

**Town of Rupert  
P.O. Box 140  
West Rupert, Vermont 05776**

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**Annual Report  
of the  
Board of Officers**



**Town of  
Rupert, Vermont**

**Fiscal Year  
July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**REMEMBER!!**

**PRE-TOWN INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

Monday, March 2, 2020  
7:00 PM, will be held at the  
RUPERT FIREHOUSE

**VOTING**

Tuesday, March 3, 2020  
Polls open 10am – 7pm  
Will be held at the  
RUPERT TOWN OFFICE  
East Street, West Rupert

**Rupert Town Office**  
**187 East Street/PO Box 140**  
**West Rupert, VT 05776**  
**Phone: 802-394-7728**  
**Email: [rupert187@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rupert187@myfairpoint.net)**

**Town Office Hours Mon: 11:00am - 7:00 pm**  
**Tues: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm**  
**Wed: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm**  
**Thurs: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm**

**Road Department Phone: 802-394-2926**

**Mettawee Community School: 802-645-9009**

**Salem High School: 518-854-7600**

**Long Trail School: 802-867-5717**

**Granville High School: 518-642-1051**

**Burr & Burton Academy: 802-362-1775**

## DEDICATION

This year we are reminded, by the death of two of our community family, of the importance of those who may never have held public office, yet by their quiet work and presence among us have made Rupert a better place to live. John Stanley Lourie (Stan), (1930-2019), and Beverly Aldrich Hay (Bev), (1938-2019), each contributed uniquely to the life of our Town. Stan, through his love of farm life, hunting, and teaching many others an appreciation of our natural beauty; and Bev, with her many years of service as a school bus driver and an organizer of public suppers, picnics, and get-togethers, always with good humor and delicious offerings. They, and many others who serve silently, strengthen our community in immeasurable ways. We are thankful to have known them.



**REQUEST FOR EARLY ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOT (VALID for ONE CALENDAR YEAR)**  
(All voters must submit a new request for absentee ballots each year.)  
(SUBMIT DIRECTLY to the Town Clerk of the town in which you are on the voter checklist.)

**Voter Name**  
Required

**1**

First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_

Last \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

Former Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Contact Info**  
If applicable

**2**

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Address where you are Registered to Vote**  
Required must be your town of Residence

**3**

Street Address (no P.O. boxes) \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address**

Required only if you wish to have your ballot mailed to a different address than the address at which you're registered to vote.

**4**

Street Address (or P.O. box) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Election**  
Required

**5**

Date Range Request: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (within a calendar year)  
MM/ DD/ YYYY MM/ DD/ YYYY

☐ Annual Town Meeting ☐ All Local Elections

☐ Presidential Primary Election (You Must Select a Party) ☐ Democratic Ballot ☐ Republican Ballot

☐ General Election ☐ Primary Election

**Military, Civilian Overseas, Ill or with Disability Voters**  
If Applicable

**6**

Check one: ☐ Military (Active in U.S. or overseas) ☐ Overseas voter ☐ Ill or with Disability

Please deliver the ballots(s) and all election materials as indicated below (check one):

☐ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Ballots cannot be returned electronically)

☐ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Deliver by two Justices of the Peace (This can only be selected if you are ill or physically disabled.) Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

**7**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Voter or Authorized Person

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU ARE REQUESTING A BALLOT FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF, you must complete the information below:**

**Relationship to Voter:** ☐ Family member ☐ Health care provider ☐ Person authorized by voter

Name of Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (Required): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Clerk Use Only:** ☐ Voted in Office

☐ Ballot picked up at clerk's office

Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballot Mailed Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballot Returned Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## RUPERT TOWN OFFICERS

### ELECTED POSITIONS:

<u>SELECTBOARD</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Mark Lourie, Chairman – resigned March 13, 2019	2020
*Charles Rockwell appointed by Selectboard April 9, 2019	2020
Thomas Wilson.....	2021
Linda Montague.....	2020
Philip Mazzucco.....	2020
Deborah Baker.....	2022
<u>LISTERS</u>	
Val Almosnino, Chairman.....	2022
Jed Rubin.....	2020
Richard Ventrella.....	2021
<u>RUPERT SCHOOL DIRECTORS – Mettawee School District Board</u>	
Elected Nov. 21, 2017 with positions to begin July 1, 2018	
Jane Lourie.....	2021
Michael Krauss.....	2022
<u>AUDITORS</u>	
Eugene Higgins.....	2022
Kelly Lewis.....	2020
Chris Porter.....	2021
<u>TOWN CLERK</u>	
Andrea Lenhardt.....	2020
<u>TOWN TREASURER</u>	
Andrea Lenhardt.....	2020
<u>TOWN MODERATOR</u>	
Eugene Ceglowski.....	2020
<u>ROAD COMMISSIONER</u>	
Jay E. Wilson III.....	2020
<u>TOWN AGENT</u>	
Donald S. Lewis.....	2020
<u>TOWN GRAND JUROR</u>	
Donald S. Lewis.....	2020
<u>FIRST CONSTABLE</u>	
Kelli Raymond.....	2020

**SECOND CONSTABLE**

**Jeff Lourie..... 2020**

**DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**

**Mark Lourie..... 2020**

**CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS**

**Deborah Baker..... 2021**

**Donald Lewis..... 2020**

**Michael McKeighan..... 2022**

**\*All three Cemetery Commissioners resigned Oct. 22, 2019**

**LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**TERM EXPIRES**

**Jean Nardi ..... 2022**

**Jane Lourie..... 2020**

**Judy Zinn ..... 2022**

**Thelma Georgeson – resigned Oct. 2019 2021**

**\*Casey Dzahor appointed by Selectboard 10/22/2019**

**Sarah Porter..... 2021**

**Arlene Horn ..... 2022**

**Nicole Croff..... 2020**

**APPOINTED POSITIONS:**

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: John LaVecchia Jr. (3 year term, which ends March 25, 2020)**

**TOWN SERVICE AGENT: Rupert Selectboard**

**TOWN SERVICE OFFICER: Deborah Baker (1 year term, which ends April 14, 2019)**

**TOWN FIRE WARDEN: Mark Lourie**

**TOWN HEALTH OFFICER: Kelli Raymond (3 year term, which ends Jan. 14, 2023)**

**POUNDKEEPER: Kelli Raymond**

**TREE WARDEN: Mark Lourie**

**WEIGHER OF COAL & FENCE VIEWERS: David Tooley, Edward Lewis, Donald S. Lewis**

**INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES, & WOOD: Rupert Selectboard**

**CLERK OF THE BOARD - Linda Montague**

**OFFICIAL BANKING INSTITUTION - Berkshire Bank**  
**OFFICIAL BANKING INSTITUTION FOR HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT**  
**ACCT. - TD Bank**  
**OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPERS FOR PUBLICATIONS - Rutland Herald**  
**& The Vermont News Guide**

**DISTRICT RUTLAND-BEN REPRESENTATIVE (Elected Nov. 6, 2018):**  
**Robin Chestnut-Tangerman**

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE** : (Elected Nov. 6, 2018) –2 year term begins Feb. 1, 2019  
**Eugene (Gene) Higgins, Kate Canning,**  
**Mark Lourie, Jeremy Russo, Steven Schlussel**

**PLANNING COMMISSION** **Jed Rubin - Chairman, Robert Bain,**  
**Philip Chapman - resigned, Charles Rockwell**  
**\*Jean Ceglowski, Kimberly Davis,**  
**Philip E. Mazzucco, Peter Pelton, Val Almosnino**  
**-appointed by Selectboard Jan. 8, 2019**

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD:** **Charles Rockwell, Chairman, Robert**  
**Bain, Jed Rubin, Philip Chapman – resigned Oct. 2019), Philip Mazzucco.**  
**\*Rima Georgeson, Val Almosnino, Peter**  
**Pelton – appointed by Selectboard Oct. 22, 2019**  
**(Alternate: Donald S. Lewis – resigned**  
**Oct. 22, 2019)**

**BCRC REPRESENTATIVES:** **Charles Rockwell & John Lavecchia Jr.**  
**(appointed Nov. 12, 2019)**



## AUDITOR'S REPORT TOWN FUNDS JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

### ASSETS:

Cash on hand as of June 30, 2019	
General Fund Account - Berkshire Bank	\$ 431,523.39
Less Outstanding Checks	\$ 36,987.08
Total Cash on Hand	\$ 394,536.31

Cemetery Fund Account - Berkshire Bank (closed 8/27/18)	\$ 1,837.29
Reappraisal Money Market Account - Berkshire Bank (closed 5/21/19)	\$ 31,490.09
Health Reimbursement Account - TD Banknorth	\$ 14,980.83

### RECEIVABLES:

Delinquent Taxes	\$ 41,697.70
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### SCHOOL FUNDS ASSETS

Cash Management Account Sweep (TD Banknorth) (closed 9/28/18)	\$ 570,923.83
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Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Higgins, Chris Porter, Kelly Lewis, Rupert Board of Auditors

## Statement of Delinquent Taxes

March 6, 2019

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2017-18	Anthony Farrara & M. Lestage	\$ 17.26
2017-18	Christopher Kuntz	\$ 193.71
2017-18	John Markle	<u>\$ 3,717.58</u>
	March 6, 2019	TOTAL: \$ 3,928.55

Thank you from Erwin Tobin  
January 2020

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the community. As Constable for 26 years and Delinquent Tax Collector for 31, it has been my honor to protect and serve you. As I now venture into retirement, please know that I have appreciated all your years of support.

June 30, 2019 \$ 41,697.70

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2017-18	John Markle	\$ 3,717.58
2018-19	Agnes M. Braymer	\$ 2,023.98
2018-19	Kevin & Rachel McDonald	\$ 1,759.68
2018-19	Jeffrey J. Neil	\$ 2,425.32
2018-19	Anthony Chandler	\$ 6,487.12
2018-19	John Markle	\$ 3,442.50
2018-19	Morey Estate	\$ 851.04
2018-19	TNM LLC	\$ 5,923.18
2018-19	David & Ellen Parmenter	<u>\$ 2,179.66</u>
	January 10, 2020	TOTAL: \$ 28,810.06

## Delinquent Taxes

Balance uncollected June 30, 2018	\$ 59,371.06
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### Amounts Paid to Andrea Lenhardt (Treasurer)

July 31, 2018	\$ 4,250.00
September 19, 2018	\$ 5,190.55
October 25, 2018	\$ 2,313.70
December 24, 2018	\$ 5,728.80
January 9, 2019	\$ 9,592.00
January 29, 2019	\$ 3,248.12
February 19, 2019	\$ 42,434.39
TOTAL:	\$ 72,757.56

Less fees on orders-including Attorney Fees, Warrants, etc.	\$ -4,815.79
	\$ 67,941.77
2018 Interest to Town of Rupert from Delinquent Taxes	\$ -12,499.26
	\$ 55,442.51
Balance uncollected March 06, 2019	\$ 3,928.55
Total:	\$ 59,371.06

2017-18	Received from Erwin Tobin	\$ 3,928.55
2018-19	Received from Rupert Town Treasurer 3/14/2019	\$ 108,058.06
	TOTAL:	\$ 111,986.61

### Amounts Paid to Rupert Town Treasurer – tax, fees and interest

3/19/2019	\$ 14,584.64
3/27/2019	\$ 29,787.55
4/10/2019	\$ 14,065.32
5/10/2019	\$ 12,163.26
6/11/2019	\$ 4,609.37
7/11/2019	\$ 4,506.86
8/12/2019	\$ 7,030.50
9/10/2019	\$ 553.42
10/10/2019	\$ 1,850.00
11/10/2019	\$ 1,100.98
12/11/2019	\$ 500.00
1/10/2020	\$ 1,025.44
TOTAL:	\$ 91,777.34

Fees to Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ 6,327.36
Interest to Town	\$ 2,511.96
Balance Uncollected January 10, 2020	\$ 28,810.06

## TOWN FUNDS

### **REAPPRAISAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT (Berkshire Bank)**

Total Reappraisal Funds as of 07/01/18	\$ 31,462.15
Interest earned 07/01/18 - 05/21/19	\$ 27.94
Total Reappraisal Funds as of 05/21/19	\$ 31,490.09
Money Market Closed 05/21/19 – funds transferred to General Fund	

### **RUPERT CEMETERY CD (Berkshire Bank)**

Total Cemetery funds as of 07/01/18	\$ 1,836.86
Interest earned 07/01/18 - 08/27/18	\$ .43
Total Cemetery Funds as of 08/27/18	\$ 1,837.29
Cemetery CD Closed 08/27/18 – funds transferred to General Fund	

### **HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT (TD Bank)**

Balance as of 06/21/18	\$ 18,981.86
Deposits 07/21/18 - 06/21/19	\$ 10,800.00
Electronic Payments withdrawn	(\$ 13,358.27)
Balance as of 06/20/19	\$ 16,423.59

### **GENERAL FUND CHECKING - (Berkshire Bank)**

Cash on Hand 07/01/18	\$ 185,398.87
Receipts	\$2,684,641.66
Disbursements	\$2,475,504.22
(Disbursements included returned tax checks and fees for bank checks totaling \$ 745.17)	
Cash on Hand 06/30/19	\$ 394,536.31

### **LINE OF CREDIT LOAN (Berkshire Bank)**

Loan date 07/01/15 @4.25%	\$ 100,000.00
Borrowed from loan to purchase Tractor/Mower 06/23/16	(\$ 50,000.00)
Loan paid back 08/31/16, with interest (via electronic transfer)	\$ 50,199.69
No activity FY 2017/2018, No activity FY 2018/2019	
Balance 06/30/19	0.00

### **NEW TOWN GARAGE – 5 YEAR LOAN (Bank of Bennington)**

Amount of loan not to exceed \$290,000 @ 3.5% as of July 2014	
Ending balance as of July 1, 2018	\$ 178,496.35
Payment made Sept. 11, 2018	(\$ 34,928.32)
(Principal - \$28,325.51 + Interest - \$6,602.81)	
Balance as of 06/30/19	\$ 143,568.03

**REVENUE REPORT - RUPERT GENERAL FUND**  
**FY JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019**

<b>Current Taxes (including interest)</b>	2,065,303.11
Property Tax Adjustment via State	15,863.06
<u>Town Clerk Fees</u>	
Dog Licenses via Town Clerk	547.00
Town Green Rent	240.00
Photocopies via Town Clerk	1,865.00
Record Restoration Fees via Town Clerk	2,103.00
Record Restoration Fees via State	138.00
Record Restoration Fees via IRS	.00
Truck Permit Fees	130.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class License – Sherman's Store	00.00
<b>TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES</b>	<b>5,023.00</b>
<u>Zoning Fees</u>	
Zoning Et al. Permits	2,165.00
<b>TOTAL ZONING FEES</b>	<b>2,165.00</b>
<u>Interest</u>	
Checking Account Interest	453.22
Delinquent Tax Interest	16,692.78
Treasurer Del. Tax Interest	1,193.48
<b>TOTAL INTEREST</b>	<b>18,339.48</b>
<u>Delinquent Taxes</u>	
Tax to Town	139,977.08
Delinquent Tax Warrants	380.00
Delinquent Tax Fees	10,740.89
Overpayment of Delinquent Tax	23.09
<b>TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES</b>	<b>151,121.06</b>
<u>Federal &amp; State Aid, Grants &amp; Fines</u>	
FEMA	0.00
Bridge Reimbursement	121,717.38
Highway State Aid (Roads)	96,856.59
Paving Grant	0.00
Hazard Mitigation	0.00
Better Back Roads Grants	40,000.00
Current Use	86,095.00
Current Use Withdrawal	2,961.00
Reappraisal funds via State Treasurer	5,472.00
Transfer of Reappraisal Funds from Money Market	31,490.09
Lister Education	436.00
Sheriff / Trooper Fines	349.25
<b>TOTAL STATE AID &amp; FINES</b>	<b>385,377.31</b>
<u>Payment In Lieu Of Taxes</u>	
Merck Forest	10,000.00
US Government - Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008	465.00
PILOT - Vermont Natural Resources - State Land	2,127.63
<b>TOTAL PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES</b>	<b>12,592.63</b>
<u>Reimbursements</u>	
Library Salaries	11,955.78
Rupert Volunteer Fire Co. Insurance	7,152.50
VLCT Refund on audit	34.00
Retail Tax Charge	14.10
<b>TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>19,156.38</b>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Fidelity Charitable Grant via Mrs. S. Hatch	5,000.00
Sale of Mount Anthony Grange	2,000.00
2019 Town Truck Rebate	1,000.00
Cemetery CD Close Out	1,837.29
Town Green Rental	1.00
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>9,838.29</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2,684,779.32</b>

## TAXES COLLECTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 - 2019

Total Billing (including interest & penalties)	\$2,464,667.40
*Adjustments to taxes billed	(\$ 12,767.13)
TOTAL BILLED	\$2,451,900.27
Direct Deposits (including interest)	(\$2,060,745.83)
Electronic Deposits via Vermont State Treasurer Prebates	(\$ 278,204.91)
	\$ 112,949.53
Credit Adjustments	\$ 6,953.17
	\$ 119,902.70
Abatements	( 521.16)
Delinquent list as of Feb. 25, 2019(includes interest & penalties)	\$ 119,384.54

\*Treasurer's Note: Adjustments made after the August 2018 / 2019 billing were due to current use changes, prebate late filers, BCA decisions, Lister error and omissions.

## TOTAL WARRANTS RECEIVED FROM SELECTBOARD

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Net payroll	-	\$ 160,543.85
*Accounts payable	-	\$2,312,940.62

\*Treasurer's Note: Accounts Payable figure includes Residential / Non-Residential municipal tax payments for Education as follows:

Mettawee School District	-	\$ 1,176,306.00
Vermont State Treasurer	-	\$ 442,615.25



## **CAPITAL ASSETS - TOWN OF RUPERT**

2019 International HX Tandem Dump Truck (Stainless Steel Body)	\$200,000.00
2014 Case IH Maxxum 130 CVT Tractor	\$ 60,000.00
2014 Landpride RPC 3060 – 03 Ditch Mower	\$ 5,000.00
2014 Dodge 5500 Truck	\$ 20,000.00
2013 John Deere 524 Payloader	\$ 75,000.00
2009 Air Flow Sander	\$ 1,000.00
2009 Fisher 10 Ft. Snow Plow	\$ 1,000.00
2009 Zwack Stainless Hopper Sander	\$ 5,000.00
2006 International Tandem Dump Truck (White)	\$ 20,000.00
2006 International Tandem Dump Truck (Green)	\$ 20,000.00
2004 John Deere 772A Motor Grader	\$ 50,000.00
2004 Woods Ditchbank Mower	\$ 500.00
1999 Zwack Stainless Steel Sander	\$ 2,000.00
1999 Everest Plow & Wing	\$ 1,500.00
1993 Eager Beaver Model 290 Brush Chipper	\$ 3,000.00
1988 York Stone Rake	\$ 2,000.00
Town Office Building	\$117,200.00
Rupert Library/Historical Society Building	\$193,400.00
Municipal Tools at Town Barn	\$ 13,000.00
Town Highway Garage (including the Creamery Lot)	\$568,500.00
Town Green	\$ 44,700.00
Salt Shed	\$105,000.00
Former Grange Lot	\$ 24,300.00
Old Dump on Hebron Rd	\$ 42,500.00

## **TOWN OF RUPERT PAYROLL - 2018/2019**

Gross Wages*	\$197,976.77
FICA Withholdings	12,274.77
Medicare Withholdings	2,870.60
Federal Withholdings	11,730.58
Vermont State Withholdings	5,023.06
Retirement Withholdings	7,134.14

\*Treasurer's Note:

Includes \$11,955.78 for Library Salaries which were reimbursed to the Town.

Statement of Expenditures – Town of Rupert  
Budget and Actual – General Fund Year Ending June 30, 2019

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/18-6/30/19</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>
<b>School Tax Payments</b>		
Education Property Tax (Paid to State)		\$442,615.25
Mettawee School Non-Residential Tax		\$713,484.72
Mettawee School Residential Tax		\$462,821.28
<b>Total School Tax Payments</b>		<b>\$1,618,921.25</b>
<b>TOWN BUDGET</b>		
<b>Salaries</b>		
Town Clerk	\$14,000.00	\$13,225.68
Library Employee Salary	\$12,000.00	\$11,315.50
Treasurer	\$18,400.00	\$19,174.32
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$2,000.00	\$1,970.01
Selectmen	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$0.00
Del Tax Collector Fees	\$9,000.00	\$10,893.36
Auditors	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
Listers	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Board of Civil Authority	\$1,000.00	\$490.00
Fica/Medi	\$8,000.00	\$7,201.52
Town Officers Expense	\$1,000.00	\$695.00
Dog Ordinance Expense	\$1,000.00	\$762.83
Zoning and Planning	\$2,000.00	\$724.32
Elections	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$4,325.00</u>
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>\$84,800.00</b>	<b>\$84,177.54</b>
<b>Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>		
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$2,715.51
Postage	\$1,500.00	\$1,273.12
Town Report	\$1,700.00	\$1,867.01
Office Equipment Repair	\$700.00	\$333.78
Town Records Restoration	\$500.00	\$0.00
Office Capital Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$79.98
Land Purchase	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEMRC – Annual	\$1,300.00	\$581.99
Computer Schooling	\$1,500.00	\$1,679.51
Miscellaneous	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,062.80</u>
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$14,700.00</b>	<b>\$9,593.70</b>
<b>Utilities</b>		
Electric – Town Office	\$1,000.00	\$1,129.36
Electric – Library/Historical	\$1,300.00	\$1,307.74
Electric – Town Garage	\$2,400.00	\$2,438.08
Electric – Street Lights	\$8,800.00	\$6,226.75
Telephone – Town Office	\$2,200.00	\$2,288.95
Telephone – Town Garage	\$1,000.00	\$870.93
Benn. Co. Solid Waste Alliance	\$2,000.00	\$2,228.16
Fuel Oil – Library/Historical	\$2,500.00	\$3,917.51
Town Office Heating Oil	\$2,300.00	\$2,038.70

Town Building Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$1,691.23
Town Office Cleaning	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$30,580.00</b>	<b>\$24,137.41</b>

#### **Outside Services**

Attorney's Fees	\$5,000.00	\$3,400.00
General Town Insurance	\$29,000.00	\$21,025.00
Audit	\$4,200.00	\$8,560.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	\$1,800.00	\$1,832.00
Property Mapping	\$1,600.00	\$1,568.00
Cemetery Maint.	\$1,000.00	\$2,987.29
Bennington County Tax	\$10,100.00	\$10,153.80
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	\$2,200.00	\$2,307.07
Speed Control	\$4,000.00	\$3,362.86
Radio Communication	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$1,548.00</u>
<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<b>\$60,700.00</b>	<b>\$56,744.02</b>

#### **Appropriations**

VT Ctr for Indep Living	\$120.00	\$120.00
Rupert Youth	\$300.00	\$0.00
SW VT Council on Aging	\$400.00	\$400.00
Granville Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00
Benn. Rutl Opportunity Cncl	\$400.00	\$400.00
Rosalind Keshin Kittay PL	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
American Red Cross	\$250.00	\$250.00
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	\$750.00	\$750.00
Poultney/Mett Water Shed	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bennington Tutorial	\$250.00	\$250.00
Coalition for Homeless	\$500.00	\$500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$100.00	\$100.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$500.00	\$500.00
Northern Vermont RC & D Council	\$0.00	\$0.00
Manchester Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00
Bennington County Habitat for Humanity	\$350.00	\$350.00
Mettowee Valley Community Center	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rupert Food Pantry	\$500.00	\$500.00
Benn. Co. Economic Development	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$7,620.00</b>	<b>\$7,320.00</b>

<b>Total Town Budget</b>	<b>\$198,400.00</b>	<b>\$181,972.67</b>
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#### **HIGHWAY BUDGET**

##### **Salaries/Wages**

Highway Crew	\$125,000.00	\$123,824.30
Mileage Reimbursement	\$200.00	\$150.00
Fica/Medi	\$11,000.00	\$11,142.91
Health Insurance	\$49,000.00	\$50,061.86
Retirement	\$7,500.00	\$7,134.14
Unemployment Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$116.00
Workers Compensation	<u>\$13,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,885.00</u>
<b>Total Salaries/Wages</b>	<b>\$206,700.00</b>	<b>\$203,314.21</b>

##### **Supplies and Maintenance**

Parts and Supplies	\$14,000.00	\$14,984.17
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Equipment Rental	\$4,000.00	\$7,715.00
Oil & Lube	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Diesel	\$24,000.00	\$26,892.23
Equipment Repair	\$28,000.00	\$22,538.95
Town Barn Repair	\$1,000.00	\$344.22
Town Barn Heating Oil	\$4,000.00	\$3,793.80
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$77,000.00</b>	<b>\$76,268.37</b>

#### **Outside Services**

Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blasting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dead Tree Removal	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,550.00</u>
<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,550.00</b>

#### **Road Maintenance Material**

Gravel	\$50,000.00	\$37,053.98
Sand	\$15,000.00	\$23,088.53
Salt	\$48,000.00	\$69,772.53
State Permit & Fees	\$0.00	\$1,950.00
Calcium Chloride	\$8,000.00	\$3,223.50
Hot & Cold Patch	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,939.30</u>
<b>Total Road Maintenance Material</b>	<b>\$131,000.00</b>	<b>\$141,027.84</b>

#### **Projects**

Paving	\$85,000.00	\$3,360.00
Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$3,900.00
Class III Roads	\$15,000.00	\$2,584.76
Guard Rails/Culverts	\$4,000.00	\$3,122.75
Town Garage Loan Payment	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$34,928.32</u>
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>\$149,000.00</b>	<b>\$47,895.83</b>

Vehicles and Equipment	\$45,000.00	\$35,606.09
Blades	\$4,000.00	\$5,741.60
Tires	\$6,000.00	\$4,634.80
Miscellaneous	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$2,240.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,800.00</b>	<b>\$48,222.49</b>

**Total Highway Budget** **\$623,500.00** **\$519,278.74**

**TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES** **\$821,900.00** **\$701,251.41**

#### **Voted Non-Budgetary Articles & Grants**

Town Garage Building Fund	\$0.00	\$27,715.00
Town Office Restoration	\$0.00	\$3,201.50
Dorset Nursing Association	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Salem Rescue Squad	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rupert Volunteer Fire Co.	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Salt Shed	\$0.00	\$0.00
Establish Town Lines	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reappraisal Grant	\$0.00	\$30,458.52
Town Green Expenses	\$0.00	\$2,978.00
Town of Rupert Website	\$1,500.00	\$1,666.94
Pawlet Mountain Road Cem. Maint.	<u>\$2,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>	<b>\$96,519.96</b>

**Total Expenditures** **\$853,900.00** **\$797,771.37**

# SELECTBOARD REPORT - ANTICIPATED INCOME

## JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

State of Vermont - Highway Aid	\$ 97,000.00
Current Use - Hold Harmless	\$ 90,000.00
Reimbursement Library Salaries	\$ 12,000.00
Merck Forest in lieu of taxes	\$ 10,000.00
Rupert Volunteer Fire Company	\$ 6,500.00
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees	\$ 6,000.00
Government PILOT	\$ 4,300.00
Interest - Bank Accounts	\$ 500.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ 7,500.00
Licenses & Zoning Permits	\$ 2,500.00
Speed Control Fines	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$241,500.00</b>

Budget July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021	
General Government	\$ 198,400.00
Highway Expense	<u>\$ 686,200.00</u>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 884,600.00</b>
Less anticipated income	<u>(\$ 241,500.00)</u>

**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES            \$ 643,100.00**

### FISCAL YEAR END BALANCE

Cash On Hand	June 30, 2019	\$ 394,536.31
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### COMMITTED FUNDS

Town Lines	\$ 250.00
Town Building Restoration	\$ 6,594.00
Land Records Restoration	\$ 4,579.00
Rupert Town Green Fund	\$ 33,332.00
Rupert Town Forest Sale	\$ 87,798.50
Fiduciary Grant via Mrs. S. Hatch	\$ 10,000.00
Paving	\$ 81,640.00
Gravel	<u>\$ 12,946.02</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$237,139.52</b>

Year End Balance	\$394,536.31
Committed Funds	<u>(\$237,139.52)</u>
Actual 2019 FY Balance	\$157,396.79

**GENERAL FUND BALANCE                            \$157,396.79**  
**Uncollected Delinquent Taxes (6/30/19)       \$ 43,174.30**



Town of Rupert General Ledger  
Current Year Budget Status Report

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/2019-6/30/20</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>7/1/2019- 12/31/19</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>FY 2020-2021</u>
<b>School Tax Payments</b>			
Education Property Tax (Paid to State)		\$279,941.00	
Mettawee School Non-Residential Tax		\$313,186.59	
Mettawee School Residential Tax		<u>\$300,192.91</u>	
<b>Total School Tax Payments</b>		<b>\$893,320.50</b>	
<b>TOWN BUDGET</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>			
Town Clerk	\$14,000.00	\$6,612.84	\$14,000.00
Library Employee Salary	\$12,000.00	\$5,186.00	\$12,000.00
Treasurer	\$18,400.00	\$9,587.16	\$18,400.00
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$2,000.00	\$ 758.14	\$2,000.00
Selectmen	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Del Tax Collector Fees	\$9,000.00	\$568.41	\$9,000.00
Auditors	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$1,900.00
Listers	\$7,500.00	\$11,100.00	\$7,500.00
Board of Civil Authority	\$1,000.00	\$685.00	\$1,000.00
Fica/Medi	\$8,000.00	\$3,438.89	\$8,000.00
Town Officers Expense	\$1,000.00	\$625.50	\$1,000.00
Dog Ordinance Expense	\$1,000.00	\$283.65	\$1,000.00
Zoning and Planning	\$2,000.00	\$146.28	\$2,000.00
Elections	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>\$84,800.00</b>	<b>\$43,071.87</b>	<b>\$84,800.00</b>
<b>Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>			
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$953.46	\$3,000.00
Postage	\$1,500.00	\$265.62	\$1,500.00
Town Report	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	\$1,700.00
Office Equipment Repair	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Town Records Restoration	\$500.00	\$756.86	\$500.00
Office Capital Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$2,085.22	\$2,000.00
Land Purchase	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEMRC – Annual	\$1,300.00	\$285.00	\$5,000.00
Computer Schooling	\$1,500.00	\$1,763.31	\$700.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$339.01</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$14,700.00</b>	<b>\$6,448.48</b>	<b>\$17,600.00</b>
<b>Utilities</b>			
Electric – Town Office	\$1,000.00	\$325.43	\$1,000.00
Electric – Library/Historical	\$1,300.00	\$430.21	\$1,300.00
Electric – Town Garage	\$2,400.00	\$964.87	\$2,400.00
Electric – Street Lights	\$8,800.00	\$2,476.98	\$6,300.00
Telephone – Town Office	\$2,500.00	\$983.64	\$2,500.00
Telephone – Town Garage	\$1,000.00	\$374.60	\$1,000.00
Solid Waste Removal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Benn. County Solid Waste Alliance	\$5,000.00	\$1,712.81	\$3,500.00
Fuel Oil – Library/Historical	\$2,500.00	\$420.30	\$2,500.00



Town Office Heating Oil	\$2,300.00	\$216.81	\$2,300.00
Town Building Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$5,527.78	\$6,000.00
Town Office Cleaning	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$32,880.00</b>	<b>\$13,433.43</b>	<b>\$28,880.00</b>

#### **Outside Services**

Attorney's Fees	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
General Town Insurance	\$29,000.00	\$17,391.00	\$20,000.00
Audit	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	\$1,800.00	\$1,877.00	\$2,000.00
Property Mapping	\$1,600.00	\$775.00	\$1,600.00
Cemetery Maint.	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Bennington County Tax	\$10,100.00	\$10,670.48	\$12,000.00
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	\$2,200.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Speed Control	\$4,000.00	\$1,586.85	\$4,000.00
Fire Alarm Maintenance	\$0.00	\$440.00	\$600.00
State Permits and Fees	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Town Website Maintenance	\$0.00	\$260.00	\$1,000.00
Radio Communications	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$720.00</u>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>
<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<b>\$64,200.00</b>	<b>\$37,720.33</b>	<b>\$60,700.00</b>

#### **Budget Appropriations**

VT Ctr for Indep Living	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Rupert Youth	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
SW VT Council on Aging	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Granville Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Benn. Rutl Opportunity Cncl	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
American Red Cross	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Poultney/Mett Water Shed	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bennington Tutorial	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Coalition for Homeless	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Manchester Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Benn. Area Habitat for Humanity	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
Rupert Food Pantry	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$6,420.00</b>	<b>\$6,120.00</b>	<b>\$6,420.00</b>

<b>Total Town Budget</b>	<b>\$203,000.00</b>	<b>\$106,794.11</b>	<b>\$198,400.00</b>
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#### **HIGHWAY BUDGET**

##### **Salaries/Wages**

Highway Crew	\$130,000.00	\$67,376.34	\$150,000.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$200.00	\$116.58	\$200.00
Fica/Medi	\$11,000.00	\$5,947.26	\$13,500.00
Health Insurance	\$49,000.00	\$23,771.48	\$54,000.00
Retirement	\$7,500.00	\$3,790.36	\$8,500.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Workers Compensation	<u>\$13,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,570.00</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>
<b>Total Salaries/Wages</b>	<b>\$211,700.00</b>	<b>\$111,672.02</b>	<b>\$239,400.00</b>

##### **Supplies and Maintenance**

Parts and Supplies	\$14,000.00	\$5,283.77	\$14,000.00
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Equipment Rental	\$4,000.00	\$9,192.17	\$4,000.00
Oil & Lube	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Diesel	\$24,000.00	\$18,143.53	\$26,000.00
Equipment Repair	\$28,000.00	\$9,321.77	\$28,000.00
Town Barn Repair	\$1,000.00	\$1,106.00	\$1,000.00
Town Barn Propane - Heat	\$4,500.00	\$430.96	\$4,500.00
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$77,500.00</b>	<b>\$43,478.20</b>	<b>\$79,500.00</b>
<b>Outside Services</b>			
Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blasting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dead Tree Removal	\$3,000.00	\$1,100.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>Road Maintenance Material</b>			
Gravel	\$50,000.00	\$39,829.77	\$50,000.00
Sand	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Salt	\$60,000.00	\$26,221.40	\$60,000.00
Calcium Chloride	\$8,000.00	\$3,500.64	\$8,000.00
Hot & Cold Patch	\$10,000.00	\$473.58	\$10,000.00
<b>Total Road Maintenance Material</b>	<b>\$148,000.00</b>	<b>\$90,025.39</b>	<b>\$148,000.00</b>
<b>Projects</b>			
Paving	\$85,000.00	\$335,754.79	\$85,000.00
Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Class III Roads	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Guard Rails/Culverts	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
New Town Garage Payment	\$35,000.00	\$34,928.32	\$35,000.00
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>\$153,000.00</b>	<b>\$370,683.11</b>	<b>\$153,000.00</b>
Vehicles and Equipment	\$45,000.00	\$37,129.82	\$50,000.00
Blades	\$4,000.00	\$960.00	\$4,000.00
Tires	\$7,500.00	\$920.00	\$7,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,800.00	\$4,527.00	\$1,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,300.00</b>	<b>\$43,536.82</b>	<b>\$63,300.00</b>
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET</b>	<b>\$651,500.00</b>	<b>\$660,495.54</b>	<b>\$686,200.00</b>
<b>TOTAL TOWN EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$854,500.00</b>	<b>\$767,289.65</b>	<b>\$884,600.00</b>
<b>Voted Non-Budgetary Articles &amp; Grants</b>			
Establish Town Lines	\$250.00	\$0.00	
Salt Shed	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Reappraisal Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Better Back Roads Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Town Office Restoration	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,250.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Voted Appropriations</b>			
Rupert Volunteer Fire Company	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Dorset Nursing Association	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
R K Kittay Library	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
Salem Rescue Squad	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rupert Upper Cemetery Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,700.00</b>	<b>\$29,700.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$909,450.00</b>	<b>\$796,989.65</b>	<b>\$914,600.00</b>

## TOWN OF RUPERT DOG LICENSES ISSUED FOR 2019

CASH ON HAND JAN. 1, 2019	\$ 0.00
190 DOGS LICENSED	\$ 1,908.00
(Includes 13 special license tags & 2 replacement tags)	
3 BREEDER LICENSES @ \$35.00	<u>\$ 105.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2,013.00
Fees to Vermont State Treasurer (\$5.00) per license	(\$ 861.00)
\$2.00 per license fee retained by T.C.	<u>(\$ 376.00)</u>
TOTAL	(\$ 1,237.00)
Net revenue for Town of Rupert for the 2019 calendar year	\$ 776.00

### NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

New dog licenses for 2020 are now at the Town Office. Registration due date is April 1, 2020. The rabies vaccination law reads that all dogs over the age of three months shall be vaccinated against rabies and this initial vaccination is good for 12 months. Within 9 - 12 months of that initial vaccination the animal must receive a booster vaccination. After that, all rabies vaccinations will be valid for 3 years. One dollar of every license goes towards the State of Vermont Rabies Control Program. If you have any questions as to whether or not your pet needs to be vaccinated, in order to be registered, please call the town office.

The State of Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program is ongoing. Four dollars of every license goes towards support of this program. It is designed to enable income eligible caretakers of cats and dogs to receive financial assistance in which to spay, neuter and vaccinate the animals for which they provide care. Applications and a list of participating veterinarians are available at the town office.

#### 2020 Dog License Fees are as follows:

BEFORE APRIL 1 <sup>st</sup> .	\$10.00 - neutered/spayed	\$14.00 - unaltered
AFTER APRIL 1 <sup>st</sup> .	\$14.00 - neutered/spayed	\$18.00 - unaltered

Rupert Animal Control Ordinance has been in effect since Jan. 9, 1999. Copies are available at the town office.

Because I do come in contact with so many dog owners, as I do the registrations, many times I hear that their dog is a rescue dog. The canine's previous story is sometimes sad, sometimes that of neglect and sadly sometimes of abuse. Hats off to the owners who had it in their hearts to rescue these animals from a life that might not have been worth living. Most of the time these dogs become a wonderful member of a family because they are so grateful.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

## VITAL STATISTICS – 2019

### 2019 BIRTHS

Bea Louise Harding  
Born to Sarah C. Linford & Matthew S. Harding

Jan. 05, 2019

Sophia Grace Pettini  
Born to Caitlin Anne & Lino R. Pettini

June 14, 2019

### 2019 CIVIL MARRIAGES

Nicole Lynn Brillon	to	Clay Isaac Sprague	March. 09, 2019
Skyler Nathan Staples	to	Lindsay Nicole Mattison	May 04, 2019
Nathaniel Paul Mychack	to	Courtney Tasca Morse	June 15, 2019
Barry Dean Romoser	to	Catherine Mary Glennan	July 29, 2019

### 2019 DEATHS

Donald W. Lourie Sr.	April	03, 2019	98
Norma B. Lourie	May	24, 2019	83
Robert J. Tifft	July	03, 2019	82
Marybeth Hutchinson	July	06, 2019	77
Thelma Dennison	Sept.	06, 2019	80
Erwin W. Winot	Oct.	03, 2019	96
John Stanley Lourie	Nov.	26, 2019	89
Beverly A. Hay	Dec.	04, 2019	81
Heather Ann Barnish	Dec.	09, 2019	25

These are the vital records for 2019. If a birth, civil marriage or death does not occur in the town and you would like to have the event recorded at the town office, please file a certified copy of the record with the town clerk. If I have missed some event, I do apologize.

Respectfully submitted: Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

## Zoning Administrator's Report 2019

The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month at the Town Office at 7:00 pm. The Development Review Board meets similarly on an as-needed basis.

For the year 2019, there were a total of 18 applications. The breakdown is as follows:

Residence Addition/Renovation.....	6
Barn/Shed /Outbuilding.....	5
Outbuilding Addition.....	1
Accessory Dwelling.....	1
Seasonal Dwelling.....	1
Subdivision.....	2
Boundary Adjustment.....	1
Sign.....	1

The Town would like to remind everyone that zoning permits are required for most projects, to be obtained before the work begins. Copies of the application forms, instructions, and Land Use Regulations are available at the Town Office. They should also be available on the town's website at some point in the near future. Please feel free to contact me at the office with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

John La Vecchia Jr.  
Administrative Officer



## Listers Report

Val Almosnino    Jed Rubin    Rich Ventrella

The Rupert Grand List contained 556 taxable parcels, totaling \$1,324,141. There are no outstanding appeals.

The Town-wide reappraisal, which began in October, 2017, was completed in April 2019 by NEMRC. Based on sales over the last three years, a land schedule was developed. Building costs, compiled by Marshall & Swift, a company which tracks building costs nationally, were localized and applied.

All property owners were mailed a booklet with the old and new property values for all taxable parcels. There were meetings in which property owners were able to meet with the assessing teams to discuss how their new assessments were achieved, which resulting in few grievances. Thank you for your help with this Huge undertaking!

The Lister hours at the Town Office are Monday and Thursday from 10:00am – 2:00pm or by appointment. It is suggested if you would like to meet with the Listers during our scheduled hours that you call the Town Office to make sure we are not out in the field before dropping by.

**REMINDER: Form HS-122 must be filed by ALL RESIDENT property owners, regardless of whether you are required to file an income tax return, on or before April 15, 2020. If you filed an HS-122 in previous years but are now not a resident, you should file HS-122W.**





RUPERT STREET CEMETERY INC.  
PO BOX 82  
WEST RUPERT, VT 05776

This past year the Rupert Street Cemetery has been meeting at the Rupert Historical Building in the upstairs of the Rosalind Keshin Kittay Public Library.

Our new officers are as following

Mike McKeighan – President

Don Lewis – Vice President

Deborah Baker - Secretary

Tracy Lourie – Treasurer

Members of the Trustees are Phil Mazzuca Sr., Eugene Higgins, and Charlie Rockwell. New members will be elected in the April Meeting.

The signs are up in the following cemeteries, Rupert Street Cemetery, Warren Hopkins Cemetery, Kent Hollow Cemetery, and Sheldon Memorial Cemetery.

We are going to start adding the minutes of our meetings to the Rupert web page.

Thank you to Dan Buck for cutting down the trees and shrubs at the Sheldon Memorial Cemetery, around the road and the crypt.

As of April 1, 2019 we have had 8 burials:

Christina McKeighan – Sheldon Section Lot 35B Plot 3 standard grave

Norma Lourie Sheldon Section Lot 1 Plot 8 Cremation

Don Lourie – Carver Section Lot 13A Plot 1 standard grave

Thelma Dennison Sheldon section Lot 50 Plot 4 standard grave

Robert Tiffit – Carver section Lot 29 plot 8 standard grave

Erwin Winot – Sheldon Section Lot 47 Plot 3 standard grave

Stanley Lourie – Sheldon Section Lot 1 Plot 8 cremation

Beverly Hay – Carver Section Lot 5A Plot 8 cremation

One lot 5 x 5 was sold in Kent Hollow Cemetery for cremation.

The mowing at Rupert Street Cemetery was done by Green Mountain Boys from April 1 through October. Brett Lourie mowed the other cemeteries, Sheldon Memorial, Warren Hopkins, and Kent Hollow. In the spring we will be looking for bids to mow.

This year we met with Tom Griffin from the Old Cemetery Association, working on fixing and cleaning the old stones in Warren Hopkins Cemetery.

After many discussions with Attorney John Thrasher, it was in the best interest of the cemetery to have the trustee run the cemeteries. Therefor the Commissioners resigned. We are also working with the Rupert Select Board to quit claim all cemeteries north of the Rupert Mountain to the Rupert Street Cemetery, Inc.

The Rupert Street Cemetery Inc. meets the second Wednesday of April and October at the Rupert Historical Building at 6:30pm. The Meetings are open to the public and all are invited.

We are always looking for volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Baker-Secretary/Trustee  
Rupert Street Cemetery Inc.

Rupert Street Cemetery, Inc.  
April 2018 - March 2019

TD Checking	\$11,082.32
<u>Great Meadow Fed. CU</u>	<u>\$60,419.15</u>
Total as of 4/30/18	\$71,501.47

Income

Lot Sales	\$ 400.00
Burials	\$ 1,050.00
Town of Rupert	\$ 4,487.29
<u>Sheldon Trust</u>	<u>\$ 4,153.59</u>
Total	\$10,090.88

Expenses

MSA Insurance	\$ 197.00
Legal Fees	\$ 300.00
Open/Close Grave	\$ 1,350.00
Cemetery Maint. (Rupert Street)	\$ 5,100.00
Veteran Flags	\$ 159.00
Postage/Box Rental	\$ 62.00
<u>Contract Svc, accounting</u>	<u>\$ 295.00</u>
Total	\$ 7,463.00

TD Checking	\$13,429.57
<u>Great Meadow Fed. CU</u>	<u>\$60,570.33</u>
Total – 3/31/19	\$73,999.90

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy M. Lourie, Treasurer

## **METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING WARNING**

The legal voters of Mettawee School District, consisting of the towns of Pawlet and Rupert, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Rupert Firehouse on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. to consider and act upon the following articles.

### **To be acted upon on Wednesday, February 26, 2020:**

- Article 1: To elect a Moderator to serve from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- Article 2: To elect a School District Clerk to serve from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- Article 3: To elect a School District Treasurer to serve from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
- Article 4: To determine the date and time on which the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Mettawee School District shall be held.
- Article 5: To hear and act upon the reports of the School District directors and officers.
- Article 6: To discuss articles to be voted upon by Australian ballot.
- Article 7: To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting

### **To be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2020:**

- Article 8: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021?
- Article 9: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$5,870,038, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,660 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil 6.4% higher than spending for the current year.
- Article 10: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the Building and Grounds Maintenance Reserve Fund?
- Article 11: To elect the following directors to the board of directors of the Mettawee School District:
  - Pawlet – 1 Director for one (1) year term expiring in February 2021
  - Pawlet – 1 Director for three (3) year term expiring in February 2023
  - Rupert – 1 Director for one (1) year term expiring in February 2021

### **For the purpose of voting by Australian ballot:**

Voters of the Pawlet Town School District will vote at the Town Clerk's Office in Pawlet. The Polls will open on Tuesday March 3, 2020 at 9:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Voters of the Rupert Town School District will vote at the Rupert Town Office in West Rupert. The Polls will open on Tuesday March 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

The legal voters of Mettawee School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

On behalf of the Mettawee School Directors:  
Jane Lourie, Chair

Received for the record and recorded this 14 day of January 2020 by:  
Deb Hawkins, Clerk of the District

## **FIRST CONSTABLE REPORT**

The following is a detailed list of incidents that I have handled from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 for the 12 months of my service as First Constable.

- \* 2 State Police Assists
- \* 10 Animal Complaints–2 dogs taken to Second Chance Animal Shelter
- \* 8 Citizen Assist Calls
- \* Volunteered for the Rupert Carnival & Haunted Barn  
(Everyone had a great time !)

Total Mileage: 228miles

Thank you for your support for First Constable over the year, however, due to work obligation's I will not be running for First Constable this year.  
Anyone with any concerns may call me anytime.

Cell phone – 802-379-3004

Thank You,  
Kelli Raymond  
First Constable  
Animal Control Officer  
Health Officer

## FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

Another year is in the books and this past one will go down as possibly the least active wildland fire season in Vermont. There were only fifteen reported fires throughout the state in 2019 that burned approximately 22 acres. Weather conditions were the primary factor in keeping wildland fires down.

To the best of my knowledge there were no forest or grass and brush fires in Rupert this past year. Please be aware of dry windy conditions which generally are a factor when a “controlled burn” gets out of control. A special thanks to the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company for their quick response to all reported fire calls and any other request for assistance.

Please remember that burning household trash is illegal in Vermont and violators are subject to fines and possible loss of license. A permit is required for any outdoor burning when there is no snow on the ground. Please call anytime you have questions regarding outdoor burning. Always think about weather conditions before you start any fire. Thank you. Below are the 2019 fire statistics for the state of Vermont.

### 2019 FIRE STATISTICS - STATE OF VERMONT

Number of human caused fires	15
Number of lightning caused fires	0
Number of acres burned caused by humans	22
Number of acres burned caused by lightning	0
Total number of fires	15
Total number of acres burned	22
10-year total average number of fires	79
10-year total average number of acres burned	189

To obtain a burning permit please call 394-2494.  
To report a fire call 1-518-747-3325 or 911.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark D. Lourie  
Rupert Fire Warden

## REPORT OF THE RUPERT FIRE CHIEF

The Rupert Fire Department answered 31 calls in 2019

### In Town Calls 18

5 MVA	1 Flood Assist	3 EMS Assist
5 Fire Alarm Activation	1 Controlled Burn	1 Electrical Fire
1 Priority 1 Echo	1 Tree on Power Lines	

### Calls to Neighboring Communities

4 Standby Dorset	1 Standby Arlington	2 Standby West Pawlet
4 Structure Fire Dorset	1 Structure Fire West Pawlet	
1 Mutual Aid Call West Pawlet, Water Rescue		

The Rupert Fire Department held their annual election in January 2020. There were two office changes; Grace Morey was voted in as President and Savannah Lewis was voted in as Vice President. Trustee John McKeighan after serving two terms left a vacant seat which has been filled by John Fisher. I would like to thank John McKeighan, Bob Bain and Brenden Ricketts for their service to the Fire Department while serving as Trustee, Vice President and President respectively.

The Department responded to 18 calls in town and 13 calls in Neighboring Communities.

The Department continues to train regularly on Tuesday nights and attend training offered by the state at other locations. We recently held a training for motor vehicle extrication in January. We had 10 from our department and we had five from other departments in attendance. Thank you to Jim Acome and other Youngstown Fire Departments members who made this training possible.

Our Department was approved for the grant we applied for last year to help purchase a new truck. The grant was for \$262,000 and the Department is expected to put in over a \$100,000 to help cover the cost. Members are currently looking and meeting with reps to figure out the best truck to meet the needs of our town and neighboring communities. When the new truck is purchased, it will replace two of the older trucks we are currently using.

Thank you to the members of the community who help with our fundraising efforts. Whether it's the BBQ, Game Supper, Carnival or any other event, your help is tremendously appreciated.

Emergency Numbers continue to be 911 or by calling dispatch directly at 518-747-3325.

For any questions you might have regarding the above information, please feel free to call me at 394-2491. Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,  
George W. Lewis  
Rupert Volunteer Fire Department



## Vermont Association of Conservation Districts

The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction. During the 22+ years of the program, over 1200 grants totaling \$2.6 million have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs. **The Town of Rupert and the Rupert VFD has received \$30,686 over the years to help improve rural fire protection for the community through this program.** For more information please contact Troy Dare at 802-828-4582 or [dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com](mailto:dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com).

Over the past several years, the Rural Fire Protection Program has made a successful transition from the Northern Vermont and George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservations Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.



# RUPERT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY TREASURER'S REPORT - 2019

## **RECEIPTS:**

CARNIVAL	\$33,028.00
TOWN	\$20,000.00
BINGO	\$15,426.81
DONATIONS	\$2,176.00
DINNERS	\$5,042.00
MEMORIAL DONATIONS	\$1,455.00
GUN RAFFLE	\$4,420.00
AUCTION	\$2,634.00
TURKEY RAFFLE	\$760.00
HAUNTED BARN	\$3,610.00
HALL	\$330.00
INTEREST	<u>\$177.77</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$89,059.58</b>

Balance on hand 1/1/19	\$17,142.28
Balance Equipment Fund 1/1/19	\$169,562.72

## **EXPENSES:**

CARNIVAL	\$18,455.28
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$3,204.98
FUEL OIL	\$4,938.27
ELECTRICITY	\$3,116.58
INSURANCE	\$6,844.00
KITCHEN EQUIPMENT	\$1,000.00
DINNERS	\$1,294.93
DISPATCHING	\$5,850.00
BUILDINGS	\$1,845.60
TELEPHONE	\$893.07
TRAINING	\$811.00

BANQUET	\$1,085.00
RAFFLES	\$946.71
OFFICE	\$258.97
SUPPLIES	\$378.37
HAUNTED BARN	\$1,166.67
PROPANE	\$305.51
DUES	\$643.00
AUCTION	\$746.97
BOWLING	\$70.00
DONATIONS	\$50.00
T-SHIRTS	\$703.75
GASOLINE	\$33.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$54,641.66</b>

Balance on hand 12/31/19	\$31,501.47
Balance Equipment Fund 12/31/19	\$189,732.80

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
Michael Lourie



## REPORT OF THE RUPERT FOOD PANTRY

The Rupert Food Pantry continues to meet the needs of residents in our community as well as residents in surrounding communities. Our town continues to support the Food Pantry with \$500 per year. Other organizations as well as individuals also donate to the Food Pantry. There are also several community members who donate food items. Please call 394-2491 if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelli Lewis, Rupert Food Pantry Chair



**ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ANNUAL TOWN REPORT**

**PO Box 53  
West Rupert, VT 05776  
Phone: 802 394 2444**

**Email: [kittaylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:kittaylibrary@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.rupertkittaylibrary.org](http://www.rupertkittaylibrary.org)  
Facebook: **Rupert Kittay Library****

The Trustees and staff of the R K Kittay Library would like to thank the Rupert Community for its continued support of our free public library. We also thank our dedicated volunteers, the people who keep the library doors open and help patrons in search of materials to expand their knowledge and enjoyment.

Services offered by the Library include:

- Fiber optic technology - the internet can be accessed on personal devices within range of our signal
- Catalog of holdings - can be accessed on the library website
- Universal class – over 500 classes are available
- Educational Portal - links to more than 600 free video lessons
- Heritage Quest – Genealogical Research Tool
- Art Exhibits - exhibits by local artists every two months
- Various programs – In 2019 we hosted No Strings Marionettes, an Easter Egg Hunt, an Origami Program, a Program on Mushrooms, a Gingerbread House Workshop, and the Children's Summer Reading Program
- Free Passes - VT State Parks, VT Historical Museum, VT Historical Sites, The Clark Museum, and Hildene. Also reduced entrance fee at ECHO Science Museum.

Community groups continue to use the Library. The card group and book discussion group meet on a regular basis.

Fundraising is essential in meeting our goals. This year, with help and hard work of many volunteers and the support of the community, we held a food sale, a plant sale, a book sale, a golf tournament, and a raffle to help meet our objectives. Again, thanks for helping make these events successful.

Our goal is to stay current by providing services that meet the needs of the community in a continually changing environment. We want to provide a place to learn, relax, meet others and give residents of Rupert pride in their library. Please join us in 2020!

Respectfully submitted:

Judy Zinn, President	Casey Czahor, Secretary	Jane Lourie, Treasurer
Arlene Horn	Jean Nardi	Sarah Porter
		Nicole Croff

# ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

### Income

Donations	11,860.90
Golf Tournament	2,929.24
Grants	950.00
Interest	3,585.50
Plant Sale	966.40
Raffle	775.57
Town of Rupert	1,200.00
Used Book Sale	<u>570.50</u>
	22,838.11
Cash on Hand 1/1/1*	<u>12,371.63</u>
Total Funds	35,209.74

### Expenses

Audio-Visual	370.05
Books	1,397.74
Computer Expense	697.86
Fundraising	665.00
Gifts - Volunteer Recognition	538.34
Office Supplies	892.21
Periodicals	47.15
Postage	196.00
Programs	1,555.80
Repairs and Maintenance	1,256.99
Scholarship	50.00
Summer Program	1,383.09
Telephone	537.58
Wages - Admin Asst & Lib Dir	10,119.00
Wages - Employment Taxes	<u>820.07</u>
	20,526.88
Transfer to Investment	3,585.50
Cash on Hand 12/31/18	<u>11,097.36</u>
Total Funds	35,209.74

### Investment(Endowment Fund)\*

Bank of Bennington CDs	173,208.41
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Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Lourie, Treasurer

\*Note: The Endowment Fund was established in 1999 with the intent to use interest earned each year to offset operating expenses and decrease the reliance on donations. Since its inception we have deposited all interest earned on this fund in an effort to build it to its original goal of 200,000.00. Upon attainment of this goal we intend to use the interest earned each year to help with operating expenses.



# THE RUPERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Once again, we wish to express our appreciation to the Members and Friends of our Society for your continued support of the various programs and projects which we have sponsored throughout this past year. Among the speakers was an historian from the Vermont Humanities Council, Paul Wainwright, whose topic was Old Meeting Houses of New England. We also heard from Cliff Oliver, a descendant of African slaves, who traced the life and work of John Henry, immortalized in song as "a Travelin Man." We were also informed and entertained by Teddy Harrington and her daughter Cindy, descendants of E.R. Sheldon, proprietor of the General Store in Rupert. This store is presently experiencing rejuvenation as a hub of activity in the Village Center. These events and projects are continuing proof of our desire to preserve our past through the exhibits displayed at our Museum above the Library and in the Cobbler House next door. Both Museums are open weekly on Saturday mornings in the winter months. One final project of roof repair at the Cobbler Shop will complete its restoration. Our annual Newsletter, issued in May, will list the events and activities of the coming year, among which will be our sponsorship of a Community Memory Tree at Holiday time, decorated with ornaments in memory of loved ones.

We wish to express our thanks to the Board of Selectman for granting us the shared use of the School House building for our work..

Executive Board: Leesa Bradley, Axel Blomberg, Nan Leach, Dianne Lourie, Don Lewis, Tracey Lourie, Margaret Bain, Anne Lourie, Gene Higgins



**RUPERT YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB**  
**INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT 2019**

**EXPENSES**

**PREVIOUS BAL.**

\$388.09

<b>CRAFTS</b>	<b>\$ 35.00</b>
<b>FOOD ITEMS</b>	<b>\$ 53.80</b>
<b>AWARDS</b>	<b>\$ 15.45</b>
<b>PAPER PRODUCTS</b>	<b>\$ 27.00</b>
<b>DECORATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 17.00</b>
<b>MAILINGS/PRINTING</b>	<b>\$ 22.62</b>

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Subtotal expenses:                      -     \$170.87

**INCOME**

<b>RUPERT TOWN DONATION</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
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Subtotal income:    \$ 0.00

**CURRENT BALANCE IN ACCOUNT:**                      \$217.22

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
*Kimberly Perkins*  
*December 31, 2019*

# UNITED STATES CENSUS 2020

## Stand-Alone Entry

Every ten years, the U.S. Constitution requires an enumeration of all persons in the United States, commonly referred to as The Census. For the next ten years, the numbers produced in this effort will help determine how more than \$675 billion will be distributed to states and localities annually through more than 65 federal programs. These programs include special education funding, school lunch programs, meals on wheels, fuel assistance, Medicare, housing rehabilitation, community economic development and revitalization block grants, early childhood education, cooperative extension offices, and more. This year, you will have the option of responding online, on the telephone, or with a traditional, short-form written response. Look for your invitation to respond in the mail or at your door. It is critical that *everyone* participate and that all household members be included. The 2020 Decennial Census begins in March. Make sure that *your* community counts!

## Short Insertion into Selectboard Report

We urge all residents to participate in the U.S. Census this year because the results will determine how more than \$675 billion is distributed each year to states and localities for key programs during the next decade. The Census is short, easy to complete, and important for this town.



Salem Rescue Squad, Inc.  
152 East Broadway, PO Box 360  
Salem, NY 12865  
Telephone: 518.854.7199  
E-mail: salem44ems@hotmail.com

### 2019 REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

The members of the Salem Rescue Squad are proud to have served the communities of Salem, Hebron, Jackson, East Greenwich and Rupert for more than 50 years.

The Salem Rescue Squads three ambulance traveled 21,268 miles responding to 385 calls in 2019. In addition, 240-community paramedicine visits were provided to individuals at home with health issues to help avoid Emergency Room visits. The following is a breakdown of ambulance calls by area:

Salem	228	Hebron	112
Rupert	23	Jackson	15
Cambridge	2	Greenwich	4
Granville	1	Fort Edward	1
Glens Falls Hospital	1	Argyle	2

Salem Rescue Squad is a volunteer membership advanced life support agency that provides emergency medical services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Volunteers are supported by one full time Critical Care Technician and part time EMT's as needed.

As is the case with most volunteer organizations, Salem Rescue Squad is seeking community members interested in joining our team. Current members come from a variety of occupations. Some have day jobs, some are retired. Members can help in a variety of ways including, but not limited to:

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Ambulance Drivers
- Attendant

If you can provide some time and the willingness to help, the Salem Rescue Squad will provide the training and uniforms. Just contact us at the telephone number or email above or stop by the Rescue Squad building weekdays.

We would also like to remind you to make sure that your 9-1-1 street address is clearly visible from the road so that we can locate you quickly during an emergency. Keep an up to date list of your medical history, medications and dosages, and any allergies for yourself and family members.

EMERGENCY ♦ DIAL ♦ 911

Granville Rescue Squad, Inc.  
East Potter Avenue, P.O. Box 153  
Granville, NY 12832  
Telephone (518) 642-1830  
[www.granvillerescue.com](http://www.granvillerescue.com)  
[granvillerescue@yahoo.com](mailto:granvillerescue@yahoo.com)

To the Citizens of Towns Served:

The members and staff of Granville Rescue are proud to have served the community over the past year.

Granville Rescue handled 1878 calls in 2019, traveling over 70,000 miles. The following is a breakdown of calls by area covered:

Village of Granville	712	Town of Hebron	33
Town of Granville	611	Town of Wells	127
Town of Pawlet	151	Town of Rupert	13
Town of Danby	6	Other Areas	225

We routinely respond to calls for mutual assistance outside of our area. Other neighboring ambulances also assist our agency when the system is overwhelmed with calls and or resources are depleted.

Our service is licensed in New York and Vermont as an advanced life support agency. Volunteer members are supplemented by employees to provide 24 hour a day, 7 days a week emergency medical coverage. Our roster has over 45 members and staff, ranging from drivers to paramedics. In 2019, members participated in over 15,000 hours of emergency call time and in excess of 1200 hours of training. We do offer community CPR and first aid training, depending on instructor availability, as well as the "Stop the Bleed" program.

Several grants were received this year, allowing upgrade of older patient care equipment. Additionally, we purchase a used, but well maintained ambulance, at a significant cost savings.

Two members completed the EMT training program this year. This 165-hour course, taught over several months is the certification level required to care for a patient. One member upgraded their certification to the Advanced EMT. We applaud these members for their achievements.

Granville Rescue would like to thank the citizens, businesses, local governments, fire, police, and neighboring EMS agencies, as well as highway departments for their continued support and assistance. Anyone with questions, concerns, or interest can stop by our building on Potter Avenue in Granville or visit our website at [www.granvillerescue.com](http://www.granvillerescue.com).

Respectfully Submitted:

Members of the Granville Rescue Squad



**VNA & HOSPICE of the Southwest Region**  
**909 VT ROUTE 30**  
**DORSET, VERMONT 05251**  
**(802)-362-1200**  
**FAX (802) 362-1412**  
**[www.vermontvisitingnurses.org](http://www.vermontvisitingnurses.org)**

## **TOWN REPORT**

### **TO THE OFFICERS AND CITIZENS OF RUPERT:**

In 2018, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, formerly known as Dorset Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice provided Bennington County residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From infants with hi-tech needs to our most senior population facing end-of-life care, we continued to bring medically necessary healthcare wherever it is needed, location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking government and state reimbursements and rising healthcare costs, VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective health care services to some of Bennington County's most vulnerable individuals.

In 2018, VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 149,978 visits to 3,158 patients. In the town of Rupert, we provided 816 visits to 23 individuals.

In closing, we wish to thank you for your past support. With your vote of confidence, we will continue to meet our mission to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

*Ronald J. Cioffi, Executive Director*

*Dan DiBattista, President of the Board of Directors*



## BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

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

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning in the region has become one of the BCRC's main program areas. Economic development planning at the BCRC, including dedicated staff directed by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation, supports business retention, growth, and recruitment. An outgrowth of this economic development work involves cooperative effort across the region and with Windham County to develop a US EDA approved Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The BCRC also has provided staff support for a major downtown redevelopment project in Bennington that grew from brownfields and community development work overseen by the Commission. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property. Other important accomplishments have included: assistance with updates to several municipal comprehensive plans and land use bylaws, development of municipal energy plans and support for local energy committees, village center and neighborhood development area designations, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan in cooperation with the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, and planning for transportation and other local infrastructure.

Some of the key projects to be undertaken by the BCRC in the coming year include: continued work on the Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, energy plan implementation activities, workforce and business development initiatives, cooperative programs with the Lightning Jar entrepreneurial center, water quality management plans and projects, assessment of brownfield sites throughout the region, building redevelopment and reuse strategies and recycling goals, completion of municipal hazard mitigation plans, and management of intersection improvement and multi-use pathway projects.

The BCRC is governed by locally appointed commissioners from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. Our office, located at 111 South Street in Bennington, is open Monday through Friday. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: [www.bcrevt.org](http://www.bcrevt.org)).

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Sullivan, Director

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance  
Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg  
Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance provides programs to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills by promoting recycling and reuse as well as resource conservation. The Alliance offers education, outreach and other assistance to businesses, schools, institutions and event organizers in 1) complying with the Universal Recycling Law and other solid waste management requirements, 2) increasing reuse and recycling, and 3) reducing the amount of solid waste disposed in landfills. These programs help residents, businesses, schools and institutions find solutions to recycling, food scrap diversion and the disposal of items such as electronic waste, fluorescent bulbs, paint and others that are banned from landfills.

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

- battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program
- disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and transfer stations that accept motor oil
- recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including lists of retail stores that accept paint
- prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- recycling of textiles by the One World Center, Goodwill and others
- events for disposing household hazardous waste
- disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations, some retail establishments and at household hazardous waste collection events
- disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill and retail establishments
- diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen compost containers

This past year the Alliance provided technical assistance to 40 businesses and three schools, as well as several major event organizers, held two household hazardous waste events, supported and E-Waste collection at the Dorset School and sold compost bins to residents. In 2020, we plan to hold two household hazardous waste events for residents and small businesses of all thirteen towns. The spring event will be held at the Bennington Transfer Station and fall event at the Dorset School. Check the website above for updates and details. The Alliance receives most of its funding from the 13 towns, but this past year received grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.

## BENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (BCCD)

The mission of the BCCD is to promote rural livelihoods and protect natural resources in southwestern Vermont. Our work in fiscal year 2019 included:

Hiring a new district manager, Katy Crumley, after Shelly Stiles' retirement. Katy brings experience in wildlife and land management, as well as experience working on small organic farms. She is excited to continue the district's mission and add value to our communities.

With help from the Bennington and N. Bennington public works and roads crews, completing the construction of a boardwalk for floater access in Greenberg Headwaters Park in Bennington. We also partnered with the Town of Bennington and Shelly Stiles (previous BCCD district manager) to research the possibility of connecting Headwaters Park with the old One World Conservation property.

Partnering with the Town of Shaftsbury to complete under road drainage and culvert replacement with ditching, on Trumble Hill. Additional culverts and ditches in need of replacement were identified on Kelly Stand Rd. with the assistance of the road foreman. Cost estimates and scope of work were created for this project.

Found funding for the Town of Rupert, to install best management practices and protect water quality at its garage site.

With the considerable help of an EcoAmericorps member, headquartered at BCCD, we implemented the work plan for the Batten Kill Watershed Comprehensive Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA). Projects included invasive species treatments on several public and privately owned parcels; workshops; newspaper articles; and much social media outreach.

Providing agriculture technical assistance to farmers in Bennington County, to develop nutrient management plans, conduct soil and water samples and direct farmers to applicable resources.

Completing a Trees for Streams planting at Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rupert, to reduce sediment and nutrient run-off into Mill Brook/White Creek. Planting occurred with the partnership of Merck Forest staff and Burr and Burton Academy students. An additional planting was completed on private property along the Battenkill, in conjunction with our CISMA partners. Future buffer plantings are scheduled for Spring 2020, in conjunction with CISMA and the Battenkill Watershed Alliance.

Assisting with the development and review of the new 5-year Deerfield Basin 12 plan.

Secured funding for stormwater system improvements at the Arlington school and library complex. Deliverables include four, 100% designs detailing these improvements.

Aided Bennington College in the organization and hosting of an Emerald Ash Borer workshop.

Working closely with USFS Green Mountain National Forest, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, our regional planning commission, many municipalities, and several local and regional non-profit organizations to further our congruent missions.

Respectfully submitted by  
Katy Crumley, District Manager



## **THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING TOWN OF RUPERT SUMMARY REPORT**

For the last 40 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY '19 (10/2018-9/2019) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **250** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **6** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **163** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **112** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **86** individuals with information on assistive technology; **46** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **499** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also now home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served **40** people and provided **31** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Windham County office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) (previously under the VT Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY '19, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)
- Home Access Program (HAP)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:  
**1-800-639-1522**, or, visit our web site at **[www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org)**.

## **BENNINGTON COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Thank you for your generous contribution to Bennington County Habitat for Humanity in the amount of \$350. This letter serves as your receipt. We are very grateful for your support.

You have us off and running with our commitments pursuant to the terms of the Orton Matching Grant Award for this Fiscal Year. We have three houses to build, 10 home repair projects to complete, three donor events to hold to increase awareness and support, and at least \$100,000 in individual donations to raise. As they did in FY19, the Ortons will match the \$100,000 if we achieve our commitments again this fiscal year.

Our Habitat affiliate runs two construction programs – new construction and home repair. We build new homes in partnership with people in need of affordable homeownership opportunities. We repair homes in partnership with people in need of minor exterior repairs, including ramps, to help them remain safely in their own homes. Volunteers are the hearts and hands of our construction programs and we look forward to more folks joining in the good work – no construction experience is necessary!

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, we held Dedication Celebrations with our two newest homebuyer families in our North Branch Street neighborhood of Bennington. The Mattison-Barber family will move home to 31 Corcoran's Way, and the McLaughlin Family will move home right next door to 23 Corcoran's Way. The families already know one another since they helped build each other's houses. On an absolutely beautiful day, everyone celebrated these families opportunity at homeownership.

The Furciniti-Julius family will put in their 400 combined hours of sweat equity toward the four-bedroom house we are building with them at 320 North Branch Street. Once again, the amazing students of the Building and Trades Division of the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center will help build the house. We have started building two other houses in Manchester in the Jennifer Lane neighborhood and still need homebuyers for those homes. Please send folks our way!

Thank you for being an essential part of the good work that Bennington County Habitat is doing here in Bennington County. By stepping out in faith with our Habitat affiliate, you continue to help us obtain the goals of the Orton Matching Grant. Your generosity of spirit inspires us to do more.

In Partnership, Susan Sommer, Executive Director

## **PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS**

Domestic and Sexual Violence Services  
P.O. Box 227 Bennington Vermont 05201  
802-442-2370 office - 802-442-6162 fax  
Email [pave@pavebennington.com](mailto:pave@pavebennington.com)

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is committed to providing compassionate support, practical services and the pathway to healing and safety for countless victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Bennington County. Our organization has grown from a crisis hotline to the multiple and comprehensive support services we now provide. These services include 24-hour hotline, court and social service advocacy, case management, emergency financial assistance, access to legal services, access to emergency housing, supervised visitation, parenting classes, community awareness, school-based prevention education and more.

The hotline is still where it often begins for victims accessing our services and our volunteers remain the backbone of the support we offer. In the past year, we provided 2 Rupert residents with comprehensive services; both of those residents made initial contact with us through the emergency hotline. These residents received advocacy services including emotional support, safety planning, court advocacy, case management and housing services. In addition, 1 family with 2 children received supervised visitation services through our Family Time Program.

Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families. Our emergency shelter program provides families with short-term housing and case management services with the goal of obtaining safe permanent housing. In the past year, we provided 89 adults and 58 children with 3,745 nights of shelter services.

To stop the generational cycle of abuse, we must start early and invest in prevention strategies that provide healthy parent-child relationships, friendships and dating relationships. Through our education and empowerment programs pre-kindergarten to college: Nurturing Parenting classes; Women's Support Groups; Healthy Mind, Body and Family workshops and Financial Literacy Program, we've helped over 3,500 children, teachers and other adults learn new skills and techniques.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and families served, I thank the residents of Rupert for your ongoing support to PAVE. Your support creates greater opportunities for the people impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence who need our services each year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nadia Lucchin, Executive Director



## THE TUTORIAL CENTER, INC.

Founded in Bennington in 1971, 2020 marks the Tutorial Center's 49<sup>th</sup> year of helping the region's children and adults achieve educational, career, and life success! Please accept our thank you for the many years of support for our work. Your support enables us to help EVERY child or adult who comes to us for help.

The Tutorial Center has long-established learning centers in both Bennington and Manchester, enabling Bennington County residents to easily access our services where they live or where they work. Education is an ever-evolving art and The Tutorial Center seeks to model our services to respond to contemporary demand. I take pride in our welcoming and flexible approach.

Our educational support services include tutoring for all ages, adult literacy, dropout prevention, alternative high school education, English language classes for non-English speakers, the High School Completion program, GED preparation and testing, job readiness training, workplace literacy for employees, software and technology training for business, enrichment classes, SAT preparation, and our innovative and nationally-recognized YAP experience for at-risk young adults.

Another highlight of our work involves our partnership with Seedlings, which continues to provide high-quality after-school tutoring at Bennington Elementary and Molly Stark.

Town of Rupert appropriation funds support our tutoring work, enabling us to offer tutoring to any student who needs our assistance to succeed in school or to avoid becoming a dropout. This past year we provided tutoring for 160 students, in subjects ranging from beginning reading to algebra, calculus, technology, and foreign languages. Most were from low-income families. Over 90% of these students made measured educational progress under our guidance. These results show up in the local schools as increase standardized test scores, and in local businesses as more productive employees.

Another 139 adults were enrolled in our free adult education services, with 10 earning their high school credential. Over 9600 hours of free instruction was provided to our students.

High-quality educational activities that respond to community needs – and produce lasting community impacts – that is what your Town funding supports. We thank you, and we look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Fish, Executive Director

[www.tutorial.org](http://www.tutorial.org)

In Manchester: PO Box 1434 • 3511 Richville Rd • Manchester Center, VT 05255 • 802-362-0222 • 802-362-0707 fax  
In Bennington: 208 Pleasant Street • Bennington, VT 05201 • 802-447-0111 • 802-447-7607 fax

## **SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING**

### **Report to the Citizens of Rupert**

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to elders in Rupert in 2019:

#### ***Senior Meals:***

The council provided 417 meals that were delivered to the homes of 4 elders in your community. This service is often called "Meals on Wheels." In addition, 59 Rupert elders came together at a luncheon site in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others; 207 meals were provided.

#### ***Case Management Assistance:***

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 16 elders in your community for a total of 210.75 hours. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They will work with the elder to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the elder desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help elders connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail elders facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

#### ***Other Services and Support:***

1) "Senior Helpline" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior HelpLine staff provide telephone support to elders and others who need information on available programs and community resources; 2) Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program; 3) Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project; 4) Information about elder issues and opportunities via various agency articles and publications; 5) Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician; 6) Senior Companion support for frail, homebound elders; 7) Outreach services to elders dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. This service is provided in cooperation with Rutland County Mental Health; 8) Transportation assistance; 9) Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to elders in need of assistance; 10) Money Management programs that offer either a volunteer bill payer or representative payee services to elders and younger disabled individuals

**Rutland Office: 802-786-5990**

**Bennington Office: 802-442-5436**

**Helpline: 1-800-642-5119**

## CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Serving all of Bennington County using restorative justice principles as our guide, the Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) is a true community agency helping both young people as well as adults to take an active role to repair the harm they caused, give back to their community and learn new ways to be a positive, contributing community member. With your town's support, this past year:

- 45 community members volunteered their time and talents sitting on one of eight monthly restorative justice panels and CRJ's governing Board.
- CRJ collected over \$6,500 in donations from clients and distributed funds out to various charities and non-profit groups throughout Bennington County.
- Over \$10,000 in restitution was collected by CRJ and given back to victims of crime.
- Over 1,400 individuals went through one of CRJ's many programs. Specific examples include:
  - 74 students received truancy and restorative justice programming in schools
  - 288 young people and adults participated in CRJ's Court Diversion Program and had their charges dismissed after making amends and repairing harm caused
  - 196 individuals were assisted to get their driver's license reinstated and, in many cases, had their fines significantly reduced
  - 213 youth were served through one of CRJ's Juvenile Restorative Programs such as Community Support and Supervision, Afterschool Programming and Mentoring.
  - 32 individuals returning to the community from incarceration were served through one of CRJ's many Community Reentry Programs

CRJ was able to bring on several new programs this past year:

- CRJ's afterschool program evolved from only one day a week to everyday afterschool (except Fridays) giving at-risk teens a supervised, substance-free place to hang out after school.
- A week-long summer program called the Youth Empowerment Program was offered to 10 at-risk youth allowing them to experience opportunities focused on building self-esteem, teamwork and leadership skills.
- CRJ's new Mediation Services assisted in resolving numerous neighbor disputes, helping keep these cases out of the court system.
- CRJ provided Expungement Petition Assistance to 23 people, helping to file petitions with the court to have their records expunged.
- CRJ's DRIVE (Driving Responsibly in Vermont) Program provided 102 people with victim impact classes revealing how their criminal driving violations have impacted others and the community as a whole.

Town support is greatly appreciated and is invaluable in helping CRJ continue to expand its programming and to reach as many people as possible. Your continued support has helped individuals to get their lives on the right track, helped empower victims to have a voice in the justice process, and helped restore and strengthen our communities.

Leitha Cipriano, Executive Director  
Center for Restorative Justice

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
White River Junction Medical Center  
215 North Main Street  
White River Junction, VT 05009  
866-687-8387 (Toll Free)  
802-295-9363 (Commercial)

Dear Veteran,

The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services. If you currently receive our services, please pass this note on to a Veteran who may benefit.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans who are homeless or unemployed to providing primary and specialty care. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans, please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us, in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363 extension 5118. A single form – VA form 10-10EZ – and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including nonmembers in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

Respectfully,

Becky Rhoads, Au. D.  
Associate Medical Center Director



## BROC – COMMUNITY ACTION IN SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT

To the Citizens of the Towns of Rupert & West Rupert,

On behalf of BROC Community Action and the thousands of people with low income or living in poverty that we serve in Rutland and Bennington counties, I want to personally thank you for supporting us through the balloting process over the years. BROC Community Action continues to experience many people seeking our programs and services each day.

Over the past year, BROC Community Action has demonstrated strong community impact in the Towns of Rupert & West Rupert.

- 19 individuals were assisted and had their needs met including food at our Community Food Shelf, senior USDA Commodities, housing counseling, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget counseling, case management, resource and referral and income tax preparation through our Community Services department.

Despite the significant outcomes BROC Community Action has achieved for the residents of the Towns of Rupert and West Rupert over the past year, there is still more work to do. People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your appropriation helps ease the struggle for more than 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward.

***Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming year is \$400.00.***

We value our partnership with Rupert and West Rupert to assist those most in need.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Donahue, CEO  
[tdonahue@broc.org](mailto:tdonahue@broc.org)

## **The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (CUD)**

On the upcoming March town meeting there will be a ballot item seeking permission for the Town of Rupert to join a Communications Union District (CUD) for southern Vermont. This effort is being spear-headed by a Broad Band Task Force composed of representatives from many towns in Bennington County. The taskforce seeks to promote formation of a CUD according to Vermont Statute as laid out in 30 V.S.A. Ch82. The aim is to include towns in Bennington County and perhaps neighboring towns in Rutland and Windham Counties. The CUD purpose is to build and operate a broad band internet system to cover ALL AREAS of member towns so there are no longer underserved areas. This can work through the purchasing power of many underserved areas banded together to build a critical mass of customers. There are successful, operating CUDs already existing (such as the East Central Vermont CUD) and many other across the state are being organized.

Here is how it all works:

1. A town votes to join a CUD.
2. Each member town selects representatives to Board of Directors of the CUD. Typically a member of the select board and another member of the community are selected.
3. The Board of Directors applies for grant(s) to support a feasibility study throughout the CUD. Many grants are available from an array of Vermont State and federal agencies.
4. With feasibility reports in hand the Board requests proposals from both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations to build and operate a system providing broad band internet ALONG EVERY road in member towns no matter how remote. Many providers are interested in contracting to provide necessary services.
5. Costs not covered by grants are initially funded by bonds with favorable rates provided by public entities. At no time are any costs borne by town taxpayers. Only the CUD is responsible. Town taxpayers are held harmless by Vermont State Statute.
6. Once the CUD system is ready to go citizens can subscribe to the service as they do for other available services. Rates are competitive.
7. Financial obligations of the CUD are paid or paid back by the subscriber fees.

When the Town of Rupert joins it will be in on the ground floor to influence CUD policy. It takes only two towns to form a CUD; other towns can join later by action of select boards. It should be noted that at least 9 towns in the county already plan votes on joining. For comments or questions email: [mbemeyer@sover.net](mailto:mbemeyer@sover.net) or contact any Broad Band Task Force member from Rupert at listed below.

Arlene Bentley  
Bill Meyer

Charlie Rockwell  
Jed Rubin



**RESULTS OF TOWN MEETING ELECTION - MARCH 5, 2019**  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST - 251**

**TOWN OFFICERS**

Selectboard for 3 years	-	Deborah Baker.....	214
Selectboard for 1 year	-	Linda Montague.....	192
Selectboard for 1 year	-	Philip E. Mazzucco.....	183
Lister for 3 years	-	Val Almosnino.....	199
Auditor for 3 years	-	Eugene Higgins.....	233
Town Agent for 1 year	-	Donald S. Lewis.....	231
First Constable for 1 year	-	Kelli Raymond .....	226
Second Constable for 1 year	-	Jeffrey W. Lourie .....	177
Delinquent Tax Collector for 1 year	-	Mark Lourie .....	99
Road Commissioner for 1 year	-	Jay E. Wilson III .....	182
Town Moderator for 1 year	-	Eugene C. Ceglowski.....	209
Rupert School Director 3 years	-	Michael Krauss.....	209
Cemetery Commissioner 1 year	-	Donald S. Lewis.....	230
Cemetery Commissioner 2 years	-	Deborah Baker.....	212
Cemetery Commissioner 3 years	-	Michael McKeighan.....	206
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Arlene Horn.....	231
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Jean Nardi.....	229
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Judy Zinn.....	227

**RUPERT TOWN WARNING**

	<b><u>YES</u></b>	<b><u>NO</u></b>
Article 2 (to borrow money).....	218.....	29
Article 3 (to authorize Selectboard to spend surplus, if any)	207 .....	38
Article 4 (to approve collection of taxes in two installments)	237 .....	9
Article 5 (\$2,000 for Salem Rescue Squad).....	236.....	11
Article 6 (\$6,500 Dorset Nursing Assoc.).....	202.....	44
Article 7 (\$20,000 for Rupert Volunteer Fire Co.).....	219 .....	26
Article 8 (to approve \$25,000 for Town Office Improvements	194 .....	52
Article 9 (to approve \$1,200 for Rosalind Kittay Library)	215.....	31
Article 10 (to approve Rupert Fire Co. Tax Exempt).....	238.....	9
Article 11 (to sell 2 acres behind former Sheldon Store)...	189.....	58
Article 12 (not to have Town Green & use \$35,000 for walking path to finish paving Pawlet Mtn. Rd.).....	91.....	157
Article 13 (to approve \$10,000 to improve Rupert sidewalks)	170.....	77
Article 14 (to adopt town budget of \$ 855,100).....	216.....	29

**RESULTS OF METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**TOTAL COMMINGLED RUPERT & PAWLET VOTES CAST - 536**

	<b><u>YES</u></b>	<b><u>NO</u></b>
Article 8 (to borrow money).....	374.....	156
Article 9 (approve budget of \$5,539,649).....	293.....	236
Article 10 (to transfer, if any surplus, \$36,490 into Building & Grounds Reserve Fund existing June 30, 2019).....	380.....	148

## TOWN WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Rupert, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the RUPERT FIRE HOUSE on MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. for a Pre-Town Informational Meeting and on TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at the RUPERT TOWN OFFICE to transact the following business:

- ARTICLE 1. To elect all Town officers and to vote on the following articles, all by the Australian Ballot. Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 AT THE RUPERT TOWN OFFICE.  
The polls will open at 10:00 A.M. and will close at 7:00 P.M.
- ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay current expenses of the Town for the ensuing year?
- ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to spend any budget surplus funds (if there are any) in the next fiscal year?
- ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to approve the collection of the Town and School taxes in two installments; the first installment to be due on or before September 10, 2020 and the second to be due on or before February 10, 2021. Each installment, if not paid when due, to bear interest at the rate provided by the law, from the due date of that installment.
- ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town vote \$2,000 by taxes for the Salem Rescue Squad?
- ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town vote \$6,500 by taxes for the Dorset Nursing Association, Inc.?
- ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$20,000 for the support of the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company to provide services to residents of the Town?
- ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to appropriate the sum of \$ 25,000 to add to the Rupert Town Office Building Improvement Fund?
- ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to appropriate \$1,500 to support of the Rosalind Keshin Kittay Public Library?
- ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town of Rupert enter into a Communication Union District (CUD) to be known as Southern Vermont Communications Union District, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. chapter 82?
- ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to appropriate \$200 for the Front Porch Forum?
- ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$ 10,000 to be spent for improvements and / or replacement of the Rupert Village sidewalks?
- ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town vote to adopt a budget of \$ 884,6000 to defray expenses of the Town for the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021?

Thomas Wilson, Co-Chair  
Linda Montague, Co-Chair  
Philip Mazzucco, Deborah Baker, Charles Rockwell

Received this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020  
Andrea Lenhardt, Rupert Town Clerk