

Annual Report
2003
Vershire
Vermont



VOTER INFORMATION
THE VERSHIRE TOWN MEETING
will be held on
Tuesday March 2, 2004 at 10:00am
at the Town Center Building.

Articles warned for Town Meeting will be decided using two different methods. Articles to be voted upon at Town Meeting will be voted on from the floor. On the same day, Articles to be voted on by Australian ballot will be voted on in the Town Center Building basement. Voters will be able to cast their votes for these Articles any time between 10:00am and 7:00pm.

AN INFORMATION MEETING
to review the items to be voted by Australian Ballot
will be held on
Sunday, February 29, 2004 at 2:00pm
at the Town Center Building.

Early and Absentee Ballot Information

It is your right to cast, for any reason, an early or absentee ballot for articles to be voted by Australian Ballot. You, or a person authorized by you, must request an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk no later than 12:00 noon on Monday, March 1, by calling, writing, or coming in person.

Absentee ballots may be voted by:

1. Voting at the Town Office prior to Town Meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 8:30am and 3:00pm
2. Mailing the ballot back to the Town Clerk, to be **received** no later than 7:00pm on Town Meeting Day, March 2. (Postmark does not count.)
3. Delivering the ballot to the election officials at the Town Center Building on Town Meeting Day March 2, 2004 between 10:00am and 7:00pm.

If you are ill or physically disabled, two justices of the peace will bring a ballot to you at your home, allow you to vote, and then return the ballot for you to the Town Office.

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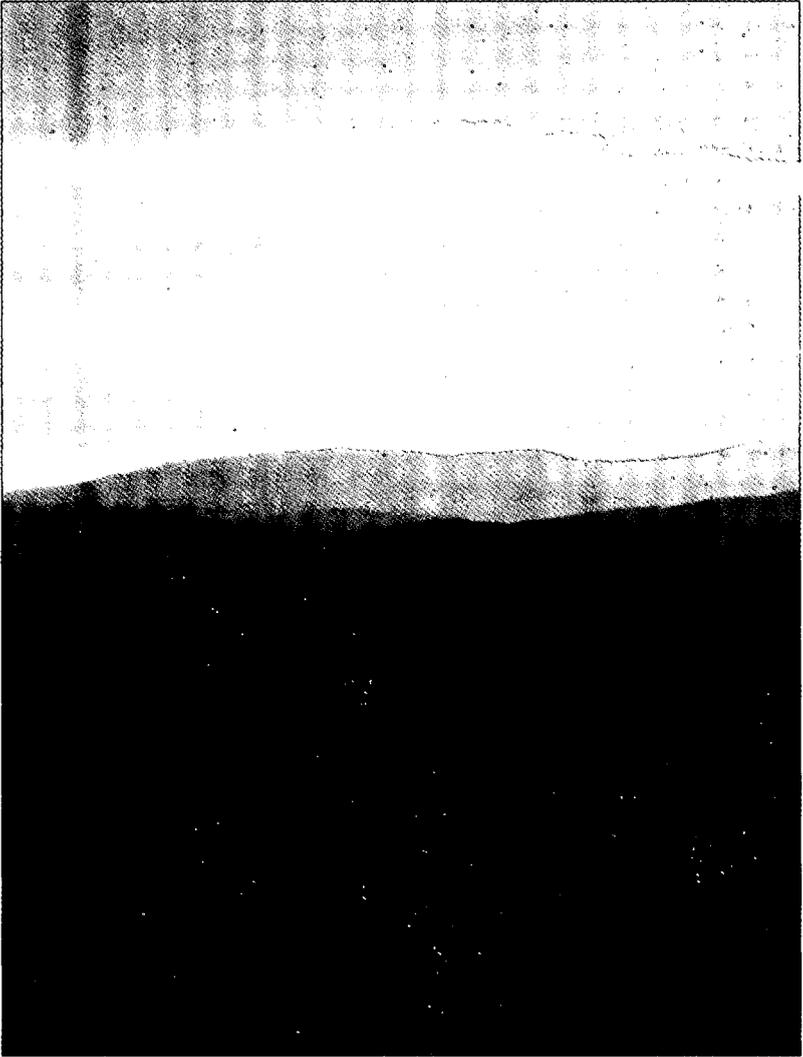
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view from Patterson Mountain

Vershire, Vermont Town Report 2003. Concept, design, cover photos & layout by Bob Bland.

WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Vershire are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Center on the second day of March 2004 at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business:

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

Article 2. To elect all other Town Officers as required by law.

Article 3. To hear and act upon the reports of the auditors and other Town Officials.

Article 4. To pay taxes to the Treasurer: payments to be in the Town Office or postmarked no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last Thursday in October in the year 2004.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$5,000 from the General Fund surplus for the Ricker Bridge Fund?

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$15,000 for the Capital Equipment Fund?

Article 7. Shall the voters of the Town authorize the expenditure of up to \$81,000 for a new sander/dump truck with plow and wing to be paid for by an appropriation of \$45,000 from the Highway Fund surplus, and an appropriation of up to \$36,000 from the Capital Equipment Fund?

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$2,200 for the Vershire FAST Squad?

Article 9. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$3,432 to be divided among the following services?

CSO Unified Recreation Council	\$1,042
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$300
Orange County Diversion Program	\$200
Visiting Nurse Alliance of VT and NH	\$1,890

Article 10. To transact any other proper town business that may come before this meeting.

The Following Articles Will Be Voted On By Australian Ballot:

Article 11. To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the ensuing year.

Article 12. To elect a Selectperson for a three-year term.

Article 13. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$220,600 for expenses as set forth in the Highway Fund Budget?

Article 14. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$177,746 for expenses as set forth in the General Fund Budget?

Article 15. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$15,870 for the Vershire Volunteer Fire Department?



The Conard House

MINUTES FROM SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

January 21, 2003

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and read the warning.

Article 1. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate funds for and authorize the following transactions:

Purchase of a new John Deere 672CH II Motor Grader \$238,984

Trade in of existing town grader plus municipal discount -\$103,584

Expenditure from the Capital Equipment Fund - \$45,000

Selectboard approved allocation of donated funds -\$18,000

Surplus from 2002 Town Meeting approved funding of a new ton truck - \$18,377

Total appropriation to be raised in taxes \$ 54,023

The article was moved and seconded. Louie Cadwell referred everyone to the fact sheet that was handed out and explained that the Selectboard warned this second special meeting because they feel that it is a fiscally sound decision to buy a new grader rather than repair the old one. He explained the following:

- The municipal discount offered is roughly \$70,000 and the trade-in value of our existing grader is \$33,000.
- This article is asking for an additional appropriation of \$54,023 but the total asset value will be \$238,984. We are actually spending approximately \$134,000 for the grader.
- The old grader needs a new transmission; cost estimate is \$11,000
- When repairs are needed on a grader, the costs can mount up at \$65/hour labor plus parts plus mileage
- The impact on taxes will be approximately the same as it was for the new truck last year.

Arthur Silvester explained that he received a letter from a towns person wondering if our grader was greased. He stated that it was greased every time before it goes out and added that the Selectboard budgeted \$1,000 for lubricants and had spent \$1,062.

Aldo Clark asked for clarification that taxes would not go up. Naomi LaBarr explained that the \$54,023 asked for as an additional appropriation here would result in approximately the same tax rate as the appropriation for the new truck for last year, meaning that this alone will not make the tax rate go any higher for 2003. She added that the Highway Fund, General Fund and School Budgets had not been set yet, so the impact of those funds on the total tax rate was unknown at this time, nor was the total 2003 grand list known yet.

Robert Youngquist stated that while \$54,000 was being asked for here, all the other funds were already collected through taxes. He thought that the tax impact should be thought of as a total of what the grader is costing, making the tax rate more like \$0.37. He worried that this was misleading. Louie Cadwell reminded everyone that he stated in the beginning that we will actually be spending approximately \$134,000 for the grader, much of which has been raised through taxes already and set aside in the Capital Equipment Fund with the need for a new grader in mind. Rita French agreed that the money was raised for the Capital Equipment Fund over the years for such a purpose. Naomi LaBarr felt that the warning for this meeting was not meant to be misleading but was worded in response to clarify questions raised at the previous meeting on how much the grader cost and where the moneys were coming from.

Andrea Wasserman felt that if we do nothing, that we would be in a hole with the old grader. She added that the highway crew does a good job on the roads and we should give them the equipment they need to do the job because so many people rely on being able to get out.

Louie Cadwell stated that the Nortrax price was in line with other manufacturers and prices they received. He reviewed e-mail from other towns that keep graders for 10 to 15 years, dump trucks for 7 to 10 years, and ton trucks 3 to 5 years. He felt if the transmission did not need extensive repair, then it might be worth it to hang on to the grader another year.

Danielle Sweet asked if this would drain the Capital Equipment Fund. Louie Cadwell replied that it would. Danielle Sweet expressed concern over what would happen if another piece of equipment failed or if this bad winter continues. Louie Cadwell explained that the Selectboard must ask the townspeople for authorization to spend funds for major equipment purchases, and that the Capital Equipment Fund was set up to keep fund for such expenditures. He added that the Selectboard is obligated to maintain the roads and if winter maintenance were over budget, they would have to use funds from another budget item to make up the difference.

Kathy Hooke asked for the overall picture on the town fleet. Louie Cadwell reviewed that we have a new ton truck, the backhoe is 2 years old, one dump truck is 5 years old, and a 1970 dump truck was traded in for the 1990 we now own. He felt this 1990 truck was used more for the winter maintenance and less in the summer, but that truck would need to be replaced next.

Robert Eastman wanted to know why we were driving the grader now even though it has transmission problems. He felt it would be cheaper to hire out the grader work for the town. Louie Cadwell did not agree that it would be cheaper. Robert Eastman said other towns were winging back the snow with the wing

on the trucks. Louie Cadwell felt it was easy to get a truck off the road and could cause damage to the trucks by doing it that way. Robert Eastman felt we could have the grader fixed rather than driving it and now it is costing the town more money. Louie Cadwell explained that the top clutch pack could affect the bottom clutch pack, but the Selectboard made the decision to hold out until this meeting. Robert Eastman said his taxes went up \$600 and the town doesn't have to keep up with the school spending.

Andrea Wasserman reported that she checks in at the town garage frequently and notices that the road crew is always spending time maintaining the equipment. She felt it would be a savings to the town to have equipment that is running, and that it is a safety issue too.

Rita French felt the Selectboard has done a thorough job of researching all the options here.

Chris Calhoun stated that most of the roads in town are dirt, the grader does most of the maintenance on the dirt roads, and that the grader is the most important piece of equipment to the town. He felt you could not push snow banks back properly without a grader, and when he plowed snow for another town, it was the grader that pulled him out when he got stuck. He thought it was the right decision to purchase a new grader.

Malcolm Ward agreed that the Selectboard has done a thorough job in looking at the need for a new grader. He thought the other towns that turned over their graders every 10 to 15 years had more hours on their equipment. Louie Cadwell replied that some towns had the same hours, but it is not a cut and dry number and depends on the service the towns use the grader for.

Arthur Silvester moved to call the question. Ruth Payne seconded the motion. The Moderator took a voice vote to call the question and declared that the ayes have it. Robert Eastman called for a paper ballot. The Moderator received approval for a paper ballot from the proper number of voters.

The Moderator read the results of the paper ballot: 58 yes, 33 no, 2 blank and declared that the motion carries.

Article 2. To transact any other proper town business that may come before this meeting.

No discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES FROM TOWN MEETING

March 4, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

David Hooke read the first article and asked for nominations. Mac Conard nominated David Hooke for Moderator. John Mellquist made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for David Hooke for Moderator. Mary Sarazin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

David Hooke introduced Sylvia Kennedy and Phil Winters, our state representatives. They gave an update on proposed changes to Act 60, and permit reform.

Article 2. To elect all other Town Officers as required by law.

Town Grand Juror, 1-year term: Marc McKee nominated Edward Grant. Mac Conard made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for Edward Grant for Town Grand Juror. Gerry Coleman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Agent, 1-year term: Andrea Wasserman nominated Naomi LaBarr. Naomi thanked Andrea for the nomination but declined due to conflict of interest as the Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard. Bonnie Strout nominated Martin Ward. Mac Conard made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for Martin Ward for town Agent. Gary Rhodes seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Lister, 3-year term: William Baylis nominated Debra Kingsbury. Marc McKee made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for Debra Kingsbury for Lister for a 3-year term. Timo Bradley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Lister, to fill remaining 2 years of a 3-year term: Murray LaBarr nominated Cindy Fifield. Mac Conard made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for Cindy Fifield for Lister for 2 years. Pam Blair seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Lister, to fill remaining 1 year of a 3-year term: Naomi LaBarr nominated Celia Thorsson. Marc McKee made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for Celia Thorsson for 1 year. Debra Kingsbury seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Auditor, 3-year term: Andrea Wasserman nominated Bob Bland. Kathy Hooke made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for Bob Bland for a 3-year term. Val Mullen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Planning Commission, to fill remaining 3 years of a 4-year term: Marc McKee nominated Harry Black. Bob Bland made a motion to close nominations and

that the clerk cast one ballot for Harry Black for 3 years. Andrea Wasserman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Planning Commission, 4-year term: Eileen Murphy nominated Marc McKee. Mac Conard made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for Marc McKee for a 4-year term. Chris Calhoun seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Planning Commission, 4-year term: Doug Haun nominated Daniel Smithwick. Carol Suich made a motion to close nominations and that the clerk cast one ballot for Daniel Smithwick for a 4-year term. Val Mullen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sextons, 1-year term: Jack Kruse nominated the Cemetery Trustees. Bonnie Strout seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Article 3. To hear and act upon the reports of the auditors and other Town Officials.

Bob Bland explained that the Auditors put a summary of service organizations on page 45 of the town report, instead of allowing a full page for each organization. He reported that their reports are available at the Town Office and that this format saved significant dollars in printing and postal costs. Kathy Hooke thanked Bob Bland for his tremendous effort in putting the town report together. Everyone clapped.

Kathy Hooke, speaking for the Conservation Commission, reported that a draft management plans for three town properties have been written, and welcomed public input on the drafts. She reviewed the speakers in the Wildlife Conservation Series that have been ongoing.

John Roy reported that the pictures in the town report were taken by the youth of Vershire for a journalism project during last summer's Community Camp.

Article 4. To pay taxes to the Treasurer: payments to be in the Town Office or postmarked no later than the last Thursday in October in the year 2003.

Martin Ward moved the article. Carol Suich seconded. No further discussion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 5. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$5,000 from the General Fund Surplus for the Ricker Bridge Fund?

Kathy Hooke moved the article. Andrea Wasserman seconded. Cheryl Nation asked if the bridge would ever be built. Arthur Silvester explained that the Selectboard felt that this bridge was a concern, that the Selectboard has had extensive correspondence with the state, that there was no way that the town could avoid putting this bridge in, that negotiations modified the plan and lowered the cost. He estimated construction to start in 4 or 5 years. Chris Calhoun asked if the state is installing the bridge. Arthur Silvester explained that they

are and that \$40,000 to \$50,000 was already invested in preliminary engineering. Louie Cadwell said the latest estimates for the entire project rose from \$240,000 to \$310,000. Arthur Silvester added that the cost included a temporary bridge. No further discussion. David Hooke called the question. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 6. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$15,000 from the General Fund Surplus for the Capital Equipment Fund?

Andrea Wasserman moved the article. Pam Blair seconded the motion. Bonnie Strout asked what this money was going to be used for. Louie Cadwell explained that it is for future purchases of equipment, and must be voted on by the town before being spent. No further discussion. David Hooke called the question. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the voters of the town appropriate \$2,500 for a contract with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to patrol the Town of Vershire?

Carol Suich moved the article. Mary Sarazin seconded. Louie Cadwell explained that it did not seem like much money, but that travel expenses will be shared with neighboring towns. He added that a contract was needed because our county taxes do not cover this expense and it is hoped that the patrol cars will be in town more to deter speeding and break-ins, and that the sheriff's department will respond to calls from residents. Discussion followed on if the sheriff's department would respond to calls, why a contract was needed, and how long the \$2500 would last. Bob Bland thought it was like hiring a private security service, except this was a government entity, which he felt was unusual. He asked about the position of Constable. Louie explained that scope of the Constable. Discussion followed on having a Constable vs. a contract with the Sheriff. Danielle Sweet wondered if there is a big need for this since the state police are responsive, and if it would make a difference in town. Many residents voiced opinions of whether or not they approved of this service. Discussion followed on whether to call 911, the fire department, the sheriff, or the state police. Cheryl Nation was outraged over the need to pay extra for this service. Louie Cadwell felt that this article was a starting place for the town to see if it would work or not, or if the funding was enough. Louie Cadwell called the question. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$5,100 for a pressure washer to be used for culvert thawing and maintenance of the highway equipment?

Wendall Farrar moved the article. Sydney Veysey seconded. Richard L. Johnson explained the need for a pressure washer for maintaining equipment and culvert thawing. Danielle Sweet asked if money in the Capital Equipment Fund

could be used instead. Richard L. Johnson replied that it would if so voted, but the Selectboard felt that fund should be built up for a future truck purchase. Sabra Ewing thought someone in town would have one that the town could borrow. Chris Calhoun wondered how long it should last. Louie Cadwell thought it should last 10 to 15 years, and this one would be a different system than the old one at the town garage that only made steam. Cindy Fifield wondered how long we have before we need the new one. Louie Cadwell replied that the old one has been red-tagged an unsafe and cannot be used. Kathy Hooke wondered why no money was included in the highway budget for culvert thawing. Louie Cadwell explained that the worst culverts have been replaced over time. Bonnie Strout made a motion to amend the motion to take the funds from the Capital Equipment Fund. Danielle Sweet seconded the motion. Gary Rhodes thought \$5100 request was reasonable and that the \$15,000 in the Capital Equipment Fund is needed for other things. Murray LaBarr agreed the \$15,000 should be left in the Capital Equipment Fund and that \$5100 is well spent to maintain ½ million dollars of equipment the town owns. Kathy Hooke asked what the future needs for equipment are? Louie Cadwell explained that the 1990 International dump truck is the next truck in line to be replaced, and that it is being used sparingly now to extend its life. Chris Calhoun felt that \$500 over 10 years was cheap to maintain all our equipment. Bob Bland called the question. David Hooke called for a vote on the amendment to take the \$5100 in this article from the Capital Equipment Fund. The amended article failed by a voice vote. No further discussion on the original article. David Hooke called the question. The original article passed on a voice vote.

Article 9. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate up to \$36,800 for the next phase of the Town Center redesign to include a handicapped-accessible walkway, front door and bathroom, plus sitework, two new entry doors in the basement, basement windows in the wall facing the recreation field, and repairing/repainting exterior clapboards on the wall facing the recreation field?

Carol Suich moved the article. Jack Kruse seconded. Pam Blair, speaking for the Town Center Design Committee, reviewed the history as follows: Approximately 2 ½ years ago, the Selectboard appointed the Facilities Advisory Committee to study the future needs for the Vershire Elementary School property and all other town facilities. The committee concluded that the town needed to sell the Vershire Elementary School property, and that the Town Center needed work. A second committee, the Town Center Design Committee was appointed. This committee found that the Town Center was not maintained to the level it should be and that a plan for this had never been developed. Most townspeople

indicated that the Town Center was an important facility for the town. The major things that the committee needed to address were found to be the 6" floor level difference with the new addition, and that the building is not up to code in many areas but mainly ADA codes. The committee applied for and got a \$15,000 grant for planning which is being used for architectural and landscaping services. The temporary ramp gave the building ADA accessibility which was needed for the town to hold elections there, but long term needs require complete ADA accessibility and the committee is working on finding ways to comply with these requirements.

Pam Blair continued with the explanation of the plans to complete Phase One: The plan proposes to raise the grade and install a new walkway to comply with ADA accessibility but keep the historical look of the building in place. The door must be modified and a small interior ramp built. The wall facing the recreation field is in very bad shape and windows are to be replaced as well as repair and replacement of clapboards. Mary Sarazin asked if there was lead paint on the walls. Martin Ward replied that the town underwent a lead abatement program and the state inspection that followed reported it was OK. Pam added that this is just a start to get the ball rolling on maintenance and the ADA compliant entrance. She reported that other areas would need additional funding for future phases that will be more expensive. She thought money from the sale of the Vershire Elementary School property could be used, or there may be additional grants that the town could apply for. Andrea Wasserman added that the committee is looking for long-term fixes on these areas.

Jack Kruse felt that the committee is doing good and important work and has given careful and honest consideration to these items. Robert Younquist asked how many hours were needed to pay the clerk of the works. Pam Blair indicated that this position is paid by the existing grant. Robert Younquist questioned the \$50 per hour rate. Pam Blair estimated that it would be approximately 2 hours a week while the construction is going on. Bob Bland asked for information on the future phases. Pam Blair reported that the stairwell crowds the front door and must be repositioned which will in turn require a kitchen renovation, bathrooms will need to be installed, and space for a lift is being reserved. Mary Sarazin asked about the structural soundness. Pam replied that Phase two includes reinforcement of the main floor. Discussion followed on the entrance, the kitchen, and the lead paint abatement.

Robert Younquist called the question. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 10. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$2,000 for the Vershire FAST Squad?

Mac Conard moved the article. Sydney Veysey seconded. Kathy Hooke, speaking for the FAST Squad President Pat Barnes, stated that the rescue unit has

been paid off and money is going into their Capital Equipment Fund. She added that amount is less than \$4 per person for a service that *does* respond. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 11. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$2,116 to be divided among the following services?

CSO Unified Recreation	\$816
Central VT Community Action	\$300
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$300
Chelsea Senior Citizens Center	\$200
Orange County Diversion	\$200
Safeline, Inc.	\$300

Carol Suich moved the article. Bob Bland seconded. Mary Sarazin, reporting for the CSO, explained that their budget is also funded through user fees and fundraisers. She added that the CSO generates \$7,000 for a \$12,000 budget and the rest is proportionately requested from the Rivendell towns. She stated that Vershire's share is 17.67 %. No further discussion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 12. Shall the voters of the town change the name of the "Parcel Map Fund" to the "Parcel Map and Reappraisal Fund" to cover expenses for Parcel Map updates and Town property reappraisals as needed?

Naomi LaBarr explained that it was expected that the town may get a reappraisal order from the state due to the Common Level of Appraisal and the Coefficient of Dispersion ratings for Vershire. She added that the state contributes money every year for maintenance of the grand list and that payment has been put into this fund every year. She felt that the Parcel Maps still need to be updated, but that a reappraisal is expensive and this fund would help to offset those costs when needed. No further discussion. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 14. Whereas many food that we eat have been genetically engineered or contain genetically engineered ingredients; and

Whereas genetically engineered foods are fundamentally different from conventional foods in that they have foreign DNA from bacteria, viruses, animals or plants spliced into their genetic cods; and

Whereas such foods can have unpredictable effects on human health; and

Whereas consumers cannot avoid buying such foods since no foods in this country are labeled for genetically engineered content; and

Whereas the principles of democratic society require being able to make

informed choices;

Therefore the residents of the Town of Vershire call upon our Legislative and Congressional representative to work towards the mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered food products.

David took this article before Article 13 and reminded everyone that it is advisory only.

Sydney Veysey moved the article. Carol Suich seconded. Sydney Veysey spoke in favor of this article and shared a personal experience with everyone. Sabra Ewing felt this would help direct our representatives and gave examples of Genetically Modified Organisms. John Mellquist spoke in favor of this resolution and felt that we need labeling and have a right to know what we are consuming. He felt that the biotech industry is fighting this, and that there is a difference in genetically modified foods. The article passed by a voice vote.

Article 13. To transact any other proper town business that may come before this meeting.

Rita French proposed the following resolution:

Whereas, Louis Cadwell III has served as a Selectboard member for Vershire for 11 years; and

Whereas, During that time he has consistently supported the interests of sound fiscal management of the Town; and

Whereas, Under his guidance maintenance levels for Town highways has kept pace with the demands of constituents; and

Whereas, As a member of the Town Legislative Body he has always listened with understanding and humanity to the requests of local citizens; and

Whereas, As the Town's population has increased in the past decade his leadership has made it possible for the Town to continue to meet all its responsibilities to citizens; and

Whereas, While serving as Chair he has always displayed fairness, patience and forbearance to the petitions of his fellow citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the citizens of Vershire do hereby express our heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to Louis Cadwell III for his many services rendered both to our community and its citizens. This declaration is made this 4th day of March 2003 at the annual Town Meeting.

All were in favor with a standing ovation.

Danielle Sweet felt that many do not have the opportunity to come to a Town Meeting and that we should hold the meeting on a Saturday or Sunday to give the process a real chance. Sabra Ewing reported that VerShare is starting a 4-H group. Carol Suich reported the date for the playoffs of the Rivendell Interstate School District girls' basketball team.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT RESULTS from March 4, 2003

Article 15. To elect a Town Clerk for a three-year term.

Naomi LaBarr	137
write ins	0
blank/spoiled	5

Article 16. To elect a Town Treasurer for a three-year term.

Naomi LaBarr	136
write ins	0
blank/spoiled	6

Article 17. To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes for the ensuing year.

Robert P. Youngquist	135
write ins	0
blank/spoiled	7

Article 18. To elect a Selectperson for a three-year term.

Earl Rogers	50
Stacy Ann Seace	75
write ins	4
blank/spoiled	4

Article 19. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$193,000 for expenses as set forth in the Highway Fund Budget?

Yes	112
No	30
Blank	0

Article 20. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$157,601 for expenses as set forth in the General Fund Budget?

Yes	114
No	28
Blank	0

Article 19. Shall the voters of the Town appropriate \$15,500 for the Vershire Volunteer Fire Department?

Yes	116
No	25
Blank	1

on checklist: 424

ballots voted: 142

MINUTES FROM SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

May 12, 2003

The Moderator, David Hooke, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the warning.

Article 1. Shall the voters of the Town authorize the Selectboard to sell the building and 9.45 +/- acres commonly known as the "Vershire Elementary School property" and designated in the 2002 grand list as parcels 13-25 and 13-25.1?

The article was moved and seconded.

Arthur Silvester explained that there have been 3 break-ins since the building ceased to be used, that there is an offer to purchase the property, and that if approved, this meeting will give the authority to sell the property and get it listed as taxable property.

Steve Kill asked if there has been a proper appraisal of the property. Debra Kingsbury explained that the property includes 8.9 acres, and a 4800 square foot building that was being used and was reappraised during the town-wide reappraisal in 1999 for \$225,000. She added that in her market analysis of the value, the usability for other situations became a problem. She compared the building to other facilities of similar size and function, and found sales in the \$145,000 to \$175,000 range. She added that there will be restrictive covenants on the deed, and that there has been vandalism since it became vacant.

Possible restrictive covenants were discussed.

Sue Sargent asked if it could be sold in separate parcels, and thought that the abutters were interested in additional acreage. Debra Kingsbury explained that there were 3 separate deeds, and that the part the abutter was interested in would land-lock another section. Pam Blair wondered if the neighbors could buy 2 of the parcels. Debra Kingsbury felt that it would limit the use and interested buyers.

Pam Blair asked if there was insurance on the building and if the vandalism was covered. Naomi LaBarr replied that there was, and that the vandalism was covered with a \$500 deductible.

Eileen Murphy asked for clarification on this article. Steve Kill explained that this gives the Selectboard the authority to sell the property. Pam Blair thought that the approval was previously voted on. Naomi LaBarr explained that a public hearing was previously held to seek input on putting the property on the market.

Sue Sargent asked if there was an offer now. Debra Kingsbury said that there is an offer that is still standing, but that after the last vandalism, the offer may

be adjusted.

Eileen Murphy asked if the voters should set a minimum amount for the Selectboard to consider. Steve Kill thought that would protect the Selectboard from people thinking that they accepted something too low. Harry Black felt that whatever minimum is set now will be the maximum offered. Debra Kingsbury said that there have been many offers under \$100,000, but that the Selectboard said that they would not work with anything below that. She felt that nothing is cast in concrete now, but that the size of the building being 4800 square feet and that it will require at least \$50,000 to turn it into a useable structure should be considered. She pointed out an example that there are no full baths in the building.

Tom Griffith asked if the Selectboard was aware of all these considerations and if they felt comfortable with the offer that they had. Richard L. Johnson replied that they were.

Tom Griffith called the question. The Moderator took a voice vote and declared that the ayes have it.

Article 2. To transact any other proper town business that may come before this meeting.

Sue Kruse asked if the murals that the elementary children had made were still in the building, and if they could be moved. Debra Kingsbury replied that they were there and agreed that they should be moved, and that they should be excluded from the sale.

Discussion on past break-ins took place.

Pam Blair reminded everyone about a Town Center Design Committee meeting coming up.

Debra Kingsbury proposed putting together a teen coffee shop to give teens somewhere to go and something to do.

Pam Blair reminded everyone that the Town Center would not be available after August 1 due to construction.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator	David Hooke
Clerk & Treasurer	Naomi LaBarr (Term expires 2006)
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Robert P. Youngquist
Town Grand Juror	Edward Grant
Town Agent	Martin Ward
Sextons	Cemetery Trustees

Selectboard

Arthur Silvester*	2004
Richard L. Johnson	2005
Stacy Ann Seace	2006

Listers

Celia Thorson	2004
Cindy Fifield	2005
Debra Kingsbury*	2006

Auditors

Kathy Hooke	2004
Gerry Coleman	2005
Robert Bland*	2006

Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment

Doug Haun	2004
Timo Bradley	2005
Alden Smith	2005
Bill Baylis	2006
Harry Black	2006
Marc McKee*	2007
Daniel Smithwick	2007

Rivendell Ind. Sch. Dist. Directors - Vershire Representatives

Jack Kruse	2004
Dale Ricker	2005

Justices of the Peace

James Gardner	Democrat	685-3100	2005
Geraldine Coleman	Democrat	685-3406	2005
Sue Kruse	Democrat	685-4489	2005
Barbara Parker	Independent	685-4671	2005
Bob Bland	Democrat	333-9448	2005

* chairperson

Cemetery Trustees

Arvilla Towle*	2004
Edward Grant	2005
Rita French	2006

Appointed Officers (all terms for one year unless otherwise noted)

Conservation Commissioners	Kathy Hooke	2005
	Marcus Bradley	2004
	Evaline Moulton	2006
Assistant Clerk and Treasurer	Lorraine Cadwell	2004
Administrative Officer	Charles Zue	2005
Constable	vacant	
Energy Coordinator	vacant	
Animal Control Officer	Joseph Hill & David Danforth	
Green-Up Day	VerShare	
Recycling Coordinator	Wesley Parker	
Health Officer	Charles Zue	2005
Road Foreman	Robert Hodge	
Town Service Officer	Eleanor Zue	
Vershire Day Coordinator	Bev Hill	
Deputy Registrars	Cilley & Broadway	
Fence Viewers	Edward Grant	
	Selectboard	
	Markus Bradley	
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	Markus Bradley	
Admin. Assistant & Slctbd. Sec.	Naomi LaBarr	
GUVSWD Representative	Pam Blair	
Two Rivers Ottauquechee Rep.	Mac Conard & John Roy	

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Anticipated Income	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	Variance	2004 Budget
Current Use (Hold Harmless)	\$30,000	\$42,980	\$12,980	\$30,000
Town Permits	\$650	\$730	\$80	\$700
Copier Fees	\$300	\$283	-\$17	\$300
License Fees	\$1,200	\$1,242	\$42	\$1,200
Bank Account Interest	\$250	\$203	-\$47	\$250
Solid Waste	\$4,500	\$5,609	\$1,378	\$5,000
Miscellaneous Income	\$200	\$79	-\$121	\$0
Town Clerk Fees	\$5,000	\$7,599	\$2,599	\$6,000
Total Anticipated Income	\$42,100	\$58,725	\$16,894	\$43,450

Other Income:	Actual
2003 Real Estate Taxes	\$1,158,554
Collector's Fees	\$7,047
Overpayment of Taxes	\$156
Mountain School Contribution	\$18,000
Deliquent Taxes	\$88,089
Deliquent Tax Interest	\$7,110
Current Use Withdrawal	\$675
Employee Share Health Ins.	\$5,783
VES insurance reimbursement	\$2,568
Total Other Income	\$1,287,982
Total Income	\$1,346,976

Budgeted Expenses	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	Variance	2004 Budget
<i>Taxes, Dues, Contracts</i>				
Ambulance Service	\$9,435	\$9,435	\$0	\$9,435
County Tax	\$9,000	\$9,422	\$422	\$10,000
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee	\$695	\$695	\$0	\$695
Solid Waste District Dues	\$3,460	\$3,460	\$0	\$3,460
Vt. League of Cities & Towns	\$671	\$671	\$0	\$706
Subtotal	\$23,261	\$23,683	\$422	\$24,296

GENERAL FUND BUDGET, CONTINUED

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	Variance	2004 Budget
<i>Administration</i>				
Administrative Assistant	\$2,500	\$2,045	-\$455	\$2,500
Administrative Officer	\$500	\$0	-\$500	\$500
Advertising	\$150	\$135	-\$15	\$150
Animal Control	\$650	\$172	-\$478	\$500
Assistant Clerk	\$1,800	\$1,528	-\$272	\$1,800
Audit Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Auditors' Salaries	\$300	\$0	-\$300	\$300
Clerk/Treasurer Salary	\$19,500	\$19,500	\$0	\$20,670
Conservation Commission	\$150	\$50	-\$100	\$100
Constable	\$500	\$0	-\$500	\$0
Copier Expense	\$700	\$725	\$25	\$750
Health Officer	\$500	\$0	-\$500	\$500
Town Officers' Expenses	\$200	\$213	\$13	\$250
Insurance	\$29,600	\$27,917	-\$1,683	\$35,000
Interest on Loans	\$0	\$242	\$242	\$0
Legal Expenses	\$1,000	\$960	-\$40	\$1,500
Listers' Expenses	\$600	\$816	\$216	\$1,000
Listers' Salaries	\$3,000	\$2,176	-\$824	\$6,000
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$47	\$47	\$0
Newsletter	\$1,800	\$1,603	-\$197	\$1,800
Office Supplies	\$2,250	\$2,218	-\$32	\$5,030
Payroll Taxes	\$3,000	\$8,528	\$5,528	\$8,700
Postal Expense	\$1,000	\$898	-\$102	\$1,000
Recycle Expense	\$5,640	\$5,120	-\$520	\$5,500
Road Signs	\$300	\$393	\$93	\$400
Selectboard's Salaries	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800
Selectboard Secretary	\$400	\$316	-\$84	\$400
Sheriff's Services				\$2,500
Solid Waste	\$31,000	\$29,438	-\$1,562	\$31,000
Telephone	\$1,900	\$1,249	-\$651	\$1,500
Town Reports	\$1,600	\$983	-\$617	\$1,200
Vershire Day	\$1,500	\$1,412	-\$88	\$1,600
Subtotal	\$113,840	\$110,484	-\$3,356	\$133,950

GENERAL FUND BUDGET, CONTINUED

<i>Building Expenses</i>	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	Variance	2004 Budget
Garage	\$3,000	\$1,340	\$1,660	\$2,500
Town Office	\$4,000	\$5,095	-\$1,095	\$6,000
Vershire Elementary School	\$1,000	\$1,701	\$701	\$1,500
Subtotal	\$8,000	\$8,136	\$136	\$10,000
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$145,101	\$142,303	-\$2,798	\$168,246
Transfers - part of General Fund Budget				
To Cemetery Fund	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$2,500
To Planning Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
To Recreation Field Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$2,000
To Town Center Fund	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0	\$9,500
Total Budgeted Transfers & Expenses	\$157,601	\$154,803	-\$2,798	\$177,746
Less Total Anticipated Income				
		-\$42,100		-\$43,450
Estimated Total To Be Raised in Taxes for General Fund				
	\$115,501			\$134,296

Unbudgeted Expenses

Collector of Delinquent Taxes	\$7,473
Misc. Refunds	\$0
Refund of Overpaid Taxes	\$155
State License Fees	\$250
Employee Share Health Ins.	\$5,832
Total Unbudgeted Expenses	\$13,710

GENERAL FUND BUDGET, CONTINUED

2003 Budget 2003 Actual Variance 2004 Budget

Transfers and expenditures voted separately

To New Grader Purchase	\$54,023	
To Capital Projects Town		
Center Redesign	\$36,800	
To Capital Projects Sheriffs Services	\$2,500	
To Capital Equipment Pressure Washer	\$5,100	
To Capital Equipment Fund	\$15,000	from surplus
To Highway Fund	\$143,000	
To School District	\$879,726	
To Ricker Bridge Fund	\$5,000	from surplus
Total Voted Transfers	\$1,141,149	

Transfers voted by Selectboard

To Capital Equipment Fund	\$18,000
To Capital Projects Fund	\$8,171 (VES claims)

Contributions voted separately

Vershire Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$15,500
FAST Squad	\$2,000
CSO	\$816
Central VT Community Action	\$300
Central VT Council on Aging	\$300
Chelsea Senior Center	\$200
Orange County Diversion	\$200
Safeline	\$300
Total Voted Contributions	\$19,616

Total Expenses and Transfers \$1,355,449

GENERAL FUND BUDGET, CONTINUED

General Fund Summary

Income	\$1,346,707
Expenses	
Budgeted expenses & transfers	\$154,803
Unbudgeted expenses	\$13,710
Transfers & expenditures voted separately	\$1,141,149
Transfers voted by Selectboard	\$26,171
Contributions voted separately	\$19,616
Total Expenses	\$1,355,449
Net Income	-\$8,742
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$31,790
Fund Balance End of Year	\$23,048

HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET

Highway Fund Budget	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	Variance	2004 Budget
Expenses:				
Asphalt Patching	\$4,000	\$2,549	-\$1,451	\$3,500
Brush Removal	\$4,500	\$2,298	-\$2,202	\$4,500
Calcium Chloride	\$2,500	\$2,310	-\$190	\$2,500
Culvert Thawing	\$0	\$437	\$437	\$200
Culverts, labor	\$2,200	\$834	-\$1,366	\$2,500
Culverts, purchased	\$1,500	\$1,454	-\$46	\$1,500
Diesel	\$7,000	\$10,625	\$3,625	\$12,000
Ditching	\$6,500	\$7,410	\$910	\$7,500
Gasoline	\$100	\$95	-\$5	\$100
General Maintenance	\$8,000	\$8,089	\$89	\$9,000
Grader	\$600	\$1,508	\$908	\$800
Grading	\$11,000	\$10,511	-\$489	\$11,000
Gravel, purchased	\$10,000	\$4,534	-\$5,466	\$10,000
Gravel Road Improvement	\$15,000	\$11,110	-\$3,890	\$15,000
Gravel Trucking	\$5,000	\$2,016	-\$2,984	\$5,000

GENERAL FUND BUDGET, CONTINUED

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	Variance	2004 Budget
Guard Rails	\$800	\$0	-\$800	\$800
Holiday Pay	\$2,500	\$1,806	-\$694	\$2,500
Loader	\$600	\$1,228	\$628	\$1,200
Lubricants	\$800	\$781	-\$19	\$900
Mowing	\$3,750	\$2,223	-\$1,527	\$3,750
Other Equipment	\$500	\$23	-\$477	\$300
Parts & Supplies	\$1,500	\$1,871	\$371	\$2,000
Paving	\$20,000	\$7,846	-\$12,154	\$30,000
Plowing & Sanding	\$25,000	\$24,192	-\$808	\$25,000
Plows	\$1,500	\$1,266	-\$234	\$1,500
Rentals	\$250	\$0	-\$250	\$250
Salt, Purchased	\$12,000	\$11,102	-\$898	\$12,000
Sand, Purchased	\$25,000	\$19,882	-\$5,118	\$25,000
Sick Leave	\$3,500	\$2,556	-\$944	\$3,000
Special Projects	\$2,000	\$878	-\$1,122	\$10,000
Truck #1 (1997>2003 Ford)	\$1,500	\$1,376	-\$124	\$2,000
Truck #2 (1998 Ford)	\$3,000	\$4,645	\$1,645	\$4,700
Truck #3 (1990 International)	\$4,300	\$6,942	\$2,642	\$5,000
Vacation Pay	\$3,200	\$1,891	-\$1,309	\$2,200
York Rake	\$1,000	\$40	-\$960	\$1,000
Uniforms	\$2,400	\$2,348	-\$52	\$2,400
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$193,000	\$158,676	-\$34,324	\$220,600
Less State Highway Aid	-\$50,000			-\$50,000
Estimated Total To Be Raised in Taxes for Highway Fund				\$170,600

Compensated Expenses, Unbudgeted Items, & Items Separately Warned

New Grader	\$90,400	\$90,400	\$0	\$0
remainder from capital equipment fund				

Total Highway Fund Expenses **\$249,076**

TOWN FUNDS

Highway Fund

Income:

Transfer from General Fund	\$143,000
State Aid Town Roads	\$56,808
Interest	\$425
New Grader Appropriation	\$54,023
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,481
Total Income	\$255,737

Expenses

Budgeted	\$158,676
Grader	\$90,400
balance from Capital Equipment Fund	

Total Expenses	\$249,076
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Net Income	\$6,661
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Fund Balance Beginning of the Year	\$42,506
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Fund Balance End of the Year	\$49,167
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Capital Equipment Fund

Income:

Transfer from General Fund Surplus	\$15,000
Pressue Washer Appropriation	\$5,100
Mountain School Donation Transfer	\$18,000
Interest	\$462
Total Income	\$38,562

Pressuer Washer	\$4,670
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Grader	\$45,000
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 balance from Highway Fund

Expenses:	\$49,670
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Net Income	-\$11,108
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Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$46,163
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Fund Balance End of Year	\$35,055
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Capital Projects Fund

Income:

Interest	\$179
Town Center Planning Grant	\$10,472
Town Center Appropriation	\$36,800
VES claims	\$8,171
Sheriffs Services	\$2,500
Total Income	\$58,122

Expenses:

Redesign expenses	\$11,565
Sheriffs Services	\$1,091
Total Expenses	\$12,656
Net Income (Loss)	\$45,466
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$17,912
Fund Balance End of Year	\$63,378
In reserve for bathroom at Town Center	\$6,700
In reserve for Town Center heating system	\$10,000
In reserve for Town Center construction	\$36,800

Cemetery Fund

Income:

Interest	\$5
Transfer from General Fund	\$1,500
Total Income	\$1,505

Expenses:

Supplies	\$55
Maintenance	\$877
Total Expenses	\$932
Net Income (Loss)	\$573
Fund Balance Beginning of the Year	\$493
Fund Balance End of the Year	\$1,066

The cemetery Fund is also holding 1,318.567 shares of the Fidelity Puritan Fund. These shares have a market value of \$34,084.96 as of 12/31/03 having gained \$7541.48 during the year. All dividends and capital gains are reinvested into this account.

Funds continue next page

Planning Fund

Income:

Planning Grant for Ordinances	\$505
Interest	\$42
Transfer from General Fund	\$0
Total Income	\$547

Expenses:

Miscellaneous Expenses	\$80
Secretary	\$142
Ordinance Expenses	\$800
Total Expenses	\$1,022
Net Income	-\$475
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$4,215
Fund balance End of Year	\$3,740

Parcel Map & Reappraisal Fund

Income:

State Payment	\$3,332
Interest	\$239
Total Income	\$3,571
Expenses:	\$0
Total Expenses	\$0
Net Income (Loss)	\$3,571
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$23,857
Fund Balance End of Year	\$27,428

Ricker Bridge Fund

Income:

Transfer from General Fund Surplus	\$5,000
Interest	\$66
Total Income	\$5,066
Expenses	
State Payments	\$48
Total Expenses	\$48
Net Income (Loss)	\$5,018
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$6,605
Fund Balance End of Year	\$11,623

Recreation Fund

Income	
Softball Team Contributions	\$60
Land Management Grant	\$1,256
Transfer from General Fund	\$1,000
Interest	\$27
Total Income	\$2,343
Expenses	
Portable Toilets	\$398
Land Management Plans	\$1,389
Total Expenses	\$1,787
Net Income (Loss)	\$556
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	\$2,702
Fund Balance End of Year	\$3,258

Book Restoration Fund

Income: Recording Surcharge	\$980
Interest	\$47
Total Income	\$1,027
Fund Balance Beginning of the Year	\$4,732
Fund Balance End of the Year	\$5,759

Veteran Memorial Fund

Income:	
Interest	\$36
Donations	\$0
Total Income	\$36
Expenses:	
Pedestal	\$2,200
Total Expenses	\$2,200
Net Income (Loss)	-\$2,164
Balance Beginning of the Year	\$3,597
Balance End of the Year	\$1,433

Funds continue next page

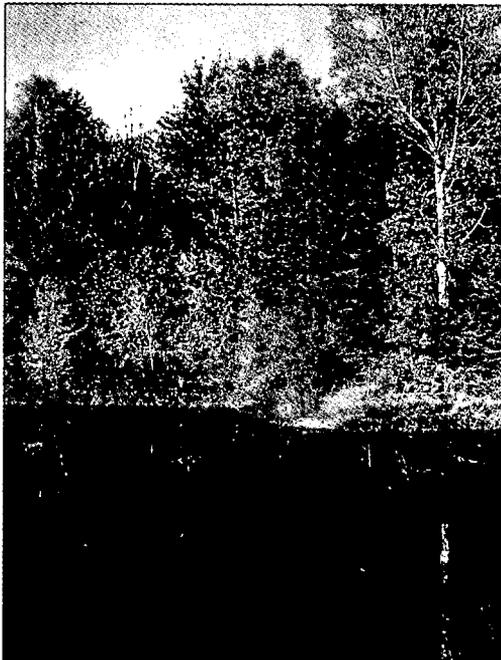
Town Center Fund

Income:

Interest	\$41
Rental Income	\$300
Transfer from General Fund	\$10,000
Total Income	\$10,341

Expenses:

Cleaning & Maintenance	\$2,154
Propane	\$2,797
Electricity	\$743
Telephone	\$456
Total Expenses	\$6,150
Net Income (Loss)	\$4,191
Fund Balance Beginning of the Year	\$4,145
Fund Balance End of the Year	\$8,336



Stonewall Pond

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

	2003	2002
Assets:		
Checking Account	\$8,156	\$9,584
Savings Account	\$214,759	\$194,157
Cash on Hand	\$100	\$100
Money to be Deposited	\$35,763	\$11,764
Total Cash/Assets	\$258,778	\$215,605
Liabilities:		
Uncleared Checks	\$25,487	\$26,888
Total Liabilities	\$25,487	\$26,888
Fund Balances		
General Fund	\$23,048	\$31,790
Town Center Fund	\$8,336	\$4,145
Highway Fund	\$49,167	\$42,506
Cemetery Fund	\$1,066	\$493
Book Restoration Fund	\$5,759	\$4,732
Planning Fund	\$3,740	\$4,215
Parcel Mapping & Reappraisal Fund	\$27,428	\$23,857
Capital Projects Fund	\$63,378	\$17,912
Capital Equipment Fund	\$35,055	\$46,163
Recreational Field Fund	\$3,258	\$2,702
Veteran Memorial Fund	\$1,433	\$3,597
Ricker Bridge Replacement Fund	\$11,623	\$6,605
Total Fund Balances	\$233,291	\$188,717
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$258,778	\$215,605

SCHEDULE OF INDEBTEDNESS

The Town of Vershire has no debts.

SELECTBOARD'S REPORT

While the Spring of 2003 presented us with a relatively mild mud season, the reports from the local maple products producers reflected a poor sugaring season. The dry summers of the past couple of years eased with more rain last summer, which kept the wells full, but kept the road crew busy maintaining the dirt roads. Foliage season passed quickly before our eyes and winter set in with 3 major snowstorms and two heavy rainfalls in December.

Highlights for 2003 from the Highway Department include:

- A \$90,000 grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation to replace an old slab bridge on South Vershire Rd. The plan is to replace the bridge with a three-sided concrete structure, but due to timing constraints from the Agency of Natural Resources permit, the construction was re-scheduled for 2004.
- Improvements to the section of Vershire Center Road below the town garage were begun. Drainage was improved and a new sub-base was laid. Re-paving is expected to be completed during the summer of 2004.
- The highway crew assisted our regional planning commission in a complete culvert inventory for Class 2 and Class 3 roads.
- The 1989 grader was replaced with a new 2003 John Deere 672CH Grader. (Please refer to the "statement of fixed assets" in this booklet for a complete list of highway equipment.)

The Vershire Elementary School property, vacant since the Westshire Elementary School was opened, was put up for sale. At the close of the year, no offers were pending.

Plans for "Phase One" of the Town Center building renovations were developed and the project was put out for bid in the fall. After no bids were received, the bid was advertised a second time. One bid was pending at the close of the year. The first phase will encompass an ADA bath on the main level, integration from the original section to the new wing, a new front entrance, rear doors, rear windows and siding repair. The Town Center Design Committee is evaluating further necessary changes to the Town Center.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2004, and look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting this year!

ADMINISTRATIVE & HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Twenty eight building permits were issued in 2003 plus six septic and five minor subdivisions. West Nile virus has now been detected in town. All reports are up to date.

Charles Zue

AUDITORS' REPORT

Without consulting the elected auditors, the Selectboard decided that the approximate \$3,000 cost of a professional audit was not warranted. While believing in principle that an audit is a good idea, the auditors did not require the Selectboard to audit the town books for the year 2003. We hope that the town can afford an audit this year.

Robert Bland
Head Auditor

CEMETERY TRUSTEES REPORT

The cemeteries were mowed but not as regularly as we would have liked due to the difficulty in hiring help. Not many people are interested in the job as the pay is low in comparison with similar jobs. Plus, cemeteries require a lot of hand mowing and trimming, and care has to be taken not to damage the stones. However, if you might be interested, get in touch with the trustees or Naomi. This year we are hoping to get the cemeteries mapped and the lots marked out in the So. Vershire Cemetery at least. Fences, gates and many of the stones need repair and we are hoping to start on this also.

Rita French

PLANNING COMMISSION and BOARD of ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The Vershire Planning Board has recently begun the process of reviewing the town plan, and we would welcome all Vershire residents with ideas, comments, or opinions to come to a meeting and let us know what you think. The plan is primarily an outline of how we want to operate as a town, and what guidelines we want to use to get us to where we want to be. Things are always changing however, and so every five years we are asked to reevaluate and update.

Copies of the plan can be obtained from the town's office, and new residents in particular might like to see where things stand at the moment. But again, all residents will be sincerely encouraged to have input about the plan or other related business as well.

The Planning Board meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Town Clerks office. The meetings are public and open to all.

Respectfully submitted, Marc McKee, Chair

STATEMENT OF FIXED ASSETS

Town office building and 0.64 acres	\$88,400
Town garage building and 2.2 acres	\$64,600
Town Center building and 18 acres	\$169,200
Vershire Elementary School building and 9.9 acres	\$237,900
Town Forest on Patterson Mountain, 26.5 acres	\$21,200
Town Eagle Ledges Property, 108.5 acres	\$70,700
York Rake Trailer	
York Rake	
1987 International Packer	
2003 John Deere Grader	
1990 International Dump Truck	
1998 Brush Bandit Chipper	
1998 Ford Truck	
2000 John Deere Backhoe/Loader	
2003 Ford F550 Truck	
Miscellaneous Office Equipment	

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

Change in membership: Eleanor Zue stepped down from the commission this year. We appreciate her excellent contributions since the founding of the commission five years ago including her work with controlling invasive plants and her tireless efforts as secretary. We are happy to welcome Evaline Moulton to the commission. Her interest in local history and the town road project has been very helpful.

Vershire Village Trails: The students on the Rivendell Trail Crew (including Vershire teens Tom Lund, Ida Kruse, Emily and Joe Stella, Sam Ricker, Alex Tuttle, and Pat Willey) did some great work on the Vershire Village trails this summer completing a 0.9 mile loop trail with a cut off to the Post Office. The trails start at the bridge at the far end of the recreation field and are fully signed and blazed. Come check them out!

Management Plans for Town Properties: This project was wrapped up this year thanks to the efforts of Markus Bradley. Final copies of the plans for the Town Center, Patterson Mountain, and Eagle Hollow properties are on file at the town office.

Wildlife Stewardship Initiative: In 2002, the Conservation Commission joined with VerShare and Vershire's Keeping Track program in applying for and receiving a grant of \$12,100 from the state Fish and Wildlife Department to support wildlife conservation education. Most of the activities took place in 2003. The wildlife speaker series continued with excellent programs by Sue Morse, Bernd Heinrich, John Buck, and Mark Elbroch and Steven Wright. The VerShare Community Camp benefited from an increased emphasis on wildlife programs and activities. In the fall we joined with the Center for Woodlands Education (the publishers of Northern Woodlands Magazine) to put on a workshop on wildlife habitat. This full-day program included field visits with local and state experts and a hot lunch served at the Church-Orr House. The participants, including many Vershire landowners as well as people from as far away as Brattleboro, all enjoyed learning about wildlife habitat and visiting interesting sites in Vershire. The grant also supported the purchase of books for the Vershire Community Library. Some books have been purchased, but about \$2,000 remains to be spent by March 2004. If you know of wildlife books (for children or adults) that you would like to see in our library, let us know.

Respectfully, Kathy Hooke, Chair, Markus Bradley, Secretary
Evaline Moulton

2003 SALARY SCHEDULE: TOWN OFFICIALS & EMPLOYEES

Selectboard Members	\$600.00	per year
Administrative Assistant	\$10.00	per hour
Administrative Officer	\$8.00	per hour
Clerk/Treasurer	\$19,500.00	per year
Selectboard Secretary	\$8.00	per hour
Assistant Clerk	\$8.00	per hour
Listers	\$8.00	per hour
Auditors	\$6.25	per hour
Cemetery Caretakers	\$6.25	per hour
Road Foreman	\$13.52	per hour
Road Crew	\$9.00-\$10.03	per hour
Town Building Maintenance	\$9.00-\$10.00	per hour
Health Officer	\$8.00	per hour
Planning Commission Secretary	\$8.00	per hour

TAX RATES & COLLECTIONS

Approved by the Selectboard in 2003

2002 Tax Bill		Taxes Billed	
Municipal Tax	0.97	Municipal	\$365,524
State School Tax	1.26	State School	\$474,804
Local School Tax	1.08	Local School	\$406,975
Total	3.31		\$1,247,302

Taxes Billed in 2003 \$1,158,553.86

Taxes Collected on or before Deadline \$1,008,407.75

Delinquent taxes at Deadline \$88,748.44

Listers Errors and Omissions, Corrections \$529.60

Total \$1,247,831.90

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Municipal Tax	0.97	0.94	0.75	0.60	0.71	0.79
State School Tax	1.26	1.17	1.09	1.07	0.99	1.08
Local School Tax	1.08	0.82	0.49	0.73	0.35	0.61
Total School	2.34	1.99	1.58	1.80	1.34	1.69
Total Rate	3.31	2.93	2.33	2.40	2.05	2.48

GRAND LIST & TAX RATE

Total listed value of real estate and personal property for taxation at 100%
of appraised value

\$37,682,850.00

Municipal Grand List

\$376,828.50

Education Grand List

\$376,828.50

Voted at 2003 Town Meeting

Municipal Tax

General Fund

\$157,601

Highway Fund

\$193,000

Vershire Volunteer Fire Department

\$15,500

FAST Squad

\$2,000

Town Center Renovations

\$36,800

Sheriffs Services

\$2,500

Pressure Washer

\$5,100

New Grader

\$54,023

Donations to Services

\$2,116

Subtotal

\$468,640

Current Use (Hold Harmless)

-\$42,980

State Highway Aid

-\$50,000

Anticipated Income

-\$12,100

To be raised in taxes

\$363,560

Divided by Municipal Grand List

\$0.9648

State Education Taxes to Be Raised

\$472,747

Divided by Education Grand List

\$1.2545

Local Share Education Taxes

\$406,979

Divided by Education Grand List

\$1.0800

Total 2003 Tax Rate

\$3.31

per \$100 of assessed value

DELINQUENT TAXES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2003

	Total	2003	2002
Matthew Burns	\$91.34	\$91.34	
Ralph F. Casciello	\$2,215.47	\$1,549.08	\$666.39
Wendy Conquest	\$62.22	\$62.22	
Lyle Covey	\$309.72	\$309.72	
Joseph F. Cullinan, Jr.	\$655.83	\$655.83	
Barbara Read Ege	\$1,241.76	\$658.69	\$583.07
Verna Ervin	\$2,772.97	\$1,813.88	\$959.09
Debra Griffin	\$486.67	\$486.67	
Phyllis & Emmy Lou Hook	\$4,819.36	\$4,819.36	
Donna Kendall	\$3,237.18	\$3,237.18	
Yvan & Catherine Lacroix	\$2,304.97	\$2,304.97	
Allen & Amy Laflamme	\$2,297.14	\$2,297.14	
John & Sylvia LaPierre	\$1,853.09	\$1,853.09	
Charles Larue	\$638.83	\$638.83	
Robin Ann Larue	\$857.29	\$857.29	
Pamela & Tracy Lenart	\$748.06	\$748.06	
Robert Locke	\$1,217.48	\$698.41	\$519.07
Samuel & Laurice Magoon	\$3,442.40	\$3,442.40	
Mark & Pamela Mainville	\$3,891.95	\$2,307.07	\$1,584.88
Chad Martin & Mary Beams	\$2,998.86	\$2,998.86	
Larry Matteau	\$1,741.06	\$1,741.06	
James & Joyce McDonald	\$466.71	\$466.71	
George L. Mongeon	\$3,408.32	\$2,297.14	\$1,111.18
Kenneth E. Pace	\$1,720.78	\$1,720.78	
Marilyn Pulsifer & Thomas Howell	\$700.00	\$700.00	
Robert & Doris Southworth	\$615.47	\$615.47	
William Swartz	\$1,936.35	\$1,936.35	
Jeremy & Sandra Thorne	\$1,032.72	\$1,032.72	
Estate of Alice O. Thresher	\$1,294.21	\$1,294.21	
Richard G. Towle	\$982.42	\$982.42	
V. R. M. LLP	\$1,820.50	\$1,820.50	
Elijah Van Houten	\$212.58	\$212.58	
Martin Ward	\$1,035.69	\$1,035.69	
Bradlee Weatherell	\$1,721.20	\$1,721.20	
Diana Williams	\$821.62	\$821.62	
David & Patricia Wright	\$132.40	\$132.40	
Total	\$55,784.62	\$50,360.94	\$5,423.68

RECONCILIATION OF DELINQUENT TAXES FOR 2003

Balance 12/31/02	\$55,124.91
2003 Warrant	\$88,748.44
Subtotal	\$148,873.35
Collections	\$88,088.73
Balance 12/31/03	\$55,784.62
Delinquent Taxes Balance	
2002	\$5,423.68
2003	\$50,360.94
Total	\$55,784.62

LISTER'S REPORT

With a full group of 3 Listers, for the first time in many years, 55 properties were visited last year, and files updated to reflect their present condition, complete with new photos. Thus, increasing the Grand List by over \$750,000.

We anticipate another very full winter/spring 2004 schedule as there have been numerous property transfers and quite a few newly issued building permits. Plus, we will be doing several reinspections warranted from last years buildings under construction. We anticipate visiting and updating approximately 80 property files between now and April 1st, so as to keep our files as current and complete as possible.

The Listers are available to answer questions or assist you on Thursdays at the Town Office from 1-3.

--- Celia Thorsson Cindy Fifield Debra Kingsbury

FOREST FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

Vershire had 8 acres burn this spring. One fire on the Kingdom Road burned four acres of grass and woodland plus an old building. Another fire on Richardson Road burned another four acres of field and woodland. They both required material support from multiple towns and took several hours to get under control. Spring time is a very dangerous time of year for fires. The time between snow melting and things greening up can be very dry. The dead grass and leaves burn very quickly. With a little wind it can cover a large area in a short time. If you wish to burn, get a permit from Steve Ward at 685-2238, Howard Parker at 685-4470, or Vern Stone 333-9317 and burn responsibly.

--- Steve Ward

FAST SQUAD

The FAST Squad responded to over 30 calls this year in Vershire and the portion of West Fairlee that we cover. We provided care at numerous medical calls and motor vehicle accidents. The Vershire Volunteer Fire Department members continue to provide valuable support at our calls, and FAST Squad members reciprocate by assisting firefighters at the scene of fire calls.

FAST Squad expenses include oxygen, medical supplies, equipment, insurance, and rescue truck maintenance. We are working hard to maintain a high level of care with only a very modest increase in funding from the towns of Vershire and West Fairlee for the year 2004. Much of the FAST Squad's ability to operate on such a small budget is due to the alliance with the Vershire Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department allows the rescue truck to be garaged in the fire house, and the Fire Department purchases a number of rescue tools that are important for accessing and caring for patients, especially those involved in motor vehicle accidents. We maintain the capital fund to replace our rescue truck when that eventually becomes necessary.

The FAST Squad thanks the townspeople of Vershire and West Fairlee for supporting our operating budget.

If you are interested in working with the FAST Squad either as a trained volunteer responding to calls or as a community member willing to assist with other support work, please contact a FAST Squad member.--- Pat Barnes

Cash Receipts	Actual 02	Budget 03	Actual 03	Budget 04
Town of Vershire	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,200
Town of West Fairlee	300	300	300	400
Donations	650	1,000	450	1,000
Interest	126	100	41	50
Refund from '02	0	0	888	0
Total Cash Receipts	\$3,076	\$3,400	\$3,679	\$3,650
Cash Disbursements				
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,103	\$1,000	\$1,309	\$1,000
Gas	193	200	319	300
Insurance	1,155	1,155	1,761	1,800
New Equipment	888	350	223	350
Consumable Supplies	118	150	75	150
Miscellaneous	22	50	22	50
Capital Fund	500	1,000	1,000	0
Training	<u>0</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>150</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	\$4,006	\$4,055	\$4,839	\$3,800
Cash Balance Year End	\$324		Capital Fund	\$4,500

VERSHIRE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

For the year 2003, the fire department responded to 61 calls, a combination of auto accidents, grass and woods fires, mutual aid calls, structural fires, and also responded to FAST squad calls. In addition, we trained in vehicle rescue, arson fire awareness, use of our breathing apparatus, pumping drills, hydrant use and wildland fires.

We were also very busy fundraising. We did two "coin drops" on Rt. 113, cooked chicken for Vershire Day, shot the fireworks, and later did a chicken barbeque for The Mountain School.

We did not receive a dry hydrant grant this year, but we have a total of five hydrants around town. We were successful in obtaining a matching fund grant from RC&D that was just for protective gear. This allowed us to replace some that was old and worn out and gear up some new firefighters. We hope to receive more grant money for 2004.

The Upper Valley Snow Packers snow machine club arranged for the donation of a new rescue sled to pull behind a snow machine. This will enable us to rescue more rapidly in the winter from snow machine accidents, skiing accidents, or anyone lost in the winter. This should prove to be a very useful piece of equipment.

We are always in need of more firefighters and people to help the department in other ways. If you are interested, call Fire Chief Steve Ward at 685-2238 or Assistant Chief Vern Stone at 333-9317
--- Diann Ward

Cash receipts	Actual 03	Budget 03	Budget 04
Town of Vershire	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$15,870
Fundraising & Donations	\$6,901	\$4,750	\$7,500
Interest	\$34	\$50	\$30
Reimbursed Expenses	\$3,462	\$2,300	\$2,000
Grants	\$3,091	\$3,000	\$3,500
Total Receipts	\$28,988	\$25,600	\$28,900
Insurance	\$6,602	\$6,100	\$6,600
Other Equipment	\$11,934	\$4,000	\$4,000
Equipment Maintenance	\$4,420	\$3,500	\$6,000
Building Maintenance	\$1,490	\$3,000	\$3,000
Fees	\$1,888	\$2,000	\$2,000
Fundraising Expenses	\$2,559	\$2,000	\$2,000
Equipment/Station Fund	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Electricity, Heat, & Gas	\$2,462	\$2,700	\$3,100
Training	\$100	\$500	\$500
Other	\$22	\$300	\$200
Total Expenditures	\$32,977	\$25,600	\$28,900
Cash Balance Year End	\$325	Equipment/Station Fund	\$11,338

COMMUNITY SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

The CSO is a group of people from the four towns that make up Rivendell that works to promote a strong connection between the school and the communities. The CSO is looking for new members and meets the third Monday of each month rotating between the Westshire and Samuel Morey School buildings. Mary Sarazin (685-2107) is the Vershire coordinator.

The CSO's United Recreation/Physical Wellness Council offers sports programs to all K-6 children in the communities. This is an opportunity to all children to play sports, which helps in their physical health. The sports that are offered include: soccer, basketball, skating, skiing, snowboarding, baseball, softball, and t-ball. The rec council meets a 7pm on the second Weds. and fourth Monday of each month, rotating between the two schools.

The Fund Raising Council raises money through a Triathlon and bike raffle in July, the 4th of July parade beverage and balloon sale, the fall gifts, chocolates, wrapping paper, and other means. The council meets with students, teachers, principals, parents, and community members each year to determine funding priorities.

Projects that have been funded include the installation of playground equipment, stages, sound equipment, sand boxes, and the Reading Is Fundamental program.

A scholarship was created for seniors who are going on to higher education. The CSO scholarship is presented to four students who have been accepted for college, vocational, trade, or other schools. Applicants are evaluated on their volunteerism through community and school organizations or programs as well as their academic achievements. One student from each town receives a \$200 scholarship. Applications are encouraged and are available at the guidance counselor's office.

Ongoing projects include replacing basketball hoops for the Westshire gym, procenium lighting for the stages at Samuel Morey, glare-reduction treatment for school windows, class projects, educational materials, trips, and author visits. The council meets the second Monday of each month rotating between the two schools.

All of these activities are made possible by community volunteers and all three councils are constantly looking for new members.

Excerpted from a report by Gloria Mann

VERSHARE REPORT

The Church-Orr House made further progress this past year. The entire upstairs was overhauled, a second stairway added through the former woodshed, office and storage space was added, and the house is now code-compliant. The three-bedroom Stage Coach Stop Hostel is now ready for overnight guests. Check the website vershare.org for details on this and other VerShare programs. The work was made possible by grants from four foundations, the auction, Snowshoe-a-thon, and many private donations.

The fifth annual three-week-long VerShare Community Day Camp, held at the Town Center, involved 79 campers (2/3 from Vershire) taking part in 38 activities taught by 23 instructors, 8 teen counselors, and 6 international volunteers. With the help of numerous state and non-profit grants, the camp included theme gardens, various wildlife-related activities including animal tracking and fishing, regional poetry, local history and cooking using the Vershire Historical Society cookbook. All these activities are free for the children.

The Library continues to grow. The back room was completed and stocked with books, Story Hour was created, and a book drop was started at the Vershire Post office. The library now has 4,000 books, and is open 8 1/2 hours per week.

VerShare was chosen as the 2003 recipient of the S. Whitney Landon Memorial Award. This annual \$25,000 award goes to one Vermont child-serving organization which provides exceptional services to children 12 years of age or younger. With the funds, VerShare bought a 15-passenger van for use in the summer camp, and helped complete the Church Orr House upstairs. The remainder was set aside for projects to benefit the youth of Vershire.

The Food Committee formed to develop ways to make affordable, local food available to all Vershire residents. We have held community meals and senior luncheons, made meal deliveries to the elderly and shut-ins, increased food sales at the Made-in-Vershire shop and increased local food and gardening in the summer camp.

The Made in Vershire Store reopened this fall after renovations with a much more professional look and had a successful season, lasting from October through December. Our insurance company determined that we could not sell toys unless the maker had insurance. Despite this, the shop nearly equaled last year's sales, with a total of \$4805 sold by close to 30 Vershire craft and food producers.

continued next page

VERSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This past year, we have had programs from the Vermont Humanities Council, but they were not well attended. VHS held a food sale on Vershire Day and sold out of most baked goods. Also on Vershire Day, we had a picture display of the women of Vershire past and present. They held a lot of interest and we would like to take this project a few steps further and make up a book of pictures with notes about the women.

We don't have a lot of active members and we urge people to join. The VHS meets the first Thursday of each month at the Vershire Town Center building. History is interesting and important.

We hope to get our room done soon but have to have heat before we can do much. Plans are in the works. Please join and help the VHS grow. Membership is only two dollars a year.

Bev Hill, President

VERSHIRE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

During 2003 VSE raised \$2,552 of which \$963 came from the sale of quilt raffle tickets and \$1,552 came in response to the Annual Fund Letter. Of this amount, \$852.85 was added to the Endowment Fund which had a balance of \$30,873.44 as of the beginning of the year, and \$1,850 was disbursed as tuition grants to the following Vershire residents: Amanda Griffith, Danielle Sweet, Krystal Jenks, Melanie French, Sylvia Powell, Samantha Thrasher, and Zeb Jenks.

David Stephens, Co-Chairman

Sue Kruse, Co-Chairman

continued from page 43

The Vershire Day Auction raised \$4700 for the House renovation, our second biggest auction ever. We had a huge variety of donations and great help from Chuck Eaton, auctioneer.

The 6th annual snowshoe-a-thon brought out over 200 snowshoe-ers to raise over \$9,000, the most we've ever raised directly from participants. The Mountain School hosted the crowd for lunch. The money went to the summer camp, the Church-Orr House, outdoor programs at the Wellspring school, and sound systems and arts residencies for the Rivendell schools. Youth participants were once again sponsored by "Snow Angels;" community members who generously offered to sponsor each of the 99 youth snowshoers.

David Hooke, President

STATE AND REGIONAL GROUPS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

A large number of organizations provide services to Vershire. In order to reduce printing and postal costs for the taxpayers, we are no longer printing the reports from these organizations. Those reports are now available in the Town Office.

ACORN (603) 448-8887

offers services to people living with HIV/AIDS

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (802) 222-3282

provides literacy services to adults

Central Vermont Community Action Council (802) 222-3282

serves low-income residents with programs to help improve their lives

Central Vermont Council on Aging (800) 642-5119

supports the **Chelsea Senior Citizens Center** for elderly independence

Clara Martin Center (802) 222-4477 or (802) 728-4466

community mental health center serving children, families, and individuals

George D. Aiken Resource Conservation & Development Council

(802) 728-9526 assists towns with conservation and rural development

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District

manages the solid waste generated by member municipalities

Green Mountain Economic Development Corp. (802) 295-3379

grantsmanship, tax stabilization, loan management, fiscal agency, planning

Kid's Place (802) 728-6124

provides a neutral place for children and non-residential parents to visit

Orange County Court Diversion Program (802) 685-3172

a cost-effective alternative for first offenders to make amends for offenses

Safeline (800) 639-7233

a domestic abuse, sexual assault, and child protection crisis agency

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

provides expertise and resources and advocates for municipal needs

SELECTED LAWS, ORDINANCES, & POLICIES

Permit forms and information on ordinances are available from Charles Zue, Vershire's Administrative Officer, 685-2227 or 685-3182. All completed and signed forms and fees should be returned to the Town Office.

Driveway Ordinance: New driveways require culverts where they cross the town road ditches, as spelled out in the driveway ordinance. This is to protect against washouts from clogged ditches. The selectboard chair, in conjunction with the road foreman, will determine what is needed and sign permits. Non-permitted work that blocks ditches will be removed by the town.

Health Ordinance: All new septic systems as well as repairs and replacements require a permit. This is necessary to protect public health. Systems should be designed or certified by a state-approved engineer and the permit submitted before construction. They must also be inspected before they are covered up.

Development Ordinance: This covers land use. Copies may be purchased at the Town Office. The following need an **Administrative Permit** before construction or subdivision takes place: Houses or structures larger than 100 square feet, additions to existing houses or structures, subdivision of a lot up to three lots within a five-year period, signs illuminated by artificial light. Structures for agricultural and forestry uses are exempt but the Administrative Office must be notified in advance. Permits will be granted as long as the ordinance criteria are met, otherwise a Variance must be obtained. There are other conditions for lots smaller than one acre that existed before Dec. 1993. A site visit is required to determine compliance with all requirements.

Subdivision of existing lots into more than three lots within five years also requires a **Development Permit** approved by the Planning Commission. New commercial or other use of land and/or buildings, other than for single/two family residential, agriculture, forestry, and the use of a minor portion of a home for a home occupation, requires a **Development Permit** approved by the Board of Adjustment. The Development Permit process involves a public hearing which permits abutters and the town to have input into projects which may affect the town.

Current prices (includes a \$7 recording fee)

Administrative Permit \$22

Variance \$47

Development Permit \$107

continued next page

SELECTED LAWS, ETC. continued from previous page

Your cooperation is appreciated. Fines of up to \$50 per day of violation are possible under state law. Please do your part to protect this town.

Mobile Homes: State law requires a Mobile Home Uniform Bill of Sale for every mobile home sold, with or without land. It is also required for every mobile home brought in or removed from town, even if no sale is involved. Forms may be obtained at the Town Office.

Dog Licenses: All dogs six months and over must be licensed by April 1 of each year. A penalty of 50% is charged after April 1 unless the dog has just moved into town (if from out of state, you have a month to license it). To be licensed, a dog under two years of age must have had a rabies shot within a year. Over the age of two, it must have been within two years. Copies of rabies certificates and spaying or neutering certificates must be filed in the Town Office. Fees are \$5 for neutered and \$9 for un-neutered dogs. You can call the Town Office to learn about rabies clinics.

Property Tax Deadline: To be determined and announced at Town Meeting (see Warning, p.3).

State and Regional Groups continued from p. 46

Upper Valley Ambulance Service

provides emergency and non-emergency ambulance services

Upper Valley Services

provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities

Vermont Center for Independent Living (802) 639-1522

teaches people with disabilities how to gain more control over their lives

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

provides technical assistance to municipal officials and town insurance

Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont & New Hamp. (800) 575-5162

provides clinical services during times of injury, recovery, & disability

Vermont State Police

provides services to prevent crime and apprehend lawbreakers

VITAL STATISTICS*Marriages and Civil Unions*

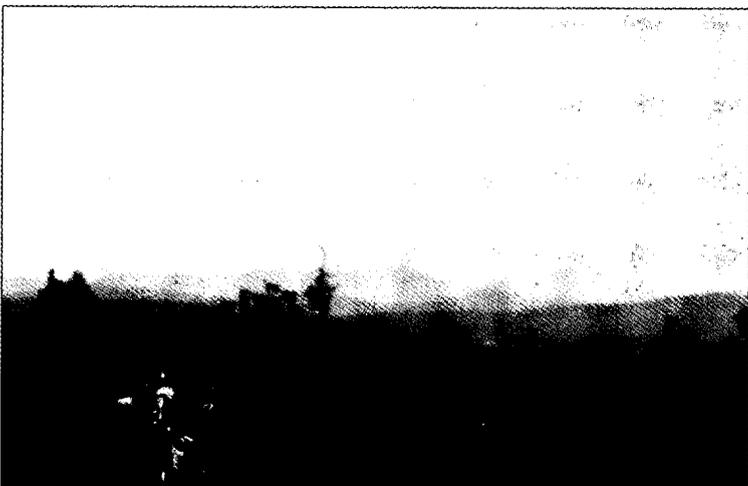
Donald Jenks to Jeri Sweet
 Chad Martin to Mary Beams
 William Bricker to Ashley Barker

Births

Edson Jenkins	April 13
Nathaniel Rinelli	April 16
Liam Rinelli	April 16
Nathaniel Adams	May 6
Georgia Barnes	July 8
Charles Jenks	July 25
Cole Rinehart	August 2
Madison Hatch	November 26

In Memory

Erwin Harisch
 Edith Parker
 Allen Ricker
 Walter Straw
 Alice Thresher
 Helen Ward
 Raymond Willey



view from Flagpole Hill

VERSHIRE TOWN OPERATIONS

Town Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 8:30am-3:00pm

Call for Saturday Hours

Recycling

Town Center Building first Saturday of the Month 10:00am-12:00noon

Household Trash Collection

Wednesdays from 8:00am along designated roads and at appointed sites. A map of trash collection routes and sites is available from the Town Clerk. All trash must be contained in bags supplied by the Town of Vershire, which may be purchased at the Town Office during regular business hours. To avoid animal disruption of trash, please do not leave your trash out overnight. You are responsible for cleaning up any trash left around collection sites and for removing trash not properly bagged.

Selectboard Meetings

Town Office on alternate Tuesdays at 7:00pm

School Directors Meetings

1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm

alternating between Rivedell Academy and Westshire Elementary

Planning Commission Meetings

Town Office on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm

Conservation Commission Meetings

Town Office on the first Tuesday of odd months at 7:00pm

Important Telephone Numbers

Fire, Ambulance, & FAST Squad	911
Animal Control Officer	439-6848 or 439-5658
Administrative Officer (permits)	685-3182
Town Garage	685-7789
Town Center Building	685-3277
Town Health Officer	685-3182
Orange County Sheriff (non-emergency)	685-4875
Rivendell Supervisory Union	333-9189 or (603) 353-4321
Rivendell Academy	333-9511 or (603) 353-4321
Vermont State Police (non-emergency)	222-4680
Vermont Poison Center	(802) 658-3456
Westshire Elementary School	333-4668
Vershire Post Office	685-3046
Vershire Town Office	685-2227

Please Bring This Report to Town Meeting.

Town Meeting Tues. Mar. 2, 10am. Information Meeting, Sun. Feb. 29, 2pm.

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VT State Library
109 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05609