,087,161

(a) Please note that the excess of revenue over expenditures relates to activity for restricted programs and grants. These funds are used for future restricted program and grant expenditures.

**WINDHAM SOUTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
SUB GRANTS
FY03**

DISTRICT	FEDERAL IDEA SPEC ED	FEDERAL TITLE 1	FEDERAL TITLE 1 SUPPLEMENTAL	EPSDT MEDICAID	SE IEP MEDICAID	TOTAL
BRATTLEBORO	\$218,135	\$284,465	\$0	\$18,556	\$131,921	\$653,077
BRATTLEBORO EES PRE-SCHOOL	0	20,000	0	0	0	20,000
BUHS #6	109,980	203,250	29,691	24,994	0	367,915
DUMMERSTON	20,044	0	0	34,353	28,900	83,297
GUILFORD	23,306	0	0	25,112	10,000	58,418
PUTNEY	35,654	63,022	0	21,206	28,900	148,782
VERNON	31,116	0	0	29,515	10,000	70,631
TOTAL	438,235	570,737	29,691	153,736	209,721	1,402,120

SPECIAL EDUCATION AID DISTRIBUTION FY03

District	Block Grant	Intensive Aid	Extraordinary Aid	State Placed	E.E.E. State	IDEA Federal	Total Aid
Brattleboro	\$435,012.00	\$2,191,255.00	\$ 38,755.00	\$ 82,235.00	\$ 64,353.00	\$ 218,135.00	\$3,029,745.00
Dummerston	73,609.00	193,836.00	62,996.00	0.00	11,834.00	20,044.00	362,319.00
Guilford	93,385.00	164,714.00	4,774.00	0.00	14,407.00	23,306.00	300,586.00
Putney	91,015.00	441,428.00	34,577.00	0.00	14,506.00	35,654.00	617,180.00
Vernon	102,885.00	266,492.00	26,977.00	44,833.00	18,758.00	31,116.00	491,061.00
B.U.H.S #6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109,980.00	109,980.00
Total	\$795,906.00	\$3,257,725.00	\$168,079.00	\$127,068.00	\$123,858.00	\$438,235.00	\$4,910,871.00

**Act 68 Three Year Comparison
Vernon Town School District**

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
1. Expenditures				
2. Budget (approved)	\$4,367,376	\$4,283,804	\$4,692,965	\$3,774,695
3. State Vocational Block Grant (82% FY05)				\$61,169
4. Supervisory Union Assessment				\$153,525
5. Block Grant State Voc. Ed.Prior Yrs.	\$62,870	\$54,491	\$49,036	
6. Separately Warned Article -approved				
7. Separately Warned Article -approved				
8. Separately Warned Article -approved				
9. Act 144 Expenditures				
10. Act 68 Local Adopted Budget	\$4,430,246	\$4,338,295	\$4,742,001	\$3,774,695
11. Union school assessment				\$1,569,991
12. Deficit if not included in the budget or revenue				
13. Special Programs (not included in local budget)				
14. Gross Act 68 Budget	\$4,430,246	\$4,338,295	\$4,742,001	\$5,344,686
15. Revenues				
16. Local Revenues	\$683,562	\$677,845	\$756,909	\$770,716
17. Capital Debt Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
18. Special Programs (not included in local budget)				
19. Deficit if not included in local budget				
20. Act 144 Revenues				
21. Total Revenues	\$683,562	\$677,845	\$756,909	\$770,716
22. Fund raising (if any)				
23. Adjusted Local Revenues	\$683,562	\$677,845	\$756,909	\$770,716
24. Education Spending (Act 68)	\$3,746,684	\$3,660,450	\$3,985,092	\$4,573,970
25. Equalized Pupils	398.67	401.42	414.01	419.49
26. Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$9,398	\$9,119	\$9,626	\$10,904
27. Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)	NA	NA	NA	\$104
28. Per Pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	NA	NA	NA	\$11,008
29. District Spending Adjustment	NA	NA	NA	161.877%
30. Estimated Homestead tax rate (equalized)	NA	NA	NA	
31. Household Income % for Income Sensitivity	NA	NA	NA	

MINUTES AND WARNINGS

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON - March 3rd and 4th, 2003

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Moderator Timothy Arsenault called for a moment of silence for those residents and friends who had died during the past year. Microphone handlers for the first evening were Rebecca Hall and Kimberly Franklin. Procedures to be followed during the meeting were referenced and the Vernon Advent Christian Church thanked for providing refreshments for this meeting and the Warning was read by the Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 4: While this Article will be voted by non-binding referendum paper ballot on Tuesday, Moderator Arsenault opened the floor and much discussion followed. Paul Sather brought up a point of order regarding action taken under "to transact any other business" last year to have voting on non-binding and binding referendums by Australian Ballot. Mr. Sather asked that the legality of such action in the future be ascertained. Discussion followed and the question was moved. The motion to cease debate was seconded and carried on a clear two-thirds voice vote in the affirmative.

School Board Chairman Laura DeVincentis introduced the School Board members.

ARTICLE 5: Lianne Shover made the motion to authorize the Town School District Board to borrow money in anticipation of taxes. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 6: Pam Gobeille made the motion to approve the report of the Town School District Auditors. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 7: Deborah Hebert made the motion to approve the Vernon School Capital Plan as presented by the Town School District Board. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 8: Michael Hebert moved for a rule suspension to take up Article 9 prior to taking up Article 8. The motion to suspend was seconded and carried on a clear two-thirds voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 9: Michael Hebert made the motion that the Town School District vote to authorize deposit of the funds held in the Vernon School District Reserve Fund into the fund balance of the Capital Fund. (All funds as of 6/30/03 will be added to the Capital Fund balance). The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 8: Michael Hebert made the motion to amend the Article to appropriate the sum of \$137,300.00 for funding items approved in the school Capital Plan. The funding will consist of the balance of the reserve fund as of 6/30/03 with remainder coming from the Capital Fund, excess funds, and interest. *This money can only be used for the items authorized in the school Capital*

Plan. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 10: Laura DeVincentis made the motion that the Town School District raise the sum of \$3,921,581.00 and appropriate the sum of \$4,692,965.00 to defray the expenses and liabilities for the ensuing year: \$145,699.00 to be Vernon's assessment to WSESU; \$1,360,746.00 to BUHS and \$3,186,520.00 for the operation of the Vernon Elementary School. The motion was seconded and School Board Chairman DeVincentis gave a budget presentation utilizing the overhead for those in attendance. Much discussion followed. Ed Sprague called the question. The motion to cease debate was seconded and carried on a clear two-thirds voice vote in the affirmative. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 11: Michael Hebert thanked the Town School District for their support of the School. He further briefly reviewed and urged support of Article 3. Discussion on Article 3 followed.

Moderator Arsenault thanked the School Board and called for a five minute recess to allow the Selectboard to assemble. Following the reconvening of the meeting, Moderator Arsenault announced the Preschool Fund Raiser going on outside the meeting and the Historians Bake Sale which will be held during the Australian Ballot voting at the Town Office Building.

Selectboard Chairman Polhemus introduced the Board of Selectmen and thanked those present in the audience and the volunteers and officials for the Town of Vernon.

ARTICLE 12: Michael McKenney made the motion to accept the report of the Town Auditors as printed in the Annual Report. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 13: Nancy Burrington made the motion to nominate Ken Swanger to fulfill an unexpired term ending in 2005; Christine Fredericks to fulfill an unexpired term ending in 2004; and Elizabeth Eriksson as a Library Trustee for the term of five years. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 14: Nancy Burrington made the motion that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,691.00 for the administration of the Vernon Free Library. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 15: Len Peduzzi made the motion that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000.00 to be placed in the previously established "Town Road Upgrading Fund" to be utilized for paving and upgrading existing Town Roads. The motion was seconded and much discussion followed. Mark Parker stated that Vernon residents have a "fantastic Road Crew that takes real good care of us all year long," and a round of applause for those individuals followed. Much more discussion followed until the question was called and the motion to cease debate was seconded and carried on a clear two-thirds voice vote in the affirmative. A division of the house was called and the motion carried with 72 votes in the affirmative and 37 votes in the negative.

ARTICLE 16: Sonya Shippee made the motion that the Town raise

and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed in the previously established "Farmland Protection Fund." This money would be held under all restrictions applicable to this fund. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The question was called and the motion to cease debate was seconded and carried on a clear two-thirds voice vote in the affirmative. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 17: Michael Ball made the motion that the Town raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 as a restricted gift to Rescue Inc. designated as follows: \$4,000.00 to the Capital Fund of Rescue Inc. and \$1,000.00 to the Volunteer Fund of Rescue Inc. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 18: Douglas Fletcher made the motion to amend the Article to have the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to be expended by Vernon Historians, Inc. for the preservation of historic items and for copying and printing historic Vernon photographs and printed items, and for supplies to properly conserve and store the same and also for the purchase of signs for each of the brooks and/or streams. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 19: Georgia Boyce made the motion that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for the 250th Anniversary celebration of the Town of Vernon in 2003, to be held in place of the Annual Town Picnic. The motion was seconded and Georgia Boyce made the motion to amend the motion to read to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 and transfer from the Town Picnic Fund the \$551.81 into the 250th Anniversary appropriation. The motion to amend carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

The amended motion: That the Town raise \$5,000.00 and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 plus the Picnic balance of \$551.81 for the 250th Anniversary celebration of the Town of Vernon in 2003, to be held in place of the Annual Town Picnic. Discussion on the amended motion followed. Concern was expressed that it not be a "glorified Town Picnic" but be something special. More discussion followed. The amended motion carried.

ARTICLE 20: Doug Fletcher made the motion that the Town exempt the Chapel, owned by the Vernon Historians, Inc. from real estate taxes for the 2003 through 2007 tax years. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 21: Len Peduzzi made the motion that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to be placed in the previously established "Professional Services Fund." The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The question was called and the motion to cease debate was seconded and carried on a clear two-thirds voice vote in the affirmative. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 22: Jim Polhemus made the motion that the Town raise

and appropriate the sum of \$18,501.00 and authorize the Selectmen to expend the same for the support of the following in the designated amounts and requested the vote be taken by paper ballot:

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont	150.00
Brattleboro Area Hospice	300.00
Council on Aging	700.00
Early Education Services	1,700.00
Get INFO	375.00
Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern VT	1,850.00
Historical Society of Windham County	250.00
Morningside Emergency Shelter	676.00
Phoenix House	800.00
SEVCA	2,100.00
Vermont Adult Learning	500.00
Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	500.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living	500.00
Visiting Nurses Alliance	4,700.00
Women's Crisis Center	900.00
Youth Services	2,500.00

The motion was seconded and much discussion on the use of a paper ballot followed with legal advice being sought from the Town's Attorney Charles Cummings. Marion Watson noted that neither the Gathering Place nor RSVP had been included in the list, yet they spend a lot of time in Vernon. Much discussion followed. The question was called and the motion to cease debate carried on a clear two-thirds vote in the affirmative. The Town Clerk was called to distribute the paper ballots. A point of order was raised by Paul Sather regarding the paper ballot request by Chairman Polhemus. Much more discussion followed. A friendly amendment was held and the paper ballot distributed was a "Yes" or "No" paper ballot. The Article was defeated by a vote of 46 votes in the affirmative and 72 votes in the negative.

ARTICLE 23: Marcella Unaitis made the motion that the Town appropriate the sum of \$700.00 from the Dog Fund for the support of the Windham County Humane Society. The motion was seconded and Mrs. Unaitis spoke to the Article. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 24: Douglas Fletcher made the motion to nominate Ed and Barbara Sprague to serve as the committee for Memorial Day. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Dennis Legere made the motion to amend the Article to allow the Selectboard to appoint other members as necessary through the year. The motion to amend was seconded. The amendment carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

The amended motion: To nominate Ed and Barbara Sprague to serve as the committee for Memorial Day and allow the Selectboard to appoint other members as necessary through the year. The amended motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 25: Len Peduzzi made the motion to nominate Barbara Moseley and James Brown to serve as the committee to disburse the income from the Marsh Fund. The motion was seconded. Munson Hicks made the motion to amend the motion to include, "that the members who are voted in be instructed to find ways to remove these funds from the Town's overview." When asked by Moderator Arsenault, Attorney Cummings stated he did not believe it was an appropriate amendment nor was an amendment the way to change the purpose of the fund. The amendment was

ruled out of order by Moderator Arsenault. More discussion followed. Douglas Johnson asked whether the third church in town should be added to the list of churches that benefit from this fund. Mr. Cummings was interrogated regarding the procedure to add another church and responded that it would be up to the Committee to determine. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

A point of order was called by Paul Sather who asked for Attorney Cummings' input regarding the legality of the vote to be taken on Article 4. Attorney Cummings stated that it was legal as it is a non-binding vote to be taken. He further stated that he thought "this town can take any action it wants to take at any time whether or not it's warned as long as it's not for a binding action."

Discussion on the difference between Australian ballots, paper ballots, and binding ballots, followed.

Moderator Arsenault declared the meeting in recess at 9:56 P.M.

CONTINUATION OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 4, 2003

Filling in until Moderator Arsenault arrived, House Representative Patricia O'Donnell announced that the Vernon Preschool wished her to extend their appreciation to those who participated in the Chinese Auction to benefit the Preschool. \$1,322.00 was raised during this event.

Representative O'Donnell also gave a brief update on the Medicaid bill that is being worked on in Montpelier; economic development; jobs in the State; work with the Retreat; work with Eden Park Nursing Home; permit reform; drug court; etc.

Moderator Arsenault reconvened the meeting and gave a "historical perspective" about Article 25's Marsh Fund by reading an excerpt from the book, Brattleboro Retreat, 150 Years of Caring, which was read into the record as follows:

It concerns Anna Hunt Marsh, the widow of Dr. Perley Marsh, a prominent physician, who practiced medicine in Hinsdale. No record of their marriage was found, but it's probable that he and Anna were married around 1793, because that year Perley bought his first property in town, the old Fort Dummer Ferry, for 90 pounds, and the tract of land, presumably with a house for another 100 hundred pounds. Four years later, the 1797 Grand List for Hinsdale, showed Perley to be the third richest man in town, only Anna's uncle, General Arad Hunt, and the Town Clerk were listed for higher property value. Anna lived twenty-seven years after Perley's death. Amassing an estate, in 1834 dollars, of \$21,720.00. Most of her money came from buying and selling property and running the family farm. The census records of 1820 and 1830 listed her as the head of household with several hired help in residence. In her will she left \$10,000.00 to help establish the Brattleboro Retreat.

And, as you know, if you read your Town Report, some \$2,000.00 of that was established for our town for the Marsh Fund."

ARTICLE 26: Sonya Shippee made the motion that the Town raise and appropriate a sum to be placed in the previously established Town of Vernon, James Cusick Scholarship Fund and if so, what amount. This fund to be distributed in accordance with the

Vernon Scholarship Requirements. The motion was seconded and Dennis Legere made the motion to amend the Article to read that the Town appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to the previously established Town of Vernon James Cusick Scholarship Fund. This fund to be distributed in accordance with the Vernon Scholarship Requirements. The motion to amend was seconded and Mr. Legere spoke to his motion, noting that there was money in the fund so no more money needed to be raised this year. The motion to amend carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

The amended motion: That the Town appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 to the previously established Town of Vernon James Cusick Scholarship Fund. This fund to be distributed in accordance with the Vernon Scholarship Requirements, carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 27: Michael McKenney made the motion to approve the Vernon Capital Plan as presented in the Annual Report of the Finance Committee. The Town is free to add, delete, or modify any individual item from the proposed plan by amendment under this Article. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Dennis Legere made the motion to amend the Article to eliminate the funds for the Town Office Building HVAC and South School from the Capital Plan. The motion to amend was seconded. Len Peduzzi gave an update on the Town Office Building HVAC and Richmond Tripp on the South School with both noting that the projects would be completed this year. After much more discussion Mr. Legere withdrew his motion to amend and the individual who seconded the motion withdrew his second. The original motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 28: Michael McKenney made the motion that the Town appropriate the sum of \$130,000.00 from the Emergency Capital Reserve Fund for funding of items approved in the Capital Plan. This money can only be used for items authorized in the Vernon Capital Plan. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Michael Ball made the motion to amend the motion to "raise and appropriate" the sum of \$130,000.00. The motion to amend the Article was seconded. Both the motion to amend and the second were withdrawn by the individuals presenting them. More discussion followed. A Point of Order was called by Michael Ball regarding remarks being made by Dennis Legere on the investments was not germane to the Article. The Chair ruled that the remarks were not germane and Mr. Legere challenged that ruling. A vote was called and Mr. Legere was allowed to continue by a voice vote in the affirmative. Mr. Legere asked that the investments be scrutinized more carefully in the future. Dennis Legere made the motion to amend the Article to read: That the Town appropriate the sum \$130,000.00 to deal with the approved funds in the Capital Plan, and that we raise \$45,970.00 which, combined with the two figures \$74,330.00 plus \$9,700.00 will equal the \$130,000.00. So by the investment of \$45,970.00 we do not continue to deplete the fund and we continue to support the \$130,000.00. The motion to amend was seconded. More discussion followed. A division of the house was called and the motion to amend carried with 53 votes in the affirmative and 31 in the negative.

The amended motion: That the Town appropriate the sum of \$130,000.00 and raise \$45,970.00 for funding of items approved in the Capital Plan. This money can only be used for items authorized in the Vernon Capital Plan. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 29: Sally Stearns made the motion that the Town

establish a Disability Insurance Fund, to be utilized under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion was defeated on a voice vote in the negative.

ARTICLE 30: Because Article 29 was defeated Dennis Legere made the motion to object to the consideration of Article 30. The motion was seconded and carried on a clear two-thirds vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 31: Doug Fletcher made the motion that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for the Veterans Memorial to make additions, corrections, and any necessary repairs. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Peter Crossmon said, "Last night we passed \$4,000,000.00 in twenty minutes, now we're complaining and talking about \$2,000.00 for people that fought for our country?" and moved the question. The motion to cease debate was seconded and carried on a clear two-thirds vote in the affirmative. The motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 32: Steven Holton made the motion that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 for the Fire Department to upgrade air packs and compressor systems to meet NFPA and OSHA requirements to date. The motion was seconded and much discussion followed. Steve Holton noted that many of the units now in use cannot be retrofitted to meet the new standards and are considered obsolete by MSA criteria. Much discussion followed. The options of spending a "one lump sum" or spreading the payments out were reviewed. David Andrews noted that the Town would be in jeopardy by not bringing the Fire Department up to code when "these guys are risking their lives for us. Bear in mind, this isn't a normal town, this is uniquely different, from even Guilford. Our town has some unique hazards...and we have a Fire Department that really is understaffed, it's under-equipped. The money they're asking for? Personally I don't think it's enough!" Much more discussion followed. After further discussion Douglas Johnson made the motion to purchase 15 packs with the spare bottles, and convert the other systems. The motion to amend was seconded and discussion followed.

Douglas Johnson spoke to his amendment, noting that he has spoken with Brian Johnson from VT. Labor and Industry, who informed him that "if a town had the capability of purchasing these air packs and did not purchase them, and someone got hurt, then the Town is liable for not purchasing this new equipment." Much more discussion followed.

John Schaefer made the motion to amend the amendment to buy 10 air packs and raise and appropriate approximately \$37,500.00 for this (half the amount asked for). The motion to amend the amendment was seconded and more discussion followed. The question was called and the motion to cease debate on the amendment to the amendment carried on a clear two-thirds voice vote in the affirmative. The amendment to the amendment was defeated on a voice vote in the negative.

Following a brief recess the current amendment: To amend Article 32 to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 for the purchase of 15 air packs and assorted items as mentioned by Mr. Holton, with any excess funding to be returned to the Town. The question was called and the motion to cease debate on the amendment carried on a clear two-thirds vote in the affirmative.

A division of the house was called and the amended motion was defeated on a vote of 38 in the affirmative and 55 in the negative. A division of the house was called and the original motion carried on a vote of 59 votes in the affirmative and 28 in the negative.

ARTICLE 33: Sonya Shippee made the motion that the Town

receive its taxes through its Treasurer. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 34: Sonya Shippee made the motion that the Town authorize payment of Real and Personal Property taxes to the Town Treasurer in two installments, the date to be specified by the townspeople and maybe the Treasurer could make a suggestion. The motion was seconded. Treasurer Sally Stearns spoke against the Article due to the proposed calendar change to be discussed later in the meeting. Dennis Legere made the motion to amend the motion to include July 1st and October 1st as the two due dates. The motion to amend was seconded and defeated on a voice vote in the negative. The original motion was defeated on a voice vote in the negative.

ARTICLE 35: Sonya Shippee made the motion that the Town authorize payment of Real and Personal Property taxes in one installment on October 15th. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 36: Sally Stearns made the motion that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to change from a calendar year to a fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2004. The motion was seconded and Treasurer Stearns spoke to the motion. Following discussion the motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 37: Len Peduzzi made the motion that the Town authorize and appropriate \$73,788.05 owed to Velco per the Vermont Supreme Court decision in the Town of Vernon versus Velco from a fund to be determined or wait until year end 2003 using excess funds to defray the expense. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Lister Chairman William Hammond spoke to the motion regarding the steps that led to this situation: Velco was encouraged by Ollie Trahan in Montpelier to utilize the IOWA curve (at that time Velco was the only one that used that method). Velco appealed their tax assessment to the Listers who denied their grievance, they then appealed to the Board of Civil Authority who denied that appeal, it then went to "one man who's like a judge that the State sends down, and he came down completely biased. Wouldn't even allow our contractor to speak unless we had a full dossier on him, but yet they allowed the expert to speak on the other side. It was politics in this, and I want this to go on record." Some of the tax money has been returned last year and "Velco has been very nice about it." Much discussion followed.

Michael Ball made the motion to amend the motion to that the Town authorize and appropriate \$73,788.05 owed to Velco per the Vermont Supreme Court decision in the Town of Vernon versus Velco from a fund to be determined by the Treasurer. The motion to amend was seconded and after discussion the maker and seconder of the motion to amend withdrew their motion and second.

Dennis Legere made the motion to amend the motion to pay the \$73,788.05 in taxes due and any remaining funds owed to be taken from the excess funds in the general fund at the end of the year. The motion to amend was seconded and the amendment carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

Article 37 as amended: that the Town authorize the payment of \$73,788.05 owed to Velco per the Vermont Supreme Court decision in the Town of Vernon versus Velco in taxes due with any excess to come from surplus funds at year end.

The amended motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 38: Sally Stearns made the motion that the Town raise \$1,454,556.85 and appropriate \$1,648,226.00 to defray its expenses and liabilities for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded and Treasurer Stearns explained the changes in the appearance of the Selectmen's budget this year. With no discussion forthcoming the motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 39: Sally Stearns made the motion to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money on notes of the Town in anticipation of taxes and/or current expenses. The motion was seconded and with no discussion forthcoming the motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 40: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before said meeting.

Christiane Howe moved that the Town allow the Selectboard to research the possibility of hiring an Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded. Moderator Arsenault called for the vote noting that this motion was purely advisory as no binding action can be taken under other business, and the motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

Walter Zaluzny asked that the Monday evening Town Meeting start at 7:00 P.M. rather than 6:30 P.M. and asked for latest information on the sewage project on the north end of Vernon which Selectman Peduzzi spoke to.

Barbara Sprague thanked everybody for helping and reported that the Historians had raised \$661.87 on the food sale; \$27.00 for the Chapel raffle; \$30.00 for the note paper and \$66.00 for the cookbooks.

Michael Ball spoke to the defeat of Article 22 for the second time in the past two years and recommended the Selectboard consider defining a policy or guideline for outside organizations to request monies.

The meeting was recessed pending the results from the Australian Ballot voting.

With 892 votes cast from a Checklist of 1533, the results of the Australian Balloting as presented by the Town Clerk were as follows:

MODERATOR	
Timothy Arsenault	826
SELECTMAN - 3 YEAR POSITION	
Douglas Fletcher	510
SELECTMAN- 1 YEAR	
Margaret (Peggy) Farabaugh	489
James Polhemus	436
SELECTMAN - 2 YEAR (to fill an unexpired term)	
Michael Ball	485
LISTER	
William Hammond	656
AUDITOR	
Carol J. Hammond	642
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR	
Marylynn Scherlin	667
FIRST CONSTABLE	
Peter Crossmon	841

SECOND CONSTABLE	
Jason Johnson	422
TOWN AGENT	
Robert Miller Jr	807
GRAND JUROR - To be appointed	
SCHOOL DIRECTOR - 3 YEAR POSITION	
Michael Hebert	739
SCHOOL DIRECTOR - 1 YEAR POSITION	
Pamela B Gobeille	407
Leeanne Shover	402
SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR	
Timothy Arsenault	842

ARTICLE 3: Shall the make-up of the Board of School Directors of the Brattleboro Union High School District, as approved by the voters at the time the Brattleboro Union High School District was formed be amended to provide that each member town school district is entitled to one board representative per 3,000 citizens (or fraction thereof as measured by the U.S. decennial census (which initially creates a nine member board); and to further provide that to produce staggered terms, one Brattleboro director will be elected to a one-year term (to be replaced by a director with a three-year term), two Brattleboro directors will be elected to two year terms (to be replaced by directors with three-year terms), and all other directors will be elected to three-year terms. (VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT).

784 Votes were cast as follows:

Yes	567
No	172
Spoiled	0
Blank	45
Total	784

ARTICLE 4: To see if the voters of the Town of Vernon will request the Legislature of the State of Vermont to take action immediately to bar relicensing of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station whose current license expires in 2012; to bar the licensing of any other nuclear generating station in the State of Vermont; and to proceed forthwith implementing a state energy plan that relies upon renewable energy sources to supply Vermont's energy needs.

834 Votes were cast as follows:

Yes	74
No	756
Spoiled	0
Blank	4
Total	834

ATTEST: /s/ Sandra B. Harris cvc
Sandra B. Harris cvc *Town Clerk*

APPROVED BY: /s/ Michael Ball
Michael Ball - *Selectboard*

/s/ Laura DeVincentis
Laura DeVincentis - *School Board*

/s/ Timothy Arsenault
Timothy Arsenault - *Moderator*

**TOWN OF VERNON, VERMONT
WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 8, 2003**

The legal voters of the Town of Vernon are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Vernon Elementary School (cafetorium) on Thursday, May 8 A.D. 2003 at 7:00 P.M. in said Town to act on the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to reconsider action taken on Article 32 at the Annual Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 for the Fire Department to upgrade airparks and compressor systems to meet NFPA and OSHA requirements to date. (Article 32 at the Annual Meeting)

ARTICLE 3: Shall Vernon vote on matters advisory to the Vermont Legislature by Australian Ballot?

Dated at Vernon, Vermont this 7th day of April A.D. 2003.

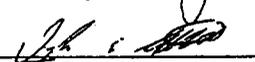
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF VERNON, VERMONT**



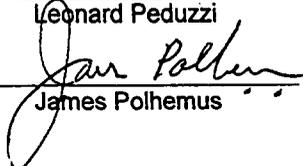
Michael Ball



Margaret Farabaugh



Douglas Fletcher

Leonard Peduzzi


James Polhemus

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2003**

Moderator Timothy Arsenault called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Sandra Harris read the Warning and Moderator Arsenault reviewed the procedures to reconsider from Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE 1: MARGARET FARABAUGH MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN RECONSIDER ACTION TAKEN ON ARTICLE 32 AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING. The motion was seconded and Fire Chief Steven Holton informed those present that he had received confirmation and documentation informing him that an \$89,000.00 grant had been received to cover the costs of the breathing apparatus and thermal imaging cameras which Article 32 was to cover. After further discussion the motion carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 2: DOUGLAS FLETCHER MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN VOTE TO RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$75,000.00 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO UPGRADE AIRPACKS AND COMPRESSOR SYSTEMS TO MEET NFPA AND OSHA REQUIREMENTS TO DATE. (ARTICLE 32 AT THE ANNUAL MEETING). The motion was seconded and discussion followed. Fire Chief Steven Holton recommended defeating this Article since the grant has been confirmed. Chairman Ball read the letter of confirmation regarding the grant to those assembled. After brief discussion the motion was defeated by a voice vote in the negative.

ARTICLE 3: MICHAEL BALL MADE THE MOTION THAT VERNON VOTE ON MATTERS ADVISATORY TO THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT. The motion was seconded and Mr. Ball spoke to the motion. Much discussion followed. The motion carried in a voice vote in the affirmative.

Any other business:
In response to Paul Sather's request, Selectboard Chairman Ball reviewed the methods implemented in placing petitioned articles on the Warnings for Special and Annual Meetings. Mike Zaluzny raised the question about the monies the Town had invested and the status of those funds. Chairman Ball stated that the Town was in mutual funds, noted the majority input on the questionnaire sent out last fall indicated that they wanted to be out of equity but in fixed investments. He further noted that the Treasurer has provided a proposed investment guideline to the Board to review.

JOHN WHEELDEN SR. MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. The motion was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

ATTEST: /s/ Sandra B. Harris cvc /cmc
Town Clerk

/s/ Michael Ball
Selectboard Chairman

/s/ Timothy Arsenault
Moderator

**RESULTS OF THE VERNON TOWN SCHOOL
DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING/ELECTION
HELD ON JUNE 10 A.D. 2003**

Voted by Australian Ballot at the Town Office Building
(downstairs).

Polls open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

There were 167 votes cast from a checklist of 1,538 with 9 votes
being cast by absentee ballot.

The votes were as follows:

FOR UNION SCHOOL DIRECTOR - 3 YEAR POSITION

Pamela B. Gobeille	54
Michael J. Hebert	113
Spoiled	0
Blank	0
Total Votes Cast	167

ATTEST: _____

Sandra B. Harris cvc

**WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2003**

The legal voters of the Town of Vernon are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Vernon Elementary School (cafetorium) at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 18, 2003 in said Town to act upon the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of \$3,480.21 left from the Town's 2003 250th Celebration to supplement the 2004 Annual Town Picnic.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 for the 2004 Annual Town Picnic.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 from the Town of Vernon Emergency Capital Reserve Fund for necessary plumbing repairs at the Vernon Recreation Center.

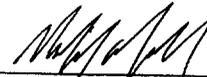
ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,331.00 for the administration of the Vernon Free Library.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to collect its taxes without discounts and to have real estate taxes payable on or before April 15 th.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to receive its taxes through its Treasurer.

ARTICLE 7: To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to defray its expenses and liabilities for the six month period, January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before said meeting.



Michael Bail



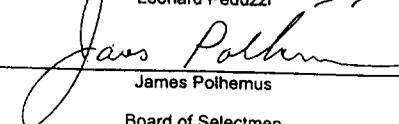
Margaret Farabaugh



Douglas Fletcher



Leonard Peduzzi



James Polhemus

Board of Selectmen
Vernon, Vermont

MINUTES OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - NOVEMBER 18, 2003

1486 Names on the Checklist
78 Voters present at Meeting

Moderator Timothy Arsenault called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, the Town Clerk read the Warning.

ARTICLE 1: GEORGIA BOYCE MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$3,480.21 LEFT FROM THE TOWN'S 2003 250TH CELEBRATION TO SUPPLEMENT THE 2004 ANNUAL TOWN PICNIC. The motion was seconded and George Boyce spoke to the motion, noting the need to adjust the figure by \$75.00 for a bill that had not been paid. **GEORGIA BOYCE MADE THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO TRANSFER \$3,405.21 LEFT FROM THE TOWN'S 2003 250TH CELEBRATION.** The motion to amend was seconded and carried on a voice vote in the affirmative.

THE AMENDED MOTION: THAT THE TOWN AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$3,405.21 LEFT FROM THE TOWN'S 2003 250TH CELEBRATION TO SUPPLEMENT THE 2004 ANNUAL TOWN PICNIC CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

ARTICLE 2: GEORGIA BOYCE MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$3,500.00 FOR THE 2004 ANNUAL TOWN PICNIC. The motion was seconded and following discussion **THE MOTION CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

ARTICLE 3: Seth Deyo asked to speak to the motion. Michael Ball called a point of order, noting that a motion was required prior to discussing an Article. **SETH DEYO MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$35,000.00 FROM THE TOWN OF VERNON EMERGENCY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR NECESSARY PLUMBING REPAIRS AT THE VERNON RECREATION CENTER.** The motion was seconded and Seth Deyo used a power point presentation to explain the proposed project, noting that passage of this Article would not affect the tax rate as the monies were already in the Emergency Capital Reserve Fund. Discussion followed. **MICHAEL BALL MADE THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE "TO AUTOMATICALLY RETURN ANY EXCESS MONEY TO THE FUND."** The motion to amend was seconded and discussion followed. **THE MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE "TO RETURN ANY EXCESS MONEY TO THE FUND: CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

THE AMENDED MOTION: THAT THE TOWN APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$35,000.00 FROM THE TOWN OF VERNON EMERGENCY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR NECESSARY PLUMBING REPAIRS AT THE VERNON RECREATION CENTER AND TO AUTOMATICALLY RETURN ANY EXCESS MONEY TO THE FUND CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

ARTICLE 4: NANCY BURRINGTON MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$20,331.00 FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE VERNON FREE LIBRARY. The motion was seconded and Mrs. Burrington explained that the proposed budget was for a 3 month budget for the Library. **THE MOTION CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

ARTICLE 5: LEN PEDUZZI MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN COLLECT ITS TAXES WITHOUT DISCOUNTS AND TO HAVE REAL ESTATE TAXES PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15TH. The motion was seconded and much discussion followed. Treasurer Sally Stearns explained that this would cover a six-month municipal budget from January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004. **THE MOTION CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

ARTICLE 6: JIM POLHEMUS MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN RECEIVE ITS TAXES THROUGH ITS TREASURER. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. **THE MOTION CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

ARTICLE 7: SALLY STEARNS MADE THE MOTION THAT THE TOWN RAISE AND APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$815,307.00 TO DEFRAY ITS EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES FOR THE 6-MONTH PERIOD, JANUARY 1, 2004 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2004. The motion was seconded and Treasurer Stearns spoke to the budget. Much discussion followed. **THE MOTION CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

ARTICLE 8: PEGGY FARABAUGH MADE THE MOTION TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE SAID MEETING. The motion was seconded and Selectboard Chairman Michael Ball introduced the Board and announced there were additional T-shirts from the 250th Celebration on sale at the back of the room. Moderator Arsenault thanked the Board of Selectmen; First Choice Communications who ran the sound system; BCTV who filmed the meeting for later viewing and those who attended the meeting.

LEN PEDUZZI MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. The motion was seconded and **Moderator Arsenault declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.**

ATTEST: /s/ Sandra B. Harris cvc/cmc
Town Clerk

/s/ Michael Ball
Selectboard Chairman

/s/ Timothy Arsenault
Moderator

WARNING FOR 2004 TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The legal voters of the Vernon Town and Vernon Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Vernon Elementary School (cafetorium) at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, March 1, 2004, in said Town to act upon Articles beginning with Article 4. Said meeting to be recessed and continued the following evening, March 2, 2004, at 7:30 P.M. in the same location.

Voting on Articles 1-3 will be by Australian ballot at the Town Office Building (downstairs) on March 2, 2004. Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 1: To elect all Town Officers required by law to be elected at the Annual Town Meeting. (VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT)

ARTICLE 2: To elect all Town School District Officers required by law to be elected at the Annual Town School District Meeting. (VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT)

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 from the previously established Water and Sewer Fund to help fund construction of the water and sewer at the proposed Elderly Housing Project on the Streeter Property, so called. (VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to act upon the report of the Town Auditors.

ARTICLE 5: To choose a Library Trustee for the term of five years.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$86,846.00 for the administration of the Vernon Free Library.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000.00 to be placed in the previously established "Town Road Upgrading Fund" to be utilized for paving and upgrading existing Town roads.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the previously established "Farmland Protection Fund." This money would be held under all restrictions applicable to this fund.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500.00 to be expended by Vernon Historians, Inc., for the purchase and preservation of historic items and for copying and printing historic Vernon photographs and printed items, and for supplies to properly conserve and store the same.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000.00 for the annual Town picnic.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 to be placed in the previously established "Professional Services Fund."

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to expend needed monies on legal matters from the Emergency Capital Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,960.00 and authorize the Selectmen to expend the same for the support of the following in the designated amounts. The Town is free to delete, or modify any individual item from the proposed list by amendment under this Article.

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont	150.00
Brattleboro Area Drop In Center	200.00
Brattleboro Area Hospice	300.00
Connecticut River Transit Inc	500.00
Council on Aging	700.00
The Gathering Place	500.00
George D. Aiken Resource	
Conservation & Development Council	50.00
Green Up Vermont	150.00
Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern VT (by Petition)	1,850.00
Morningside Emergency Shelter	500.00
RSVP (by Petition)	510.00
SEVCA	2,100.00
Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	500.00
Visiting Nurses Alliance	5,350.00
Windham County Humane Society	700.00
Women's Crisis Center	900.00

ARTICLE 14: To choose a committee for Memorial Day.

ARTICLE 15: To choose a committee to disburse the income of the Marsh Fund.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$30,000.00 from the previously established "The Town of Vernon, James Cusick Scholarship Fund." This fund to be distributed in accordance with the Vernon Scholarship Requirements.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will approve the Vernon Capital Plan as presented in the Annual Report. The Town is free to add, delete, or modify any individual item from the proposed plan by amendment under this Article.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$154,112.00 from the emergency Capital Reserve Fund for funding of items approved in the Capital Plan. This money can only be used for items authorized in the Vernon Capital Plan.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will approve the use by the Fire Chief of monies reserved for Fire Pond Maintenance for any use as long as it installs and/or maintains alternative water sources (e.g.: fire ponds with or without dry hydrants, or underground storage tanks with dry hydrants).

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will change the policy for Rescue Inc. reimbursements so that the Town not pay for the first service but rather encourage households to purchase subscriptions every year and for the Town to pay for subscriptions out of the Emergency Medical Ambulance Services Fund for households that say that they cannot afford the cost of the subscription.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will authorize payment of Real and Personal Property taxes to the Town Treasurer without discounts in two installments, setting the due dates as September 15, 2004 and February 15, 2005.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to receive its taxes through its Treasurer.

ARTICLE 23: To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to defray its expenses and liabilities for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow money on notes of the Town in anticipation of taxes and/or current expenses.

ARTICLE 25: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before said meeting.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town School District will authorize the Town School District Board to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town School District will vote to approve the Vernon School Capital Plan as presented by the Town School District Board.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$48,100.00 for funding of items approved in the school Capital Plan. *(This money can only be used for items authorized in the school Capital Plan).*

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town School District will vote to raise and appropriate an amount of money necessary to defray its expenses and liabilities for the ensuing year and, if so, in what amount.

ARTICLE 30: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before said meeting.

_____ Laura DeVincentis	_____ Michael Ball
_____ Deborah Hebert	_____ Margaret Farabaugh
_____ Michael Hebert	_____ Douglas Fletcher
_____ Pamela Gobeille	_____ Leonard Peduzzi
_____ Leeanne Shover	_____ James Polhemus
School Directors Vernon, Vermont	Board of Selectmen Vernon, Vermont



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