

Fiscal Year **2003**
Annual Report
Sandgate, Vermont

Town & School District



FIRE WARNING

A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FROM THE FIRE WARDEN FOR ANY OUTDOOR BURNING EXCEPT WHEN THERE IS SNOW ON THE GROUND AT THE SCENE OF THE FIRE.

Burning can be done without a permit in any incinerator approved by your Warden. Approval to be given for a steel drum burning barrel with ¼ or ½ inch wire mesh cover placed in the center of a cleared space at least 12 feet in diameter.

During such time as the government forbids outdoor fires do not use your incinerator.

For brush and forest fires burning out of control or threatening buildings call 911.

FOR TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN CALL:

Lynn D. Fielding -- 375-2211

EMERGENCY (Police, Fire, Ambulance: 911)

911 is for emergencies only. For other calls please dial:

Police 442-5421

Fire 375-2323

Ambulance 375-6589

**PLEASE HELP US TO AVOID FIRES
REPORT ANY UNATTENDED FIRES
NO SMOKING DURING TOWN MEETING**

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ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR

Richard Dahm..... 2004

TOWN CLERK

Ann Wuerslin..... 2004

TREASURER

Valerie dePeyster..... 2006

SELECTMEN

James Link,(resigned as of 3/2/04)..... 2006

Charles Bentley, Jr..... 2004

Roy Gattlin..... 2005

Kathy Wagner..... 2004

Richard Zoppel..... 2004

STATE OFFICER AND CONSTABLE

Richard Dahm..... 2004

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

Ann Wuerslin..... 2004

AUDITORS

Sonja Jaffee..... 2006

Claire Merrett..... 2005

Phoebe Sheres..... 2004

LISTERS

Jeanne Zoppel,CHAIR 2005

Jane Gattlin..... 2006

Julian Sheres..... 2004

TOWN AGENT

Jean Eisenhart..... 2004

TOWN GRAND JUROR

Jean Eisenhart..... 2004

CEMETERY COMM.

Sonja Jaffee..... 2006

Roy Gattlin..... 2004

Julie Robertson..... 2005

JUSTICES OF PEACE

Richard Dahm..... 2005

Julie Robertson..... 2005

Joyce Trachte..... 2005

Nancy Tschorn..... 2005

Ann Wuerslin..... 2005

SCHOOL MODERATOR

Richard Dahm..... 2004

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Allan Tschorn(Chair)..... 2004

Cheri Weber..... 2006

Jeanne Zoppel..... 2005

APPOINTED OFFICERS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Jean Eisenhart, CHAIR.....	2006
Sonja Jaffee.....	2005
Phoebe Sheres.....	2004
Karl Stuecklen.....	2005
Harry Rich.....	2006

PLANNING COMMISSION/ZONING BOARD

Jean Eisenhart.....	2006
Suzanne dePeyster.....	2006
Judith Tudor.....	2005
Brad Kessler.....	2004
Harry Rich.....	2004

911 COORDINATOR

Julian Sheres.....	2006
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ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

William Jakubowski.....	Hired
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HEALTH/SEWAGE OFFICER

William Jakubowski.....	Hired
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POUND KEEPER

Suzanne dePeyster.....	2004
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BCRC REPRESENTATIVES

Julian Sheres.....	2006
Suzanne dePeyster.....	2006

INSPECTORS OF WOOD,LUMBER ET AL

Roy Gattlin.....	2004
William Haggerty.....	2004

GREEN-UP DAY COORDINATORS

Jean Eisenhart.....	2004
Suzanne dePeyster.....	2004

FENCE VIEWER

Suzanne dePeyster.....	2004
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TREE WARDEN

Ed Pike.....	2004
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SIGN CONTROL

Selectmen.....	2004
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TOWN SERVICE OFFICER

Julie Robertson.....	2004
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EMERGENCY FUEL COORDINATOR

Julie Robertson.....	2004
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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Richard Dahm.....	2004
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FIRE WARDEN

Lynn Fielding.....	2006
Jim Gunn.....	2003

LOTHAR WUERSLIN SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Jean Eisenhart, Donald Brown, Jeanne Zoppel, Karl Stuecklen and Ann Wuerslin

**ABSTRACT OF MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
March 4, 2003**

ARTICLE 1. "To vote the following Town Officers: (by Australian Ballot),"
Town Moderator- 1 year- Richard Dahm - 58
Selectman - 3 years-James Link - 53
Selectman - 1 year, Charles Bentley, Jr. - 59
Selectman - 1 year, Richard Zoppel - 56
Town Constable - 1 year, Richard Dahm - 56
Delinquent Tax Collector - 1 year - Ann Wuerslin-56
Auditor, 3 years - Sonja Jaffee - 59
Lister - 3 years - Jane Gattlin - 60
Town Agent - 1 year-Jean Eisenhart - 59
Town Grand Juror - Jean Eisenhart - 59
Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years - Sonja Jaffee - 59
Treasurer - 3 years - Valerie DePeyster - 55

ARTICLE 2. "Shall the town adopt the 2003 revised Sandgate Subdivision Regulations?"
YES-40 NO-14 SPOILED-9

ARTICLE 3. "To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers. To see if the town will accept the Town reports as printed for the year ending June 30, 2002."

No written Constable report was given to the Auditors, so Mr. Dahm gave his report orally. Ms. Christiansen asked about outside auditors auditing town books. Mr. Link said he had the report in hand, and it cost the town \$7,000.

Chairman Link told voters the dog ordinance had been revised, and that all dogs must be either under the owner's control and responsive to verbal commands or leashed at all times.

No Cemetery report was given to Auditors this year, so Julie Robertson gave her report orally. She said that in the future all burial and cremation lots will be designated the same dimension and cost \$150. While only one person can be buried in a burial lot, four can go into a cremation lot.

Ms. Jaffee called the question and Article 3 passed without opposition.

ARTICLE 4. "To vote the salaries to be paid Town Clerk, Treasurer, Chairman of the Selectboard, Road Liaison and Constable."

Ms. Christiansen asked about the increase in the Selectboard Chair's salary. Ms. Jaffee said there was more complexity to all town jobs now. Ms. Wuerslin suggested the pay for the Chair be looked at on a yearly basis instead of waiting until the salary is out of line with the work done.

Ms. Jaffee called the question. Article 4 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 5. "Shall current property taxes be paid to the Assistant Treasurer on or before October 1, 2003?"

Mr. Link moved the question. Ms. Robertson seconded. Article 5 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 6. "Shall line item balances, specifically for the following accounts: Record Restoration, Legal and Professional, Highway Fund Materials and Hauling (both summer and winter), Pavement Maintenance and Bridge/Culvert Program be carried over in the individual accounts into this following year?"

After some discussion Ms. Eisenhart called the question and Article 6 passed without opposition.

ARTICLE 7. "Shall the Town authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow such sum or sums of money to meet its necessary expenditures prior to the collection of taxes?"

Ms. Christiansen moved the question with second by Mr. Gunn. Article 7 passed without opposition.

ARTICLE 8. "Shall the Town approve the following petitioned article: 'Be it resolved that the citizens of the Town of Sandgate urgently call upon our municipal leaders, state legislatures, governor, and Congressional delegation to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically, we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont homes, businesses, public buildings, and transportation systems, and to encourage expansion of the renewable energy industry in the state of Vermont.'?"

Ms. Merritt spoke to the petition, saying she was responsible for it being on the ballot. A discussion ensued re wind power. Mr. Link called the question, with second by Ms. Eisenhart. Article 8 passed without opposition.

ARTICLE 9. "Shall the Town appropriate \$500 for the 6 Bank Street Shelter for Families in Transition?"

Ms. Skidmore, Director of the Bank Street Shelter, addressed voters. Mr. Christiansen moved the question, with second by Ms. Sheres. Article 9 passed.

ARTICLE 10. "Shall the Town appropriate \$85,714 to defray the general expenses of the Town; and if so voted, authorize the Selectmen to set the tax rate based on the final Grand List?"

Ms. Eisenhart asked why there was no amount in the budget for the Lothar Wueslin Scholarship Fund. After general discussion, Mr. Zoppel made a motion to amend the budget and reinstate the \$350 usually voted by the town into the account. Mr. Christiansen seconded the motion, which passed.

Ms. Christiansen questioned having \$1,000 in the mileage account. She moved to amend the account from \$1,000 to \$500. Mr. Christiansen seconded the motion, which passed.

Mr. Link made the motion to amend the County Tax from \$3,700 to actual figure of \$3,607. Ms. Christiansen seconded the motion, which passed.

Mr. Link made a motion to amend the amount for Fire Protection from \$10,637 to the actual figure of \$10,994. Ms. Christiansen seconded the motion, which passed.

After general discussion about surplus money to lower taxes, Mr. Christiansen called the amended article, with second by Ms. Eisenhart. There is an increase of \$1,207 in costs and a decrease of \$593. So the budget is increased by \$614 to \$86,328 from the original proposal. Amended Article 10 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 11. "Shall the Town appropriate \$194,071 to defray the Highway Expenses of the Town; and if so voted, authorize the Selectmen to set the tax rate based on the final Grand List?"

Ms. Christiansen moved the article, with second by Mr. Christiansen. Article 11 passed without opposition.

ARTICLE 12. "Shall the Town re-appropriate \$20,000 of surplus funds to be used for the School House Renovation Project?"

Ms. Wagner said the money is needed to begin work on the foundation of the School House. Mr. Link moved the question, with second by Ms. Chirstiansen. Article 12 passed without opposition.

ARTICLE 13. "Shall the Town stipulate that the Lothar Wuerslin Scholarship Fund award scholarships only to high school and college students to further their education in the arts?"

After much discussion about restricting the scholarship, Ms. Eisenhart described the appointment of the Scholarship Committee, saying she wondered why the Selectmen were not willing to let the board do its work without interference. Mr. Zoppel and Ms. Wagner, both Selectmen, said they saw the situation differently now and were reversing themselves on the issue. Mr. Christiansen moved the question, with second by Ms. Rich. FOR-6; AGAINST-24.

ARTICLE 14. "To transact any other business proper to be brought before said meeting."

Mr. Christiansen brought up the issue of surplus money, but the issue did not go anywhere.

ARTICLE 16. "Adjourn."

As there was no further business. Ms. DePeyster made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Trachte seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Ann Wuerslin, Town Clerk
Richard Dahm, Moderator
James Link, Selectboard Chair

Dated at Sandgate, VT, this 5th day of March, 2003.

ABSTRACT SANDGATE SCHOOL MEETING

March 4, 2003

The annual Sandgate Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 4th, 2003, at the Sandgate Town Hall. Moderator Richard Dahm opened the meeting at 10:00 A.M., announcing the polls would be open for voting from 10:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. to vote by Australian ballot on Article 1 of the Town Warning, for Town Officers, and on Article 8 of the School Warning, for School District Officers. Forty voters were in attendance. The Moderator announced that the School meeting would be first on the agenda this year.

ARTICLE 8. "To elect town School District Officers for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot."

School Moderator – Richard Dahm – 58

School Director – Cheri Weber – 54

ARTICLE 1. "To hear and act on the report of the School District officers."

Ms. Jones addressed changes in the budget this year. She noted there are fewer students. With fewer students less money is kept in the district. She said that the cost for special education is down by \$19,562. \$25,000 of surplus funds are being applied to the budget this year, thus lowering taxes. However, even with fewer students and applying surplus funds to the budget, the rate for the school portion of the total town budget will increase.

Ms. Christiansen asked what the state uses to decide the amount of local share taxes. Ms. Zoppel spoke to the issue of sales in town. One of two sales out of line with appraised values in the town affect the Common Level of Appraisal, which then affects the Coefficient of Dispersion. All towns are supposed to be appraised at 100% of value, but fluctuate above and below that percentage. Sandgate is now at a Coefficient of dispersion of 12.97%. The percentage is the difference between the listed value of a property and the amount a willing buyer will pay for the property. Because the Common Level of Appraisal is now at 93.8%, the town will be paying more money to the State for Act 60.

Asked "why have a surplus account," Ms. Jones said that one Special Ed student moving to town could wipe out the current balance of \$75,000. Mr. Tschorn also discussed the reason for maintaining the fund.

Mr. Christiansen moved the question with second by Ms. Jaffee. The report of the Sandgate School District passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2. "To see if the Sandgate School District will vote the sum of \$6,000 into the existing reserve fund for replacement of the school bus when necessary.

Ms. Christiansen asked how many more years the Board expected the school bus to last. Mr. Tschorn said four years. Mr. Christiansen asked why the town doesn't just put \$3,000 into the fund each year instead of \$6,000. Mr. Tschorn said that the town needs to save enough to totally cover the cost of a new bus by the time one is needed, and the fund is still \$10,000 short of that figure.

Ms. Christiansen moved the question, which passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3. "To see if the Sandgate School District will vote to place any unanticipated surplus from the 2002-2003 fiscal year into the existing Reserve Fund for tuition and special education purposes."

Mr. Christiansen moved the question, which passed.

ARTICLE 4. "To vote the sum of \$529,557 necessary for the support of the School District for the fiscal year July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004."

Mr. Christiansen moved the question, which passed without opposition.

ARTICLE 5. "To authorize the School Board to borrow money by issue of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year."

The question was moved by Ms. Rathbun-Gunn and passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 6. "Shall the voters of the Sandgate School District vote to establish the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District as described in the Governance Planning Committee Report dated and approved by the State Board of Education on October 16, 2002?"

Ms. Rathbun-Gunn said the Career Development Center wants to be a separate school. Mr. Tschorn added that this would streamline the administrative system. Ms. Christiansen wanted to know if they would have their own budget, and was told they would. Ms. Jones said that the town could have to pay towards the center's upkeep even if it had no students in the programs. Ms. Rathbun-Gunn moved the question, with second by Mr. Tschorn. Article 6 passed without opposition.

As there was no further business, Mr. Christiansen made the motion to adjourn the Annual Town School District Meeting for 2003. Second was made by Ms. Christiansen. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned by 11:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ann B. Wuerslin, Town Clerk
Richard Dahm, Moderator
Alan Tschorn, School Director
March 5, 2003**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 15TH, 2003
SANDGATE VERMONT**

The meeting was called to order by Richard Dahm, Town Moderator, at 7 p.m. Thirty-four people were in attendance. He informed voters the articles could be discussed from the floor.

ARTICLE 1. "Shall the Town vote to change the business portion of the Annual Town Meeting from the first Tuesday in March to the preceding Monday at 7:00 P. M.?"

Ms. LaCross described the reason she had originated the petition. She said that people who worked could no longer participate in Town Meeting during the day.

Mr. Wuerslin asked if the School portion of town meeting would also be held on Monday night?

Mr. Dahm told voters that the annual Town meeting was different from the school meeting. Ms. Christiansen agreed, saying they are two separate meetings. She said changing the meeting date had been tried before but had not worked. However, she thought it should be tried again to see if more people would participate. She did believe that if both Town and School meetings were held on a Monday night the meeting might be very long.

As the article is presented, voting on officers by Australian ballot, and the School meeting will still be held on the first Tuesday in March. After some discussion, Mr. Christiansen moved the question, seconded by Ms. Jaffee. Article 1 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2. "Shall the Town vote to transfer remaining FEMA funds of \$27,000 from the Highway Budget surplus to the Bridge and Culvert Fund?"

Susan dePeyster moved the question with second by Ms. Christiansen. Mr. Link said a mistake had been made in the amount of the FEMA surplus. He made a motion to amend the article to read "...FEMA funds of \$9,100..."

Ms. Jaffee seconded the motion, saying that since the money was given for road repairs it made sense to apply FEMA funds where they were intended.

Mr. Christiansen called the amendment with second by Jeanne Zopple. The amendment passed unanimously.

Valerie dePeyster called the amended article with second by Mark Christiansen. The amended article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3. "Shall the Town vote to transfer \$62,763 from the Highway surplus to the Equipment Fund?"

Ms. Christiansen moved the article with second by Ms. Sheres.

Mr. Wuerslin wanted to know if putting only \$20,000 into the Equipment fund was enough to meet the town's needs? He suggested it might be a good thing to put more money into the fund.

Ms. Christiansen wanted to know how much money is currently in the Equipment fund? Cindy Pike, the Assistant Treasurer, told voters that the fund would total \$59,000.

Mr. Link, Chairman of the Selectboard, said a town truck is currently on order.

Mr. Fierravanti wanted to know why buying a truck was being discussed at this time? Why hadn't the Board included it in the March budget?

Mr. Link said the Board had thought to keep the truck another year, but decided it would be wise to go for a new one now.

Mr. Dahm wanted to know if the Board was allocating all of the surplus.

Mr. Link said no.

Ms. Pike said the outside auditors found a surplus of \$296,000, and recommended the Board filter the surplus down over 2-3 years.

Mr. Wuerslin explained that instead of giving one huge reduction in taxes for one year, the Board planned to give the money back in stages, over a number of years.

Ms. Christiansen moved the question with second by Mr. Wuerslin. Article passed.

ARTICLE 4. "Shall the town vote to transfer \$62,763 from the Highway surplus to a Tax Stabilization/Emergency Fund?"

Ms. Christiansen moved the question with second by Valerie dePeyster.

Mr. Link explained that the fund was suggested by the Auditors to stabilize the tax rate each year.

Ms. Christiansen noted that by Vermont Statute, the funds should be restricted to be used as designated.

Mr. Link made a motion to amend Article 4 to read...."transfer \$80,663 from the Highway surplus to the Tax Stabilization/Emergency Fund". He said the money cut out of Article 2 is to be added to Article 4.

Ms. Christiansen explained that surpluses build up from interest earned on money in the bank, plus for a number of years delinquent taxes stood at about \$60,000 which had been collected.

Ms. Wuerslin told voters that the Selectmen can look at balances left at the end of the fiscal year, and adjust accounts with balances, lowering amounts projected when they did the new budget for the upcoming year.

Ms. Christiansen moved the amendment, with second by Ms. Jaffee

Motion to amend the article passed with 3 nays.

Ms. Christiansen moved the article with second by Ms. Gun. Article 4 passed with 2 nays.

ARTICLE 5. "Shall the Town vote to reduce taxes by using \$42,212 from the General Fund Surplus?"

Ms. Christiansen moved the question with second by Mr. Christiansen.

Mr. Gillette made a motion to combine monies in Article 5 and 6. Second was by Ms. Gunn. The amendment would

read.....reduce taxes by using \$90,634 from the General Fund Surplus....”

Mr. Zoppel said he believed the balance of the General Fund in Article 5 should be put into the Stabilization fund. The \$42,212 would keep the tax rate level this year.

After general discussion, Valerie dePeyster moved the amendment with second by Fierravanti. Amendment defeated 15 against, 11 for the amendment.

Ms. Zoppel moved the Article as written, with second by Mr. Christiansen. Article passed.

ARTICLE 6. “Shall the Town vote to transfer \$48,422 from the General Fund surplus to a Tax Stabilization/Emergency Fund?”

Ms. Zoppel moved the question with second by Ms. Sheres.

Mr. Wuerslin wanted to know if there was any surplus left, or had we accounted for all of it?

Mr. Link said there was money left. Ms. Christiansen said that that money was needed to run the town for the three month of budget time before taxes came into the town.

Ms. Zoppel wanted to know if the people could vote money out of the fund as some future date.

Mr. Link said they could. Mr. Zoppel said that the auditor had suggested the town carry some surplus at all times.

Mr. Christiansen called the question with second by Ms. Zoppel. Article 6 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 7. “To transact any other business proper to be brought before said meeting.”

Ms. Zoppel said people could vote on the school meeting in the fall; the subject was moot at this time.

Mr. Gillette made a motion to have the town engage in an annual audit of its books. Mr. Fierravanti seconded the motion.

Ms. Jaffee called the motion which reads, "Shall we the body instruct the Selectmen to investigate having an annual audit?" Ms. Sheres seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 8. "Adjourn."

As there was no further business, Mr. Christiansen made the motion to adjourn the meeting with second by Mr. Markey. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

**Ann B. Wuerslin, Town Clerk
Richard Dahm, Moderator
James Link, Chair Selectboard**

**TOWN OF SANDGATE
2003-2004 COMPENSATION SCHEDULE**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Compensation Rate</u>
Auditors	\$7.00/hour
Board of Civil Authority	\$7.00/hour
Chair of Selectboard	\$2,400 voted
Constable	\$800 voted
Health Officer.....	\$600 voted
Listers	\$7.00/hour
Minute Taker	\$7.00/hour
Road Foreman and Worker.....	\$71,040/yr voted
Road Liaison	\$600 voted
School Bus Driver Salary	\$12,975 voted
School Bus Driver Substitute Salary	\$345 voted
School Directors	\$2,300/yr voted
Selectmen (set by auditors)	\$12.00/meeting
Town Clerk	\$6,695 voted
Town Treasurer	\$8,131 voted
Zoning Administrator.....	\$1,000 voted
Additional Laborers (Highway)	As contracted with Selectboard
Additional Machine Workers	As contracted with Selectboard
Mileage for Town Business	\$.345 per mile

I hereby certify the Sandgate Selectboard approved the above compensation schedule during their meeting of March 19th, 2003.

Ann B. Wuerslin
Town Clerk

TOWN CLERK'S COMMENTS 2003

Ann B. Wuerslin

SPECIAL NOTICE: At the special town meeting held May 15th, 2003 it was voted to hold the business portion of the annual town meeting on Monday, March 1st, 2004 at 7 p.m. Voting on officers by Australian ballot and the School Meeting will still be held on Tuesday, March 2nd, beginning at 10 a.m. Polls will be open on the 2nd from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

This year we will be voting in the Preferential Presidential Primary at our March Town Meeting. We will also have the Primary Election in September and the General Election in November.

In 2003, using money voted for this purpose, we sent out two volumes of land records to be restored. We ask that any balance in the account for restorative projects be carried over this upcoming year, instead of being automatically dumped into the general fund.

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of Edward Mitchell, Adair Brown, and Dominick Cerretani this past year. However, with joy we welcomed a new member to our community: Ronan Cray Wuerslin, son of Kitt Hazelton and Hasso Wuerslin..

Please remember to license your dogs prior to April 1st to a void paying a penalty. Be sure their rabies shots are up-to-date. Please note that owners of any dogs picked up for running will be subject to a \$35 fine. Also according to State law, (20.3550) any person failing to license their dog or wolf hybrid will be subject to a fine of up to \$500.

20 new voters were added to the checklist this year. See the special report for the names of new full-time residents, and welcome them. As of 12/23/2003 we had 238 voters on the checklist. However, we saw many of our old friends leave town.

It has been good working with you this year, and if there is any way I can be of service to you, please don't hesitate to call me either at the office: 375-9075 or at home: 375-2298, and I will do what I can to accommodate you needs..

Ann B. Wuerslin, Sandgate Town Clerk

2003 CHANGES TO THE VOTER CHECKLIST

Voters removed

Adams, John
Brown, Adair
Buccolo, Jennifer
Buccolo, Roger
Cerretani, Dominick
Dahm, Rena
Derosier, Norman
Downey, Jennifer
Downey, Timothy
Gambell, Gene
Gillette, Barbara
Gillette, Ralph
Leavey, Norma
O'Brian, Danford
O'Brian, Deborah
Rich, Lucille
Rich, Walter
Ross, Dale

Voters put on

Alford, Debra
Barrieau, Roberta
Berg, Jessica
Bourgeois, Cinthia
Bourgeois, Thomas
Brown, William
Carrano, Laurie
Carrano, Terri
Chizick, Jarett
Fitzgerald, David
Jones, Julee
Marcisz, Daija
Mayer, Patricia
Mayer, Jr. William
Michaels, Julia
Michaels, Thomas
Monahan, Mary
Monahan, Philip
Price, Anne
Roderick, Marlene
Ruocco, Jesse
Stroope, Amy
Wagner, Rosemary

ANIMAL LICENSES

Ann Wuerslin, Town Clerk

Dogs registered January 1 – December 31, 2003:

Unspayed/unneutered animals	13 @ \$10.00		\$130.00
Spayed/ Neutered animal	35 @ 6.00	.....	210.00
Spayed/neutered	5 @ 5.00	.....	25.00
Late	28 @ 8.00	.....	224.00
Late	6 @ 14.00	.....	84.00
Kennel	1 @ 60.00	.....	60.00
Total received from dog licenses			\$733.00
Less Town Clerk's fees: 93 licenses \$2 each			<u>182.00</u>
Gross revenue to Town			\$551.00
Less \$1 fee per dog forwarded to State			<u>91.00</u>
Net revenue for Town			\$460.00

SCHEDULE OF ANIMAL LICENSE FEES: Act 213, effective April 1, 1995, changed licensing fees and requirements. All dogs and wolf-hybrids must now be registered with the town annually, along with proof of current rabies inoculation. In addition, all cats and ferrets must be inoculated for rabies every two years. Towns have the option to license cats and ferrets as well as dogs. The following reflects changes in licensing fees for all animal licenses issued during 1998.

	REGISTERED	
	Before April 1 st	After April 1 st
Neutered/spayed dogs or Wolf-hybrids	\$6.00	\$10.00
Unaltered dogs/Wolf-hybrids	\$8.00	\$14.00

NOTE: Sandgate amended its animal control ordinance in 2003. Copies are available at the Town Clerk's office. Owners of dogs running at large are subject to a \$35 fine. State law says, "A person who fails to license a dog or wolf hybrid in the required manner shall be fined up to \$500. (20.3550)

With the increase in rabies incidents each year, it is important to get rabies shots and license your domestic animals. \$1.00 of each license fee collected is forwarded to the state treasurer to offset costs of Vermont's rabies control program. Plus the town of Sandgate collects a fee of \$1.00 to help offset animal control costs to the town. Sandgate's Animal Control officer is Suzanne dePeyster. The Rabies Control Program Hotline Number is 1-800-4-Rabies.

SELECTBOARD'S COMMENTS

The Board adopted a new Dog Ordinance last spring. A major provision in the ordinance is that dogs are not allowed to run at large anymore. They must be under the verbal command of the owner or restrained. Owners of unlicensed dogs will be fined \$35 for the first offense, and will be processed through the Vermont Judicial Bureau. We suggest that dog owners pick up a copy of the ordinance at the Town Hall.

We were able to keep the tax rate the same as last year's only by applying \$42,212 of surplus funds voted last May, and using another \$36,478 from the Tax Stabilization Fund established last May. The reason for using the large amount of surplus funds is that our friends in Montpelier assess us unfairly. Being a "Gold Town" we will soon be reduced to gold dust. The tax rate must increase this year, or the Tax Stabilization Fund will be quickly depleted. Please remember when you receive your tax bill this summer that you most likely paid the same amount for the past two years, and this year the rate will change.

Thanks to Ed Pike, our Road Foreman, we received \$63,363.42 in extra State Grant money for our roads. Another \$50,000+ is expected soon from FEMA for a mitigation grant. We are very fortunate to have Ed and Charlie tending to our roads and equipment.

Special recognition is made to Select Board member Kathy Wagner for her endless hours of research and the application for restoration grants to save the long neglected school house. She also spent many hours physically working on the project.

The Town has taken legal action for restitution related to the repair of a series of post and cables used as guard rails which were damaged in November, 2002.

Please be advised that there are four Selectman positions which need to be filled at the March Town Meeting.

On a somber note, we mourn the passing of long-time resident, Adair Brown who served many years as our Health Officer and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

AUDITORS' REPORT

Town of Sandgate: General Fund and Highway/Other Funds
Sonja Jaffee, Claire Merritt, Phoebe Sheres

We have audited the books and records of the Town for the fiscal year. To the best of our knowledge, the Consolidated Balance Sheet and other financial statements represented in this Town Report fairly reflect the financial position of the town of Sandgate.

In an effort to make the town report easier to read, we have rounded figures to the whole dollar whenever possible.

Since 2002, Town Reports have no longer been evaluated due to lack of funding.

We thank all the town officers who submitted their information for this report in a timely manner. The Constable will report orally at Town Meeting. Some of the reports from outside agencies have not been included in the printing of this report, because they add greatly to printing costs. They will be available in the Town Office.

We want to thank Karl Stuecklen for his excellent cover drawing of Old Home Day festivities in Sandgate. His talent and generosity are much appreciated.

INDEBTEDNESS

The Sandgate General Fund has no indebtedness.

The Sandgate School Fund has no indebtedness.

The Sandgate Highway Fund has no indebtedness.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET – TOWN FUNDS

July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003

	<u>General</u>	<u>Highway</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>School House Renovation</u>	<u>Tax Stabilization Emergency Fund</u>
Assets:						
Cash: On Hand	\$ 25	0	0	0	0	0
Cash: Checking	136	1,015	0	0	0	0
Cash: Money Market	73,028	122,168	53,971	8,168	20,209	129,178
Delinquent Tax Receivable	44,717	0	0	0	0	0
Due from Other Funds	0	46,762	0	0	0	0
Total Assets	\$117,906	\$169,945	\$53,971	\$8,168	\$20,209	\$129,178
Liabilities:						
Due to Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Notes Payable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Designated Fund Balance	*19,310	**46,762	0	7,513	20,209	129,178
Fund Balance (Deficit)	98,596	123,183	0	655	0	0
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance ...	\$117,906	\$169,945	\$53,971	\$8,168	\$20,209	\$129,178

*Town Hall Building Fund - \$2,352; Emergency Fund - \$1,159; Zoning/Planning Grant - \$935; Lothar Wuerslin Scholarship Fund - \$3,785; Holiday Party Fund - \$199; Property Appraisal Fund - \$10,880
 **Paving Fund - \$18,519; Bridge & Culvert Fund - \$9,100; Materials & Hauling Fund - \$19,143.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET - TOWN FUNDS

July 1, 2003-December 31, 2003

	<u>General</u>	<u>Highway</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>School House Renovation</u>	<u>Tax Stabilization Emergency Fund</u>
Assets:						
Cash: On Hand	\$ 25	0	0	0	0	0
Cash: Checking	956	<1,364>	0	0	9,848	0
Cash: Money Market	86,868	210,045	11,991	8,895	0	93,098
Delinquent Tax Receivable	25,229	0	0	0	0	0
Due from Other Funds	0	61,052	0	0	0	0
Total Assets	\$113,078	\$269,733	\$11,991	\$8,895	\$9,848	\$93,098
Liabilities:						
Due to Other Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Notes Payable	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Designated Fund Balance	*19,168	**61,052	0	7,513	9,848	93,098
Fund Balance (Deficit)	93,910	208,681	0	1,382	0	0
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$113,078	\$269,733	\$11,991	\$8,895	\$9,848	\$93,098

*Town Hall Building Fund - \$2,355; Emergency Fund - \$1,160; Zoning/Planning Grant - \$936; Lothar Wuerstin Scholarship Fund - \$3,801; Holiday Party Fund - \$72; Property Appraisal Fund - \$9,650; Records Restoration Fund - \$1,194.
 **Paving Fund - \$18,519; Bridge & Culvert Fund - \$9,100; Materials & Hauling Fund - \$33,433.

**DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION POLICY
TOWN OF SANDGATE, VERMONT**

1. All delinquent taxes must be remitted to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes. The Town Treasurer is not authorized to accept any payments toward delinquent taxes.
2. As soon as the tax collection warrant has been received and each month afterwards, until June 1st of the succeeding year, the Tax Delinquent Tax Collector will send a notice to each delinquent taxpayer.
3. Payment arrangements which completely pay the bill before June 1st of the year succeeding the current tax due date, will be required.
4. Mortgage holders and lien holder will be notified of the tax delinquency 30 days after the first notice has been sent, if the delinquent taxpayer has neither paid the taxes, nor contacted the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.
5. Partial payments will be applied first to the interest portion of the amount due, and the remainder will be divided proportionately between the principal amount of the tax and the 8 percent penalty.
6. There will be a \$20 fee charged for any returned check or other faulty payment of delinquent taxes.
7. If no satisfactory payment arrangements have been made in one month, or if the arrangements agreed to have not been met, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes will begin the following actions to sell as much of the property on which the tax is due, as is necessary to pay the tax, costs and fees.
 - a. The Collector of Delinquent Taxes will notify the taxpayer of the tax sale decision, that full payment must be received prior to the posted date of the impending tax sale, and that the costs of the tax sale will be borne by the taxpayer;
 - b. The Collector of Delinquent Taxes will notify all mortgage holders and lien holders of the imminent tax sale;
 - c. If full payment has not been received by the posted time and date of the tax sale, the tax sale will be held according to the procedure specified in 32 V.S.A. section 5252.

- d. Costs of preparing and conducting the sale, including legal fees up to a maximum of 15% of the amount of the delinquent tax, will be charged to the delinquent taxpayer.
8. In the event that no one purchases the property at tax sale, or if in the judgment of the delinquent tax collector, proceeding with Tax Sale is unwise, the Collector shall collect the delinquent taxes using any or all of the methods permitted by law.
9. Each taxpayer has a right to apply for abatement of property taxes based on any of the grounds listed in 24 V.S.A. Section 1535 which may be viewed in the Town Clerk's office.

Ann Wuerslin
Collector of Delinquent Taxes
3266 Sandgate Road
Sandgate, VT 05250
Tel: 802-375-9075

**DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
FOR 2003-4**

Ann B. Wuerslin, Collector

Town taxes are due upon receipt of your yearly tax bill. The final date for the treasurer to receive payment for 2004 AD taxes without 8% penalty (collector's fee) is October 1, 2004. A mailing date of October 1st does not constitute payment of taxes in a timely fashion; and the 8% penalty and 1% interest will be applied to all taxes which do not arrive at town hall ON OR BEFORE October 1st of each year. 1% interest on the principal is charged per month or portion of the month that the tax remains unpaid. This is an interest rate of 12% per year. A copy of the policy for collection of delinquent taxes is available from the town clerk's office.

STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Penalty</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>2002 and 2003</u>				
Barlow, Christopher	3581.90	143.28	286.55	4011.73
Barrieau, Michael	2422.84	96.92	193.83	2713.59
Brady, Nancy	1451.80	137.94	116.14	1705.88
Clement, Keith	2499.00	99.96	199.92	2798.88
Colehamer, Philip	2023.94	47.27	--	2071.21
Croft, Betty	1520.82	60.84	121.67	1703.33
D'Eredita, Gertrud	856.82	34.28	68.55	959.65
Miller, John A	497.42	19.88	39.79	557.09
Rimany, William	1658.84	154.76	132.70	1946.30
Rogers, Theodore	652.12	26.08	52.17	730.37
Scanlon, Richard	2014.62	40.30	161.17	2216.09
Sherras, Brian	4650.52	186.04	372.04	5208.60
Stroffoleno Mary H	201.36	40.85	16.11	258.32
TOTALS	24,032.00	1,068.40	1,760.64	26,861.04

The above totals are as of 01/20/04

Ann Wuerslin, Delinquent Tax Collector

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

End of Quarter Two – Year 2003-04

Total Appraised Value of Town	\$ 35,064,005
Grand List	350,640.05
Total Taxes Billed – Due Oct. 1, 2003	834,523
Total for Collection	834,523
Accounted for as Follows:	
Received in good time	772,574
Delinquent Taxes to Collector	61,949
Total Taxes accounted for	\$ 834,523

COMPARISON OF REVENUES TO ESTIMATES

Fiscal Year 2002-2003

Revenues budgeted	\$ 938,483
Revenues received	1,010,636
Variance	72,163
Expenditures budgeted	938,483
Expenditures paid	918,137
Variance	20,346
Excess of revenues over expenditures	92,499
Bank balance 7/01/02	380,755
General & Highway Funds	
All Funds	\$ 411,696

**SANDGATE LAND TRANSFERS
JANUARY 1, 2003-DECEMBER 31, 2003**

- Lelia Kauffman to Earl M. Tudor, Sr.
of Sandgate, VT.
- Robert Rowlands to Colleen Heil
of Edgewater, N.J.
- Walter Richard to G.W.C.Auto Inc.
of Manchester Ctr, VT.
- Lucille Kurasinski to Kurasinski & Perra
of Sunderland, VT.
- Wm and Sarah Haggerty to Wm Haggerty
of Sandgate VT
- Koscinski & Peters to Wm Henry
of Easton, CT
- Tim & Jennifer Downey to Thomas & Cinthia Bourgeois
of Manchester, VT.
- Robert Royce to Brian & Katherine Sherras
Of Sandgate, Vt.
- Lee & Dawn Atanasoff to David & Elizabeth Doyle
of Wappingers Falls, N.Y.
- Jean, Christopher, and Gedeon LaCroix to Ralph & Barbara Gillett
of Sandgate, Vt
- Ralph & Barbara Gillette to Mary & Philip Monahan
of New Hope, PA
- Karin Brocksbank to Nancy & Wayne Cotiaux
of Centereach, NY
- Thomas & Nancy Bachiochi to Patrick & Michelle Kennedy
of Laverock, PA
- John & Norma Leavey to Marc & Debralyn Stempel
of Plainsboro, NJ
- Thomas Fierravanti, Trustee to TF Mgt Co.
of San Jose, CA
- Adam Repman & Erika Moseley to Conlin Russell & Martha Lugo
of Milford, CT
- John & Katherine LeShane to Christopher & Adrienne Kimball
of Boston, MA
- Roy & Eleanor McGowan to Ruth McGowan
of Smyrna, GA
- Marian Cerretani to Marian Cerretani, Trustee
of Sandgate, VT
- Walter Rich to Donald Coones & Karen Tendrup
of Stamford, VT

Lee Caldwell to Cynthia Stromberg
of Harpswell, ME
Cynthia Stromberg to Ellen Garneau
of Manchester, VT
Kevin & Lorrie Snow to Kevin Snow
of Bennington, VT
Norman Derosier, Jr. to Andrew & Gretchen VanScholck
of Albany, NY

GREEN MOUNTAIN PASSPORT

Green Mountain Passport is a discount program for seniors and veterans with disabilities provided for by Vermont Agency of Human Services. The Passport Program began in 1973 by enactment of the General Assembly.

Holders are eligible for reduced prices on goods and services from hundreds of Vermont's private businesses and for free admission to Vermont state parks, museums, and events which are fully State sponsored.

To be eligible for a passport, a person must be:

- A resident of Vermont and
- 62 years of age or more or
- Totally disabled as a result of disease
or injury suffered while serving in
the armed forces or
- A resident of the Vermont Veterans
Home in Bennington.

To receive a Green Mountain Passport, just fill out an application at your Town Clerk's Office and pay a \$2.00 fee.

Ann B. Wuerslin, Sandgate Town Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT
Cash Receipts & Disbursements-General Fund
 July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/02 \$ 149,287

Receipts:

Current Taxes.....	783,581	
Delinquent Taxes.....	44,717	
Interest on Delinquent Taxes.....	2,005	
Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	3,615	
Dog Licenses.....	704	
Building Permits.....	760	
Health Permits	700	
Zoning Permits.....	1,040	
Town Clerk Fees	5,796	
Interest Earned	4,222	
Copier Use Fee.....	18	
Sheriff Traffic Fines	78	
Hold Harmless Monies	7,904	
Rabies Clinic	252	
Animal Control	301	
Dry Hydrant Grant	500	
Miscellaneous Revenues (Town Hall Rent, Kimball Signs, etc.)	5,156	
Total Receipts		\$ 861,349

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 1,010,636

Property Tax Allocation:

Highway Property Tax Share.....	146,362	
School Tax Share	553,569	
Town Share – Act 60 School Tax	74,573	
Total Transfers		\$ 774,504

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 236,132

Disbursements:

State Treasurer—dog licenses	92
Tax Collector fees	3,890
Town Clerk salary	6,500
Town Clerk fees	5,255
Town Treasurer's salary.....	7,392
Chair-Selectmen salary.....	1,550

Constable salary	800
Auditors' salary	697
Listers' salary & expenses	1,478
Miscellaneous – Mileage	99
Road Liaison salary	600
Septic permits	100
Zoning Administrator salary	1,500
Zoning Administrator expenses	426
Health Officer salary	935
Health Officer expenses	291
Property Reappraisal expense	245
Payroll Taxes (FICA)	2,053
Medicare payroll tax	480
Selectmen meetings	1,416
Town Report expense	1,356
Legal/professional fees	1,197
RC Smith Audit	6,500
Miscellaneous.....	14
Insurance & Bonding	1,692
Cemetery Grant	1,800
BCA meetings	1,812
County Tax	3,606
Fire Protection (dry hydrant)	1,255
Town Hall Utilities	4,510
Office Supplies	1,370
Computer Software/Supplies	1,872
Town Hall Maintenance	1,417
Postage	651
Office Equipment Maintenance	555
Tax Stabilization Fund	48,422
Solid Waste/Recycling	2,143
Solid Waste Implementation	93
ZBA Planning/Zoning Expenses	78
Rabies Clinic	210
BCRC	998
Animal Control	617
VLCT dues	229
BROC	137
RSVP	500
Arlington Recreation Park	2,240
SW VT Area on Aging	600
Arlington Nursing Service	1,100
VT Center for Independent Living	95
Arlington Area Childcare	400
Town Hall Building Fund	1,094
Training Town Officers	549

Arlington Rescue Squad	3,500
Geo. D. Aiken Resource Center	50
Martha Canfield Library	1,000
Court Diversion Program	400
Bennington County Conservation	250
Burdett Commons	300
Arlington Community House	250
L. Wuerslin Scholarship	1,735
Town Holiday Party	99
Fire Protection—Arlington Fire Dept.	11,137
Schoolhouse Fund	1

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS..... \$ 143,633

Balance to Account For..... \$ 92,499

Accounted For As Follows:

General Fund Checking Account	136
Money Market—Factory Point	73,028
Petty Cash On Hand	25
Town Hall Building Fund	2,352
Emergency Management Fund.....	1,159
Zoning/Planning Grant	935
Property Reappraisal Fund	10,880
L. Wuerslin Scholarship CD	3,019
L. Wuerslin Scholarship Savings	766
Holiday Party Fund	199
	<u>\$ 92,499</u>

TOTAL ALL BALANCES..... \$ 92,499

TREASURER'S REPORT
Cash Receipts & Disbursements-Highway Fund
 July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/02 \$ 241,468

Receipts:

Property Tax Share	146,362
VT State Highway Aid	60,251
Hold Harmless Monies	16,968
Highway Interest Earned	2,487
Voted FEMA Surplus to Bridge/Culvert Fund	9,100
Bridge/Culvert Reimbursement	14,572
Paving Reimbursement	49,791

Total Receipts \$ 299,531

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 540,999

Disbursements:

Medicare Payroll Expense	955
FICA Payroll Expense	4,086
Employee Health Insurance	16,010
Retirement Program	2,636
Workers' Comp. Insurance	4,580
Vehicle Liability	3,342
Unemployment Insurance	763
Allocation to Road Equipment Fund	15,000
Road Equipment Fund Voted Surplus	20,000
Miscellaneous Administration.....	1,219
Winter Maintenance Materials and Hauling..	16,037
Winter Maintenance Salaries	33,020
Summer Maintenance Materials and Hauling	21,672
Mowing and Contract Labor	2,830
Summer Maintenance Salaries	30,890
Pavement Maintenance	59,920
Bridge & Culvert Materials	19,008
Equipment Repair.....	10,667
Fuel & Oil.....	6,386
Tools	353
Supplies	2,047
Road Crew Pager	130
Mileage Reimbursement and Training	381
Garage Utilities	2,093
Guard Rail Maintenance	15,790
Road Crew Drug Testing	135

TREASURER'S REPORT

Maki Account

July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/02		\$ 2,013
Receipts:		
Interest Earned	5	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE.....		\$ 2,018

Accounted For As Follows:

Escrow Account	\$ 2,018*
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*Balance as of 9/30/02 statement. As it is a dormant account, quarterly statements are not being sent. It has been accruing about \$5 interest per year.

Garage Maintenance	337
Tax Stabilization Fund	80,663
Miscellaneous	104

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....	\$ 371,054
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Balance to Account For.....	\$ 169,945
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Accounted For As Follows:

Highway Checking	1,015
Highway Money Market	122,168
Paving Fund	18,519
Bridge & Culvert Fund	9,100
Materials and Hauling	19,143

TOTAL ALL BALANCES.....	\$ 169,945
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TREASURER'S REPORT
Cash Receipts & Disbursements-Cemetery Fund
 July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/02		\$ 10,819
Receipts:		
2002-03 Appropriation	1,800	
Useable Funds from CD	1,987	
Interest Earned (includes CD interest).....	170	
Total Receipts		\$ 3,957
 TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE.....		 \$ 14,776
Disbursements:		
Mowing	2,971	
Stone repair	1,650	
CD Withdrawal	1,987	
 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....		 \$ 6,608
Balance to Account For.....		\$ 8,168
Accounted For As Follows:		
Restricted Balance (in CD)	7,513	
Usable Funds	655	
 TOTAL ALL BALANCES		 \$ 8,168

TREASURER'S REPORT
Cash Receipts & Disbursements-
Schoolhouse Lot Acquisition/Renovation Fund
 July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/02:	\$20,122
Receipts:	
Preservation Grant	500
2002-03 Town Allocation	1
Donations	650
Interest earned	163
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 1,314
 TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	 \$ 21,436
Disbursements:	
Title & Lien Searches, Legal Fees	1,152
Fund Raiser Supplies	50
Building Permit	25
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....	\$ 1,227
 Balance to Account For.....	 \$20,209
Accounted For As Follows:	
Schoolhouse Fund Money Market Checking	20,209
 TOTAL ALL BALANCES	 \$ 20,209

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash Receipts & Disbursements-Tax Stabilization/Emergency Fund
July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Receipts:

Voted General Fund Surplus	\$ 48,422
Voted Highway Surplus	80,663
Interest Earned	93

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS..... \$ 129,178

Balance to Account For..... \$ 129,178

Accounted For As Follows:

Tax Stabilization/Emergency Fund Money Market \$ 129,178

TOTAL ALL BALANCES..... \$ 129,178

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash Receipts & Disbursements-Road Equipment Fund
July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/02: \$ 18,676

Receipts:

2002-03 Allocation	15,000
Voted Highway Surplus	20,000
Interest Earned	295

TOTAL RECEIPTS..... \$ 35,295

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE..... \$ 53,971

Balance to Account For..... \$ 53,971

Accounted For As Follows:

Road Equipment Fund Checking \$ 53,971

TOTAL ALL BALANCES..... \$ 53,971

TREASURER'S REPORT
Cash Receipts & Disbursements-General Fund
 July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/03 \$ 92,499

Receipts:

Current Taxes	772,574
Delinquent Taxes.....	25,229
Interest on Delinquent Taxes.....	1,730
Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	2,018
Dog Licenses	233
Building Permits.....	150
Zoning Permits	910
Town Clerk Fees	3,014
Interest Earned	904
Copier Use Fee.....	11
Hold Harmless Monies	6,988
Animal Control	79
Dry Hydrant Grant	500
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,137
Tax Stabilization Fund	11,561
Sheriff Traffic Fines	38

TOTAL RECEIPTS..... \$ 827,076

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE..... \$ 919,575

Highway Property Tax Share	153,684
School Tax Share	544,649
Town Share-Act 60 School Tax	<u>56,434</u>
TOTAL	\$ 754,767

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE..... \$ 164,808

Disbursements:

Tax Collector fees	2,018
Town Clerk salary	3,347
Town Clerk fees	4,703
Town Treasurer's salary.....	4,065
Selectmen Chair salary.....	1,200
Constable salary	400
Auditors' salary.....	119
Mileage reimbursement	34
Road Liaison salary	300
Zoning Administrator salary	887

Zoning Administrator expenses	279	
Health Officer salary	106	
Health Officer expenses	115	
Property Reappraisal expense	1,245	
FICA Payroll expense	1,178	
Medicare Payroll expense	276	
Selectmen meetings	456	
Records Restoration	2,306	
Legal/Professional fees	504	
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>2</u>	
Sub-total		\$ 23,540
Cemetery Allocation	2,100	
BCA	294	
Town Hall Utilities	2,394	
Office Supplies	928	
Computer Software/Supplies	1,265	
Town Hall Maintenance/Repairs	831	
Postage	445	
Solid Waste/Recycling	1,104	
S. W. Implement Plan	31	
ZBA Planning/Zoning Expenses	35	
BCRC	1,013	
Animal Control	24	
VLCT dues	487	
BROC	137	
RSVP	500	
Arlington Recreation Park	2,352	
S. W. Vermont Area on Aging	600	
Arlington Nursing Service	1,200	
Arlington Area Childcare	400	
Training Town Officers	640	
Arlington Rescue Squad	3,500	
PAVE	100	
Geo. D. Aiken Resource Center	50	
Martha Canfield Library	1,000	
Court Diversion Program	400	
Bennington County Conservation	250	
Burdett Commons	300	
Arlington Community House	250	
Bank Street Shelter	500	
Town Holiday Party	127	
Green-Up Day	50	
Fire Protection-Arlington Fire Department ..	<u>10,944</u>	
Sub-total		\$ 34,251
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ..		\$ 57,791

Balance to Account For..... \$ 107,017

Accounted For As Follows:

Checking Account Balance	956
Money Market-Factory Point	86,868
Petty Cash On Hand	25
Town Hall Building Fund	2,355
Emergency Management Fund.....	1,160
Zoning/Planning Grant	936
Property Reappraisal Fund	9,650
L. Wuerslin Scholarship CD	3,034
L. Wuerslin Scholarship Savings	767
Records Restoration Fund	1,194*
Holiday Party Fund	<u>72</u>
	\$ 107,017

*Denotes an 02/03 carry over of \$1,500, less \$306 expense.

TOTAL ALL BALANCES..... \$ 107,017

TREASURER'S REPORT

**Cash Receipts & Disbursements-Tax Stabilization/Emergency Fund
July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003**

Balance in Bank 7/1/03 \$ 129,178

Receipts:

Interest Earned 398

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS \$ 129,576

Disbursements:

Transfer to General Fund to defray taxes 11,561

Transfer to Highway Fund to defray taxes ... 24,917

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 36,478

Balance to Account For..... \$ 93,098

Accounted For As Follows:

Tax Stabilization/Emergency Fund Money Market \$ 93,098

TOTAL ALL BALANCES..... \$ 93,098

TREASURER'S REPORT
Cash Receipts & Disbursements-Highway Fund
 July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/03		\$ 169,945
Receipts:		
Property Tax Share	153,684	
VT State Highway Aid.....	30,092	
Highway Interest Earned	697	
Hold Harmless Monies	15,470	
Tax Stabilization Fund	24,917	
Miscellaneous (Insurance claim, plow)	<u>3,195</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS.....		\$ 228,055
 TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE.....		 \$ 398,000
Disbursements:		
Medicare Payroll Expense	917	
FICA Payroll Expense	1,727	
Employee Health Insurance.....	9,561	
Retirement Program	1,319	
Workers' Comp. Insurance.....	202	
Unemployment Insurance.....	282	
Allocation to Road Equipment Fund	15,000	
Winter Maintenance Materials & Hauling	11,123	
Winter Maintenance Salaries.....	13,165	
Summer Maintenance Materials & Hauling .	4,579	
Mowing and Contract Labor	2,450	
Summer Maintenance Salaries	20,024	
Bridge and Culvert Materials	19,832	
Equipment Repair	6,985	
Fuel & Oil	2,984	
Supplies	847	
Mileage Reimbursement and Training	513	
Uniforms	600	
Garage Utilities	1,022	
Guard Rail Maintenance	9,225	
Road Crew Drug Testing	60	
FEMA/Rupert Road Project	<u>5,850</u>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ..		\$ 128,267
Balance to Account For.....		\$ 269,733
Accounted For As Follows:		
Highway Checking Balance	<1,364>	
Money Market-Chittenden Bank	210,045	

Paving Fund	18,519
Bridge & Culvert Fund	9,100
Materials and Hauling Fund	33,433*

*Includes 02/03 carry-over of \$14,290.

TOTAL ALL BALANCES..... \$ 269,733

TREASURER'S REPORT

William Maki Escrow

July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/03		\$ 2,018
Receipts:		
Interest Earned (2002 to present).....	11	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE.....		\$ 2,029
Accounted For As Follows:		
Escrow Account		\$ 2029

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash Receipts & Disbursements-Road Equipment Fund

July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/03:		\$ 53,971
Receipts:		
2003-04 Allocation	15,000	
Interest Earned	52	
Miscellaneous (Bromley Mountain)	<u>800</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 15,852
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$ 69,823
Disbursements:		
New 2004 International Truck	40,000	
New Truck Parts	<u>17,832</u>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$57,832
Balance to Account For.....		\$ 11,991
Accounted For As Follows:		
Road Equipment Fund Checking		\$11,991
TOTAL ALL BALANCES		\$11,991

TREASURER'S REPORT
Schoolhouse Lot Acquisition/Renovation Fund
 July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/03		\$ 20,209
Receipts:		
Fundraiser Activities/Auction	2,279	
Preservation Grant	15,000	
Donations	1,494	
Book Sales	2,967	
Interest Earned	42	
State Grant	<u>7,000</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 28,782
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$ 48,991
Disbursements:		
J. Beach Parker	34,470	
J. Thompson Electric	322	
Iron Horse Roofing	2,957	
Book Costs (K. Wagner)	1,007	
Miscellaneous/Supplies/Electricity	<u>387</u>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$ 39,143
Balance to account for:		\$ 9,848
Accounted For As Follows:		
Schoolhouse Fund Checking		\$ 9,848

TREASURER'S REPORT
Cash Receipts & Disbursements-Cemetery Fund
 July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/03		\$ 8,168
Receipts:		
2003-04 Allocation	2,100	
Interest Earned	<u>2</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 2,102
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$ 10,270
Disbursements:		
Mowing & Fall Clean-up	1,375	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$ 1,375
Balance to Account For		\$ 8,895
Accounted For As Follows:		
Restricted Balance (CD)	7,513	
Usable Funds	1,382	
TOTAL ALL BALANCES		\$ 8,895

SCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS – TOWN 2003

Cemetery equipment	\$ 250
Constable safety items	510
Fire pumps and related equipment	4,150
Office equipment	29,731
Real estate	147,000
Vault	50,000
2001 International 4700 truck	53,660
2003 International 4400 truck	55,985
2 Flink sanders	1,800
1987 Caterpillar 120G grader	45,000
1996 Ford 575D backhoe	28,000
Miscellaneous chainsaw and weed eaters	425
Miscellaneous shop equipment	1,500
Wing plow	<u>6,896</u>
Total estimated value of fixed assets	\$ 424,907

NOTE: Fixed assets are listed at cost, not purchase price, or at estimated value if actual cost is not available.

TAX RATE FOR 2003-4

Town Administrative expenses	\$ 54,563	
General Services	\$ 19,826	
Appropriations	<u>\$ 11,939</u>	
Total General Fund Taxes	\$ 86,328	
Less Hold Harmless Monies	<u>\$ 6,951</u>	
Less voted surplus	<u>\$ 42,212</u>	
Less Tax Stabilization	<u>\$ 11,561</u>	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND TAXES TO BE RAISED		\$25,604
Highway Fund Taxes	\$194,071	
Less Hold Harmless Monies	<u>\$ 15,470</u>	
Less Tax Stabilization	<u>\$ 24,917</u>	
TOTAL HWY TAXES TO BE RAISED		<u>\$153,684</u>
TOTAL TOWN TAXES 2003-4		\$179,288
State Education Property Taxes	\$413,754	
Local Share Property Taxes	<u>\$244,330</u>	
TOTAL EDUCATION TAXES (72.41%)		<u>\$658,084</u>
TOTAL 2003-4 TAXES TO BE RAISED		\$837,372
<u>2003-FINAL GRAND LIST VALUE</u>		\$350,640.05
Tax rate set by selectmen = \$2.38 which gave us \$836,283.82 of the \$837,372 needed, or \$1,088 less than budgeted.		
<u>Tax Rate Breakdown:</u>		
General Fund Tax Rate (3%)	\$.07	
Highway Fund Tax Rate (18%)	\$.43	
Education Tax Rate (79%)	<u>\$1.88</u>	
TOTAL TAX RATE FISCAL 2003-4		\$2.38

COMPARATIVE TAX RATES:

2003-4	\$2.38
2002-3	\$2.38
2001-2	\$2.57
2002-1	\$2.31

SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET—GENERAL FUND

	FY 02-03	FY 02-03	FY 03-04	FY 03-04	FY 03-04	FY 04-05
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>6 Mos.</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE:						
Town Clerk's Salary	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 695	\$ 3,347		\$ 6,829
Town Treasurer's Salary	7,392	7,392	8,131	4,065		8,294
Chair Selectboard Salary	1,550	1,550	2,400	1,200		2,448
Road Liaison	600	600	600	300		600
Selectmen's Meetings	1,500	1,416	1,500	456		1,500
Selectmen's Expenses	0	0	0	0		0
Auditors' Salaries	900	697	900	119		900
Constable's Salary	800	800	800	400		0
Listers' Salaries/Expenses	4,000	1,478	3,000	0		3,000
BCA Meetings/Appeals Hearings	2,100	1,812	1,500	294		2,100
ZBA / Planning	200	78	200	35		150
Zoning Administrator's Expenses	630	426	630	279		600
Zoning Administrator's Salary	1,000	1,500	1,000	887		1,500
Health Officer's Expenses	0	291	600	115		500
Health Officer's Salary	0	935	600	105		900
Officer Training	600	549	600	640		600
Payroll Tax Expense	2,500	2,533	2,500	1,454		2,600
Town Hall Utilities	5,000	4,510	5,000	2,394		5,000
Town Hall Maintenance/Repairs	1,200	1,417	1,200	831		3,000
Schoolhouse Utilities	0	0	0	0		240
Schoolhouse Maintenance	0	0	0	0		0
County Tax	3,700	3,606	3,607	0		3,700
Office Equipment Maintenance	2,500	555	2,500	0		2,000
Office Supplies	2,300	1,370	2,300	928		2,000
Postage	1,000	651	500	445		670
Computer Software/Supplies	2,500	1,872	2,500	1,265		2,500
Record Restoration	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,306		2,000
Town Report Expense	1,500	1,356	1,600	0		1,700
Legal & Professional	700	1,197	1,200	504		1,800

Miscellaneous/Mileage	1,000	113	500	36	300
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 53,172	\$ 46,704	\$ 54,563	\$ 22,405	\$ 58,031

GENERAL SERVICES:

Insurance & Bonding	\$ 1,673	1,692	\$ 1,692	\$ 0	\$ 1,700
Fire Protection	10,637	11,137	10,994	10,944	11,200
Cemetery	1,800	1,800	2,100	2,100	2,500
Animal Control	100	617	500	24	500
Solid Waste Implementation Plan	550	93	0	31	500
ISWAP/Hazardous Waste/Recycling	2,903	2,143	3,040	1,104	2,320
VLCT Dues	229	229	487	487	487
BCRC	998	998	1,013	1,013	1,500
TOTAL GENERAL SERVICES	\$ 18,890	\$ 18,709	\$ 19,826	\$ 15,703	\$ 20,707

APPROPRIATIONS:

Arlington Nursing Service	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Children's Holiday Party	0	0	0	0	0
Lothar Wuerstin Scholarship	350	350	350	0	0
Arlington Area Childcare	400	400	400	400	0
Benn./Rutland Opp. Council	137	137	137	137	137
RSVP	500	500	500	500	500
SW VT Area Agency on Aging	600	600	600	600	600
Martha Canfield Library	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Arlington Rescue Squad	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	6,000
P.A.V.E.	0	0	100	100	0
George Aiken Resource Center	50	50	50	50	50
Center for Independent Living	95	95	0	0	0
Arlington Recreation Park	2,240	2,340	2,352	2,352	2,352
Green-Up Day	0	0	50	50	50
Center for Restorative Justice	0	0	400	400	400
Benn. County Court Diversion	400	400	0	0	0
Sandgate School House Maintenance	1	1	0	0	0
Benn. County Conservation District	250	250	250	250	250
Burdett Commons	300	300	300	300	350

Arlington Community Club	250	250	250	250	500
Benn. Coalition for the Homeless	0	0	500	500	500
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 11,173	\$ 11,173	\$ 11,939	\$ 11,589	\$ 13,889
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 83,235	\$ 76,586	\$ 86,328	\$ 49,697	\$ 92,627
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$ 83,235		\$ 86,328		\$ 92,627

SELECTMEN'S REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET—HIGHWAY FUND

	FY 02-03 Budgeted	FY 02-03 Actual	FY 03-04 Budgeted	FY 03-04 6 Mos. Actual	FY 03-05 Proposed
WINTER MAINTENANCE:					
Materials & Hauling	\$ 32,000	\$ 16,037	\$ 32,000	\$ 11,123	\$ 32,000
Salaries	28,000	33,020	31,080	13,165	32,640
Contract Plowing/Sanding	500	0	500	0	500
TOTAL WINTER MAINTENANCE	\$ 60,500	\$ 49,057	\$ 63,580	\$ 24,288	\$ 65,140

SUMMER MAINTENANCE:

Materials & Hauling	20,000	21,672	20,000	4,579	20,000
Contract Labor	4,000	2,830	4,000	2,450	3,500
Pavement Maintenance	15,000	59,920	15,000	0	15,000
Bridge/Culvert Program	10,000	19,008	20,000	19,832	20,000
Payroll Tax Expense	4,896	5,041	5,434	2,644	5,500
Salaries	36,000	30,890	39,960	4,579	40,760
Retirement Contribution	2,560	2,636	2,841	1,319	2,900
Health Insurance	19,000	16,010	19,200	9,561	19,200
Unemployment Insurance	815	763	714	282	780
Workers' Comp. Insurance	4,300	4,580	4,322	202	4,600

Uniforms	600				600	600	600
Vehicle/Liability/Garage Insurance	3,155	3,342		3,342	3,342	0	3,600
Equipment Repair/Maintenance-Off site	7,000	10,667		7,000	7,000	6,985	8,000
Fuel & Oil	7,500	6,386		7,500	7,500	2,984	7,500
Garage Utilities	2,200	2,093		2,200	2,200	1,022	2,200
Tools	1,000	353		1,000	1,000	0	750
Supplies	7,000	2,047		7,000	7,000	847	5,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	234		0	0	0	250
Equipment Fund Appropriation	15,000	15,000		15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Truck Payment	0	0		0	0	0	0
Garage Maintenance	300	337		300	300	0	400
Guard Rails	5,000	15,790		8,000	8,000	9,225	8,000
VT Truck and Bus Ass./drug testing	100	135		150	150	60	150
FEMA Mitigation Project/Rupert Rd.	0	0		4,628	4,628	5,850	0
Training/Mileage	300	381		300	300	513	400
TOTAL HIGHWAY EXPENSES	\$ 226,226	\$ 269,172		\$ 252,071	\$ 112,822	\$ 249,230	
Less Anticipated State Aid	18,376	60,251		58,000	30,092	59,000	
Sub-total	207,850	208,921		194,071	82,730	190,230	
Less FEMA Reimbursement grants		64,363		0	0	0	
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$ 207,850	\$ 144,558		\$ 194,071	\$ 82,730	\$ 190,230	

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT

Another busy year!

Culvert upgrade Sandgate/Rupert line meets state hydraulic requirements. It was funded partly by State and Federal funds.

F.E.M.A. Project: Green River Bank Stabilization – Federal Funds

Road inventory and culvert inventory was completed and should allow the town extra funds when applying for grants.

Also guard rails upgrade is going well. We hope to do another section this year.

We would like to again thank the Selectboard and Townspeople for their patience and support, and we especially want to thank outgoing Selectboard members Jim Link and Kathy Wagner for their friendship and support.

Ed Pike, Road Foreman
Jim Link, Chair

PLANNING COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Jean Eisenhart, Chair, Suzanne dePeyster, Harry Rich, Judith Tudor, Brad Kessler

At Town Meeting the revision of our Sub-division Regulations was approved by the voters.

On June 4th, the Board visited the site of gravel removal from the property of Michael Hill. It was decided he did not need a conditional use permit because it is an agricultural operation.

Brad Kessler was appointed by the Selectmen on August 19th to fill out the term of Gerald Vaughn-Tiff.

VARIANCE HEARINGS:

Eugene Maue building addition – granted, July 2
David Trachte garage expansion – granted, September 3

CEMETERY COMMISSION REPORT

Leroy Gattlin, Julie Robertson, Sonja Jaffee

It was with regret that the Cemetery Commission lost Richard Dahm as a member. His service as a commissioner has been invaluable and he will be greatly missed.

However, having said that, we welcome Sonja Jaffee as our newest member and look forward to a long, productive working relationship.

The Board conducted their annual tour of the town cemeteries – making an assessment of each cemetery's condition.

Nathan Bachiochi continued as the lawn care specialist. His work was well done, and we thank him for taking care of our cemeteries.

There was one burial in Center Hill cemetery in 2003.

Much of the work to be done is limited by the Board's finances – we have a perpetual care fund and an appropriation from the town General Fund that we greatly appreciate. Of the perpetual fund, we can only use the interest. Consequently, these monies cover general maintenance. In future, we would like to do some signage and fencing, but we have hardly any discretionary funds. We would encourage you to consider your town cemeteries as a source for giving.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

William E. Jakubowski
375-6570 FAX 375-6821

Zoning permit applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office and questions are accepted by phone or fax during normal business hours at the above phone numbers. The Zoning Administrator is usually available weekly at Town Hall on Tuesdays (8:30 – 9:30 AM)

Permit applications and requests for Letter of Compliance may be mailed or left at the Town Clerk's Office during the Clerk's regular hours. Payment of fees must accompany the submitted application or request. Approved permits allow work to begin fifteen (15) days after being duly posted by the Zoning Administrator to allow time for the required appeal period.

Permit Applications as of December 31, 2003

Barrieau – 937 West Rd. – Shed and two Car Garage
Christiansen – 233 Hamilton Hollow Rd. – Storage/Garage
DePeyster – Woodcock Rd. – One Family Dwelling replaces Mobile Home
Eisenhart – 2231 W. Sandgate Rd - Shed
Gust – 300 Sophie's Way - Deck
Farmer – 3758 W. Sandgate Rd. – Storage Building
Kenny – 120 West Rd. - Shed
Kurasinski – 2472 W. Sandgate Rd. – Att. Garage and Breezeway
Kahn – 46 Hamilton Hollow Rd. – Screen Porch and Deck
Kahn – 46 Hamilton Hollow Rd. – Shed
Kahn – 46 Hamilton Hollow Rd. – Green house.
Kenney – 1140 W. Sandgate Rd. – Dormer and roofed second floor Deck.
Mansson – 238 Sophie's Way – Attached Carport
McAdams/ Kessler – 5677 Sandgate Rd. Cellar for studio
Michaels – 61 Swearing Hill Rd. – Accessory bldg.
Michaels – 61 Swearing Hill Rd. – Addition
Pendleton – Walsh Rd. – Shed
Ruocco – 3826 Sandgate Rd. – Sauna
Stuecklen – 569 Tudor Rd. – Deck w/Canvas Dome
Trachte – 1966 Sandgate Rd. – Addition to Garage
Wagner – 1130 South East Corners Rd. – shed
Weiss – 410 Tudor Rd. – Shed
Zak – 615 Campbell Rd. – 2 sheds

Zoning Letters of Compliance

J.T. Adams – 2729 Sandgate Rd.
Alford and Zak – 615 Campbell Rd.
L. and D. Atanasoff – 4244 Rupert Rd.
T. Bachiochi – 2950 W. Sandgate Rd.
S. Cerretani – 164 Walsh Rd.
T. Downey – 219 Shamrock Hill Rd.
P. And P. Frost – 3117 Rupert Rd.
D. and C. Keel – 3761 Rupert Rd.
J. And K. LeShane – 524 Weldon Rd.
A. Repman/ E. Moesly – 7667 Sandgate Rd.
W. Rich – 7797 Sandgate Rd.
S. Agresta/ L Robinson – 3507 Rupert Rd.

Other Business Conducted

Six Zoning Violation were issued and four were corrected to date.

Seminars given by VLCT and the BCRC have been attended to keep me current on the changing regulations within the state regarding zoning administration and enforcement. I also attended a planning meeting regarding Transportation issues in Bennington County and a Virtual presentation about zoning given in Bennington. Assistance has been provided to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Commission during hearings and regarding requests for information.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

William E. Jakubowski

Sewage applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office and questions are accepted by phone or fax during normal business hours at the above phone numbers. Appointments may be made for preliminary discussion regarding permits or other matters.

Permit applications may be mailed to, or left at the Town Clerk's Office during the Clerk's regular hours. Payment of fees must accompany the submitted application. Seventy - two hours notice is required before any inspection of septic system, or parts thereof, may be made

Permit Applications as of December 31, 2003

New Systems

DePeyster – Woodcock Rd.- New system.

Replacement Systems

McAdam Kessler – 5677 Sandgate Rd.

Cornell – Weldon Rd. – minor repair

Privy permits

Walter Richard – Weldon Rd. – Privy permit

Certificates of Occupancy

H. Mansson – 238 Sophie's Way

A. Pendleton – 100 Walsh Rd.

K. Wagner – South East Corners Rd.

Green River Inn – Sandgate Rd.

Rabies Clinic

The Rabies Clinic is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3, 2004, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in Town Hall. The cost will be \$12 per shot. Dr. Robert Treat will be running it.

The responsibilities of the Health Officer include several areas that may be of concern to our residents. There are several state agencies to which referrals can be made when the responsibility is beyond my area of control or jurisdiction. I look forward to continuing to assist the Select Board and the townspeople in the future. Calls or faxes may be made to the above listed phone numbers for information or in response to questions.

LISTERS' REPORT

Jane Gattlin, Julian Sheres, Jeanne Zoppel

Sandgate's 2003 Grand List totals were 352 parcels totaling \$35,064,005 after Grievance Day and BCA Hearings. There were 6 grievances heard with 1 appeal to the BCA. There are no appeals before the State Board.

The Department of Taxes Equalization Study has the Coefficient of Dispersion at 24.84%. This is the % difference between the sales price and the listed value. If a town's COD is higher than 20%, a town is required to reappraise.

The Common Level of Appraisal is 91.33%; this is the % of Fair Market Value the town is listed at. If the CLA falls below 80%, a town is required to reappraise. We are in the process of appealing the study with the state, which means these numbers may change, but the way they stand, we will be required to do a reappraisal if not this April, then next year. The average cost of reappraisal done by an outside firm will be \$90 a parcel or \$31,680. The listers have checked with other towns and the current rate of listers is \$10 an hour and \$15 an hour the year of a reappraisal. The listers would like to receive the going rate and are willing to do the reappraisal beginning with leg work this year, and actually doing the reappraisal either in 2005 or 2006. There is enough money in our budget for this pay increase to begin this year. We have time to work on this as long as we have a plan to present to the state.

The Listers will be viewing and photographing all properties and updating our records all year getting ready for the reappraisal.

DRY HYDRANT REPORT

Suzanne dePeyster

With the completion of the Raymond Agostini Municipal Fire Hydrant near the intersection of the Sandgate and Wuerslin Road, Sandgate has four hydrants.

With continued town support, and help from the Arlington Fire Department, we hope to build two more. Anyone wishing to help with the program should call Ms. dePeyster at 375-6005. The hydrants require annual testing and painting.

We also wish to thank the George D. Aiken Fund for their continuing support.

If residents have suggestions as to where future hydrants should be placed around town, please let Suzanne know your ideas.

Sandgate Town Report

EXCERPTS FROM SANDGATE IN THE NEWS 1861-1940

From the Manchester Journal, Published by the Sandgate School House
Restoration Committee

November 7, 1878 – Sandgate has a high standing in Bennington County. She has her broad acres and enough of them. Some of them are set up rather edgeways, but they are there, fast property, good, solid real estate, and no ordinary convulsion will disturb their foundations or shake them out of place. One of her own poets has said to somebody perhaps:

Poor old Sandgate

All 'round hemmed in;

Three sides mountains,

T'other side Camden.

The soil is not all as fertile as a garden, but it yields potatoes, corn, oats, grass and other things to occupy the busy population and reward them for their toil. The stream that comes down the hills from Beartown and finds it's way into the Battenkill supplies some water power. Besides saw and grain mills for home use, shoe pegs and clothespins are turned out on a large scale, and shingles also, without limit or stint. The valleys and hillsides are sparsely settled but the people are industrious, intelligent, economical and thrifty, and if they must earn what they eat, they surely eat what they need, and have something left over every time to meet any special call or important matter that may occur. The faces of the people, the homes they occupy, and the general good cheer they always carry with them, will show all this to the eye of even a stranger, and if his experience should agree with that of your correspondent, he will think better of the people every time he has occasion to repeat his visit to Sandgate.

DISTRICT 2 SCHOOLHOUSE REPORT

Kathy Wagner, Chairman of the Schoolhouse Committee

I am very happy to report that 2003 was a grand year for Sandgate's restoration project of our last remaining one-room schoolhouse! Thanks to a successful fundraiser in July, grants restoration work has been completed as planned.

Excellent weather accommodated Jeremiah Parker's crew in performing their restoration work in September and October. A crew of 3 first removed the rotten undercarriage of the floor and repaired the foundation. (In poking around in the debris on the ground, an old school book was found, as well as a ruler, writing papers, and an ink well! Real treasures!!) Pine sub-floor was laid on the new spruce beams and joists. A rotten section of top plate was meticulously replaced, and 2 steel rods through the top plates secured the north and south sides. A beam truss spanning the width of the building was put in at a height of 8 feet, and the ends were put in the original mortice holes. This also provides stability for the building. Windows were reinstated as shown in 1932 and 1934 photographs.

Probably the most challenging part of the restoration was matching the crooked bead board and window framework on the right side of the back wall. A matching window had to be installed on the left side of the chimney, and bead board was needed to fill in underneath and on both sides of the window. It is much harder to match the slant of crooked boards than to install level boards!

Phase Two, installing a standing seam roof, was performed the last of October. Thanks to Russell Page's Iron Horse Roofing crew for their efficient work! The standing seam was applied over the existing asphalt shingles.

I consider us very lucky that the project came off smoothly with no problems. There still remains work to be done in the spring. We must paint the inside, install the schoolhouse lights, and re-lay the old tongue-and-groove floor that was removed before the restoration began. We hope to have this completed for a grand opening on the first or second Saturday in June. Mark your calendars! We also want to combine this opening with a photograph of Sandgate's school-age kids standing in front of the schoolhouse. Let's restart an old tradition!

All Sandgate citizens should be proud of the restoration of one of the oldest buildings in town! Everyone had a part in it, either donating funds, volunteering labor or donating other services. Thank you all and congratulations on saving an historic building!!

The book, "Sandgate in the News – 1861-1940" has been a big hit. 282 copies have sold as of mid-January. If you would like a copy, contact me at home (375-6495). They are only \$12, and proceeds benefit the schoolhouse fund.

Continuing research and gathering items from Sandgate's past are in progress, and if all goes well, our Schoolhouse Museum will be ready to open later in the summer.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

by Jim Link

Federal law has determined that Emergency Management is a responsibility of the Federal, State, and Local government working together. If no one is appointed locally, the task falls on the Chairman of Selectmen. If anyone has an interest in being the local director, please notify the Chairman of Selectmen.

The Vermont Emergency Management Team is developing plans for our communities that might be affected by terrorist acts. This is a new major chore in addition to the usual flood, earthquake, winter storms and hazardous waste spills. The bureaucracy has taken root and is growing, but is hasn't reached full bloom due to lack of Federal funding.

Sandgate has benefited from Emergency Management funding in the past because of our flood of several years ago. What will happen because of terrorist acts in the Northeast is unknown. The best bet is to listen to the local radio and TV stations, check Town bulletin boards, and possibly the Wayside Country Store for emergency information and instructions. In a worst case scenario, door-to-door contacts may be employed.

We do have a generator that can be used to keep the Town Hall open, if we lack power.

FOREST FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

Lynn Fielding

There is one fire to report this year. On Easter Sunday there was a fire in West Sandgate that burned about an acre.

Your wardens issued 27 burning permits this year. To obtain your burning permits please call either myself or Jim Gunn. Also as a reminder, when there is snow on the ground at the scene of the fire, you do not need a burning permit.

Thank you.

Lynn Fielding – 375-2211
Jim Gunn – 375-9481

RESTORATION OF THE SANDGATE CHURCH

Jean Eisenhart, Jane Gattlin and Sonja Jaffee, Sandgate Church Restoration Committee

On January 23, 2004, members of the Sandgate Methodist Church and interested friends from the community met to discuss plans for the restoration of the Church.

Erected in 1877 and on the National Historic Register, the Sandgate Methodist Church is in need of major restoration. Jeremiah Parker, who had assessed and performed most of the repairs on the District 2 Schoolhouse was called in to make a condition assessment. His report on the Church has been partially funded through the Robert Sincerbeaux fund of the Preservation Trust of Vermont. His estimate of the cost of repair at this time is \$56,000. While the Church has limited funds it has dedicated \$10,000 to begin this restoration. We are preparing grant applications, planning fundraisers and looking for community support in the endeavor to retain this important building.

LOTHAR WUERSLIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Lothar Wuerslin Memorial Scholarship committee was appointed by the Sandgate Board of Selectmen on November 11, 1998. Members are: Donald Brown, Karl Stuecklen, Ann Wuerslin, Jeanne Zoppel, and Jean Eisenhart, Chair. The scholarships are to be awarded to support the study and practice of the arts by any Sandgate resident. The arts means creative endeavors including, but not limited to, visual arts, performing arts, and literature. The number and amount of the awards will vary depending on funds available.

Five applications were received this year. Of the five, three were funded. Sarah Phelps learned sewing and jewelry making, while Alizabeth Tschorn took a summer drama course, both activities experienced through the Long Trail summer program. Logan Wuerslin attended the Arts and Crafts class in mixed media at Frog Hollow.

Application requirements are as follows:

1. You must be a Sandgate resident,
2. Awards are for one year only, amount to be determined by the Award Committee,
3. Payment will be sent directly to the chosen institution or supplier of services,
4. Applications must be submitted by May 15th of each year,
5. A brief interview may be required,
6. Your application must include an essay of 500 words or less stating why you want the award,
7. People awarded money from the fund will be asked to demonstrate the money was used for the purpose stated in the application,
8. There is no discrimination by age, and
9. Awards will be made by June 15th of each year
10. Applications are available from the Town Clerk.

ARLINGTON RECREATIONAL & PARK COMMITTEE, INC.

2003 was another successful year at the Arlington Park. Utilization of the park facilities has grown in recent years and 2003 was no exception. In addition to hosting several events for families and companies, the park also was the site of several recreational programs and activities for area residents. We had a successful softball league, numerous golf tournaments, a children's camp, as well as a successful golf clinic. And of course, we once again were home to our successful youth and school athletic programs throughout the year.

Improvements to the grounds and facilities were numerous. A few were: Green #8 on the golf course was renovated, and the baseball dugout was reconstructed. In 2004 we are looking to further enhance recreational activities and plan to renovate our skating rink. We have already received some generous gifts in support of that endeavor. We have been fortunate to have a strong staff, which has not only maintained, but also enhanced the quality of our assets.

The park operates on an annual budget of approximately \$60,000. These funds are raised equally from three major sources; annual appropriations from the towns of Arlington, Sandgate and Sunderland; Park use fees, including individual contributions and donations from group functions; and interest from an endowment account. The financial support from the area towns and the endowment account allow the Park Committee to continue to offer a fantastic facility to individuals and groups with only a request of modest fees or donations. Your continued support of the Park facility is appreciated. Without this generous support, and the towns of Arlington, Sunderland, and Sandgate the park would simply not be possible. Thanks to all who have supported this wonderful asset. It is truly a community treasure.

BROC- Community Action in Southwestern Vermont

Linda G. Rooker, Executive Director

BROC would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Sandgate who have supported the agency through the appropriation process over the years, acknowledging the important work we do. This past year BROC continued to experience a large increase in limited income families who needed help just meeting their basic needs – enough food on the table; heat for warmth through the winter; and a roof over their heads.

BROC helped meet the basic needs of 10 individuals in the Town of Sandgate between 10/1/02 and 9/30/03. BROC also created several new partnerships and collaborations throughout the year with local organizations and businesses to help raise food for our emergency food shelf; as well as to help raise much needed funds through events and fund raising so that the needs of our neighbors continue to be met.

BROC staff work hard each and every day to not only address immediate crises, but to work on developing prevention plans with each person who needs our help. We are very proud of moving an individual or family up from the effects of poverty in their lives, and we thank you, the Sandgate community, for helping make this possible.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Patricia M. Palencsar, Director

The goal of RSVP remains one of "reinvesting the talents and skills of a lifetime" in our communities. RSVP initiates and develops programs for seniors who wish to volunteer and provides support to volunteers in the form of excess liability insurance, training, transportation, and recognition.

There are currently 65 Arlington area residents actively serving as RSVP volunteers in nonprofit agencies and public institutions throughout Bennington County. During this past fiscal year the towns around Sandgate received a total of 7,150 hours of service from RSVP volunteers. Using a modest figure of \$10.00 per hour, this service represents a total value of \$71,500 returned to the community.

This year, through a grant from a local corporation, RSVP volunteers began an exercise program in the Arlington area, designed to prevent/delay the effects of osteoporosis.

These 65 RSVP volunteers also serve in a variety of other ways that benefit citizens in communities throughout the county. Examples include: "friendly visiting" with residents in nursing homes; serving as hospital "gray ladies;" staffing blood mobiles; participating in fund raising events; delivering meals on wheels; and many others.

BENNINGTON COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS, INC.

Kendy Skidmore, Executive Director

The Bennington Coalition for the Homeless gratefully acknowledges the town's appropriation in support of the 6 Bank Street Shelter for Families in Transition.

The 6 Bank Street Shelter is the only shelter in Bennington County and provides transitional shelter for families that are homeless. A family's average stay is 3 months and during that time they participate in programs designed to move them toward self-sufficiency. Last year we served 17 families consisting of 61 individuals. Families participated in parent education groups, smoking cessation classes, budget counseling, work search and/or education programs, domestic violence support groups and cooking and nutrition education classes. The children also participated in a program introducing them to arts and entertainment, building self esteem, skill building and establishing healthy relationships. We experienced a 70% success rate for placing families in permanent housing and continue to visit them through an aftercare program to help them maintain their housing.

The Bennington Coalition for the Homeless is embarking on a new project, a 4 unit apartment building that will be used for long-term transitional housing for families completing the program at 6 Bank Street who cannot find affordable housing and still need continuing support. In addition, we continue to research possibilities for sheltering homeless individuals.

I.S.W.A.P.
Integrated Solid Waste Applications Program

The household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program continues to be a priority. HHW collection protects the environment as hazardous waste is collected and disposed of properly and safely. This year, two HHW collections were held at the Manchester Elementary School with the help of Long Trail School students.

A Memorandum of Understanding to add Rupert to the ISWAP was signed by the ISWAP towns and Rupert, and was then forwarded to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) on January 31. Since Rupert formally joined the ISWAP in January, the town has participated in the two Household Hazardous Waste collection events held annual by the ISWAP towns. An amendment to the "Solid Waste Management Implementation Plan for Bennington County" was approved by the ANR on June 19. This amendment included the Town of Pownal Wastewater Treatment and Biosolids Composting Facility in the SWIP.

The Bennington County Regional Commission once again sponsored a non-profit compost bin sale, with support from various towns in the region. 72 compost bins and 78 compost turners were sold in 2003.

ARLINGTON COMMUNITY CLUB, INC.

The Arlington Community Club, Inc. currently offers rooms for use to private individuals and non-profit organizations. These rooms are used by such groups as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Alcoholic Anonymous, Arlington Garden Club, and the Arlington Area Nursing Association. While use fees are not charged, donations are encouraged.

We are currently exploring other possible uses for our historic building; one possibility would be to house an Arlington Historical Society. We welcome suggestions from the community. To offer your suggestions, or to learn more about the Arlington Community Club, Inc., please contact President Ron King at 375-2786. We are always looking for new members.

The officers and members of the Arlington Community Club, Inc. wish to thank you for your continued support.

GREEN UP VERMONT
Green Up Day, May 3, 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 501C (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 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. We ask your community to contribute, according to population to keep Green Up growing for Vermont.

GEORGE D. AIKEN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT (RC&D) COUNCIL

The George D. Aiken RC&D Council 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 and nonprofit groups 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 ©(3) nonpartisan 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; 10 towns received assistance from a consultant to help them prepare for an ISO(Insurance Service Office) evaluation. 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. In Sandgate, we provided a \$3,000 better backroads grant to the Batten Kill Watershed Alliance and assistance in identifying potential grant sources to help restore the one room schoolhouse. Do you have a project or program that could use some assistance? 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.

BURDETT COMMONS

2003 has seen real growth in Burdett Commons as a community center. Though it is not yet the center that has been envisioned, it is moving closer to that vision. The Burdett Board had a focus on youth for 2003. It is important that the children of our communities have options for healthy activities and personal growth. We are involving youth directly in the community center through a youth advisory board and have made progress with the hiring of Tessa (Hess) MacDonald, in August, as a part time director. Tessa and the youth board have organized, planned and carried out several activities for the youth of Arlington, Sunderland and Sandgate. The greatest interest in the advisory board has been with youth ages 11 – 13 years old. Our goal is that this group will grow with and have continued interest in community through activity at Burdett Commons and pass that interest to other young people.

Having a director has made it possible to have more contact with area schools, the Martha Canfield Library, and other organizations, and community members to assess the needs of our communities. The Burdett Board is interested in forming partnerships that will benefit community and welcomes suggestions at any time. Please call us at 375-6515 or drop by to see what is going on. Burdett has been the meeting place for many of the following local groups: S.A.S.S.I.E.S., Battenkill Runner's Club, A.A. Twelve Steps, ALANON, Cub & Tiger Scouts, MOM to MOM Mother's Network, and many others. The facilities are also available for private gatherings for a small donation or volunteering at the center.

Burdett Commons, Inc. depends upon volunteerism, town allocations, its annual fund drive, and actively participates in grant writing to continue and improve its programming. In the future, we are hoping to offer more youth opportunities during vacations and summer months. We also hope that our facilities may be open more of the time as a gathering place for all ages. The Board wishes to thank all who have supported our programs, who have volunteered, and who share the vision of a community center. For further information, please call Margie Record, Burdett Board President at 375-6700.

Center for Restorative Justice
Marianne Kennedy, Esq., Executive Director

In 1979 Court Diversion began as a program that offered a community's response to juvenile offenses as an alternative to the formal court procedure. The Diversion Review Board, a volunteer board of community citizens, strives to respond to the needs of the victim by mandating apologies and restitution, to the community by requiring public service and donations, and to the offender by demanding participation in programs that may change behavior such as job training, parenting skills, GED tutoring, alcohol & other drug screening, therapy, etc.

Over the years this opportunity has been expanded to include adults; other programs have been added as well. Today Court Diversion is an agency sponsoring several grant-funded programs; Juvenile Restorative Probation Program, and Community Support and Supervision Program (Street Checkers) which provide support and supervision to at-risk adolescents, as well as traditional Diversion. Additionally, in July 2000 the Teen Alcohol Safety Program (TASP) was established in response to a change in legislation that decriminalizes first-offense Possession of Malt Beverage charges. The Court Diversion Program was designated as the administrator of TASP by the State. Now a civil ticket, the legislature mandated that every young person be assessed and treated, if necessary, for their alcohol use. We believe prevention, education, and treatment, as well as enforcement, will help to stem the tide of underage alcohol consumption.

2% of Court Diversion referrals and 1% of TASP referrals are Sandgate residents. 91% of all referrals are under the age of 21. 87% of Diversion participants successfully completed the requirements of their Diversion contract. 91% of those who complete their requirements do not commit further criminal acts. In addition, Court Diversion participants have returned over \$58,000 in restitution and donations to their communities and performed over 31,000 hours of public service work. The Senior Meals Program, American Red Cross, Bennington Project Independence, Second Chance Animal Shelter, Equinox Terrace, Riley Rink and Manchester Parks and Recreation are some of the organizations or projects that have benefited from Diversion clients' community service work or charitable donations.

Although the Juvenile Restorative Probation Program and the Community Support and Supervision Program (Street Checkers) are self-sustaining through grants from the Agency of Human Services, the Court Diversion Program and Teen Alcohol Safety Program must rely on local fundraising to supplement the appropriation from the legislature and client fees.

We thank the voters of Sandgate for their support and look forward to continuing our commitment to provide programs that respond to the needs of the victim, the community and the offender.

**ARLINGTON COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING
SERVICE, INC.**

Sheila W. Hoyt, President

The Arlington Nursing Service has been conducting Public Health Nursing services in Arlington, Sandgate and Sunderland for 57 years. Our purpose is to promote programs to improve the health of individuals, of families and of our schools. We make these services available to all age groups in all economic and social circumstances – to those who can afford to pay full or partial fees, as well as those who cannot.

We offer financial support toward the schools' health education programs and specific equipment. We employ a Dental Hygienist to provide screenings on all elementary aged children in the Arlington and Sunderland schools. Our biggest financial commitment to our three-town community is our contract with the Manchester Health Service to provide visiting home nursing care. In full or in part, it is the Arlington Nursing Service that contributes to the availability of home health care in the three towns. All this is done in the strictest confidence.

We offer scholarships to those individuals pursuing degrees in health-related fields. For high school seniors and adults, applications can be obtained through the AMHS Guidance office. We appreciate the support of the Sandgate community and hope you will continue your support in the future.

BENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Shelly Stiles, District Manager

Following is our summary of activities supported by citizens of your towns in the last fiscal year. We thank you for your ongoing support.

BCCD is a public non-profit organization which works with private landowners, other conservation organizations, local governments, and state and federal agencies to promote rural livelihoods and protect natural resources in the county. Major activities in fiscal year 2003 included: 1) Yarns from Farms and Forests – 3 evenings of storytelling by area farmers and foresters. Six story tellers participated. A total of approximately 150 people attended the evenings and heard what it was like to make a living on the land in earlier years. 2) Walloomsac River clean-up/trash to treasures art event – 50 volunteers participated in the clean-up, filling five dump trucks with trash. Bennington County 4-Wheeler Club members transported the trash from the river to the stockpiling area. Photographs were taken by volunteers and trash art created. These were displayed by Vermont Arts Exchange in October and November. 3) Working for Wildlife day – 17 volunteers participated in this planting project on more than one mile of streambank on the Batten Kill. 4) Walloomsac watershed assessment – This survey concluded a study of Roaring Branch, South Stream, and Walloomsac begun in 2001. 34 volunteers participated in the project over the years. 5) Serving as fiscal agent and advisor to new bi-state Batten Kill Watershed Alliance. 6) Mettawee Community School water quality monitoring project – This project provided supplies for a monitoring program and some instruction for teachers. It also built a deck and created interpretive signs at the monitoring site. About 20 students and two teachers participated.

BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION

The following is a summary of services and projects during the past year:

Municipal Assistance: **Arlington** – Arlington/East Arlington sidewalk, Arlington Area Childcare Inc. grant, Town plan stats, Route 7A/313 intersection, cell phone coverage/study grant, solid waste plan, bridge & culvert inventory, zoning telecom maps, 911, ArcExplorer & GPS training, plan approval; **Bennington** – Roaring Branch issues, Ross Pavilion grant, Hampton Inn data, Bypass info to legislators, Bald Mt. trail/bypass crossing, road network study, airport, consultant support for park and recreation plan, tree inventory map, etc.; **Dorset** – Ridgeline zoning, plan approval, plan stats/update, housing study/maps, East Dorset transportation improvements, Dorset Horse Show/Act 250, home occupations, solid waste plan, etc.; **Glastenbury** – Plan update, zoning administration, land swap/wilderness/wind turbines, parcel maps; **Landgrove** – plan approval, solid waste info, So. VT trail, data info; **Manchester** – Consultant support for underground utility study, cell phone coverage study, Malfunction Junction project management, solid waste plan, Equinox wind turbines, etc.; **Manchester Village** - - Equinox wind turbines, solid waste plan, zoning map bridge/culvert study, telecom/cell coverage study, etc.; **North Bennington Village** – Designation, bridge culvert inventory, Park McCullough Enhancements, school district map, Village plan and trail maps, etc.; **Old Bennington Village** – Plan update, traffic calming study and maps, etc.; **Rupert** – Town Plan info and approval, solid waste and hazardous waste collection, Route 153 flood damage grant, etc.; **Sandgate** – Town plan & maps, solid waste plan, bridge & culvert inventory, parcel map update, hazardous waste collection; **Shaftsbury** – Plan update and maps/adoption procedures, zoning maps, mixed use zoning, floodplain issue, rail crossing safety, solid waste plan, etc.; **Sunderland** – draft subdivision regulations, Town office site map, plan update and map, solid waste plan, Route 7A traffic access study, etc.

Current Regional Issues: Green Mt. National Forest Plan update, wilderness, Glastenbury land swap/Searsburg wind farm proposal, Equinox wind turbine project, Route 9 scenic byway, emergency management/planning support, permit reform, solid waste, Bennington bypass issues, Arlington area cell phone coverage, rail/airport service, strategic economic plan, affordable housing.

SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

This report briefly describes the services and support provided to elders in Sandgate by the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging during the past year. These included:

Senior Meals: The Council provided funding for meals for elder residents of Sandgate. This funding helped keep available meals for delivery to the homes of older persons in your community. This service provided through contract, is often referred to as "Meals on Wheels". 13 elders participated at one or more of the luncheon sites available in our region, enjoying 362 meals.

Case Management Assistance: Several elders were served by agency Case Management staff who provided help with applications, and problem solving around programs such as Fuel Assistance, SSI, Medicaid, Food Stamps, etc. Case Managers also assisted frail elders facing long term care placement, assisting those who wanted to and were able to remain independent connect with available supports including Medicaid Waiver assistance.

Other Services: The Council on Aging also provided: 1) Telephone support through our "Senior HelpLine." (1-800-642-5119). This provided easy phone access to elders, and others in need of information about available programs and supports. 2) Health benefit counseling information and form filing assistance through our SHIP Program. 3) Legal service support through a contract with the Vermont Senior Citizen Law Project. 4) Information relating to elder issues through the "Elder Connection" column appearing weekly in the Bennington Banner, written by Barbara Hanson. 5) Nutrition education and counseling provided by a Registered Dietician to elders who needed to improve their dietary intake. 6) Senior Companions who worked on a one on one basis with frail homebound elders. 7) Elder Care Clinician outreach services for elders struggling with a variety of mental health issues provided through a contract with United Counseling Services. 8) Community Development assistance, and 9) Caregiver information and support for family members and others who are providing help to elders in need of care.

MARTHA CANFIELD LIBRARY

Frederick Baum, President
Phyllis Skidmore, Librarian

Our facility continues to impress visitors with its homelike, warm and welcoming atmosphere. A busy place, our membership increases each year, as do the services we offer. Thanks to our many volunteers and local supporters, we look forward to doing more for our patrons.

The Freeman Foundation incentive grant, awarded to the Library for year 2 of 2 year grant, has been adding new materials and services for the community. We have been increasing the book, book-on-tape, and video and music collections for both adults and children, and we have started to purchase books-on-CD. The Freeman Grant also funded adding records for the books in the Russell Vermontiana Collection to our computer catalog. The Collection also includes a fascinating look at our local history through photos, letters, documents, clippings, diaries, account books, and other materials.

Through a state cooperative, we now subscribe to the Vermont Online Library, a database of periodicals (many with full text) and other reference sources, including a business database and health information.

The library has been able to offer the public a wide variety of free programs this year, including talks, slide presentations, gallery shows, and workshops, as well as summer children's activities and a weekly storyhour. We also held our fourth annual Literacy Fair in June with activities, programs, information and free books.

The library would like to thank the town of Sandgate for its financial support in 2003. This money is used for regular operating expenses, such as book purchases, maintenance, supplies, and insurance. The Library also receives funds from donations, interest on our endowment, book sales, and a bridge tournament. We would like to thank those who helped extend our book budget this year by purchasing a book from our Holiday Wish Tree. The Board looks forward to the continuing support of the town of Sandgate.

SANDGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

***Board of Directors
Annual Officers Report***

Report on 2003-2004 (FY2004)
Jeanne Zoppel, (Chair), Allan Tschorn (Clerk), Cheri Weber

Based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM), which is the count of students for the first forty days of school, in FY2004, the Sandgate School District is responsible for the tuition of 52 students to 10 different schools. Currently there are 47 students in the District. The demographics of Sandgate's students are as follows : 34% at the elementary level, 23% at the middle level (7th & 8th grade), and 43% at the secondary level; 55% attend one of the Arlington schools, 45% attend other schools.

The total budgeted expenditures for FY2004 were \$529,557 and at this time our anticipated expenses are \$514,874. Slightly less money was realized on the income side of the budget, and the anticipated budget surplus this year is estimated to be around \$13,500. The FY2005 budget uses \$10,000 of the anticipated budget surplus to reduce the amount needed to be raised in taxes. Article 3 on the annual warning asks that any unanticipated surplus be added to the special reserve fund established to help defray over expenditures in the areas of special education or tuition. The anticipated value of the reserve fund at the close of this fiscal year is estimated to be \$79,300.

Article 2 on the annual warning asks the voters to approve \$6,000 for the bus sinking fund. Currently the bus sinking fund has a value of approximately \$27,000 which is about half the needed funds to replace the bus. Article 4 on the annual warning reflects the budget approved by the board of \$526,804 to be voted on at the annual meeting. If both articles on the warning are approved, the FY2005 budget will be \$532,804. The revenue side of the budget reflects a transfer from the reserve fund of \$40,000 to further reduce the amount needed to be raised in taxes, leaving \$39,300 to be in reserve for any unanticipated tuition expenses. This is substantially less than we have carried in that fund in the past, but the board feels this is a safe balance to carry at this time.

Act 68 looks like it may lower taxes for most resident's homestead. The worksheet with the three prior years comparisons required by Act 68 to be published in this annual report indicates an anticipated homestead tax rate of \$1.420. However at the time this board was approving the budget a letter from the Department of Education dated January 12, 2004 was reviewed. The letter states - "As Act 68 is currently written pending amendments, a business manager

can only calculate an educational spending level per equalized pupil, an equalized homestead rate, and with the recent release of equalized homestead grand lists, a homestead tax liability for the district. There is currently no way to make a good estimate of an actual homestead tax rate as the current law reads.”

The budget in Sandgate has been declining over the past three years. The FY2005 is a significant 14% lower than the 2002 budget. The number of students in the district has declined following the trend in most districts statewide. The tax rate and the amount needed to be raised in taxes will be determined by the common level of appraisal (equalized homestead and property values) and the impact of Act 68 once it is fully understood.

The annual holiday gathering was scheduled for December 7th, but was postponed due to weather. A successful holiday gathering was held on December 14, with an estimated 50 people attending to kick off the holiday season. It was a traditional pot luck format open to all residents of Sandgate. To avoid crushing too much into our schedules closer to the holidays, this gathering has been slated for the first Saturday in December. Watch the bulletin boards, or contact a School Board member for more details on the 2005 party.

To be sure that tuition payments are not delayed, we ask that parents notify the School District of tuition requests or changes in receiving schools as soon as possible. If you have recently moved to Sandgate, even if your child has not changed schools, please notify the School Board.

Our meetings are always open to the public and are generally scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month. To accommodate various schedules, our meetings are held late afternoon and the actual time may vary from month to month. Please, if you have a concern that you feel needs to be addressed at a School Board meeting let one of the board members know, and if needed, a meeting will be scheduled to address your concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allan Tschorn, Clerk
Sandgate School District
January 22, 2004

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Charles F. Sweetman, Jr.

The 2003/2004 year has been exciting year for the school district and for its positive relationships with the Arlington School District. There has been a significant increase in attention to curriculum coordination, student achievement and planning for future improvements in a systematic, measurable fashion. The Sandgate School Board was helpful in working with the Arlington School District Board to develop goals and initiatives in Arlington for the next two years. Obviously, what happens in Arlington and in the elementary, middle and high schools is of significant interest to the residents of Sandgate as well as the Sandgate School Board.

Specific detailed goals and initiatives were developed in the following areas: Curriculum, Communications/public relations, Student achievement, Culture/climate/cooperation, Organizations and systems, Budget/finance/operations.

In fact, those 50+ initiatives and goals were developed for the next two years. All residents of Sandgate were sent those in a school district newsletter mailing last fall. It is clear that school districts and members of the Board of Education want to provide to residents an outline and a plan for growth, improvement and significant success. Those goals and initiatives represent a major blueprint and roadmap for our future.

From a financial point of view I am pleased to also report that the 2003/2004 budget is projected to be again on target and in the black. We are also most pleased with the auditor's view and opinion that the financial operations of the school district are strong, appropriate and add a significant level of professional accountability to our business and financial operations. I certainly thank all of the staff members who are involved with our success in this area.

It should also be noted that from a student achievement point of view and a curriculum development point of view a large number of significant, positive results have occurred this year. In the state-testing program fifteen of the seventeen areas of testing that occurred in our middle and high school showed most positive growth and improvement. Congratulations to all involved. And certainly, while the No Child Left Behind Act has and continues to cause significant challenges at the local, state and national level, we are confident that we will continue to put resources and programming in place that will provide excellent and expanding education opportunities for our students.

This coming year alone there will be a number of program improvements and curricular enhancements especially at the middle school and high school. We will be providing a "school within a school" program called the "Arlington Accelerated Academic Academy". This program will be for students in grades 6-8. There will be no additional staff required; there will be no

additional administrative staff required. This program will enhance our academic course offerings and educational opportunities for our brightest, most talented and most highly motivated students. Each year an additional grade will be included in the Academy. By 2008/09 all grades 6-12 will be included. In addition this coming year, we shall be adding foreign language to the middle school program. Our science program will also be significantly upgraded for grades 7, 8, and 9.

We are also pleased to announce that a number of courses at the high school next year will be taught in the block scheduling format which will provide increased student instructional time and increased interaction with the teacher in the classroom. There will be no additional staff members added for this purpose. It is expected that 40% of the courses offered at the high school will be in the block-scheduling format. It is expected graduation requirements will rise and fewer students will have study halls.

In addition, we shall be offering three new Advanced Placement courses. This now makes a total of nine AP courses offered at Arlington Memorial High School. Those include the following: English composition, Literature, Calculus, Statistics, Art, Biology, Environmental Science, Spanish and US History.

Certainly, with the first year of the new Act 68, there will be some changes in formatting and reporting of school budgets across the state. A requirement of Act 68 is for the superintendent of schools to report any deficit that the school system might have. I am pleased to report that the Sandgate School District has no deficit and we continue to always have our budgets be in the black. We pledge to work with residents and school board members to understand the requirements and implications of Act 68. We are committed to fighting for the local control and local say in educational and financial issues. The strength of communities providing quality education for their students is a concept that requires and benefits greatly from community involvement. Fiscal and educational accountability are crucial concepts.

In closing, I would like to thank the residents of Sandgate, the parents and the school board members for their cooperation and their support in my first year as your new superintendent. I fully enjoy representing the Sandgate Board members, residents and the students of Sandgate.



RCSmith & Company

Certified Public Accountants
and Consultants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Board
Sandgate Town School District

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Sandgate Town School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, as listed in the table of contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Town management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Sandgate Town School District as of June 30, 2003, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information on pages 10 through 12 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the general purpose financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements referred to above and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

Manchester, Vermont
Registration No. 444
December 15, 2003

TREASURER'S REPORT
Cash Receipts & Disbursements - Sandgate School District
 Fiscal Year – July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/2002 (all funds)..... \$ 183,504

School General Fund

Balance on 7/1/2002 \$ 95,635

Receipts:

Interest 2,263

Voted Property Taxes 553,569

Prior Year Tuition Error 808

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 576,557

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 663,192

Disbursements:

School Directors orders #1-33 630,507

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS..... \$ 630,507

Balance to account for (6/30/2003) \$ 32,685

Accounted for as follows:

In Banks 32,685

TOTAL \$ 32,685

Bus Fund

Balance on 7/1/2002 \$ 14,576

Receipts:

Interest 7/1/02 to 6/30/03 498

Voted transfer 6,000

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 6,498

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$21,074

Accounted for as follows:

CD \$ 21,074

Reserve Fund

Balance on 7/1/2002 \$ 73,293

Receipts:

Interest 1,212

Voted Surplus 26,954

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$ 28,166

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$ 101,459

School Reserve Fund Balance to account for \$ 101,459

Accounted for as follows:

In Banks \$ 101,459

TOTAL BALANCES – ALL FUNDS (6/30/2003) \$ 155,218

TREASURER'S REPORT
Sandgate School District
Cash Receipts & Disbursements
Fiscal Year – July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003

Balance in Bank 7/1/2003 – All Funds:	\$ 155,218
Bus Fund	21,074
Reserve Fund	101,459
General Fund	32,685
 Receipts:	
Interest	1,218
From State of VT	16,273
Property Taxes	544,649
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 562,140
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 717,358
 Disbursements:	
School Directors' orders #1-16	326,255
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 326,255
Balance to account for	\$ 391,133
 Accounted for as follows:	
Balance in Banks	391,133
TOTAL BALANCES – ALL FUNDS (12/31/03)....	\$ 391,103

Three Prior Years Comparisons

PRELIMINARY

LEA: 181
S.U.: Battenkill Valley

District: Sandgate
County: Bennington

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
1.	608,066	543,119	523,557	526,804
2.	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	5,241
3.	30,693	29,703	32,847	30,826
4.	-	-	-	-
5.	3,214	3,284	5,345	not applicable
6.	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
7.	-	-	-	-
8.	-	-	-	-
9.	-	-	-	-
10.	617,280	552,403	534,902	532,804

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
11.	-	-	-	-
12.	-	-	-	-
13.	-	-	-	-
14.	617,280	552,403	534,902	532,804
15.	-	-	-	-

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
16.	140,564	94,265	88,813	87,081
17.	-	-	-	-
18.	-	-	-	-
19.	-	-	-	-
20.	-	-	-	-
21.	140,564	94,265	88,813	87,081
22.	-	-	-	-
23.	140,564	94,265	88,813	87,081

Expenditures
 Budget (local budget approved in prior years)
 82% of base payment per FTE paid to tech centers by the State on behalf of the district in FY2005
 S.U. assessment (included in local budget)
 Deficit (if included in local budget)
 + Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years
 + 1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting
 + 2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting
 + 3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting
 - Act 144 Expenditures, (excluded from "Education Spending")

Act 68 local adopted budget
 + Union school or joint school district assessment
 + Deficit if not included in budget or revenues
 + Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)

Gross Act 68 Budget
 Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")

Revenues
 + Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)
 + Capital debt aid
 + Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)
 - Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures
 - Act 144 revenues
Total revenues
 - Fund raising (if any)
Adjusted local revenues

Equalized Pupils	476,716	458,138	446,089	445,723	24.
Education Spending (Act 68 definition)	56.50	54.52	52.61	50.77	25.
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	8,437	8,403	8,479	8,779	26.
Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable		27.
Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	8,779	28.
District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%) (\$8,779 / \$6,800)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	129.103%	29.
Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized (129.103% x \$1.10)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	\$1,420	30.
Household Income Percentage for income sensitivity (129.103% x 2.0%)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	2.58%	31.

DOE/School FinanceDoc 01/12/2004

Prior Years Comparison

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≡Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union≡
Preliminary 2004 / 2005 Budget

SUPERVISORY UNION BUDGET SUMMARY				
	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Budget	2003/04 Anticipated	2004/05 Budget
Board Services	\$9,753	\$8,238	\$8,252	\$8,395
Administrative Services	163,054	170,947	170,503	176,614
Building Operation	6,222	8,085	6,942	7,460
Less Prior Years Carry Over & Interest Earned	-10,707	-500	-13,355	-10,000
SUBTOTAL	\$168,322	\$186,770	\$172,342	\$182,469
Special Ed. Admin.	67,832	71,460	70,884	73,982
TOTAL	\$236,154	\$258,230	\$243,226	\$256,451

Projected 2004/2005 District Assessments

DISTRICT	S. U. BUDGET ALLOCATION	SPEC ED BUDGET ALLOCATION	TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION	Last Year's Assessments Comparison Only
Arlington	160,536.23	65,089.36	225,625.59	225,383.15
Sandgate	21,932.77	8,892.64	30,825.41	32,846.85
TOTALS	182,469.00	73,982.00	256,451.00	258,230.00

State Special Education Grants

	State Special Education Block Grant			State Essential Early Education Grant			
	02/03	03/04	04/05	02/03	03/04	04/05	
Arlington	124,170	124,999	128,711	Arlington	13,840	15,073	13,193
Sandgate	16,910	16,915	18,726	Sandgate	1,336	1,401	2,167
TOTAL	141,080	141,914	147,437	TOTAL	15,176	16,474	15,360

The above grant funds are generated by and allocated to the school districts as indicated.

Sandgate School District 2004 / 2005 Budget

SANDGATE BUDGET SUMMARY				
	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Budget	2003/04 Anticipated	2004/05 Budget
Board Services	31,042	33,443	37,035	40,684
Regular Instruction Services	446,905	446,024	434,448	444,227
Special Ed Services	40,651	50,090	43,391	47,893
TOTAL	\$518,598	\$529,557	\$514,874	\$532,804

SANDGATE REVENUES				
	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Budget	2003/04 Anticipated	2004/05 Budget
Prior Year Surplus Applied (lower taxes)	50,000	25,000	25,000	10,000
Transfer from Special Reserve	0	25,000	25,000	40,000
Property Taxes (Local Share property taxes) *	154,680	148,644	140,425	0
General State Aid (Statewide property taxes)	300,174	292,100	300,319	445,723
Transportation Aid	12,226	12,000	12,050	12,000
Transportation Aid Adjustment	-602	0	0	0
Interest	2,263	3,500	2,000	2,500
Refund of Prior Year Expenditure	2,664	0	0	0
Mainstream Block Grant (Special Ed)	16,910	16,915	16,915	18,726
Intensive Reimbursement -Prior Year	40	0	207	0
Intensive Reimbursement	6,110	5,000	5,000	1,688
Essential Early Education Grant	1,336	1,398	1,401	2,167
TOTAL	\$545,801	\$529,557	\$528,317	\$532,804

*Local Share property taxes eliminated in 2004/05 budget under Act 68.

Not reflected in the school district budget are amounts raised for the Vermont State Education Fund. The additional amounts raised for the 2003/04 fiscal year are as follows:

School District portion (local share taxes) - \$103,905

Town portion (General State Support taxes) - \$113,435

**SANDGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR INSTRUCTION**

	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Budget	2003/04 Anticipated	2004/05 Budget
Elementary Tuition-Arlington	109,726	88,000	64,000	61,600
Kindergarten Tuition-Arlington	14,790	15,600	0	8,800
Elementary Tuition-All Others	51,270	38,600	67,236	53,000
Secondary (H.S.) Tuition-Arl.	133,834	150,700	155,250	146,000
Secondary (H.S.) Tuit.-All Others	88,879	100,800	97,104	113,100
Tutoring	0	1,000	500	1,000
Prior Year Tuition Adjustment	22,223	23,000	20,737	25,000
Sec. (H.S.) Vocational Tuition	1,734	2,000	3,113	3,200
Tech Center F.T.E. payment to State*	0	0	0	5,241
Bus Driver Salary	12,113	12,975	12,972	13,348
Bus Driver Substitute Salary	469	345	345	355
Social Security	963	1,019	1,019	1,048
Workers Comp. Insurance	752	800	976	1,000
Unemployment Insurance	27	35	27	35
Bus Insurance	966	1,100	669	900
Bus Repair/Maintenance	1,121	1,200	1,400	1,500
Tires	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Bus Fuel	1,832	1,650	1,900	1,900
Bus Supplies/Other Expense	11	100	100	100
Bus Driver CDL/Testing Expense	195	100	100	100
SUBTOTAL (w/o Sinking Fund)	440,905	440,024	428,448	438,227
Bus Sinking Fund Transfer	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
TOTAL	446,905	446,024	434,448	444,227

* Under Act 60, funds sent by the State of Vermont on the behalf of the school district to the Career Development Center were not included in your local budget. Under Act 68 those funds are now recorded as part of the budget.

SANDGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT - SPECIAL EDUCATION

	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Budget	2003/04 Anticipated	2004/05 Budget
S.U. Spec. Ed. Assessment	8,207	9,090	9,090	8,893
Spec. Ed. Program Service-Elem	7,926	10,000	9,700	10,000
Spec. Ed. Program Service-HS	21,607	20,000	18,200	20,000
Spec. Ed. Transportation-Elem.	0	0	0	0
Spec. Ed. Contract Service	0	500	0	500
Spec. Ed. Contract Testing	1,575	1,500	1,500	1,500
Spec. Ed. Counseling/Therapy	0	3,500	1,500	2,500
Spec. Ed. Transportation-HS	0	2,000	0	1,000
Spec. Ed. Contract Tutoring-HS	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
EEE Tuition/Services	1,336	1,500	1,401	1,500
TOTAL	40,651	50,090	43,391	47,893

SANDGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT - BOARD SERVICES

	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Budget	2003/04 Anticipated	2004/05 Budget
Board Salaries	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
Social Security	176	176	176	176
Board Supplies	23	100	100	100
Audit	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,600
Legal	1,498	500	4,800	10,000
Advertising/Printing/Publishing	166	250	250	250
Dues & Memberships	250	250	250	250
Board Travel	0	50	50	50
Errors & Omission Insurance	2,017	2,400	2,316	2,500
Comprehensive Insurance	1,716	1,800	1,176	1,300
Computer Supplies	0	160	160	175
Fixed Assets Inventory	0	200	200	50
S. U. Assessment - Regular Svc.	21,496	23,757	23,757	21,933
TOTAL	31,042	33,443	37,035	40,684

SANDGATE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING

Legal voters of the Town School District of Sandgate, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at 10:00 A.M. at the Sandgate Town Hall on Tuesday, March 2nd^h, 2004 to transact the following business:

To be acted upon on March 2, 2004.

- Article 1. To hear and act on the report of the School District Officers.
- Article 2. To see if the Sandgate School District will vote the sum of \$6,000 into the existing reserve fund for replacement of the school bus when necessary.
- Article 3. To see if the Sandgate School District will vote to place any unanticipated surplus from the 2003-2004 fiscal year into the existing Reserve Fund for tuition and special education purposes.
- Article 4. To vote a sum of **\$526,804** necessary for the support of the School District for the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.
- Article 5. To authorize the School Board to borrow money by issue of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year.
- Article 6. To transact any other business proper to be brought before said Town School District Meeting.
- Article 7. To elect Town School District officers for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot on March 2, 2004.

Absentee voting is permitted on all matters to be voted upon by Australian ballot. For purposes of Australian balloting, the polls will be open from 10:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 2 2004

Dated this 27th day of January, 2004

Sandgate Board of School Directors:

Jeanne Zoppel, Chairperson
Allan Tschorn
Cheri Weber

**TOWN OF SANDGATE ANNUAL MEETING
WARNING
MARCH 1-2, 2004**

The legal voters of the Town of Sandgate, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at Sandgate Town Hall on Monday, March 1, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of acting on the articles specified below. Article #1 will be voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2004. The Polls will be open from 10:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

ARTICLE 1. To vote the following Town Officers: (by Australian Ballot).

Selectman, 3 years
Selectman, (2 positions) 1 year
Selectman, 2 years to complete a 3-year term
Town/School Moderator, 1 year
Town Clerk, 3 years
Town Constable, 1 year
Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year
Auditor, 3 years
Lister, 3 years
Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years
Town Agent, 1 year
Town Grand Juror, 1 year
School District Moderator, 1 year

ARTICLE 2. To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers. To see if the town will accept the Town Report as printed for the year ending June 30, 2003.

ARTICLE 3. To vote the salaries to be paid the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Road Liaison, and Constable.

ARTICLE 4. Shall current property taxes be paid to the Assistant Town Treasurer, on or before October 1, 2004?

ARTICLE 5. Shall line item balances, specifically for the following accounts: Record Restoration, Legal and Professional, Highway Fund Materials and Hauling (both summer and winter), Pavement Maintenance, and Bridge/Culvert Program, be carried over in the individual accounts into this following year?

ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow such sum or sums of money to meet its necessary expenditures prior to the collection of taxes?

- ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town vote to allow the Selectmen to appoint the Town Constable?
- ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town vote to transfer any remaining money from the Schoolhouse Restoration Fund to a Schoolhouse Museum Fund?
- ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$350 to the Lothar Wuerslin Scholarship Fund as it has done in past years?
- ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town appropriate \$92,627 to defray the general expenses of the town; and if so voted, authorize the Selectmen to set the tax rate based on the final Grand List?
- ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town appropriate \$190,230 to defray the highway expenses of the Town; and if so voted, authorize the Selectmen to set the tax rate based on the final Grand List?
- ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town vote to reduce the total amount to be raised by taxes by \$21,549 from the Tax Stabilization Fund?
- ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town vote to use the total interest of \$6,709 from the General Fund and Highway Fund to reduce the total amount to be raised by taxes?
- ARTICLE 14. To transact any other business proper to be brought before said meeting.

ARTICLE 15. Adjourn.

Dated at Sandgate, Vermont, this 19th day of January 2004.

Town of Sandgate Selectmen:

James Link, Chairman
Richard Zoppel
Charles Bentley, Jr.
Roy Gattlin
Kathy Wagner

VITAL STATISTICS RECORDED IN 2003

* * * *

BIRTHS

Bryce Patrick Harrington on January 7, 2003
Parents: Amanda L. Harrington and Gary F. Harrington
At Bennington, Vermont

Ronan Cray Wuerslin on May 10, 2003
Parents: Kitt Leona Hazelton and Hasso Wolfe Wuerslin
At Bennington, Vermont

MARRIAGES

Philip John Aufiero and Marianne Frances Statmore
At Sandgate, Vermont on May 17, 2003

Dared Edmund Wright and Heather Anne Richmond
At Sandgate, Vermont on September 6, 2003

Mark A. Madison and Robyn K. Pruett
At Manchester on September 12, 2003

DEATHS

James R. DeMarsh, Sr.
At Beattie Hollow in Sandgate, Vt. February 25, 2003

Edward P. Mitchell
At Chambers Road in Sandgate, Vt. April 17, 2003

Adair W. Brown
At Bennington, Vermont on May 8, 2003

Dominick A. Cerretani
At Bennington, Vermont on October 23, 2003

TOWN CLERK'S NOTE: Most states no longer send resident copies of vital records. If you would like a vital event, occurring out of state, recorded in the town records, you must file a certified copy of that event with the Town Clerk's Office.

TOWN CLERK HOURS

Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

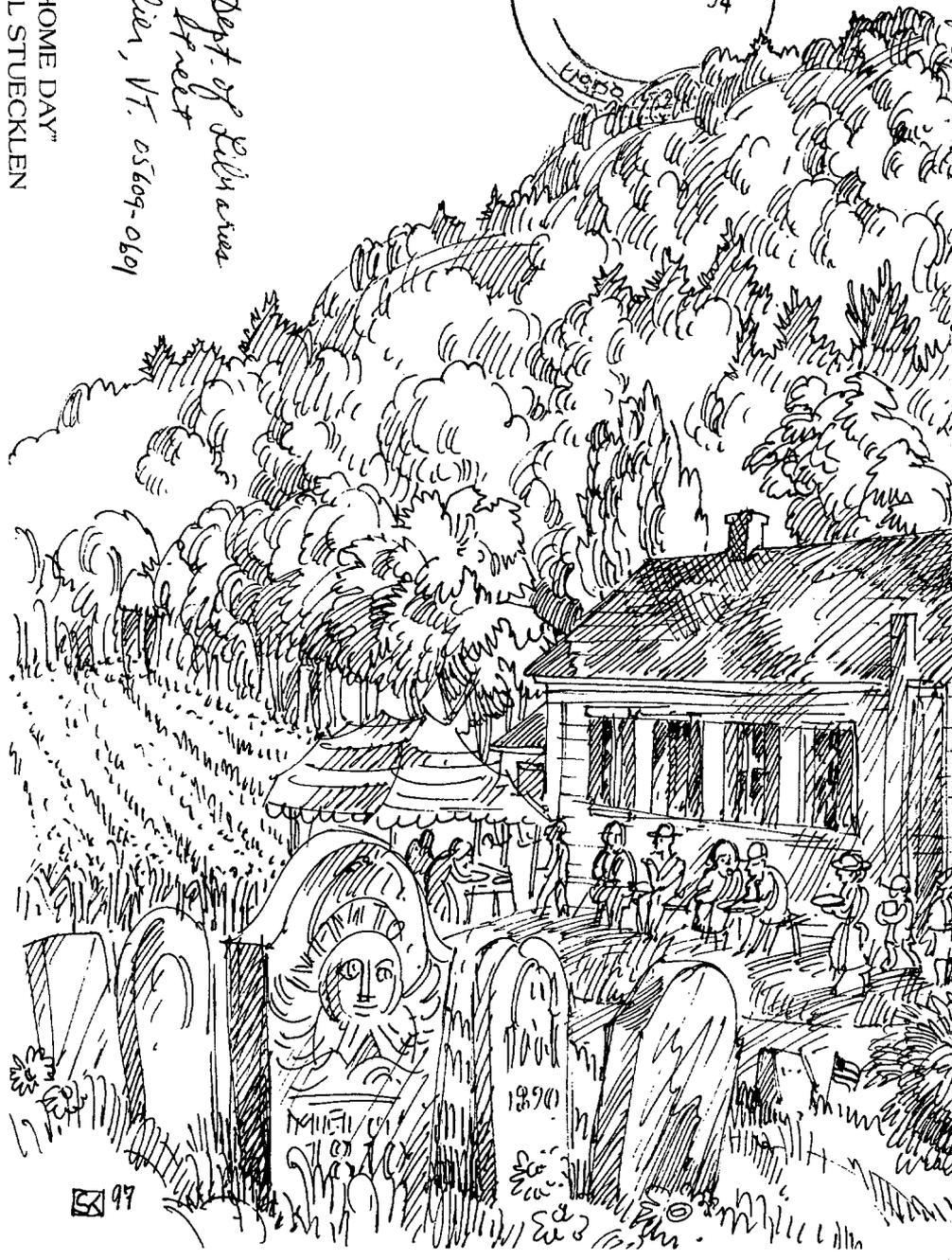
Thursday mornings by appointment only

Telephone: 375-9075 – Office- or 375-2298 - Home



"OLD HOME DAY"
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Vermont Dept of Public Safety
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT. 05609-0609



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