

STRAFFORD, VERMONT

TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2022

HISTORICAL NOTE

HUNTINGTON FARM

Located halfway between our two villages, Huntington Farm has for most of the last 60 years played a significant role in the economic and social life of Strafford. Esther (Essie) and Read Perkins bought what was then a dairy farm from Richard and Blanche Prescott in 1964. Strafford's population was at a low point after the closing of the Elizabeth Mine in 1958, and economic opportunities were severely limited.

Essie and Read were not strangers to Strafford. Essie's family was part of the large Tyson/Wilson clan whose roots in town go back to the 1830s, when Issac Tyson started mining and smelting copper in Strafford

Read and Essie had owned a horse farm in New Jersey where Essie gave riding lessons, but they were facing the pressures of development and looking for a new farm. Strafford with its more reasonable land prices seemed perfect. Moving up with them in 1964 was a teenager, Beth Reagan, who took riding lessons and had been their two daughters' babysitter. Beth eventually married Dennis Preston, whose family has deep roots in the community. Beth Preston, longtime head of our FAST Squad, is just one of many who have enriched our community after being introduced to Strafford via Huntington Farm. Polly Poor was another young person who worked for the horse farm and went on to have a long and meaningful life in Strafford.

The farm continued the practice of boarding horses and giving riding lessons but soon developed into a boarding, training, and breeding facility for 'event' horses. At that time, the horse world in this part of Vermont was centered around Woodstock. 'Eventing' was just getting started in this country. Eventing originated as the training of horses and riders for use in military exercises, and consists of three phases: dressage, cross-country and jumps. In 1969 Huntington Farm started hosting Horse Trials. The whole community became involved, and all proceeds went to the newly-formed Strafford Athletic Association. Volunteers

were stationed at every jump along the cross-country and rated how well riders performed. Others helped out with a wide variety of tasks. It made for a long enjoyable time, as did the parties held at the farm to which the whole town was invited.

Huntington Farm drew other horse people to our community, most notably Denny and Mae Emerson, who bought a farm on the Brook Road. Denny was an Olympic-caliber rider and a highly regarded riding instructor with a national reputation. His Tamarack Hill Farm drew young people who sought to become serious riders.

Vi and Ned Coffin were another pair of horse enthusiasts who were drawn to Strafford by Huntington Farm's growing reputation. Initially they boarded horses at Huntington Farm, before buying land and building a stable on Downer Forest Road and a home for their family in the Upper Village.

The Perkins' Huntington Farm really hit its stride in the 1970s when the United States Eventing Team came to train and school on the property. The pinnacle of what Huntington Horse Farm brought to Strafford was reached when Denny Emerson, Beth Perkins, and Tad Coffin all became part of the Olympic Equestrian team. Beth won a gold in the Pan American games, and at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, Tad won individual and team gold medals in Eventing. Strafford's Olympic Equestrians were honored with a Welcome Home Celebration complete with parade, cake, and speeches on the common.

Huntington Farm ushered into Strafford not only the competitive horse world but also, under the guidance of Read Perkins, a number of businesses that employed a mix of local residents and newcomers, many of whom were destined to set roots in town.

The businesses under the umbrella of Joel S. Perkins & Son, a fourth-generation textile mill supply business, included Huntington

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Farm Fence Company, which made and installed split rail fencing; Huntington Farm Buildings, which specialized in barns, stables, run-in sheds and indoor riding arenas and training tracks; Fibar, a wood chip all-weather riding surface; and Huntington Farm Fiberglass, whose products included large fiberglass wheelbarrows, dressage letter cones, and chain to surround the arenas.

Some of those employed in these various enterprises included longtime residents Clayton Richardson, who first ran the fence company, and Jim Condict, who bought the fence business; Jim Durkee, Earl Silloway, Richard Moses, Don and Anne Prescott, Jerry Kill, Bob Murray, Jim Fullington, Russel Pixley, Ed Eastman, Terry Deirs, Polly Fifield, June Varney, Francis LaFleur, and Trent Sarii. Younger folk, many of whom moved here full time, included Jay, Bob, and Sherm Wilson and their cousin David Wilson, Blake Traendly, Eric Darnell, Peter Orgain, Peter Duvencek, Joe Silovich, Glenn Mitchell, Mel Dickenson, and David Harris. David took over the businesses after 10 years of apprenticeship in 1982, after the passing of Read. Arthur and Larry Robinson were involved with having the fields.

Read's many enterprises combined with Essie's kindness, wit and good nature created opportunities for old and new residents alike to mix and get to know and respect one another. These interactions helped ease the transition in Strafford as new people moved into town and added new energy to our community. While working together on these jobs or volunteering on horse shows, many unlikely friendships developed outside the usual family and social circles. Read was elected to the Selectboard in 1969, the first non-native Vermonter to serve in this position in many decades, and held office until his passing.

Both Read and Essie died far too young, Essie in 1977 at age 51, and Read in 1982 at age 56. Their daughter Beth took over the farm for a year, but without the financial support of Read's other businesses, it was

difficult to continue. The farm sold in 1983 to Ann Kitchel with financial assistance from the Upper Valley Land Trust and a significant local fundraising effort.

Kitchel took over the property at a time when eventing was undergoing a lot of changes and many standards and regulations were being implemented. With a great deal of effort, she revamped the cross-country course to ensure the courses met with current standards. Ann continued with lessons, the breeding program, and the Trials. Huntington Farm remained popular in large part due to the unique challenge of their cross-country course, which is quite hilly and encompasses a wide variety of jumps. During her ownership, she provided a training ground for some of the biggest names in the sport, including Mara Depuy who grew up in Strafford and went on to ride in the 1996 Olympics.

In 2021, Skylar Clemens purchased it from Kitchel, under whom he had been working for two years. Originally from Pennsylvania, Clemens' family was looking for a change as the land around their farm became over-developed. Skylar moved with his family to Vermont during high school and fell in love with Vermont. Clemens now runs the farm with the help of Ann's niece Pinky Tullar. The number of events have been greatly increased and with this new youthful energy has come a revitalization of the farm. While the horse trials themselves are not much of a money making operation, as in the past the farm is benefiting through the support of people in town and the wider area horse community. Recently Huntington introduced cross-country fence sponsorship and people immediately donated fences in honor of loved ones and family members. Tent stabling during events was also made possible by a donation. While it may never again be the singular economic force in Strafford that it was the '60s and '70s, Huntington Farm under Skylar's stewardship to continues to be one of the central and cherished parts of our community.

John Freitag

DEDICATION

Over the past two years, we have seen the deaths of many dear friends and neighbors who have had a substantial impact on our town.

Around 30 years ago at a similar time of generational passing, Gwenda Smith, who was the town historian, wrote in a Strafford Historical Society newsletter about how it reminded her of what is known as Hayden's Farewell Symphony. At the end of this musical performance, musician after musician, as they individually finished their part, would snuff out the candle that had provided the light for their music and leave the stage.

While people are constantly being born or moving into our community bringing new light, let us remember and cherish those who have passed on. And may the lives of those listed below inspire us to be our best selves as we continue on in this town of Strafford that they loved.

Oliver J. Boles (9/24/1955-9/30/2022)
David K. Brown (5/20/1936-7/24/2022)
Dorothy J. Burden (9/21/1932-11/17/2022)
Robert L. Campbell (11/2/1955-2/9/2021)
Rachel A. Claffey (3/31/1963-7/16/2022)
Madeline J. Geoffrey (12/24/1928-5/24/2022)
Kevin M. Grady (5/4/1952-3/16/2022)
Barbara J. Hanchett (4/4/1946-7/28/2021)
Joshua W. Jenks (age 32, 7/1/2022)
J. Martin Johnson (3/11/1943-9/7/2022)
Stefanie H. Johnston (5/3/1935-1/18/2022)
Catherine F. Linehan (8/14/1934-7/11/2021)
John F. Linehan (9/29/1934-2/1/2021)
Martha Manheim (8/20/1924-12/11/2022)
Mark L. Moran (6/19/1960-10/25/2022)
Robert D. Murray (6/12/1935-12/17/2022)
David W. Overton (age 83, 1/13/2022)
Hugh A. Phelps (8/18/1957-10/16/2022)
Arthur E. Robinson (10/1/1939-8/16/2021)
Katrina D. Short (12/16/1965-2/21/2022)
Wallace G. Smith (age 79, 8/15/2022)
Janet E. Thomson (12/27/1929-11/12/2021)
Margaret S. Thorp (5/13/1935-12/28/2022)
Eric G. Ward (12/30/1957-5/11/2022)
Marlene R. Ward (7/13/1935-2/5/2022)
Theresa A. Winsor (6/17/1937-8/12/2022)

(Please accept our apologies for any folks we may have inadvertently missed!)

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TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator (Town & School):

David Grant Term expires March 2023

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2024

Selectboard:

David Paganelli Term expires March 2025

Brian Johnson Term expires March 2024

Toni Pippy Term expires March 2024

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2023

Mary Linehan Term expires March 2023

Listers:

Kerrie Bushway Term expires March 2025

Tom Jacobs Term expires March 2024

Tim Denny Term expires March 2023

Auditors:

June Solsaa Term expires March 2025

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2024

Suzanna Liepmann Term expires March 2023

School Directors:

Maggie Hooker Term expires March 2025

Eric Lopez Term expires March 2024

Sarah Root Term expires March 2024

Jessica Tidman Term expires March 2023

Megan Teachout Term expires March 2023

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro Term expires March 2023

Trustee of Public Funds:

Sarah North Term expires March 2025

Therese Linehan Term expires March 2024

John Hawkins Term expires March 2023

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2023

Harris Library Trustees:

Miriam Newman Term expires March 2025

Carol Wilson (*Selectboard Trustee*)..... Term expires March 2024

Curt Albee..... Term expires March 2023

Cemetery Commissioners:

Sherm Wilson Term expires March 2025

David Harris Term expires March 2024

Andrew Behrens Term expires March 2024

Kerrie Bushway Term expires March 2023

Alan Donohue Term expires March 2023

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee	Rosalind Finn	Andrew Lane
Sean Lewis	Sarah North	Vincent Robinson
	Shelby Coburn	

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Road Foreman and Supervisor of Public Works	Paul Hardy
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Regina J. Josler
Selectboard Assistant	<i>Vacant</i>
Town Constable	Edwin Eastman
Zoning Administrator	Brian Johnson
Zoning Administrator Alternate	Ed Eastman
Town House Overseer	Paul Kifner
Emergency Management Director	Jason Schumacher
Deputy Emergency Management Director	<i>Vacant</i>
Emergency 9-1-1 Contact	Lisa Bragg
Town Health Officer	Stephen Marx
Dog Officer and Pound Keeper	<i>Vacant</i>
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	Bob Wilson
Tree Warden	Bob Wilson
Town Service Officer	Susan Coburn
Recycling Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association	Shawn Harlow
Fire Warden, appointed by the State	Calvin Benjamin
Fence Viewers	Greg Lewis, Gary Kendall
South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative	Susan Coburn
Deputy Registrar	Dennis Cilley

Development Review Board:

Terrence Garrison (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Dan Ruml	Term expires March 2025
Martha Walke	Term expires March 2025
Sean Lewis	Term expires March 2024
Bonnie Bergeron (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2023
Kip Lindsay (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2024
<i>Vacant (Alternate)</i>	Term expires March 2023

Front cover: Huntington Horse Farm, ca 1960s. From the collection of Skylar Clemens. Pictures throughout courtesy Danny Prescott, Skylar Clemens, Amy Donohue, and David Harris.

Appointive Officers (continued)

Planning Commission:

Michael Scanlan (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Stuart Crocker	Term expires March 2026
Donald Graham (<i>Interim Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Greg Colling	Term expires March 2025
Tom Scull	Term expires March 2025
Martha Walke (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2024
Chrissy Jamieson	Term expires March 2024
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2023
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2023

Conservation Commission:

Micki Colbeck (<i>Recording Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Courtney Labelle	Term expires March 2026
Gregory McHugo	Term expires March 2026
Michael Hebb (<i>Trails Commissioner</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Kate Bass (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Charles Sherman.....	Term expires March 2024
Anne Fayen	Term expires March 2024
Steve Faccio	Term expires March 2023
James Erbaugh (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2023

Town House Advisory Group:

Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2026
Curt Albee	Term expires March 2023
Tim Bergeron	Term expires March 2023
Greg Colling	Term expires March 2023
Donna Hollinger	Term expires March 2023
Steve Handy	Term expires March 2023
Susan Lee	Term expires March 2023
Silas Treadway	Term expires March 2023
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2023

Recreation Board:

Leslie Berger	Term expires March 2025
Christa Wurm	Term expires March 2025
Jason Loomis (<i>Co-chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Hilary Linehan (<i>Co-chair</i>)	Term expires March 2023
Edmund Huang	Term expires March 2023

Historic Preservation Commission:

Ann Thorp (<i>Clerk</i>)	Term expires March 2024
Tim Utt	Term expires March 2024
Zach Mitchell	Term expires March 2024
Silas Treadway (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2024
David Taplin	Term expires March 2023

Appointive Officers (continued)

Regional Planning Commission:

John Echeverria Term expires March 2023
Vacant (Alternate)..... Term expires March 2023

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network

Governing Board Representative:

Steve Willbanks Term expires March 2023
 David Webb (*Alternate*)..... Term expires March 2023
 Andrew Behrens (*Alternate*)..... Term expires March 2023

Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator Steering Committee:

David Lutz Term expires March 2023

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:

Stephen Willbanks Term expires March 2024
 Michael Scanlan (*Alternate*)..... Term expires March 2024

Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:

Elizabeth Preston Term expires March 2023

Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:

Danette Harris Term expires March 2025
 Joanna Hawkins Term expires March 2024
 Diana Leddy Term expires March 2023

Community-Building Award Committee:

Roz Finn Term expires March 2023
 John Freitag Term expires March 2023
 Brooke Wilkinson Term expires March 2023
 Rebecca Seibel Term expires March 2023
 Lori Mikusa Term expires March 2023

Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:

Rockwell Fuller Term expires March 2023
 Joanna Hawkins..... Term expires March 2023
 Rod Maclay Term expires March 2023
 Maureen Wilson Term expires March 2023

Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:

Barbara Murray Term expires March 2023
 Susan Coburn..... Term expires March 2023
 Rose Silloway Term expires March 2023

Town Office Committee:

Curt Albee (Chair)	Shelby Coburn	
Rockwell Fuller	David Paganelli	Anni Praetorius

Notaries Public

Lisa Bragg	Susan Coburn	Regina J. Josler
Victoria Lloyd	Roderick Maclay	Sarah North

ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Senator Bernard Sanders	800-339-9834
Senator Peter Welch	800-642-3193
Representative Becca Balint	202-225-4115
Governor Phil Scott	802-828-3333
Lt. Governor David Zuckerman	802-828-2226
State Senator Mark MacDonald	802-433-5867
Representative Rebecca Holcombe	802-828-2228
Representative James Masland	802-785-4146

While the Vermont Legislature is in session, you may call the Sergeant-at-Arms and leave a message at 1-800-322-5616.

Permit Fees

Zoning Application	\$100.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Zoning Variance/Site Plan Appl.	\$150.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Minor Subdivision Application	\$300.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Major Subdivision Application	\$500.00 + \$100.00 per lot + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Highway Access Application	\$ 50.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee

Regional Environmental Office

For information on Sewage Disposal, Water Supply, Act 250, Act 249, Electrical and Plumbing Inspection and Fire Safety, contact the Regional Environmental Office:

Act 250 Permits Springfield Office 100 Mineral St., Suite 305 Springfield, VT 05156 885-8855	Act 249 Permits Barre Office 5 Perry St., Suite 80 Barre, VT 05641 476-0190
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STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS



Newton School Class of 2023

Grace Brown, Phoenix Colburn. Not pictured: Savannah Worth.

Photo by Aurora Berger

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING**

March 7, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford School District are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED that the District's annual meeting will commence on **March 7, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the Town House located in Strafford, Vermont** to discuss and transact the following business:

- Article 1.** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 2.** To hear the reports of the District, including the reports of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer, the Auditor, and the Superintendent, and to take action with reference thereto.
- Article 3.** To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Article 4.** Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024?
- Article 5.** Shall the legal voters of the school district authorize the School Board of Directors to expend \$3,728,296 which is the amount the School Board of Directors 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 \$20,455.88 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.51% higher than spending for the current year.
- Article 6.** To elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years and one (1) School Director for the remaining one (1) year of a three (3) year term.
- Article 7.** Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$92,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$217,561 existing as of June 30, 2022?
- Article 8.** Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund in an amount not to exceed \$125,561 from the estimated fund balance of \$217,561 existing as of June 30, 2022?

Article 9. Shall the Town of Strafford elect its school district officers by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(b) and adopt all budget articles by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(c), and vote on all public questions by Australian ballot pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680(d)?

Article 10. To transact any other lawful business to properly come before the voters.

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

Dated: January 30, 2023

Strafford Town School District Board of School Directors
Sarah Root, Chair
Meghan Teachout, Vice Chair
Jessica Tidman, Clerk
Maggie Hooker, Member
Eric Lopez, Member



Before it became a horse farm, Huntington Farm was for generations the Prescott family farm. This postcard from 1908 shows the Prescott homestead.

Photo courtesy Danny Prescott

TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Remote Public Informational Hearing
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

In attendance: Strafford School Board- Sarah Root, Jessica Tidman, Aaron Dotter, Glenn Wylie, Meg Teachout, Principal- Tracy Thompson, WRVSU Superintendent- Jamie Kinnarney, WRVSU Business Manager- Tara Weatherell, Moderator- David Grant, WRVSU Technology Coordinator- Ray Ballou, Strafford Recording Secretary- Becky Proulx, Community Members- Bob Murray, Barbara Murray, Heather, David Webb, Nancy Grant, John Freitag, Sperry Wilson, Nellie Pennington, Shawn Harlow, Judith Englander, John Echternach, Kay, Tim Denny, Deanna Race, Bonna Wieler, Rebecca Seibel

1. Call to Order- David Grant called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and welcomed attendees. David stated that one of the open School Director positions does not currently have a candidate- School Director for 3 years. This could be a write-in candidate campaign. Write-in candidates would need to receive 5% of the vote. David stated that the meeting will begin with a presentation from Aaron Dotter.

2. Additions or deletions to the agenda- none

3. To hear the reports of the School District Board of Directors- Aaron welcomed community members to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Aaron overviewed the work of the School Board including the middle school vote, PreK committee work, dissolution of TA agreement, and the passage of a WRVSU Anti-Racism policy.

Tracy Thompson, Newton Principal, presented a slideshow of work done at the Newton School over the 2021-2022 school year. Tracy stated that the current enrollment is 98 students and the projected enrollment for next year is 109 students. Tracy overviewed the summer 2021 work of staff and the implementation of the Road Runner days. Tracy overviewed the MTSS system (Multi-Tiered System of Supports). This year there is a full-time math interventionist. Tracy stated that they are really excited about the plans for the Middle School. Tracy overviewed the all-school traditions that have happened this year- Hike for Hunger, Artist in Residence- Drumming program with Lev and Sayon Camara, Outdoor Education, Friday winter enrichment. The Middle School has worked to develop a student government and a Newton News Network. Tracy overviewed the standardized test results from spring 2021. Tracy overviewed the work of the PreK committee over the past year.

1). Public comment -none

4. Review and discuss Article 2: To fix the annual salaries in the amount of \$500.00 per member for the School District Officers.

Glenn overviewed the article. Glenn stated that it is a token gesture for all the time and energy that School Directors donate to their school board work. This could be used to cover child care costs or other costs associated with volunteering.

1). Public comment- none

5. Review and discuss Article 3: 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, 2022 through June 30, 2023?

Aaron overviewed the Tax Anticipation notes process.

1). Public comment- none

6. Review and discuss Article 4: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,545,997 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 \$19,573.58 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.44% higher than spending for the current year.

Jamie Kinnarney, WRVSU Superintendent, overviewed changes at WRVSU including an increased focus on math instruction and intervention, investment in math interventionists, increased focus on social/emotional learning, personalized learning and pathways, increased focus on proactive communication and visibility within our community. Jamie stated that by 2025 they hope to have capstone project programs in place for 8th graders at Newton. Jamie stated that the budget focuses on the essential arts programs and strengthening the Middle School program.

Tara Weatherell and Aaron overviewed the proposed 2022-2023 budget. Aaron overviewed the significant changes. They include an increase of one Middle School teacher, increase of Art and Music to 0.5FTE, more intervention, increases in Nurse and Guidance Counselor hours, and inclusion of coaching and athletic director positions. Aaron overviewed the tax rate calculation. Tara overviewed the revenue changes from last fiscal year. Tara stated that there are increases in revenue in education spending, Act 60 related transportation, Medicaid, Tech center. Revenue increases total \$191,878. Tara overviewed the per pupil spending calculation. FY 23 per pupil spending is proposed at \$19,573.58, this is an increase of \$1,184 over the current year. Tara overviewed the preliminary tax rate calculation. The Preliminary Tax Rate is a decrease of 6.89% over the current year's preliminary tax rate. Tara stated that the Yield still needs to be approved by the Legislature.

1). Public comment- Jamie clarified the choice of using the conservative yield in the projections. Glenn stated that since they are using the conservative yield, if it is wrong, the tax rate will be even less.

7. Review and discuss Article 5: To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years and one (1) School Director for the remaining two (2) years of a three (3) year term.

David stated that there is one position that is still open with no candidate.

1). Public comment- none

8. Review and discuss Article 6: Shall the voters authorize the School Board to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from the audited fund balance of \$15,907 existing as of June 30, 2021?

Tara overviewed Article 6.

1). Public comment- none

9. Public comment Review and discuss Article 7: To fix the salary in the amount of \$1,600.00 for the School District Treasurer for the 2022-2023 school year.

Sarah overviewed Articles 7 and 8. Last year this was put on the ballot at the recommendation of the school district lawyer. Sarah overviewed the work of the School District Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

1). Public comment- none

10. Review and discuss Article 8: To fix the salary in the amount of \$600.00 for the School District Assistant Treasurer for the 2022-2023 school year.

1). Public comment- none

11. Public Comment- David thanked the educators for their hard work during COVID. Sarah thanked Aaron and Glenn for their service to the town.

John Freitag thanked the Board, Educators, and the SU for all their work. John thanked Tracy for her work. Meg addressed the Tyson Gym transfer of funds. Tara stated that it has been included in the budget and does not need to be a separate warrant article.

12. Discussion of other non-binding business (if applicable)- none

13. Entertain motion to adjourn hearing.- Meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm

**OFFICIAL RESULTS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 1, 2022

Moderator, 1 year term:	<u>David Grant</u>	483
School Director, 2 year term:	<u>Sarah Root</u>	436
School Director, 2 year term:	<u>Maggie Hooker</u>	463

Article 2. To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2022-2023 school year. Yes: 457; No: 42.

Article 3. 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, 2022 through June 30, 2023? Yes: 434; No: 64.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,545,997 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 \$19,573.58 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.44% higher than spending for the current year. Yes: 372; No: 134.

Article 5. Shall the voters authorize the School Board to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 from the audited fund balance of \$15,907 existing as of June 30, 2021? Yes: 454; No: 48.

Article 7. To fix the salary in the amount of \$1,600 for the School District Treasurer for the 2022-2023 school year. Yes: 452; No: 49.

Article 8. To fix the salary in the amount of \$600 for the School District Assistant Treasurer for the 2022-2023 school year. Yes: 441; No: 58.

Total Ballots: 534

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

It is with great pride and pleasure that we write the state of Newton School and the Strafford School District is very good. Enrollment is up and test scores are up.

Newton School's leadership team is strong and our staff is outstanding and clearly committed to the education of Strafford students. The middle school program continues to grow as we implement new programs and new spaces in the building for all kinds of growth. Our building crew has gone above and beyond in creating new spaces inside and outside of the building. One example of this was the addition of an outdoor learning environment as well as the incredible maintenance the team has provided to aging facilities and equipment. We are very fortunate to have such creative and dedicated staff.

The board, in collaboration with the Supervisory Union Board, continues the process of review and update of school and district policies as well as we have instituted a number of new important policies.

In partnership with the WRVSU, EEI (Energy Efficient Investments) has been working with Newton School to assess and recommend ways to move the facilities forward in energy efficient ways. EEI has conducted audits of our buildings and energy systems and will provide cost effective recommendations to improve the energy footprint of our building. This work will yield a 10 year timeline for improvements to our facilities and should have a positive effect on Newton School's budget moving forward. What is most rewarding about the work undertaken by EEI is that they work to find ways to achieve the improvements without adding costs to taxpayers.

We continue to look for meaningful ways to engage with the community. One way in which we have looked to gain insight from the communities we serve is through bi-monthly Coffee and Conversation opportunities at the Newton School. We announce these and other opportunities on the Strafford listserv, Strafford Facebook page and in the Newton Newsletter. We would love to see you at one of these gatherings.

The board is also engaging in our own development. This development has been critical to understanding the sometimes not so clear role of a board and how we can work together more effectively in order to do the job that you have elected us to do.

While this year's budget is an increase from the prior year, we are gratified that the increase proposed, through the hard work of Administration and the WRVSU, is an increase that meets the current needs of our students while keeping an eye on future needs and areas of improvement. We understand and appreciate that we got lucky this year, that because of the hard work of many, the budget you have before you is not reflective of how budgets are increasing at a very high rate all over the state. We hope that we are able to stave off those inflationary pressures in upcoming years as best we can

while continuing to provide the best possible education and educational opportunities. It is also important to note that the modest budgetary increase actually represents a lowering of the tax rate.

Lastly, the board continues to investigate the prospect of whether it makes sense to fully integrate the Pre-school into Newton School. One challenge which will need to be addressed in short order is the adequacy of current space and how it relates to the sustainability of a program moving forward.

The work of the Strafford Board of School Directors is critical for the continued success and improvement of educational offerings and opportunities for Strafford students. Please consider running for a position on the school board either this year or in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Root
Chair

Meghan Teachout
Vice Chair

Jessica Tidman
Clerk

Maggie Hooker
Member

Eric Lopez
Member



Ida Prescott Kittredge, seated; Gertrude Prescott holding horse

Undated photo courtesy David Harris

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

Newton School Mission Statement

“To develop each child’s potential for academic success, engagement and overall well-being. Through this process, we will enrich each child’s education with community involvement, collaboration and outreach.”

Opening the doors of the Newton School for the 2022-2023 school year felt like a breath of fresh air. It was clear we were going to have to learn to live and work among COVID cases, however the changes we had made and all of the lessons we had learned prepared us for a strong and healthy school year. There was an excitement and freshness that had not been present in the previous year and that made opening the doors an amazing experience. Making the most of that excitement and energy allowed for a positive and strong start to the school year.

In September of 2022, Newton’s student enrollment increased from the previous year as we welcomed new families and also our largest class of kindergarteners in many years. Current enrollment at Newton is 106 (previously 98) which meant we needed to make space for these students. Over the summer our maintenance team, BJ Miller and Josh Potter, worked incredibly hard to create new classroom spaces, increase our office and meeting areas, create a podcasting studio within the library, and develop an allocated special education classroom and office. This work transformed the inside of the school and has allowed us to work more collaboratively, efficiently and effectively.

The academic success and continuous growth of all Newton students remains a priority of the Newton School. The academic performance of our students is assessed and measured regularly through local and statewide assessments. The results of these assessments are used to drive instruction, realign curriculum needs, develop intervention groups, and enhance the programs and services offered at our school. In the 2022-2023 school year the Newton staff used a variety of measures to assess student learning: Track My Progress, Primary Number and Operations Assessment (PNOA), DIBELS (assessment of phonics and phonemic awareness), and the new VTCAP, which replaces the SBAC assessment, will be administered in the spring. The results of these assessments are not stand alone measures. They are important in driving the instructional needs of the Newton students. Staff meet regularly, analyze results and discuss how the needs of the students can be met. Additionally, the work of the special educators and interventionists at Newton is an added layer of support for students in need. We currently have one full time math interventionist and a half-time literacy interventionist. These positions are previously supported with ESSER funds, and are now a portion of the local school budget.

Current results from these assessments represent strong skills in our K-8 programming. During our September assessment window, 54% of Newton's English Language Arts assessments show students meeting or exceeding the standards. More significantly is the rate of growth; these results demonstrate 1.34 years of growth, which can lead to significant increases in future scores. In mathematics, 64% of our students grades two through eight meet or exceed the standard. Again, 1.06 years of growth is expected as we progress through the year.

The middle school at Newton is composed of our fifth through eighth grade students. Last year's town vote demonstrated commitment to the middle school at Newton. The continued development of a four-person teaching team for our middle school students continues to be a priority. Last year the team attended the Middle Grades Institute to begin the formation of this team and more work is planned for the summer of 2023. The Advisory Program, Responsive Classroom practices, Flexible Pathways opportunities, an increase in the Arts, and Media continue to be the focus and we are committed to the continuation of this work, offering a diverse range of learning opportunities to our middle school students.

The overall health of the Newton community is a focus of our work. The social-emotional well-being of all within our community is the foundation of all learning and to continue to align across grade levels, again, the Newton staff worked together for a week in the summer to create a roadmap to support the student needs. The second edition of our Roadrunner Roadmap has provided another opportunity to establish school-wide initiatives and allow students significant opportunities to work in multi-grade level groups. Katie Chesnut and the Empowering Education curriculum have served as a foundation for this work. Additionally, our focus on Outdoor Education will expand in the spring when a new outdoor classroom is constructed. With the help of Hunter Grossman and funds secured through ESSER, a 24 x 24 timber frame structure will be erected. This space will provide an alternative work space for our students, as well as an opportunity for our middle school students to participate in the construction.

As always, our challenge is to find the balance in our areas of need. The budget presented to you in this report supports the work outlined above and allows for the staffing needed to support a highly achieving elementary and middle school program. It allows for continued support in the development of a strong middle school program, an increase in world language, and continued focus on music, art, and the performing arts.

Many times throughout the school year I have found myself grateful for the Newton School staff, students, and Strafford the community. There is no doubt that the pandemic has caused us to rethink many aspects of our day. I truly believe our success in this navigation has to do with the partnership that is alive between the school and community. This includes the Lions Club for their support of our students and the opportunities they offer, the

PTA who continually provides engagement in support that benefits all students, and to the leadership of WRVSU, who supported our successful navigation into and out of the circumstances of the pandemic. I thank you on behalf of the students and staff at the Newton School.

Tracy L. Thompon
Principal

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT & CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

We want to begin by thanking all of the members of the Strafford School District community for their continued dedication and support in addressing the academic and social/emotional learning and growth of our students. The WRVSU Board recently adopted a revised WRVSU Strategic Plan/Road Map for Success during their December meeting. That plan provides an in-depth and comprehensive map of the work that is occurring throughout the supervisory union's schools to address growth in academic achievement and social/emotional learning. We believe that we are finally in our first year of recovery due to the significant impact that Covid-19 had on our operations throughout the school years, 2020, 2021, and 2022. You will note that there are clear benchmarks identified to make certain that we are demonstrating continuous growth over the next three school years. The electronic version of the WRVSU Strategic Plan can be found under the Board section of the WRVSU website at wrvsu.org.

We are confident that this budget provides the resources necessary to provide a high quality and responsive education for all students of The Newton School, while also making certain that it happens in a fiscally responsible manner. We continue to work diligently to curb spending at the Supervisory Union, while also leveraging Federal and State dollars to support our local districts via added revenue. We are proud that we have once again been able to realize a projected surplus in the 2021-22 fiscal year. These surplus dollars have allowed us to ask your permission in better proactively funding maintenance/operational and tuition reserve funds. Therefore, this will ensure that we have a solid financial footing as we move forward in addressing several of the items identified as deferred maintenance needs in the facilities and maintenance section of our Strategic Plan. We will continue to do everything in our power to analyze our system and ensure efficiencies have been identified, while making certain that opportunities for students are enhanced.

The projected tax rate based on our Board-adopted 2023-24 school year budget is being impacted by the drop in the common level of appraisal (CLA) in the town of Strafford. The equalized tax rate for the school district was down approximately .15 cents prior to the introduction of the decreased CLA. Once the CLA is factored into the tax equation the budget results in a projected tax decrease of .043 cents. A reminder that the CLA is completely

out of the school district's control and adjusts based on the appraised values of property in the town vs. the actual sale price of property over the past year. To summarize, properties in each of our towns are selling at higher values than they are currently appraised at, resulting in this significant fluctuation in the CLA.

We are very pleased to report that we will take action this upcoming summer to leverage performance contracting, Covid-19 funding in the form of ESSER, and Efficiency Vermont grants to upgrade our lighting and controls system at the Newton School. We are able to accomplish these aforementioned projects without needing to go to a bond vote or increase the tax rate for the constituents of Strafford. How did we accomplish this? We accomplished it by ensuring that we leveraged the Covid-19 relief funds we have received to reinvest back into our infrastructure; while also showing fiscal responsibility and restraint to ensure that we keep our budgets in solid shape.

We would also be remiss if we didn't highlight the work that is occurring to revise our WRVSU curriculum in order to make it more transparent and easier for all stakeholders to understand what we expect our students to know, understand, and be able to do throughout their educational journey. This has resulted in teachers working collaboratively with representatives of the Agency of Education to revise our high school proficiencies, which is now helping to guide the cross-SU collaborative work of our elementary and middle school educators to make certain that we have a well articulated curriculum that is vertically aligned and ensures equitable educational opportunities for all of our students. We will also be engaging in the development of a WRVSU Portrait of a Graduate over the next twelve months. This work is outlined in our Strategic Plan, but we also wanted to take the opportunity to highlight it in our annual report.

In closing, we would like to thank you all for supporting your school and students. Your support and involvement are critical in moving the school system forward with the vision of creating Schools of Excellence. We have the opportunity to create an educational system throughout the ten towns of the WRVSU that is a destination for young families. This budget supports the work necessary for us to deliver on these important goals.

With great appreciation and optimism,
Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools
White River Valley Supervisory Union

Anda Adams
Chief Academic Officer, MTSS
White River Valley Supervisory Union

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES REPORT

The WRVSU Special Services Department continues to provide quality academic instruction, social/emotional learning, and behavioral support to approximately 250 White River Valley Supervisory Union students who receive specialized instruction within our eight school buildings, but also ensure that our community students are provided quality services and interventions within the eighteen receiving middle and high schools through the school choice option in our region. The special services department took on the role of case managing Section 504 plans this school year. Throughout the supervisory union there are approximately seventy-eight students who receive accommodations and services through a Section 504 plan.

It is important to note as of July 1, 2022, Act 173 of 2018 changed special education funding as we have known it to be. Act 173 changed the funding model for special education from a reimbursement model to a census-based grant model. This new model will allow more flexibility in how funds can be used, simplifying administration of funds at both the state and local levels. Act 173 also requires the use of census grant funds to continue to meet the special education maintenance of effort requirements and to carry out all requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The emphasis for this year has been professional training, modeling, and implementation of the structures of a Multi-tiered System of Supports in every school. Having a solid multi-tiered system of supports will be imperative for all schools. It will enhance the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to all students who require additional support at every level of need sooner. It also will support the new special education rules and regulations that have gone into effect as of July 1, 2022 and other special education rules and regulations that will go into effect July 1, 2023.

The FY24 budget contains an increase of one special educator and the addition of a Section 504 Coordinator. It also includes a decrease in the area of out-of-district placement tuition. We have been able to provide behavioral and therapeutic support for students through the use of our district alternative classroom at the elementary, middle and high school levels. A number of students have and will continue to transition back to their community schools by attending these classrooms as a stepping stone for a successful transition.

We will continue to support the professional growth of our staff so we can provide high quality interventions to all students using our own professionals instead of outside contracted interventions or alternative schools. We plan to continue further professional development in academic screening tools and executive functioning skill development.

The overall FY24 WRVSU Special Education budget is \$7,784,076, which is a decrease of -.76% from FY23. We have been very vigilant and efficient in our use of funds. We are taking a creative yet thoughtful approach to

student programming and professional development opportunities so we can continue to bolster a rich Multi-Tiered System of Supports for all students at a reasonable cost.

With Much Appreciation,
Annette Rhoades
Director of Special Services

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

White River Valley Supervisory Union's Business Office handles the financial management of the Supervisory Union and our six member districts: First Branch Unified District, Granville Hancock Unified District, Rochester Stockbridge Unified District, Sharon School District, Strafford School District and White River Unified District. We currently have a four-member team: Tara Weatherell, Business Manager, Ellen Blanchard, Accountant, Lisa Blair, Human Resources/Administrative Assistant to the Business Office, Johanna Snelling, Accounts Payable and Jane Prescott Payroll/Accounting Clerk.

One of my roles as the Business Manager is to assist Superintendent Kinnarney and our Building Administration to develop budgets that align with the WRVSU's Road Map to Success and maintain those budgets throughout the fiscal year.

Developing the budgets for the 2023-2024 fiscal year had a couple of variables that were not within the Districts' control. The State of Vermont's significant surplus in the Education Fund resulted in a significant projected increase in the property yield. The December 1st property yield projection is \$15,479.

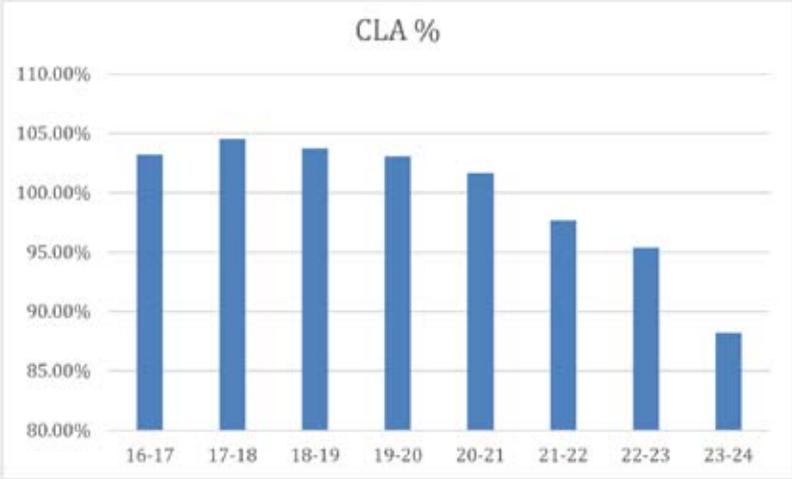
The Property Yield is determined by the State of Vermont Tax Commissioner using a statutory calculation and assumptions provided by the Agency of Education, Department of Taxes, Department of Finance and Management and the Joint Fiscal Office.

The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is another variable that the School District does not have any control of. In the majority of our 10 towns the CLA decreased resulting in an increase to each Town's Tax Rate.

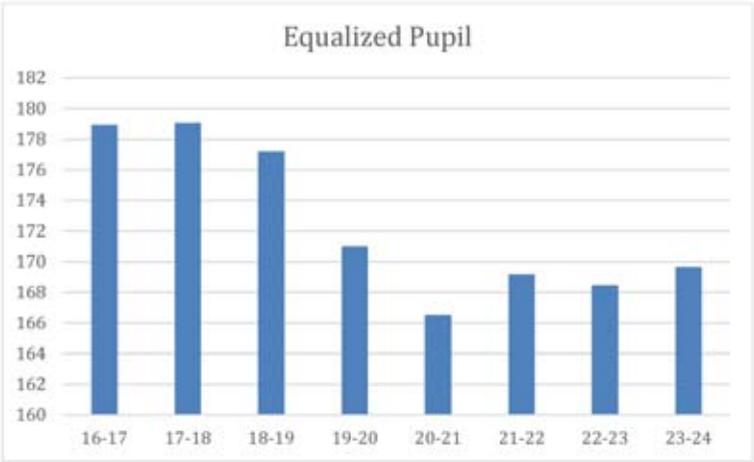
The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is used to make sure each town is paying their equitable share of education property taxes. The CLA is based on each Town's property value grand list as it compares to property sales over a three-year period. If the grand list value is less than real estate sale prices the town will have a CLA of less than 100%; if the grand list value is more than the real estate sale prices the CLA will be more than 100%. The CLA doesn't change the property value, it impacts the education tax rate

to be paid by the town. The CLA is also used to determine when a Town needs to be reappraised. When the CLA is below 85% or above 115% the Town must reappraise.

The following is a historical review of Strafford’s Common Level of Appraisal:



Strafford School District had an increase Equalized Pupil for the 2023-2024 school year from 168.47 to 169.65. The Equalized Pupil is based on two years Average Daily Membership data (ADM). The ADM is the full-time equivalent number of resident students whose education is paid for by the district of residence, from the 11th day through the 30th day of the school year. The ADM includes students in ninth through twelfth grade that the District is paying tuition. A two-year average is used to smooth out annual student population fluctuations in school districts. The following is a historical review of Strafford’s Equalized Pupil:



The Secondary Tuition is another factor that the District Administration cannot control due to Strafford being a choice district for grades nine through twelve. The following is a comparison of the Secondary Tuition cost for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years that we have available as of the writing of this report:

SECONDARY TUITION RATES	2022-2023	2023-2024	DIFFERENCE
The Sharon Academy	\$18,500	\$19,425	\$925
Hartford Middle & HS	\$19,500	\$20,800	\$1,300
Woodstock High School	\$18,985	\$19,649	\$664
White River Valley HS	\$17,800	\$18,500	\$700
The Thetford Academy	\$20,963	\$22,430	\$1,467
Hanover High School	\$22,555	\$23,568	\$1,013
Approved Independent or Private	\$17,278	unknown	

Each of these variables has a direct impact on the educational tax rate. The following is an overview of the Strafford School District’s 2023-2024 projected budget as compared to 2022-2023:

NEWTON SCHOOL	2022-2023	2023-2024	DIFFERENCE
EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$3,545,997	\$3,728,296	\$182,299
LOCAL REVENUE	\$243,277	\$257,956	\$14,679
EDUCATION SPENDING	\$3,297,561	\$3,470,339	\$172,779
EQUALIZED PUPIL	169.16	169.65	0.49
PER PUPIL SPENDING	\$19,573.58	\$20,455.88	\$882
PRELIMINARY TAX RATE	1.4702	1.322	-0.149
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE BEFORE CLA	1.466	1.386	-0.080
PROPERTY YIELD (MAY CHANGE)	\$13,314	\$15,479	\$2,165
COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL (CLA)	95.36%	88.22%	-7.14%
RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AFTER CLA	1.5417	1.4980	-0.0437
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AFTER CLA	1.5373	1.5711	0.0338

The following provides a breakdown of the Tax Rate Decrease:

- Expenditure/Revenue/Equalized Pupil/Yield equates to a decrease of 14.9 cents
- CLA reduces the tax rate decrease by 10.5 cents

The following shows how we calculate the tax rate:

1. Take the ACT 68 Education Spending of \$3,470,339 divide it by the 169.65 Equalized Pupil; this results in the Per Pupil Spending of \$20,455.88.
2. Divide the Per Pupil Spending of \$20,455.88 by the \$15,479 Yield; this gives you the Preliminary Residential Tax Rate of 1.322; a reduction of 14.9 cents from FY23.
3. Take the Equalized Tax Rate of 1.322 and divide by the CLA of 88.22%; 1.4980 this is the Residential Tax Rate after the CLA. This is the tax rate

projected to be on your homestead property tax bill. This is a reduction of 4.37 cents from FY23.

Superintendent Kinnarney, Principal Thompson, the Strafford School Board and I all feel that this budget supports what is necessary to provide high quality education to all students at The Newton School.

Sincerely,
Tara Weatherell
Business Manager

ONE PLANET PROGRAMS

On behalf of the entire One Planet staff, I would like to thank the WRVSU schools and communities for their support over the course of the past year. We have had another successful year of programming, offering our children exciting learning opportunities in both the after school and summer camp environments. Thank you very much!

SUMMER 2022

This past summer over 300 WRVSU students participated in our 6 summer camps. With five weeks of programming students were able to engage in interesting and hands-on learning activities, broken down into week long theme based sessions. Some of the summer's themes included STEM, Showtime, Back to the Future, Alien Galaxy, Carnival, Art and the Elements, Around the World, and Harry Potter. Whether designing, creating, and performing their own carnival in "Carnival" week or learning about and traveling (virtually) around the world with their own passports in "Around the World" week, students enjoyed all of the themes offered this summer, found new and exciting material to dig into, and had a blast spending time with their friends!

In addition to the many theme-based activities at each camp site, students were able to take a number of field trips, all of which were a hit. Some favorites included Get Air, ECHO and a cruise on Lake Champlain aboard the Spirit of the Ethan Allen, the Killington Adventure Center, VINS, Smugglers Notch Fun Zone, Circus Smirkus, and of course swimming lessons at the Aquatic Center.

Finally, One Planet and the WRVSU again teamed up to offer a summer intervention program to students identified as needing targeted intervention in literacy and/or math. Students from our 8 elementary schools were able to receive tutoring services within their camp day while also participating in the scheduled camp programming each day. This is a model we will continue to hone and offer to our students next summer.

This was a highly successful and enjoyable summer for all. We look forward to brainstorming fun new ideas for our next summer camp!

FALL 2022

Two of our eight sites welcomed new Site Coordinators onto their team this fall. We are very fortunate to have Erin Yunger leading our Newton site and Kyle Diezel leading our Tunbridge site. A warm welcome to them both and hearty thanks to our returning veteran Site Coordinators at our remaining sites!

Newton: Erin Yunger, New Site Coordinator
Tunbridge: Kyle Diezel, New Site Coordinator
South Royalton: Tara Tucker, 13 yrs with OP
Bethel: Amy Gray, 8 yrs with OP
Rochester: Jola Labejsza, 8 yrs with OP
Chelsea: Leila LaRosa, 6 yrs with OP
Stockbridge: Blythe Bates, 5 yrs with OP
Sharon: Stephanie Jarrait. 3 years with OP

In June, we also said farewell to our longtime Director, Carrie McDonnell, and welcomed Hayley Zoerheide as the new Director. Hayley comes most recently from the classroom at Sharon Elementary School.

As always, our students participated in a wide variety of enrichment activities this fall. A few highlights from Session I included partnering with other local organizations. The Arts Bus visited four of our sites throughout the fall; the Tunbridge Library Program, which was offered to both Tunbridge and Chelsea students, provided a wide array of enrichment activities; and the Ridgeline Outdoor Collective in Rochester offered mountain biking for our Rochester students. Our students are very fortunate to have such amazing opportunities. We will continue to foster these relationships and to build new connections within our communities.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Over the next few months, at One Planet...

- All staff will be working through the annual Program Quality Assessment, which allows us to evaluate our program quality, identify our strengths and weaknesses and create an improvement plan.
- One Planet Director and Site Coordinators will be brainstorming exciting enrichment opportunities, themes, and new field trip locations for our 2022 summer camps.
- One Planet Director and WRVSU administrators will be investigating the option of expanding programming to include grades 7 and 8.
- One Planet Director and WRVSU administrators will be working to align our summer goals with the supervisory union's MTSS efforts.

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

At Thetford Academy, we appreciate the deep and long-standing relationship with the community and families of Strafford and welcome this opportunity each year to provide an update on our programs, graduates, and future plans.

We celebrated the Class of 2022 on a beautiful evening last June, with a joyous return to our graduation traditions, including a large community and family audience on the front lawn of the TA campus. The Thetford Academy Class of 2022 included the following students from Strafford: Kiran Linehan Black, Ezekiel Blue Colburn, Bryar Matthew Daniels, Julia Roberta Martin, Emma Mildred Moore, and Jesse James Sweet.

Our school culture and academic programs continue to focus on the mission at the center of our success: To celebrate the unique worth of all students, to nurture their strengths, and to challenge them to fulfill their potential. TA pairs the community of a small school with the opportunities of a big one. From the arts to athletics, outdoor exploration to robotics, TA programs are led by dedicated experts in their field and provide entry points for all students to engage, learn, compete, and grow. As we look back at 2022, here are four program spotlights to share:

Performing Arts Continue to Wow

The last few years required a new kind of creativity from Thetford Academy's performing arts programs, and they proved more than up for the challenge. Students performed online, outdoors, and to limited and distanced audiences. This year, they are back on stage, performing for eager full-house audiences in the Martha Jane Rich Theater and giving it their all – from the compelling and provocative one act play 'The Insanity of Mary Girard' in March to the playful rendition of 'Peter and the Starcatcher' in November. Next up is the musical production of 'Godspell' this spring. In addition to the drama program, the instrumental and choral music groups have been wowing audiences as well.

Summer Adventures Near and Far

Thetford Academy offers a variety of summer outdoor learning and leadership experiences. Some are close to home, featuring stewardship and service on the TA campus, like trail crew, and others involve adventure travel on the rivers and mountains throughout our region. Two new programs in the Summer of 2022 exemplified the 'near and far' nature of our summer opportunities: a week-long garden camp for middle schoolers right in our school's backyard, and a twelve-day wilderness canoe trip in Quebec's La Verendrye Park for an advanced group of outdoor enthusiasts. Grants from the Upper Valley Teaching Place Collaborative and other local foundations, as well as donations from TA supporters, keep our summer

programs accessible to all students and open to middle schoolers from sending towns.

Robotics Team Goes to Worlds - Again!

After a stellar season competing locally against Vermont and New Hampshire schools last year, Thetford Academy's robotics team qualified to compete in the VEX World Championship for the tenth year in a row. The TA crew, including both middle school and high school competitors, traveled to Dallas last spring and went up against big school teams from across the country and the world. As it moves into its second decade, the TA's robotics program continues to thrive, with high student participation rates, active parents, awesome coaches, and helpful funders. The trip to Dallas was supported by donations from TA alumni, the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, and the Hypertherm HOPE Foundation.

TA Teams Excel

Thetford Academy continues its decades-long tradition of being a powerhouse in the sports of cross-country running and track and field. Last June, the boys and the girls track teams defended their state championships. In October 2022, the girls' cross-country team earned the division championship title for a second year in a row. The cross-country program continues to be coached by the dynamic duo of Emily Silver and Joe Deffner, long-time



From 1866, Huntington Farm was owned by the Prescott family, until 1964 when it was sold to Read & Essie Perkins.

Richard and Helen Prescott, undated photo courtesy Danny Prescott

faculty members in the TA English department. Head coaches for TA's track and field are Emily Silver and Joel Breakstone. We are proud of our athletes and coaches for carrying on the competitive TA running legacy. We are also grateful to our community volunteers for hosting the annual Woods Trail and Vermont Cross Country Championship races every fall.

We have 18 high school students from Strafford attending Thetford Academy in the 2022-23 school year — playing various roles in all of the programs spotlighted above — and we look forward to welcoming a new Newton cohort each fall. Our enrollment coordinator and ninth grade counselor Molly Dugan-Sullivan works with the Newton School to provide middle schoolers and their families information about TA's program and support the transition to high school.

I thank the Strafford community for the continued interest in and connection to Thetford Academy.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Brennan, Head of School
Thetford Academy

THE SHARON ACADEMY

The mission of The Sharon Academy is to nurture intelligent, independent and creative thinking in a small school community, awakening students to their immense potential and the difference they can make in the world.

While COVID-related absences are still noticeable, it has been a relief to return to “normal” operations this year. One example of where it was especially wonderful to be generally mask-free was during this year's high school Interim—“The Addams Family” was performed the week before Thanksgiving and was thoroughly successful as the community-building adventure it was designed to be. We look forward to the Middle School equivalent—this year's Circus—on Friday, March 24 (6pm Carnival, 7pm show) and 25 (3pm Carnival, 4pm show), on the High School campus.

Other events to look forward to are Arts Day (April 2, and back after a two-year COVID-related hiatus), our second annual Phoenix Phest (Saturday, June 3) and our graduation ceremonies (Middle School on 6/16, High School on 6/17).

In the meantime, we are in the midst of our 10-year NEASC Accreditation process, led by Assistant Head of School Kate Fabrikant. We are finding this round to be as constructive and enlightening as our first 10 years ago, and look forward to the Program Visit at the beginning of April.

New initiatives at both the high school (our modular schedule) and middle school (community-focused Wednesdays) are in full swing, and a rigorous

feedback process focused on identifying needed adjustments for next year has begun. We are thrilled to see Middle School teacher Fallon Abel off to Finland on a Fulbright Award to study social-emotional learning, and eagerly look forward to supporting her in implementing a robust, 7–12 social-emotional learning program after her return. Faculty and staff at both campuses continue to explore ways of designing “deep learning” experiences for our students, focusing on teaching the skills needed for connecting and flourishing in our constantly changing, increasingly complex, and technologically infused world.

Lastly, the STEAM Wing project has gone out to bid, and while at the time this report is being written we are still waiting to see the bids, by the time it is read we expect to be preparing to break ground!

Thank you to all of you who have donated time, expertise, and financial support to TSA and our students. Your support helps us to fulfill our mission of knowing, valuing, and challenging each student so that they may become the thinkers, creators, problem-solvers, and leaders our world needs.

Please consider coming by for a visit or attending one of the events mentioned above. TSA considers itself to be a part of the local community — you are always welcome.

Mary Newman
Head of School
The Sharon Academy



Besides running a dairy farm, Richard Prescott picked up milk from farms for the creamery and had a grain delivery business as well.

Photo courtesy Danny Prescott

NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

The Newton School Parent Teacher Association is an organization dedicated to supporting Strafford's school and community. The PTA, which is composed of parents, school personnel, and community members, works to provide and support programs which benefit the entire student body and school community. The PTA typically coordinates and supports a number of events throughout the year, including Winter Carnival, Bike and Walk to School Day, the Fourth of July Fair, Halloween events, Artists In Residence, Staff Appreciation, field trips, and after-school workshops. The PTA also grants teacher and staff requests for classroom enrichment materials.

As has been typical the last couple of years, this past year continued to provide some hurdles as we tried to coordinate events that balanced Covid safety with what our school community has come to expect — and what we want to deliver! If at all possible, we try to avoid canceling events. Instead we have done our best to adjust traditional activities in order to make them safer, or to provide an alternative event.

Luckily, we were able to host a more typical Winter Carnival on an absolutely beautiful Saturday in March. Kids and adults alike both enjoyed the weather, the fun and the normalcy, shedding their coats as the day warmed up and the ski jumping began!

Bike and Walk to School Day was also able to happen again. The weather cooperated and it was a fun morning with a high percentage of students participating! Not only did students enjoy the commute, but they were treated to a community breakfast once they arrived at school!

The Fourth of July Fair made its second Covid-era appearance this year — met with better weather than in 2021. Kids were back to wandering around the common, figuring out which game to play next, while eating sno-cones and drinking lemonade. Adults and kids alike enjoyed the reappearance of the Tug-of-War rope as well!

One change that Covid had on our Halloween activities has stuck around as a new tradition: When trick or treating was not possible, the PTA purchased enough pumpkins so that, with the support of the staff at Newton, each child was able to carve a pumpkin at school. These pumpkins were then transported to the Common for a Halloween night display of well over 100 pumpkins. This activity and display was extremely popular amongst students and the community that first Covid year and it made another re-appearance this year, with pumpkins being displayed along the school driveway. As always, huge thanks to Kim Hanchett for helping make this event what it is! We also once again distributed candy for Halloween trick-or-treating to houses in the villages that chose to participate and many enjoyed welcoming back Strafford's ghosts and goblins.

The PTA was thrilled to get Ana Maria Alvarez of Contra-Tiempo to Newton for the Artist in Residence program this year. Her energy and enthusiasm for dance and choreography got all kids in grades K-8 moving and dancing (and some teachers too!).

As always, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to Strafford. The PTA would not be able to meet our goals without the continued generosity and volunteer efforts of the Strafford community! Your contributions of time, talent, and funds support great programming for the children of Strafford. The PTA always welcomes new members and ideas. Anyone interested in participating in the PTA is invited to our monthly meetings, which usually occur on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. You may also reach out to a board member regarding ideas or concerns.

Sincerely,
Newton School PTA
Kira Campbell, Co-President
Lauren Phelps, Co-President
Hillary Miner, Secretary
Kiersten Harlow, Treasurer



Circa 1932, Richard & Blanche Prescott & son Richard

Photo courtesy Danny Prescott

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET**

FUNCTION/OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY22 APPROVED	FY22 ACTUALS	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	FY24 BUDGET NOTES
1101 REGULAR ED INSTRUCTION	\$ 1,913,849	\$ 1,792,766	\$ 2,041,627	\$ 2,067,312	\$ 25,685	
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 532,886	\$ 516,922	\$ 614,639	\$ 631,216	\$ 16,577	K-8 9 FTE, 1.0 Math & .5 Reading
121 PARA SALARY	-	-	21,500	27,675	6,175	1.0 FTE
131 SALARY SUB	10,000	8,002	10,000	30,000	20,000	\$20K added for long term
181 SALARY- GENERAL	-	-	-	-	-	
191 OTHER SALARY	3,000	4,577	4,000	4,000	-	STIPENDS
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	106,282	86,591	133,414	127,759	(5,655)	
219 HRA	25,200	21,103	29,800	25,200	(4,600)	
220 FICA	40,234	37,608	48,665	50,405	1,740	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	2,658	2,680	2,700	5,800	3,100	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	-	34	1,183	1,453	270	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	1,300	107	54	58	4	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	3,607	-	1,654	6,295	4,641	
281 DENTAL INS	3,798	2,601	4,640	4,607	(33)	
292 LIFE	547	556	634	760	126	
294 LTD	1,351	1,671	1,654	1,732	78	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	12,000	2,000	12,000	20,000	8,000	
332 PURCHASED SERVICE	8,000	400	8,000	8,000	-	
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10,000	54	12,000	12,000	-	
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	576,800	51,885	424,226	20,800	(403,426)	
562 TUITION TO PRIVATE SOURCES	331,153	828,411	420,801	607,340	186,539	
563 TUITION TO NON-VT LEA	221,076	213,914	261,690	375,315	113,625	
564 TUITION - SEC OUT OF STATE PRIVATE	-	-	-	35,938	35,938	FY24 ANNOUNCED TUITION RATES
567 TUITION TO VOC SCHOOLS	7,358	5,937	9,672	10,059	387	
568 TUITION TO PUBLIC W/IN SU	-	-	-	37,000	37,000	
569 TUITION-OTHER	5,000	2,700	5,000	5,000	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	6,800	4,028	8,400	8,400	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	4,800	986	5,300	10,500	5,200	Updated Secondary ELA & Science Materials needed
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-	-	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
811 DUES & FEES	-	-	-	-	-	

FUNCTION/OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY22 APPROVED	FY22 ACTUALS	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	FY24 BUDGET NOTES
1102 ART	\$ 18,895	\$ 1,006	\$ 31,352	\$ 29,750	\$ (1,602)	.5 FTE
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 15,290	\$ -	\$ 23,872	\$ 25,666	\$ 1,794	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	2,477	188	(2,289)	
220 FICA	1,170	-	1,826	1,964	138	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,329	-	1,350	-	(1,350)	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	5	10	5	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	106	-	62	256	194	
281 DENTAL INS	-	-	210	116	(94)	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	1,006	1,550	1,550	-	
1103 PRESCHOOL	\$ 63,648	\$ 77,590	\$ 65,808	\$ 79,044	\$ 13,236	
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,528	\$ 7,528	
562 TUITION TO PRIVATE SOURCES	63,648	77,590	65,808	71,516	5,708	
1106 FOREIGN LANGUAGE	\$ 14,803	\$ 14,189	\$ 15,128	\$ 39,228	\$ 24,101	.5 FTE
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 13,221	\$ 13,101	\$ 13,469	\$ 35,576	\$ 22,107	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	-	-	-	
220 FICA	992	991	1,030	2,722	1,692	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	5	10	5	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	90	-	63	356	294	
281 DENTAL INS	-	-	-	-	-	
292 LIFE	-	-	61	64	3	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	500	97	500	500	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
1108 PE	\$ 38,116	\$ 39,682	\$ 39,076	\$ 42,681	\$ 3,606	.6 FTE
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 32,397	\$ 34,815	\$ 34,074	\$ 36,288	\$ 2,214	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	1,500	900	900	900	-	
219 HRA	-	-	-	-	-	
220 FICA	2,432	2,506	2,607	2,776	169	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	670	-	725	725	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	36	3	10	8	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	220	52	89	364	275	
281 DENTAL INS	422	77	253	460	207	
292 LIFE	61	38	61	64	3	
294 LTD	84	124	89	94	5	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	462	1,000	1,000	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	

FUNCTION/OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY22 APPROVED	FY22 ACTUALS	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	FY24 BUDGET NOTES
1112 MUSIC	\$ 18,976	\$ 16,364	\$ 29,848	\$ 31,007	\$ 1,159	.5 FTE
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 16,199	\$ 13,934	\$ 24,626	\$ 26,428	\$ 1,802	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	1,500	-	(1,500)	
220 FICA	1,240	1,071	1,884	2,022	138	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	670	-	725	725	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	5	10	5	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	112	-	64	264	200	
292 LIFE	-	-	63	64	2	
294 LTD	-	-	32	69	37	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	425	-	425	425	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	690	1,250	1,000	(250)	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
811 DUES & FEES	-	-	-	-	-	
1201 SPECIAL ED INSTRUCTION	\$ 270,753	\$ 270,753	\$ 245,842	\$ 246,621	\$ 779	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 270,753	\$ 270,753	\$ 245,842	\$ 246,621	\$ 779	PER APPROVED BUDGET
1301 VOC TECH TUITION	\$ 6,622	\$ 6,622	\$ 13,993	\$ 18,924	\$ 4,932	
566 VOC TECH ON BEHALF	\$ 6,622	\$ 6,622	\$ 13,993	\$ 18,924	\$ 4,932	
1401 ATHLETICS & COCURRICULAR	\$ 2,677	\$ 350	\$ 18,932	\$ 19,032	\$ 100	
191 OTHER SALARY	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 16,100	\$ 16,100	\$ -	AD STIPEND & COACHES
220 FICA	77	-	1,232	1,232	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	900	280	900	1,000	100	
811 DUES & FEES	700	70	700	700	-	

FUNCTION/OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY22 APPROVED	FY22 ACTUALS	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	FY24 BUDGET NOTES
2120 GUIDANCE	\$ 63,818	\$ 37,226	\$ 53,751	\$ 83,592	\$ 29,841	.6 FTE
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 49,252	\$ 31,918	\$ 46,236	\$ 46,350	\$ 114	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	6,250	1,200	1,500	23,879	22,379	
219 HRA	2,100	96	-	4,200	4,200	
220 FICA	3,768	2,277	3,537	5,910	2,373	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,329	1,340	1,350	1,350	-	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	5	5	0	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	340	-	120	773	653	
281 DENTAL INS	340	267	422	461	39	
292 LIFE	61	62	61	63	2	
294 LTD	128	15	120	201	81	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	100	51	150	150	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	150	-	250	250	-	
2132 HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 71,521	\$ 66,705	\$ 75,168	\$ 80,188	\$ 5,020	1.0 FTE
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 50,997	\$ 51,776	\$ 53,774	\$ 57,429	\$ 3,655	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	7,812	7,645	8,562	9,064	502	
219 HRA	2,100	-	2,100	2,100	-	
220 FICA	3,825	3,856	4,114	4,393	279	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,329	1,340	1,350	1,450	100	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	5	5	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	345	-	140	574	434	
281 DENTAL INS	422	422	422	461	39	
292 LIFE	61	62	61	63	2	
294 LTD	130	10	140	149	9	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	2,500	1,107	2,500	2,500	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	500	488	500	500	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
2212 CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION	\$ 13,598	\$ 13,599	\$ 23,253	\$ 33,735	\$ 10,482	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 13,598	\$ 13,599	\$ 23,253	\$ 33,735	\$ 10,482	PER APPROVED BUDGET
2213 STAFF TRAINING	\$ 26,000	\$ 16,946	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	\$ -	
251 TUITION BENEFIT	\$ 14,000	\$ 16,446	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ -	PER CBA \$1,000 PER FTE
331 INSERVICES & TRAINING	11,000	500	11,000	11,000	-	
581 TRAVEL	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	

FUNCTION/OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY22 APPROVED	FY22 ACTUALS	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	FY24 BUDGET NOTES
2220 LIBRARY/MEDIA SERVICES	\$ 41,500	\$ 55,233	\$ 59,122	\$ 63,329	\$ 4,207	
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 34,214	\$ 47,489	\$ 47,844	\$ 50,822	\$ 2,978	.8 FTE
121 PARA SALARY	-	-	-	-	-	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	806	1,500	1,200	1,200	-	
219 HRA	-	-	-	-	-	
220 FICA	2,617	3,682	3,660	3,888	228	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	5	5	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	232	-	124	508	384	
281 DENTAL INS	253	-	422	461	39	
292 LIFE	61	62	63	63	-	
294 LTD	87	-	124	132	8	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	180	140	180	250	70	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	2,400	1,404	2,400	2,400	-	
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	450	250	2,000	2,500	500	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
811 DUES & FEES	200	706	1,100	1,100	-	
2311 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$ 8,774	\$ 23,549	\$ 8,774	\$ 11,497	\$ 2,723	
141 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
161 CLERICAL SALARY	1,000	1,200	1,000	100	(900)	
220 FICA	191	191	191	191	(0)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	-	12,337	-	-	-	
311 SECTION 125 ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	660	101	660	660	-	
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	100	-	100	100	-	
520 INSURANCE	2,923	3,141	2,923	3,846	923	
541 ADVERTISING	800	1,888	800	1,800	1,000	
581 TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	100	-	100	100	-	
811 DUES & FEES	500	2,191	500	2,200	1,700	
2313 BOARD TREASURER	\$ 2,918	\$ 2,970	\$ 2,918	\$ 3,168	\$ 250	
141 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ -	
220 FICA	168	168	168	168	(0)	
533 POSTAGE	350	602	350	600	250	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	100	-	100	100	-	
811 DUES & FEES	100	-	100	100	-	

FUNCTION/OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY22 APPROVED	FY22 ACTUALS	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	FY24 BUDGET NOTES
2315 LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 140	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
342 LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 140	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
2320 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION	\$ 42,291	\$ 42,291	\$ 50,084	\$ 44,979	\$ (5,105)	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 42,291	\$ 42,291	\$ 50,084	\$ 44,979	\$ (5,105)	PER APPROVED BUDGET
2410 OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL	\$ 239,381	\$ 246,957	\$ 241,408	\$ 261,724	\$ 20,316	
141 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 95,000	\$ 107,923	\$ 95,500	\$ 99,910	\$ 4,410	
161 CLERICAL SALARY	45,792	48,780	43,336	48,729	5,393	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	43,281	42,352	47,434	50,215	2,781	
219 HRA	8,600	14,517	8,600	8,600	-	
220 FICA	10,597	10,458	10,621	11,371	750	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	2,134	2,193	2,384	2,558	174	
251 TUITION BENEFIT	2,200	1,740	2,200	2,200	-	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	10	10	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	956	-	361	1,499	1,138	
281 DENTAL INS	844	844	844	878	34	
292 LIFE	267	274	267	317	50	
294 LTD	360	35	361	387	26	
331 INSERVICES & TRAINING	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	
443 RENTALS OF COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY	6,000	4,839	6,000	6,000	-	MINDFULLNESS (PRIOR ESSER)
531 TELEPHONE SERVICES	6,000	4,205	6,000	6,000	-	
533 POSTAGE	700	751	700	1,000	300	
551 PRINTING & BINDING	100	194	250	250	-	
581 TRAVEL	1,000	281	1,000	1,000	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	6,500	4,540	6,500	7,250	750	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
811 DUES & FEES	9,050	1,532	9,050	9,050	-	
235 - RETIREMENT/ANNUITY	-	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	
2490 TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	\$ 12,708	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	INCLUDED IN LIBRARY/MEDIA
111 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 11,405	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	269	-	-	-	-	
219 HRA	-	-	-	-	-	
220 FICA	873	-	-	-	-	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	-	-	-	-	-	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	77	-	-	-	-	
281 DENTAL INS	84	-	-	-	-	

FUNCTION/OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY22 APPROVED	FY22 ACTUALS	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	FY24 BUDGET NOTES
2510 FISCAL SERVICES	\$ 84,610	\$ 76,032	\$ 77,606	\$ 78,721	\$ 1,115	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 65,610	\$ 65,610	\$ 62,606	\$ 63,721	\$ 1,115	PER APPROVED BUDGET
835 INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT	19,000	10,422	15,000	15,000	-	
2570 PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$ 660	\$ 498	\$ 660	\$ 660	\$ -	
311 SECTION 125 ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	\$ 660	\$ 498	\$ 660	\$ 660	\$ -	
2580 ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 50,840	\$ 28,368	\$ 78,321	\$ 83,207	\$ 4,886	
352 OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 9,656	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
432 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY	500	100	500	500	-	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	16,815	8,408	42,930	44,979	2,049	PER APPROVED BUDGET
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	19,075	10,205	32,391	35,228	2,837	
734 TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE	11,950	-	-	-	-	
735 TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
2610 OPERATION OF BUILDING	\$ 139,856	\$ 164,834	\$ 150,838	\$ 161,977	\$ 11,139	
151 SUPERVISOR SALARY	\$ 46,962	\$ 55,714	\$ 49,608	\$ 51,168	\$ 1,560	
181 SALARY- GENERAL	19,876	21,454	20,779	17,940	(2,839)	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	1,500	1,500	2,250	2,250	-	
220 FICA	5,113	5,909	5,385	5,287	(98)	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	2,189	2,701	3,871	3,628	(243)	
251 TUITION BENEFIT	200	100	200	-	(200)	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	10	10	-	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	2,911	-	3,660	3,843	183	
281 DENTAL INS	422	422	844	844	-	
292 LIFE	61	25	48	128	80	
294 LTD	122	17	183	180	(3)	
341 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,000	3,900	4,000	4,000	-	WATER TESTING
411 UTILITY SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
425 WASTE REMOVAL	3,000	3,055	3,000	4,000	1,000	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	
441 RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	-	-	-	-	-	
520 INSURANCE	7,000	6,486	7,000	8,099	1,099	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	13,500	10,541	13,500	14,200	700	
622 ENERGY ELECTRICITY	18,000	17,054	18,000	15,400	(2,600)	Reduction for Energy Upgrade
624 ENERGY FUEL OIL	15,000	12,831	15,000	17,500	2,500	
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	-	23,124	3,500	3,500	-	
811 DUES & FEES	-	-	-	-	-	

FUNCTION/OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY22 APPROVED	FY22 ACTUALS	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	FY24 BUDGET NOTES
2620 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING	\$ 44,600	\$ 27,724	\$ 44,600	\$ 54,600	\$ 10,000	
341 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
411 UTILITY SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	40,000	23,124	40,000	50,000	10,000	BATHROOM/CLASSROOM/OFFICE UPGRADES
441 RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	-	
2630 GROUNDS	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,490	\$ 11,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 4,000	
422 SNOW REMOVAL	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,490	\$ 11,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 4,000	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	-	-	-	-	-	
2711 TRANSPORTATION-RESIDENT	\$ 100,203	\$ 102,111	\$ 103,209	\$ 108,369	\$ 5,160	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 100,203	\$ 102,111	\$ 103,209	\$ 108,369	\$ 5,160	GOING TO BID - WILL BE ADJUSTED
2713 TECH TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ 4,855	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	\$ -	\$ 4,855	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2715 TRANSPORTION-FIELD TRIPS	\$ 9,000	\$ 2,507	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	\$ 9,000	\$ 2,507	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	
2790 OTHER TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
3100 FOOD SERVICES	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 18,180	\$ 18,450	\$ 270	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 18,180	\$ 18,450	\$ 270	
5020 DEBT SERVICE-LONG TERM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	
831 REDEMPTION OF PRINCIPAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	15 Year Performance Contract Added
832 INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	15 Year Performance Contract Added
5390 INTERFUND TRANSFER	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	
910 TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	ROSA TYSON GYM
Grand Total	\$ 3,354,119	\$ 3,152,359	\$ 3,545,997	\$ 3,728,296	\$ 182,299	5.14%

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY23-24 REVENUE BUDGET**

Description	STRAFFORD Budget 2021-2022	STRAFFORD ACTUAL 2021-2022	STRAFFORD Budget 2022-2023	STRAFFORD Budget 2023-2024	Notes
BAL. CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR YRS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<u>REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES</u>					
Interest	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,335	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Tuition	-	-	-	-	
TuitionPK	-	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous/RENTALS	5,000	5,495	5,000	5,000	
Prior Year Adjustments	-	-	-	-	
Transfer from Tuition Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	
Donations	-	3,000	-	-	
Total Local Source Revenues	\$ 10,000	\$ 16,830	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
<u>REV. FROM STATE/FED. SOURCES</u>					
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$ 3,104,219	\$ 3,104,219	\$ 3,283,568	\$ 3,451,415	
ACT 60 Related Transportation	43,447	42,069	45,091	45,091	FY22 Contract @ 45% Reimbursement
Vocational Transportation Reimbursement	-	2,285	-	-	
SMALL SCHOOLS	123,316	122,677	122,677	122,677	
Medicaid Reimbursement (IEP & EPSDT)	66,514	66,514	70,668	80,188	Cover Nurse Salary & Benefits
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$ 3,337,497	\$ 3,337,764	\$ 3,522,004	\$ 3,699,371	
<u>OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS</u>					
School Wide CFP/previously Title I/other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Other FEDERAL Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<u>Vocational Education</u>					
Tech Ctr from State to the Tech Ctr	\$ 6,622	\$ 6,622	\$ 13,993	\$ 18,924	FY23 average @ FY24 rate
Grand Total All Revenues	\$ 3,354,119	\$ 3,361,216	\$ 3,545,997	\$ 3,728,296	

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY24 PROPOSED BUDGET
TAX RATES**

				CHG %	
Act 68 Tax Factors		PRIOR YR BUDGET	\$3,545,997		5.14%
Budget	3,728,296	PRIOR YR ED FUND	\$3,297,561		5.24%
Changes	0	PRIOR YR PER PUPIL	\$19,573.58		4.51%
Total	3,728,296	PRIOR YR TAX RATE BEFORE CLA	1.4702		-10.11%
- Local Revenue	(257,956)	Property Yield	\$ 15,479	13,314	Per 12/1 Tax Letter
Education Spending	3,470,339	Common Level of Appraisal	88.22%	95.36%	Per 12/22 Letter
Equalized Pupils	169.65	Base rate fixed	1.0000		
Education Spending Per Pupil	\$ 20,455.88	VT Non-Residential rate	1.3860	1.4660	Per 12/1 Tax Letter
Less Exclusions	\$ -	Adjustment for CLA			
PP over cap amount	\$ -	Estimated Actual Residential FY24 Tax Rate	1.4980	AFTER CLA	
Revised PP spending	\$ 20,455.88	Estimate Actual Non-Residential FY24 Rate	1.5711	AFTER CLA	
Equalized Residential Tax Rate BEFORE CLA	1.3215	Actual Residential Tax Rate FY23	1.5417	As of 6/28/22	Per Tax Department
Equalized Non-Residential Rate BEFORE CLA	1.3860	Actual Non-Residential Rate FY23	1.5373	As of 6/28/22	Per Tax Department
Prior Year Per Pupil Cost	19,573.58	Change in Tax Rates from FY23 to FY24			
Act 68 per pupil change	4.51%	Actual Residential Tax Rate	(0.0437)		
		Actual Non-Residential Rate	0.0338		
	\$ 26,260.12	amount to cut .01 cent of tax rate			

INCOME SENSITIVITY CALCULATION			
PER PUPIL SPENDING			
/ INCOME YIELD			
X INCOME PERCENTAGE			
= TAX AMOUNT			
STRAFFORD/NEWTON			
\$	20,455.88	PER PUPIL SPENDING	
\$	17,600.00	INCOME YIELD	Per 12/1 Tax Ltr
	2.35%	INCOME PERCENT	
	2.73%	INCOME SENSITIVITY	

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS
FYE June 30, 2022**

General Fund	\$291,350
Food Service Program	\$ (17,472)
Tyson Gym Reserve	\$ 33,072
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 59,242
Tuition Reserve	\$ 62,250

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS**

FYE June 30, 2022

The Strafford School District had no outstanding long-term debt at the end of the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. Short term debt included a tax-anticipation note in the amount of \$836,064 that was paid in full in fiscal year 2022.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDIT REPORT**

FYE June 30, 2022

The Strafford School District has hired RHR Smith and Company, a professional audit firm, to review the district's finances. A copy of the audit will be available upon completion for review at the White River Valley Supervisory Union Business Office located at 461 Waterman Road Royalton, Vermont and online at <https://wrvsu.org/approved-budgets-and-audits>

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES ONLY

District: Stratford		T199		Property dollar equivalent yield	Homestead tax rate per \$15,479 of spending per equalized pupil	
SU: White River Valley		Orange County		15,479	<--See bottom note 1.00	
				17,600	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income	
Expenditures		FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$3,354,621	\$3,354,119	\$3,545,997	\$3,728,296	1.
2.	<i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	+ 0	0	0	0	2.
3.	<i>minus</i> Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	- NA	NA	NA	-	3.
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$3,354,621	\$3,354,119	\$3,545,997	\$3,728,296	4.
5.	<i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	+ 0	0	0	0	5.
6.	<i>plus</i> Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	+ 0	0	0	0	6.
7.	Total Expenditures	\$3,354,621	\$3,354,119	\$3,545,997	\$3,728,296	7.
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	- 0	0	0	0	8.
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	- 0	0	0	0	9.
Revenues						
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$286,299	\$243,278	\$248,436	\$257,956	10.
11.	<i>plus</i> Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	+ 0	0	0	0	11.
12.	<i>minus</i> All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	- NA	NA	NA	NA	12.
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$286,299	\$243,278	\$248,436	\$257,956	13.
14.	Education Spending	\$3,068,322	\$3,110,841	\$3,297,561	\$3,470,340	14.
15.	Equalized Pupils	166.52	169.16	168.47	169.65	15.

16.		Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$18,426.15	\$18,389.93	\$19,573.58	\$20,455.88	16.
17.	minus	Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	minus	Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$60,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$28.88	\$8.31	\$14.30		18.
19.	minus	Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-		19.
20.	minus	Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-		20.
21.	minus	Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-		21.
22.	minus	Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-		22.
23.	minus	Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-		23.
24.	minus	Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	-	\$39.28	\$40.07		24.
25.	minus	Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	-	\$39.28	\$40.07		25.
			threshold = \$18,756	threshold = \$18,789	threshold = \$19,997	threshold = \$22,204	
26.		Excess spending threshold	\$18,756.00	\$18,789.00	\$19,997.00	\$22,204.00	26.
27.	plus	Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	2 year suspension	2 year suspension	suspended thru FY29	27.
28.		Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$18,426	\$18,390	\$19,574	\$20,455.88	28.
29.		District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	167.541%	162.498%	147.015%	132.152%	29.
			based on yield \$10,883	based on yield \$11,317	based on \$13,314	based on \$15,479	

Prorating the local tax rate						
30.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$20,455.88 ÷ (\$15,479 / \$1.00)]	\$1.6754 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.6250 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.4702 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.3215 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	30.
31.	Percent of Stratford equalized pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	31.
32.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.32)	\$1.6754	\$1.6250	\$1.4702	\$1.3215	32.
33.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	101.65%	97.67%	95.36%	88.22%	33.
34.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.3215 / 88.22%)	\$1.6482 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.6638 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.5417 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	\$1.4980 <small>based on \$1.00</small>	34.
<p>If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a PARTIAL homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.</p>						
35.	Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [((\$20,455.88 ÷ \$17,600) x 2.00%)]	2.72% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.67% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.45% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.32% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	35.
36.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.32%)	2.72% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.67% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.45% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	2.32% <small>based on 2.00%</small>	36.
37.	#N/A	-	-	-	-	37.
38.	#N/A	-	-	-	-	38.
<p>- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$15,479 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$17,600 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.386. These figures use the estimated \$64,000,000 surplus from the Education Fund. New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.</p> <p>- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.</p> <p>- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.</p>						

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION

FY23-24 BUDGET

Description	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES FOR FY24
CURRICULUM - SALARIES	\$ 14,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 34,000	\$ 46,360	\$ 12,360	.1 FTE, LEADERSHIP & COACHING STIPENDS
CURRICULUM - COORDINATOR SALARY	98,000	90,638	113,000	118,085	5,085	1.0 FTE
CURRICULUM - HEALTH INS	21,911	13,940	24,371	25,258	887	
CURRICULUM - HRA	4,400	497	8,400	4,000	(4,400)	
CURRICULUM - CURR EMPER TAXES	8,568	6,798	14,489	12,580	(1,909)	
CURRICULUM - LIFE INS	243	504	304	279	(25)	
CURRICULUM - NTHA VSTRS	-	1,340	-	1,450	1,450	
CURRICULUM - RETIREMENT CONTR	1,500	3,247	5,750	2,300	(3,450)	
CURRICULUM - WORKERS COMP	676	-	492	-	(492)	
CURRICULUM - UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM - PROF DEV	5,000	1,578	5,000	5,000	-	
CURRICULUM - DENTAL INS	435	283	870	523	(347)	
CURRICULUM - CONTRACTED SERV	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	
CURRICULUM - ADMIN PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM - TRAVEL	-	-	-	2,500	2,500	
CURRICULUM - SUPPLIES	1,500	735	1,500	1,500	-	
CURRICULUM - CURR-BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	68	500	500	-	
CURRICULUM - TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	-	360	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM - DUES & FEES	500	1,814	2,000	5,000	3,000	
	\$ 162,233	\$ 123,303	\$ 215,676	\$ 230,335	\$ 14,659	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - SALARY	\$ -	\$ 63,304	\$ 26,334	\$ 27,851	\$ 1,516	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - HEALTH INS	-	4,459	-	3,626	3,626	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - HRA	-	2,100	-	1,900	1,900	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CURR EMPER TAXES	-	4,719	2,015	2,131	116	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - LIFE INS	-	47	61	63	2	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - NTHA VSTRS	-	1,340	-	1,450	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - RETIREMENT CONTR	-	438	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - WORKERS COMP	-	-	68	-	(68)	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - PROF DEV	-	-	-	400	400	4 FTE POSITION ADDED TO THE SU IN FY22
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - DENTAL INS	-	422	422	460	38	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CONTR CURRICULUM SER	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - ADMIN PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - TRAVEL	-	37	-	100	100	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - SUPPLIES	-	10	-	50	50	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS -BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - DUES & FEES	-	80	-	100	100	
	\$ -	\$ 76,956	\$ 28,900	\$ 38,130	\$ 7,780	

Description	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES FOR FY24
TECHNOLOGY - SALARIES	\$ 263,222	\$ 276,926	\$ 290,086	\$ 288,806	\$ (1,280)	5.0 FTEs & \$11K DATA ASST & \$5,400 SUB
TECHNOLOGY - HEALTH INS	88,410	80,881	77,758	88,683	10,925	
TECHNOLOGY - HRA	18,900	13,859	17,400	17,200	(200)	
TECHNOLOGY - EMPER TAXES	20,137	19,516	22,192	22,094	(98)	
TECHNOLOGY - LIFE INS	485	955	486	508	22	
TECHNOLOGY - RETIREMENT CONTR	13,721	15,784	20,658	20,272	(386)	
TECHNOLOGY - WORKERS COMP	1,515	-	712	-	(712)	
TECHNOLOGY - UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
TECHNOLOGY - TRAVEL/CONF	2,800	299	1,000	3,000	2,000	
TECHNOLOGY - DENTAL INS	2,175	2,631	2,096	2,267	171	
TECHNOLOGY - CONTR SERV	10,000	90	20,000	20,000	-	
TECHNOLOGY - REPAIR	500	-	500	500	-	
TECHNOLOGY - TRAVEL	3,500	6	1,000	1,000	-	
TECHNOLOGY - SUPPLIES	6,300	5,221	13,300	13,300	-	
TECHNOLOGY - SOFTWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
TECHNOLOGY - EQUIPMENT	7,000	296	-	-	-	
	\$ 438,665	\$ 416,465	\$ 467,189	\$ 477,631	\$ 10,443	
OFFICE OF SUPER - SUPERINTENDENT SALS	\$ 137,550	\$ 138,500	\$ 143,000	\$ 148,361	\$ 5,361	1.0 FTE
OFFICE OF SUPER - ADMIN SUPPORT	48,179	51,889	50,960	55,620	4,660	1.0 FTE
BOARD CLERK - SALARIES	3,000	75	3,000	900	(2,100)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - HEALTH INS	23,218	22,450	23,762	26,938	3,176	
OFFICE OF SUPER - HRA	6,300	2,544	6,500	6,300	(200)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - EMPLOYER TAXES	14,208	13,595	14,917	15,605	687	
OFFICE OF SUPER - LIFE INSURANCE	303	758	303	254	(49)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - RETIREMENT CONTR	5,511	3,063	5,067	3,615	(1,452)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - ANNUITY	-	-	-	1,500	1,500	
OFFICE OF SUPER - WORKERS COMP	1,282	-	508	-	(508)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - COURSE REIMB	5,000	670	5,000	5,750	750	
OFFICE OF SUPER - DENTAL INS	870	870	870	951	81	
OFFICE OF SUPER - CONTR SERV	5,000	180	5,000	5,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - LEGAL FEES	15,000	2,975	15,000	15,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	500	-	500	500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - SUPERINTENDENTS TRAVEL	-	-	-	4,000	4,000	
OFFICE OF SUPER - STAFF TRAVEL	-	-	-	100	100	
OFFICE OF SUPER - IN-SERVICE MTGS, ETC	2,500	613	2,500	2,500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	-	901	-	-	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - DUES AND FEES	15,000	17,329	15,000	17,500	2,500	
OFFICE OF SUPER - FINGERPRINTING EXP	4,000	4,568	4,000	4,500	500	
	\$ 287,421	\$ 260,979	\$ 295,887	\$ 314,894	\$ 19,006	

Description	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES FOR FY24
PRESCHOOL COORD - SALARY	\$ 39,233	\$ 19,274	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	STIPEND IS \$5K
PRESCHOOL COORD - BENEFITS & TAXES	3,001	1,367	383	383	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - SUPPLIES	890	1,373	890	1,000	110	
PRESCHOOL COORD - TRAVEL	1,000	58	1,000	1,000	-	
PRESCHL COORD-CONTRACTED SERVICES	11,426	11,104	11,426	13,500	2,074	WIN. VALLEY PARTNERS & TS GOLD
PRESCHOOL COORD - PROFESSIONAL DEV	2,000	1,559	2,000	2,000	-	
	\$ 57,551	\$ 34,735	\$ 20,699	\$ 22,883	\$ 2,184	
FISCAL SERVICES - TREASURER SALS	\$ 1,200	\$ 675	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -	
FISCAL SERVICES - TREASURER FICA	92	52	92	92	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - ADMIN SALARY	99,750	108,884	102,000	106,590	4,590	1.0 FTE
FISCAL SERVICES - SUPPORT SALS	262,858	199,913	231,723	212,519	(19,205)	4.0 FTE
FISCAL SERVICES - HEALTH INS	104,477	81,140	96,881	99,791	2,910	
FISCAL SERVICES - HRA	21,000	14,374	21,400	19,400	(2,000)	
FISCAL SERVICES - EMPLOYER TAXES	27,740	21,658	25,680	24,412	(1,268)	
FISCAL SERVICES - LIFE INS	909	690	848	508	(340)	
FISCAL SERVICES - RETIREMENT CONTR	24,163	19,322	25,499	23,050	(2,449)	
FISCAL SERVICES - WORKERS COMP	2,502	-	872	-	(872)	
FISCAL SERVICES - COURSE REIMB	2,000	4,188	3,000	3,000	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - DENTAL INS	2,610	2,104	2,175	2,376	201	
FISCAL SERVICES - OTHER CONTR SERV	10,000	50,748	61,000	62,000	1,000	PAYCHEX
FISCAL SERVICES-AUDIT	-	13,969	1,500	1,500	-	FIXED ASSET MANAGEMENT
FISCAL SERVICES - COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	500	150	500	200	(300)	
FISCAL SERVICES - TRAVEL/CONF	3,000	413	1,500	2,000	500	
FISCAL SERVICES - SUPPLIES	5,000	4,916	5,000	5,000	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - SOFTWARE	30,000	31,922	30,000	35,000	5,000	CONVERSION FROM PROFUND TO IV
FISCAL SERVICES - EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - DUES AND FEES	1,000	1,730	500	2,500	2,000	
FISCAL SERVICES - AUDIT	50,000	45,362	50,000	60,000	10,000	NEED TO BID FOR FY23 AND BEYOND
	\$ 648,801	\$ 602,211	\$ 661,370	\$ 661,137	\$ (233)	
CENTRAL OFFICE - BLDG/GRDS CONSULT	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,600	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	
CENTRAL OFFICE - HRA	-	-	-	-	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - EMPLOYER TAXES	-	898	-	1,913	1,913	
CENTRAL OFFICE - WORKERS COMP	-	45,537	-	9,750	9,750	CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF WORK COMP
CENTRAL OFFICE - UNEMPLOYMENT TAX	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE-LTD	3,100	9,965	3,100	10,000	6,900	INCREASE PER ACTUALS IN FY22
CENTRAL OFFICE-HRA ADMIN	1,200	-	1,200	2,000	800	
CENTRAL OFFICE - CUSTODIAL SERVICES	5,000	-	5,000	2,500	(2,500)	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SECT 125 ADMIN	1,000	4,333	2,000	2,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - HRA ADMIN	-	-	-	-	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	-	1,296	-	-	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - DISPOSAL SERVICES	1,500	6,204	1,500	1,500	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - REPAIRS AND MAINT	2,000	3,682	2,000	2,000	-	

Description	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 APPROVED	FY24 <i>PROPOSED</i>	<i>DIFFER- ENCE</i>	<i>NOTES FOR FY24</i>
CENTRAL OFFICE - RENTAL OF BUILDINGS	58,821	59,111	60,586	62,403	1,818	INCREASE PER LEASE AGREEMENT
CENTRAL OFFICE - PROPERTY/LIABILITY INS	1,431	2,266	2,333	2,400	67	
CENTRAL OFFICE - TELEPHONE EXP	6,142	8,129	7,200	8,000	800	
CENTRAL OFFICE - POSTAGE	5,135	5,149	5,135	5,150	15	
CENTRAL OFFICE - ADVERTISING	2,000	6,907	2,000	4,000	2,000	INCREASE PER ACTUALS IN FY22
CENTRAL OFFICE - SUPPLIES	10,000	6,543	10,000	7,000	(3,000)	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SOFTWARE (504)	1,000	236	1,000	500	(500)	
CENTRAL OFFICE - COPIER LEASE	5,000	7,936	5,000	8,000	3,000	INCREASE PER ACTUALS IN FY22
	\$ 129,528	\$ 181,990	\$ 134,254	\$ 155,316	\$ 21,062	
INSTRUCTION SALARY	\$ 36,859	\$ -	\$ 59,805	\$ 63,528	\$ 3,723	
INSTRUCTION BENEFITS	21,911	-	1,500	1,500	-	
INSTRUCTION HRA	4,200	-	-	-	-	
INSTRUCTION FICA	7,497	-	4,575	4,860	285	
INSTRUCTION LIFE	61	-	61	63	3	
INSTRUCTION	-	1,340	-	1,450	1,450	PreK Literacy/Math Interv.
INSTRUCTION RETIREMENT	-	-	-	-	-	Funded by Title 1
INSTRUCTION WC	254	-	155	-	(155)	
INSTRUCTION DENTAL	435	-	435	-	(435)	
INSTRUCTION PURCHASED SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
INSTRUCTION TRAVEL	811	-	811	-	(811)	
INSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	5,000	-	5,000	1,000	(4,000)	
	\$ 77,028	\$ 1,340	\$ 72,342	\$ 72,401	\$ 59	
DISTRICT WIDE - IMPROVE OF INSTR	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
DISTRICT WIDE - HEALTH INS	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - CURR EMPER TAXES	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - LIFE INS	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE RETIREMENT CONTR	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - DENTAL INS	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - CONTRACTED SERV	4,000	-	4,000	4,000	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE- SUPPLIES	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	
DISTRICT WIDE - BOOKS & PERIODICALS	200	42	200	200	-	
DISTRICT WIDE- DUES & FEES	500	50	500	500	-	
	\$ 5,700	\$ 342	\$ 5,700	\$ 3,700	\$ -	
Total Projected WRVSU Budgeted Expenditures:	\$ 1,806,927	\$ 1,698,321	\$ 1,902,017	\$ 1,978,426	\$ 76,409	
				4.02%		

White River Valley SU
FY24 Member Assessment Allocation

	FY22 WRVSU		FY23 WRVSU		FY24 WRVSU		\$\$ Change FY23 to FY24
	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	
FBUD	19.60%	\$ 279,482	21.00%	\$ 371,914	20.34%	\$ 371,902	\$ (12)
GHUD	3.10%	44,204	3.30%	58,444	3.12%	57,047	(1,397)
RSUD	10.40%	148,296	11.20%	198,354	10.55%	192,899	(5,455)
SHARON	15.80%	225,296	14.60%	258,569	15.41%	281,761	23,192
STRAFFORD	9.70%	138,315	10.10%	178,873	10.25%	187,414	8,541
WRUD	41.40%	590,334	39.80%	704,865	40.33%	737,404	32,540
	100.00%	\$1,425,927	100.00%	\$1,771,017	100.00%	\$ 1,828,426	\$ 57,409

WRVSU Revenue / Assessment Sources:	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget	FY24 Budget	\$\$ Change FY23 to FY24
WRVSU BUDGET EXPENDITURES (Non SpEd)	\$1,806,927	\$1,902,017	\$ 1,978,426	\$ 76,409
LESS LOCAL SOURCE REVENUES:				
INDIRECT RATE	(24,000)	-	-	-
INTEREST	(2,000)	-	-	-
LESS DIRECT GRANT REVENUE				
MEDICAID	(180,000)	-	-	-
EPSDT / MAC	(25,000)	-	-	-
FEDERAL TITLE FUNDS:				
IDEA B	-	-	-	-
Title II - Curriculum	(48,000)	(46,000)	(75,000)	(29,000)
Title II - Prek	(25,000)	(10,000)	(5,000)	5,000
Title I - Prek Reading / Math Intervention	(77,000)	(75,000)	(70,000)	5,000
Local Assessment Amount:	\$1,425,927	\$1,771,017	\$ 1,828,426	\$ 57,409

White River Valley Supervisory Union
Special Education

FY23-24

ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY21-22 ACTUALS	FY22-23 APPROVED	FY23-24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0111-00-00	EEE TEACHER SALS	\$ 114,853	\$ 34,831	\$ 131,672	\$ 136,204	\$ 4,532	2.0 FTE
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0121-00-00	EEE SUPPORT STAFF SALS	-	34,088	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0211-00-00	EEE INSTR - HEALTH INS	29,868	7,744	23,762	18,128	(5,634)	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0222-00-00	EEE INSTR - EMPLOYER TAXES	8,786	5,288	10,073	10,420	347	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0219-00-00	EEE INSTR - HRA	8,400	3,479	6,300	3,800	(2,500)	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0292-00-00	EEE INSTR - LIFE INS	122	62	122	127	5	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0232-00-00	EEE INSTR - OPEB	-	1,340	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0233-00-00	EEE INSTR - EMPLER RETIREMENT	-	2,334	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0271-00-00	EEE INSTR - WORKERS COMP	793	-	342	-	(342)	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0261-00-00	EEE INSTR - UNEMPLOYMENT	793	130	122	122	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0251-00-00	EEE INSTR - PROF DEV	4,000	215	4,000	4,000	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0281-00-00	EEE INSTR - DENTAL INS	900	-	844	921	78	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0294-00-00	EEE INSTR - DISABILITY INS	-	-	342	354	12	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0341-00-00	EEE - CONTRACTED SERVICES	6,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0562-00-00	EEE - TUITION	500	-	500	500	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0581-00-00	EEE INSTR - TRAVEL	3,300	1,953	2,500	2,500	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0611-00-00	EEE - SUPPLIES	2,500	30	1,500	1,500	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0739-00-00	EEE - EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-1201-5-0811-00-00	EEE-DIRECT INSTR.-DUES&FEES	300	-	300	300	-	
TOTAL EEE INSTRUCTION		\$ 181,115	\$ 91,493	\$ 187,379	\$ 183,875	\$ (3,503)	
2102-401-01-021-4-1210-5-0111-00-00	IDEA B PK - TEACHER SALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2102-401-01-021-4-1210-5-0211-00-00	IDEA B PK - HEALTH INS	-	-	-	-	-	
2102-401-01-021-4-1210-5-0220-00-00	IDEA B PK - EMPLOYER TAXES	-	-	-	-	-	
2102-401-01-021-04-1210-5-0292-00-00	IDEA B PK - LIFE INS	-	-	-	-	-	
2102-401-01-021-4-1210-5-0233-00-00	IDEA B PK - VSTR CONTR FED FUNDED SALS	-	-	-	-	-	
2102-401-01-021-4-1210-5-0271-00-00	IDEA B PK - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	-	-	
2102-401-01-021-4-1210-5-0281-00-00	IDEA B PK - DENTAL INS	-	-	-	-	-	
2102-401-01-021-4-1210-5-0294-00-00	IDEA B PK - DISABILITY INS	-	-	-	-	-	
2101-401-01-021-4-2190-5-0341-00-00	IDEA B PK - OTHER SUPPORT	-	775	-	-	-	
2102-401-01-021-4-1210-5-0611-00-00	IDEA B PRE-K - SUPPLIES	-	1,704	-	-	-	
TOTAL IDEA B PREK		\$ -	\$ 2,479	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2025-401-01-021-3-2152-5-0111-00-00	EEE - SLP SALS	\$ -	\$ 88,552	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2025-401-01-021-3-2152-5-0211-00-00	EEE-SLP HEALTH INS PREM	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2152-5-0220-00-00	EEE - SLP EMPLOYER TAXES	-	6,247	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2152-5-0233-00-00	EEE - SLP RETIREMENT CONTR	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2152-5-0271-00-00	EEE-SLP WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2152-5-0281-00-00	EEE - SLP DENTAL INS PREM	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2152-5-0341-00-00	EEE - SLP CONTR SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2152-5-0581-00-00	EEE - SLP TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL EEE SPEECH SERVICES		\$ -	\$ 94,799	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY21-22 ACTUALS	FY22-23 APPROVED	FY23-24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES
2025-401-01-021-3-2160-5-0111-00-00	EEE - OT SALARIES	\$ -	\$ 25,853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2025-401-01-021-3-2160-5-0211-00-00	EEE-OT HEALTH INS	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2160-5-0220-00-00	EEE - OT EMPLOYER TAXES	-	1,645	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2160-5-0233-00-00	EEE - OT EMPLOYER RETIREMENT	-	1,412	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2160-5-0271-00-00	EEE-OT WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2160-5-0281-00-00	EEE-OT DENTAL INS	-	-	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2160-5-0341-00-00	EEE - OT CONTR SERVICES	4,000	5,592	4,000	4,000	-	
2025-401-01-021-3-2160-5-0581-00-00	EEE - OT TRAVEL	500	-	500	500	-	
TOTAL EEE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST		\$ 4,500	\$ 34,502	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ -	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0111-00-00	SPEC ED - TEACHER SALS	\$1,153,070	\$ 743,407	\$ 1,024,828	\$ 1,204,753	\$ 179,925	17.0 FTE & .5 INT PROG CORD Added 1.0 504 Coordinator 35 FTE PARA
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0121-00-00	SPEC ED - SUPPORT STAFF SALS	953,574	1,050,412	1,052,400	1,007,451	(44,949)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0193-00-00	SPEC ED - SUMMER SALS	38,000	20,113	38,000	30,000	(8,000)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0131-00-00	SPEC ED - SUBSTITUTES	70,000	31,416	70,000	40,000	(30,000)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0211-00-00	SPEC ED - HEALTH INS	551,359	462,391	636,333	632,888	(3,445)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0219-00-00	SPEC ED - HRA	125,400	85,593	111,340	127,900	16,560	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0220-00-00	SPEC ED - EMPLOYER TAXES	161,158	131,655	158,908	169,234	10,326	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0292-00-00	SPEC ED - LIFE INS	3,582	3,659	3,477	3,419	(58)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0232-00-00	SPED-VSTRS OPEB	-	5,360	11,500	11,500	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0233-00-00	SPEC ED - RETIREMENT CONTR	59,598	57,493	73,668	65,484	(8,184)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0271-00-00	SPEC ED - WORKERS COMP INS	14,536	47	5,241	16,592	11,350	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0281-00-00	SPEC ED - UNEMPLOYMENT	14,536	4,802	3,405	3,222	(183)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0251-00-00	SPEC ED - PROF DEV	3,500	204	3,500	-	(3,500)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0281-00-00	SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	25,520	19,794	23,783	22,803	(980)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0291-00-00	SPECIAL ED- OTHER EMP EE BEN	-	77	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0341-00-00	SPEC ED - CONTRACTED SERVICES	200,000	138,937	150,000	153,500	3,500	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0534-00-00	SPEC ED - TELEPHONE	1,500	-	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0533-00-00	SPEC ED - POSTAGE	-	-	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0541-00-00	SPEC ED - ADVERTISING	-	-	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0562-00-00	SPEC ED - TUITION	893,532	1,413,748	1,605,000	1,640,000	35,000	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0581-00-00	SPEC ED - TRAVEL	6,000	1,812	3,000	3,000	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0594-00-00	SPEC ED - EXCESS COSTS	645,000	557,581	670,000	670,000	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0611-00-00	SPEC ED - SUPPLIES	30,000	7,109	20,000	15,000	(5,000)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0651-00-00	SPEC ED - SOFTWARE	6,000	2,049	6,000	3,500	(2,500)	
1032-401-53-021-0-1201-5-0739-00-00	SPEC ED - EQUIPMENT	15,000	2,200	15,000	10,000	(5,000)	
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION		\$4,970,865	\$ 4,739,856	\$ 5,685,383	\$ 5,830,246	\$ 144,863	
2101-401-53-021-4-1201-5-0341-00-00	IDEA B- PROPORTIONATE SHARE EXP	\$ -	\$ 325	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2101-401-53-021-4-1202-5-0611-00-00	IDEA B PROP SHARE SUPPLIES	5,806	344	5,806	5,806	-	
TOTAL PROPORTIONATE SHARE		\$ 5,806	\$ 669	\$ 5,806	\$ 5,806	\$ -	
2101-401-53-021-4-1201-5-0562-00-00	IDEA B - TUITION	\$ 300,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2101-401-53-021-4-1201-5-0611-00-00	IDEA B - DIRECT INSTR SUPPLIES	-	1,962	-	-	-	
TOTAL 1202 IDEAB		\$ 300,500	\$ 1,962	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY21-22 ACTUALS	FY22-23 APPROVED	FY23-24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES
1032-401-53-021-0-2140-5-0111-000-00	SPEC ED - PSYCH SRVCS SALARY	\$ 229,606	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	RC STAFF WAS HERE
1032-401-53-021-0-2140-5-0211-000-00	SPEC ED - PSYCH HEALTH INS	86,053	-	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2140-5-0220-000-00	SPEC ED - PSYCH EMPLOYER TAXES	17,565	-	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2140-5-0233-000-00	SPEC ED - PSYCH RETIREMENT	14,350	-	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2140-5-0271-000-00	SPEC ED - PSYCH WORKERS COMP	1,584	-	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2140-5-0281-000-00	SPEC ED - PSYCH DENTAL INS	1,760	-	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2140-5-0341-000-00	SPEC ED - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	572,280	303,868	350,000	350,000	-	Clara Martin Classroom Case Managers
TOTAL 2140 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES		\$ 923,198	\$ 303,868	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -	
2101-401-53-021-4-2140-5-0344-000-00	IDEA B - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$ -	\$ 109,141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL 2141 PSYCHOLOGICAL		\$ -	\$ 109,141	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0111-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP SALS	\$ 300,780	\$ 241,729	\$ 318,396	\$ 260,442	\$ (57,954)	2.8 FTE SLP & 1.0 SLP AIDE
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0211-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP HEALTH INS	61,158	40,911	78,162	60,480	(17,682)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0219-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP HRA	12,800	6,677	14,900	10,300	(4,600)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0220-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP EMPLOYER TAXES	20,352	17,146	24,357	19,924	(4,433)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0292-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP LIFE INS	304	571	305	253	(52)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0233-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP RETIREMENT CONTR	18,798	2,817	3,066	2,989	(77)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0271-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP WORKERS COMP	1,836	-	828	1,953	1,125	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0251-00-00	SPEC ED - PROF DEV	5,200	1,121	5,200	4,000	(1,200)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0281-00-00	SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	2,200	1,616	2,103	1,743	(359)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0294-00-00	SPEC ED - DISABILITY	782	-	828	677	(151)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0341-00-00	SPEC ED- SLP CONTRACTED SERVICES	35,000	47,151	20,000	20,000	-	
2101-401-53-021-4-2152-5-0341-00-00	IDEA B BASIC-SLP CONSULTING	-	50,249	-	-	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0581-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP TRAVEL	3,000	1,810	2,500	2,500	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0611-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP SUPPLIES	3,000	862	1,500	1,500	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2152-5-0811-00-00	SPEC ED - SLP DUES & FEES	1,000	773	1,000	1,000	-	
TOTAL SPEECH SERVICES		\$ 466,210	\$ 413,433	\$ 473,145	\$ 387,762	\$ (85,383)	
2101-401-53-021-4-2152-5-0111-00-00	IDEA B - SPEECH SALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2101-401-53-021-4-2152-5-0211-00-00	IDEA B - SPEECH HEALTH INS	-	-	-	-	-	
2101-401-53-021-4-2152-5-0220-00-00	IDEA B - EMPLOYER TAXES	-	-	-	-	-	
2101-401-53-021-4-2152-5-0281-00-00	IDEA B - SPEECH DENTAL INS	-	-	-	-	-	
2101-401-53-021-4-2152-5-0294-00-00	IDEA B - SPEECH DISABILITY INS	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL IDEA B SPEECH		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0111-00-00	SPEC ED - OT SALARIES	\$ 196,336	\$ 131,830	\$ 210,905	\$ 135,441	\$ (75,464)	1.8 FTE OTS
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0211-00-00	SPEC ED - OT HEALTH INS	50,770	41,106	47,697	37,109	(10,588)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0219-00-00	SPEC ED - HRA	15,400	9,219	10,500	8,400	(2,100)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0220-00-00	SPEC ED - OT EMPLOYER TAXES	15,020	9,526	16,134	10,361	(5,773)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0292-00-00	SPEC ED - OT LIFE INS	970	99	-	127	127	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0233-00-00	SPEC ED - OT EMPER RETIREMENT	12,271	7,448	5,513	8,804	3,290	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0271-00-00	SPEC ED - OT WORKERS COMP	1,356	-	548	1,016	468	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0261-00-00	SPEC ED - OT UNEMPLOYMENT INS	1,356	418	243	122	(122)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0294-00-00	SPEC ED - DISABILITY	511	-	548	352	(196)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0251-00-00	SPEC ED - OT PROF DEV	3,000	500	3,000	2,000	(1,000)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0281-00-00	SPEC ED - OT DENTAL INS	1,305	1,031	1,692	855	(837)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0341-00-00	SPEC ED - OT CONTRACTED SERVICES	15,000	40,689	15,000	15,000	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0581-00-00	SPEC ED - OT TRAVEL	3,000	604	1,500	1,500	-	
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0611-00-00	SPEC ED - OT SUPPLIES	2,000	1,037	1,000	1,000	-	
2101-401-53-021-4-2160-5-0341-00-00	IDEA B OT CONTRACTED SERVICES	-	15,681	-	-	-	

ACCOUNT CODE	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY21-22 BUDGET	FY21-22 ACTUALS	FY22-23 APPROVED	FY23-24 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES
1032-401-53-021-0-2160-5-0739-00-00	SPEC ED - OT EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST		\$ 318,295	\$ 259,186	\$ 314,281	\$ 222,086	\$ (92,194)	
1032-401-53-021-0-2190-5-0341-00-00	SPEC ED - OTHER SUPPORT SERV	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2101-401-53-021-4-2190-5-0341-00-00	IDEA B SUPPORT SERVICES	-	197,626	-	-	-	
TOTAL OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES		\$ 10,000	\$ 197,626	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1032-401-53-021-2213-5-0341-00-00	SPEC ED - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAININGS	\$ 36,000	\$ 20,673	\$ 45,000	\$ 25,000	\$ (20,000)	
2101-401-53-021-4-2213-5-0341-00-00	IDEA B - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAININGS	-	15,180	-	-	-	
TOTAL STAFF TTRAINING/CURRICULUM		\$ 36,000	\$ 35,853	\$ 45,000	\$ 25,000	\$ (20,000)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0141-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN SALS	\$ 110,250	\$ 94,165	\$ 97,760	\$ 98,500	\$ 740	1.0 FTE
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0121-00-00	SPEC ED - SUPPORT SALS	98,739	50,000	78,932	53,642	(25,289)	1.0 FTE
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0211-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN HEALTH INS	46,057	43,178	39,876	29,231	(10,645)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0219-00-00	SPEC ED-HRA OOP COST	10,500	7,169	8,600	8,400	(200)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0219-00-00	SPEC ED - HRA ADMIN	370	-	370	370	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0220-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN EMPLOYER TAXES	15,988	10,623	13,517	11,639	(1,878)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0292-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN LIFE INS	364	249	364	317	(47)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0233-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN RETIREMENT CONTR	7,054	3,125	7,025	5,487	(1,538)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0271-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN WORKERS COMP	1,442	-	595	1,141	546	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0261-00-00	SPEC ED - UNEMPLOYMENT	1,442	600	243	122	(122)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0251-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN PROF DEV	6,000	945	6,000	2,000	(4,000)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0281-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN DENTAL INS	1,305	1,306	1,741	951	(790)	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0312-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN CHILD FIND	500	304	500	500	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0341-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN CONTR SERVICES	7,000	10,241	5,000	5,000	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0343-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN LEGAL SERVICES	6,000	675	5,000	5,000	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0431-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN REPAIRS/MAINT	500	-	500	500	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0533-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN PHONE	1,000	-	-	-	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0541-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN ADVERTISING	-	338	-	-	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0581-00-00	SPEC ED ADMIN - MILEAGE	6,000	-	-	-	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0611-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN SUPPLIES	1,000	649	500	500	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0641-00-00	SPEC ED - ADMIN BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0739-00-00	SPEC ED - EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
1032-211-53-021-0-2490-5-0811-00-00	SPEC ED - DUES & FEES	2,000	2,129	2,000	2,000	-	
TOTAL SPECIAL ED ADMINISTRATION		\$ 323,511	\$ 225,695	\$ 268,523	\$ 225,300	\$ (43,223)	
2101-401-53-021-4-2510-5-0913-00-00	IDEA B - INDIRECT COST	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
TOTAL 2500 CENTRAL SERVICES		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	
1032-211-53-021-0-2711-5-0519-00-00	SPEC ED - CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	\$ 365,750	\$ 376,830	\$ 385,000	\$ 424,500	\$ 39,500	Butler Contract & Parent Mileage
TOTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION		\$ 365,750	\$ 376,830	\$ 385,000	\$ 424,500	\$ 39,500	
2101-401-53-021-4-2711-5-0519-00-00	IDEA B - TRANSPORTATION	\$ 200,000	\$ 119,997	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ -	Butler Extra Services/Contracted
2102-401-01-021-4-2711-5-0519-00-00	IDEA B PREK TRANSPORTATION	-	7,719	-	-	-	
2025-401-01-011-0-2711-5-0519-00-00	EEE TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL 2711 TRANSPORTATION		\$ 200,000	\$ 127,716	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ -	
TOTAL WRVSU SPECIAL EDUCATION		\$8,110,750	\$ 7,015,110	\$ 7,844,018	\$ 7,784,076	\$ (59,941)	

-0.76%

SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUE					
	FY22	FY22	FY23	FY24	DIFFER-
	Budget	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	ENCE
	\$8,110,750	\$ 7,015,110	\$ 7,844,018	\$ 7,784,076	\$ (59,942)
Act 73 Census Block Grant (NEW FY23)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,279,465	\$ 3,606,573	\$ 327,108
Expenditure Reimbursement (56.35% of Eligible)	3,346,172	2,566,567	-	-	-
Extra Ordinary Reimbursement					
(Excess of \$63,000/per student)	340,110	640,282	1,375,594	933,500	(442,094)
Block Grant	632,342	632,342	-	-	-
Local Share Contribution of Block Grant	421,561	-	-	-	-
IDEA B Basic Flow Through	556,797	515,314	706,797	750,906	44,109
IDEA B Pre-School	13,585	10,198	26,388	29,076	2,688
EEE	136,511	136,511	136,511	146,156	9,645
IEP Medicaid	35,000	-	-	-	-
Admin Serv	-	-	-	-	-
Prior Yr Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES	\$5,482,079	\$ 4,501,215	\$ 5,524,755	\$ 5,466,211	\$ (58,544)
MEMBER TOWN ASSESSMENT	\$2,628,672	\$ 2,513,895	\$ 2,319,263	\$ 2,317,865	\$ (1,398)
TOTAL	\$8,110,750	\$ 7,015,110	\$ 7,844,018	\$ 7,784,076	\$ (59,942)
WRVSU SpEd Assessment Breakdown:	FY23	FY24			
EEE NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED	\$28,980.13	\$ 13,143.96			
REGULAR SPECIAL ED SERVICES					
NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED	\$2,290,283	\$ 2,304,721			
	\$2,319,263	\$ 2,317,865			
		\$ (1,398)			

WRVSU FY24 SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

FY24 PROPOSED SpEd ASSESSMENT			\$ 2,317,865	
%	Amount	Change	FY23 %	FY23 \$
21.6%	\$ 500,659	(9,579)	22.0%	\$ 510,238
5.50%	127,483	(4,715)	5.7%	132,198
11.0%	253,806	(8,271)	11.3%	262,077
17.2%	398,673	9,037	16.8%	389,636
10.6%	246,621	779	10.6%	245,842
34.1%	790,624	11,351	33.6%	779,273
SU SpEd Only \$ 2,317,865		(1,399)	100.0%	\$ 2,319,264

WRVSU SPECIAL EDUCATION Assessment Only:	FY24 SpEd Assessment Schedule:		
	%	Amount	Monthly
FBUD	21.6%	\$ 500,659	\$ 41,722
GHUD	5.50%	127,483	10,624
RSUD	11.0%	253,806	21,151
SHARON	17.2%	398,673	33,223
STRAFFORD	10.6%	246,621	20,552
WRUD	34.1%	790,624	65,885
SU SpEd Only:		\$ 2,317,865	\$ 193,155
			\$ 2,317,865

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION**

(as of January 2023)

SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	Total
Thetford Academy	2	5	6	3	16
Hanover High School	0	2	1	1	4
Hartford High School	1	0	0	1	2
White River Valley H.S	0	1	1	1	3
Kimball Union	0	0	1	1	2
Sharon Academy	3	6	5	7	21
Total Enrollment	6	14	14	14	48

	2020-2021 Tuition Rate	2021-2022 Tuition Rate	2022-2023 Tuition Rate
Thetford Academy	\$ 19,670	\$ 19,670	\$ 20,963
Sharon Academy	16,233	16,842	18,500
Hanover High School	19,670	21,399	22,555
Hartford High School	17,200	18,900	19,500
Private Schools (state average)	16,233	16,842	17,278



Prescott farm, circa 1948

Photo courtesy Danny Prescott

Congratulations, Graduates!

~ 2022 ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Newton School

Grace Brown

Phoenix Colburn

Savannah Worth

The Sharon Academy

Amelia Bailey-Kellogg

Lucy Proulx

Thetford Academy

Kelci Daniels

Simone Prescott graduated 8th grade from Crossroads Academy in June, 2021 and was mistakenly left off the list of middle school graduates. She is now a sophomore attending Hanover High School. Congratulations, Simone!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Thetford Academy

Kiran Black

Ezekiel Colburn

Bryar Daniels

Julia Martin

Emma Moore

Jesse Sweet

The Sharon Academy

Ever Tofel

George Yunger

Hanover High School

Taj Bagnato

Kristov Bardales

Palmer Okai

Sophie Prescott

Lebanon High School

Allister MacPhail

Proctor Academy

Paul Scull

Kimball Union Academy

Sophia Bridge

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2012-13		11	15	8	17	13	15	13	20	17	125
2013-14		8	12	15	8	18	13	15	13	18	131
2014-15		14	8	11	16	10	19	14	16	12	129
2015-16	9	9	11	9	11	16	12	18	15	16	120
2016-17	8	12	9	12	9	11	16	14	17	15	120
2017-18	12	8	12	11	12	8	10	13	9	16	117
2018-19	15	10	10	14	11	13	8	10	10	9	110
2019-20	16	15	10	9	12	11	11	6	6	10	106
2020-21	16	10	13	12	11	12	9	12	4	6	105
2021-22	14	10	13	14	12	11	13	9	13	3	112
2021-22	19	16	11	13	14	12	10	14	5	11	125

Note: Reflects official October 1st student counts where available.

As of 2016-17, total includes pre-K.

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 7, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon to transact the following articles of business.

- Article 1:** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office.
- Article 2:** To hear a report of the Auditors.
- Article 3:** Shall the town appropriate \$1,353,396 to defray 2023 budget expenses?
- Article 4:** Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes?
- Article 5:** Shall the town collect taxes in two installments, as follows: one half of the total tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, September 6, 2023; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 6, 2023? Mailed payments must bear an official US Postal Service postmark dated prior to the respective due dates. Postage machine dates are not acceptable. Late taxpayers are charged at a rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months, and at a rate of 1.5% per month for each month thereafter. After a 7-day grace period ending December 13, 2023 an additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes.
- Article 6:** To elect the following officers:
- For a term of three years:*
- Selectboard member
 - Lister
 - Auditor
 - Cemetery Commissioner
 - Cemetery Commissioner
 - Trustee of Public Funds
- For a term of two years:*
- Selectboard member
 - Lister (to complete a three-year term)
 - Harris Library Trustee

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
INFORMATIONAL HEARING**

February 19, 2022

Morrill Homestead Education Center and via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am

Present: Toni Pippy, Lisa Bragg, Pat Kelly, Rett Emerson, Mary Linehan, David Grant, Aaron Dotter, Jeff Solsaa

Others participating: 91 participants via Zoom

Moderated by David Grant.

1. Moderator clarified that the purpose of the hearing was to provide adequate information about the Articles on the ballot to voters to allow for informed voting using Australian Ballot on March 1, 2022 for the Annual Town Meeting.

2. Election of Officers (Article 5). Contested vacancies were invited to speak.

- David Paganelli presented his desire to offer his services
- John Freitag presented his experience
- Brian Johnson introduced himself

Article 2: Chair presented how the 2021 budget ended up at year end, and 2022 budget highlights for general and highway funds.

Article 3: Moderator clarified the article.

Article 4: Moderator clarified the article.

Article 6: Moderator clarified the article.

Article 7: Moderator clarified the article.

Article 8: Christa Wurm presented the article, noting that the Rec Board presented the petition to include the article on the ballot at the request of Barbara and Wally Smith. Discussion about whether Town should take responsibility for maintenance of the Pocket Park.

Article 9: Selectboard presented rationale and plan for feasibility study and purchase of Tilles Property. Extensive discussion about the physical condition of the current Town Office, needs of the Town for municipal building and meeting space, the steps that would be taken if the article was adopted, the options if the article is not adopted and other options that could be considered.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Recording of the meeting is available on the Town website. A technology glitch resulted in failure to record some early sections of the hearing; however the full discussion of Article 9 was recorded.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Linehan
Recording Secretary

**OFFICIAL RESULTS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 1, 2022

Moderator, 1 year:	<u>David Grant</u>	490
Selectboard Member, 3 years:	<u>David Paganelli</u>	462
Lister, 3 years:	<u>Kerrie Bushway</u>	472
Auditor, 3 years:	<u>June Solsaa</u>	490
Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years:	<u>Sherm Wilson</u>	397
	<u>Lauri Berkenkamp</u>	96
Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years:	<u>Sarah North</u>	484
Selectboard Member, 2 years:	<u>John Freitag</u>	98
	<u>Brian Johnson</u>	421
Harris Library Trustee, 2 years:	<u>Miriam Newman</u>	494
Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 1 year:	<u>Jeanne Castro</u>	483
Agent to Deed Real Estate, 1 year:	<u>Lisa Bragg</u>	478

Article 2. Shall the town appropriate \$1,146,740 to defray 2022 budget expenses? Yes: 453; No: 53.

Article 3. Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes? Yes: 430; No: 85.

- Article 4.** Shall the town collect taxes in two installments, as follows: one half of the total tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, September 7, 2022; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 7, 2022? Mailed payments must bear an official US Postal Service postmark dated prior to the respective due dates. Postage machine dates are not acceptable. Late taxpayers are charged at a rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months, and at a rate of 1.5% per month for each month thereafter. After a 7-day grace period ending December 14, 2022 an additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes. Yes: 511; No: 12.
- Article 6.** Shall the Town vote to extend the tax-exempt status of the Barrett Hall real property for five (5) additional years? Yes: 505; No: 23.
- Article 7.** Shall the Town vote to extend the tax-exempt status of the Strafford Firemen's Association real property for five (5) additional years? Yes: 512; No: 13.
- Article 8.** Shall the Town of Strtafford place \$4,800 in the Pocket Park fund annually beginning in FY 2022 to preserve the beauty and utility of the Pocket Park now and into the future? Yes: 277; No: 243.
- Article 9.** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to purchase 7 Justin Morrill Highway (the Tilles property) for \$300,000, contingent on a feasibility study determining that the site is suitable for the Town Office? Yes: 218; No: 305.

Total Ballots: 534

SELECTBOARD REPORT

2022 saw Strafford come out of the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic and re-start some of its social, athletic and community activities. Despite erratic weather, generous and energetic townfolk built a new ice-skating rink at Varney Field, opened the rope town on Harrington Hill, held the Morrill Mini and Art Show and the 19th Century Apple and Cheese Festival, the annual Strafford Road Race between the villages, dances, concerts and craft sales, and numerous other opportunities for community joy and celebration. But COVID-19 has not disappeared and strategies to reduce incidence of new cases continue to be part of our lives. Despite State authorization to postpone or cancel in-person Town Meeting, Strafford will hold its Town Meeting in person on March 7.

Ballot Articles. At the 2023 Town Meeting, voters will decide if they want to use the Australian Ballot voting system for some or all questions at future Town Meetings, a system used by most Vermont towns. Use of Australian ballot doubles voter turnout throughout Vermont by allowing individuals to vote on the issues without requiring actual physical presence at Town Meeting; not all voters can take a day from work to participate in Town Meeting.

Additionally, the Strafford Community Nurse organization has made a request for funding to provide health and medical services to residents who may need assistance.

Town Office Business and Elections. The Town Office staff had a particularly busy year in 2022. In addition to our annual March polls, Lisa Bragg and Regina Josler managed additional state and federal elections in August and November. An audit by FEMA revealed a significant number of mandatory policy and compliance updates for application and reimbursement of federal funds, including a more stringent Conflict of Interest Policy and an upgraded Procurement Policy.

Highways. Strafford's roads are always a major focus for the Selectboard, and 2022 was no exception. Mud season was catastrophic for our gravel roads, revealing some underlying problems, including long-term deterioration in some places, and underlining the importance of investing in maintenance in coming years. The town receives limited state funding for road upkeep, so Strafford relies on grants and taxpayers to fund maintenance. COVID supply chains and worker shortages also impacted our work, delaying bridge repair and other planned repairs. Major activities this year included extensive structural repair of the neglected and damaged gravel roads, line painting on Rte. 132, painting the underbelly of the Tyson Bridge, and multiple pedestrian safety measures in the lower village. The Road Crew hired a new staff member this year, Ryan Kennedy, and PD Hardy became the Road Foreman; in May this year, Danny Prescott will complete 36 years of dedicated service to the Town. We continue to recruit

for one more Road Crew member, and like most towns in Vermont, we are struggling to find workers. However, our dedicated and versatile staff have responded to each challenge—mud season road collapse, wind and snowstorms that caused hundreds of trees to come down, and repeated all-nighters plowing and sanding and re-plowing. Shawn Ward continues to provide surge support and we are very grateful to him and the support of the numerous good neighbors who provided immediate support.

Emergency Management Services. December storms caused power and phone outages across the state—for some Strafford residents, lasting more than 5 days. Emergency Management Director, Jason Schumacher, made sure there was a warming site open, with food and water, and warm place to spend the night for those who needed it. We also learned that the generator at Barrett Hall was not reliable and have proposed purchasing a replacement in the 2023 budget. We will also re-stock our emergency food and other materials and strengthen the EMD communications system to better connect with the Fire and Highway Departments when phone service goes down.

Stanley Property. The Town took ownership of the Stanley property abutting the Elizabeth Mine in July 2022, as the result of a tax sale. Unfortunately, there is an enormous amount of waste on the property, including over 1,000 tires, a boat, building structures, a trailer, and various other materials. A case has been opened by the State against the property owner for a landfill, which increases the urgency of a clean-up. We are working on finding grant resources for the site cleanup.

Town Office. The Town Office Committee, led by Curt Albee, has made good progress on a proposed renovation of the Town Office building; a feasibility study is available on the Town website, and discussions with adjacent property owners and the Development Review Board are taking place to resolve issues associated with the limited land owned by the Town at the site.

The Rest. Other undertakings by the Selectboard and committees during the year have included significant progress toward completing the Unified Bylaws, successful resolution of a civil action against the town, updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and tracking grant opportunities from federal and state sources.

Selectboard Chair, Toni Pippy, and Mary Linehan, Vice Chair and Secretary, will step down from the board in March, Jeff Solsaa will also complete his current term; three Selectboard positions will be on the warning for this town meeting vote.

The 2022 General Fund had an end of year surplus of \$61,448, which was applied to the 2023 budget. The 2022 Highway Fund had a deficit of \$51,606 at the end of the year. The 2023 budget will benefit from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to replace Bridge 23 (see 2023 budget). We have

paid off the Highway Reconstruction Bond and the funds that were freed up have been reallocated to the necessary repairs of gravel roads. Nearly 75% of non-seasonal residences in Strafford live on gravel roads and many people faced serious challenges getting to medical appointments, school, and work during mud season. An enormous effort will be required over the next 5-10 years to get the gravel roads into shape.

As always, the Selectboard thanks the town for the opportunity to serve. This is not a job that we can do alone and want to thank the many other elected and appointed townspeople who serve as board and committee members and the many volunteers who work tirelessly for the Town. We also thank the Road Crew for their exceptional dedication to maintaining and enhancing Strafford's roads; and to Lisa and Regina for their dedication, professionalism, and expertise in keeping Strafford running smoothly, especially during this very busy year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Linehan

Toni Pippy

Jeff Solsaa

David Paganelli

Brian Johnson



Circa 1950, five generations of Prescotts

Photo courtesy Danny Prescott

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

Town meeting for 2022 was again by Australian ballot seeing a sufficient increase in voter participation because ballots were mailed to all registered voters. An article on the warning will ask voters to decide if the town should vote in the future by Australian ballot.

The Dog Clinic in March went back to normal being held at the South Strafford Fire Station and this year is scheduled for March 11, 2023.

The State of Vermont issued new voting tabulators to towns that used them in the past and provided training at Jay Peak for Regina and I before the August Election that was held in person at the Town House. For the November election, everyone received a ballot in the mail and will in the future as well. This can be voted early or brought to the Town House for in-person voting.

Since Zoom is the new normal, Regina and I have taken advantage of less travel and have attended trainings and seminars while remaining at the office. Regina attended the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association conference that was held at Lake Morey this year for a two-day training.

I applied to VLCT for a grant to replace my very old not so ergonomically friendly desk and was able to purchase a new Uplift desk that provides a better work environment. Regina just applied for the grant this year and has already been awarded \$2,500 for her replacement desk, paying just over \$300 from our budget.

This year, 2023, there are plans for a new Plat Map cabinet that is needed to store the recorded maps. Currently there is no place for about 15 maps that we have received because our current filing unit is full. We are looking and also have budgeted to get another 20 years of land records digitized to be available and accessible online through the town's website. If you're not familiar with online records, visit our website at www.straftordvt.org/town-clerk and scroll to the bottom of the page. The Listers tab also has lister cards and parcel maps online.

I have been working with the third Town Office Committee to provide a feasibility study to renovate and expand the current Town Office location. The committee has come up with a plan and what it would like and with a few more details to work out, could present it to the town later in March or April.

I must talk about Toni Pippy stepping down after eight years on the board. Toni thought out every task, researching, reading, and learning about local government and providing the best guidance to the board members. What an incredible job and an amazing amount of work she did for the Town. Toni managed the town budget over the years along with many other tasks and has helped shape our future going forward. I'll miss working with Toni

and her sense of humor, her wit, knowledge, and dedication. Now she can truly enjoy her retirement that she deserves!

Mary Linehan is also leaving the board after three years of hard work. Working with Mary was like reading a novel, so much information to share and to learn from. I'll miss Mary and the support she gave us here at the office. Always willing to listen and to advise when needed.

Jeff Solsaa, Brian Johnson, David Paganelli, thank you for all the great work and look forward to working together for another year.

Paul Hardy, Danny Prescott, and Ryan Kennedy our newest guy, what a year! Three man crew, who knew what a team you would be and the work that you accomplished last year. Together you continued to work hard and maintain our roads with a positive attitude to boot. Thank you for working with me and the constant communication that made our jobs easier.

Regina and I are going on 18 years working together and I can't figure out how we have done that. We must be doing something right! Thank you for always staying on task and doing what's necessary to provide service to our Strafford Residents!

Sincerely,

Lisa M Bragg

Town Clerk/Treasurer

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2022. Based upon our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Town of Strafford. We have found audited accounts to be consistent and well-managed.

We would like to thank Lisa Bragg, Regina Josler, the Selectboard, and other town and school officials for their continued cooperation in the auditing process and in the preparation of the Town Report.

Nellie Pennington

June Solsaa

Suzanna Liepmann

LISTERS' REPORT

The Listers maintain Strafford's Grand List, a database with descriptions of real property parcels and their assessed values, which are the basis used in determining the amount of owners' property taxes. Each year the Listers track changes in ownership and mailing addresses, property assessments and reassessments (primarily due to new construction), sales and transfers and Homestead Declaration status. We also assist the State's Division of Property Valuation and Review in annually updating and certifying the records for property enrolled in Vermont's Land Use program (Current Use). These responsibilities are performed by one contracted assessor working four hours one day a week and three elected Listers who devote about 500 hundred hours throughout the year. Unfortunately, Kerrie Bushway has for personal reasons decided to resign from her position as of Town Meeting day. Over her four years as a Lister Kerrie used her analytical and organizational skills to enhance to the Board's general operations, and her GIS training was essential in overhauling the digital parcel map (which she will continue to maintain). We hope to elect a new Lister at the Town Meeting who will serve the remaining two years of Kerrie's term in office.

This year's Grand List had 678 taxable properties assessed for \$190.3 million (\$3 million more than 2021). The town and three churches own 25 properties that are non-taxable by statute, and the properties owned by the Fireman's Association and Barrett Hall are tax-exempt by town vote. There were 169 properties (with 18,260 acres) enrolled in the Use Value Appraisal program (aka, Current Use). Despite the enrolled forests and fields accounting for about 65% of the total town area, the land value represents less than 10% of the total town assessment. Because the taxable value of enrolled land is less than it normally would be, towns receive a "hold harmless" payment from the state that is intended to compensate them for the missing tax revenue.

Each year the Department of Taxes statistically compares the value of each property sold during the last three years to its assessed value and produces the 'Common Level of Appraisal' (CLA) value. Strafford's CLA has decreased steadily since 2018 and was at 88.22% as of December, 2022 (down from 95.36% last year). When the CLA is less than 100% it means that the average sale value was more than the average assessed value, which increases our educational tax rate and has some other effects. We anticipated another reduction in our CLA this year, but the ~7% decrease was unprecedented for Strafford. Not surprisingly, the CLA of virtually all Vermont municipalities has dropped substantially during the Covid-19 pandemic due to buyers paying substantially higher than expected amounts. Many towns are worse off than Strafford, because their CLAs decreased 10 to 20% for 2022 and fell below the 85% value that triggers a mandatory town-wide reappraisal. As a result, 165 municipalities (74% of the 223 that have not recently reappraised) are now under order to reappraise. To put this into perspective, before the pandemic only about 16 municipalities were

having to reappraise each year! With Strafford now being so close to the 85% threshold, we probably must begin a reappraisal within a year or two, although the whole process likely will not be completed for at least five years.

Property owners whose primary residence is in Strafford are reminded to file a Homestead Declaration (form HS-122) each year on or before the due date for State tax returns. Most residents will also want to file the accompanying Form HI-144 to qualify for a Property Tax Credit, which can substantially reduce the amount of tax owed. Timely submission of these forms avoids taxpayers having to pay a penalty and helps the Listers and Town Clerk reduce the time and expense of sending revised tax bills.

All property owners should remember to notify the Listers if their mailing address changes, because all official Lister correspondence and tax bills are delivered by the US Postal Service. For security reasons, we require a signed change of address form be submitted to the Town Clerk (a phone or email request is not sufficient). A change of address form is available at the Town Office or can be downloaded from the Listers website.

We encourage town residents who have questions about assessments or other property-related issues to contact the Listers. Check our website (<https://www.straffordvt.org/auditors--listers>) for office hours, when you can likely get immediate assistance. Outside of office hours, the best way to contact us is by email (Listers@straffordvt.org) or you can leave a message on the office phone (765-4360).

Kerrie Bushway

Tim Denny

Tom Jacobs

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

Thank you to all of those who obtained burn permits and your dedication to fire prevention over the past year.

This year the State of Vermont had 88 days with fire danger, moderate or greater, including 31 at HIGH and 9 at VERY HIGH for at least some portion of Vermont!

The number of fires and acreage burned was below average. In 2022 there were 71 fires reported in 38 towns that burned approximately 72 acres.

Causes: Lightning-0; Campfire-4 fires 5.10 acres; Smoking-10 fires 3.30 acres; Debris Burning (brush)-32 fires 49.31 acres; Arson-1 fire 0.10 acres; Equipment use-8 fires 9.17 acres; Railroads-0; Children-1 fire 0.01 acres; and Miscellaneous-15 fires 5.11 acres.

State law requires a permit for open burning with 200' of grass, woodlands or buildings or if there is less than one inch of snow on the ground. Although no permit is required with snow cover, it is always a good idea to call if you

are going to have a large fire. If someone happens to see it and reports it, the fire department won't be called out unnecessarily. Burn permits are free of charge, call your local Fire Warden at 802-765-9920. Please remember you cannot obtain a permit by leaving a message; you must speak to the Warden because only the Fire Warden can issue fire permits.

Calvin Benjamin
Forest Fire Warden
802-765-9920

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

2022 was another year with a low number of permits. Fifteen were applied for and granted, with a sixteenth reviewed by the development review board. When a zoning permit is applied for, Regina notifies me and I respond as quickly as I can. I do however have 30 days to act on the application. After a permit is granted, it gets posted for 15 days before an applicant is supposed to start the project. So please plan ahead. I can be reached at 802-765-4514. As asked in past years, please call at reasonable hours. Zoning ordinances are available at the town clerk's office as well as at the town website.

Brian Johnson, Zoning Administrator

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

This year James Mannix again had the contract to mow and clean up the Evergreen Cemetery. Once again he and his crew did an excellent job.

Gary Kendall had the contract to mow the other cemeteries and they were looking good this fall.

Volunteers helped to clear the wood from the storm damage in the Evergreen Cemetery. More tree work is needed in the cemeteries. We had the stones broken by the blowdowns fixed by Green Valley Memorials.

We are hoping to do repairs to stones in the Robinson and Old City Falls Cemetery in the next couple of years.

Strafford Cemetery Commissioners
Andy Behrens
Alan Donohue
David Harris
Kerrie Bushway
Sherm Wilson

STRAFFORD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Strafford Development Review Board (DRB) is the quasi-judicial body in town that holds hearings for potential approval of land use applications including subdivisions, conditional use permits, variances from zoning ordinances and lot line adjustments. The DRB works with the Zoning Administrator (ZA) when building permits and other administrative decisions are not clear-cut to help clarify issues so that the proposed action supports the interests of the property owner and the Town of Strafford. The DRB also acts as a forum for the appeal of decisions of the ZA. The DRB interprets the Town Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, but does not write the ordinances. That is done by the Town Planning Commission with the Selectboard. In cases where the interpretation or intent is ambiguous, the Selectboard may seek legal counsel.

The volunteer members of the DRB are appointed by the Selectboard, as is the Zoning Administrator. Presently the DRB members are Terry Garrison, Chair, Bonnie Bergeron, Secretary & Clerk, Dan Ruml, Martha Walke and Sean Lewis. The DRB currently does not have any alternate members that could sit in on a board meeting when needed. If there is interest in learning the process and you would like to volunteer to be an alternate, please contact Lisa Bragg, the Town Clerk, at 802-765-4411. The Zoning Administrator is Brian Johnson.

The DRB meets on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at the Town Offices building in Strafford when there is business before the Board. All meetings are open to the public, and the minutes are available to the public in the Town Records.

The DRB met six times in 2022 to address business and hear applications.

Applications for Subdivisions, Conditional Use, and/or Variance are considered formally warned Hearings. Lot Line Adjustments do not require warned hearings and are now heard in front of the board not the Zoning Administrator. Decisions are publicly posted for a 15-day period to allow interested parties to appeal the decision.

In 2022, the DRB held one (1) subdivision hearing, two (2) Lot Line Adjustments and one (1) Conditional Use.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Bergeron

Clerk of the Strafford Development Review Board

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

In 2022, the Strafford Planning Commission continued its work on the Unified Bylaw. With the help of TRORC and Peter Geiger and Kyle Katz, we worked on editing the document by adding and deleting in certain areas, concentrating on housing, expanding the village centers, a new zoning district, wireless communications, subdivisions and waivers. We held a Public Forum on October 26, 2022, to review the Unified Bylaw with interested community members. Suggested changes and edits were made in the document.

The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the Strafford Unified Bylaw on January 19, 2023, to answer questions and receive additional public comment. The Planning Commission will then finalize the draft and forward it to the Selectboard for their review.

The members of the Planning Commission are Donald Graham, Chair; Michael Scanlan, Vice Chair; Greg Colling; Stuart Crocker; Chrissy Jamieson; Tom Scull; Martha Walke. There are currently two (2) vacancies on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha M. Walke, Secretary



Undated photo, with "Brookside Milk" truck

Photo courtesy Danny Prescott

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Strafford Conservation Commission (SCC) meets on the fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Morrill Homestead Education Center, 7PM unless otherwise notified.

Board members: J.T. Erbaugh (chair), Kate Bass (vice chair), Micki Colbeck (recording secretary), Anne Fayen, Steve Faccio, Mike Hebb, Greg McHugo, Courtney Potter, and Chuck Sherman.

J.T Erbaugh joined the SCC in December of 2021 and was voted chair in January 2022. Anne Fayen and Courtney Potter are new members, taking the place of David Paganelli, who stepped down to serve on the Strafford Selectboard, and of J.T Horn, who stepped down after serving for many years. The Commission is grateful to Dave and J.T. for volunteering their time and energy to Strafford's natural areas, and it is grateful to have Anne and Courtney join.

Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) grant: Micki Colbeck (recording secretary on the SCC) and Erik Reimanis (science teacher at Newton School) wrote and received a grant to plant trees along certain vulnerable spots on the Ompompanoosuc River. Eric taught riparian ecology to the students, then brought the students and some teachers out for a field day to plant saplings. Along with community members, they planted many hundreds of saplings purchased with federal ARPA money—\$4,300 for 900 trees.

Ashley Community Forest: Both towns, Sharon and Strafford, voted to accept the gift of the 256-acre parcel, given by Alliance for Vermont Communities. The selectboards in each town voted on two board members: Dave Paganelli and Annie Penfield from Strafford; Rob Stainton (Sharon Academy) and Erik Skarsten from Sharon. A fifth member was picked by the board—Michael Sacca. A draft management plan is being finalized with input from the community. Some SCC members were part of the early efforts of the Ashley Forest, but we are not now actively involved in its management.

Conservation Commission led nature hikes: The Conservation Commission, led by Mike Hebb, organized five educational hikes led by Commission members as well as Strafford citizens to familiarize residents of the Upper Valley with the Strafford Trail System and share knowledge of ferns, mosses, orchids, spring ephemerals, forestry, songbirds, and conservation history.

Social Media: Courtney Potter has volunteered to create a SCC Facebook site. Monitored by the SCC, it will be the place to find the trails, what is blooming, when the naturalist's walks will be, and more about the big wild world of Strafford. Stay tuned, for it is a work in progress.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Some SCC members attended the Hazard Mitigation plan meetings hosted by Kyle Katz from Two Rivers Ottawquechee to give input on healthy riparian floodplains and forests as a part of flood resilience.

Trees in the river: After the big blowdown this summer, we received many inquiries about what to do with trees that fall in the river. Concerning the blowdown, members of the SCC spoke with Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Vermont’s bridge inspector, and conservation biologists on the SCC. Based on these conversations, the SCC, led by Greg McHugo, drafted a letter and submitted it to the Strafford Selectboard. The SCC recommends that, unless deadwood or blowdown pose a threat to bridges, culverts, or other infrastructure, it should be left in waterways to provide habitat for fish, birds, mammals, and macroinvertebrates as well as mediate riparian erosion.

Gifts from Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC): As part of its dissolution plan, AVC is distributing money to various nonprofits that reflect their mission and the intent of their donors. The towns of Royalton, Sharon, Strafford, and Tunbridge will each receive \$6,000.

Strafford will receive \$2,000 for Environmental Education and \$2,000 for the Conservation Commission Fund. In addition, Strafford will receive black locust timber from the Ashley Forest and \$2,000 for a welcoming kiosk. This kiosk is intended to provide maps and information on Strafford’s natural areas and may include educational material on invasive species, river ecology, as well as floral and faunal inventories.

Mowing on Whitcomb Hill Scenic Overlook: The SCC, led by Mike Hebb, drafted a letter for the Selectboard to send to neighbors of the



Whitcomb Hill Scenic area about the dangers of mowing without approval. The Selectboard approved the letter and sent it.

The SCC Trails Report: The SCC, led by Trail Manager Mike Hebb and with the support of resident landowners and volunteers, manages over 30 miles of public trails. Below, Mike provides the annual Trail Report.

Strafford Trail System News for 2022

2022 was another year with a considerable number of hikers on the Strafford Trail System. This year witnessed some losses and gains, but the system continues to contain approximately 30 miles of public trails. Our trails are maintained by volunteers; this is a community supported resource. Thanks to over 40 landowners who allow public access to their properties, and to the 12 trail maintenance workers. Whitcomb Hill is mowed annually thanks to Shawn Ward and Mary Louise Pierson. Without this level of generosity, the trails couldn't exist. I would like to relay to the landowners and trail crew the many expressions of appreciation I've received from the community about the quality and accessibility of our trails.

Naturalists gravitate to the Cobb Town Forest to see the many spring ephemerals and unusual plant communities. From bear signs to the rare lichens and ferns— all can be found here. There is a new boardwalk into the patch of yellow lady slippers, which is greatly appreciated, for this area is very boggy.

Skiers, bikers, and hikers enjoy traveling the ridgelines of Strafford for the views and exercise they provide. The newest trail in Taylor Valley is called the Hemenway Ledges Trail. It is a real beauty. The new parking area at the Alger Brook access to Whitcomb Hill often has cars at 5AM for those sunrise hikers.

We had to call in some outside volunteers to help with the blow downs from recent damaging winds. Thank you to them, as well. There has been little other natural damage and no reported human issues of concern except for some machinery trespassing on Whitcomb Hill.

Free maps of all 30 miles of trail are available at Coburn's Store and the Town Office. More details and maps can be found at straffordtrails.yolasite.com and on the town website.

Respectfully submitted,
Strafford Conservation Commission
board members

*Opposite: A view of the Prescott farm
Undated photo courtesy Danny Prescott*

ASHLEY COMMUNITY FOREST

In January 2022, the towns of Strafford and Sharon took possession of the 256.4-acre Ashley Community Forest as a gift from the local nonprofit Alliance for Vermont Communities. In addition to the gift of land, the Alliance for Vermont Communities provided a \$20,000 cash payment to seed a long-term management fund for the forest.

The Selectboards of both towns each appointed two members to the Ashley Community Forest Board. In Strafford, the appointments were Annie Penfield for a term of 3 years and David Paganelli for a term of 2 years. The Sharon Selectboard appointed Rob Stainton for a term of 3 years and Erik Skarsten for a term of 2 years. The four appointed Board members met for the first time on March 30, 2022 and chose Michael Sacca of Tunbridge as the fifth “at large” Board member with a 3-year term. As President of the Alliance for Vermont Communities, Michael was instrumental in the purchase of the forest and shepherded its transition to municipal ownership. Together, the Ashley Community Forest Board has worked to set in motion a positive vision of community forest ownership and to build lasting conservation relationships in our four-town area and beyond.

Much of 2022 has involved discussions and field tours with local and regional experts to define future management objectives and strategies. The Ashley Community Forest Board has drafted a 10-year Forest Stewardship Plan that balances forestry, wildlife habitat, ecological reserves, recreation, and education. In October 2022 we held a public meeting to solicit input on the plan and the Board accepted written input through November. The Stewardship plan is currently in the final stage of revision before being submitted to the Vermont Land Trust and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for final approval.

While the bulk of our time this year was taken up with development of the Forest Stewardship Plan, we also sponsored several programs and events at the forest, including a celebration and walking tours.

During October 2022, volunteers from both towns cut several black locust trees at the forest. Black locust is a very rot-resistant wood. The logs were pulled to the landing with a volunteer’s tractor and sawn into posts for kiosks to be built at the Ashley Community Forest, at the neighboring Manning Farm Trail and others to be built on town land in Royalton, Sharon and Tunbridge. Additional black locust was provided to the Strafford Townhouse Advisory Committee to be sawn into timbers that are expected to be used in the restoration of the bell tower of the historic Strafford Townhouse. The Ashley Community Forest Board and the Alliance for Vermont Communities partnered to pay the minor costs of sawing the lumber and all wood was donated to the towns of Strafford, Sharon, Royalton, and Tunbridge to contribute to these worthwhile community projects.

At the end of December 2022, the Alliance for Vermont Communities donated an additional \$17,169 to the Ashley Community Forest management fund.

During 2023, the goals for the forest are to implement pre-commercial forest stand improvement (crop tree release), initial treatment of invasive plants (handpulling by volunteers), boundary marking, taking stock of the existing trails and look for ways to improve them, building a short section of trail on the north end of the forest and exploring grants for an informational kiosk, and composting toilet. In addition, we plan to host a variety of outdoor programs for the public. There may be potential to harvest black locust in a commercial timber sale in stand 3.

The Ashley Community Forest is a self-supporting forest. Volunteers do most of the work at the forest (mowing, trail construction and maintenance, invasive plant treatment, boundary maintenance, forest stand improvement) and annual ownership costs are expected to be sustained by periodic timber sale revenue, donations and grants. Discussions are underway to plan annual fundraisers that will supplement the Ashley Community Forest management fund. If you would like to support the Ashley Community Forest, either by volunteering your time or by making a donation, please contact the Ashley Community Forest Board at ashleycommunityforest@gmail.com. Thank you to the citizens of Strafford and Sharon for your ongoing support of this wonderful community resource.

Ashley Community Forest Board meetings are open to the public. Meetings occur on the second Thursday of each month and alternate between Strafford and Sharon locations.

Respectfully Submitted by the
Ashley Community Forest Board:

David Paganelli
Annie Penfield
Michael Sacca
Erik Skarsten
Rob Stainton

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Strafford experienced a number of storm events in 2022 that caused extended losses of power for at least part of town. Two of these storms prompted the opening of emergency warming shelters, providing a couple dozen town residents with water, warming stations, and overnight shelter. The Strafford emergency management director (EMD) coordinated with the state emergency management center and the Selectboard in opening these shelters.

An inventory of town emergency resources began in 2021 and was completed in 2022. Based on this inventory and an assessment of the town's emergency management needs, the EMD requested funds from the Selectboard to purchase emergency supplies and equipment.

A scheduled and statutory review of the town Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) was completed in 2022 by a committee of town residents. The committee is grateful to Kyle Katz from Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission, who was instrumental in this process. As of the writing of this report, the LHMP is under review by the state emergency management department.

It's also important to acknowledge the efforts of Strafford Fire and Rescue, our town clerk's office, our Selectboard, our constable, our road crew, and each other in keeping the town of Strafford as safe as possible. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and care.

Jason Schumacher
Strafford Emergency Management Director.



Circa 1963

Photo courtesy Danny Prescott

STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

The Strafford Recreation Board continues to use our mission to guide us in our work: The Strafford Recreation Board believes that recreation is critical to a healthy mind and body and that recreation enriches our community and our connection to one another.

With that in mind, the goal of the Strafford Recreation Board is to ensure we have well-maintained town recreation facilities and encourage outdoor recreation for all ages.

The Rec Board itself is made up of volunteers who often don't have the expertise or time to run programs, however we encourage others to make things happen!

Summer 2022 saw the continuation of soccer camp in June, tennis lessons in July, which turned into pickleball lessons and a league, and Art Camp in August, and all were well attended. The Rec Board fully expects these programs to continue in summer 2023. The skating rink was resurrected this year over at Varney field by a group of parents just in time for the cold weather this winter.

The Recreation Board continues to hold occasional "red barn" dates for the community to borrow or turn in used athletic equipment. In case you are not aware, there is an equipment exchange area inside the red barn, which is primarily used for sports equipment like skis, skates and helmets, with a few odds and ends from other sports as well as limited medical equipment like crutches, wheel chairs and temporary beds. Please note that this space is not pure public access, as the general public often places items in there that can't be used or that clutter the space. It is imperative that you work with a rec board member for access to get equipment out or to donate equipment that you no longer need, as we now have a new combination lock.

The tennis courts saw very heavy use this summer for many uses outside of tennis. The Rec Board is working on a use policy because we have had some damage to the courts that we believe is caused by some type of wheeled equipment. We are working to resurface the court to fix the damaged areas, and also to add some pickleball lines. Along the lines of the previous paragraph, we ask that those who use the tennis court area for other purposes treat the area well so that the court surface will last for many years. We request that NO wheeled vehicles use the tennis courts. Instead, head across the street to the skatepark!

The temporary skatepark had a soft opening this summer. We blocked off the back half of the park and ride lot to test usage. We plan to keep this spot open for summer 2023 to determine whether we want to pursue putting in a permanent skatepark in town. Please use wheeled vehicles in this area only and not on the tennis courts.

After approval from the town, the Board hired a lead gardener, Anne Fayen, who is responsible for overall management of the Pocket Park during the growing season. Anne has been a blessing to work with, and has continued the fabulous work started by Barbara and Wally Smith. In addition to regular upkeep, the lead gardener is working to replace dying trees, update the long-term management plan and also make plans for better river access.

We encourage all community members to join the board or attend meetings. We always welcome new ideas as well as bodies to help maintain and improve recreational opportunities in the town. We meet regularly on the second Monday of the month at the Justin Morrill Homestead in winter, and outdoors at the rec field during the warmer months.

The board also would like to formally recognize the long-time membership and work of Dave Taplin, who recently resigned to make room for our newest member, Ed Huang. Dave will still stay involved with the Rec Board but won't be a formal member going forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Linehan, Co-Chair
Jason Loomis, Co-Chair
Christa Wurm, member
Leslie Berger, member
Ed Huang, member

THE TOWN HOUSE ADVISORY GROUP

The mission of the Town House Advisory Group is to advise the Selectboard on policies and means of raising revenue for the purpose of using, maintaining, and preserving the historic Strafford Meeting House, and to implement such related procedures as approved by the Selectboard.

The Town House is used for a variety of events including Town Meeting, voting, musical concerts, seminars, weddings, Newton School graduation, memorial services and promotional events for the building itself.

This was the twelfth year of pursuing our mission as the Town House Advisory Group. We currently have a core group of 6 official members plus the Overseer, Paul Kifner. If you would like to be on our email list to follow our activity, please provide me with your address. Our activities are

posted on the Strafford website: www.straffordvt.org/town-house. Anyone interested in participating is welcome.

This past year, due to the continued pandemic, we had limited events but more than the year before. This past year we had 10 events in the Town House.

Several maintenance projects were undertaken in 2022. A new railing was installed on the belfry replacing the old unstable one that had been in place for around 40 years. This job was done by one of the master timber framers, Mike Cotroneo, who worked on the Spire Project in 2018. We also did some considerable grounds improvement thanks to the efforts of Dave Taplin and other THAG board members. We moved the path to the backhouse further away from where the snow slides off the roof, provided mulched areas around each of the large maple trees, improved the drainage so gravel would stay away from the paved driveway and did several improvements to the health of the lawn. Despite the setbacks during these past three years, the Town House is still being well taken care of.

This past year the Town House is the recipient of The David K. Brown Fund. David created this endowment to be used for the preservation, maintenance or restoration projects which maintain the historical character of the Strafford Town House. This is a huge boost for our efforts to continue our mission thanks to David's bequest. We are grateful for his generosity.

We are looking forward to a more eventful year of activity starting with the resumption of Town Meeting.

I would like to thank our town Selectboard and all the people in our community for the support they have given us to do our job.

If you have questions about plans for the Town House or if you would like to help support our efforts with a contribution, please contact Rocky Fuller at rockwellfuller@gmail.com or call the Town Clerk's office at 802 765-4411.

Respectfully submitted,
Rocky Fuller
Town House Advisory Group Chair

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Strafford Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC) advocates preserving and protecting Strafford's history and culture.

The preservation of the 'Pennock Barn' on Pennock Road, considered to be the oldest barn in Strafford, is on the SHPC agenda for preservation. SHPC hopes to continue work with the owner on grants opportunities through Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Preservation Trust of Vermont.

South Strafford village can now begin the process to be listed on the National Historic Register. Other Strafford districts for nomination also include, but are not limited to, Old City, the Robinson District on Fay Brook Road, and Camp Kokosing/Thoreau in Miller Pond.

Respectfully submitted,
Silas Treadway, President
Andersen Thorp, Clerk
David Taplin
Tim Utt



Richard Moses, Jim Durkee and David Harris in front of a barn built in 1974 in Connecticut, one of many structures built throughout New England by Huntington Farm Buildings.

Photo courtesy David Harris

STRAFFORD ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

In March 2020 at Town Meeting, the voters of Strafford resolved to work together to reach net-zero in greenhouse-gas emissions for the whole town by 2030. To meet this commitment, the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee (SECC) serves as an advisor for the citizens and the municipality of Strafford, and we provide ongoing assessment of Strafford's progress in adoption of restorative and renewable policies and practices. As a committee and a town, we must constantly ask: Are we doing what we need to do to reach that goal of net-zero energy use by 2030 or not, and if not, why not?

In keeping with our Town Meeting resolution and Vermont's statewide goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050, the SECC's activities for this past year have included the following activities and actions:

We worked closely with the Strafford Selectboard and the Intramunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) at the Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission. See www.trorc.org/programs/energy/ and also a summary from Geoff Martin in this Town Report. David Lutz is our committee's representative on the IREC steering committee.

We coordinated the new 150kW Community Solar Electric project on Alger Brook Road. This array will provide renewable solar power to twenty-one households, twelve of which are in Strafford or South Strafford. The project will also provide partial ownership of the Strafford Community Solar, LLC for its member-consumers. Those who do not have sufficient solar exposure at their homes or who want to add more solar to supply cold-climate heat pumps and electric vehicles will benefit from this renewable electricity installation. We hope to have the system up and running in the second quarter of 2023.

We contributed language to Strafford's updated Hazardous Mitigation Plan regarding strategies for minimizing water usage during periods of drought.

We provided commentary and recommendations to the Ashley Community Forest Committee's Management Plan, for instance in reference to non-chemical mitigation of invasives and the benefits of restraint in harvesting timber.

At each of our monthly meetings, we have a legislative and state-government update prepared by committee member Susan Hodges.

We hosted displays and demonstrations of non-polluting yard and garden tools at the Recycling center and Independence Day festivities.

We offered a driving demonstration of a Ford Lightning Electric Truck.

We have undertaken an ongoing assessment of energy and transit use in our town, including electric vehicle (EV) use in Strafford, which has increased from twelve EVs in 2018 to twenty-three in 2020.

We worked with the Intramunicipal Energy Coordinator (IREC) to explore potential energy savings for the town garage.

The Energy and Climate Committee page on the Strafford town website has been updated with helpful information and links to organizations that can provide services and financial assistance for your energy-saving and cash-saving projects: www.straffordvt.org/energy-commission/.

We will continue to review and update the town's Enhanced Energy Plan, as part of the overall Town Plan, to gauge our progress toward our town's goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

We meet (currently remotely by web-video) on the second Tuesday of each month, and we welcome your questions, ideas, and eagerness to volunteer. You can reach us at: energy@straffordvt.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorian Yates, Chair
Jim Schley, Secretary
Doc Bagley
Matt Christie
Susan Hodges
David Lutz
Susan Tiholiz
Jenevra Wetmore



INTERMUNICIPAL REGIONAL ENERGY COORDINATOR

The Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) program, hosted by the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), is a collaboration among seven towns designed to lessen overall energy use, lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and move to renewable generation of electricity. Strafford joined the IREC program in 2020, the program's first year, and thanks to the ongoing support of Strafford residents and the Selectboard, Strafford has continued its participation through 2022. The program is guided by an IREC Steering Committee, made up of one representative from each of the seven towns. David Lutz, member of the Strafford Climate and Energy Committee, serves as Strafford's representative.

The Climate Emergency Declaration, passed by Strafford voters in 2020 with a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2030, has been at the heart of much of the IREC work. This past year, the IREC submitted an application for the EPA's Clean School Bus Program to fund all-electric school buses that would serve local students. The White River Supervisory Union was selected, and an all-electric school bus will soon be serving Strafford students and bringing the town closer to achieving its energy goals.

The SECC and I partnered with Vermont Law School's Energy Clinic to develop a community solar array in Strafford. The array is fully subscribed and is currently under construction with an estimated completion time of early next year. When the array begins operating, it will result in a reduction of approximately 613 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. This is the equivalent of taking 132 cars off the road.

The IREC identified an opportunity to work with Dartmouth graduate engineering students to design a renewable heating system at the Town Garage. These designs were developed at no cost, and can inform future heating system recommendations.

Since municipal operations make up only a small fraction of the GHG emissions in most towns, including Strafford, the IREC worked with the IREC Steering Committee on an IREC Climate Action Plan (CAP) to address community-wide emissions. The CAP is designed to be action-oriented, establishing a work plan for the IREC and town energy committees on an annual basis to help move our communities to clean, renewable sources of energy that operate at lower cost.

*Opposite: Read, Essie, Beth, and Bea Perkins,
horse riders extraordinaire*

Photo courtesy David Harris

The Steering Committee has established two working groups to collaborate on several actions from the CAP: the Climate Action for Individuals (CAFI) working group and the Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) working group. The CAFI working group has been compiling pre-existing resources on climate-friendly practices for individuals and businesses. These resources are housed on a website that can be shared with towns, energy committees, and residents. The RBES has been developing a list of actions towns can take to encourage or require cleaner, more efficient housing, with the goal of sharing this information with Planning Commissions and Selectboards.

Finally, Geoff Martin, who has served as the first IREC, has stepped down to accept another position. TRORC has filled the position and the new IREC will be assuming the role in February.

TRORC would like to thank David Lutz, the Selectboard, and the residents of Strafford for making the IREC program possible.

Sincerely,

The Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator,
TRORC



Read, Essie, Beth, and Bea Perkins, 1968.

Photo courtesy David Harris

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2021, 2022, and Proposed 2023

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
GENERAL FUND Revenue					
Taxes/Fund Balance					
Balances Forward	\$ 32,154	\$ 70,336	\$ 70,336	\$ -	\$ 61,448 ^a
Current Taxes	364,779	353,831 *	415,270	61,439	402,822
Taxes/Fund Balance Total	\$ 396,933	\$ 424,167	\$ 485,606	\$ 61,439	\$ 464,270
Governmental					
ARPA Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,250
PILOT/Fish and Game Tax	21,822	21,822	22,074	252	22,074
State of Vermont Hold Harmless	137,049	137,049	129,235	(7,815)	129,047
Governmental Total	\$ 158,871	\$ 158,871	\$ 151,309	\$ (7,562)	\$ 179,371
Interest					
1% Interest on First Payment	\$ 2,074	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,888	\$ 488	\$ 1,400
Delinquent Tax Interest	13,664	10,000	5,925	(4,075)	10,000
Interest	384	400	374	(26)	400
Interest Total	\$ 16,122	\$ 11,800	\$ 8,187	\$ (3,613)	\$ 11,800
Penalty					
Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ 12,112	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,051	\$ 51	\$ 9,000 ^b
Penalty Total	\$ 12,112	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,051	\$ 51	\$ 9,000

* - \$4,800 budget increase approved separately during Town Meeting 2021 in Article 8

a - Balance Forward uses a surplus from a prior year to offset taxes and/or represents spending from reserves

b - Delinquent Tax Penalty represents the 8% delinquent penalty, and is paid to the Delinquent Tax Collector

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
Fees Total					
Dog License Fees	\$ 1,540	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,725	\$ 225	\$ 1,500
Dog Violation Fees	20	200	440	240	200
Liquor License Fees	185	185	70	(115)	70
Other Fees for Services	2,445	3,750	3,044	(706)	3,650
Recording Fees	13,831	13,000	10,569	(2,431)	12,000
Recording Surcharge	5,014	4,000	3,906	(94)	3,500
Subdivision Permit Fees	1,100	1,200	450	(750)	1,200
Zoning Permit Fees	1,190	1,500	1,240	(260)	1,500
Fees Total	\$ 25,325	\$ 25,335	\$ 21,444	\$ (3,891)	\$ 23,620
Grants					
Miscellaneous Grants	5,964	1,649	2,500	851	-
Parcel Mapping	\$ 5	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ -
Equal Education Grand List	706	-	707	707	-
State of Vermont Reappraisal Fund	6,001	6,600	6,010	(591)	6,010
Grants Total	\$ 12,676	\$ 8,249	\$ 9,218	\$ 969	\$ 6,010
Donations					
Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	-
Donations - Pocket Park	733	-	592	592	-
Donations - Town House	13,729	500	140	(360)	500
Donations - Tennis Court	5,000	-	-	-	-
Donations - Dogs	6	-	16	16	-
Town House Usage	750	1,200	2,750	1,550	2,500
Donations Total	\$ 20,218	\$ 1,700	\$ 3,998	\$ 2,298	\$ 3,000
Miscellaneous					
Evergreen Cemetery	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	4,415	4,000	3,571	(429)	4,000
Recycling Revenue	4,372	3,000	930	(2,070)	3,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 8,937	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,501	\$ (2,499)	\$ 7,000

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn Fund	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ 28,400	\$ 28,400	\$ -
Conservation Commission	-	-	6,000	6,000	-
Conservation Trails	4,375	-	-	-	-
Energy Committee	2,710	-	-	-	-
Recreation Revenue	220	1,000	500	(500)	1,000
Independent Committees Total	16,305	1,000	34,900	33,900	1,000
GENERAL FUND Total Revenue	\$ 667,498	\$ 647,122	\$ 728,214	\$ 81,092	\$ 705,071
GENERAL FUND Expenses					
Administration					
Select Board Salary	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ -	\$ 3,750
Select Board Expenses	327	515	249	266	515
Select Board Assistant	7,892	8,277	8,284	(7)	-
Grant Manager	-	-	-	-	30,000
Town Clerk/Treasurer	44,720	46,905	46,941	(36)	-
Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer	37,127	42,455	39,565	2,890	-
Clerk & Treasurer Office	-	-	-	-	102,397
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	27,607	27,607	27,699	(92)	28,711
Municipal Retirement	4,262	4,916	4,672	244	5,113
Social Security Tax	8,330	10,376	8,591	1,785	10,663
Unemployment Insurance	796	752	752	-	875
Workers' Compensation	1,370	1,277	1,277	0	1,521
Property & Liability Insurance	10,192	9,049	9,049	0	11,682
Financial Services	2,171	6,300	64	6,236	6,300
Administration Total	\$ 148,544	\$ 162,178	\$ 150,893	\$ 11,286	\$ 201,527

c - These committees function independently and revenues are moved to their respective reserve funds

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
General Services					
Town Office	\$ 23,022	\$ 22,150	\$ 24,416	\$ (2,266)	\$ 39,300
VLCT Dues	2,433	2,433	2,459	(26)	2,539
Town Meeting & Elections	1,724	3,500	2,670	830	2,000
Town Report	2,979	3,000	2,748	252	3,000
Auditing	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
Outside Audit/Professional Services	2,900	4,000	2,630	1,370	4,000
Delinquent Tax Collector Salary	11,751	9,000	9,144	(144)	9,000
Listers	4,597	4,600	4,941	(341)	6,815
Lister Contract Services	14,511	14,649	14,599	50	14,700
Parcel Mapping	35	-	-	-	-
Police Services	22,513	25,500	25,357	143	25,500
Dog Officer	1,814	2,000	1,928	72	2,000
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	51,000	61,100	61,100	-	67,105
Emergency Management	-	10,150	7,532	2,618	15,500
Ambulance Service	50,508	53,606	53,606	-	55,750
Solid Waste	12,288	11,740	10,940	800	10,646
Recycling	19,127	19,000	19,701	(701)	22,000
General Services Total	\$ 222,402	\$ 247,628	\$ 244,972	\$ 2,656	\$ 281,055

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
Community Services					
Adult Basic Education	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
Capstone Community Action	300	300	300	-	300
Clara Martin Center/OCMH	2,700	2,700	2,700	-	2,700
Council on Aging	750	750	750	-	750
Health HUB School Clinic	500	500	500	-	500
Library	34,000	34,000	34,000	-	34,000
Orange County Restorative Justice	340	350	350	-	350
Orange County Special Investigations	1,500	1,500	1,500	-	1,500
Public Health Council	111	110	110	-	110
Red Cross	575	500	500	-	575
Safeline	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Senior Citizens Center	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Stratford Historical Society	2,500	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Streetlights	1,139	1,600	1,180	420	1,600
Vermont Center for Independent Living	200	200	200	-	200
Visiting Nurse Alliance	3,250	3,250	3,250	-	3,250
Community Services Total	\$ 52,665	\$ 53,560	\$ 53,140	\$ 420	\$ 53,635
Planning					
Development Review Board	\$ 1,132	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,100	\$ 650	\$ 1,750
Regional Planning	1,680	1,729	1,729	-	1,783
Regional Energy Coordinator	7,000	7,175	6,300	875	7,000
Town Planning	-	1,000	95	905	-
Zoning	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Planning Total	\$ 10,812	\$ 12,654	\$ 10,224	\$ 2,430	\$ 11,533
General Government					
County Tax	\$ 45,027	\$ 45,593	\$ 45,830	\$ (237)	\$ 42,376
Leaseland Rent	-	85	-	85	85
Legal Fees & Consultants	797	5,000	708	4,292	5,000
General Government Total	\$ 45,824	\$ 50,678	\$ 46,538	\$ 4,140	\$ 47,461

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Municipal Building	\$ 10,334	\$ 58,407	\$ 17,951	\$ 40,456	\$ 58,950
Tax Sale Purchase	-	22,217	\$ 22,217	0	-
Town House	11,787	13,450	18,865	(5,415)	18,600
Town House Restrooms	320	500	-	500	500
Cemeteries	5,200	10,800	9,200	1,600	16,760
Recreation Areas	1,650	6,000	2,000	4,000	6,000
Pocket Park	1,654	4,800 *	6,332	(1,532)	4,800
Municipal Property Total	\$ 30,944	\$ 116,174	\$ 76,564	\$ 39,610	\$ 105,610
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 3,014	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,480	\$ 1,520	\$ 4,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 3,014	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,480	\$ 1,520	\$ 4,000
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn	\$ 8,358	\$ -	\$ 23,189	\$ (23,189)	\$ -
Conservation Fund	52	-	-	-	-
Conservation Trails	1,942	-	-	-	-
Energy Committee	4,995.58	250	-	250	250
Independent Committees Total	\$ 15,347	\$ 250	\$ 23,189	\$ (22,939)	\$ 250
GENERAL FUND Total Expenses	\$ 529,552	\$ 647,122	\$ 607,999	\$ 39,123	\$ 705,071
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 137,946	\$ -	\$ 120,215	\$ 120,215	\$ -

* - \$4,800 budget increase approved separately during Town Meeting 2021 in Article 8

d - These committees function independently and expenses are moved from their respective reserve funds

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
HIGHWAY FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Balances Forward	\$ 149,326	\$ 196,431	\$ 196,431	\$ -	\$ 51,606 e
Current Taxes	804,827	797,680	797,680	0	950,574
Taxes Total	\$ 954,153	\$ 994,111	\$ 994,111	\$ 0	\$ 1,002,180
Governmental					
ARPA Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 290,480
Grants	221,660	246,585	53,137	(193,448)	431,940
Vermont Gas Tax	149,584	149,584	155,746	6,162	155,746
Governmental Total	\$ 371,244	\$ 396,169	\$ 208,883	\$ (187,286)	\$ 878,166
Loans					
Loan Proceeds	\$ 110,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Loans Total	\$ 110,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 11,403	\$ -	\$ 6,211	\$ 6,211	\$ -
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 11,403	\$ -	\$ 6,211	\$ 6,211	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Revenue	\$ 1,446,800	\$ 1,342,067	\$ 1,209,205	\$ (132,862)	\$ 1,880,346
HIGHWAY FUND Expenses					
Deficit Reduction					
Deficit Reduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,606
Deficit Reduction Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,606
Labor & Benefits					
Highway Department Labor	\$ 208,009	\$ 233,722	\$ 185,870	\$ 47,852	\$ 249,726
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	41,792	34,000	25,142	8,858	35,360
Municipal Retirement	9,829	12,016	8,657	3,359	14,008
Social Security Tax	15,344	17,880	14,177	3,703	12,981
Workers' Compensation	13,328	11,046	11,046	0	13,740
Labor & Benefits Total	\$ 288,300	\$ 308,664	\$ 244,893	\$ 63,771	\$ 325,815

e - Balance forward includes \$51,606 from the Equipment Reserve

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Contract Services	\$ 3,388	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,558	\$ 4,442	\$ -
Materials	2,108	3,000	7,537	(4,537)	1,500
Recycling	255	500	211	289	500
Sidewalks	11,430	9,000	9,175	(175)	-
Mowing	8,685	10,250	16,200	(5,950)	15,400
Town Garage	29,125	29,300	26,526	2,774	29,300
Municipal Roads Permit	3,571	1,590	3,655	(2,065)	2,830
Municipal Property Total	\$ 58,561	\$ 59,640	\$ 64,862	\$ (5,222)	\$ 49,530
Materials					
Chloride	\$ 4,353	\$ 12,000	\$ 8,712	\$ 3,288	\$ 12,000
Gravel	43,314	37,000	33,843	3,157	121,513
Miscellaneous Materials	9,443	20,000	4,588	15,412	20,000
Salt	51,396	65,000	47,186	17,814	55,000
Sand	31,406	33,000	37,947	(4,947)	40,000
Spring Maintenance Materials	-	-	238,938	(238,938)	-
Spring Maintenance Contract Services	256	5,000	6,674	(1,674)	-
Contract Services	6,808	12,030	12,700	(670)	18,030
Contract Services-Hauling	256	5,000	1,573	3,428	5,000
Materials Total	\$ 147,231	\$ 189,030	\$ 392,160	\$ (203,130)	\$ 271,543
Bridges					
Bridge Grant Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Bridge Contract Services	-	80,000	150,000	(70,000)	294,375
Materials	-	60,000	8,980	51,020	10,000
Bridges Total	\$ -	\$ 340,000	\$ 158,980	\$ 181,020	\$ 504,375
Paving					
Paving Grant Contract Services	\$ 128,288	\$ 98,000	\$ -	\$ 98,000	\$ 98,000
Paving Grant Expenditures	175,000	-	-	-	200,000
Retreatment	29,750	35,000	22,000	13,000	25,000
Paving Total	\$ 333,038	\$ 133,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 111,000	\$ 323,000

f - Guard rails, culverts, ditching materials, fabric, etc.

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
Grants for Public Works					
Highway Misc. Grants	\$ 86,471	\$ 51,296	\$ 58,106	\$ (6,810)	\$ 39,824
Grants for Public Works Total	\$ 86,471	\$ 51,296	\$ 58,106	\$ (6,810)	\$ 39,824
Equipment					
Capital Expense	\$ 110,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,584 ^g
Interest	19,502	16,711	17,238	(527)	12,488
Debt Service	115,656	135,248	134,623	625	108,395 ^h
Gas & Oil	45,769	55,000	70,601	(15,601)	65,000
Supplies	28,864	43,000	38,767	4,233	30,000
Insurance	9,512	9,190	9,190	(0)	11,686
Backhoe Repairs	-	3,000	7,152	(4,152)	3,000
Grader Repairs	10,574	18,000	7,696	10,304	7,500
Loader Repairs	2,052	3,000	1,785	1,215	3,000
Mower Repairs	1,622	2,000	1,935	65	2,000
Truck 1 Repairs	2,420	3,000	3,610	(610)	5,000
Truck 2 Repairs	3,730	15,000	15,196	(196)	15,000
Truck 3 Repairs	3,279	3,000	2,994	6	3,000
Truck 4 Repairs	1,885	3,000	2,256	744	3,000
Tractor Repairs	-	-	263	(263)	500
Equipment Rental	-	4,500	-	4,500	4,500
Equipment Total	\$ 354,866	\$ 313,649	\$ 313,308	\$ 342	\$ 314,653

g - Represents capital purchase + principal of lease payments for equipment; offset by Loan Proceeds when loan is received

h - Principal payments for loans

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
FEMA					
Labor	215	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Expense	24	-	-	-	-
FEMA Total	\$ 239	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 525	-	6,503	\$ (6,503)	-
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 525	\$ -	\$ 6,503	\$ (6,503)	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Expenses	\$ 1,269,231	\$ 1,395,280	\$ 1,260,811	\$ 134,469	\$ 1,880,346
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 177,569	\$ -	\$ (51,606)	\$ 1,607	\$ -
GARAGE BOND FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 43,434	\$ 41,805	\$ 41,805	\$ -	\$ 40,303
Taxes Total	\$ 43,434	\$ 41,805	\$ 41,805	\$ -	\$ 40,303
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Revenue	\$ 43,434	\$ 41,805	\$ 41,805	\$ -	\$ 40,303
GARAGE BOND FUND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000 <i>i</i>
Interest	8,434	6,805	6,805	1	5,303
Bond Total	\$ 43,434	\$ 41,805	\$ 41,805	\$ 1	\$ 40,303
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Expenses	\$ 43,434	\$ 41,805	\$ 41,805	\$ 1	\$ 40,303
Town Garage Bond Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ -

i - Principal payments for bonds; these are now recorded as expenses and borrowing as revenue

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 126,262	\$ 124,242	\$ 124,242	\$ -	\$ -
Taxes Total	\$ 126,262	\$ 124,242	\$ 124,242	\$ -	\$ -
HWY RECON BOND Total Revenue	\$ 126,262	\$ 124,242	\$ 124,242	\$ -	\$ -
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND FUND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 122,222	122,222	\$ 122,222	\$ (0)	- i
Interest	4,039	2,020	2,020	0	-
Bond Total	\$ 126,262	\$ 124,242	\$ 124,242	\$ 0	\$ -
HWY RECON BOND Total Expenses	\$ 126,262	\$ 124,242	\$ 124,242	\$ 0	\$ -
Hwy Recon Bond Grand Total	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -
<i>i - Principal payments for bonds; these are now recorded as expenses and borrowing as revenue</i>					
ARPA GRANT FUND Revenue					
Grant					
ARPA Grant Revenue	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,403	\$ 75	\$ -
Grant Total	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,403	\$ 75	\$ -
ARPA GRANT Total Revenue	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,403	\$ 75	\$ -
ARPA GRANT FUND Expenses					
ARPA Grant Expenditures					
ARPA Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 318,730
ARPA Grant Expenditures Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 318,730
ARPA GRANT Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 318,730
ARPA Grant Grand Total	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,403	\$ 75	\$ (318,730)

	2021 Actual	2022 Proposed	2022 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2023 Proposed
TOTALS					
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 137,946	\$ -	\$ 120,215	\$ 120,215	\$ -
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 177,569	\$ -	\$ (51,606)	\$ 1,607	\$ -
Town Garage Fund Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ -
Hwy Reconstr. Fund Grand Total	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ -
ARPA Grant Fund Grand Total	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,328	\$ 159,403	\$ 75	\$ (318,730)
ALL FUNDS Revenue	\$ 2,283,993	\$ 2,357,977	\$ 2,103,466	\$ (51,771)	\$ 2,625,720
ALL FUNDS Expenses	\$ 1,968,478	\$ 2,198,649	\$ 2,034,856	\$ 173,593	\$ 2,944,450
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 474,843	\$ 159,328	\$ 228,012	\$ 121,897	\$ (318,730)

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET ALL FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS

For Years Ending December 31, 2021 and 2022 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Town Garage	Hwy Reconstr.	ARPA Grant	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2022	12/31/2021
ASSETS								
Cash	\$ 1,542,247	\$ 44,689	\$ 19,783	\$ (452)	\$ 318,730	\$ 1,338,720	\$ 3,263,717	\$ 602,178
Delinquent Tax Receivable	46,420	-	-	-	-	-	46,420	65,062
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	1,384	-	-	-	-	-	1,384	1,265
Accounts Receivable	561	8,316	-	-	-	-	8,877	336,365
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,590,611	\$ 53,005	\$ 19,783	\$ (452)	\$ 318,730	\$ 1,338,720	\$ 3,320,397	\$ 1,004,869
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE								
<u>LIABILITIES</u>								
Deferred Revenue	\$ 23,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,890	\$ 46,610
Accounts Payable	1,168,858	674	-	-	-	-	1,169,531	31,087
Accrued Payroll	1,874	4,124	-	-	-	-	5,997	5,766
Prepaid Taxes	(0)	-	-	-	-	-	(0)	3,160
Due to School District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,795
Due to Tax Collector	3,553	-	-	-	-	-	3,553	4,769
Miscellaneous Liabilities	(2,001)	(271)	-	-	-	-	(2,272)	1,154
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,196,173	\$ 4,526	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200,700	\$ 142,341
<u>FUND BALANCE</u>								
Restricted (Note 3)	\$ 332,990	\$ 100,085	\$ 19,783	\$ (452)	\$ 318,730	\$ 1,338,720	\$ 2,109,855	\$ 654,528
Unrestricted	61,448	(51,606)	-	-	-	-	9,842	208,000
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 394,438	\$ 48,479	\$ 19,783	\$ (452)	\$ 318,730	\$ 1,338,720	\$ 2,119,697	\$ 862,528
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 1,590,611	\$ 53,005	\$ 19,783	\$ (452)	\$ 318,730	\$ 1,338,720	\$ 3,320,397	\$ 1,004,869

The accompanying notes are a necessary part of this financial statement.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2021 and 2022

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Town Garage Fund	Highway Recon Fund	ARPA Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2021	\$ 344,560	\$ 296,515	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 159,328
Transfers Out <i>(See Note 5)</i>	(70,336)	(196,431)	-	-	-
Revenues	728,214	1,209,205	41,805	124,242	159,403
Balances and Additions	\$ 1,002,437	\$ 1,309,289	\$ 61,587	\$ 123,790	\$ 318,730
Expenditures:	(607,999)	(1,260,811)	(41,805)	(124,242)	-
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2022	\$ 394,438	\$ 48,479	\$ 19,783	\$ (452)	\$ 318,730



*Construction of the new back barn,
after the farm was purchased by the Perkins.*

Photo courtesy David Harris

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2022

2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor/Mower

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
August 8, 2023	\$ 22,845	\$ 2,300	\$ 20,546	\$ 43,332
August 8, 2024	22,845	1,564	21,281	22,051
August 8, 2025	22,845	794	22,051	-

Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$139,153.
Mascoma Savings Bank

2019 Int'l 4400 SBA 4x2 Fire Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
April 11, 2023	\$ 38,143	\$ 7,292	\$ 30,851	\$ 171,714
April 11, 2024	38,143	6,199	31,945	139,769
April 11, 2025	38,143	5,032	33,112	106,657
April 11, 2026	38,143	3,840	34,304	72,353
April 11, 2027	38,143	2,605	35,539	36,815
April 11, 2028	38,143	1,329	36,815	-

Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$288,806.
Mascoma Savings Bank

2020 Freightliner Model 108SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
October 31, 2023	\$ 36,037	\$ 1,151	\$ 34,886	\$ -

Terms: 3.3% interest. Original amount borrowed \$168,050.
Mascoma Savings Bank

2021 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
June 30, 2023	\$ 23,760	\$ 1,760	\$ 22,000	\$ 66,000
June 30, 2024	23,320	1,320	22,000	44,000
June 30, 2025	22,880	880	22,000	22,000
June 30, 2026	22,440	440	22,000	-

Terms: 2% interest. Original amount borrowed \$110,000.
State of Vermont

For other indebtedness information, please refer to Note 6 in the "Notes to Financial Statements."

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Equipment Inventory

- 2021 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck
- 2020 Freightliner Model 108SD Dump Truck
- 2017 Ford Ton Truck with 2-way Everest Plow and MG 4-Season Side Dump 550
- 2014 Western Star 10-Wheeler with MG Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing
- 2015 John Deere 544G Loader
- 2015 John Deere 410 Backhoe
- 2021 772G John Deere Grader
- 2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor
- 1991 Kubota Tractor
- 1989 Ford 8000 Chloride Truck
- 1,000 Gallon Aboveground Fuel Tank with Pump
- 2 –Chloride Tanks – 3000 gallon each
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 500 gallon
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 1,000 gallon
- 1 – Motorola Base Radio
- 1 – Lincoln Mig Welder
- 10 – Motorola 16 channel Scan Mobile Radio
- 1 – Yamaha 4500 Generator
- 2 – Motorola 2 channel Hand Held Radios
- 1 – Landa Power Washer
- 1 – 20' x 20' Sand Screen
- 1 – Hydraulic Hose Press
- 1 – Jonsered Chain Saw
- 1 – Culvert Compactor
- 4 – Husqvarna Chain Saws
- 1 – Husqvarna Pole Saw
- 1 – 225 Husqvarna Weed Cutter
- 2 – Desktop Computers
- 1 – 325 Husqvarna Power Broom
- 1 – Printer
- 1 – 8' Sweepster Power Broom
- 1 – American Culvert Thawer

Highway Department Buildings

- Town Garage Building
- Rear Storage Shed – Three bays
- Salt Shed
- Fuel Shed

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending December 31, 2022

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FUND ACCOUNTING—The accounts of the Town are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operation of each fund is accounted for on the modified accrual basis with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenues and expenditures, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

GENERAL FUND: The General Fund is the general operating fund of the town. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS: *Highway Fund*—The operating fund for road maintenance and improvements funded by a specific revenue source and restricted for road maintenance use only. *Town Garage Fund*—The Town Garage Fund was established in 2006 to build a new town garage. *Highway Reconstruction Fund*—The Highway Reconstruction Fund was established in 2012 to finance road reconstruction and non-reimbursable expenses from Tropical Storm Irene. *ARPA Fund*—The ARPA Fund was created in 2021 to account for pandemic-related aid for local governments received through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Note 2: ENDOWMENTS—This number represents both principal and interest of all endowments/trust funds for the Town of Strafford. As of 2022, it includes all funds managed by the Trustees of Public Funds, whose reports begin on page 114.

Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted fund revenue and expenditures are reflected in the General Fund and Highway Fund statements. Net changes to restricted funds in each year will be reported in these notes. In the Highway Fund, restricted funds represent the equipment reserve and any other highway restricted funds; unrestricted funds are still restricted to highway use.

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2022</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
GENERAL FUND:			
Reserve-Town House	\$ 55,951.48	\$ (3,430.26)	\$ 52,521.22
Reserve-Town House Clock	338.03	-	338.03
Reserve-Town House Spec Proj	9,312.66	-	9,312.66
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	13,179.00	3,906.00	17,085.00
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	58,226.29	6,716.50	64,942.79
Reserve-Tennis Courts	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Reserve-Recreation	12,820.22	4,200.00	17,020.22
Reserve-Municipal Building	79,197.42	42,086.83	121,284.25
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	3,765.88	-	3,765.88
Reserve-Dogs	1,085.00	16.00	1,101.00
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	7,379.79	-	7,379.79
Reserve-Pocket Park	7,564.38	(939.97)	6,624.41
Reserve-Energy Committee	2,147.48	-	2,147.48
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	5,649.82	6,000.00	11,649.82
Reserve-Conservation Trails	2,432.81	-	2,432.81
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	5,163.80	5,211.13	10,374.93
Total General Reserve Funds	\$269,223.96	\$ 63,766.23	\$332,990.19

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2022</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
HIGHWAY FUND:			
Reserve-Equipment	\$118,690.63	\$ (18,606.00)	\$100,084.63
Total Highway Reserve Funds	\$118,690.63	\$ (18,606.00)	\$100,084.63

Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

This section contains adjustments to fund balances in prior years, if any.

Note 5: TRANSFERS

GENERAL FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$ 70,336.00

HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$196,431.00

Note 6: OTHER INDEBTEDNESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of November 30, 2022, is \$36,456.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022

Grand List				
Real Estate			208,337,800	
Plus Equipment			1,000	
Less Exemption			(120,000)	
Less Current Use			(17,657,540)	
Less Local Agreements			(215,000)	
Total			190,346,260	
Total Listed Value				
Residential			112,440,600	
Special Exemptions			2,550,300	
Non-approved Contracts				
Non-residential			75,355,360	
Taxes Billed				
			Tax rate	
General Fund	1,903,462.60	x	0.1859	353,854
Highway Fund	1,903,462.60	x	0.4191	797,741
Town Garage	1,903,462.60	x	0.0220	41,876
Hwy Reconstruction	1,903,462.60	x	0.0653	124,296
Local Agreements	1,903,462.60	x	0.0007	1,332
Homestead Educ.	1,124,406.00	x	1.5417	1,733,497
Nonresidential Educ.	753,553.60	x	1.5373	1,158,438
Total				4,211,034
Adjustments to Taxes Due				
Current use change				31
Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration				108
Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties				3,813
Tax bill rounding				(3)
Total Taxes Due				4,214,983
Taxes accounted for as follows:				
Collections				4,127,927
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2022)				87,056
Total Taxes Collectible				4,214,983

REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY**2022 Listed Values**

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education Listed Value (Homestead)	Education Listed Value (Nonresidential)	Total Education Listed Value
Residential less than 6 acres	48,253,800	38,053,300	10,200,500	48,253,800
Residential more than 6 acres	104,222,100	69,359,500	34,862,600	104,222,100
Mobile home without land	55,800	25,400	30,400	55,800
Mobile home with land	1,631,300	571,700	1,059,600	1,631,300
Vacation home less than 6 acres	985,300	261,900	723,400	985,300
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,609,600	1,354,500	9,255,100	10,609,600
Commercial	4,177,300	347,700	3,829,600	4,177,300
Commercial Apartments	825,600	-	825,600	825,600
Utilities Electric	11,045,600	-	11,045,600	11,045,600
Farm	14,391,600	8,342,000	6,049,600	14,391,600
Woodland	9,184,400	5,700	9,178,700	9,184,400
Miscellaneous	2,955,400	19,700	2,935,700	2,955,400
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	208,337,800	118,341,400	89,996,400	208,337,800
Cable	1,000		1,000	1,000
TOTAL LISTED VALUE	208,338,800	118,341,400	89,997,400	208,338,800
Veterans' Exemptions	(120,000)	(10,000)	(20,000)	(30,000)
Current Use	(17,681,840)	(5,899,300)	(11,782,540)	(17,681,840)
Special Exemptions			(2,550,300)	(2,550,300)
Local Agreements	(215,000)	-	(215,000)	(215,000)
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	190,321,960	112,432,100	75,429,560	187,861,660
<i>2021 TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY</i>	<i>189,815,460</i>	<i>109,688,500</i>	<i>77,729,160</i>	<i>187,417,660</i>

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Year Ending December 31, 2022

Name	Total	Name	Total
Begnoche, Jason	\$ 939.98	Hazel Family Trust	2,511.32
Bousquet, Carmel	602.34	Jenks/Pixley, Cheryl	48.39
Breese, Robert Byron	1,669.82	Johhnson, John & Nancy	5,130.90
Brown, Frank & Jessica	1,469.98	Kidder, Christopher	5,098.46
Bucchi, Peter & Linda	1,186.52	Matson, Timothy	426.05
Claffey, Keran & Rachel	1,186.00	* McAlpin, William	48.88
Coburn, Lisa	2,717.43	Nutting, Dillon, Rae & Lacey	3,343.22
* Conant, James	1,666.50	Owen, Kate	4,968.26
* Corcoran, Laura	1,920.61	* Frank Savery Estate	1,485.90
* Daly, Tate	220.02	Stanley, H/Town of Strafford	2,689.90
Depuy, Gove Trust	1,650.42	* Tofel, Brett	22.59
* Downey, Kristen	100.36	* Traendly, K & Bohman, Y	11.03
Dudley, Diana	114.86	Traudt, Scott & Victoria	2,424.33
Graber, Martha	2,765.57		
		Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2022	\$46,419.64

* *Paid in full by February 3, 2023*

	Total	2022	2021	Prior Years
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2022	\$46,419.64	\$43,398.55	\$ 2,899.09	\$ 122.00
Plus December Collections	43,657.38	43,657.38	-	-
	\$90,077.02	\$87,055.93	\$ 2,899.09	\$ 122.00

Previously uncollected	\$ 3,021.09
2022 Delinq. Tax Warrant	87,055.93
Total Delinquency	\$90,077.02

Please Note: Due to legislative changes and a Supreme Court ruling regarding the confidentiality of tax bill information, individual delinquent tax information by year will no longer be reported.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN
DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVABLE**

Year Ending December 31, 2022

	Total	2022	2021	2020 & prior
Balance January 1, 2022	\$ 65,061.51		\$62,936.23	\$ 2,125.28
Delinquent to Collector	87,305.84	87,055.93	249.91	
Subtotal	152,367.35	87,055.93	63,186.14	2,125.28
Collections/abatements/discharges	(105,947.71)	(43,657.38)	(60,287.05)	(2,003.28)
Balance December 31, 2022	\$ 46,419.64	\$43,398.55	\$ 2,899.09	\$ 122.00

**TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES
COMPARED TO TOTAL TAXES BILLED**

2012 - 2022

	Delinquent Taxes	Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2013	98,441.60	2012	3,331,810.12	2.95%
January 1, 2014	60,587.42	2013	3,409,992.00	1.78%
January 1, 2015	62,386.58	2014	3,703,651.00	1.68%
January 1, 2016	74,804.44	2015	3,785,861.56	1.98%
January 1, 2017	95,605.35	2016	3,899,828.07	2.45%
January 1, 2018	93,628.92	2017	3,866,892.28	2.42%
January 1, 2019	94,455.71	2018	3,897,401.78	2.42%
January 1, 2020	83,125.63	2019	4,058,332.15	2.05%
January 1, 2021	83,951.66	2020	4,383,855.30	1.92%
January 1, 2022	62,936.23	2021	4,430,342.00	1.42%
January 1, 2023	43,398.55	2022	4,214,958.79	1.03%

ANIMAL LICENSING

29	Male dogs
163	Neutered dogs
29	Female dogs
150	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,716.00

All dogs or wolf-hybrids six months of age and older must be licensed annually on or before the first day of April. A late fee of \$20.00 shall be due if a license is obtained after April 1.

Before obtaining a license, a copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented to the Town Clerk. A dog or wolf-hybrid over three months of age must be vaccinated; the initial vaccination is valid for 12 months. Within 9-12 months of initial vaccination, the animal must receive a booster vaccination. All subsequent vaccinations following the initial vaccination will be valid for 36 months.

License fees are \$9 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$13 for an unspayed female or unneutered male dog. Dog licenses issued after April 1st will be subject to an increase in the fee.

Proof of spaying or neutering, signed by a veterinarian, must be exhibited to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing.

Dogs should wear tags at all times, because if the dog is lost, it is more likely to be returned. If you should find or lose a dog, report it to the Dog Officer and/or the Town Clerk immediately.

Dog violations: First offense – \$30 penalty; Second offense – \$50 penalty; Third offense – \$100 penalty; Subsequent offenses – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$200 penalty.

VERMONT RABIES HOTLINE: 1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)

Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

NAME OF CHILD	SEX	DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	PARENT'S NAME	PARENT'S NAME
Gwynevere G. G. Guaraldi	F	3/23/22	South Strafford, VT	Rachel E. Guaraldi	Benjamin L. Guaraldi
Luke S. Kutolowski	M	6/20/22	Strafford, VT	Lisa R. H Kutolowski	Mark J. Kutolowski
Sam R. Erbaugh	M	7/25/22	Lebanon, NH	Talya R. Peltzman	James T. Erbaugh
Owen J. Daniels	M	9/23/22	Randolph, VT	Kate M. Lalonde	Hunter J. Daniels

Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Abigail T. Franklin	Strafford, VT	Andrew M. Silovich	Strafford, VT	7/3/22	Strafford, VT
Emma A. Behrens	Lebanon, NH	James H. Elder IV	Lebanon, NH	8/6/22	Strafford, VT
Ehrin R. Lingeman	Strafford, VT	Raul M. Lopez Linehan	Strafford, VT	9/3/22	Strafford, VT
Sarah E. Couture	Strafford, VT	Tyler T. Barnaby	Strafford, VT	10/22/22	Charlotte, VT

VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)**Deaths**

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
Stefanie H. Johnston	F	86	Strafford, VT	1/18/2022	Strafford, VT
Katrina D. Short	F	56	Strafford, VT	2/21/2022	Strafford, VT
Kevin M. Grady	M	69	Strafford, VT	3/16/2022	Strafford, VT
Joshua W. Jenks	M	32	Strafford, VT	7/1/2022	Strafford, VT
J. Martin Johnson	M	79	South Strafford, VT	9/7/2022	South Strafford, VT
Oliver J. Boles	M	67	Strafford, VT	9/30/2022	Strafford, VT
Martha Manheim	F	98	Strafford, VT	12/11/2022	Strafford, VT

Burials

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
Alice M. Sayre	F	83	Windsor, VT	3/4/2022	Evergreen Cemetery
Jean G. Webster	F	100	Northfield, VT	3/21/2022	Strafford Cemetery
Therese Winsor	F	85	Lebanon, NH	8/12/2022	Strafford Cemetery
Raymond E. Swift	M	67	Norwich, VT	9/17/2022	Evergreen Cemetery
Maurice C. Perkins	M	77	Berlin, VT	9/19/2022	Strafford Cemetery

These vital statistics represent marriages, civil unions, births, deaths and burials recorded in the Strafford Town Office.

Certificates filed elsewhere are not automatically forwarded to the Town Office.

If you would like those statistics to be included in this report, please arrange for copies of the records to be sent.

If you would prefer not to have your vital statistics listed in the Town Report due to privacy concerns or for any other reason, please notify the Town Clerk's office.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2018 Market Value	12/31/2019 Market Value	12/31/2020 Market Value	12/31/2021 Market Value	12/31/2022 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Total Contributions	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 91,128.98	\$ 106,603.45	\$ 124,881.54	\$ 131,395.62	\$ 104,165.20	\$ (27,230.42)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ (23,230.42)
Gilman	9,953.52	11,916.77	14,239.47	15,344.71	12,872.58	(2,472.13)	-	-	(2,472.13)
Mix	80,873.64	109,325.32	130,633.94	141,620.11	117,351.36	(24,268.75)	-	-	(24,268.75)
Newton	112,212.51	134,345.54	160,530.85	150,074.55	124,559.35	(25,515.20)	-	-	(25,515.20)
Ordway	207,154.49	240,514.07	279,892.71	291,468.01	227,691.82	(63,776.19)	12,000.00	-	(51,776.19)
Robinson	8,797.55	10,532.79	12,585.74	13,552.94	11,354.47	(2,198.47)	-	-	(2,198.47)
RWW	23,539.06	28,181.95	33,674.90	36,431.82	30,284.57	(6,147.25)	-	-	(6,147.25)
SCE	5,827.08	6,726.43	7,787.48	8,386.82	6,991.71	(1,395.11)	-	-	(1,395.11)
SAA	4,137.31	4,953.36	5,918.82	6,336.50	5,394.21	(942.29)	-	-	(942.29)
ERF	14,635.46	17,522.19	20,937.44	22,591.80	18,871.50	(3,720.30)	-	-	(3,720.30)
CST *	396,639.46	467,913.60	550,386.49	587,368.07	458,834.85	(128,533.22)	23,188.87	400.00	(105,744.35)
C-B A	52,810.32	62,226.74	73,355.36	78,507.55	63,875.49	(14,632.06)	1,000.00	-	(13,632.06)
STF **	-	33,074.53	39,521.09	42,795.77	135,549.13	92,753.36	-	100,000.00	(7,246.64)
Cash	-	-	-	-	20,923.56	-	-	-	-
Total	\$1,007,709.37	\$1,233,836.74	\$1,454,345.83	\$1,525,874.27	\$ 1,338,719.80	\$(208,078.03)	\$40,188.87	\$100,400.00	\$(268,289.16)
<i>Disburse</i>	<i>25,760.44</i>	<i>38,172.27</i>	<i>18,209.87</i>	<i>23,478.24</i>	<i>40,188.87</i>				

** Note: \$100,000 was received by STF from the estate of David Brown in 2022.

*Note: \$400 in donations was received by CST in 2022.

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds.

Change before disbursements and additions

-17.58%

GARDNER N. COBB CHILD WELFARE FUND

In 1968, the Town of Strafford received under the Will of Gardner N. Cobb \$10,000 to be held in Trust with the Corpus to be invested in direct obligations of the United States, with the net income to be disbursed by the Trustees for “the promotion of child hygiene, the treatment of remediable defects of needy children, including dental, or orthopedic or other medical care, routine immunizations against disease, and detection and elimination of tuberculosis and the dissemination of literature on the subject of Child Welfare.”

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD FUND

This fund is the result of a \$50,000 bequest from the Edmund Coffin estate. It was established on September 1, 2016.

The purpose of the fund is to give an annual award to persons and/or organizations who, in the opinion of the selection committee, have made major contributions to building a sense of community in the town.

A committee, appointed by the Selectboard, recommends recipients annually.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

This fund was established in 2013 in concert with the wishes of Marion Slusser, who contributed \$10,000 to the Town of Strafford in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene.

The goal of this fund is to support efforts related to emergency management for the residents of the Town of Strafford. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of Town designated shelters, procuring and maintaining communications equipment, and assisting with grant matches when appropriate. The Selectboard shall act as advisors to the Trustees of Public Funds with regard to distributions from this Fund.

ROBERT I. GILMAN AND EVELYN ROBERTS GILMAN TRUST FUND

In 1988 \$2,000 was given by Mr. and Mrs. R. Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Gadzinski to establish the Robert I. Gilman and Evelyn Roberts Gilman Trust Fund to be used to benefit the Municipal Building.

ROBIN MIX MEMORIAL FUND

On September 2, 1987 the Town of Strafford received, under a Trust Agreement, \$5,407.83 establishing the Robin Mix Memorial Fund for Preservation of the Strafford Town House. “The purpose of this Fund is to provide an augmenting source of funding for the accomplishment of extraordinary repairs to, and for major preservation and restoration projects for, the Strafford Town House.”

NEWTON FUND

In 1931 the Town of Strafford received, under the Will of William E. Newton, \$14,200 to be held in trust, the income from which is “to be used first in keeping the two Newton lots in the cemetery at South Strafford in good condition, and then in any public improvement or for any public purpose in the village of South Strafford.”

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND

In 1980 the Town of Strafford received a bequest under the Will of Robert H. Ordway of \$56,671.99 in trust, from which the income is “to be used in assisting a deserving high school graduate or graduates who are inhabitants of the Town of Strafford, Vermont in obtaining education above the high school level.” See the Robert H. Ordway Scholarship Committee Report for further information.

WALTER C. ROBINSON FUND

On December 23, 1985 the Town of Strafford received \$1,000 under the Will of Walter C. Robinson “to be held in trust by the Trustees of Public Funds and to use the interest for the care of the Willard Robinson and Daniel Robinson cemetery lots in the Robinson Cemetery.”

CARRIE SANBORN TRUST

In May of 1986 the Carrie Sanborn Trust (CST) began providing assistance to aid Strafford residents in need of assistance. In 2008 authority to manage this trust was transferred from TD Banknorth to the Trustees of Public Funds. The Trustees shall make funds available for distribution by the CST Committee who act on referrals or requests. Please contact Sue Coburn, Barbara Murray or Rose Silloway for assistance.

SELECTBOARD TRANSFERRED FUND

The Selectboard Transferred Fund (STF) was created when the Trustees of Public Funds accepted a lump sum of \$33,074.53 from the small endowments managed by the Selectboard. The Selectboard will decide how to disburse the funds (except those controlled by the Cemetery Commission).

THE STRAFFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND

This fund was established in December of 1999. The purpose of this fund is to receive and grant money to aid educational programs in the Town of Strafford, Vermont.

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FUND

The SAA Fund was established on October 25, 2004 to provide continued and improved financial support for the enhancement of athletic and recreational facilities for the people of Strafford.

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971 and was turned over the Trustees of Public Funds for investment management in 1994. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate; the Newton School Library is named in her honor.



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

This was a difficult year for all investors, and the town funds were no exception. The 13 funds that we manage were down 17.6% for the year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average (30 large, blue-chip companies) was down 9% while the S&P 500 (index of 500 companies) was down 19.4%. We are guardedly optimistic about our first full year with Mascoma Wealth Management. We distributed \$40,188.87 from the following funds:

The Carrie Sanborn Trust distributed \$23,188.87 to provide assistance to many individuals in the community.

The Cobb Fund granted \$4,000 to the Strafford School Based Health Clinic.

The Ordway Fund awarded \$12,000 to three recipients to obtain education above the high school level.

The Community Building Award of \$1,000 was split between the Newton School PTA and the Town Recreation Board.

We note that this year's total distributions from the Public Funds were roughly \$9,000 less than last year but that the Carrie Sanborn Fund committee worked diligently to distribute \$15,000 more than last year in an effort to reach those individuals who were both struggling financially and hesitant to ask for help. 2021's distribution total (\$49,107.58) was unusually high as we had provided \$23,500 from the Newton Fund to replace the roof on the new home of the Strafford Historical Society.

Finally, we want to acknowledge that the Town received the first part of a very generous gift from the Estate of David Brown to establish a \$300,000 fund (the David K. Brown Town House Fund) for the maintenance of our Town House.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hawkins
Therese Linehan
Sarah North

Opposite: Construction of back barn (1970s)

Photo courtesy David Harris

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

The Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee establishes guidelines, evaluates applications and determines award recipients. The awards are funded by proceeds derived from the Trust established by Robert H. Ordway's will.

The Trustees of Public Funds manage the Trust and their financial statement and report appear elsewhere in this report.

The committee has developed criteria based on academic achievement, citizenship and character.

High school students must apply by June 1 of their senior year. Application forms may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office. All graduating seniors wishing to further their education beyond the high school level are encouraged to apply.

2022 Awards: Kiran Black, Brandi Lewis, Paul Scull

Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee:

Joey Hawkins Diana Leddy Danette Harris

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate. The Newton School Library is named in her honor.

The award is for Strafford residents recently graduated from High School who are preparing for teaching careers. It will be granted periodically at the discretion of the Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship committee.

Donations to the fund are welcome and can be made through the Trustees of Public Funds. Applications can be picked up at the Strafford Town Clerk's Office, and sent to any member of the committee. Anyone who would like to be on the committee is encouraged to contact any committee member and express his or her interest.

Committee members: Maureen Wilson, Rod Maclay, Rockwell Fuller, and Joanna Hawkins.

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD

The 2022 Community-Building Award, created through a generous bequest by Ned Coffin in 2016, was shared by the Newton School PTA and Strafford Recreation Board this year, with appreciation for the programs they sponsor in Strafford.

For those who may not know, Ned and his wife Vi made their home in Strafford in the early 1970s. They had a deep love for the town and its beauty and a real appreciation for its people and institutions. Ned's contributions to Strafford continued after his death by funding an award to be given annually to an organization or individual who has made a meaningful contribution to our community.

Children in town greatly benefit from the programs sponsored by the Newton School PTA. Strafford's youngest community members enjoy enrichment activities including visiting artists, writers, and performers, while the entire community enjoys the traditional events the PTA sponsors, including Independence Day festivities, Halloween celebrations and the Spring Plant Sale. Those who provide the leadership of the PTA, along with the members and volunteers they are able to recruit to participate in many activities provide a real gift to us all.

The Recreation Board provides great recreational opportunities for all ages in our community. From overseeing the care of the South Strafford Recreation Area and Varney Ballfield to providing programming like pickleball and tennis lessons, to skateboarding, Soccer Camp, and Art Camp. This volunteer board also oversees the Red Barn, providing access to medical equipment, ski and skate and other sports equipment, all free of charge! This is a real blessing for the people of our town.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Mikusa

Roz Finn

John Freitag

Rebecca Seibel

Brooke Wilkinson

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

We ended last year's report to the town by expressing a hope that 2022 would allow us to continue our long, slow journey back to normal operations. Our wish was granted. We were able to drop our mask requirement about midway into the year and invite people to do whatever made them feel comfortable. We also were able to return after-school programming to the library building after concerns about our limited indoor space prompted moving the Monday afternoon sessions to the One Planet program at the gym. We remain grateful to One Planet for their willingness to collaborate with us.

The pandemic did make us aware of the increasing importance of providing easy access to the vast amount of information and entertainment in the digital world. Even after we reopened the building to in-person browsing, we noticed a significant increase in the borrowing of online books and audiobooks through our Overdrive program. We also offer a number of other digital resources, including movies, periodicals, databases and classes. In recognition of the ever-increasing importance of our digital offerings, we are now undertaking a revamping of our website. Our intention is to provide a better-organized, better-looking and easier-to-use site sometime this year. In the meantime, our current site is still quite functional, and we invite residents to check it out (www.straffordlibrary.org) and see what we have to offer.

Also under discussion, although not necessarily for the coming year, is the repair of our roof and the gradual cleaning of our collection of paintings (we cleaned the Justin Morrill portrait a number of years ago and were amazed by the transformation). We are able to contemplate special projects because of generous support from the town (thank you, Strafford taxpayers), from people responding to our annual appeals letter (thank you, donors), the continuing support of the Friends of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library (thank you, friends) and our now sizable endowment (thank you, Library Investment Committee). This past year, we received a significant bequest from the Campbell Family Trust for which we are grateful.

As has been true for quite a while, the library is not requesting an increase in funding this year.

The Trustees of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library

Cindy Binzen
Curt Albee
Rachel Kurland
Miriam Newman
Carol Wilson
Martin Frank

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2022

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2022		\$ 28,486
Income		
Endowed Funds	\$ 1,534	
Town of Strafford	34,000	
Friends of the Library	7,778	
Contributions Income	13,950	
Interest and dividends	1,481	
Miscellaneous Income	582	
Total Income + Transfers In		\$ 63,733
Expenses		
Memberships	\$ 1,370	
Books and Periodicals	4,937	
DVDs, Audio Books	1,143	
Kanopy Movie Service	377	
Programs, Children and Adult	1,195	
Internet Service	920	
Interlibrary loan service	1,090	
Electronic Catalog	495	
Personnel Expenses	34,853	
Utilities	3,073	
Building and Grounds Maintenance	3,305	
Administration	6,995	
Miscellaneous	224	
Total Expenses + Transfers Out		\$ 59,977
Net Income		\$ 3,756
Ending Balance		\$ 32,242
Reserve Account		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2022		\$ 2,685
Ending Balance, December 31, 2022		\$ 2,685
CD		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2022		\$ 25,000
Bequest		99,224
Interest		1,230
Ending Balance		\$ 125,453

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Value January 1, 2022	\$ 453,231
Transfers to the Operating Fund	
Swan Fund transfer	-
Downer Fund transfer	-
Ordway/Steele/Mattison Fund transfer	1,534
Subtotal	<u>451,697</u>
Market Value December 31, 2022	\$ 393,284

STRAFFORD FIRE AND RESCUE

In 2022 our members responded to 91 calls for assistance which consisted of 60 medical calls and 31 fire calls. Calls for service range from lift assists to responding mutual aid to our neighboring towns for larger scale emergencies.

We had multiple members acquire certifications in areas that require more specialized training. These trainings are done at the state level, require a significant time commitment in addition to our regular monthly training, and allow members to better serve our town as well as surrounding communities.

It was a welcome feeling to finally be able to offer a traditional BBQ once again where the townspeople and visitors could come and participate in our long standing tradition that we so proudly offer.

In 2023 our goal is to make much-needed improvements to our aging stations, like repairing the foundation of the substation, transition from the more traditional gas-powered equipment to more modern battery-powered equipment in things like chainsaws, ventilation fans, and scene lighting.

We would like to thank our citizens for your continued support. Whether you attend one of our fundraisers, make a donation at some point during the year, or simply thank one of our members, your support is greatly appreciated.

Please make sure you have a reflective 911 number marking your driveway that is visible from all directions so we can easily find you in your time of need.

The following officers were elected at our annual meeting in January, 2022:

President: Mike Ekergren
Vice President: Andrew Lane
Treasurer: Aaron Dotter
Secretary: Cabot Teachout
Fire Chief: Shawn Harlow
EMS Chief: Beth Preston

Board of Directors: Pat Kelly, Willis Phelps, Mike Clark, Shawn Harlow, Beth Preston

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Harlow
Fire Chief

Beth Preston
EMS Chief

STRAFFORD FIRE & RESCUE
January 1 - December 31, 2022

In 2022, we continued to deal with rising costs, including the fuel oil we use to heat our buildings, structural firefighting gear, and EMS supplies.

We were proud to bring the annual 4th of July BBQ back to a fully in-person event. It was a long, hot day and we raised almost \$3,500 to support our mission.

As we look forward to 2023, one of our top priorities is foundation repair to the substation.

EXPENSES

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 6,898
EMS Supplies	2,347
Utilities	9,283
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	4,352
Insurance	11,225
Hanover Dispatch	12,593
Rescue Truck Financing	10,580
Other	3,938
Testing	4,702
Training	700
Gear (PPE, Turnout)	3,187
Total Expenses	\$ 69,805

BARRETT MEMORIAL HALL

This year of 2022, we were glad to see more activity return to Barrett Memorial Hall, both community and private events. Of special note was the return of the Strafford Seniors for in-person lunches on Wednesdays. When the elderly folks in our town feel comfortable enough to come out for a hot meal and a visit with friends, that is a big deal. We see this a sign of post-pandemic life returning, and we look forward to even more revival in 2023.

As any homeowner knows, difficulty in getting construction work done is a significant problem. Fortunately, we were able to complete some electrical upgrades, and replace several worn components in the heating system. A bright spot for all kitchen users is that the vintage and ailing dishwasher was recently replaced thanks to a grant from the Carrie Sanborn Trust. We continue to search for a painter to restart the schedule of one exterior wall per year. We also maintain various long-term plans, such as improving energy efficiency by installing a heat pump system. Unfortunately, all such plans take much longer now, but we will persist.

Strafford has weathered three tough years during the enduring coronavirus outbreak. We have not yet been able to fully welcome new residents, due to many community events still not resumed. We invite you to get involved with our town organizations, to meet new friends, and help revive activities that make Strafford such a great place to live. Of course, Barrett Hall is open for new events that you might devise and add to our community life. Many private events are held at Barrett Hall as well, especially if the hosts need a little more space than they have at home.

Ned and Vi Coffin were long-time residents, valued members of and contributors to our community. They have now passed, but their regard for Barrett Hall lives on. As Ned once stated, “Vi and I believe that Barrett Hall is the greatest force for unity in Strafford.” We invite you to enjoy an event there soon, and find out why.

Steve Marx
David McWilliams
Gretchen Graner
Barrett Memorial Hall Trustees

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As the 2023 legislative session opens, Vermont is still benefiting from an historic influx of federal dollars. Tom Kavet, the legislature’s economist said, “This tsunami of incoming money, along with the same in surrounding states, is a large part of what is now propelling Vermont tax revenues, as it circulates throughout the economy with multiplier effects.” In all, Vermont received about \$9.8 Billion dollars in Federal Pandemic Transfer Payments – about \$15,778 per person in the state.

Last session and in the coming year, we will be working hard to ensure these one-time monies are used for one-time purposes, including infrastructure and housing, that leave Vermont better positioned for a vibrant and sustainable future. We also need to ensure that investments in the near term don’t lead to deficits down the road as the federal money runs out. To that end, we will be working to make sure the operations of state government are funded in sustainable ways; so, any uses or programs to which they are put can be continued past the current influx of federal dollars.

Vermont faces an ongoing worker shortage that has several causes. These include but are not limited to the high cost of housing, the lack of paid leave for many frontline workers, unaffordable and scarce childcare, and the reality that more workers retire each year than enter the workforce. This workforce shortage is not unique to the private sector. At the time of this writing, the state government is averaging a 10% vacancy rate – evidence that state government also is struggling to find employees. While there are many opinions as to why there are so many unfilled job openings, it is clear no single solution will solve the problem. Expect to hear legislative debate about several strategies to strengthen the workforce, including:

- **Paid family leave:** Workers need to be able to care for their families without losing jobs or wages. The workers who currently lack this safety net are most likely to be lower wage, female and frontline workers. Other states have found that the protections of paid family leave actually increase workforce participation.
- **Housing, housing, housing (and infrastructure):** Pretty much every employer we have spoken to has told us that the lack of housing is making it difficult to hire new workers. Literally every developer and climate expert has told us that to meet our climate and affordability goals, housing needs to be higher density, near where people work and near public transportation. In addition, we need supportive housing that allows people who need some assistance to live as comfortably and independently as possible in the communities they call home.
- **Childcare:** At this time, it is often cheaper for a family with three children to hire an educator out of the local preschool to serve as a private nanny. However, given the scarcity of childcare slots, doing so leaves another 5-10 families without care. Lacking affordable, safe and reliable care,

parents cannot work. Expect continued discussion about how to meet this need, so that parents can work. Currently, given the high cost of care, many parents are better off financially in the short run if they don't work, even though not working now reduces their lifelong potential earnings.

- Green energy transition: Sky high fuel prices have compelled the state to free up additional resources to make sure Vermonters can stay warm through the winter. The increase in fuel oil prices by about 93% since 2019 also underscores the benefits and affordability of local, renewable and green energy alternatives, especially as technologies improve. Expect to see work not just on electrification of home heating and transportation, but also on shifting our energy mix to leave us greener, more renewable and less dependent on volatile fossil fuels.

As with all policy proposals, the challenge will be how and which priorities to fund.

In addition, since the decision of the US Supreme Court in *Carson v. Makin* this past summer, Vermont public education property taxes statewide now pay for religious education in religious schools, in addition to private education in schools that set their own enrollment criteria – not just here in Vermont, but also in other states and countries where Vermont anti-discrimination statutes don't apply. With education tax rates expected to rise over the next few years due to changes in the funding formula, including by as much as 30 to 50 cents on the tax rate in two of our towns, exclusive and religious uses of public education dollars are getting closer scrutiny.

Critics also point out that the common benefits clause of the Vermont constitution states “That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single person, family, or set of persons, who are a part only of that community.” The decision of the US Supreme Court is forcing a Vermont discussion on whether taxpayer funding of exclusive schools and religious schools is consistent with Vermont constitutional commitments.

Vermont, like the nation, is in transition. The pandemic exposed weaknesses in our safety nets and brought vast changes to our national and Vermont economy. We welcome your thoughts and advice as we work to plan a resilient, shared and prosperous future for our state and communities.

As always, we are here to serve you in Montpelier. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact information is below:

Representative Rebecca Holcombe
PO Box 170
Norwich, VT 05055
RHolcombe@leg.state.vt.us

Representative Jim Masland
714 Pero Hill Rd
Thetford Center, VT 05075
JMasland@leg.state.vt.us

STRAFFORD & AREA LIONS CLUB

The Strafford & Area Lions Club is a member of the largest service organization in the world. Lions Clubs International is a global leader in community and humanitarian service with over 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries. The Strafford & Area Lions Club has served our community with pride for over 36 years, seeking to improve the health and well-being of the community and to support those of us who may be in need.

The Club conducted vision screenings of students in the communities of Strafford, Thetford, Chelsea, and Tunbridge, and continued to operate and maintain the Lions Club Pond and the Rope Tow on Harrington Hill, adding a cross-country ski program for Strafford students. Supporting local food shelves, the Club held its annual “Food from the Heart” food drive and participated in the Vermont Lions Peanut Butter and Jam Slam, collecting 631 pounds of jars of peanut butter and jellies and jams, far exceeding all other Lions Clubs in Vermont. The Club sponsored a wonderful gathering as part of Strafford’s Fourth of July celebration featuring the South Royalton Town Band playing patriotic tunes accompanied by Strafford students reading portions of the Declaration of Independence, and in August honored Strafford’s Curt Albee as Citizen of the Year. On New Year’s Eve, the Club held its midnight run on the common beginning at the stroke of midnight with about 40 participants. The Club also supported the Strafford recycling center, Vermont Lions Charities, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Lions Twin State Soccer Association, and the Green Mountain Lions Camp for the deaf and hard of hearing. Club members and others in the community made lap robes which were given to local hospitals and nursing homes, and the Club collected used eyeglasses and hearing aids to be recycled and given to those in need.

All funds raised in the community go directly to the Club’s charitable endeavors. The Club’s fundraisers included its annual Rose Sale, Thanksgiving Pie Sale, and Memory Tree, and this year added a highly successful Chili Cook-Off and also a Deer Pool.

The Club has 53 members and holds monthly dinner meetings at Barrett Memorial Hall on the 4th Monday of the month. The meetings include guest speakers on a variety of topics of interest to our community. Please feel free to attend. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining us in service to the Strafford community, please contact our Membership Chair, Sue Coburn.

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In order for the Masonic Lodge to be ‘move-in’ ready, the Strafford Historical Society, in addition to what we have received from donations and grants, must raise an additional \$150,000. This is the estimate to complete the renovation of the Masonic Hall’s first floor and basement this coming fall/winter under the guidance once again of our general contractor Blake Spencer. We must literally ‘gut’ and replace the entire first floor, correct the seriously inadequate structural support system for both the first and second floors, insulate wherever we can and then bring the building up to code, including all mandatory fire and human safety requirements and ADA upgrades.

The first crucial stages of the renovation of the Masonic Hall are behind us, which we were able to accomplish through grants and your generous support: we have a structurally sound roof over our heads after stabilizing, reinforcing and insulating the attic and adding the new standing-seam roof. We also now have a new HVAC heat pump system, installed in November, that is both energy-efficient and inexpensive and has already dramatically reduced our carbon-footprint and will do so for the foreseeable future. We look forward to incorporating additional energy efficiency measures as we go forward.

Please remember that every Strafford resident is a member of the Strafford Historical Society and that each of you has a vote in preserving our historical heritage. Your continuing financial support is vital to us.

Your tax-deductible contribution may be sent directly to the Strafford Historical Society, P.O. Box 100, Strafford, Vermont, 05072, or use the Donate button on our website at straffordvthistory.org to reach our secure donation site.

OUR VISION: The renovated Masonic Lodge will be a significant community asset, a meeting place and community center that South Strafford does not have. Not only will it house the Historical Society and its museum and archives, but we intend to expand its scope to serve as a resource center for Newton School and the informational center for self-guided historical and architectural tours of both Strafford villages as well as for the Elizabeth Mine Historical Preservation Area and Vermont’s Copper Belt.

We also foresee a Masonic Lodge and its landscaped grounds becoming fully integrated into South Strafford’s Newton School campus augmenting the recreational fields, playgrounds, tennis court and eventually including a riverwalk to the Pocket Park. A landscaping concept plan is being developed with the assistance of SHS Board member Susan Cloke and local landscape architect Janet Cavanagh.

IN MEMORIUM: As noted in last year’s Town Report, Stefanie Johnson died on January 18th of 2022. That would not be an auspicious start to

any year. It marked the end of an era, that of Stefanie and Bob Johnston's dedication to the protection and promotion of Strafford's rich historical heritage: Stefanie serving as the Strafford Historical Society's Curator, Board Secretary and general factotum and Bob, as our prolific Historian, who is now in retirement.

Replacing them and all that they meant to us is impossible, but that, with the continuing renovation of the Masonic Lodge in South Strafford, are the challenges now facing us. We are happy, though, to report that Simone Pyle, the Newton School Librarian, with her enthusiasm for local history and a background in archival preservation, has agreed to be our new Curator and that John Freitag has assumed the duties of Historian, which he will share with Arthur Hanchett, who brings with him an historical perspective from the Miller Pond Road side of town.

EVENTS: For obvious reasons, the SHS's activities in 2022 were limited. Although we had no physical space available and our collection is in storage, we did support and help publicize the Friends of the Morrill Homestead's fascinating lecture on August 22nd: "From Yosemite's Half Dome to the Capitol Dome: The Intersecting Lives of Frederick Law Olmstead and Justin Morrill" by Ross Diamant. We also initiated in the past year what will be an annual series of historical and architectural walking tours in both villages conducted by John Freitag. The Strafford Village tour took place in July and the very well-attended tour of South Strafford Village was held more recently on November 6th, after which there was an opportunity to hear the personal recollections of several of our long-time village residents, including Barbara Murray, Rod Maclay and Earl Varney. Our new Curator, Simone Pyle, video-recorded this event, which will be available on our SHS website.

WEBSITE: straffordvthistory.org – Please see what we have accomplished. If you haven't done so already, you are missing some of the most memorable and colorful episodes from Strafford's history and lore. John Freitag is a frequent contributor to our website with blogs both historical and anecdotal from Strafford's past. Also, you might enjoy exploring the extensive collection of Elizabeth Mine resource materials, including photos and videos, from Strafford's 150-years of mining history and a stunning aerial photographic array of the transformation of mine-site after the 20-year-long Super Fund remediation project. SHS Board Members, David Webb, Laura Ogden and Simone Pyle, along with the guidance of our website consultant, James Taylor, have been working to keep this website content relevant and fresh.

Finally, my personal gratitude for the dedicated and creative efforts of the Board members and Staff of the Strafford Historical Society during these difficult times: Laura Ogden, Secretary; David Webb, Vice President; Roberta Robinson, Treasurer; Simone Pyle, Curator; John Dumville; Jessica Tidman; Susan Cloke; Scott Knoerlein; Carol Wilson, Registrar; John

Freitag and Arthur Hanchett, Historians; and, of course, to the memory of Stefanie Johnson, for all she has meant to all of us. Also, our sincere thanks to Blake Spencer, Melvin Coburn, Bob Johnson, Kate Siepmann and Gil Robertson, who have all helped us this year in many and varied ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

The Justin Morrill State Historic Site and National Landmark is the homestead of Strafford's famous son, Senator Justin Smith Morrill. The site is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), with support from the Friends of the Morrill Homestead (Friends). We are happy to report that the Morrill Homestead was back in full swing for the 2022 season!

With the help of local volunteers and businesses, the Friends offered a full calendar of events including craft workshops, village tours, children's camps, painting classes, nature walks, speakers, art exhibits, and a puppet show. In 2022 over 1,000 people participated Friends' programs both in-person and online. The Friends were especially excited to bring back the Gallery In The Garden Gala and 19th Century Apple & Cheese Harvest Festival (aka AppleFest). The Friends also partnered with Vermont Law School to host the educational symposium, "The Morrill Land-Grant Acts and Tribal Lands: What Happened, What's Next" to address the historical and continuing impact on Native Americans of the expropriation of lands awarded to states for Morrill Acts.

The Homestead's Victorian gardens, historic grounds, and heirloom orchard were well cared for by the Friends in 2022. Our Master Gardeners, Ehrin Lingeman and Barbara Paulson, along with several teenage assistants and community volunteers, worked many hours to maintain the health and beauty of the gardens. The grounds, gardens, and orchard of the Homestead are always open year-round for you to enjoy.

To address the continuing concerns of high humidity levels in the house, major underground drainage and water management improvements are planned for 2024. Due to the historical significance of the site and the proposed impacts of construction, the UVM Consulting Archaeology Program excavated a number of test trenches around the house and in the garden area. This investigation yielded some interesting finds which the archaeologists will share in a presentation this season.

In 2023, Morrill's historic Gothic Revival home will be open for guided tours from May 26 to Oct. 8. This summer the Friends will be hosting our most popular events including our Open House and Puppet Show (June 11), Gallery In The Garden Gala (June 30), and AppleFest (September 24), along with a full season of workshops, tours, camps, walks, and more!

Please visit morrillhomestead.org for the complete calendar of events with all the details.

The Friends greatly appreciate VDHP's dedication to preserving the buildings and collections and the financial support from individuals, area businesses, and foundations whose generosity makes possible all of our activities. We look forward to seeing you and your families at the Homestead in 2023. Again, we would like to thank our neighbors and friends for your continued support of our endeavors!

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracey McFadden, Director
Ingrid Webb, Board Chair



Cappy Jackson,
BETH PERKINS



Marston Photographics
DENNIE EMERSON



Karl Leck
TAD COFFIN

*Strafford's Equestrian Olympians were honored at a
1976 "Welcome Home Celebration," highlighted in the
1976 Town Report*

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Athletic Association (SAA) is an independent nonprofit organization, created in 1964. It is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity and welcomes contributions from anyone who believes in our mission. Rosa Tyson helped to create the organization and over the years we've had tremendous support. Again this year we want to recognize special memories and thanks to a few of the many: Kendal Mix, Dave Taplin, John Linehan, Peggy Thorp, Fred Schaafsma, John Freitag and of course the many others in our community who have dedicated countless hours and funding over the years. This organization remains relevant and is always looking to support and be helpful. In the past the SAA has been primarily responsible for starting many of the recreational facilities in town, including the tennis courts, the Rosa Tyson Gym, the Town Pond (formerly called the SAA Pond) and the Harrington Hill Rope Tow. Other town organizations, including the Lions Club and the Newton School, have since taken over responsibility for the recreation areas to provide insurance needs, but the SAA remains active to help care for each.

The mission of the Strafford Athletic Association is to provide "athletic" opportunities for residents of Strafford.

The SAA no longer owns anything in Strafford, but we continue to work with other town organizations and the school athletic department to help as necessary, either with funding or volunteer hours. Together, working with the Recreation Board, we continue to strive and fulfill our mission. We are always open to new ideas and again, we can accept tax deductible donations to help with our cause.

The volunteer board meets as-needed when projects or events arise. If you would like to make a tax-free donation to the SAA or if you are further interested and just have questions please contact Tom Scull at 802-765-4617.

STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

The Strafford Creative Preschool is located in the heart of the lower village, in the lower level of the Rosa B. Tyson gym. We are proud to celebrate our 45th anniversary as a part of Strafford's community this year. The Creative Preschool offers programming Monday-Friday mornings from 7:45 am to 12:45 pm and until 3:30 pm Monday-Thursdays. Current enrollment includes 22 children ages 3 – 5 years old, and operates with the maximum capacity of 18 children each day.

This year marks a decade of Pre-K collaboration with the Strafford School District within Act 166 which allows every child aged 3, 4 and 5 years old enrolled at Creative Preschool to receive 10 hours a week, 35 weeks a year of free instruction - regardless of parental income or circumstance. As an integral part of Early Childhood Education in Strafford, the Creative Preschool works to continuously adapt to the needs of children and families. We appreciate the trust of parents and caregivers doing the hard work of raising young children. We look forward to continuing our mission to help them grow and develop into joyful, curious, and secure individuals who are able to interact positively with the people and world around them.

The Creative Preschool's program is dedicated to providing experiences that are nurturing, playful, and engaging. This program is led by a team of passionate educators: director Jody Lowes and teachers Kate Reimanis, Kiersten Harlow, and Beth Randall. In addition to the day-to-day enrichment that the staff provides to each child, there are weekly visiting educators for Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, and Early Intervention support as well as Music with Brooke Wilkinson. The board is thankful for all of their hard work maintaining an in-person, child-focused, and joyful learning community through the past few years.

The Creative Preschool Board is grateful to all of our volunteers and donors. Our success rests in large part on the abundance of time, wisdom, and kindness we receive as well as gifts of financial and material help. We deeply appreciate the support and generosity of the Strafford community. The Preschool remains a valuable educational resource because of your engagement and dedication.

Respectfully,

Kaitlin Christie

on behalf of the Creative Preschool Board

THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Cemetery Association is a private burial ground that is governed by the executive board made up of trustees of the Association.

It is with a heavy heart that we submit this report in the absence of Robert Murray. Mr. Murray was a compassionate member of the cemetery and his leadership will be truly missed. In regard to maintenance and operations, he set the bar high. We will strive to meet his standards.

Plots are available for purchase by residents, former residents, or relatives of residents.

The Association requests that the sexton be informed prior to any burial or installation of a monument. The cemetery is guided by a set of rules and regulations which the sexton can provide upon inquiry.

Our membership is open to anyone who is interested in the cemetery and new members are encouraged to join.

Officers of the Association: President Gary Kendall; Vice-president Greg Lewis; Treasurer Samantha (Brown) Potter; Secretary (vacant); Sexton C. Punka Brown. Board of Directors: Melvin Coburn, Barbara Murray, Ed Eastman.



Huntington Farm sign, circa 1995

Photo courtesy Skylar Clemens

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK

Strafford is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to homes and businesses in its area. The District consists of 31 member towns, and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. The business has added over 1,000 new customers despite critical labor shortages, and now serves over 7,700 premises in 28 towns via 1,700 miles of network, which, when fully built out, will bring fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) to about 31,500 locations over more than 2,000 miles network.

The District contracts with ValleyNet, Inc., and Great Works Internet (GWI) to operate the business. The addition of GWI to the operations team should enable ECFiber to expand its customer service hours and start the work of bringing its network up to carrier-grade status, which will enable us to offer service level agreements to larger business clients.

Unlike the new CUDs, we have built our network almost entirely using borrowed money, and, since 2016, we have borrowed only in the municipal revenue bond market. With \$63.3 million in bonds issued, the District anticipates additional borrowing in early 2023, during which time we hope to finally become a rated entity which will allow more institutions to purchase our bonds and consequently lead to lower interest rates. Unfortunately, all the new federal grants are only for construction after March of 2021.

In Strafford, ECFiber has completed construction of its network. As of November, 2022, there were 408 customers along 62 miles of network. In addition to me, David Webb and Andy Behrens are alternate delegates. Other Strafford residents involved in this effort are Tom Cecere, the CEO of our operational partner, ValleyNet, and Chuck Sherman, a ValleyNet Board member, who has been instrumental in mapping our service area. Our thanks to Tom Cecere, in particular, and the Strafford Volunteer Fire Department for their help in arranging for free internet service for the Strafford Town House.

Vermont is now a national leader in deploying ARPA and BEAD funding to support its CUDs and their mission to solve the state's rural broadband crisis. ECFiber established the model that the state of Vermont is now following, and the biggest roadblock we face now is not funding, but rather finding enough employees to construct the networks (i.e., people who know how to operate bucket trucks, splice fiber while 40 feet above the ground, and be willing to work outside in difficult weather. ECFiber is actively participating in state and regional workforce development efforts. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested in these well-paid jobs, please let us know!

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we actually start service.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks
Strafford's delegate to the
ECFiber Governing Board
Strafford@ECFiber.net

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

For over 43 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'22 (10/2021-9/2022), 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 158 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and 6 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program assisted 172 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 80 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 91 individuals with information on assistive technology; 39 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 454 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program which served 29 people and provided 16 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. Due to the pandemic, VCIL was able to start a new (temporary) program, Resilience and Independence in a State of Emergency (RISE) which served over 600 people in the two years it was funded. The RISE Program helped provide an array of items or services if the needs are directly related to the COVID-19 epidemic.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Montpelier office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service 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'22, 1 resident of Strafford received services from the following program:

- Information, Referral and Assistance

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:

1-800-639-1522, or, visit our website at www.vcil.org

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc. (CVABE), a community-based nonprofit organization, has served the adult education and literacy needs of Strafford residents for fifty-seven years.

CVABE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16- 90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Strafford is served by our learning center in Randolph. The site has welcoming learning rooms with computers, laptops and internet access to support instruction. CVABE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

On average, 1 Strafford resident enrolls with CVABE a year. In addition, 1 Strafford resident volunteered with us. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving a job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more.

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels. By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Strafford residents for generations to come.

CVABE provided free instruction to 380 people last year in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVABE \$4,435 per student to provide a full year of instruction.

Nearly all students are low income. Over 70 community volunteers work with CVABE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Strafford's voter-approved past support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVABE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information regarding CVABE's adult education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Randolph Learning Center
10 S. Main St., PO Box 84
Randolph, Vermont 05060
(802) 728-4492
www.cvabe.org



Undated photo: Ann Kitchel, who owned Huntington Farm for nearly 40 years, and her niece Carole Ann "Pinky" Tullar, who currently works with Skylar Clemens

Photo courtesy Skylar Clemens

SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

The South Royalton Area Senior Citizen Center (SRASCC) serves the towns of Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. Many times, seniors from other towns will come to the center for meals and other activities; all are always welcome. To qualify as a senior, you must be 60 years old or older.

The Board of Directors is composed of three representatives from each of the four towns. Sue Pirie is the director for both meal sites, one being in South Strafford at Barrett Hall, serving meals on Wednesday, and the other in Royalton, at the Royalton Academy building, serving meals on Tuesday only for now and on Thursday to prepare curbside and home-delivered meals. We are fortunate to have Ed Eastman as the cook for Strafford and Brandon Hamilton the cook for Royalton. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional requirements. We served a total of 14,145 meals for the year 2021-2022. The food cost per meal was \$2.96, total cost per meal \$9.56.

Due to Covid many things had to change. The meal sites were closed down until August 2021 when they reopened with a soft opening. Numbers have remained low for attendance at the centers, however the curbside and home deliveries have remained high.

There is an established fund that offers assistance to any senior who may have a need. Any senior needing assistance may contact Sue Pirie, the Senior Director, Karen Eddy, the Senior Advisor, or one of your Senior Board Representatives with their request. Requests are reviewed in a confidential manner.

Fundraising events were held over the year. Twice we set up with food at the Sharon rest area, which were very successful. A raffle of fire wood and a quilt was also a great success.

Willing Hands donated approximately 4,300 pounds of fresh produce and eggs to the senior meal sites this year. Panera Bakery donated 100 large boxes of bread, sweets and bagels. Several local farms also donate lots of fresh produce and fruits. We thank them all.

Strafford's Senior Representatives are Debby Richie, Barbara Murray, and Sue Coburn.

Submitted by,
SRASCC Board of Directors
Martha Fisk, President
Kay Ingraham, Vice-President
Corrine Ingraham, Secretary
Susan Coburn, Treasurer

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

As a private nonprofit organization, the Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA Services are available to those age 60 and up, or to adults with disabilities. For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters to remain independent for as long as possible. We connect older adults in our communities to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive. All services are made available to our clients at no charge without regard to health, income, or resources.

At CVCOA, we are the leading experts and advocates in healthy aging for central Vermonters. As the area agency on aging for Central Vermont we are the only community-based provider delivering care coordination, case management, information and assistance, and innovative caregiver supports directly to older Vermonters in their homes, at our office, or by phone. CVCOA provided one or more of the services listed below to 29 residents of Strafford, including 31 residents who received home-delivered and/or congregant meals, 3 who received case management services, and 2 who worked with our Information and Assistance team. CVCOA Case Manager Karen Eddy was designated to work directly with older adults in Strafford.

- CVCOA Helpline - (802) 477-1364 - has the answers to hundreds of common questions from older Vermonters, their families, and caregivers.
- Information & Assistance staff counsels older Vermonters and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, housing, and more.
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.
- Nutrition Services oversees the menu development and technical assistance for home-delivered, congregate, and grab and go meals, and provides the largest source of funding for the 12 nutrition sites that prepare and deliver these meals.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, Medicare & You workshops (now on Zoom), and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Program promotes the well-being of family members caring for loved ones, administration of the Dementia Respite Grant (which provides much needed financial assistance for respite), training, and Memorable Times Café/Memorable Times Online.
- Volunteer Programs provide direct service to community members. Volunteers offer companionship, transportation, assistance with

technology, organizing, wellness classes, meal delivery, special event support, errands and grocery shopping, yardwork, creative guidance, and more.

- Special Projects and Programs are designed to help alleviate social isolation and loneliness, addressing the accessibility gap for homebound older adults and enhancing social connection through arts and technology opportunities. In FY21, CVCOA mobilized 450 volunteers to provide direct service, deliver meals on wheels, support mealsites, provide wellness classes, assist with medicare information, provide companionship and creative encouragement, and more. These volunteers served 32,870 hours in Central Vermont communities.

In FY21, CVCOA mobilized 238 volunteers to provide direct service, deliver meals on wheels, support nutrition sites, provide wellness classes, assist with Medicare counseling, provide companionship and creative encouragement, and more. These volunteers served over 18,000 hours in Central Vermont communities.

CVCOA served 2,974 unduplicated clients in FY22, plus 2,597 additional interactions with community members for outreach and support throughout our service area.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Strafford for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Strafford community and throughout Central Vermont.

*Skylar Clemens,
current owner of
Huntington Farm*

*Photo courtesy
Skylar Clemens*



VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

Home Health, Hospice, and Pediatric Services

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH is committed to providing the highest quality care throughout all stages of life, from maternal child care to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. Providing individuals and families with the care they need within the comfort of their own home allows them to maintain comfort and dignity throughout their time of care.

VNH services reduce costs associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 VNH made 705 in-home visits to 31 residents. This included approximately \$7,471 in unreimbursed care to residents.

- Home Health Care: 332 home visits to 26 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- Hospice Services: 373 home visits to 5 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.

VNH serves many of Strafford's most vulnerable citizens – the frail elderly and disabled, at-risk families, people with terminal illnesses, children with chronic medical needs, and the uninsured and underinsured. We are dedicated to delivering outstanding home health and hospice services that enrich the lives of the people we serve.

It is with your help that we are able to provide services like this to those in need. Strafford's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Anthony Knox
Community Relations Manager

VSNIIP

The Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIIP), under the Vermont Department of Children & Families, is administered by Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law by six months of age. Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics as well as humane societies during the month of March. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly. Licensing a dog:

- 1) Helps identify your dog if lost.
- 2) Provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but still needs immediate medical attention}.
- 3) Protects your animal if they bite another animal {or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanized in order to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated}.
- 4) Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in Vermont.

For an application for VSNIIP and a list of participating offices, send a 9” self-addressed stamped envelope to: VSNIIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Or, to download and print, go to: vsnip.vermont.gov Indicate if it’s for a cat, dog or both. Once fully completed, mail it back. If approved, you will receive your voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pay the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog registration. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea- and tick-free before the visit. Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNIIP offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them. Let them know you appreciate the difference they’ve made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let’s keep it that way!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator
1-844-HI-VSNIIP (1-844-448-7647)

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. Your district office is in White River Junction at the phone number below. We provide a wide range of resources and services to 22 Vermont towns of the Upper Valley to promote health and wellness for all Vermonters. For example, in 2022 we:

Supported health for everyone in the community: We worked on a variety of projects and programs in partnership with schools, worksites, town offices, and local providers. Though we did not serve individuals and families in our office due to COVID, we look forward to in-person services starting in 2023. Our focus is on health equity because all people should have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.

Provided WIC food and nutrition education to families: We served more than 700 residents of our district with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Education and Food Supplementation Program, including 35 percent of infants and children under 5 on Medicaid in Strafford. WIC provides individual nutrition education and breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and a debit card to buy fruit and vegetables.

Ensured emergency preparedness: We worked with local partners, including schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel for an effective pandemic response and to be sure we are prepared to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during any future public health emergency.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In our district we responded to 74 reports of COVID-19 in congregate care settings including 21 outbreaks and 132 reports of COVID-19 in schools. In collaboration with community partners, we hosted 46 COVID-19 vaccination clinics across the district. In addition to COVID-19 we also investigated enteric and tickborne diseases and delivered presentations about preventing tickborne illnesses to 6 area senior centers including one in Strafford.

Student health and youth empowerment: According to the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 54 percent of students in Orange County agree or strongly agree that they “believe they matter to people in their community.” Regionally, we see efforts like mentoring and afterschool enrichment programs helping to ensure youth feel valued and included.

Substance misuse and abuse: Regional substance abuse prevention consultants worked with community groups, schools, human service agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement.

White River Junction Local Health Office
Toll-free: 888-253-8799 Main line: 802-295-8820
Email: AHS.VDHOLHWhiteRiverJunction@vermont.gov

Learn more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction>

Join us on www.facebook.com/vdhwj/

PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL OF THE UPPER VALLEY

The PHC is the largest and broadest coalition of advocates on public health issues in the greater Upper Valley region. Our mission is to improve the health of Upper Valley residents through shared public health initiatives. We have become a trusted and solution-oriented convener that makes a positive difference in the lives of everyone in our region. The PHC is a force multiplier for the organizations, professionals, and citizens, who together make our communities healthier places to live, work, and play.

In 2022, PHC staff and partners worked together to increase collaboration, promote greater health equity, and address priority public health issues for the region. The greatest of these priorities was COVID-19 and its ongoing impact on our region. Our work this year has included:

- Hosted regular meetings for PHC partners to share information about pandemic resources and provide opportunities for sharing and problem solving.
- Ensured cross-border communication about COVID vaccination efforts and helped coordinate vaccine clinics as needed, primarily in New Hampshire given the two states different approaches to vaccine distribution.
- Provided staff support to Upper Valley emergency response efforts and committees within Upper Valley Strong.
- Hosted five flu clinics in rural communities, providing about 1,450 free vaccines, with support from Dartmouth Hitchcock, Geisel School of Medicine and many local partners.
- Continued health equity work by facilitating a committee to explore racism and health as well as consulted on several student projects exploring health equity issues. We are also serving as host for the Upper Valley Community Health Equity Partnership, a program funded by the State of Vermont through a grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Collaborated with local school districts and the Hartford Community Coalition to ensure availability of summer meals for children in the region.

PHC appreciates the opportunity to serve the residents of Strafford and will continue to work hard to meet your needs in 2023. For more information about PHC, visit us at www.uvpublichealth.org.

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Clara Martin Center provides a multitude of services throughout greater Orange County to best meet the needs of community members in a holistic approach. These include individual, couples, and group therapy and services for co-occurring mental health and substance use. We also offer psychiatric consultations and evaluations and medication management services. Services are confidential and include:

- Outpatient Counseling
- Psychiatric Services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School and Home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital Diversion
- Walk-in Clinic
- Vocational Services
- Alcohol and other drug treatment
- Respite Care
- 24-hour emergency system

Clara Martin Center is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance use services to the greater Orange County and the greater Upper Valley area for the last 56 years.

Clara Martin Center's broad range of programs serve children, families, couples, and individuals. Services are confidential and include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school- and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, alternatives to hospital care, respite care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services.

With 56 years of experience and leadership under our belt, Clara Martin Center remains positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve. As we continue to experience the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Clara Martin Center remains committed to meeting both the short and long-term mental health and substance use care needs that the pandemic has impacted.

Clara Martin Center is proud to be the first Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in the State of Vermont, a federal model of care designed to ensure access to a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services regardless of ability to pay, including crisis mental health services, screening, assessment and diagnosis, patient-centered treatment planning, outpatient mental health and substance use services, primary care screening and monitoring, targeted case management, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and family support services, and services for members of the armed services and veterans.

<u>FY2022</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	505	6
School Services	116	2
JOBS	67	0
Adult Services	686	6
CSP Services	147	2
Supportive and Transitional Housing	27	0
Substance Abuse Services	317	2
Corrections Services	98	1
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	236	4
Access	845	8
CCBHC Services	1,087	12
Total Served by Program (unduplicated)	2,078	21
CVSAS	447	0



From the 2022 Show/Event season

Photo by Amy Donohue

SAFELINE

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Safeline continued to be available 24/7 for victims and their families. Calls to Safeline started to increase as survivors had more flexibility to reach out and as children went back to school where mandated reporters could contact authorities about potential abuse. Safeline provided 3,883 services for 315 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, 33 services were provided for 7 victims who identified themselves as residents of Strafford. 6 females and 1 male were provided services. These services included assistance with 4 Relief from Abuse protection orders, 3 elder abuse, 2 domestic violence situations, 1 child abuse and 1 family violence situation. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7 days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking.

We thank the voters for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Strafford.

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

At the October 25, 2022 meeting of the Upper Valley Ambulance Board of Directors, the proposed budget for 2023 was passed unanimously.

We have done our best to build a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of the communities we serve. This budget supports an ambulance replacement schedule that ensures we have the most up to date and reliable sources of transportation for the sick and injured that reside and travel through your communities. I am sure that you all are aware of the hard financial times that we all are facing. We needed to give pay raises to our folks to be competitive and to help them afford rent, gas, and groceries. Our annual fuel bill is forecasted to be 285% over what was budgeted. Who knew what fuel prices would have done in 2022? We are planning for the same or slightly higher fuel expense in 2023. We have ordered a new ambulance for delivery in April, 2024. It is the same vehicle as the last two ambulances but is almost \$40,000 more expensive this time.

Since there is no forecast for an increase in reimbursements by health insurance plans for Medicare and Medicaid, the increase in our expenses will have to result in an increase in the fee to our towns. The increase will be two dollars in the per capita fee over the 2022 fee. So the total fee for 2023 will be \$51 per capita. This reflects a 1.04% increase in fees to our towns.

As always, UVA's policy is that our financial operations are transparent to our communities. Any member of town leadership wishing to review our books should please make an appointment with me to do so. As in previous years, I offer the communities the opportunity to schedule a time when I can meet with either your Selectboard or budget committee.

Upper Valley Ambulance continues to appreciate the support of the towns we serve, and we reciprocate by providing you with high quality emergency medical services.

Best regards,

Alan Beebe, Executive Director

ORANGE COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

Orange County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJC) is a community-based restorative justice agency, offering cost-effective alternatives to the Family, Criminal, Civil Courts and the State corrections system. We remain committed to our mission and vision—building and advocating for just communities by providing restorative programs to address legal issues, wrongdoing, conflict and the needs of harmed parties; and connecting participants to services that improve the health, well-being and positive behavior of individuals and the community. We want the everyday life in Orange County communities to be safe, just, and provide opportunities for all people to thrive.

We offer 10 programs to Orange County residents: Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA), Court Diversion, Driver’s License Reinstatement, Pre-Trial Services, Reparative Panels, Restorative Re-entry after Incarceration, Safe Driver Education, Transitional Housing, Victim Assistance and the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, 311 people were referred to us for services. Local volunteers provided 1,170 hours of their time to support 275 Restorative Meetings. We served 60 harmed parties (victims) and distributed \$3,729 in restitution to those who experienced losses due to crime. OCRJC helped: 90 people connect with counseling services (including 26 youth), 9 people secure housing, 8 people find legal support and 13 people reinstate their driver’s license. We held CoSAs for 6 individuals, secured 3 apartments for transitional housing and had 58 people in our Safe Driver program.

In FY22, OCRJC worked with 8 people who live in or whose incidents took place in Strafford. For each incident referred to OCRJC, the person responsible and the individuals impacted by the crime are offered services.

OCRJC’s FY22 operating budget was \$386,937. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. The Town of Strafford appropriated \$350 for FY22 to support our work. OCRJC requests \$350 in 2023 to support ongoing programs.

Thank you for your support! For additional information, find our website at <https://ocrjvt.org> or contact Jessica Schmidt, Executive Director, at 802-685-3172 or info@ocrjvt.org.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

Member Benefits - All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- Legal and technical assistance, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. During the past year, staff responded to thousands of member questions and published guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2022, VLCT began offering additional government finance training and consulting services and launched the new Federal Funding Assistance Program (FFAP). FFAP offers communities advice on complying with federal rules surrounding pandemic funding, provides direction and insight on accessing billions of dollars in federal infrastructure funding, and provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to officials who carry out their duties required by state law. The League provided training via webinars, onsite classes, and during the hallmark annual event, Town Fair, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. VLCT's Equity Committee also published an online equity toolkit that assists municipalities in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in their decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped provide cities and towns additional resources to respond to the pandemic, address road and bridge repair, tackle cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2022 includes securing \$45 million in funding to help municipalities make energy improvements in their buildings, securing \$250,000 for VLCT's Federal Funding Assistance Program, increasing Municipal Planning Grants to \$870,000, securing \$250,000 for the Vermont Office of Racial Equity to launch the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership Program, and increasing

municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.

- Access to insurance programs. The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also provides members with the option to purchase life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products at a competitive price. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are only available to VLCT members.

Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions and to access resources to help them carry out the important work of local government. To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit vlct.org. Recent audited financial statements are available at vlct.org/AuditReports.



From the 2022 Show/Event season

Photo by Amy Donohue

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for tomorrow that has a thriving regional economy and keeps the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2022.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues: Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

Economy and Public Health: This year, TRORC obtained Federal grant funding to support the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC worked on public health projects with local hospitals, helped towns grapple with new cannabis legislation, and incorporated health-related goals and policies into town plans.

Emergency Management and Preparedness: TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to reduce future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they do happen. When disasters happen, we actively become part of the state and local long-term recovery process.

Energy/Climate Change: TRORC assisted six towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support town Energy Committees on energy efficiency outreach and education with funding from Efficiency Vermont. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation: TRORC managed the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid program in our Region getting funding for towns to implement projects including grass and stone-lined ditches, upsizing and replacement of culverts, and stabilizing catch basin outlets. We also work to support our

transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Strafford this past year, TRORC helped complete the Local Emergency Management Plan and assisted with the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update. TRORC also assisted the Planning Commission with updating its zoning bylaws to facilitate housing. Staff assisted the town on a grant to improve ditching and culverts on Old City Falls Road. As part of the Grants in Aid program, staff worked with the town to complete ditching and culvert improvements on Miller Pond Road. Staff also worked with the town to install a community solar array, and to get funding to replace a diesel school bus with an all-electric one.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
Jerry Fredrickson, Chairperson, Barnard



From the 2022 Show/Event season

Photo by Amy Donohue

STRAFFORD RECYCLING

A good place to start talking about Strafford Recycling is by thanking the many volunteers who make recycling happen in Strafford. They show up on Saturday mornings four times a year to try to get people to put the right stuff into the right bins. This is a challenge for everyone because what can and can't be recycled is constantly changing. If you are unsure about what you have and whether it can be recycled or where it goes, please ask a volunteer. Also note that the deposit bottles and cans that we collect at recycling are collected by the Lions Club for their various good works, including generous support that they've given to the Recycling Center over the years. Committee member Vince Robinson makes strenuous efforts hauling these bottles and cans to get them redeemed.

What we can accept for recycling is determined by what there is and isn't a market for. There is usually some market for mixed paper and corrugated cardboard. But with processing fees we can swing, as we did in 2022, from receiving a reasonable payment per ton to having to paying a noticeable amount per ton to have material taken away. We always pay per ton (in addition to haul fees) to have plastic containers taken away, but it varies from not terribly much to awful. The changing effects of markets for recycled material is reflected in our switch from putting non-deposit glass bottles into a separate dumpster in the first half of the year to mixing them in with the commingled material later in the year. The program for separate glass recycling changed and it became cheaper for us to go back to using the commingled bin for glass bottles (with hard plastic containers and tin cans). Let our helpful volunteers be your guide for what we can and can't take. Also note that most of what you have in your house for disposal can't be recycled; it has to go in the trash. We are a long way from what is sometimes called "the circular economy" where everything gets reprocessed into new raw material. This only works for a few materials now, like cardboard, paper, scrap metal, aluminum cans. The rest is either marginally recyclable, like plastic bottles, or not at all, like lightbulbs and kids' toys.

The markets were favorable to us at the beginning of 2022 in the sense that our costs were less than the previous year, but towards the end of 2022 our costs increased significantly, with things like a diesel fuel surcharge added by Casella to each haul and such commodities as cardboard and paper swinging from a certain amount of revenue per ton to instead a significant charge per ton. We did manage to stay within our budgeted amount of \$19,500 for the year, but for next year we have increased the budget figure for recycling to \$22,000. This is a significant figure for our town. We would like to reduce these costs, but the town is a "price taker" in this situation and doesn't have a lot of control over these costs.

I want to thank the other members of the Recycling Committee. Besides Vince Robinson, they are David Harris and Scott Moore. They do a

significant amount of work beyond Saturdays to keep recycling functioning in Strafford. If you want to help in some way, please contact me.

Michael Scanlan
Recycling Committee chair

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs. In addition, the district offers technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

- GUV held three special collections in 2022 in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford. We collected 6 tons of tires; 4.6 tons of “covered” electronics; and approximately 7 tons of “big” trash. GUV collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- As of mid-November, the residents and businesses in the GUV District had recycled two tons of batteries. You may recycle your batteries at the Strafford Recycling Center and at participating hardware stores. Find drop-off locations at <https://www.call2recycle.org/>
- 2022 data for paint recycling was not available at press time.
- 310 GUV residents (16 from Strafford) participated in three household hazardous waste events. Total cost for three events was \$87,823.00, not including labor or administration for either participating solid waste district. We encourage people to find non-toxic alternatives for cleaning, fertilizing, and getting rid of “pests.”
- Food scraps are banned from the trash, with the exception of meat and bones. If you are finding it difficult to sort your food scraps for composting, please contact our office. We’re here to help.
- The third annual maple sap line collection event took place at the So. Woodstock Fire Station on November 5. It was organized by the Windsor County Maple Producers Association, with help from the Northwest, Greater Upper Valley, and S. Windsor/Windham Counties solid waste management districts. 9 participants diverted 2,000 lbs. tubing and spouts from the landfill.
- 2023 GUV collection event dates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town listservs, and in local newspapers.

- Please check the town listserv for GUV updates and notices about recycling, etc.

In FY2022, Steve Willbanks once again represented Strafford on the GUVSWMD Board of Supervisors. We thank him for his dedication and ongoing support of our work. We also thank all of the recycling volunteers for their continuing support.

For information, call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email hgillett@marcvt.org, or visit www.guvswwmd.org.

GREEN UP VERMONT

Green Up Day on May 7, 2022 was a wonderful success thanks to 19,141 volunteers statewide who participated on Green Up Day. All your hard work to beautify Vermont is crucial and it makes where we get to live, work, and play, a truly special place. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding again for Green Up Day 2023.

Green Up Vermont initiatives are year-round for further our impact with waste reduction initiatives, additional clean-up efforts, and educational programs.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. Thank you for your support of this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow us on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 802-522-7245

STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TOWN OFFICE: 765-4411 ~ TownClerk@StraffordVT.org

LISTERS: 765-4360 ~ Listers@StraffordVT.org

TOWN GARAGE: 765-4550

www.straffordvt.org

Board Meetings

Some meetings may include video conferencing options.

Selectboard – Town Office – Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

*Subject to change – check www.straffordvt.org or
call the Town Office for current Selectboard meeting times*

Planning Commission – Education Center at Morrill Homestead –
Third Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Development Review Board – Town Office – Third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission – Education Center at Morrill Homestead –
Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Energy Committee – via video conference – Second Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

School Directors – Newton School or via video conference –
Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9 1 1

Orange County Sheriff: 685-4875

STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon – South Strafford Substation
Durkee Rubbish Collection - 765-4308

STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY

Check the library website for modified current hours.

765-4037 ~ StraffordVTLibrary@gmail.com

www.StraffordLibrary.org

LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Second Monday each month – 7:00 p.m. at Library