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AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have examined the accounts and records of the Town of Stratton for the period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. To the best of our knowledge the statements included in this report correctly reflect the financial condition of the Town of Stratton and the Stratton School District.

Betsy Wadsworth was elected auditor at Town Meeting to fill the position formerly held by Patricia Coolidge who resigned. Aleta Alcorn-Coursen was appointed an auditor by the Selectmen when Laura Hawksley became Town Treasurer.

The Auditors appreciate the assistance provided by Stratton Town Office personnel

Aleta Alcorn-Coursen
Betsy Wadsworth
Joann Liller

TOWN OFFICERS

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>	
ELECTED:			
Moderator:	Diana Stigger	2004	
Town Clerk:	Kent Young	2005	
Treasurer:	Laura Hawksley*	2005	
Selectmen:	Al Dupell, Chair	2004	
	Mike Douglas	2004	
	Chris Liller	2004	
	Greg Marcucci	2005	
	Larry Bills	2006	
	Planning Commission:	Matthew Underwood	2004
		Stewart Underwood	2004
		Rona Hicks, Chair	2005
		Dennis Clark	2005
		Avis Pickering	2006
Listers:	Cecelia Ives	2007	
	Gary Montemagni	2007	
	Candie Bernard	2004	
	Allan Hicks	2005	
Auditors:	Kent Young, Chair	2006	
	Aleta Alcorn-Coursen**	2004	
	Betsy Wadsworth	2005	
School Directors:	Joann Liller, Chair	2006	
	Dennis Clark	2004	
	Lorraine Weeks-Newell	2005	
Cemetery Commission:	Tom Montemagni, Chair	2006	
	Larry Bills	2004	
	Kent Young, Chair	2005	
Recreation Committee:	Earl Pickering	2006	
	Al Dupell, Chair	2004	
	Skip Hammond	2004	
	Rob Wadsworth***	2004	
	Loretta Clark	2005	
Delinquent Tax Collector:	Candie Bernard	2006	
Trustee of Public Funds:	Candie Bernard	2004	
	Constance Montemagni	2004	
First Constable:	Robert Mesick	2004	
Second Constable:	Rona Hicks	2004	
Grand Juror:	John Waite	2004	
Town Agent:	John Waite	2004	

Justices of the Peace: Dennis Clark-
Loretta Clark
Rona Hicks
Earl Pickering
Paul Schwippert

APPOINTED:

Zoning Administrator:	Allan Hicks	2005
Assistant Zoning Administrator:	Ray Hawksley	2005
Health Officer:	Ray Hawksley	2005
Zoning Board of Adjustment:	Diana Stugger	2004
	Dennis Holton	2004
	Robert Mesick	2005
	Greg Marcucci	2006
	Thomas Montemagni, Chair	2006
Board of Civil Authority:	Justices of the Peace, Town Clerk, Selectmen	
Board of Abatement:	Justices of the Peace, Treasurer, Town Clerk, Listers, Selectmen	
Fire Warden:	Roger Schultz	
Pound Keeper:	Selectmen	
Fence Viewer:	Selectmen	
Weigher of Coal:	Selectmen	
Inspector of Lumber:	Selectmen	
Dog Warden:	Selectmen	

*Appointed to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Connie Montemagni

**Appointed to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Laura Hawksley

***Appointed to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Karen Kemnitzer-Bills

WARNING
TOWN OF STRATTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 10:00AM to act upon the following matters of the Town:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To act on the Town Report

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the 2nd Constable position.

ARTICLE 4: To elect Town officers as required by law:

Treasurer	one year term
Selectmen:	one three year term, two one year terms
Planning Commission:	two four year terms
Lister:	three year term
Auditor:	three year term
Cemetery Commissioner:	three year term
Delinquent Tax Collector:	one year term
Trustee of Public Funds:	one year term
1 st Constable:	one year term
2 nd Constable:	one year term
Grand Juror:	one year term
Town Agent:	one year term

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority without having successfully completed a course of training under Chapter 151 of Title 20.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will furnish bonds where bonds are required.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote the sum of \$250.00 to defray the Town's share of expenses of the Windham Regional Planning Development Commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote the sum of \$400.00 to defray the Town's share of expenses of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money on notes of the Town or otherwise in anticipation of taxes and/or current expenses.

Information Concerning the Proposed Implementation of a 1% Local Sales Tax in Stratton

On November 10, 2003, the Board of Selectmen agreed to add the following article to the 2004 Town Meeting Warning.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to approve local option taxes as follows: a one percent (1%) sales tax, a one percent (1%) meals and alcoholic beverages tax, and a one percent (1%) rooms tax in the Town of Stratton.

The Selectmen believe that implementing such a tax will be a benefit to the taxpayers of this town. Stratton is allowed to implement such a tax under the provisions of VSA 24 §138.

The benefit of such a tax, is that it will reduce property taxes by putting a portion of the town's municipal tax burden onto the tourists who use this town. According to estimated calculations, revenues that would have been generated in Stratton by such a tax, this past year alone amounted to more than \$160,000.00. This amount applied to the Municipal Budget, can reduce the current tax rate by about three and a half cents. For a homeowner with a \$100,000.00 home in Stratton, this will reduce their taxes by \$35.00. If the home is worth \$500,000.00, then it will reduce the tax bill by \$175.00. This means that a resident with a \$100,000.00 home would have to spend \$3500.00 in Stratton and the \$500,000.00 homeowner would have to spend \$17,500.00 in Stratton before they would lose the benefit that this tax provides for them. Hence the Selectmen feel that this tax should be approved.

Additional information concerning this tax: In 2005, a change to the tax will go into effect mandating that any municipal sales tax will shadow the State tax - meaning that until 2005 the tax will affect clothing less than \$100.00, but not affect telecommunications - this will switch in 2005.

If approved, then the Town Clerk will notify the Vermont Dept. of Taxes of the decision and the tax will be implemented at the next tax quarter that begins after 30 days from the notification. The Selectmen agreed to add such an article to the 2004 Town Meeting Warning.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following appropriation requests:

Council and Aging	350.00
George D. Aiken Resource	50.00
Grace Cottage Foundation	5000.00
Green Up Vermont	50.00
Health Care and Rehabilitation	136.00
LaMarche Scholarship Fund	500.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue	1000.00
Morningside Emergency Shelter	100.00
Valley Health Council	211.00
VT Center for Independent Living	105.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance	500.00
Wardsboro Public Library	1200.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Association	3000.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Rescue	1000.00
Windham County Humane Society	100.00
Winhall Library	1000.00
Women's Crisis Center	350.00
TOTAL	\$14,652.00

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following sums requested by the Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company:

Operating Budget	\$75,850.00
Fire Engine Fund	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$105,850.00

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to approve local option taxes as follows: a one percent (1%) sales tax, a one percent (1%) meals and alcoholic beverages tax, and a one percent (1%) rooms tax in the Town of Stratton.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the creation of reserve accounts for the following line items, and if so voted, to transfer the end-of-fiscal year balance for each line item into those individual reserve accounts: Outside Audit, Office Addition, Groomer Replacement, State Reappraisal, Computer Equipment, School House, Meetinghouse, Bridge Engineering, Penny Avenue.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a transfer of funds from all existing accounts not authorized per Article 13 above to the General Fund to offset taxes.

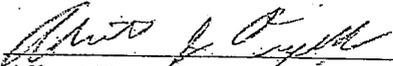
ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to approve an addition to the Town Office; and if so, what amount the Town will vote to raise by taxes to finance the project.

ARTICLE 16: To see what amount the Town will vote to raise by tax and appropriate for the General Fund, Recreation Fund and Highway Fund.

ARTICLE 17: Shall the voters of the Town advise the Selectboard, the Governor and our State Legislature of the following: "Whereas the rising cost of health insurance is placing an increasingly unsupportable burden on the town and school budgets, the voters of the Town of Stratton call upon the Selectboard, the Governor and our State legislators to support and actively work for the creation of a Universal and Comprehensive Health Insurance System which is publicly financed and accountable to the citizens of Vermont, and which will reduce costs by eliminating most current administrative expenses."

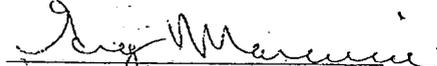
ARTICLE 18: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Stratton Board of Selectmen


Albert Dupell


Larry Bills


Chris Liller


Greg Marcucci


Michael Douglas

Town of Stratton Recreation Area

Old Town
Cemeterion

Cemetery

Old
Red house
run

Lathrop

Lathrop Loop (0.2m)

Old Town Trail (0.2m)

Strattondale trail

Elton
Haven
run

(0.2m)

Com. Mt. Graham

Jonathan J. Jester (0.2m)

Com
Hill
run

Hiscock
loop

South

Hiscock
House
run

(0.5m)

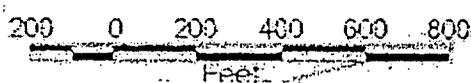
Hiscock
loop

North

Strattondale trail

North

Antica Road



GENERAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2001-2002	2001-2002	2002-2003	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Advertised Bids	\$200.00	\$78.50	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
Alarm System	\$500.00	\$360.00	\$500.00	\$620.00	\$400.00	\$700.00
Appropriations	\$91,053.00	\$91,053.00	\$163,752.00	\$254,077.00	\$161,934.00	\$120,502.00
Audit: Wages	\$1,500.00	\$2,097.37	\$3,000.00	\$5,770.03	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Town Report	\$800.00	\$1,171.74	\$1,000.00	\$186.51	\$1,300.00	\$1,000.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield/Delta Dental		\$492.91	\$600.00	\$5,658.73	\$13,700.00	\$19,000.00
Brush & Mowing	\$10,000.00	\$8,137.94	\$10,000.00	\$6,527.39	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Cemeteries	\$4,000.00	\$3,987.34	\$4,000.00	\$4,902.68	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Christmas/New Years parties	\$700.00	\$441.02	\$700.00	\$576.05	\$700.00	\$1,000.00
Church	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,917.48	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Clerk Expense	\$1,500.00	\$3,546.69	\$4,000.00	\$5,197.27	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Computer Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$4,127.16	\$3,000.00	\$2,900.65	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Computer Training	\$2,000.00	\$1,207.50	\$1,000.00	\$2,757.50	\$500.00	\$500.00
County Assessment	\$30,000.00	\$37,666.57	\$33,000.00	\$43,812.40	\$45,000.00	\$50,000.00
Dues	\$450.00	\$480.00	\$450.00	\$475.00	\$591.00	\$650.00
Education Legal Fees	\$5,000.00	\$2,054.00	\$4,453.00	\$4,453.00	\$4,849.00	\$250.00
Election expense	\$500.00		\$500.00	\$333.26		\$500.00
FICA	\$8,000.00	\$8,943.89	\$9,000.00	\$9,807.14	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Health Officer Salary	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
House numbering- 911	\$2,000.00	\$1,668.96	\$3,000.00	\$1,823.43	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Insurance & Bonds	\$10,000.00	\$13,582.06	\$13,000.00	\$14,698.25	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Legal fees	\$1,500.00	\$2,036.79	\$1,000.00	\$2,100.20	\$1,000.00	\$2,500.00
Legal notices	\$600.00	\$216.11	\$1,000.00	\$47.85	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Lister Wages	\$3,000.00	\$7,180.22	\$4,000.00	\$7,550.63	\$6,000.00	\$10,000.00
Lister Expenses	\$9,000.00	\$9,660.29	\$9,000.00	\$2,563.57	\$5,500.00	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$1,200.00	\$100.00	\$101.95	\$100.00	\$100.00
Office Equipment	\$500.00	\$59.99	\$500.00	\$357.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$2,800.00	\$2,231.61	\$2,500.00	\$2,144.49	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Office Postage	\$1,200.00	\$1,668.78	\$1,500.00	\$2,155.30	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Photocopy Expense	\$3,000.00	\$3,003.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,504.62	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00
Planning Commission Expenses	\$6,400.00	\$3,518.52	\$2,800.00	\$5,894.39	\$8,000.00	\$10,000.00
Chair/Member Salary	\$4,200.00	\$3,350.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,100.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
Chair/Member Wages	\$2,000.00	\$2,080.00	\$3,200.00	\$2,080.00	\$1,920.00	\$2,000.00
Planning Clerk	\$400.00	\$1,585.25	\$1,200.00	\$814.00	\$880.00	\$800.00
Refuse Disposal	\$40,000.00	\$97,416.79	\$40,000.00	\$62,541.59	\$55,000.00	\$60,000.00
Rural Patrol	\$15,000.00	\$12,651.86	\$15,000.00	\$11,010.62	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Salaries	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
Selectmen's Expenses	\$500.00	\$478.43	\$500.00	\$182.52	\$500.00	\$500.00
Selectmen's Wages			\$3,000.00	\$2,740.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Signs					\$1,800.00	
Street Lights	\$1,500.00	\$1,367.29	\$1,500.00	\$1,565.14	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Town Mapping	\$1,400.00	\$1,181.00	\$0.00	\$1,185.00		\$1,000.00
Town Hall- Electric	\$1,200.00	\$1,100.41	\$1,200.00	\$1,272.58	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
Town Hall- Heat	\$1,500.00	\$1,135.58	\$1,500.00	\$1,495.89	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Town Hall Maintenance	\$0.00	\$495.31	\$0.00	\$3,499.71	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Town Office- Electric	\$1,300.00	\$1,276.91	\$1,500.00	\$1,544.60	\$1,500.00	\$1,600.00
Town Office- Heat	\$1,300.00	\$1,232.29	\$1,500.00	\$1,427.38	\$1,500.00	\$1,600.00
Town Office - Maintenance	\$3,500.00	\$6,727.79	\$1,000.00	\$2,540.42	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Town Office - Telephone	\$3,000.00	\$2,563.19	\$2,500.00	\$2,694.53	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Town Office Addition			\$50,000.00	\$49,573.91	\$0.00	

GENERAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2001-2002	2001-2002	2002-2003	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Town History	\$0.00	\$5,650.85	\$0.00	\$2,017.09	\$0.00	
Training- Seminars	\$500.00	\$362.24	\$500.00	\$655.78	\$500.00	\$500.00
Treasurer Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$1,939.29	\$2,000.00	\$1,725.52	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Vermont Retirement	\$6,200.00	\$6,713.72	\$8,500.00	\$7,638.20	\$8,500.00	\$8,000.00
VLTC Unemployment Insurance	\$1,500.00	\$1,413.50	\$1,000.00	\$2,086.82	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Wages	\$53,000.00	\$56,017.65	\$56,800.00	\$63,260.16	\$62,000.00	\$68,000.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment- Wages	\$2,000.00	\$1,839.38	\$2,000.00	\$1,266.50	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Zoning Expenses	\$500.00	\$886.30	\$500.00	\$516.37	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Zoning Administrator's Salary	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
TOTAL	\$355,403.00	\$434,536.99	\$491,655.00	\$633,548.10	\$494,374.00	\$480,302.00
Plus negative checking bal. 6/30/03	(\$25,000.00)		(\$25,000.00)		(\$25,000.00)	\$40,278.00
Less Other Receivables	(\$75,000.00)		(\$75,000.00)		(\$85,000.00)	(\$72,000.00)
Less Investment Principal & Interest						(\$200,000.00)
Less estimated 1% tax revenue						(\$150,000.00)
NET TOTAL	\$254,403.00		\$391,655.00		\$384,374.00	\$98,580.00

RECREATION BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Spent to	Budget
	2001-2002	2001-2002	2002-2003	2002-2003	2003-2004	Dec 8th 2003	2004-2005
Bids	\$0.00	\$143.45	\$1,000.00	\$97.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Labor & Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$14,254.21	\$20,000.00	\$14,612.91	\$20,000.00	\$4,142.22	\$20,000.00
Signs	\$200.00		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$456.00	\$0.00
Playground	\$1,000.00	\$1,528.42	\$4,000.00	\$1,080.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Roads & Parking	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00	\$3,643.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garage	\$18,000.00	\$17,980.42	\$1,000.00	\$669.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Skating/Multi Use	\$100.00		\$3,000.00	\$2,775.83	\$10,000.00	\$7,880.00	\$1,800.00
Trails	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$62.89	\$1,000.00
Ballfield	\$4,000.00	\$4,034.13	\$5,000.00	\$3,626.98	\$2,000.00	\$1,725.00	\$2,000.00
Machine Maintenance	\$3,000.00		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Sanitary	\$400.00	\$502.42	\$700.00	\$495.00	\$700.00	\$415.00	\$700.00
Pig Roast	\$0.00	\$182.70	\$200.00	\$34.48	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Electricity	\$24,000.00	\$31,074.25	\$1,000.00	\$466.62	\$600.00	\$67.65	\$600.00
Groomer Replacement Fund	\$0.00		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$8,680.00	\$3,000.00
	\$69,700.00	\$69,700.00	\$45,900.00	\$33,002.56	\$51,000.00	\$23,428.76	\$31,900.00

GENERAL FUND STATEMENT

July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

Checkbook Balance – 6/30/2002	4,579.28	
Investment Balance – 6/30/2002	195,320.21	199,899.49
Savings Balance	159,146.58	
Withdrawals	(54,882.77)	
Deposits	83,577.00	
Interest	2,013.33	189,854.14
Receipts:		
Current Taxes	4,358,637.85	
Current Use	1,036.00	
Delinquent Taxes	330,943.46	
Interest	1,106.42	
Penalty	24,924.93	
Previous Year Delinquent Taxes	1,331.66	
Previous Year Interest	121.92	
Previous Year Penalty	106.53	4,718,208.77
Licenses:		
Beverage	1,550.00	
Dog	302.00	
Marriage	260.00	
Civil Unions	23.00	2,135.00
Fees:		
Town Clerk	51,724.44	
Traffic Fines	1,324.00	
911	315.00	
Photo copier	2,002.80	
Planning	300.00	
Zoning Permits	4,012.80	59,679.04
Interest:		
Checking	6,660.36	
Act 60	33,170.09	
Investment	2,664.91	42,495.36
Miscellaneous:		
Town Hall rentals	155.00	
Town Regulations/Bylaws	125.00	
Town History	1,981.00	
Postage	58.11	
Fines	700.00	
Dental Reimbursement	148.26	

Tax Overpayments	63.25	
Land Use Change	413.40	3,644.02
Total Funds Available		5,215,915.82

Disbursements:

Alarm System:

Town Office	310.00	
Town Hall	310.00	620.00

Appraisal:

Nyberg Purvis Associates	2,870.00	
Payroll	905.17	3,775.17

Appropriations:

Council on Aging	350.00	
George D. Aiken Center	50.00	
Grace Cottage Foundation	6,000.00	
Green Up Vermont	50.00	
Historical Society of Windham Co.	250.00	
Londonderry Rescue	300.00	
Mental Health Services	136.00	
Morningside Emergency Shelter	100.00	
Stratton Mountain Vol. Fire Co.		
Operating	59,800.00	
Engine Fund	30,000.00	
Ladder Truck Loan	140,325.60	
SWEF	10,000.00	
Valley Health Council	211.00	
VT Center for Independent Living	105.00	
Wardsboro Library	1,000.00	
Winhall Library	1,000.00	
Wardsboro Rescue	1,000.00	
Wardsboro Vol. Fire Co.	3,000.00	
Windham Co. Humane Society	100.00	
Women's Crisis Center	300.00	254,077.60

Audit:

Wages	5,770.03	
Town Report/Postage	186.51	5,956.54

Brush & Mowing:

Roadside Mowing	2,263.00	
Payroll	2,340.39	
Hescock Mowing	360.00	
Chris Lowe	40.00	
Town Equipment	1,524.00	6,527.39

Cemeteries:

Town Equipment	1,294.00	
Payroll	1,280.94	

Hescock Mowing	2,375.26	
Lawrence Bills	1,320.00	
Harvey Plimpton	960.00	
Abbiati Monuments	3,500.00	
Savings Credit	(5,827.52)	4,902.68
Church-Meeting House:		
Payroll	87.48	
Town Equipment	30.00	
Savings Transfer	2,800.00	2,917.48
Computer Expense:		
Equipment	200.65	
Savings Transfer	2,700.00	
Support/Internet fees	2,757.50	5,658.15
Constable Expense:		
Badges	101.95	101.95
Dues:		
VLCT	225.00	
WRC	250.00	
VT Coalition	4,453.00	
VT Municipal Clerks/Treasurers	30.00	4,958.00
Elections:		
Payroll	333.26	333.26
E911-House Numbering:		
Payroll	1,823.43	1,823.43
Expenses:		
Town Clerk	5,073.27	
Town Treasurer	1,710.52	6,783.79
F.I.C.A.		
Town Share	9,807.14	9,807.14
Governmental Acct. Standards Board:		
Payroll	702.53	702.53
Insurance:		
Delta Dental	1,284.64	
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	4,374.09	
Bonding	14,698.25	
VLCT Unemployment	2,086.82	
VT Retirement Fund	7,638.20	30,082.00
Legal:		
Fees	542.00	
Notices	47.85	589.85
Licenses:		
Dog	43.00	
Marriage	180.00	
Civil Union	15.00	238.00
Listers:		
Expenses	2,563.57	
Wages	7,550.63	10,114.20

Office Equipment:	357.00	357.00
Office Supplies:		
Water	28.00	
Stationery/Bookkeeping	2,137.12	
Petty Cash reconciliation	(20.63)	
Postage	2,155.30	4,299.79
Photocopier:		
Expense	3,504.62	3,504.62
Planning Commission:		
Wages/Salaries	3,180.00	
Clerk	814.00	
Expenses	5,894.39	
Legal	1,558.20	11,446.59
Recreation Area:		
Bids	97.50	
Labor/Maintenance	14,612.91	
Playground	1,080.58	
Road/Parking	3,643.33	
Garage	669.33	
Skating/Multi Use	2,775.83	
Ball field	3,626.98	
Maintenance Machine	2,500.00	
Sanitary	495.00	
Pig Roast	34.48	
Power Installation	466.62	
Groomer Replacement	3,000.00	33,002.56
Refunds:		
Clerk Expense	109.00	109.00
Refuse/Recycling:		
Attendants	12,776.16	
Highway Crew	3,125.03	
Town Equipment	1,351.00	
Casella Waste Management	28,110.62	
Windham Solid Waste	8,044.50	
District Environmental	2,543.97	
Springfield Fence	3,380.00	
Supplies/Services	3,210.31	62,541.59
Salaries:		
Chairman, Selectman	3,000.00	
Selectmen	2,000.00	
Zoning Administrator	3,000.00	
Chairman, Planning	3,000.00	
Fire Warden	200.00	
Chairman, ZBA	1,000.00	
Health Officer	2,000.00	14,200.00

Selectmen:		
Notices (Brattleboro Reformer)	104.40	
Expenses	78.12	182.52
Sheriff Patrol:	11,010.62	11,010.62
Street Lights:	1,565.14	1,565.14
Taxes:		
County Assessment	43,812.40	43,812.40
Tax Collector		
Wages	1,707.68	1,707.68
Tax Mapping:		
Cartographic Tech	1,185.00	1,185.00
Town Hall:		
Heat	1,495.89	
Electricity	1,272.58	
Maintenance	2,790.22	
Water Works	709.49	6,268.18
Town History:		
Slides	81.18	
Printing	1,870.17	
Postage	60.75	
Supplies	4.99	2,017.09
Town Office:		
Heat	1,427.38	
Electricity	1,544.60	
Telephone	2,694.53	
Repairs/Maintenance	2,265.92	
Water Works	274.50	8,206.93
Town Office Addition:		
Beck Engineering	4,173.91	
Frost, Inc. (new well)	2,400.00	
Savings Transfer	43,000.00	49,573.91
Town Parties:		
Expenses	-576.05	576.05
Training:		
Seminars	710.78	710.78
Wages:		
Selectmen	2,740.00	
Town Clerk	16,812.60	
Asst. Town Clerk	15,756.11	
Treasurer	12,711.17	
Assistant Treasurer(s)	14,678.01	
Selectmen's Clerk	892.06	63,589.95
Zoning Board of Adjustment:		
Legal Notices	461.37	
Clerk	66.50	
Wages	200.00	727.87

Total Disbursements:		670,564.43
Differential		<u>.05</u>
		670,564.48

Other:

Transfers:

Highway Fund	346,150.00	
School Account	178,557.00	
State of Vermont	3,711,586.80	
Checking Balance	-130,603.41	
Investment Balance	231,155.81	
Savings Balance	189,854.14	
Act 60	18,651.00	4,545,351.34

Total Expenses:		5,215,915.82
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TOTAL TAXES BILLED & ACCOUNTED FOR 2002

Municipal Grand List	4,224,759.15		
General Fund	388,655.00	0.0920	388,677.84
Recreation Fund	69,700.00	0.0109	46,049.87
Highway Fund	<u>346,150.00</u>	<u>0.0820</u>	<u>346,430.25</u>
	780,705.00	0.1849	781,157.96
Education Grand List	4,225,288.82		
Statewide	3,908,745.00	0.9251	3,908,814.69
TOTAL TAXES DUE SEPTEMBER 17, 2002			4,689,972.65
Current Taxes Collected			4,358,637.85
Delinquent Taxes Collected			330,943.46
Uncollected Taxes			371.85
Over/Under payments			18.24
Fractional difference			1.25
			4,689,972.65

DELINQUENT TAXES
Year Ending June 30, 2003

Jones, Frank	Year 2002	Total 371.85
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STATEMENT OF CEMETERY TRUST ACCOUNTS

July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003

	Balance 7/1/2003	Interest	Deposits	Balance 6/30/2003
Willis	2,235.71	50.86	-0-	2,286.57
Andrew King	3,816.98	86.87	-0-	3,903.85
Chester Allen	716.70	16.32	-0-	733.02
Forrester	1,443.24	32.84	-0-	1,476.08
Ball Farm	3,527.08	80.25	-0-	3,607.33
Pike Hollow	4,722.83	107.45	-0-	4,830.28
Warren	534.95	12.18	-0-	547.13
Totals	16,997.49	386.77		17,384.26

STATEMENT OF CEMETERY CD ACCOUNT

July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

Balance 6/30/2003: \$1,506.52

*Warren CD was established with a deposit of \$1,506.52 on January 30, 2001 at 5.24% interest. CD will mature 1/30/06.

STATEMENT OF SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

	Balance 7/1/2002	Interest	Deposits	Withdrawals	Balance 6/30/2003
Insurance Reserve	1,009.39	17.78	1,080.58	-0-	2,107.75
Outside Audit	3,907.86	49.60	-0-	-0-	3,957.46
State Reappraisal	28,950.87	366.78	9,583.00	-0-	38,900.65
Restoration	2,613.82	33.11	-0-	-0-	2,646.93
School House	5,130.79	65.05	-0-	-0-	5,195.84
Meeting House	3,889.66	49.18	3,300.00	-0-	7,238.84
Highway Fringe	1,112.63	14.08	294.00	-0-	1,420.71
Special Highway Projects. (Bridge Engineering, Pavement Grant, TH5, County Road)	106,771.49	1,336.67	-0-	(49,055.25)	59,052.91
Cemetery:	5,760.07	67.45	-0-	(5,827.52)	-0-
Town Office Addition	-0-	-0-	43,000.00	-0-	43,000.00
Groomer, Maintenance Machine	-0-	13.63	4,968.42	-0-	4,982.05
Act 60 Retained	-0-	-0-	18,651.00	-0-	18,651.00
Computer Equipment	-0-	-0-	2,700.00	-0-	2,700.00
Total	159,146.58	2,013.33	83,577.00	54,882.77	189,854.14

HIGHWAY	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2001-2002	2001-2002	2002-2003	2002-2003	2003-04	2004-05
WINTER ROADS - CLASS 2	75,000.00	50,898.17	75,000.00	72,050.19	75,000.00	75,000.00
WINTER ROADS - CLASS 3	50,000.00	39,245.66	50,000.00	68,872.38	50,000.00	65,000.00
SUMMER ROADS - CLASS 2	25,000.00	23,033.57	35,000.00	21,200.19	35,000.00	35,000.00
SUMMER ROADS - CLASS 3	25,000.00	21,470.56	35,000.00	20,918.04	35,000.00	35,000.00
STATE AID # 1	15,000.00	12,664.48	20,000.00	23,517.64	10,000.00	
TH - 5 COUNTY ROAD	17,500.00	18,992.26		2,662.10	0.00	
TH - 12 BALL FARM ROAD	0.00		3,000.00	17.09	0.00	
TH-13 CANEDY ROAD	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,740.00	0.00	
TH-20 PENNY AVENUE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
GARAGE MAINTENANCE	3,000.00	2,220.64	3,000.00	3,291.81	3,000.00	6,000.00
GARAGE PHONE/HEAT/LIGHTS	5,600.00	4,641.86	6,500.00	7,029.80	5,500.00	7,000.00
PAVING/BOMAG	140,550.00	128,879.73	133,000.00	129,017.92	120,000.00	130,000.00
ROAD SIGNS	1,000.00	110.66	500.00	460.78	750.00	500.00
FICA	7,000.00	4,868.24	6,500.00	5,662.15	6,500.00	5,500.00
EMPLOYEE FRINGE	16,000.00	15,984.40	16,000.00	16,000.01	17,500.00	7,000.00
TOOLS	600.00	234.98	600.00	136.74	500.00	1,000.00
GUARD RAILS	0.00					
HIGHWAY UNIFORMS	900.00	878.65	1,200.00	919.35	1,200.00	800.00
ADVERTISING BIDS	300.00	49.35	300.00	697.85	300.00	700.00
SEMINARS	750.00	686.06	750.00	0.00	750.00	1,000.00
BRIDGES	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	31,621.56	30,000.00	30,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	400.00	34.65	300.00	1,982.22	300.00	300.00
INSURANCE (H&D)	23,500.00	23,886.08	24,500.00	24,288.69	33,000.00	37,000.00
TOTAL	417,100.00	358,780.00	431,150.00	436,086.51	434,300.00	446,800.00
LESS CHECKBOOK BALANCE						-100,000.00
Less National Forest Receipts	5,000.00		-5,000.00			-5,000.00
LESS STATE AID	75,000.00		-80,000.00			-80,000.00
	337,100.00		346,150.00			261,800.00

HIGHWAY STATEMENT
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

Checkbook Balance – 6/31/02	151,036.27	151,036.27	
Receipts:			
State Aid	80,785.68		
Taxes	346,150.00		
National Forest	12,372.00	439,307.68	
Total Funds Available:			590,343.95
Disbursements:			
Summer Roads – Class 2			
Labor	7,225.54		
FICA/Med	552.75		
Town Equipment	7,536.50		
Hired Equipment	18.90		
Materials	6,419.25	21,752.94	
Summer Roads – Class 3			
Labor	5,260.06		
FICA/Med	402.39		
Town Equipment	6,610.50		
Hired Equipment	28.35		
Materials	9,019.13	21,320.43	
Winter Roads – Class 2			
Labor	16,239.33		
FICA/Med	1,242.31		
Town Equipment	28,907.10		
Hired Equipment	160.00		
Materials	26,743.76	73,292.50	
Winter Roads – Class 3			
Labor	17,327.37		
FICA/Med	1,325.54		
Town Equipment	29,831.16		
Hired Equipment	765.00		
Materials	20,948.85	70,197.92	
Retreatment/Paving			
Labor	788.90		
FICA/Med	60.35		
Town Equipment	405.00		
Materials/Hired Equipment	127,824.02	129,078.27	

SA1 – Stratton-Arlington Road

Labor	4,706.44	
FICA/Med	360.04	
Town Equipment	7,378.50	
Hired Equipment	1,260.00	
Materials	10,172.70	23,877.68

TH5 – County Road

Labor	2,649.89	
FICA/Med	202.72	
Town Equipment	3,527.50	
Hired Equipment	1,080.00	
Materials	6,539.96	
Savings transfer	(11,135.25)	2,864.82

TH12 – Ball Farm Road

Labor	17.09	
FICA/Med	1.31	18.40

TH13 – Canedy Road

Materials	5,740.00	5,740.00
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Road Signs

Labor	84.10	
FICA/Med	6.43	
Town Equipment	22.50	
Materials	354.18	467.21

Garage Maintenance

Labor	1,833.34	
FICA/Med	140.25	
Town Equipment	232.50	
Hired Equipment	556.70	
Materials	669.27	
Utilities	7,029.80	10,461.86

Bridges

Labor	375.99	
FICA/Med	28.76	
Town Equipment	60.00	
Materials	31,185.57	
Bridge Engineering	37,920.00	
Savings transfer	(37,920.00)	31,650.32

Tools

	136.74	136.74
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Advertised Bids	697.85	697.85	
Fringe Benefits			
Labor	15,706.01		
FICA/Med	1,201.51		
Blue Cross/Blue Shield	22,561.24		
Delta Dental	1,727.45		
Escrow	294.00	41,490.21	
Miscellaneous			
Medical/physicals	295.00		
Labor (Culverts)	1,686.62		
FICA/Med	129.03	2,110.65	
Differential: SS/Med	9.36	9.36	
Total Expenses			436,086.51
Checkbook Balance 6/30/03			<u>154,257.44</u>
			-590,343.95

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE STATEMENT
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

Checkbook Balance – 6/30/02

155,177.29

Receipts:

Chloride Sprayer	110.00	
T-3	14,400.00	
Chipper	720.00	
Compactor	4.00	
Grader	13,230.00	
Rake	151.00	
Saw	414.00	
Plows	7,938.75	
Sander	5,651.25	
Cat Backhoe Loading	2,760.76	
Cat Backhoe	14,377.50	
Broom	380.00	
T-1	5,075.00	
Walters (Sale of)	6,100.00	
T-2	15,993.75	
Trimmer	278.00	
F550	9,333.75	

96,917.76

Total Receipts

252,095.05

Disbursements:

Repair & Maintenance of Equipment:

Chloride Sprayer		
Labor	246.30	246.30
Truck #3		
Parts	1,646.05	
Labor	1,707.52	3,353.57
Grader		
Parts	740.34	
Labor	1,014.01	1,754.35
Saw		
Parts	112.83	
Labor	76.47	189.30
Plows		
Parts	1,736.94	
Labor	1,483.36	3,220.30
Sanders		
Parts	216.40	
Labor	367.16	583.56
F550		
Parts	1,381.70	
Labor	1,294.63	2,676.33

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE STATEMENT CONTINUED

Cat Backhoe		
Parts	1,675.52	
Labor	1,273.21	2,948.73
Truck #1		
Parts	1,858.27	
Labor	1,241.17	3,099.44
Trimmer		
Labor	29.16	29.16
Broom		
Labor	0.00	0.00
Pole Saw		
Labor	0.00	0.00
Wings		
Labor	92.50	92.50
Chipper		
Labor	55.42	55.42
Walters		
Parts	25.00	
Labor	181.32	206.32
T-2		
Parts	1,306.37	
Labor	2,628.51	3,934.88
Total Parts	10,699.42	
Total Labor	11,690.74	22,390.16
Equipment Expense		
Supplies	827.06	
Welding Supplies	414.55	
Diesel Fuel	10,624.03	
Grease/Oil	223.78	
Underground Tank Fee	100.00	
Tools/Parts/Labor	64.08	
Radios/Pagers	234.15	12,487.65
New Equipment Purchases		
Saw	484.45	
Radios	1,168.95	
2003 International	62,785.00	
T-2 Assembly	83.65	
2003 Int. Dump/Body/Plow	40,184.00	
Pagers (Contract)	305.50	
Payroll	497.39	105,508.94
FICA	923.83	923.83
Total Expenses		141,310.58
Checkbook Balance 6/30/02		<u>110,784.47</u>
		252,095.05

Equipment Maintenance Fund
Equipment Hourly Rates charged for 2002-2003

Truck 1 (1991 Ford - SOLD)	25.00
Truck 2 (2003 International)	25.00
Truck 3 (1998 Int. Traded)	25.00
Truck 4 (2004 Sterling)	25.00
F550 Pick Up	15.00
Chloride Sprayer	5.00
Chipper	30.00
Compactor	2.00
Grader	35.00
Rake	3.00
Saw	4.00
Plows	5.00
Plow and Wing	10.00
Sander	5.00
Cat Backhoe loading	.75 per hour
Cat Backhoe	30.00
Broom	20.00
Trimmer	4.00

Truck 4 was acquired in the fall of 2003.

WAGES AND SALARIES
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

Town Clerk:

Kent Young		
1200 hours @ 14.01	16,812.60	16,812.60

Assistant Town Clerk:

Patricia Coolidge		
1013.25 hours @ 13.51	13,689.00	
Terri Garland		
153 hours @ 13.51	2,067.03	15,756.03

Town Treasurer:

Constance Montemagni		
81 hours @ 13.01	1,053.81	
457.50 hours @ 14.01	6,409.58	
Laura Hawksley		
18 hours @ 10.71	192.78	
421.25 hours @ 12.00	5,055.00	12,711.17

Assistant Town Treasurer:

Terri Garland		
862 hours @ 13.51	11,645.66	
Candie Bernard		
136.75 hours @ 10.71	1,464.59	
Laura Hawksley		
40.50 hours @ 10.71	433.76	
94.50 hour @ 12.00	1,134.00	14,678.01

Governmental Accounting Standards Board:

Terri Garland		
52 hours @ 13.51	702.53	702.53

Selectmen:

Al Dupell		
Salary (Chair)	3,000.00	
30 meetings @ 20.00	600.00	
Lawrence Bills		
Salary	500.00	
24 meetings @ 20.00	480.00	
Christopher Liller		
Salary	500.00	
29 meetings @ 20.00	580.00	
Gregory Marcucci		
Salary	500.00	
26 meetings @ 20.00	520.00	

Earl Pickering		
Salary	350.00	
18 meetings @ 20.00	360.00	
Michael Douglas		
Salary	150.00	
10 meetings @ 20.00	200.00	7,740.00
Selectmen's Clerk		
Kent Young		
61.50 hours @ 14.01	861.66	
Patricia Coolidge		
2.25 hours @ 13.51	30.40	892.06
Office Help:		
Joann Liller		
7 hours @ 10.71	74.97	74.97
Listers:		
Candie Bernard		
688 hours @ 10.71	7,368.55	
Kent Young		
17 hours @ 10.71	182.08	7,550.63
Auditors:		
Patricia Coolidge		
172.75 hours @ 10.71	1,850.16	
Laura Hawksley		
185.50 hours @ 10.71	1,986.71	
Joann Liller		
180.50 hours @ 10.71	1,933.16	5,770.03
Planning Commission:-		
Rona Hicks		
Salary (Chair)	3,000.00	
23 meetings @ 20.00	460.00	
Robert Hardy		
1 meeting @ 20.00	20.00	
Douglas Forrester		
4 meetings @ 20.00	80.00	
Avis Pickering		
19 meetings @ 20.00	380.00	
Stewart Underwood		
17 meetings @ 20.00	340.00	
Mathew Underwood		
16 meetings @ 20.00	320.00	
Cecilia Ives		
8 meetings @ 20.00	160.00	
Dennis Clark		
8 meetings @ 20.00	160.00	
Gary Montemagni		
8 meetings @ 20.00	160.00	5,080.00

Planning Expense (Salaries):		
Robert Hardy	100.00	
Avis Pickering	200.00	
Douglas Forrester	100.00	
Stewart Underwood	200.00	
Mathew Underwood	200.00	
Dennis Clark	100.00	
Cecilia Ives	100.00	
Gary Montemagni	100.00	1,100.00
Windham Regional Commission:		
Cecilia Ives, Representative	300.00	300.00
Planning Clerk:		
Rona Hicks		
46 hours @ 9.00	414.00	
40 hours @ 10.00	400.00	814.00
Zoning Administrator:		
Allan Hicks		
Salary	3,000.00	3,000.00
Health Officer:		
Raymond Hawksley		
Salary	2,000.00	2,000.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment:		
Tom Montemagni		
Salary	1,000.00	
3 meetings @ 20.00	60.00	
7 hours Clerk @ 9.50	66.50	
Greg Marcucci		
3 meetings @ 20.00	60.00	
Diana Stugger		
2 meetings @ 20.00	40.00	
Robert Mesick		
2 meetings @ 20.00	40.00	1,266.50
Tax Collector:		
Candie Bernard		
126.40 hours @ 13.51	1,707.68	1,707.68
Fire Warden:		
Roger Schultz	200.00	200.00
Appraisal:		
Terri Garland		
67 hours @ 13.51	905.17	905.17
House Numbering:		
Candie Bernard		
170.25 hours @ 10.71	1,823.43	1,823.43
Election Expense:		
Candie Bernard		
3 hours @ 10.71	32.13	

Contstance Montemagni			
9 hours @ 10.71	96.39		
Patricia Coolidge			
7 hours @ 10.71	74.97		
Kent Young			
9.50 hours @ 10.71	101.75		
2 hours @ 14.01	28.02	333.26	
Refuse/Recycling:			
Roger Schultz			
1312 hours @ 9.51	12,477.12		
Al Dupell			
9 hours @ 8.82	79.38		
16 hours @ 9.51	152.16		
Allen Hicks			
8 hours @ 9.00	72.00		
Cecilia Ives			
1 WSWD meeting @ 20.00	20.00	12,800.66	
Highway Department:			
David Lowe			
Highway Hours			
50 hours @ 14.08	704.00		
16 hours @ 15.08	241.28		
1036.25 hours @ 14.58	15,108.54		
OT 118.50 hours @ 21.87	2,591.64		
Fringe			
8 hours @ 14.08	112.64		
448 hour @ 14.58	6,531.84		
Equipment Maintenance Hours			
6 hours @ 14.08	84.48		
8 hours @ 15.08	120.64		
203.25 hours @ 14.58	2,963.39		
General Fund Hours			
16 hour @ 14.08	225.28		
272.50 @ 14.58	3,973.05		
26 @ 15.08	241.28		
OT 1 hour @ 21.87	21.87	32,919.93	
Robert Mesick			
Highway Hours			
958 hours @ 17.09	16,372.32		
OT 243.25 hours 25.64	6,235.74		
Fringe			
360 hours @ 17.09	6,152.40		
Equipment Maintenance Hours			
303.75 hours @ 17.09	5,191.21		
General Fund Hours			
134.50 hours @ 17.09	2,298.63		
OT 1 hour @ 25.64	25.64	36,275.95	

Ralph Staib

Highway Hours

25.50 hours @ 12.13 309.32

969.75 hours @ 13.13 12,732.82

177.25 OT hours @ 19.70 3,490.93

General Fund Hours

22.50 hours @ 12.13 272.93

554 hours @ 13.13 7,274.11

40 hours @ 14.13 565.20

32.50 OT hours @ 19.70 640.25

Equipment Maintenance Hours

263.50 @ 13.13 3,459.76

Fringe

32 hours @ 12.13 388.16

192 hours @ 13.13 2,520.96

Fractional difference .07

31,654.51

Candie Bernard

Culvert Program

43 hours @ 10.71 460.53

460.53

Paul Bernard

Highway Hours

22.50 hours @ 11.00 247.50

247.50

TOTAL WAGES AND SALARIES

215,577.28

WARNING

DISTRICT TOWN OF STRATTON
ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2004

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 1:00 P.M. for the purpose of transacting the following business:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To elect one School Director for the term of three years.

ARTICLE 3: To see what amount the Town will vote to pay parents and/or guardians for transportation to and from bus terminals for the school year, 2004-2005.

ARTICLE 4: To set the annual 2004 / 2005 tuition paid to private elementary schools (grades K through 6). This amount not to exceed the lesser of (1) the average tuition of Vermont Union Elementary Schools or (2) the tuition charged by the public elementary school attended by the greatest number of the district's pupils.

ARTICLE 5: To set the annual 2004-2005 tuition paid to independent high schools to be an amount of \$10,100.00 for grades 7 and 8 and grades 9 through 12.

ARTICLE 6: To see what amount of funds existing in the school savings account the town will vote to keep in said account.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the town will establish a school outside audit savings account and if so voted, what amount shall be saved.

ARTICLE 8: To see what tax or appropriation the Town will vote for all school expenses.

ARTICLE 9: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting:

Dated at Stratton: January 22, 2004

Stratton School Directors:

Thomas J. Montemagni
Thomas Montemagni, Chair

Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell
Lorraine Weeks-Newell, Secretary

Dennis Clark
Dennis Clark

SCHOOL STATEMENT
July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

Checkbook Balance 6/30/02	37,553.53	
Savings Account Balance 6/30/02	6,335.25	
Savings/CD Balance 6/30/02:	107,318.52	151,207.30

RECEIPTS:

Block Grant	178,557.00	
State Aid – Transportation	16,469.00	
State Aid – Special Education	5,631.00	
National Forest	6,184.70	
Stratton-Winhall Ed Foundation	72,640.00	
Tuition refund from Dover School	593.30	280,075.00
CD Interest	1,290.20	
Savings Interest	76.24	
Checking Interest	786.51	2,152.95

Total Funds Available		433,435.25
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DISBURSEMENTS:

Tuition – Elementary

Mountain School			
3 @ 6,690	20,070.00		
Townshend School			
2 @ 7,200	14,400.00		
Dover School			
2 @ 6,200	12,400.00		
1 @ 4,340 (70% K)	4,340.00	16,740.00	
Wardsboro School			
2 @ 6,400	12,800.00	64,010.00	

Tuition – High School:

Burr & Burton			
5 @ 7,757	38,785.00		
Mountain School			
1 @ 7,503 (pd 7,502.50)	7,502.50		
Leland & Gray			
7 @ 8,400	58,800.00		

SCHOOL STATEMENT CONTINUED

Stratton Mountain School			
1 @ 7,503	7,503.00		
2 @ 6,350.76	12,701.52		
6 @ 7,757	46,542.00	66,746.52	
Wilmington High School			
1 @ 6,700.	6,700.00		
1 @ 2,163	2,163.00	8,863.00	180,697.02
(underpaid previous year)			

Tuition – Special Education:

Judith Davidson	90.00		
Orly Munzing	5,611.00		
Wilmington High School	8,807.58		
Leland & Gray	12,959.64		
Mental Health Services	750.00	28,218.22	

Total Tuition

272,925.24

Transportation – Elementary School

Joshua Avera	560.56		
Candie Bernard	532.35		
Loretta Clark	774.57		
Suzanne Douglas	380.10		
Laura Hawksley	431.00		
Rayleen Marcucci	1,933.05		
Betsy Wadsworth	1,636.60		
Wardsboro School District	2,340.00		
Winhall School District	1,500.00	10,088.23	

Transportation – High School

Susan Belgard-Marquis	232.00		
Candie Bernard	550.20		
Loretta Clark	1,340.66		
Suzanne Douglas	324.80		
Mildred Dupell	564.48		
Brenda Goodman	131.60		
Karin Hardy	2,466.88		
Karen Kemnitzer-Bills	610.00		
Connie Montemagni	1,940.12		
Fred Pesce	1,600.55		
Diane Schwippert	450.31		
Luz Williams	1,697.43		
Dover School District	314.72		
Wardsboro School District	5,460.00		

SCHOOL STATEMENT CONTINUED

Winhall School District		3000.00	
Total Transportation			30,771.98
Salaries:			
Treasurer		450.00	
Tom Montemagni			
Salary	150.00		
12 meetings @20.00	240.00	390.00	
Dennis Clark			
Salary	100.00		
7 meetings@20.00	140.00	240.00	
Lorraine Weeks-Newell			
Salary	150.00		
10 meetings@20.00	200.00	350.00	1,430.00
Miscellaneous:			
FICA		109.41	
Dues-VSBA		250.00	
Bonds/Insurance		183.00	
Legal Fees (Robert Pu)		126.00	
Audit-Sullivan Powers		4,010.00	
Brattleboro Reformer		65.25	4,743.66
Supervisory Union/Administration:			
Essential Early Education		751.00	
Early Education		647.00	
Superintendent/General Adm.		4,427.00	
Special Education		4225.00	10,050.00
Total Expenses:			319,920.88
Savings Account Balance 6/30/2003		6,411.49	
CD/Savings Balance 6/30/2003		108,608.72	
Checkbook Balance 6/30/2003		(1,505.84)	113,514.37
Total Funds			433,435.25

STATEMENT OF SCHOOL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

	Balance 7/1/2002	Interest	Deposits	Withdrawals	Balance 6/30/2003
Audit	3,065.47	36.88	-0-	-0-	3,102.35
Early Education	1,226.17	14.75	-0-	-0-	1,240.92
Dues	2,043.61	24.61	-0-	-0-	2,068.22
	6,335.25	76.24	-0-	-0-	6,411.49

TRANSFERS TO CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

	Balance 7/1/2002	Interest	Deposits	Withdrawals	Balance 6/30/2003
From Savings	28,151.31	338.34	-0-	-0-	28,489.65
Legal Fees	1,192.68	14.33	-0-	-0-	1,207.01
Certificate of Deposit	77,974.53	937.53	-0-	-0-	78,912.06
	107,318.52	1,290.20	-0-	-0-	108,608.72

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2003 – 2004

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
Callie Wadsworth	Mountain School	K
Mason Avera	Dover Elementary	1
Jacob Gaudet	Mountain School	1
Ryan Wadsworth	Mountain School	1
Addie Fulton	Maple Street	2
Morgan Avera	Dover Elementary	2
Jacob Douglas	Wardsboro	3
Sarah Hawksley	Mountain School	4
Henry Clark	Mountain School	5
Brett Alexander*	Mountain School	5
Tyler Gaudet	Mountain School	5
Alyson Marcucci	Townshend	5
Daniel Alexander*	Mountain School	5
Pierce Fulton	Long Trail School	6
Dylan Avera	Dover Elementary	6
Melody Bernard	Leland & Gray	7
Christopher Marcucci	Leland & Gray	7
Corey Bills	Leland & Gray	8
Griff Fulton	SMS	8
Ian Marquis	Leland & Gray	8
Catherine Stewart	SMS	8
Adam Schwippert	Leland & Gray	8
Colton Hardy	SMS	9
Kyle Carey	BBA	9
Crystal Douglas	Wilmington	9
Cooper Bills	Leland & Gray	10
Beth Bernard	Leland & Gray	10
Jonathan Clark	BBA	10
Andrew Nault	SMS	10
Tim Smiles	SMS	10
Eric Schwippert	Leland & Gray	11
Pavel Stastny	SMS	11
Casey Seiber	Leland & Gray	12
Jesse Hardy	BBA	12
Ben Smiles	SMS	12
Cassie Montemagni	BBA	12
Sam Waite	Northfield	12
Ayano Hagiwara**	SMS	12
Abbey Fusco	SMS	12
Jason Dupell	Wilmington	12

* Moved – 10/30/03

** Pending

Main District

REAL ESTATE	No. of Parcels	All Corporations	Town Residents	State Residents	Non-State	Municipal Totals	Education Totals
Residential I	36	0	6,222,300	0	0	6,222,300	6,222,300
Residential II	28	0	6,955,300	0	273,700	7,229,000	7,229,000
Mobile Homes-U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobile Homes-L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vacation I	146	859,300	0	860,900	50,917,200	52,637,400	52,637,400
Vacation II	57	394,800	0	713,100	12,955,500	14,063,400	14,063,400
Commercial	51	49,553,259	0	0	0	49,553,259	49,553,259
Commercial Apts	2	2,237,500	0	0	2,588,500	4,826,000	4,826,000
Industrial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E	2	1,262,900	0	0	0	1,262,900	1,262,900
Utilities-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	76	4,400,700	104,600	879,100	4,165,300	9,549,700	9,549,700
Other	874	7,574,900	1,650,500	1,497,800	283,479,300	294,202,500	294,202,500
Miscellaneous	92	487,200	49,100	720,700	4,389,800	5,646,800	5,646,800
TOTALS	1,364	66,770,559	14,981,800	4,671,600	358,769,300		

TOTAL LISTED VALUE OF REAL ESTATE FOR TAXATION 445,193,259 445,193,259

TOTAL NON-TAXABLE PARCELS: 14

NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411

PERSONAL PROPERTY	MUNICIPAL	EDUCATION
Cable	0	52,967
Machinery and Equipment	0	N/A
Inventory	0	N/A

TOTAL LISTED VALUE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY 0 52,967

NON-APPROVED CONTRACTS AND EXEMPTIONS	MUNICIPAL	EDUCATION
	N/A	0

TOTAL LISTED VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY 445,193,259 445,246,226

TOTAL GRAND LIST (One percent of total listed value of real and personal property) 4,451,932.59 4,452,462.26

Status on Personal Property

1) Has inventory been exempted by vote of town/city? Yes XX No

2) Has machinery and equipment been exempted by vote of your town/city? Yes XX No

3) If yes for #2, what portion is now exempt? (include percentage) 0.00%

4) If no for #2, please indicate below how your town/city is assessing business personal property (Place "X" by option used)

a) at fair market value b) at depreciated value

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR & HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003

<u>Name</u>	<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Schmidt	Septic	07/05/02	20.00
Howe	House	07/11/02	91.00
Colgan	Septic	07/18/02	20.00
M. Underwood	Garage	07/19/02	25.00
Jacobs	Addition	07/24/02	40.00
Coursen	Deck	08/01/02	20.00
Carlo's Otis Clinic	Sign	08/02/02	20.00
Kingswood	Septic	08/06/02	20.00
Stratton Corporation	Replace 8 signs	08/07/02	20.00
Simons	Addition	08/16/02	20.00
Magliocca	Septic	08/20/02	20.00
Becker	Garage	08/21/02	25.00
Donaldson	Garage	08/28/02	40.00
Kingswood	House	09/01/02	40.00
Stratton Corporation	Parking	09/05/02	25.00
Treetop	Sign	09/05/02	20.00
Schmidt-Fellner	House	09/09/02	365.00
Read	House	09/25/02	115.00
Read	Septic	09/26/02	20.00
Schmidt-Fellner	Septic	09/29/02	20.00
Bills	Septic	10/05/02	20.00
Munteanu	Sign	10/08/02	20.00
Douglas	House	10/24/02	90.00
Stratton Corporation	Ski Patrol Bldg.	11/06/02	35.00
Schachter	Garage	11/18/02	35.00
Danziger	Addition	11/18/02	25.00
Goldman	Addition	11/22/02	55.00
Windolf	Carriage Barn	11/27/02	385.00
Fulton	Barn	11/27/02	40.00
Stratton Mtn. Provisions	Sign	12/02/02	20.00
Cronk	Porch	12/03/02	20.00
Verde	Sign	12/10/02	20.00
Cersosimo	Septic	12/29/02	20.00
Cersosimo	Septic	01/09/03	20.00
Conner	House	03/11/03	315.00
Conner	Septic	03/19/03	20.00
Giunta	House	03/27/03	265.00
Gagner	Garage	04/17/03	20.00
Johnson	House	05/01/03	200.00
Giunta	Septic	05/01/03	20.00
Maloney	Septic	05/01/03	20.00

Powers	Garage	05/06/03	30.00
Stratton Corporation	Ski Trails	05/22/03	361.80
Watch	Sign	05/22/03	25.00
Hammond	Deck	05/24/03	20.00
Cioce	Septic	05/27/03	20.00
Stratton Mtn. School	Gymnasium	06/05/03	765.00
Gosse	Septic	06/13/03	20.00
Cersosimo	Septic	06/23/03	20.00
Cersosimo	5 Septic	06/30/03	100.00

Total Fees: 4,012.80

911 Numbers Assigned

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Assigned</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Kingswood	08/01/02	35.00
Read	09/28/02	35.00
Douglas	11/18/02	35.00
Windolf	11/27/02	35.00
Conner	03/11/03	35.00
Racz	03/21/03	35.00
Giunta	03/27/03	35.00
Johnson	05/01/03	35.00
Stratton Mtn. School Gym	06/05/03	35.00

Total 911 Fees: 315.00

2003 DOG REPORT

LICENSES ISSUED:

41 dog licenses were sold in the Town of Stratton in 2003. Licenses issued were for:

37 spayed female or neutered male dogs

4 un-neutered male or un-spayed female dogs

Fees collected for period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003: \$302.00

SCHEDULE OF FEES:

If you own or keep own a dog or wolf-hybrid that is six months or older on or before April 1, the license fee is:

Neutered male or spayed female – \$4.00

Un-neutered male or un-spayed female – \$8.00

After April 1st an additional 50% is added to the fee:

Neutered male or spayed female – \$6.00

Un-neutered male or un-spayed female – \$12.00

The State of Vermont levies a fee of \$1.00 for each license sold to be used for State Rabies Control Programs. This dollar is added to the license fee.

To register a dog or wolf-hybrid, as a neutered male or spayed female, a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian stating that the animal has been sterilized must be given to the Town Clerk.

To license a dog or wolf-hybrid, the owner/keeper shall give the municipal clerk a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian stating that the dog or wolf-hybrid has a current approved vaccination against rabies.

A current vaccination means:

A dog or wolf-hybrid less than one year old has been vaccinated.

A dog or wolf-hybrid between one and two years old has been vaccinated in the preceding 12 months.

A dog or wolf-hybrid two years old or older has been vaccinated within the preceding 24 months.

Board of Selectmen 2003 Annual Report

In 2003, we had to say farewell to David Lowe, a valued member of the road crew, who retired after 22 years of dependable service. We hope that he enjoys his retirement. In his place, the Town hired Jeremy Hescocock of South Wardsboro. We hope that everyone joins us in welcoming Jeremy to the Road Crew. Additionally, Bob Mesick has been out on disability since the spring, so Ralph Staib has been designated as Stratton's Road Foreman; thus, effectively, the Road Crew has become a two-man crew, while Paul Bernard has agreed to come in, when necessary, to help plow the roads.

Highlights of 2003 Projects and Business:

- 1) Penny Avenue bridge replacement: The design phase is complete and has been sent on to the State. We are waiting for State aid approval (which may take awhile) before we budget for the actual bridge replacement.
- 2) Paving was completed along Mountain Rd. from Pleasant Valley Rd. to the Brazers Way intersection and then down Brazers Way to the Pikes Falls Rd. intersection.
- 3) The Ball Farm Rd. culvert was replaced during the summer and fall.
- 4) Preparations are underway and on schedule to replace Bridge 30 on the West Jamaica Rd., beside the Canady Rd. intersection this coming summer.
- 5) In 2003, the Town purchased a new 2004 Sterling L9500 for the Highway Department as well as the appropriate body and equipment. The 1998 International was used as the trade-in, while the Walter and the 1991 Ford were sold this year.
- 6) As a result of the Planning Commission's traffic study in the ski area, and in coordination with Stratton Corporation, changes are being implemented to the Stratton Mountain Access Rd. to better control pedestrian traffic. Changes should be complete in early 2004. Additionally, the Stratton Mountain Access Rd. is being improved adjacent to the new Treetop Development, courtesy of Stratton Corporation. We wish to thank Stratton Corp., the Planning Commission and Karl Quackenbush for their efforts in developing a workable solution to this issue.
- 7) Police Coverage was changed this year in coordination with changes effected at the Stratton Ski Resort with approval of the Select Board. The Winhall Police Department now patrols the resort area and all of the northeastern corner of the town to the County Rd. / Stone Chimney / Mountain Rd. intersection. The Windham County Sheriff's Department still patrols the remainder of the town.
- 8) Progress toward the Town Office addition continues to be slow, however, construction should begin this summer, pending approval of the project and its funding by the voters. As for the preliminary work, a site plan was completed and a new well was installed, as required by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). Following hookup of the new well and the abandonment of the old well, the State finally approved the water / wastewater permit based on the new site plan. An architectural firm should be selected in January 2004, and an estimate of the project's cost should be available by Town Meeting.
- 9) Changes were implemented at the Transfer Station to better regulate control over the area. An automatic gate was added to keep the area closed off from the general public when the transfer station is closed, while allowing for easy access for the Road Crew and Fire

Department personnel when the fire truck is called out. A revision of the Transfer Station Certification had to be approved by the State to allow for the extra refuse container. Additionally, a storage container was acquired to provide space for collected fluorescent bulbs, televisions, and computers, etc. Discussion with Stratton Corporation Property Management concerning better recycling efforts by resort homeowners apparently has resulted in an increase in recyclables collected from 4.9% to 9.4%. We wish to thank Celie Ives for all her efforts concerning this matter.

- 10) Meetinghouse Maintenance: As a result of the problem of paint peeling from the meetinghouse, the Select Board applied for and received a \$500.00 grant from the Robert Sincerbeaux Fund for a "Needs Assessment" of the building. During the summer of 2003, this assessment was performed. The report is pending. Based on results of this report, the board will decide upon the best course of action necessary to preserve and protect this historic town building, during the upcoming summer.
- 11) Subdivision Bylaws: Changes to the subdivision bylaws were presented to the Select Board by the Planning Commission. The Select Board approved of the revision on November 24, 2003 and will be presented to the voters by Australian Ballot at Town Meeting.
- 12) Laura Hawksley was appointed Treasurer to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Connie Montemagni, Aleta Alcorn-Coursen was appointed to fill the Auditor position vacated by Laura Hawksley, and Rob Wadsworth was appointed Recreation Committee Member left vacant by the resignation of Karen Kemnitzer-Bills. Tom Montemagni and Greg Marcucci were both reappointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- 13) We would like to thank the volunteers who have helped with town events. Thanks to Candie Bernard for coordinating Green Up Day. Thanks to Siobhan Young, Suzanne Douglas, Laura Hawksley, Candie Bernard, Pat Coolidge and Terri Garland for their work toward the Children's Holiday Party and another thanks to Laura, Candie, Pat and Terri for organizing this year's Holiday Party. We also would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whitney for this year's Christmas Tree and the Road Crew for their efforts in preparing the Town Hall.

Selectboard:

Al Dupell, Chairman

Larry Bills

Chris Liller

Greg Marcucci

Mike Douglas

TOWN OF STRATTON

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The report covers the activities of the Planning Commission for the calendar year 2003. The year started with the contracting of Molly Montemagni to compile the results of our Town survey, of which there was an 84% response. The results are at the Town office. We did battle with the State Environmental Board and Stratton Area Citizens Committee over our Town Land Records regarding the density issues on the Stratton Corporation lands: (2 acres per dwelling unit taken out of their total land holdings) Suffice to say, "we won."

The Subdivision and permitting of the Treetops at Stratton Mountain was finalized. We required the re-submittal of the Phase 2 Longtrail development Rising Bear. As a result of many hours of negotiations between the Stratton Corporation, Selectboard and Planners, a new pedestrian walkway at the Resort was designed. This will accommodate pedestrian safe crossings from the Chapel of the Snows to the Lifeline Lodge on one side, and as like measures for the Welcome Center-Village side. This is to be operational for the 2003-2004 Ski season

The commission worked with planning consultant Bill Jewell and attorney Bob Pu for revising the Town Subdivision Regulations for Town approval. Extra monthly meetings were required. We thank the clerk for his input as well. Our Town Plan is due for revisions by August 2004, again. This needs the approval of the Windham Regional Commission as well as surrounding Towns. The Zoning By-laws need revisions to accommodate State regulations:

We amended the Village Permit for the Stratton Corporation as far as policing and security was involved.

We contracted with Karl Quackenbush of Central Transportation and planning for a traffic survey for certain areas of the Town. The survey is now complete.

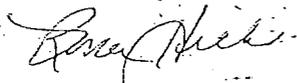
Subdivision of lands included the Carlisle property off Route 100, application by Hoins-Bennet off Brazers Way, application by the Stratton Mountain Carlos Otis Clinic, the Doug Forester land, and a request for the Mountain Reach units at Stratton Mountain. Recycling issues at the ski area are at issue, per conditioning.

The Town welcome signs are in place.

The board welcomed Denis Clark and Gary Montemagni as planners. We were sorry to see Doug Forrester and Bob Hardy leave. We thank them for their efforts on behalf of the Town.

We thank Ray Hawksley, Health Officer and Allan Hicks, Zoning Officer for their respective duties in us helping out.

Rona Hicks, Chairman.



**TOWN CLERK
ANNUAL REPORT**

Land Records: In 2003, Books 96 through 105 were filled, totaling 6843 pages of recording @ \$7.00/pg. (\$47,901.00).

2003 Vital Statistics

Births – No births occurred within Stratton, however 3 children were born to Stratton Residents:

Jayna Lauren Goldfarb, daughter of Steven and Shelley Goldfarb.

Rio Skye Coursen, son of Joshua and Aleta Coursen.

Andre Thomas Setter, son of Rich and Debra Setter.

Marriages – 6

Civil Unions – 1

Deaths – 1

Appointments by Town Clerk:

Deputy Registrars – Mark F. Shea, Tom Robinson

Liquor Licenses:

1 st Class	15
2 nd Class	01
Outside Consumption	21

Tobacco Licenses: 05

Property Transfers:

194 Property Transfers occurred with associated Property Transfer taxes sent to the State for the Calendar year 2003 of \$702,249.93.

Solid Waste Disposal:

A total of 317.43 tons of solid waste were hauled away from the transfer station in 2003. Of this, 24.12 tons (7.5%) were recycled.

Listers' Report 2003

2003 was another relatively quiet year for the Listers, with exception of preparations for implementing Act 68 in 2004. There were no appeals of grievances. The total value of taxable property within town increased to \$445,370,126.00. The town's tax rate in 2003 was \$1.23. The State also calculated our common level of appraisal at 85.01% with a coefficient of dispersion of 13.83%. Thus, the greatly inflated real estate market is having a diverse effect on our equalization ratio and the tax rate, making a revaluation necessary in the not-too-distant future.

Currently, Stratton contracts with:

- 1) Nyberg Purvis and Associates for professional appraising.
- 2) The Britside of Assessing for appraisal software support.
- 3) Cartographics Technologies, Inc. for tax mapping and software support.

Kent Young

Town of Stratton Cemetery Commission

In 2003, Peter Hoffmann's ashes were interred in Ball Cemetery – the only burial to occur within town this year. As for improvements to the cemeteries, surveys and placement of lot pins are underway for the open sections of Pike Hollow, North and Ball Cemeteries. Replacement stones were purchased and installed to replace seven broken cemetery stones throughout town, while two stones were repaired. As for upkeep, the Commission continues to have fill added to areas of all cemeteries that need it. We wish to thank the Highway Crew for their continuing efforts in these projects and Hescoc's Lawn Care for their mowing services this year.

Kent Young

Board of Civil Authority:

No Assessment Appeals were heard this year. The Board of Civil Authority met only one time in 2003 to purge the Voter Checklist. Thirteen people were challenged; nine responded to the subsequent inquiry and requested to be removed from the checklist; four failed to respond, but cannot be removed until after the 2006 General Election; one voter, who was challenged in 2001, will be removed following the 2004 General Election.

The Town Clerk approved ten applications for addition to the voter checklist. Besides those removed during the purge (above), two voters who had been challenge in 2001 responded to additional inquiries and were removed; and three others who had moved away also requested to be removed from the checklist. At the end of 2003, there were 118 registered voters in Stratton.

Kent Young

Recreation Report 2003

The use of Stratton's Recreation area seems to be on the rise. The ball field was used for numerous sporting events and even a wedding this year; while local schools are using the park for winter activities.

This past year we had the multiuse court repaved, we purchased a new Lightfoot Four-wheel ATV for grooming purposes. Unfortunately, Last winter's pig roast was postponed. And, as voted at Town Meeting, we purchased a Memorial Plaque dedicating the ball field to the memory of Matthew and Keith LaMarche. The plaque will be installed in the spring.

Candie Bernard
Co-Chair Recreation Committee

Stratton Mountain
Volunteer Fire Company Inc.
5 Brazers Way Stratton Mtn., VT 05155
Ric Swenson - President
Robert Mesick - Chief

The Stratton Mtn. Volunteer Fire Company responded to 41 calls in 2003. False alarms have decreased dramatically over the past three years, thanks to the Town Ordinance.

Over the past two years we applied for equipment grants offered by Federal, State, and Local Agencies to improve our equipment and keep our equipment budget down. To date we have received \$22,245 in grant money, which has been used to purchase new turnout gear, Cascade system, a Thermal Imaging Camera, and other small items. The Fire Company would like to thank the Stratton Foundation for their grants allowing us to purchase the Cascade system and a 4" gate valve.

The Fire Company held a very successful fund drive this past year bringing in \$15,200. We would like to thank all of those who contributed as well as Ric Swenson for his efforts in making it a success. This money is being used to purchase uniforms and to offset cost sharing grants.

The Firehouse is the new home of the Stratton Mountain Post Office. After being approached as a possible location the Fire Company agreed that it would be a convenient location and would help serve the community.

As always we are looking for interested volunteers. Any interested parties should contact Chief Robert Mesick.

	Budget 2002-3	Actual	Budget 2003-04	Budget 2004-05
Operations Funds				
Town of Stratton	59,800	59,800	62,900	75,850
Actual Town of Stratton			51,906	
Interest	500	544	500	550
Grants		10,695	13050	
Fund Raising		15,200		
Total Funds	60,300	86,239	128,356	72400
Expenditures				
Electricity	900	797	900	1,000
Telephone/Internet	650	788	650	750
Heat	5,250	4,743	5,250	5,500
Dispatch Service	11,000	14,009	16,000	28,000
Insurance	4,500	5,025	5,500	6,000
Building Maintenance & Supplies	5,000	170	2,000	2,000
Actual Expenditure Roof Repair	20,035	20,035		
Vehicle & Radio Repairs	4,000	2,644	4,000	4,000
New Equipment	7,000	11,370	7,000	7,000
Training	1,000	207	1,000	1,000
Dues & Ass. Fees	250	213	300	300
Reimbursement Per Call	20,000	19,981	20,000	20,000
Other: CPA	250	581	300	300
Fund Raising Expenditures		1,851		
Total Expenditures	79,585	80,563	62,900	75,850
Beginning Balance	60,300	66,445	71,006	72,350
Yearend Balance	(2,383)	5,111	500	500
Fire Engine Fund				
Town of Stratton	30,000	30,000	0	30,000
Interest	500	34	500	300
Beginning Balance	5,846	33,309	4,489	4,989
Truck Sale	3,650	3,650		
Grant	1,500	1,500		
Stratton Corp.				11000
Actual Expenditure on Utility	63,978	63,978		
Ending Balance	10,584	4,489	4989	51278
Fire Pond Program				
Balance	7,999	7,811	7,953	8,203
Interest	250	142	250	200
Available Funds	8,249	7,953	8,203	8,403
Total Town Funds Requested				
Operations	59,800	59,800	62,900	75,850
Fire Engine Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Fire Pond Program	0	0	0	0
Total	89,800	89,800	92,900	105,850

Town of Stratton

Town Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2003

Town Hall, Stratton

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton met at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 as warned to act on the following business of the town:

Moderator Diana Stugger called the meeting to order at 10:00AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Roll was taken and 39 voters were present (20 majority). Selectmen Chris Liller and Greg Marcucci were appointed to count votes.

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

Laura Hawksley nominated Diana Stugger. Second – Dennis Holton. Al Dupell moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Chris Liller seconded. All in favor and Diana Stugger was elected Moderator for one year.

Article 2: To act on the Town Report.

Larry Bills moved to accept the town report. Connie Montemagni seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

Article 3: To elect Town Officers:

Selectman – three-year term:

Joann Liller nominated Larry Bills. Skip Hammond seconded. Rona Hicks nominated Earl Pickering. Allan Hicks second. Suzanne Douglas nominated Michael Douglas. Bob Mesick seconded. Chris Liller moved nominations closed. Larry Bills seconded. All in favor.

Paper ballot results: Larry Bills 20, Earl Pickering 7, Mike Douglas 11.

Larry Bills elected Selectman three-year term.

Selectman – one-year term:

Laura Hawksley nominated Al Dupell. Kent Young seconded. Rona Hicks nominated Michael Douglas. Bob Mesick seconded. Chris Liller motioned nominations closed, Dennis Holton seconded. All in favor.

Paper Ballot results: Al Dupell 23, Michael Douglas – 16.

Al Dupell was elected Selectman one-year term.

Selectman – one-year term:

Avis Pickering nominated Earl Pickering. Allan Hicks seconded. Bob Mesick nominated Michael Douglas. Suzanne Douglas seconded. Larry Bills motioned nominations closed, Kent Young seconded. All in favor.

Paper ballot results: Michael Douglas 22. Earl Pickering 17.

Michael Douglas was elected Selectman one-year term.

(Steve Goldfarb entered the meeting – majority vote is 21)

Planning Commissioner – four year term:

Rona Hicks nominated Gary Montemagni. Avis Pickering seconded. Chris Liller nominated Paul Schwippert. Dennis Holton seconded. Allan Hicks nominated John Waite. Dennis Clark seconded. Bob Mesick moved nominations closed. Dennis Holton seconded. All in favor.

Paper ballot: Gary Montemagni 10 votes, Paul Schwippert 13 votes and John Waite 12 votes. No majority. Second paper ballot: Gary Montemagni 13; Paul Schwippert – 14; John Waite – 13. No majority. Third paper ballot: Gary Montemagni 14; Paul Schwippert – 14; John Waite – 12. No majority. The moderator declared John Waite, who had the least votes, eliminated from the election. Fourth paper ballot – Gary Montemagni – 22; Paul Schwippert – 18. Gary Montemagni elected Planning Commissioner – four-year term.

Planning Commissioner – two-year term to fill vacancy of Douglas Forrester:

Rona Hicks nominated Dennis Clark. Avis Pickering seconded. Michael Douglas nominated John Waite. Suzanne Douglas seconded. Chris Liller moved nominations closed. Bob Mesick seconded. All in favor.

Paper ballot: Dennis Clark – 31; John Waite 8.

Dennis Clark elected Planning Commissioner two-year term.

Planning Commissioner – four year term:

Rona Hicks nominated Celie Ives. Avis Pickering seconded. Pat Coolidge nominated Paul Schwippert. Larry Bills seconded. Bob Mesick nominated John Waite. Ray Hawksley seconded. Bob Mesick moved nominations closed. Dennis Holton seconded. All in favor.

Paper ballot: Celie Ives 16 votes, Paul Schwippert 12 votes and John Waite 11 votes. (1 vote spoiled) No majority. Second paper ballot: Celie Ives 17; Paul Schwippert – 14; John Waite – 9. No majority. Third paper ballot: Celie Ives 19; Paul Schwippert – 12; John Waite – 8. No majority. The moderator declared John Waite, who had the least votes, eliminated from the election. Fourth paper ballot – Celie Ives – 24; Paul Schwippert – 15. Celie Ives elected Planning Commissioner – four-year term.

Lister – three-year term:

Pat Coolidge nominated Kent Young. Larry Bills seconded. Bob Mesick moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one vote. Al Dupell seconded. All in favor.

Kent Young elected Lister three-year term.

Auditor – three-year term:

Cornie Montemagni nominated Joann Liller, Laura Hawksley seconded. Al Dupell moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one vote. Dennis Holton seconded. All in favor.

Joann Liller elected Auditor three-year term.

Auditor – two-year term to fill vacancy of Pat Coolidge:

Kent Young nominated Betsey Wadsworth, Chris Liller seconded. Al Dupell moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one vote. Dennis Holton seconded. All in favor.

Betsey Wadsworth elected Auditor two-year term.

Cemetery Commissioner – three-year term:

Allan Hicks nominated Earl Pickering. Chris Liller seconded. Bob Mesick nominated Ken Tuttle. Pat Coolidge seconded. Bob Mesick moved nominations closed. Al Dupell seconded. All in favor.

Paper ballot: Earl Pickering – 31. Ken Tuttle – 9. Earl Pickering elected Cemetery Commissioner three year term.

Recreation Committee – three-year term:

Joann Liller nominated Candie Bernard. Laura Hawksley seconded. Larry Bills moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Connie Montemagni seconded. All in favor.

Candie Bernard elected Recreation Committee Member – three-year term.

Recreation Committee – one-year term:

Larry Bills nominated Karen Kemnitzer-Bills, Laura Hawksley seconded. Bob Mesick moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Al Dupell seconded. All in favor.

Karen Kemnitzer-Bills elected Recreation Committee Member one-year term.

Recreation Committee – one-year term:

Chris Liller nominated Leighton “Skip” Hammond. Laura Hawksley seconded. Al Dupell moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Laura Hawksley seconded. All in favor.

Skip Hammond elected Recreation Committee Member one-year term.

Delinquent Tax Collector – one-year term:

Rona Hicks nominated Candie Bernard. Chris Liller seconded. Chris Liller motioned nominations closed and the Clerk cast one ballot. Al Dupell seconded. All in favor.

Candie Bernard elected Delinquent Tax Collector one-year term.

Trustee of Public Funds – one-year term:

Laura Hawksley nominated Connie Montemagni. Dennis Holton seconded. Larry Bills moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Al Dupell seconded. All in favor.

Connie Montemagni elected Trustee of Public Funds one-year term.

First Constable – one-year term:

Roger Schultz nominated Bob Mesick, Laura Hawksley seconded. Larry Bills nominated Rona Hicks. Darthea Brown seconded. Al Dupell moved nominations closed. Connie Montemagni seconded. All in favor.

Paper ballot: Bob Mesick – 21; Rona Hicks – 19.

Bob Mesick elected First Constable one-year term.

Second Constable – one year term.

Darthea Brown nominated Rona Hicks. Larry Bills seconded. Laura Hawksley nominated Mathew Underwood, Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved nominations closed. Larry Bills seconded.

Paper Ballot: Rona Hicks – 22; Mathew Underwood – 17.

Rona Hicks elected Second Constable one-year term.

Grand Juror – one-year term:

Kent Young nominated John Waite. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Al Dupell seconded. All in favor. John Waite elected Grand Juror one-year term.

Town Agent one year term:

Kent Young nominated John Waite. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Chris Liller seconded. All in favor. John Waite elected Town Agent one-year term.

Article 4: To see if the Town will furnish bonds where bonds are required.

Al Dupell so moved. Chris Liller seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote the sum of \$250.00 to defray the Town's share of expenses of the Windham Regional Planning Development Commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003.

Al Dupell so moved. Laura Hawksley seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote the sum of \$341.00 to defray the Town's share of expenses of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Chris Liller so moved. Al Dupell seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

Article 7: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money on notes of the Town or otherwise in anticipation of taxes and/or current expenses.

Bob Mesick so moved. Laura Hawksley seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote the sum of \$11,000.00 of office revenues to the Stratton-Winhall Education Foundation for administrative expenses.

Joann Liller so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. All concurred. The motion passed.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following appropriation requests:

Women's Crisis Center	350.00
George D. Aiken Resource	50.00
VT Center for Independent Living	105.00
Morningside Emergency Shelter	100.00
Windham County Humane Society	100.00
Valley Health Council	211.00
Green Up Vermont	50.00
Health Care and Rehabilitation Council and Aging	136.00
Historical Society of Windham County	350.00
Grace Cottage Foundation	250.00
Carlos Otis Stratton Mountain Clinic Ambulance Fund	5000.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Rescue	5000.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue	1000.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Association	1000.00
	3000.00

Wardsboro Library	1200.00
Winhall Library	1000.00
LaMarche Scholarship Fund	500.00
Vermont Adult Learning	300.00
TOTAL	\$19,702.00

Bob Mesick so moved. Ray Hawksley seconded. Discussion: Laura Hawksley asked about the LaMarche Scholarship Fund. Joann Liller explained that it was a memorial fund in memory of Matt LaMarche to give a small scholarship to a deserving student toward attendance to Vermont Technical College. With no further discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. All in favor. The motion passed.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following sums requested by Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company:

Operating Budget	62,900.00
Fire Engine Fund	30,000.00
	92,900.00

Ray Hawksley so moved. Bob Mesick seconded. Discussion: Kent Young stated that there was a need for clarification on this issue. He referred to the following letter made available for all voters to review:

Fire Department Appropriation:

There seems to be some confusion concerning this year's Fire Dept. appropriations and the recent refurbishment of the ladder truck. We hope that members of the Fire Dept. can help resolve this issue at this meeting, as it is imperative to budget for this amount at this time.

Last year the Fire Dept. had the ladder truck refurbished at a cost of \$171,000.00 – an amount which had to be paid before the truck would be released back to the town. To acquire this sum of money, the Fire Department (according to Bob Mesick) had gotten a commitment from Stratton Corp. of \$11,000.00 per year for the next 20 years. The Corporation, however, agreed to put three years of this money (\$33,000.00) up front for this refurbishment.

Additionally at Town Meeting, the Town voted to appropriate \$50,000.00, leaving a balance of \$88,000.00 that had to be raised to pay for the refurbishment. At a subsequent Special Town Meeting, the town voted to borrow this amount for the Fire Dept., so that it could get a lower municipal rate. The 5-year loan was taken out by the town and the fire truck refurbishment was paid off. The loan must be renewed each year on July 1.

A number of Town Officers and voters who worked toward funding the refurbishment understood that the Corporation would continue to donate the \$11,000.00 per year amount promised, and that the Fire Department request for appropriations would be reduced to reflect the "upfront" appropriation for the refurbishment. We also understood that the Fire Dept. would include in their yearly budgets the amount needed to pay off the refurbishment loan over the next three years.

The Fire Department budget presented in the Town Report is unclear concerning how payment of the loan will be accomplished. Also, there has been some confusion as to how the \$11,000.00 annual donation from the Corporation will be dealt with. At least some members of the department believe that the money budgeted is for a new firetruck fund and the monies from the Corporation will be put toward a new firetruck, leaving the question of loan repayment entirely as an issue of the town. This interpretation as we understand it, was not what was presented to the voters who agreed to raise the money for the refurbishment. And, more importantly, there has been no additional money budgeted to pay for this loan by the Town.

To resolve this issue, one way to resolve this issue is to amend the article to reduce the Fire Department appropriation by \$41,000.00. This will take the \$30,000.00 their budget designates for a fire truck fund and it will leave them responsible to recover this year's \$11,000.00 donation from the Corporation. Additionally, the town should then amend the town budget by creating a line item to pay \$41,000.00 toward the Refurbishment loan.

In conclusion, it is our opinion that the Fire Department should address this loan payment as well as the new firetruck fund in future budgets until it is paid in full. They should also clarify the intended usage of the \$11,000.00 / year donation from the Corporation.

Ray Hawksley asked why we can't just pay off the loan now, since this money is money that will stay within the community. Kent Young pointed out that everyone wants to keep in mind that about every \$45,000.00 spent will raise the tax rate by a penny. Connie Montemagni stressed that the point made by the letter is that the fire department had requested that the Town borrow the money in anticipation that the Fire Dept. would include a payment toward the loan, which will come due on July 1, 2003. And, that the \$11,000.00 from the Stratton Corporation was meant to be applied toward it each year with the original \$33,000.00 taken from the end of the Corporation's commitment. Kent Young pointed out that there is no reason to put money toward the firetruck fund until this loan is paid off. If the Fire Dept. needs money for a new truck, there is no reason why the Town could not apply for another loan at that point. Darthea Brown asked for a breakdown of the tax rate. Connie Montemagni supplied a copy of the 2002 tax rate approved by the Selectmen - \$0.9251 was the State Education Property tax rate and \$0.1849 was the Municipal tax rate. Kent Young stated that this year's tax rate will probably be between \$1.25 and \$1.30 because the Equalized Grand List is down about 6% - the State Education Property Tax will be closer to the full \$1.10 and there has been little growth this last year to help reduce the rate. Ray Hawksley again stressed that we should pay off the loan at this time, since it won't make a great difference with the tax rate. Many voters concurred. Kent Young pointed out again that the article will have to be changed to specify how the loan will be paid or a line item will need to be added to the budget, since there is no line item within the budget for repayment of the loan. The Moderator stated that by law, a line item cannot be added to the approved budget at this point; therefore, she asked for a motion to amend the article. The Treasurer calculated the amount necessary to pay off the loan.

At 12:10PM, the Moderator interrupted the discussion to break for lunch, since the school board meeting must come to order at 1:00PM, as warned and Representative Rick Hube will give his update of the House of Representatives' and other State affairs. Pat Coolidge moved to adjourn to reconvene following the School Board Meeting. Laura Hawksley seconded - all in favor.

At 1:21PM Town Meeting reconvened. 36 present; therefore 19 for a majority. The Moderator reread Article 10 and called for the discussion to continue: Ray Hawksley moved to amend Article 10 to read:

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following sums requested by Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company:

Operating Budget	62,900.00
Fire Engine Fund for payment of the refurbishment loan	79,332.00
	142,232.00

Skip Hammond seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote. Since several opposed the amendment, the Moderator asked for a show of hands. 19 Ayes, 15 Nays with two abstentions. The motion passed.

The Moderator asked for a motion to move the amended article. Bob Mesick so moved. Skip Hammond seconded. No further discussion; therefore, the Moderator asked for a show of hands. 19 Ayes, 15 Nays and two abstentions. The article passed.

Article 11: To see what amount the Town will vote to raise by tax and appropriate for the General Fund, Recreation Fund and Highway fund.

The Moderator noted that the Municipal Budget was given on pages 7, 8 and 18 of the 2003/4 Town Report. The Treasurer calculated changes to the budget in accordance with the changes voted above. "Appropriation" - Line 3 of the 2003/4 General Budget as given on Page 7 was changed to \$161,934.00 and the NET TOTAL of said budget as shown on Page 8 of said Town Report was changed to **\$381,374.00**.

Discussion: Darthea Brown asked about the Town Addition. Kent Young stated that there had been some delay due to the change to State septic laws. The Engineer was overwhelmed and did not finish a site plan for the Town until the Fall. The site plan had to be submitted to the State for approval. He did find a backup site for the septic system and drew up a site plan to reflect this. He also had noted that the old Act 250 permit required that a new well was to be dug, but it had not been accomplished. He placed a new well-site between the Church and the School House. This plan was submitted to the State and they sent notice back that the Town was not in compliance with the old permit and that we must first comply by digging a new well as per this new site plan and have it connected and tested and the old well abandoned before they will approve the new site plan. The new well has since been dug and it will be connected to the Town Hall and Town Office in the Spring. The Selectmen did not want to commit to an architect before the site plan was approved. Kent Young ended by saying that there is no great rush on the addition - we still have most of the \$50,000.00 from last year to put toward the design and the septic changes. Once the design has been completed, then we can warn another Town Meeting to consider a building loan. Ray Hawksley asked what changes were being considered. Kent Young said that the intention is to extend the vault back by 24 feet. Rona Hicks added that the addition will also include a Planning Commission room. Kent Young said that by adding to the back, it will be the least invasive, allowing for normal Office routine during construction. Al Dupell also said that there will be a basement under the addition for storage.

The Moderator pointed out that the Recreation Budget is located on Page 8 of said report. Pat Coolidge asked about the Multi-Use court resurfacing budget of \$10,000.00. She said that she understood that because of the flooding for use as a skating rink, the manufacturer said the rink would have to be resurfaced every five years or so. She then asked the Recreation Committee if they would consider budgeting for a separate skating rink from the basket ball court to minimize the amount of money spent on these courts. Some members of the Recreation Committee agreed to discuss it this year.

Darthea Brown asked about the expenses put toward the Groomer. Al Dupell explained that the Groomer will need to be replaced this year. Darthea Brown asked how much a new groomer will cost. Al Dupell said that he was not sure. They intended to get the best deal that they could. They had hoped to buy a used one from Stratton Corporation; but that deal had fallen through. Darthea Brown moved to amend the Rec. Committee Groomer Replacement Fund from \$9,000.00 to \$6,000.00. Rona Hicks seconded. Voice vote - 2 Ayes - an overwhelming number of Nays and the motion failed. The Recreation Budget is set at \$51,000.00.

The Moderator stated that the Highway budget is on Page 18. Bob Mesick explained the Grading / Retreatment schedule and the Bridge replacement. This year's schedule includes retreatment of the north end of Mountain Rd. and down Brazers Way. Bridge replacements will take place on Ball Farm Rd. We also are working to replace Penny Ave bridge with the help of a grant. We had already received a grant for the design stage of this bridge.

Darthea Brown asked why the town does not have a Capital Expense Plan, so that voters would not have to come to Town Meeting once a year to learn about projected plans for the town. Kent Young stated that the Town generally takes care of situations as they arise. Ray Hawksley said that a Capital Budget Plan would be a useful planning tool. Al Dupell said that information concerning town projects is routinely discussed at Selectmen's meetings. The Highway budget is set at \$349,300.00.

With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a vote to approve the General Budget at \$381,374.00, the Recreation Budget at \$51,000.00, and the Highway Budget at \$349,300.00, for a TOTAL Municipal Budget of \$781,674.00. Al Dupell so moved. Chris Liller seconded. With no further discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote. All in favor. The motion passed.

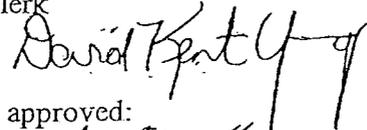
Article 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

The Moderator posed the question and the question arose about the status of the roads and if the town had enough money to get them back into shape this year. Bob Mesick stated that there was some FEMA money available. Pat Coolidge explained that this money replaced town funds used for repaired that qualified for FEMA. Darthea Brown asked if that money could be put into a contingency fund to be used on the roads. Pat Coolidge explained that the FEMA money had already been put into the Town's checking account and that it has become part of the balance that will be carried forward to the next year.

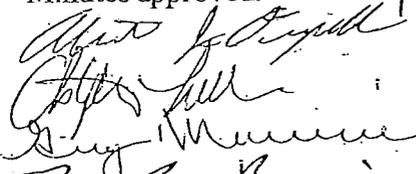
With no further business, Al Dupell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:20PM. Avis Pickering seconded. All in favor - the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by:

Town Clerk



Minutes approved:



Selectmen of Stratton



Town of Stratton

Annual School Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2003

Town Hall, Stratton

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton met at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 as warned to act on the following business of the town:

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 1:00PM. The Clerk called roll and there were 33 voters present – 17 needed for a majority.

Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Pat Coolidge nominated Diana Stigger. Second – Chris Liller. Al Dupell moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Chris Liller seconded. All in favor and Diana Stigger was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

Article 2: To elect one School Director for the term of three years.

Lorraine Weeks-Newell nominated Tom Montemagni for School Director for three years. Laura Hawksley seconded. Al Dupell moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one vote. Chris Liller seconded. All in favor. Tom Montemagni was elected School Director – three-year term.

(34 voters present – 18 majority)

Article 3: To see what amount the Town will vote to pay parents and/or guardians for transportation to and from bus terminals for the school year 2003-04.

The Moderator called for a discussion. Connie Montemagni said that the rate was set at 35 cents last year. She asked what the U.S. Government is currently paying as we had agreed to set the rate to the Federal rate. The question arose as to the rate the post office pays. Betsey Wadsworth said that the Postal rate is 37 cents. Ray Hawksley motioned to pay parents and/or guardians 0.37 cents per mile for transportation to and from bus terminals for the school year 2003-04. Al Dupell seconded. All in favor and the article passed.

Article 4: To set the annual 2003-04 tuition paid to private elementary schools (grades K-6). This amount not to exceed the lesser of (1) the average tuition of Vermont Union Elementary Schools or (2) the tuition charged by the Public Elementary School attended by the greatest number of the district's pupils.

Larry Bills so moved. Al Dupell seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article. All in favor and the article passed.

(35 voters present – 18 majority)

Article 5: To set the annual 2003-04 tuition paid to Independent High Schools to be an amount not to exceed the average announced tuition of Vermont Union High Schools for the year of attendance for grades 7 and 8 and 9-12.

Al Dupell so moved. Ray Hawksley seconded. Discussion – Connie Montemagni explained that Burr and Burton is used to set the standard tuition. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article. All in favor and the article passed.

Article 6: To see if the Town will move surplus funds in the amount of \$40,000.00 from school year 2001 / 2002 to a reserve account.

Connie Montemagni stated that with the Stratton-Winhall Foundation in effect, the Local Share of the Education Taxes should remain at zero and that the budget, therefore, will have no effect on the tax rate, because of the way Act 60 set the method of calculating the Statewide Education Property Tax. Thus, using this amount to reduce the budget will not affect the tax rate. Therefore, this money should be put aside until it can be used to the town's benefit. Al Dupell so moved. Chris Liller seconded. The Moderator called for a voice vote on the article. All in favor and the article passed.

36 voters present

Article 7: To see what tax or appropriation the Town will vote for all school expenses.

Connie Montemagni explained that Frank Rucker from Leland and Gray had worked with the school board to determine the budget and they had calculated \$276,670.00 for said budget. To help the voters understand how this affects the tax rate, the Moderator read the Clerk's statement recorded in the 2002 School Meeting Minutes as follows, "*Kent Young stated that it is all determined by Act 60. The education tax is the rate set by the state (\$1.10 equalized) and the state will send the town the appropriate block grant amount back, while the Stratton-Winhall Foundation funds the amount over the block grant amount so that there should not be a Local Share to cover. Thus, the town does not raise anything through taxes.*"

Al Dupell motioned to approve a Town School Budget of \$276,670.00 for the ensuing year. Laura Hawksley seconded. With no further discussion, the Moderator called for a voice vote on the article. All in favor and the article passed.

Article 8: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. The Moderator asked if there was any other business to legally come before the meeting. No further business.

Al Dupell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chris Liller seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:21PM.

Minutes prepared by:

Town Clerk

David Kenty

Minutes Approved:

Dennis A. Clark

Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell

School Directors

TOWN OF STRATTON
SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
May 20, 2003

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton School District met at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 7:00PM as warned.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM and the Clerk took roll - 26 voters were present. The elected Moderator, Diana Stigger, was not present, so Kent Young nominated Larry Bills as Moderator Pro Tem. Chris Liller seconded - all concurred. Kent Young moved nominations closed and Clerk cast one ballot. Chris Liller seconded and Larry Bills was elected Moderator Pro Tem.

The Moderator read the warning.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will authorize the School Board to establish a *Preschool Tuition and Transportation Policy* for the Town and to set said tuition amount for the year 2003 / 2004.

Kent Young so moved. Bob Mesick seconded. Discussion followed:

Tom Montemagni, School Board Chair, explained that the school board had been approached with a request to cover preschool costs and that the board felt that this was a decision for the voters to decide; hence this meeting was warned. He said that after further investigation into the matter, the School Board has learned that the Stratton Winhall Education Foundation (SWEF) will not cover Preschool programs because preschool is not State mandated. The Schools Supervisory Union calculated the Act 60 Sharing Pool cost to the town, without SWEF's support, if Stratton were to authorize Preschool payments. The calculation determined that a typical Preschool tuition of \$3000.00 per student will require the town to send \$98,000.00 to the State for every Preschool student who participates. The Town Clerk added that this amount will convert to approximately 2.5 cents added to the tax rate for every preschool student enrolled.

Mike Douglas said that he and Suzanne had approached the School Board concerning this issue, but they had no idea that preschool would affect the town's taxes so adversely. He said that knowing now how much it will affect local taxes, he will not be supporting it. Suzanne Douglas added that she agreed and does not expect anyone to support it.

The discussion ended and the Moderator called for a vote from the floor. 0 Ayes, 26 Nays. The motion failed.

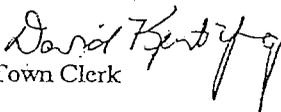
ARTICLE 2: If the vote on Article 1 is in the affirmative, to see if the Town will appropriate and expend a sum of money not to exceed the preschool tuition charged by the Dover Elementary School; said sum to be obtained from the Stratton Winhall Education Foundation.

Kent Young moved to pass over the article. Chris Liller seconded - all concurred.

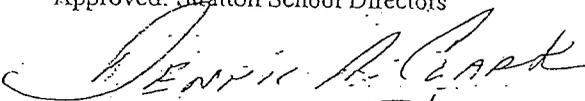
ARTICLE 3: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

No other business to transact. The Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Allan Hicks so moved. Chris Liller seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

Minutes by:


Town Clerk

Approved: Stratton School Directors




STRATTON WINHALL EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

PO BOX 200
BONDVILLE, VERMONT 05340
802-297-9610

January 30, 2004

Dear Residents and Property Owners of Stratton and Winhall:

Now in its fifth year, SWEF has continued to meet its goals of providing for a quality education for our towns' children while maintaining the lowest possible tax rate for all our property owners. Although it is impossible to calculate, your foundation, since its inception, has saved us all in excess of \$24,000,000 in ADDITIONAL property taxes.

As you may be aware, Vermont has significantly changed its educational funding formula, once again. The new methodology, so-called ACT 68, sets up two distinct tax rates: one for non-residents and another for residents. Each group has a different rate formula: the non-residential rate is a flat \$1.59 per \$100 of assessed valuation, while the residential rate is \$1.10 PLUS a penalty surcharge if the school district spends ABOVE the state's block grant. The rate paid by residents will be a direct function of each school district's approved budget. The calculated rate could be less than, equal to, or more than, the rate paid by non-residents. As the rate paid by non-residents is no longer determined by the school district's spending budget, the need for an educational foundation is significantly diminished. As such, your Foundation will no longer be requesting contributions. It is the intention of your Foundation to remain dormant for the next few school years, as the State's funding mechanisms may very well change again, and your Foundation may again be needed. If there are any changes in the law making the Foundation once again a viable option, SWEF will contact you.

SWEF has adequate resources to meet the needs of the students of Stratton and Winhall for the current school year.

Thank you for all your past support.

Stratton Winhall Education Foundation Board of Trustees

The Mountain School

Town report
School Year 2002-03

This is my first opportunity to publicly thank the Board of Trustees and the community for the privilege of serving the students, parents and community of Winhall and Stratton.

Introduction

The Mountain School's fifth year as an independent school was exciting and challenging, with both growth and change. In keeping with our commitment to serve students in grades K-8 for as long as there are sufficient students enrolled in the middle school grades, the Mountain School continued its development and expansion of the middle school program despite decline in both our overall enrollment and our middle school enrollment. Last year's Town report, which bridged the 2001-02 and 2002-03 school years highlighted the staff who joined our program in September, 2002. To that list, which included David Kelley, Kata Welch, Karen Healey, Marilyn Thompson, Joanne Beck and Tatyana Case, The Mountain School added Dr. Brenton Pinkus as a physical education teacher in Spring, 2003. The School also saw a change in leadership at the end of March, 2003, when David Kelley resigned and was replaced by Irene Nadler, a retired elementary principal from New York State. Mrs. Welch and Ms. Case left our staff at the end of the school year and Mr. Grant Healey and Mrs. Lisa Kelly, respectively, have joined our staff to fill those positions.

Programs and Activities

As stated above, this was an exciting and challenging year with many changes. Foremost among them was the curricular advances made this year. The language arts curriculum was revisited and rewritten to ensure that the entire K-8 language arts program's scope and sequence met not only the Vermont standards, but the standards and expectations of the of the Board of Trustees and the professional staff. As part of this curriculum revising and rewriting effort, the K-5 staff attended a nationally-sponsored language arts conference to enhance their knowledge base and understanding and to help them to translate their vision into a program to be delivered at The Mountain School. Additionally, the staff and Head of School examined the Vermont State testing results to determine if our language arts program met both State and local expectations. That examination led to the conclusion that while the State standards were met, the students' results in "Writing Conventions" were not as strong as the school desired and expected of its students. Therefore, the staff has implemented a "Writer's Workshop" model and program for the 2003-04 school year to strengthen both the students' skills and the language arts curriculum in this area.

The staff also worked diligently to successfully complete and implement K-8 curricula in both science and social studies. These curricula include a scope and sequence that not only meets VT State Education Department standards and

local expectations, but facilitate the integration of these subjects with other learning areas of the overall program. This was a monumental effort and exercise and the staff deserves much praise for the successful efforts and results. They have developed programs about which they and the community may be proud. But, more important, programs that effectively prepare our students to meet the academic challenges of high school. As part of this curricular effort, new science laboratory tables, equipment, reference materials and supplies were purchased from budgeted funds.

As part of our efforts to provide the best possible education for our students The Mountain School instituted a comprehensive K-8 study skills program in Spring, 2003. This program goes well beyond traditional methods of how to study for a test. It introduces, teaches, reinforces and requires students' mastery of a wide range of learning skills including, but not limited to, note-taking and effective retrieval of learning from those notes; organizing information for effective learning; successful reading, understanding and remembering of text material as well as methods and skills for teachers to employ to help students with varying learning styles to effectively learn what is being taught.

The Mountain School's physical education program was, until Spring, 2003 an activity included as part of the classroom teacher's duties and instructional program. This obvious deficit in our effort to provide a comprehensive program was erased with the employment of Dr. Brenton Pinkus, a professional soccer player, local Chiropractor and a person with training in fitness and sports training and exercise, as a physical education teacher. The physical education program has become an organized, 2 day per week class organized by grade level and delivered as a curriculum with both instruction and practice of the skills being taught. This program will continue in 2003-04.

Our computer technology program took a quantum leap forward with the donation by Mr. David Hoopes and the Buckley School of Manhattan of 15 used, but very usable, Windows-platform computers. With these computers and the purchase of upgrading software through budgeted funds and grant monies we will implement a comprehensive computer plan for a computer lab with a computer technology teacher to deliver an instructional program integrating important computer skills with the K-8 curricula and instructional program. This lab will be separate from and in addition to, the Mac computers in the library, but will also be networked so that the computers can be joined for whole class or group instructional purposes as well as be accessed from remote locations.

Our library is in the process of being expanded both in volumes available and services provided. The start of the 2003-04 school year will see the completion and implementation of a library automation system. Our enlarged and enhanced collection will be computerized so that an electronic card catalog with easier access and greater sorting power will be available to our students. Additionally, the computerized system will process the circulation data for our library books.

But what is most exciting and important for our students and staff is that this computerized system will give us access to the collections of 14 other area libraries, facilitating inter-library loan capabilities and enhancing our access to research, teaching, text materials and literature not available in our library. This is an exciting prospect and we look forward to its implementation. The employment of a librarian in addition to the outstanding and much appreciated work of Mrs. Maggie Ellis is anticipated and will provide professional library service throughout the week for both-direct instruction and instructional support of the program.

Also planned for the coming year, with budget funds allocated for the purpose, is the employment of a professional school counselor one day per week to provide direct classroom instruction in effective problem-solving and decision-making as well as to provide group counseling for students, individual counseling for students or students and parents and to provide workshops as requested or needed.

Our middle school program will continue to be both expanded and refined in the coming year. The employment of Mr. Grant Healey to work in conjunction and in team partnership with Mrs. Karen Healey is expected to bring our middle school program far forward from its present level of development. Their long professional association and shared experience will help to expand as well as align the middle school program so that it will emerge as a set of integrated learning experiences that are the culmination of our K-8 program as well as the effective introduction to and preparation for entry into a high school program. Additionally, we expect the middle school program to better address the unique social and developmental needs of that age group while helping those students to become leaders and positive role models for our younger learners.

Our Spanish language program continues to develop. We will try to deliver a program that meet the goals of the K-8 program while facing several obstacles -- two most significant are time constraints within the instructional week and the presence of a small number of students per class/grade-level, many of whom have different levels of fluency, skill and exposure to Spanish language instruction as a result of the demographic and in-migration patterns of the student population. Our goal, however, is to eventually deliver a program that prepares each and all of our graduating 8th graders to meet the Spanish level 1 standard and be able to enter Spanish level 2 in the 9th grade.

The Educational Community

Our staff continues to be very professional, conscientious and committed to the success of The Mountain School. Despite the flux created by the change in leadership in the Spring, 2003, the staff continued the initiatives already begun and embraced new ideas put forth by the new Head of School. They continue to be concerned, first and foremost, with meeting the needs of each as well as all of

the students and helping parents to support the teachers' and school's efforts on behalf of their children.

The Parent Council continues to be a fundamental part of the educational community and a tremendous asset to the school. Their input is important; their support as volunteers and helpers as well as financial support is vital. Their efforts and contributions of all kinds are too numerous to mention but are both valued and prized.

The Board of Trustees continues to provide leadership, direction, support and encouragement to our efforts and actions. Their on-going commitment to the vision and the principles of The Mountain School has caused us to become an excellent, successful independent school, in spite of the hardships inherent in our small size and on-going funding issues driven by Act 60 and its successor legislation. I would like to personally thank the Board of Trustees for making the transition from one Head of School to another as easy and smooth as possible. Your support, public and private helped to make a potentially difficult time for the school and community into a smooth and seamless change that continued, uninterrupted, the progress of the school and the program it offers.

Conclusion

The 2003-04 school year will see many changes for and in The Mountain School. New staff and new programs will support and enhance our evolution and progress toward the excellence we desire and require. We are a model of successful independent education and a demonstration that a small school can both survive and thrive. We face, however, many challenges to our continued operation and success. Foremost among them is the education financing uncertainty created by the changes in Act 60 and Act 68. We need the continued support of the community, as well as grants, donations, etc., to continue to provide the quality local education of which we are so proud. Like the movie *Field of Dreams*, I believe that "if we build it, they will come." Building a school of which we are proud, with an excellent educational program that successfully prepares its students to meet the demands of high school, will continue to generate the community's support of our efforts, our program and our existence.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene V. Nadler
Head of School



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. Stratton's current representative is Cecilia Ives with one vacancy. 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 Bellows 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 \$250.00 (minimum assessment) from Stratton 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.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns' mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. Most government services used by Vermonters on a daily basis are those provided by its cities and towns. These include highways, police, fire, recreation, sewer and water. Vermont municipal officials are responsible for raising and expending nearly one-half of the non-federal taxes raised in the state.

In large part, volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials lead these governments. VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns to serve and strengthen the ability of these officials to provide quality services at affordable levels of taxation:

- **Advocacy representation before the State legislature, administration and judiciary, ensuring that municipalities have the resources and authority to serve their citizens.** VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs.
- **Training, technical assistance and publications to strengthen the ability of municipal officials to serve their communities.** In the past year, we have responded to almost 50,000 telephone calls, 21,200 of them from local officials on the toll-free telephone line available to them. Our Municipal Assistance Center and Group Services staffs provided over 750 workshops and small group training sessions attended by over 4,000 municipal officials and answered over 2,300 legal questions posed by municipal officials. VLCT distributed over 575 copies of local government publications and distributed over 3,200 hard copies or electronic mail versions of VLCT's *Weekly Legislative Report* to municipal officials each week during the legislative session.
- **Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost.** These include an array of municipal insurance programs, among many others. Examples of how this saves local taxpayers dollars are the securing of municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to your employees. The value of VLCT PACIF to all our members was made painfully clear last year when the major re-insurer for the largest private sector option available for municipal property and casualty insurance was declared insolvent by the State of Pennsylvania, threatening the payment of claims made under those policies.

All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 140 other municipal entities including villages and fire districts. Membership dues are \$.72 per capita plus a \$250 service fee per year. VLCT maintains its offices in Montpelier and employs 42 staff members. It has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3.0 million.

Individuals interested in finding out more about Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including reviewing its audited financial statements can visit its website at www.vlct.org.

Wardsboro Public Library
P.O. Box 157
170 Main Street
Wardsboro, Vermont 05355

January 20, 2004

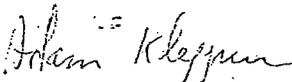
Selectboard
Town of Stratton
P.O. Box 166
West Wardsboro, VT 05360
Dear Selectboard,

Last year the Town of Stratton generously contributed \$1200 to the Wardsboro Library. This money was used for the operating expenses of the library such as the purchase of books, telephone bills, computer expenses and supplies. The Library is grateful for this contribution. I am writing to ask if you will consider making a similar contribution this year.

The Library is now open 20 hours each week and has continued to provide, among other things, an excellent children's program which we encourage parents of young children to use. The Library this year has also subscribed to Vermont-on Line, which is a large collection of data bases which contain all kinds of information. The Library has also enlarged its collections of audio tapes and video cassettes. The Library is a valuable source of entertainment and information and we encourage the residents and taxpayers of Stratton to make use of it.

If you have any questions, please call the Director of the Library, Darcy Perry, at daperry@sover.net, or me at 896-6311, akleppner@surfglobal.net.

Sincerely yours,



Adam Kleppner
Chairman, Library Board



Vermont Center for Independent Living

What is the Vermont Center for Independent Living? VCIL is a nonprofit organization working to eliminate physical, communication and attitudinal barriers that keep Vermonters with disabilities and Deaf Vermonters from realizing their full potential.

What services does VCIL offer? VCIL provides counseling, information and resources that enable people to live independently. The organization works to influence policies on issues ranging from civil rights, accessibility, funding for support services, discrimination, transportation, housing and economic justice.

Who provides these services? Most VCIL employees and board members have disabilities or are Deaf. They know what it's like to have a disability and to be Deaf, and they know what kind of help is needed.

Where is VCIL located? The main VCIL office is in Montpelier. There are satellite offices in Bennington, Brattleboro and Burlington, and field-based services are provided in every county in the state.

What are the programs of VCIL? The cornerstone of VCIL is the Peer Advocacy Counseling Program. The PAC program provides information, support and training in self-advocacy to enable Vermonters with disabilities to achieve their personal goals and acquire skills for living as independently as possible. All counselors have disabilities; some focus on the needs of Deaf Vermonters and others work on a cross-disability basis.

The Home and Community Access Program provides grants for entrance and bathroom modifications.

The Sue Williams Freedom Fund pays for services and equipment to help people live more independent lives. Examples include closed-caption decoders, devices to help with reaching, hearing aids and door openers.

Benefits to Work Counseling helps people with disabilities explore work options available to them.

The Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program—Vermont pays for special equipment and repairs for Deaf and blind Vermonters. Examples include TTYs, telephone amplifiers and ring/flashers, and personal computers.

The Meals on Wheels Program provides hot meals to Vermonters under age 60 with disabilities or chronic conditions.

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
SUMMARY FOR THE TOWN OF ANNUAL REPORT

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) teaches people with significant disabilities how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. We also conduct public education and systems change activities that promote the full inclusion of disabled people into community life.

An estimated one in five Vermonters has a disability. VCIL, a private not-for-profit corporation, is Vermont's first and only cross-disability center for independent living and the first organization in the state to be directed and staffed by a majority of people with diverse disabilities.

Statewide, from October 1, 2002 through September 11, 2003, VCIL responded to 1,974 requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information and referrals on a broad range of subjects related to living with a disability. We provided on-on-one peer counseling to 342 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and life opportunities; provided 405 households with financial and technical assistance for making their bathrooms and entrances accessible to a disabled family member; provided over 340 with personal assistance and/or assistive technology; provided communications equipment to 67 Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired individuals through our Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program; and served home-delivered meals to almost 533 Vermonters through VCIL's Meals On Wheels program for Individuals Under 60 with Disabilities.

VCIL's central office is in downtown Montpelier with three smaller regional offices in Bennington, Brattleboro and Burlington. The Montpelier office houses our resource library and our toll-free information line, which provides answers to disability-related questions from every Vermont community. Our locally-based Peer Advocacy Counselors are available to people with disabilities in every municipality in Vermont.

During FY 2003, VCIL provided direct services to Vermonters, utilizing the following services/programs:

1. Information & Referral
2. Home and Community Access program
3. Meals on Wheels (people with disabilities under the age of 60)
4. Peer Advocacy Counseling
5. Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program
6. Sue Williams Freedom Fund

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VCIL, CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-800-639-1522.

Request
Town of Stratton

For over three decades the Valley Health Council has been providing homemaker services in the West River Valley Towns, allowing our Clients to remain in their own homes or to return home from hospitals or nursing homes. We also provide respite care to relieve a care giver who requires a break from the constant care of a dependent person.

While Homemaker service is our primary service, we also provide free transportation to medical appointments, loan of medical equipment, such as walkers, commodes, wheelchairs etc. We have a Telephone Reassurance program, a monthly Blood Pressure and Toe Nail Trimming Clinic and we provide a van for four monthly shopping trips for citizens of the Valley. Our Thrift Shop, located one mile North of Townshend on Rte 30, provides good clean clothing at very reasonable prices or for free, if necessary. The staff provide information and referrals to our neighbors. We utilize Public Service Announcements and also print our news in the Cottage Door to help cut down on expenses.

We enjoy our clients in your town and look forward to serving them and others in the future. In the course of the past year the homemakers have made 959 visits and worked 2343 hours in the homes. They have traveled 9,215 miles and have spent 192 hours traveling to the clients in the towns we serve. We loaned 168 pieces of medical equipment to 107 people. Our drivers have transported numerous people to medical appointments, many of your neighbors have availed themselves of the free toe nail trimming clinics and many more have gone on the van trips to do their grocery shopping.

We are requesting \$211.00 , which is \$1.55 per capita, for the year 2004. We enjoy serving your community and we do appreciate your assisting us financially, which helps enable us to continue providing these services to your residents.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Elaine Scott
Director

Vermont Department of Health
Annual Report – Town of Stratton 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 Stratton.

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 15 establishments in Stratton, 24 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, 2 women, infants and children living in Stratton 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.

*Providing the information
and assistance necessary
to enable seniors to
achieve a safe, healthy,
rewarding and fulfilling life,
in a setting of their choice*

**Council
on Aging**
for SOUTHEASTERN
Vermont inc.
A UNITED WAY AGENCY

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. (COASEV, Inc.) fosters and supports successful aging of seniors in the Stratton community and throughout Windham and Windsor Counties. COASEV staff, along with seniors and other community members, develop, advocate, coordinate and assure access to services which enhance the quality of their lives in Stratton. To accomplish this mission in Stratton we provide direct services as those listed below, as well as work collaboratively with other organizations in Stratton.

- ◆ **Information and Assistance** – through the Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 – Providing resources, tips, applications for benefits, and assistance with health insurance information.
- ◆ **Senior Nutrition** – Home delivered meals are arranged and congregate meals are available at the Congregational Church in Townshend.
- ◆ **Transportation** – Special arrangements are made for non-Medicaid seniors requiring medical transportation.
- ◆ **Case Management** – Providing one on one case management to those wishing to stay in their community and by managing the Medicaid Waiver program which provides nursinghome like care. With self-neglect referrals we assist the individual to become aware of and access services thus regaining control of their lives. 2 Clients are currently receiving these services at an annual cost of \$1,562.
- ◆ **Advocacy** – Assisting with accessing a wide array of benefits such as VHAP pharmacy, fuel assistance, food stamps, telephone lifeline, tax rebates, and Supplemental Security Income. These services are provided through home visits.
- ◆ **Care Giver Respite** – Through grants we are able to provide respite assistance for caregivers of those diagnosed with dementia and other chronic diseases.
- ◆ **Senior Companion Program** – Providing friendly visiting as well as a stipend employment opportunity for older, limited income workers.
- ◆ **Planning** – for seniors is accomplished by working with legislators, other agencies, and the communities we serve.
- ◆ **Successful Aging Initiatives** – Providing a series of small community grants for groups and organizations to create and expand their programs.

Your town contribution of \$350 generates \$1,983 in Federal matching funds to support all of these activities. Services are provided at no cost but participants are encouraged to make anonymous, voluntary contributions. The support of Stratton citizens as well as that of the hundreds of volunteers and dedicated staff make these services possible.

Submitted by Marie Saunders, Executive Director



George D. Aiken Resource
Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

22 North Main St., Suite 2
Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-9526
Fax (802) 728-5951

*"A non-profit non-partisan network of local people
dedicated to helping communities conserve and develop
their natural and human resources."*



Town Report Information

George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council Report

The George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) has been "making things happen" for towns with natural resource conservation and rural development projects over the past year. We are here to serve your community. We coordinate and facilitate assistance to town governments, school districts, fire departments, watershed groups and nonprofit organizations in the six southern Vermont counties. By bringing together help from our extensive network of resources, we can focus technical and financial resources on your specific needs. We get technical assistance and staff help through the U.S. Department of Agriculture but private sources make up most of our budget. The Council is a self-supporting 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Highlights of our work in the six counties in 2003 include:

- 14 towns received funding to improve water quality and upgrade backroads through our better backroads grants
- Two towns received complete water supply plans identifying all potential useable water sources for fire fighting in the town
- 16 towns received funding and engineering assistance to design and install dry hydrants as a source of water to fight fires
- 6 towns received Jeffords fire safety grants to purchase personal protective gear for firefighters
- Numerous farmers received technical and marketing assistance with agritourism ventures
- 5 Farmers received grants to support agritourism on their farms
- 10 towns received assistance from a consultant to help them prepare for an ISO (Insurance Service Office) evaluation. Towns are given a rating from 1 to 10 by the ISO and many insurance companies use that rating to set their rates. If a town can lower their ISO rating, it may lead to lower insurance costs for businesses and residents in that town
- We continue to serve as the fiscal agent for the White River Partnership and Connecticut River Birding Trail
- Teams of high school students from throughout the area participated in the Vermont Envirothon

Other current projects include helping a town with flooding problems, erosion control and streambank stabilization in several locations, helping to develop community centers and recreation fields. We currently have funding available for low interest loans (3.0 – 5.0%) to develop agritourism ventures on farms. Do you have a project or program that could use some assistance to "make it happen"? Over the years the George D. Aiken RC&D Council has helped many communities and organization on a variety of projects. We work on a request basis, so the first step is up to you, giving us a call. For information and free consultation call Kenneth Hafner our RC&D Coordinator at (802) 728-9526 or email: kenneth.hafner@vt.usda.gov.

Windham Solid Waste Management District FY03 Annual Report

The Windham Solid Waste Management District Staff are pleased to report another successful year of operating the only large municipally owned and operated Material Recycling Facility in Vermont. The Staff also thanks the District residents and businesses for your continued support over the past year.

The rural drop-off recycling program continues to experience increased quantities over the previous year due to the conscientious recycling habits of the residents and area businesses. The District received approximately 7,000 tons of recyclables for the year. The actual expenditure for the Fiscal Year was \$276,885 without the surplus fund subsidy. The District provided the recycling drop-off and processing program, household hazardous waste collection, convenience center, universal waste and computer disposal for a net cost of \$39.55 per ton. This represents a \$367,115 savings if all the recyclables were disposed of as refuse at the local commercial transfer station.

The District did experience problems due to recycling contamination from people putting garbage and other non-recyclable items in the recycling drop-off containers. This resulted in having to close yet another drop-off site this past year along Route 30 in West Dummerston. Everyone's cooperation is needed to help keep these sites clean and used properly for recyclable materials.

The District once again obtained a federal grant to provide educational assistance to residents, businesses and institutions within the District. We provided book and textile recycling throughout the District and continue to accept textiles full time at the District Facility in Brattleboro. The thermometer exchange and hypodermic needle disposal from home use projects have also been highly successful and will continue to be available for District residents. Please call if there are questions about these programs.

The permanent paint drop-off program at the District facility in Brattleboro is also assisting residents by providing the resources to recycle paints year round rather than waiting for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW) day each year. We have eliminated one of the HHW days due to the new paint program but have added a "rover" site that will be located in different towns during the HHW event each year.

As always, the District Convenience Center in Brattleboro is available for use by residents and accepts used crankcase oil, fluorescent tubes, batteries, ballasts and other materials on a daily basis. Call ahead for questions related to costs and a list of items that can be disposed of, or recycled through this program.

Please call the District at 257-0272 with any questions or to arrange a tour of the facility. Everyone is always welcome to view what happens to the recyclables once they arrive at the Materials Recycling Facility for processing.



P.O. Box 933 • Brattleboro, VT 05302 • Telephone: Business 802-257-7364 • Crisis 254-6954

WOMEN'S CRISIS CENTER

Statement of Services

The mission of the Women's Crisis Center is to work to end physical, sexual and emotional violence against the women and children of Windham County. Since our beginnings in 1977, we have provided intervention services to survivors of these crimes, as well as prevention and education services to help create a community in which violence is not tolerated.

Emergency services such as shelter, crisis intervention, emotional support, and information and referral are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Legal and welfare advocacy, individual and group support for both women and children, and referral and cooperative work with other agencies are provided during the week.

During the fiscal year July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003, the Women's Crisis Center responded to over 975 crisis calls. Fifty-three women and their 87 children have been sheltered for a total of 1,231 shelter-days. In addition, many hundreds of hours of individual and group support, advocacy, outreach and childcare have been provided to more than 200 women and 100 children who have been emotionally, physically, and/or sexually abused. The Women's Crisis Center continues to provide education about domestic violence and sexual assault to a wide range of groups in our community. As always, Windham County residents make up a large majority of the women and children who utilize our services.

The Women's Crisis Center is a private, non-profit organization relying heavily on community support to provide our free and confidential services. We thank you for your Town's contribution to the Crisis Center, and hope you will look upon it as an investment in creating the safe and productive future that each of us deserves.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Friedelson
Administrative Coordinator



VISITING NURSE ALLIANCE OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC
Home Care, Hospice and Family Health Services -- Report to the Town of Stratton

The Visiting Nurse Alliance is like the local police and fire departments - a strategic part of the community's safety net - with services that must be continuously available to anyone in need. The need varies dramatically from month to month and year to year. The VNA provides a comprehensive range of care, requisitioned by hospital staff and physicians, for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

We value the continued partnership with the Town of Stratton to help us meet your residents' home care, hospice and family health needs. Town funding accomplishes the following:

- Enables your family, friends and neighbors to remain independent and at home as they receive skilled clinical care during times of injury, recovery from surgery or accidents, disability, whether for short-term and chronic illness. For many such patients, many are addressing multiple medical, emotional and social issues at the same time.
- Provides emotional support plus pain and symptom management during terminal illness. Hospice care extends to family members as well. More and more patients want to be at home during their end of life, and through hospice they have that control.
- Provides community-wellness programs and assistance to young families at risk. Clients range from fathers and/or mothers who want to be more effective parents through learning parenting skills or providing a balanced diet; infants who require hi-tech health care; and children who grow and learn through play groups that offer interaction with other children.

The VNA provided the following services this past year: (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003)

Skilled Nursing	7
Physical Therapy	17
Total Visits	24

On behalf of the people we serve in your community, thank you for your continued confidence.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan H. Larman, BSN, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer

Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT and NH, Inc.
46 S. Main Street, White River Junction, VT 05001

Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad responded to 474 calls in 2003. This is up from 416 calls last year. The locations of these calls are as follows: 1 in Andover, 11 in Jamaica, 7 in Landgrove, 117 in Londonderry, 90 in South Londonderry, 29 in Peru, 15 in Stratton, 48 in Weston, 26 in Windham, 68 in Winhall, and 2 in Manchester. There were 60 calls at the following ski areas: 30 at Bromley, 22 at Stratton Mountain, 7 at Magic Mountain, and 1 at Viking.

Of these calls: 214 were illnesses, 130 injuries, 71 motor vehicle accidents, 11 stand-by calls, 9 canceled or dry runs, 7 transports, and 32 public assists. We responded to 14 mutual aid calls, while 19 calls resulted in other services coming to our aid. Our members started 114 pre-hospital IV's, and we used the Paramedic Intercept service 9 times.

We are excited with the many changes and upgrades that took place in 2003 that will continue into 2004. The State of Vermont has finally passed the advanced life support protocols that we first proposed over four years ago. A 34-hour course this spring will enable our EMT-Intermediates to do many of the procedures that we now call for a Paramedic to do. We are fortunate to have 34 members on our squad with 15 of them being EMT-Intermediates.

We have a new "Road Rescue" ambulance on order that should arrive sometime in February. This ambulance is slightly larger than our current ambulances, mounted on a Ford E450 chassis. With the trade in of our 1994 ambulance, the new ambulance will cost \$106,520. We have been awarded a total of \$66,555 in Homeland Security Grants. This has enabled us to purchase radios, a portable power unit for our extrication unit, air bags, Thermal Imaging Camera, AED's, and medical supplies. We will also be purchasing a bi-phasic heart monitor, generator, portable lights, electric saw, air chisel, impact wrench, and other tools and medical supplies. We received \$2,300 from the Thrifty Attic to purchase a new stair chair. The State of Vt. EMS gave us an Automatic External Defibrillator, which is now located at Mountain Valley Medical Center and will cover Flood Brook School as well.

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad thanks you for your continued generosity and support. New members are desperately needed. If you have the time, desire, and the dedication it takes, please contact one of our members or go to the town of Londonderry's Website for information about joining.

William "Pete" Cobb Jr.
President, LVRS

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year 2003 Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad had expenses totaling \$105,855.27. There were 474 calls at an average expense of \$223.32 per call.

Claudia Harris
Treasurer, LVRS

Vermont Coalition of Municipalities

Annual Report – 2003

The organized effort to substantially reform Act 60 and reduce the reliance on the property tax to fund education is not over. Despite the recent enactment of Act 60 reform, we believe the promise of lower education property taxes will be short term.

We contend that in July of 2004, when this new law goes into effect, the property taxes will be a good deal higher than estimated and will continue to rise rapidly over the next two years. When the rising tax impact is felt, the pressure to reform the statewide property tax system will greatly increase.

In a letter to all legislators in May of 2003, we stated the following reasons for our opposition to the changes in the reform legislation because it still retained many of the onerous features that were a part of Act 60 such as:

- **Over-dependence on the property tax to fund education;**
- **Reliance on a flawed property valuation and equalization system;**
- **Rapidly rising property values, which under the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) system, increase tax rates;**
- **A system based on tax rate instead of tax burden;**
- **Lack of cost controls over rising education costs; and**
- **Tax policy inhibiting economic development and job creation.**

As noted above, there continue to be serious problems with the state system of financing education. **The Coalition intends to continue to be an organized force fighting for property tax relief. In the coming year we also intend to monitor closely the studies on cost containment and grand list issues established by the law.**

We will also work through the legislature and the administration to correct the inequities in the education equalization system and the problems caused in the way property values are determined.



GREEN UP VERMONT

P.O. Box 1191

Montpelier, Vermont 05601-1191

(802)229-4586, or, 1-800-974-3259

greenup@greenupvermont.com

October, 2003

Dear Select Board:

Executive Director
Melinda Vieux

President
F. Sheldon Prentice

Treasurer
Raymond Jennett, CPA

Board Members

- Robert S. Babcock
- Andrea Cohen
- Julia Quinby Cohen
- Robert Davis
- Marc Hall
- Kerrick Johnson
- Donald Knight
- Joe Kowalski
- John LaBarge
- Amy Noyes
- E. Hale Ritchie
- Larry Smith
- Helen Stafford
- Hon. Robert Stafford

Honorary

Board Members

- Hon. Howard Dean
- Hon. Philip Hoff
- Hon. F. Ray Keyser
- Hon. Madeline Kunin
- Hon. Thomas Salmon

Contributions to Green Up Vermont are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Thank you for considering Green Up Vermont's request for your community's funding support. Your contribution will help keep Green Up operating not only for your benefit, but for our entire community of Vermont.

We respectfully ask you to include the appropriate amount from the guide below in your budget for next year. The guide remains the same as in previous years.

For towns under 1,000 population	\$50
For towns over 1,000 and under 2000	\$100
For towns over 1,000 and under 3,000	\$150
For towns over 3,000 and under 4,000	\$200
For towns over 4,000 population	\$300

Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Sincerely,

F. Sheldon Prentice
President

P.S. Let us know if you would like to receive information via email.

Our email address is: greenup@greenupvermont.com and website: www.greenupvermont.com

Information for your Annual Report:

"Green Up Vermont"
Green Up Day, May 1 2004

Thirty-three years strong, "Green Up Day" is a special day when Vermonters clean and spruce up their communities. We were the first state in our nation to designate a day for such cleaning of the entire state. Working together, we can keep our unique Green Up spirit growing for Vermont.

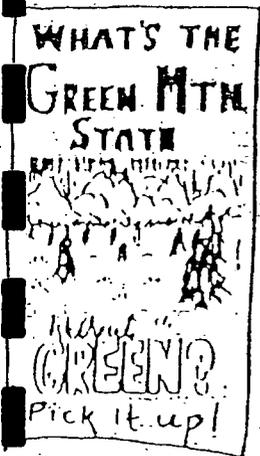
Green Up Vermont is the not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that promotes litter-free communities by supporting Green Up Day, civic pride and education.

Over 13,000 Vermonters participated in Green Up Day 2003, using over 33,000 Green Up bags, collecting over 200 tons of trash, piles of mixed metals and tires. Green Up Vermont arranged widespread promotional support in excess of \$25,000.

The success of Green Up for Vermont depends upon two essential ingredients: One is the combined efforts of individuals and civic groups who volunteer to make it all possible; and two, the financial support given by the public and private sectors throughout Vermont

With your town's help, we can continue our unique annual Vermont tradition of, taking care of our beautiful landscape and promoting civic pride so our children grow up with Green Up.

Careful use of resources minimizes Green Up's costs. The State appropriates funds that cover about 15 percent of our budget. The rest comes from gifts from towns, individuals and businesses. These funds pay for supplies, promotion and services of two part-time employees. We ask your community to contribute, according to population, to keep Green Up growing for Vermont.





State of Vermont
Windham County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 266 (Route 30) Newfane 05345
Tel: (802) 365-4942
Sheila Prue, Sheriff

As my first year of sheriff comes to an end, I have found the position to be extremely exhilarating, and also have found that there is not enough hours in a day to accomplish all that I had set out to do. I have worked to improve on the community policing done by the deputies in the field, this was done through additional training, restructuring the supervision, and constant monitoring. Although I feel that we have made some improvements there is still work to be done. We have also felt the impact of budget cuts and have continued to provide timely professional service by rearranging schedules to better cover peak times. We have obtained six additional fulltime positions through the federal cops grant which we are investigating the best way to utilize. The towns have been supported by two highway safety grants over the year one for seatbelt enforcement and the other for Driving while intoxicated. The Department was also just awarded a speed grant from the governors highway safety. The last two grants are new to the department this year.

The struggle is the budget cuts we have received impact us in maintaining Deputies so that they can be available when needed. We are working to gather the towns together so that a plan could be implemented which would meet the needs of all, at the lowest cost to the taxpayers. This will take some time however, arrest seem to be going up, as evident by the paperwork submitted by the deputies going to court. We are looking for whatever assistance towns can provide to increase the funding which would allow for increased visibility in the town in order to prevent crimes.

Additionally, as we all know the cost of Insurance, gasoline, vehicles, etc. continues to go up. Also in 2004 the county is no longer funding the dispatchers for the sheriff's department.


Sheila Prue, Sheriff

WINDHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
STRATTON ANNUAL STATISTICS

Criminal Incidents

Vandalism	2
Trespass	2
Burglary	1
Domestic	2
Drugs	2
Assault	1

Non-Criminal Incidents

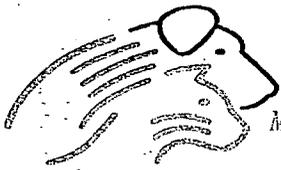
Suspicious Activity	6
Other	3
MV Accidents	5
Animal Problems	1
Phone Problem	1

Public Assist

Assist	5
911 Hang up call	6
Vin Verification	2
Missing Person	1
Property Check	1
Alarms	11
Obstruction in Roadway	1
Open door / window	1

Traffic Statistics

Speed	8
Failure to Yield	2
No Registration	3
No Insurance	4
Minor in Poss. / alcohol	6
No License	5
Fict. Or Altered License or Registration	1
Limitations on backing	1



Make a friend
for life.

WINDHAM COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

PO Box 397, 916 West River Rd.,
Brattleboro, VT 05302
Phone: (802)254-2232
Fax: (802)254-3680
www.wchs4pets.org

Town of Stratton

In the past year, the Windham County Humane Society has served approximately 8 residents of the town of Stratton.

Animal Intake-2

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Assistance-4

Low-Cost Rabies Clinic-0

Petfood Assistance Program-2

Cruelty Call Responses-0

I have also invited the elementary school in Stratton to participate in our Humane Education Program. This program promotes responsible pet care and teaches dog bite prevention to K-6th grade students.

We would be willing to conduct a low-cost rabies clinic in Stratton in 2004.

We also have a pet food assistance program that residents from Stratton are encouraged to utilize. People on public assistance or with a fixed income can apply for petfood assistance at our Route 30 location in Brattleboro.

Residents of Stratton are encouraged to participate in our behavior counseling program. We give advice on any pet behavioral problems regardless of whether the pet was adopted from WCHS.

Morningside Shelter offers three programs Emergency Shelter, Service Enriched Housing and Outreach.

Morningside Shelters mission is to provide temporary shelter, service enriched housing, outreach services to prevent homelessness and other related services at no or nominal cost to families and individuals who, because of family breakup, loss of employment, eviction, mental illness, substance abuse or other personal crisis, are without housing.

The shelter offers safe, clean, supportive temporary housing to the homeless, an emergency food shelf, advocacy, assistance with finding employment and housing.

The Service Enriched Program (SEH) provides safe, clean and affordable long - term housing and supports (30-36 mo.) to individuals and families leaving the shelter who are committed to making positive changes in their lives. Clients and advocate meet once weekly or more if needed in their homes to discuss progress and address important issues and concerns.

Outreach services provide short - term support to make the transition from Morningside to the community. Outreach services are target to individuals leaving the shelter and intervention services to those living in the community who have been identified as at risk of becoming homeless.



P.O. Box 1, 74 Grafton Road, Townshend, Vermont 05353

December 2, 2003

Town of Stratton
9 West Jamaica Road
Stratton, VT 05360

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

We hope that you will consider adding the following warnings in the 2003 Annual Report for the Town of Stratton:

"To see if the Town of Stratton will vote to raise \$5,000 by taxation for Grace Cottage Foundation, which supports the services of the Otis Health Care Center, including Grace Cottage Hospital and Emergency Services, Grace Cottage Family Health Services, Grace Cottage Adult Day Services, Heins Home Community Care Home, and the Bock EMS Training Center."

All of these services above are available for the residents, second homeowners, and visitors to Stratton. The Otis Health Care Center, of which Grace Cottage Hospital is a part, is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation which depends on the generosity of supporters to keep it going, especially in view of continuing cutbacks in Medicare/Medicaid and insurance reimbursements. Grace Cottage Foundation is a subsidiary of the Otis Health Care Center, and also a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation which provides financial support for the hospital by building an endowment and raising contributions for the hospital to offset operating losses and to purchase new medical equipment, as needed.

Any and all Stratton residents and second homeowners are encouraged to visit Grace Cottage at any time to see, firsthand, what services we offer. Lunch in our employee dining room, followed by a tour, is always an option – please call Grace Cottage Foundation to make these arrangements if this is something that would interest any of you, in a group or individually. After all, our door is *always* open, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Sincerely,

Andrea Seaton
Executive Director

For Town Reports

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

The phrase "*CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE*", captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality public land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. Some of the highlights of this past year's programs include:

We are feverishly trying to finish the Green Mountain National Forest *Land and Resource Management Plan* (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan is an extremely important document, and directs how we will manage the Green Mountain National Forest (Forest), including what types and amounts of goods and services will be provided. Here is a listing of the meetings we held:

- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on Notice of Intent comments and Desired Future conditions, January and February, 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on draft goals, March 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on recreation and lands acquisition, April 2003;
- Species Viability Evaluation Panels for plants and animals, April-August 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on newly acquired lands (9.2 lands), May 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on Class I and II roads, June 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on trails, July 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on biodiversity and ecosystem management, August 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on Wilderness, September 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on vegetation and timber management, October 2003; and

We are now holding public planning group meetings on the final details of the plan, (setting up the zoning or management areas, setting goals and objectives, etc.). I cannot encourage you enough to become involved in this effort! Watch the newspaper for upcoming meetings or contact the Forest to get on the mailing list. Your opinion is important, and we want to hear from you!

In the field, our wildlife program continues to focus on federally listed threatened and endangered species. Working with State (Vermont and New York) and Federal agencies, we continue to monitor the Indiana bat populations in Vermont. We also continued Canada lynx surveys using hair snares for a fourth year. As in the past, no lynx were detected. Surveys for both species are likely to take place in 2004. The Forest continued its apple tree release program on the Manchester District using both Forest staff and volunteers to complete approximately 15 acres of release work.

In fisheries management, we continue to work with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and southern watershed groups on a variety of inventory and habitat surveys of the Batten Kill, as well as riverbank restoration projects.

In vegetation management, we have four timber sale projects on the entire Forest. Timber stand improvement happened on 112 acres and site preparation for natural regeneration on 94 acres. Environmental Analysis continued for the Greendale Project in Weston, and the Nordic Project in Winhall, Peru and Landgrove.

In recreation management, construction was completed on the Hapgood Pond dam. The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps rebuilt trails and bridges in several areas. Numerous volunteer groups, including VAST and the Green Mountain Club, as well as campground hosts and other individuals donated of their time and energy to improving recreation opportunities on the Forest.

The Forest grew by 2,844 acres through the acquisition of 4 parcels of land, and is now approximately 387,000 acres. The largest parcel was 2,720 acres in the Town of Wardsboro. Smaller parcels were acquired in Woodford, Warren, and Rochester.

U.S. Forest Service personnel were on site of the Challenger spacecraft disintegration in February. They helped NASA find pieces in a small area of Texas and were instrumental in finding several pieces that became part of the overall puzzle of that incident. We also sent out 15 interagency crews (20 people crews) to help in fighting wildfire in the west.

We wish to thank our many partners and cooperators who have helped us make 2004 a very successful year! We look forward to serving you in the new year, and in working closely with you on the stewardship of YOUR Green Mountain National Forest.

NOTICE!

THE
FOREST FIRE WARDEN
OF THIS TOWN IS
ROGER SCHULTZ

Telephone 896-9792

IF YOU SEE A FOREST FIRE
YOU CANNOT PUT OUT
report it to the FOREST FIRE WARDEN
AT ONCE

DELAYS MEAN TROUBLE
and COST MONEY.

Vermont Forest Service

TOWN OF STRATTON

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER: 896-6184
896-6185
FAX: 896-6630

TOWN OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9:00AM – 3:00PM

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: 896-6224

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board of Selectmen: 2nd & 4th Monday of the month – 7:30 PM

Planning Commission: 1st Wednesday of the month – 7:00 PM

School Board: 1st Thursday of the month – 6:00 PM

Recreation Committee: 3rd Sunday of the month – 9:00 AM
(Meetings held at Recreation Area in summer / Town Office in winter)

Volunteer Fire Co.: 2nd Wednesday of the month – 7:00 PM
(Meetings held at Fire House)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Town Garage Refuse/Recycling Hours: Sat., Sun. and Wed. 9AM – 5PM

Recreation Area Hours: Lights on Fri., Sat., Sun and Holidays to 10:00 PM

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE AND RESCUE: 911

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: 802-365-4949 (emergency only)
WINHALL POLICE (802) 297-2121 (emergency only)

STATE POLICE: 802-874-4025 (emergency only)

Please bring this book to Town Meeting with you.