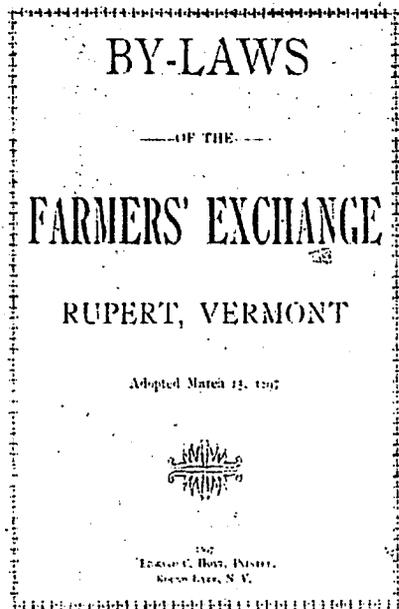
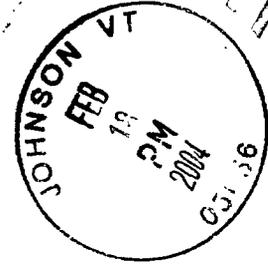


Annual Report of the Board of Officers



**Town of
Rupert, Vermont**

**Fiscal Year
July 1st, 2002 - June 30th, 2003**

DEDICATION

The 2004 Town Report is dedicated to The Rupert Historical Society, which this year marks its 15th year of existence.

We recognize that a township, like the people who live in it, has many stories to tell. Rupert's history reflects the struggles which occurred before the birth of Vermont as a State, with several of its earliest settlers becoming Green Mountain Boys to protect their homes and farms. In Vermont's period of independence and later statehood Rupert citizens have contributed to the growth and achievements of our nation as a whole.

Rupert's stories are being re-discovered through the work of research, preservation, programs, and exhibits of our local historical society. Through public participation and quiet work, this group of dedicated people has done much to fulfill its purpose of gathering and preserving documents, photographs, and articles from our colorful past. Their success in this endeavor will benefit this and all future generations.



**ABSENTEE VOTERS INFORMATION
AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**

The voter who expects to be absent should apply for an absentee voter ballot before noon the day before the election.

The application form for absentee voter ballot may be requested from the Town Clerk by mail, by phone, or in person. The request for the application may be made by the voter or a "family member." Anyone else must request the absentee ballot in writing and must show proof that he or she is authorized by the voter to do so (2532).

The applicant must provide the Clerk with the following information.

1. His/Her Name
2. Current Address

The application and any relevant information accompanying it must be kept by the Town Clerk.

REQUEST FORM FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

Name of Absentee Voter _____

Current Address _____

Residence(if different) _____

Reason for Absence _____

Name of Applicant (not absent voter) _____

Address of Applicant _____

Relationship to Absent Voter _____

Date _____ Signature _____

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RUPERT TOWN OFFICERS

<u>SELECTMEN</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Mark Lourie, Chairman	2005
Austin McKeighan	2006
Axel Blomberg	2004
Edward Lewis	2004
Thomas Wilson	2004
<u>LISTERS</u>	
Val Almosnino, Chairman	2004
Rollin Smith	2006
Cal Yackel	2005
<u>SCHOOL DIRECTORS</u>	
Eugene Ceglowski	2004
Irma Nagle	2005
Jane Lourie	2006
<u>UD #47 SCHOOL DIRECTORS</u>	
Jacqueline Haft	2005
Debbi Wraga	2004
<u>AUDITORS</u>	
Eugene Higgins	2004
Kelly Lewis	2005
Chris Porter	2006
TOWN CLERK: Andrea Lenhardt	2005
TOWN TREASURER: Donald S. Lewis	2005
TOWN MODERATOR: Austin McKeighan	2004
RUPERT SCHOOL MODERATOR: Michael Krauss (Write-In)	2004
ROAD COMMISSIONER: Jay E. Wilson III	2004
TOWN AGENT: Horace Moore	2004
TOWN GRAND JUROR: Horace Moore	2004
FIRST CONSTABLE: Erwin Tobin	2004
SECOND CONSTABLE: Jeff Lourie	2004
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Morris Barden	
TOWN SERVICE AGENT: Board of Selectmen	
TOWN SERVICE OFFICER: Cathy Plonski	
TOWN FIRE WARDEN: Mark Lourie	
TOWN HEALTH OFFICER: Laura Thompson	
POUNDKEEPER: William Ferrone - Sykes Hollow Kennels	
TREE WARDEN: Mark Lourie	
WEIGHER OF COAL & FENCE VIEWERS: David Tooley, Edward Lewis, Donald S. Lewis	
INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES & WOOD: Rupert Selectboard	
DISTRICT RUTLAND-8 REPRESENTATIVE: Perry Waite	
DISTRICT BENNINGTON-5 REPRESENTATIVE: Larry Malloy	
<u>JUSTICES OF THE PEACE</u> Austin McKeighan, Eugene Higgins, Linda Montague, Edward Ferenc, Jeremy Russo	
<u>LIBRARY TRUSTEES</u>	
Sharon Rishell, Chairwoman	2004
Jane Lourie	2005
Mandy Mayer	2004 (completing term)
Lisa Wilson	2005
Jason Fry	2006
Joanne Smith (Resigned)	2006
Christina Chambeau (Resigned)	2006
Veronica Hale (Appointed by Selectboard)	2004
Jean Pritchard (Appointed by Selectboard)	2004

AUDITOR'S REPORT TOWN FUNDS JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2003

ASSETS:

Cash on hand as of June 30, 2003

General Fund Account - Factory Point National Bank	\$50,555.44
Less Outstanding Checks	\$36,199.39
Total Cash on Hand	\$14,356.05

Cemetery Fund Account - Chittenden Bank (Renew 8/9/04)	\$4,393.02
Reappraisal Fund Account	\$0.00
Money Market Fund - Factory Point National Bank	\$134,406.02

RECEIVABLES:

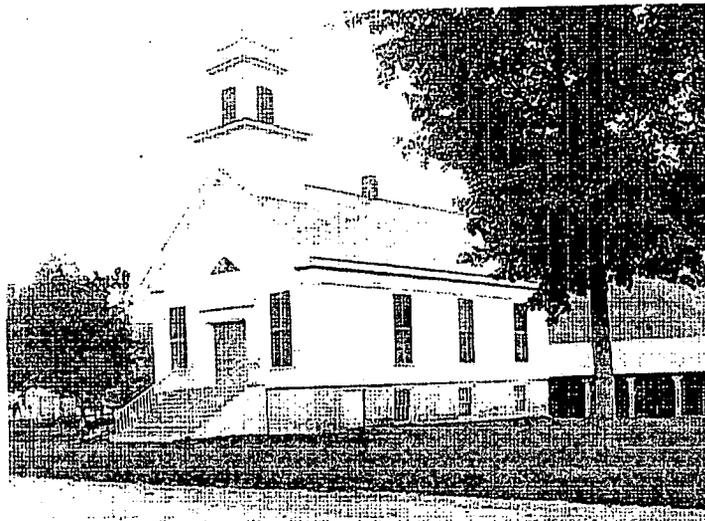
Delinquent Taxes	\$33,890.34
Hazard Mitigation Project	\$31,413.53

SCHOOL FUNDS ASSETS

School Checking Account - Factory Point National Bank	\$14,205.22
Rupert Educational Reserve Account - Chittenden Bank (Sinking Fund)	\$38,854.52
Money Market Account - Charter One	\$47,722.10
Tax Stabilization Reserve Account - Banknorth	\$62,847.83

Respectfully submitted,

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



STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES

JUNE 30, 2003

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>
1998	Rick & Laura Thompson*	\$71.72
2000	Margery Barrows	50.40
2001	Kenneth McKeighan	66.07
2001	Matthew Wolff*	891.76
2001	Margery Barrows	29.09
2002	Margery Barrows	62.40
2002	Melford Bibens	2,074.80
2002	William & Louise Daly*	1,129.70
2002	William & Edward Dodzian	1,014.00
2002	William & Tarra Ferrone	10,421.16
2002	Michael & Ralph Henderer	847.60
2002	Stephanie Jacob*	1,905.80
2002	Tim & Christine Lee*	141.04
2002	George & Kelli Lewis*	633.40
2002	Edward Liang*	889.20
2002	Tim & Dorothy Mackey	1,385.80
2002	Janet Matteson	315.48
2002	Beverly Matteson Estate	232.08
2002	Craig & Amanda McLean*	169.29
2002	Bertha Meyer	4,680.00
2002	Francia Plunkett	2,028.00
2002	Robert Royce*	800.80
2002	Ken & Sarah Stetham*	1,560.00
2002	Julie Warren*	155.95
2002	Matthew Wolff*	<u>2,334.80</u>
	Total:	\$33,890.34

*These people have paid in full or partial since June 30, 2003.

DELINQUENT TAXES

To June 30, 2003

Balance Uncollected June 30, 2002 -	\$32,485.90
Tim & Dorothy Mackey - \$508.89/Matthew Wolff - \$800. (Abated) -	<u>1,308.89</u>
	\$31,177.01

2002 Delinquent Taxes

Received From Treasurer February 24, 2003 -	<u>\$82,786.25</u>
Totals -	\$113,963.26

Amounts Paid To Donald S. Lewis

September 10, 2002	-	\$ 4,129.25
December 20, 2002	-	13,592.85
February 10, 2003	-	14,408.12
April 1, 2003	-	43,001.73
May 9, 2003	-	13,505.06
June 30, 2003	-	<u>5,978.98</u>
	Sub Total:	\$94,615.99
Less Fees On Order	-	<u>6,397.54</u>
Sub Total (Including Attorney Fee, Warrants, etc.):		\$88,218.45
2002 Interest To Town From Del. Taxes	-	<u>8,145.53</u>
	Sub Total:	\$80,072.92
Balance Uncollected June 30, 2003	+	<u>33,890.34</u>
	Total:	\$113,963.26

TOTAL COST OF RE-APPRAISAL (NON-BUDGET ITEM)

Total Contract Fee	\$ 46,560.00
Total funds available received to date from VT State Treasurer	14,262.80
Net Cost	32,297.20
Additional expense to Town	
1. Listers (net expense to Town \$1500)	3,000.00
2. Donald S. Lewis	1,000.00

RUPERT CEMETERY CD (2yrs) CHITTENDEN BANK

Value CD 06/30/02	4,393.02
Interest earned through 06/30/03	
CD Value 6/30/03	
Renewed until 08/09/04	

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT (FPNB)

Cash on Hand 07/01/02	162,039.48
Receipts	1,743,619.61
Disbursements	1,771,253.07
Cash on Hand 06/30/03	134,406.02

GENERAL FUND CHECKING (FACTORY POINT NATIONAL BANK)

Bank balance cash on hand 07/01/02	13,049.27
Received	1,871,272.64
Disbursed	1,833,766.47
Bank balance 06/30/03	50,555.44
Checks outstanding	-36,199.39
Cash on hand	14,356.05

RUPERT EDUCATIONAL RESERVE ACCOUNT (CHITTENDEN BANK)

(Formerly Rupert School District Funds CD Sinking Fund)

Cash on hand 06/30/02	43,864.00
Disbursements: Kittay Public Library	4,000.00
Rupert Historical Society	2,000.00
Interest earned	990.52
CD value 06/30/03	38,854.52

RUPERT SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDS AT BANKNORTH

Tax Stabilization Reserve Account	
Cash on hand 06/28/02	61,856.33
Interest	991.50
Cash on hand 06/30/03	62,847.83

REVENUE REPORT - RUPERT GENERAL FUND

Account		Received To Date
1-06	<u>REVENUES</u>	
1-06-000.00	Current Taxes	1,492,712.83
1-06-05	<u>Town Clerk Fees</u>	
1-06-05.00	Dog Licenses via Town Clerk	753.00
1-06-05.01	RCC sticker funds via TC	3,350.00
1-06-05.02	RCC sticker funds via MHS	7,567.61
1-06-05.05	Photocopies via Town Clerk	0.00
1-06-05.10	Record Restoration Fee \$1/p	1,184.00
1-06-05.90	2 nd Class License - MHS	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES		12,904.61
1-06-06	<u>Zoning Fees</u>	
1-06-06.15	Zoning Et al. Permits	<u>1,627.00</u>
TOTAL ZONING FEES		1,627.00
1-06-10	<u>Interest</u>	
1-06-10.00	Checking Account Interest	168.48
1-06-10.05	Money Market Interest	4,659.05
1-06-10.09	Cemetary CD Interest	445.69
1-06-10.10	Delinquent Tax Interest	8,104.62
1-06-10.15	Treasurer Del Tax Interest	<u>1,032.84</u>
TOTAL INTEREST		14,410.68
1-06-20	<u>Delinquent Taxes</u>	
1-06-20.00	Tax to Town via ET	80,471.71
1-06-20.05	Delinquent Tax Fee via ET	6,369.43
1-06-20.06	Warrants del tax via ET	10.00
1-06-20.10	Overpayment of Del Tax	<u>2.57</u>
TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES		86,853.71
1-06-30	<u>State Aid & Fines</u>	
1-06-30.00	Highway State Aid (Roads)	90,508.60
1-06-30.10	Bridge Reimbursement	13,926.52
1-06-30.20	Current Use	28,003.00
1-06-30.21	Current Use w/drwl penalty	201.40

1-06-30.22	Reapp funds via vt st tre	4,067.00
1-06-30.25	Culvert Reimbursement	25,200.00
1-06-30.30	Sheriff/Trooper Fines	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL STATE AID & FINES		161,906.52

1-06-40	<u>Payment In Lieu Of Taxes</u>	
1-06-40.00	Merck Forest	7,000.00
1-06-40.05	US Govt	228.00
1-06-40.10	State - Fish/Game & Land	<u>970.00</u>
TOTAL PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES		8,198.00

1-06-50	<u>Reimbursements</u>	
1-06-50.05	VLCT Refund on Audit	343.60
1-06-50.10	Reim Library Salary	<u>7,790.09</u>
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS		8,133.69

1-06-70.00	Sale of Equipment	125.00
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1-06-90	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
1-06-90.00	Miscellaneous	<u>*43,415.50</u>
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS		43,415.50

TOTAL REVENUES		1,830,287.54
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*Treasurers Note: Non-Budget Receivable Via VT State Treasurer - \$33,091.04

TAXES BILLED & COLLECTED

TOTAL TAX BILLING AUGUST 2002	\$1,581,497.05
Total tax deposits with interest	\$1,496,246.99
Uncollected list to Erwin Tobin	\$82,786.25

TOTAL WARRANTS RECEIVED FROM SELECTMEN

July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

Net Payroll	\$102,844.21
Accounts Payable	\$1,727,035.69

Treasurer's note:

1. The following from salaries of library staff and matching FICA and Medicare was reimbursed to the Town of Rupert in the amount of \$7,790.09.
2. Paid Rupert School District \$929,138.00 and paid VT State Treasurer (shark pool) \$273,299.64.



CAPITAL ASSETS - TOWN OF RUPERT

2000 John Deere 544 Payloader	\$ 75,000.00
1999 International 2674 Tandem Dump Truck	\$ 70,000.00
1999 Zwack 14 Foot Stainless Steel Sander	\$ 10,000.00
1999 Everest Plow & Wing	\$ 5,000.00
1995 Everest DBS Tailgate Sander	\$ 2,000.00
1992 Woods Ditchbank Mower	\$ 500.00
1992 Everest 11 Foot Snowplow	\$ 2,500.00
1990 Zwack 13 Foot Hopper Sander	\$ 4,000.00
1989 International Tandem Truck	\$ 20,500.00
1989 Everest 11 Foot Wing	\$ 1,000.00
1988 York Stone Rake	\$ 7,500.00
1985 International S2574 Dump Truck	\$ 8,000.00
1985 Frink 10 Foot Wing	\$ 500.00
1980 John Deere 772A Motor Grader	\$ 20,000.00
1976 John Deere 40 JC Tractor/Loader	\$ 2,500.00
1973 Frink 10 Foot Snowplow	\$ 500.00
Town Barn	\$ 60,000.00
Municipal Tools at Town Barn	\$ 7,500.00
Municipal Forest	\$ 50,000.00
2 Acres Purchased in 2000	\$ 8,000.00

TOWN OF RUPERT PAYROLL

Gross Payroll	\$126,281.76
Federal Withholding	\$ 8,001.06
FICA	\$ 8,071.08
Medicare	\$ 1,887.55
State Withholding	\$ 2,259.68
Retirement Plan	\$ 3,218.18
NET PAYROLL	\$102,844.21

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Budget and Actual - General Fund Year Ending June 30, 2003

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
School Tax Payments		
Rupert School Dist Block	836,561.00	561,888.00
Rupert School Local Share	367,250.00	367,250.00
Shark Pool	181,118.00	273,299.64
Glebe Rent to School	<u>0.00</u>	<u>73.53</u>
Total School Tax Payments	1,384,929.00	1,202,511.17

TOWN BUDGET

Salaries

Town Clerk	7,500.00	7,507.00
Library Employee Salary	0.00	6,817.50
Treasurer	12,000.00	12,000.00
Selectmen	3,000.00	3,000.00
Constable	500.00	334.39
Del Tax Collector Fees	0.00	6,419.23
Warrants via Del Collect	0.00	0.00
Auditors	1,100.00	1,100.00
Listers	2,500.00	2,635.00
Solid Waste Attendant	6,400.00	6,390.00
Board of Civil Authority	1,000.00	1,809.50
Fica/Medi	3,000.00	4,445.46
Town Officers Expense	2,000.00	942.56
Dog Ordinance Expense	500.00	0.00
Zoning & Planning	1,000.00	1,124.60
Elections	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,426.31</u>
Total Salaries	41,700.00	55,951.55

Supplies & Maintenance

Office Supplies	2,000.00	2,827.22
Postage	1,000.00	968.94
Town Report	1,000.00	1,396.32
Office Equipment Repair	800.00	102.70
Town Records Restoration	500.00	0.00
Office Capital Purchase	4,000.00	1,734.43
Land Purchase	0.00	0.00
NEMRC Software Purchase	0.00	285.00
Computer Schooling NEMRC	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>1,482.50</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	11,300.00	8,797.11

Utilities

Electricity - Town Office	800.00	706.93
Electric - Rupert School	600.00	717.14
Electric - W Rupert School	0.00	219.86
Electric - Town Garage	1,800.00	2,184.27
Electric - Street Lights	7,000.00	7,245.08
Telephone - Town Office	1,500.00	1,728.76
Telephone - Town Garage	1,800.00	2,352.20
Solid Waste Removal	24,000.00	21,877.68

Fuel Oil - Rupert School	1,500.00	1,787.67
Fuel Oil - Rupert School	0.00	0.00
Town Office Heating Oil	1,500.00	1,508.27
Town Office (new) Maint.	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>1,184.83</u>
Total Utilities	43,000.00	41,512.69

Outside Services

Attorney's Fees	5,000.00	362.85
General Town Insurance	7,500.00	7,742.25
Audit	0.00	0.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	1,500.00	862.97
Interest	0.00	0.00
Bennington County Tax	7,500.00	7,075.59
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	1,000.00	998.00
Town Reappraisal Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>38,900.09</u>
Total Outside Services	22,500.00	55,941.75

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>550.00</u>
Total Miscellaneous	2,000.00	550.00

Total Town Budget	120,500.00	170,342.10
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HIGHWAY BUDGET

Salaries/Wages

Highway Crew	77,000.00	82,241.19
Mileage Reimbursement (30c/mi)	700.00	362.70
Fica/Medi	6,800.00	7,407.22
Health Insurance	26,000.00	33,738.38
Retirement	4,000.00	3,896.48
Unemployment Insurance	1,000.00	271.42
Workers Compensation	<u>6,500.00</u>	<u>7,589.00</u>
Total Salaries/Wages	122,000.00	135,506.39

Supplies & Maintenance

Parts & Supplies	12,000.00	17,687.57
Equipment Rental	7,500.00	1,575.00
Oil & Lube	2,000.00	1,425.45
Diesel	11,000.00	11,423.25
Equipment Repair	14,000.00	7,797.48
Town Barn Repair	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>168.45</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	50,500.00	40,077.20

Town Barn Heating Oil	2,500.00	1,768.24
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Outside Services

Contract Services	0.00	4,681.92
Blasting	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>
Total Outside Services	4,000.00	8,681.92

Road Maintenance Material

Gravel	20,000.00	26,868.72
Sand	10,000.00	10,511.80

Salt	22,000.00	28,845.20
Calcium Chloride	10,000.00	10,709.82
Hot & Cold Patch	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>171.30</u>
Total Road Maintenance Material	67,000.00	77,106.84
Projects		
Flood Costs 12/17/00	28,357.60	28,357.60
Mitigation	45,000.00	12,307.12
NRCS	0.00	0.00
Br #6 Study Grant	40,427.00	22,244.50
Paving	45,000.00	25,154.68
Bridges	10,000.00	35,810.39
Class III Roads	10,000.00	2,800.00
Guard Rails/Culverts	6,000.00	9,903.12
McKeighan Project	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Projects	184,784.60	136,577.41
Vehicles & Equipment		
Blades	4,000.00	2,800.15
Tires	6,000.00	4,444.97
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	426.03
TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET	481,784.60	436,565.04
APPROPRIATIONS		
Vt Ctr for Indep Living	70.00	120.00
Rupert Youth	300.00	300.00
SW Vt Council on Aging	400.00	400.00
Salem Rescue Squad	1,000.00	1,000.00
Granville Rescue Squad	200.00	400.00
Manchester Rescue Squad	200.00	0.00
Dorset Nursing Association	2,500.00	2,500.00
Rupert Volunteer Fire Co	12,500.00	12,500.00
Benn Rutl Opportunity Cncl	400.00	400.00
Rosalind Keshin Kittay Pl	600.00	600.00
Northshire Transp Project	500.00	0.00
American Red Cross	500.00	500.00
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	250.00	250.00
Poultny/Mett Water Shed	0.00	0.00
Bennington Tutorial	0.00	0.00
Coalition for Homeless	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Appropriations	19,420.00	18,970.00
Voted Budgetary Articles		
Blacktop Cl III Rd Article	10,000.00	0.00
Rupert Youth Prg Fund	300.00	0.00
Establish Town Lines	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Voted Budgetary Articles	10,300.00	0.00
Capital Outlay	0.00	0.00
Proceeds Borrowing	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditures	2,016,633.60	1,828,088.31

**SELECTBOARD REPORT - ANTICIPATED INCOME
JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005**

State of Vermont - Highway Aid	\$ 90,500.00
Current Use - Hold Harmless	\$ 29,000.00
Recycling Center Funds	\$ 11,000.00
Reimbursement Library Salaries	\$ 8,000.00
Merck Forest in lieu of taxes	\$ 7,000.00
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees	\$ 6,500.00
Interest - Money Market Account	\$ 4,000.00
Reappraisal Funds via State	\$ 4,000.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ 6,000.00
Licenses & Zoning Permits	\$ 2,000.00
Misc.	\$ <u>1,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$ 169,000.00

Budget July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005	
General Government	\$ 143,400.00
Highway Expense	<u>\$ 385,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>	\$ 528,400.00
Less anticipated income	<u>(\$ 169,000.00)</u>
*AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$359,400.00



Town of Rupert General Ledger Current Year Budget Status Report

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/03-6/30/04</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>THRU 12/31/03</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>FY 04/05</u>
School Tax Payments			
Rupert School Dist Block	884,632.00	494,171.00	
Rupert School Local Share	422,332.00	0.00	
Shark Pool	0.00	158,514.44	
Glebe Rent to School	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
Total School Tax Payments	1,306,964.00	652,685.44	
 TOWN BUDGET			
Salaries			
Town Clerk	7,500.00	4,057.36	7,500.00
Library Employee Salary*	10,000.00	3,116.50	8,000.00
Treasurer	12,000.00	6,000.00	12,000.00
Selectmen	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Constable	500.00	382.56	500.00
Del Tax Collector Fees*	6,500.00	1,091.47	6,500.00
Warrants via Del Collect	0.00	0.00	0.00
Auditors	1,100.00	0.00	1,500.00
Listers	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Solid Waste Attendant	6,400.00	3,170.00	6,400.00
Board of Civil Authority	1,000.00	1,121.75	1,000.00
Fica/Medi	4,000.00	2,481.62	4,000.00
Town Officers Expense	2,000.00	416.24	2,000.00
Dog Ordinance Expense	500.00	0.00	500.00
Zoning & Planning	1,000.00	624.08	1,000.00
Elections	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Salaries	59,200.00	27,961.58	57,600.00
 Supplies & Maintenance			
Office Supplies	2,000.00	724.10	2,000.00
Postage	1,000.00	644.13	1,000.00
Town Report	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Office Equipment Repair	800.00	497.00	800.00
Town Records Restoration	500.00	0.00	500.00
Office Capital Purchase	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Land Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEMRC Software Purchase	0.00	960.00	0.00
Computer Schooling NEMRC	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	10,300.00	2,825.23	10,300.00
 Utilities			
Electricity - Town Office	800.00	102.90	800.00
Electric - Rupert School	600.00	209.76	600.00
Electric - W Rupert School	0.00	159.09	0.00
Electric - Town Garage	1,800.00	420.86	1,800.00
Electric - Street Lights	7,000.00	2,964.29	7,000.00
Telephone - Town Office	1,500.00	806.92	1,500.00
Telephone - Town Garage	1,800.00	1,311.89	1,800.00

Solid Waste Removal	24,000.00	12,042.17	24,000.00
Fuel Oil - Rupert School	1,500.00	327.21	1,500.00
Town Office Heating Oil	1,500.00	615.46	1,500.00
Town Office (new) Maint.	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>387.50</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total Utilities	45,500.00	19,348.05	45,500.00

Outside Services

Attorney's Fees	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
General Town Insurance	7,500.00	206.35	7,500.00
Audit	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	1,500.00	1,444.00	1,500.00
Cemetery Maintenance	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Bennington County Tax	7,500.00	7,732.88	7,500.00
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	1,000.00	0.00	1,500.00
Town Reappraisal Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Outside Services	20,000.00	10,383.23	28,000.00

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>3,465.52</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Miscellaneous	2,000.00	3,465.52	2,000.00

Total Town Budget	137,000.00	63,983.61	143,400.00
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HIGHWAY BUDGET

Salaries/Wages

Highway Crew	80,000.00	41,128.04	80,000.00
Mileage Reimbursement (30c/mi)	700.00	189.90	700.00
Fica/Medi	7,000.00	3,786.01	7,000.00
Health Insurance	30,000.00	10,177.66	34,000.00
Retirement	4,000.00	1,888.44	4,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	1,000.00	119.42	1,000.00
Workers Compensation	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>119.42</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>
Total Salaries/Wages	130,700.00	57,408.89	134,700.00

Supplies & Maintenance

Parts & Supplies	12,000.00	10,823.88	12,000.00
Equipment Rental	1,800.00	5,700.00	1,800.00
Oil & Lube	2,000.00	1,178.81	2,000.00
Diesel	11,000.00	6,638.96	11,000.00
Equipment Repair	14,000.00	6,912.53	14,000.00
Town Barn Repair	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Supplies & Maintenance	43,800.00	31,254.18	43,800.00

Town Barn Heating Oil	2,500.00	576.44	2,500.00
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Outside Services

Contract Services	0.00	0.00	0.00
Blasting	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>
Total Outside Services	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00

Road Maintenance Material

Gravel	18,000.00	9,269.55	18,000.00
Sand	10,000.00	13,130.37	13,000.00

Salt	22,000.00	6,170.14	22,000.00
Calcium Chloride	10,000.00	3,489.36	10,000.00
Hot & Cold Patch	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>591.84</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total Road Maintenance Material	65,000.00	32,651.26	68,000.00

Projects

Flood Costs 12/17/00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mitigation	0.00	29,611.00	0.00
NRCS	0.00	0.00	0.00
Br #6 Study Grant*	57,755.50	0.00	0.00
Paving	45,000.00	59,070.24	45,000.00
Bridges	10,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Class III Roads	10,000.00	14,503.00	10,000.00
Guard Rails/Culverts	6,000.00	3,603.86	6,000.00
McKeighan Project	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Projects	71,000.00	106,788.10	81,000.00

Vehicles & Equipment	40,000.00	22,538.37	40,000.00
Blades	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
Tires	6,000.00	334.28	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>310.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	51,000.00	23,182.65	51,000.00

TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET 368,000.00 251,861.52 385,000.00

APPROPRIATIONS

Vt Ctr for Indep Living	120.00	120.00	
Rupert Youth	300.00	0.00	
SW Vt Council on Aging	400.00	400.00	
Salem Rescue Squad	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Granville Rescue Squad	400.00	400.00	
Manchester Rescue Squad	0.00	0.00	
Dorset Nursing Association	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Rupert Volunteer Fire Co	12,500.00	12,500.00	
Benn Rutl Opportunity Cncl	400.00	400.00	
Rosalind Keshin Kittay Pl	600.00	600.00	
Northshire Transp Project	500.00	500.00	
American Red Cross	0.00	0.00	
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	250.00	250.00	
Poultny/Mett Water Shed	500.00	500.00	
Bennington Tutorial	250.00	250.00	
Coalition for Homeless	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	
Total Appropriations	19,920.00	19,920.00	

Voted Non Budgetary Articles

Blacktop Cl III Rd Article	23,000.00	0.00	
Rupert Youth Prg Fund	300.00	300.00	
Establish Town Lines	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
Total Voted Budgetary Articles	23,300.00	300.00	

Capital Outlay	0.00	0.00	
Proceeds Borrowing	0.00	0.00	

Total Expenditures 1,855,984.00 988,750.57 *Non-Budget Item

**TOWN OF RUPERT
DOG LICENSES ISSUED FOR 2003**

CASH ON HAND JAN. 1, 2003	\$ 0.00
171 DOGS LICENSED	\$ 1,027.00
2 BREEDER LICENSES @ \$30.00	\$ 60.00
2 LATE BREEDER LICENSE @ \$45.00	<u>\$ 90.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,177.00
Fees to Vermont State Treasurer (\$1.00) per dog	(\$ 171.00)
Fees to Vermont State Treasurer (\$1.00) per breeder	(\$ 4.00)
Fees donated by T.C. to Second Chance Animal Shelter	(\$ 300.00)
Cost for 2003 dog tags	<u>(\$ 42.00)</u>
Net revenue for Town of Rupert for the 2003 calendar year	\$ 660.00

NOTE FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

New dog licenses for 2004 are now at the Town Office. Registration due date is April 1, 2004. Dogs residing in the State of Vermont must be vaccinated every TWO years for rabies and proof of a current rabies certificate must be presented upon registration. If you cannot find your dog's rabies certificate, call the Town Offices, we might have it on file. The \$1.00 per license fee collected, which is forwarded to the State Treasurer, is applied to the states rabies control program.

Fees are as follows:

BEFORE APRIL 1 ST .	\$5.00-neutered/spayed	\$ 9.00-unaltered
AFTER APRIL 1 ST .	\$7.00-neutered/spayed	\$13.00-unaltered

Let me remind all dog owners that the Rupert Animal Control Ordinance has been in effect since Jan. 9, 1999. Copies are available at the town office.

Town clerk will donate her 2004 fees to the Second Chance Animal Center, in Shaftsbury, Vt., in celebration of Aggie Armstrong and Eli McKeighan for their continuous care to the cats who reside at the Transfer Station. One can only hope to get a glimpse of these felines since they are not use to humans and only because Aggie and Eli's kindness and dedication are they able to exist. Therefore, this year, \$100 of fee's collected for dog licenses will go towards food to help these cats; the rest will go to the Second Chance Animal Shelter. (I hope the Rupert canines don't mind.)

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS

2003 Births

FINLEY JEAN MAYER Born to: Jedediah S. & Amanda J. Mayer	JANUARY 1, 2003
CAMERON LUCIANO VERRUSO Born to: Kenneth L. & Brenda Marie Verruso	APRIL 4, 2003
BROOKE LOGAN JURNAK Born to: David F. Jurnak & Ashley K. Armstrong	JUNE 18, 2003
SOPHIA LYDIA VICKERY Born to: Randy & Anna Vickery	JUNE 23, 2003
KATELYN LEIGH CHIRASELLO Born to: Nickolas W. Chirasello & Sarah C. Matteson	JULY 31, 2003

2003 Marriages

Winfield P. Gates III to Felicia Ellen Armstrong	April 20, 2003
John F. Korzeniecki II to Megan L. Burgess	June 7, 2003
Kenneth A. Smith to Christina M. Cosgrove	June 21, 2003
Isaac Robert Bain to Bethany Anne Rives	August 30, 2003
Geoffrey Newell Bowen to Karrie Jean Lenhardt	Sept. 20, 2003

Civil Unions

Judith Ann Sweetland to Sammie Kay Lewis	Sept. 6, 2003
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2003 Deaths

Kenneth B. McKeighan Sr.	January 31, 2003	Age 90
Lucinda (Cindy) Campbell	-	-
Winthrop Greenfield Loomis	March 21, 2003	Age 91
Elsie M. Balla	April 21, 2003	Age 72
Louis (Pop) Neilson	May 8, 2003	Age 86
John Mohan	May 18, 2003	Age 55
Helen Vivian Truehart	June 21, 2003	Age 84
G. Holden McKeighan	June 23, 2003	Age 81
Alan H. Goldman	July 15, 2003	Age 78
Lois R. Graf	July 15, 2003	Age 84

These are the vital records for 2003 that have been filed at the Rupert Town Office. If a birth, marriage or death does not occur in the town and you would like to have the event listed in the town report, please file a certified copy of the record with the town clerk. If I have missed some event, I do apologize.

Respectfully submitted: Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT 2003

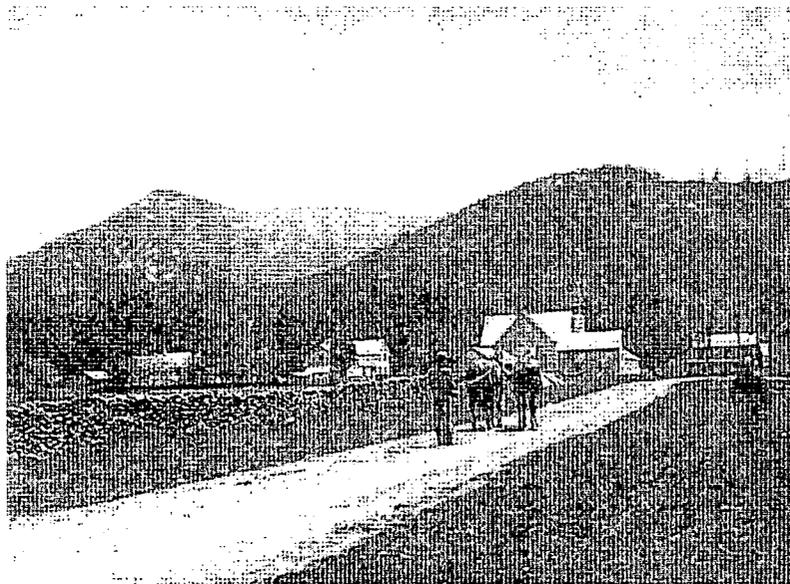
The planning commission meets the first Monday of each month at the Town Office at 7:00 p.m. The members are as follows: Jed Rubin (chairman), Julian Dixon, Bob Bain, Charles Rockwell, Gabriel Russo, and Phil Chapman.

For the year 2003, there were a total of 27 applications, the breakdown is as follows:

Additions.....	8
Apartments.....	2
Barns.....	1
Residence.....	5
Garage.....	2
Porch.....	1
Decks.....	2
Sign.....	0
Septic Applications.....	5
Subdivision.....	1

Respectfully submitted,

Morris Barden
Administrative Officer



SUPERINTENDENT'S ENROLLMENT REPORT

RUPERT TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT: DECEMBER 1, 2003

METTAWEE
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SCHOOLS
NOT PAID FOR BY DISTRICT

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SALEM ELEMENTARY</u>	<u>MAPLE STREET</u>
K - 6		
1 - 4		
2 - 3	1	3
3 - 5	1	
4 - 12	1	
5 - 6		
6 - <u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL <u>39</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

HOME SCHOOLERS - 5
EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM - 7

SALEM
HIGH SCHOOL

LONG TRAIL

OTHER

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>LONG TRAIL</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
7 - 7		4
8 - 13	1	
9 - 5	2	1
10 - 8	1	1
11 - 7		1
12 - <u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>43</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT

This is my fifteenth report to you as your Superintendent of Schools. The Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union (BRSU) central office continues to offer support and assistance to our nine school districts as each addresses its own concerns, needs and local issues. The average daily membership of students in the BRSU over the past fifteen years (1989 to 2004) has increased by over 200 students (1,627 to 1,835); over the last 5 years, however, we have seen an average decrease of 1% per year.

The Act 60 educational funding law had brought us significant financial concerns. This past year's enactment of Act 68 has changed the rules once again. While budgets are being prepared and tax rates are being projected using the new rules, additional reporting requirements have also been imposed on school districts. This year for the first time we are required to present to voters, on a Commissioner approved form, a more detailed four year budget comparison.

Each school continues to be actively involved in assessing its students' performance and planning strategies for improving instruction. Each school continues to prepare an annual Action Plan to address areas that need attention based on current assessment results. All schools report on their results to their local boards and to the public. In addition, the 2002 federal *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* law requires other reporting and notification. One important component of this law requires the schools that receive Title I compensatory funding (Currier, Manchester, Mettawee, and Sunderland) to hire both highly qualified teachers and teacher assistants. Teachers must be licensed; and teacher assistants must have either completed at least two (2) years of college or pass an equivalent test to assure competency in reading and math. I have asked Assistant Superintendent John Bacon to present an accompanying report, along with 2003 test scores, for your local school.

For the past four years, Dr. Bacon has served as our Assistant Superintendent. His duties include overseeing the Title I, II IV, and V federal programs; the Section 504 federal law; and Safe and Drug Free Schools programs; coordinating professional development activities; and assisting with the overall administration of our nine school districts.

The BRSU Board-approved model for special education administration includes a part-time central office coordinator along with special education directors employed either directly or indirectly by the town school districts. Judith Adams is serving in her fifth year as our Coordinator as well as our Early Education Program Director. Debbie Gould serves as Director for Manchester, Susan Kristoff for Pawlet and Rupert, Debbie Brophy-Antonez for the Dorset School, and Mary K. Murphy for Sunderland, Danby, Mt. Tabor, along with Dorset's secondary students. We continue to operate a highly successful Early Education Program serving approximately seventy handicapped and at-risk children at

centers located at the Mt. Tabor Town Hall, the Manchester Elementary Middle School, the Happy Days Play School in Arlington and the Mettawee Community School in Pawlet.

Dr. Charlene Rapinz continues for the thirteenth year in her role as our full-time school psychologist and is joined for the fourth year by our part-time school psychologist Dr. Mary Hissong. Greg Rosenthal continues as our federally funded School-to-Work facilitator who assists our special needs high school students in transitioning to the work force.

Over the past seven years, our supervisory union has been a strong proponent of Asian studies. When our elementary students enter high school and college, they will be studying side by side with students from many backgrounds and cultures. With the emerging global economy focusing on Asia, it is important that we provide multi-cultural Asian experiences for our students. At least ten BRSU educators have participated and received funding from the Freeman Foundation for study programs in Asia. Our schools have served as hosts for teachers from China, Japan, and Thailand. The BRSU joined with other local supervisory unions to write and implement a Freeman Foundation grant that is allowing our local high school students to participate in Asian exchange programs. Last year, sixteen students from China visited local high schools and even toured *Hildene*; and another group of students will be arriving at the end of January. A group of local high school students, including participants from Burr & Burton Academy, Mill River UHS, and Poultney HS, will be traveling to China in April and another group will follow in June.

Our office continues to provide a multitude of services, including the monitoring high school tuition payments for over seven hundred students; assisting Boards in determining residency; preparing budgets and most meeting agendas; dealing with truancy and legal issues; arranging for appropriate insurance coverage; preparing and overseeing a multitude of contracts; and providing assistance to our boards, principals, teachers, parents, and to community members in general. We look forward to serving our communities in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Scieszka, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDIT

The Rupert Board of School Directors engaged Jeffrey R. Bradley, CPA, Mendon, VT, to conduct an audit of its FY '03 accounts. Copies of the audit report will be available for public inspection at the Rupert Town Clerk (394-7728) or the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union Office (362-2452).

**Rupert School District
FY '05 Budget**

	<u>FY '03 Budget</u>	<u>FY '03 Actual</u>	<u>FY '04 Budget</u>	<u>FY '04 Anticipated</u>	<u>FY '05 Budget</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>					
10 Elementary Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
15 Secondary Program	211,780	211,499	211,300	195,175	196,900
20 Special Education-Elementary	115,623	125,005	78,074	87,768	92,324
21 Special Education-Secondary	178,266	159,847	223,754	217,965	199,515
30 Early Education	9,424	13,628	12,393	15,433	20,974
40 Vocational Tuition	3,000	0	3,000	0	600
65 General Admin-Board	4,935	7,568	5,338	5,609	5,938
66 General Admin-Treasurer	450	400	450	400	400
67 General Admin-Superintendent	11,073	11,067	12,021	12,035	14,048
68 Fiscal Services	3,330	3,331	3,555	3,526	3,705
80 Vehicle Operation	<u>131,194</u>	<u>131,949</u>	<u>135,814</u>	<u>135,814</u>	<u>139,232</u>
Total Expenditures to be Voted	\$669,075	\$664,294	\$685,699	\$673,725	\$673,636
96 Payments to the State	0	180,509	0	212,111	0
10 UD#47 Assessment	<u>375,686</u>	<u>375,686</u>	<u>354,868</u>	<u>354,868</u>	<u>345,422</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$1,044,761</u>	<u>\$1,220,489</u>	<u>1,040,567</u>	<u>\$1,240,704</u>	<u>\$1,019,058</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>					
1000 Local	\$211,895	\$368,784	\$228,933	\$423,805	\$1,473
3000 State	787,700	795,056	781,468	791,164	997,423
4000 Federal	<u>166</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>162</u>
Total Revenue Receipts	\$999,761	<u>\$1,164,002</u>	<u>\$1,010,567</u>	<u>\$1,215,131</u>	\$999,058
Surplus to Lower Taxes	<u>45,000</u>		<u>30,000</u>		<u>20,000</u>
Total Budgeted Revenue Prior to Transfers	<u>\$1,044,761</u>		<u>\$1,040,567</u>		<u>\$1,019,058</u>
Transfer From Reserve Funds	<u>40,000</u>		<u>30,000</u>		<u>20,000</u>
Total Budgeted Revenue	<u>\$1,084,761</u>		<u>\$1,070,567</u>		<u>\$1,019,058</u>

**Rupert School District
FY '05 Budget**

Fund Balance:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Tax Relief Reserve Account</u>	<u>Rupert Educational Reserve Account</u>
Balance June 30, 2002	\$178,910	\$28,190	\$106,856	\$43,864
Actual Revenue FY '03	\$1,166,128	\$1,164,002	1,142	984
Actual Expenditures FY '03	(1,220,489)	(1,220,489)		
Fund Transfers/Reserve Expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>43,000</u>	<u>(40,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>
Actual Balance June 30, 2003	\$124,549	\$14,703	\$67,998	\$41,848
Anticipated Revenue FY '04	\$1,216,381	\$1,215,131	750	500
Anticipated Expenditures FY '04	(1,240,704)	(1,240,704)		
Fund Transfers/Reserve Expenditures	(3,000)	10,870	(10,870)	(3,000)
Anticipated Balance June 30, 2004	<u>\$97,226</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$57,878</u>	<u>\$39,348</u>
Budget Revenue Receipts FY '05	\$1,000,148	\$999,058	\$500	\$500
Budget Expenditures FY '05	(1,000,148)	(1,019,058)	0	(3,000)
Fund Transfers/Reserve Expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>	
Budgeted Fund Balance June 30, 2005	<u>\$75,226</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$38,378</u>	<u>\$36,848</u>

**Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union
FY '03 State Special Education Grants**

<u>District</u>	<u>Block Grant</u>	<u>Reimbursement</u>	<u>Extraordinary Reimbursement</u>	<u>State Placed Reimbursement</u>	<u>Early Education Grant</u>	<u>Total</u>
Danby	\$54,344	\$160,611	\$0	\$0	\$7,006	\$221,961
Dorset	88,342	281,073	1,702	0	10,880	381,997
Manchester	198,354	570,632	9,744	0	29,721	808,451
Mt. Tabor	11,767	41,626	0	0	1,909	55,302
Pawlet	72,266	182,851	0	0	9,225	264,342
Rupert	26,496	125,075	0	0	3,436	155,007
Sunderland	<u>39,613</u>	<u>110,563</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,917</u>	<u>156,093</u>
Total	<u>\$491,182</u>	<u>\$1,472,431</u>	<u>\$11,446</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$68,094</u>	<u>\$2,043,153</u>

Rupert Town School District Prior Year Comparison
as prescribed by the Commissioner to meet the requirements of 16 V.S.A. § 563(11) as amended by section 48 of Act 68 of the 2003 Legislative session

Expenditures	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
Budget (proposed budgets and local budget approved in prior years)	597,668	669,075	685,699	673,636
82% of base payment per FTE paid to tech centers by the State on behalf of the district in FY2005	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	335
S.U. assessment (included in local budget)	11,706	11,073	12,021	14,048
Deficit (if included in local budget)	-	-	-	-
+ Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years	-	-	-	not applicable
+ 1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-
+ 2. Separately warned article at town meeting	-	-	-	-
- Act 144 Expenditures, (excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-
Act 68 local adopted budget	597,668	669,075	685,699	673,636
+ Union school or joint school district assessment	332,367	375,686	354,868	345,422
+ Deficit if not included in budget or revenues	-	-	-	-
+ Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)	-	-	-	-
Gross Act 68 Budget (a)	930,035	1,044,761	1,040,567	1,019,058
Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-
Revenues				
+ Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)	271,010	269,963	242,187	244,762
+ Capital debt aid	24,725	26,778	22,147	8,748
+ Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)	-	-	-	-
- Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures	-	-	-	-
- Act 144 revenues	295,735	296,741	264,334	253,510
- Fund raising (if any)	-	-	-	-
Adjusted local revenues (b)	295,735	296,741	264,334	253,510
Education Spending (Act 68 definition) (a-b)	634,300	748,020	776,233	765,548
Equalized Pupils +	104.61	100.95	97.42	97.32
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil =	6.063	7.410	7.968	7.866
Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	-
Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	7.866
District spending adjustment (minimum of 100% (\$7,866 / \$6,800))	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	115.676%
Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized (1) (115.676% x \$1.10)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	\$1.272
Household Income Percentage for income sensitivity (115.676% x 2.0%)	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	2.31%

(1) Note: The above equalized tax rate is based on current law at the time of print (1/21/04) and is subject to changes by the legislature

**WARNING
RUPERT TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The legal voters fo the Town School District of the Town of Rupert are hereby, notified and warned to meet at the Rupert Town Office in said Town of West Rupert on **Monday, March 1, 2004 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening** of said day to transact any business not involving voting by Australian Ballot or voting required by law to be by ballot, and on **Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon** at the Rupert Town Office, to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot. Polls will close at **7:00 o'clock in the evening on March 2, 2004.**

To be acted upon on Monday, March 1, 2004:

- Article 1:** To hear and act upon the reports of the Town School District officers.
- Article 2:** To discuss the budget which will be voted upon by Australian Ballot (Article 5)
- Article 3:** To discuss the other Articles (6 through 8) to be voted upon by Australian Ballot.
- Article 4:** To transact any other business that legally comes before the Town School District Meeting.

To be voted by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2004:

- Article 5:** Shall the electorate approve expenditures of \$673,636 for the support of the Town School District for the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005?
- Article 6:** Shall the electorate authorize the Town School District to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005?
- Article 7:** Shall the voters of the Rupert Town School District vote to withdraw the designation of Salem High School as the town's high school for its resident pupils in grades 7-12 and instead allow parental choice in accordance with Vermont Statues?(**by Petition**)
- Article 8:** To elect officers for the ensuing year:
1. Moderator for one (1) year
 2. Rupert School Director
 - a. 1 for 3 years
 3. Union District #47 (Mettawee) Director
 - a. 1 for 3 years

Absentee voting will be permitted on all matters to be voted upon by Australian Ballot. For purposes of Australian Balloting, the polls will be open from 10:00 o'clock in the A.M. until 7:00 o'clock in the P.M.

Dated at Rupert, Vermont this 26th day of January 2004.

RUPERT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Eugene Ceglowski, Chair
Jane Lourie, Clerk
Irma Nagle

FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

The 2003 fire season proved to be a wet one, keeping fire occurrence low. Only 101 forest fires were reported across the state for the entire year, which is well below the 10-year average of 142. These fires burned 95 acres. Rupert had one small brush fire which was quickly contained by our volunteer fire company. I wish to thank them for their quick response to all fire calls, as well as for their support to surrounding towns in times of need. Below are the 2003 fire statistics for the state of Vermont:

2003 FIRE STATISTICS-STATE OF VERMONT

Number of human caused fires	100
Number of lightning caused fires	1
Number of acres burned caused by humans	92.7
Number of acres burned caused by lightning	3
Total number of fires	101
Total number of acres burned	95.7
10-year total average number of fires	142
10-year total average number of acres burned	243

Thanks again to the Rupert Volunteer Fire Co. for its quick response to all fires in our district.

To obtain a burning permit please call 394-2494.

To report a fire call 1-518-747-3325 or 911.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark D. Lourie
Rupert Fire Warden

**RUPERT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY
TREASURER'S REPORT - 2003**

RECEIPTS:

CARNIVAL	\$24,782.78
TOWN	\$12,500.00
GRANT	\$12,248.00
DINNERS	\$8,986.00
TRUCK	\$8,000.00
FUND DRIVE LETTER	\$7,095.00
DONATIONS	\$6,441.00
AUCTION	\$4,810.00
PRIZES	\$1,811.89
INTEREST	\$1,784.36
GUN RAFFLE	\$1,642.00
CALENDER	\$1,515.00
FOOD CONCESSION	\$865.00
TURKEY RAFFLE	\$862.00
HALL RENT	\$750.00
BINGO	\$573.00
MOONWALK	\$457.40
MUSTER	\$410.00
BANQUET	\$370.00
BOWLING	\$285.00
NEW YEAR'S PARTY	\$262.00
T-SHIRTS	\$140.00
HALL DEPOSITS	\$100.00
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	<u>\$65.70</u>
TOTAL	\$88,756.13

Balance on Hand 1/1/03	\$13,970.71
Balance Equipment Fund 1/1/03	<u>\$63,271.34</u>
	\$165,998.18

EXPENSES:

ADDITION	\$36,693.57
EQUIPMENT	\$18,841.46
CARNIVAL	\$14,053.68
TRUCK PAYMENT	\$9,716.00
BUILDING	\$5,783.26
ELECTRICITY	\$3,916.99
DINNERS	\$3,320.58

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$3,286.11
TRAINING AND PHYSICALS	\$3,137.00
INSURANCE	\$2,743.00
FUEL OIL	\$2,716.15
DISPATCHING	\$2,400.00
PRIZES	\$1,841.06
BANQUET	\$1,564.55
DONATIONS	\$1,250.00
SUPPLIES	\$1,241.49
CALENDER	\$1,000.65
HAZMAT MATERIALS	\$1,000.00
AUCTION	\$722.78
COMPUTER	\$716.94
RAFFLE	\$620.00
MUSTER	\$434.00
OFFICE	\$408.46
PHONE LINE	\$382.27
TURKEY RAFFLE	\$339.89
BOWLING	\$330.00
L.P. GAS	\$322.54
DUES	\$260.00
FIRE PREVENTION	\$100.00
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	\$59.05
HALL DEPOSITS	\$50.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$24.00
BANK SERVICE CHARGE	<u>\$12.48</u>
TOTAL	\$119,260.96

BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/03	\$8,186.56
EQUIPMENT FUND 12/31/03	<u>\$38,550.66</u>
TOTAL	\$165,998.18

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Michael Lourie

REPORT OF RUPERT FIRE CHIEF

The Rupert Fire Department answered 22 calls in 2003. A breakdown of those calls follows

“In Town” Calls

4 motor vehicle accidents	1 stove fire
1 water emergency pumpout	1 chimney fire
1 snow mobile accident	2 grass fires
1 lift assist	1 lightning strike
1 controlled burn	1 alarm activation
1 furnace malfunction	

“Out of Town” Calls

1 grass fire in Hebron	1 structure fire West Pawlet
2 standby at Salem Station	2 standby at West Pawlet Station
1 standby at Cambridge Station	

Other News of Importance

The Fire Department has purchased two defibrillators with the help of a grant from the Vermont State Health Department. One unit will be housed on a Fire Truck, the second will remain in the Fire House. The Fire Department is sponsoring classes on CPR certification and defibrillator or training at the time of this writing. We expect to have 20 persons, both Fire Department personnel and Community Members, qualified to use this equipment. Additionally, the Department has secured close to \$30,000.00 in grant money to purchase much needed gear and equipment. Another application for a federal grant in the amount of \$109,000.00 has been filed and we await word on that application. Our building now has enlarged, handicapped accessible bathroom facilities and much need kitchen space and equipment. We hope to Vinyl Clad the entire building this spring.

The Men and Women of the Rupert Volunteer Fire Department would like to express their sincere appreciation to the Community for its continued support of the Department. The Department acknowledges that without this support they would not be able to function as effectively as they do.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay E. Wilson, III
Chief
Rupert Fire Department

FIRST CONSTABLE REPORT

The following is a detailed list of incidents that I have handled for the year starting July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. For the people of the town of Rupert, please note that all incidents listed below have been broken down indicating the amount of times each has occurred. Also included are my hours worked and miles driven during the year.

Traffic Incidents	-	3
Traffic Accidents	-	3
Fish & Game Assists	-	2
Tree Down On Wires	-	1
Domestic Calls	-	2
Illegal Drugs	-	2
Vandalism	-	1
Burglary Call	-	1
Assists to State Police	-	1
Served Supena	-	1
Assault Call	-	1
League of Cities & Towns Seminar	-	1
Total Incidents	-	19

Total Hours Worked from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 - 24 ½ hours

Total Mileage - 133 miles

Worked Fireman's Carnival - 1 Night (No Charge)

Training Sessions at VT State Police Academy - 9 Nights/900 miles Traveled (No Charge)

As always, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Erwin K. Tobin
Rupert First Constable
802-394-7833

Granville Rescue Squad, Inc.

East Potter Avenue, P.O. Box 153

Granville, NY 12832

Telephone (518) 642-1830

www.geocities.com/granvillerescue

granvillerescue@adelphia.net

January 1, 2004

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWNS WE SERVE:

The members and staff of the Granville Rescue Squad would again like to thank all of those who have supported us in the past year. The following are some of the updates from 2003.

In the year 2003, we handled 1110 emergency calls for medical assistance, putting 58,105 miles on the ambulances. The breakdown by area as follows:

Granville Village: 508, Granville Town: 331, Pawlet/West Pawlet: 131, Wells: 65, Rupert: 12, Hebron: 20, Danby: 2, Other surrounding towns: 41.

We continue to operate four fully equipped advanced life support ambulances, authorized by both the State of New York and State of Vermont Departments of Health. Our EMS professionals include a group of 45 volunteer members and 5 paid staff. Many new volunteers have joined this year. We have also added additional daytime staffing to bring more timely response during daytime hours, when there is limited volunteer availability. Even with all these personnel, we receive assistance from neighboring rescue squads and give the same "mutual aid" assistance in their times of need.

Some of our equipment has been replaced this year, updating stair-chair extrication devices, extremity splints, advanced life support supplies and training presentation hardware.

We continue to work with the local fire departments and village police to bring public access defibrillation to all those in need. In 2003, all cardiac arrest patients had an AED at their side within six minutes of the 911 call. We thank the firefighters and police for their support in this project, in addition to all their other assistance.

We also thank the local businesses for their support this year. Many of the local businesses have given donations and discounts, have allowed their employees who are members of the squad to leave work for calls, and have helped us with advertising and public awareness.

Anyone having questions regarding our services should feel free to contact us. We always look to add mature, professional volunteers to our roster.

We could not have operated without the support of many individuals, businesses and other emergency services personnel. We look forward to serving and working with you in the future.

Have a safe 2004!

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Zinn, Captain

DORSET NURSING ASSOCIATION

DNA made over 8500 visits to 133 patients in FY03. The majority of DNA patients are elderly, but we also see younger patients, children with acute or chronic illness or injuries, and young or middle aged adults who may need nursing or physical therapy after an injury, car accident, surgery, or acute illness.

When patients come home after a hospital stay, or day-surgery, DNA can send a nurse, under orders from a physician, to dress wounds, check that incisions are healing properly, draw blood for lab work, teach proper use of medications and show family members how to assist in many ways. DNA nurse aides can help with bathing and dressing individuals who are no longer independent, but who can remain safely at home with support. DNA staff can advise and help to manage the care of young or elderly disabled individuals and their families, and postpone or avoid nursing home placement.

DNA was awarded a USDA Telemedicine grant in Oct 2003, to be disbursed over three years, to pay specifically for computers, software and training to make patient records available on secure computers to all DNA nurses and therapists as needed day or night. The grant will also pay for home telemonitors which will check patient's vital signs daily and send that information to the DNA for a nurse to assess. We expect to identify patient problems early and intervene to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations. Grant funds cannot be used to pay DNA staff-or to reduce regular operating expenses. DNA is required to match the grant with \$45,000.00. The grant monies can only be used for the Telemedicine project, which we could not fund otherwise.

DNA nurses are available by phone 24 hours a day to our admitted patients when medical problems come up and cannot wait until morning. DNA provides services based on medical need. Since insurance frequently does not pay the full cost of medically necessary home care, DNA has a loss from operations of over \$200,000.00 annually. The annual fund drive, Town appropriations, bequests, and other contributions are crucial to the ability of Dorset Nursing to continue its Mission to serve all regardless of ability to pay.

If you or someone you know needs home care, please call me or ask for one of our nurses at 867-5922. We can call your physician and make a home visit to determine what DNA could provide to meet your needs.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Tarbell RN
Executive Director

SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

Report to the Citizens of Rupert

This report briefly describes the services and support provided to elders in Rupert by the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging during the past year; these included:

Senior Meals:

The Council provided funding for meals served to elder residents of Rupert. This funding helped make available 816 meals that were prepared and delivered to the homes of 6 older persons in your community who were in need of this special support. This service, provided through contract, is often referred to as "Meals on Wheels". We also supplied "Blizzard Bags" to Meals on Wheels participants and other isolated elders, containing "shelf stable" meals for use in a weather related or other emergency situation. In addition, 78 Rupert elders participated at one or more of the luncheon sites available in our region, enjoying 457 meals.

Case Management Assistance:

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

Other Services:

The Council on Aging also made available the following services to help support older persons in your community: 1) Telephone support through our "Senior HelpLine" (786-5991 or 1-800-642-5119). This service provided easy phone access to elders and others in need of information about available programs and supports for older persons; 2) Health benefit counseling information and form filing assistance through our SHIP Program; 3) Legal service support through a contract with the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project; 4) Provision of information related to elder issues through the "Elder Connection" column written by Barbara Hanson appearing weekly in the Bennington Banner; 5) Nutrition education and counseling provided by a Registered Dietician to elders who needed to improve their dietary intake; 7) Senior Companion support on a one on one basis for frail, homebound elders; 8) Elder Care Clinician outreach services to elders struggling with a variety of mental health issues provided through a contract with United Counseling Services; 9) Community Development assistance and 10) Caregiver information and support for family members and others who are providing help to elders in need of care.

2003
ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE RUPERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society has pursued several projects during the year to continue its goals of preserving the community's history, making it available for all to study and enjoy, and to tell our story to this and future generations.

We presented several free programs to the public, including two which were very popular. Remembering Ruth Rasey Simpson, by Phoebe Ann Lewis, told the story of Rupert's own biographer through her four books and reminiscences by those who knew her. Friends and Neighbors, an on-going video project by Irene Berkson, presented interviews of Rupert's people past and present.

In addition, we have received several artifacts from members and non-members. For example, James Tyler, nephew of Ruth Rasey Simpson, gave us journals, diaries, and a wonderful 18th century clock from the Harwood family. He also gave a supply of Mrs. Simpson's fourth book Heartbeat of History.

We have created new exhibits such as: Lewis Brothers Mill, in West Rupert, with its machinery and varied products; "Company's Coming," a current display of china and glassware used by several Rupert generations; "Grandma's Attic" showing many tools, toys and totally fascinating things found in old attics.

Two of our officers are also serving on the Rupert Schoolhouse Restoration Project, which is attempting to raise funds through donations and grants to preserve the two remaining village school buildings. Our Society donated \$2500 for that group's campaign. Already, double doors have been installed on the building housing the Kittay Public Library and the Historical Society.

We continue our work of aiding individuals in their genealogical research of former Rupert citizens. We welcome all who have an interest in our history, and those who are simply curious about our exhibits. Stop in sometime. You never know what discoveries are awaiting.

PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services

P.O. Box 227 Bennington Vermont 05201

802-442-2370 office V/TTY 802-442-6162 fax 802-442-2111 emergency hotline

PAVE is a United Way Member Agency

December 4, 2003

In 2003 PAVE continued to offer comprehensive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Those services include: 24-hour emergency hotline, court and social service advocacy, support groups, transitional housing, emergency financial assistance, information and referrals, community education, healthy relationship curriculum for schools and access to several different types of emergency, safe housing. Services are free and confidential.

All volunteer advocates are trained and supervised by staff. These dedicated citizens helped us provide safety, support and options to more than 1,000 individuals in the past year. The volunteer coordinator continues a vigorous recruitment process and tailors the training schedule to the needs of potential volunteers.

Our supervised visitation program, Family Time, provides children with safe access to their non-custodial parent. The size of this program has doubled in the past year. The nine trained monitors supervise visits for families with issues related to violence, separation or divorce. Visits take place in neutral locations throughout the community.

We continue to offer violence prevention programming to young people throughout Bennington County. Our focus this year is on: healthy relationships - high school, community service - middle school, and management of anger - "Hands are not for hitting" - elementary grades. In addition in collaboration with CAT-TV we are developing a teen video project that will enable high school students to raise and address issues of importance to local teenagers.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff I thank you for your ongoing commitment to PAVE. Our staff and volunteers promise to continue to offer quality services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and respond to each town's desire for healthy and violence free communities.

Sincerely,
Joan M. Sakalas
Executive Director

ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2004

Our year-end statistics show an increase in circulation of all Library materials and we continue to pursue our goal of providing cultural and educational activities for the community.

In 2003 several fund raising events and a donation from the Northshire Community Foundation enabled the library to double the size of the Ruth Lewis Kirchner Children's Room. Former Rupert resident, Craig Little, donated his time and expertise to reconstruct the area and the room was ready for use by the 35 enthusiastic children participating in the annual summer reading program. The room continues to be a favorite place for children, and their accompanying adults. We subscribe to the Vermont On-Line Library, a service that provides a vast array of electronic information databases that can be accessed over the Web from the library or from home. As part of the state library inter-library loan system we are able to borrow books from other public and academic libraries. Our on going programs include the summer reading program in July, Saturday story hour, monthly film series, and book discussion group. The library is also used by several community organizations including a newly formed canasta group. During the year our special events have been well attended by children and adults.

The library financially supported the Rupert Schoolhouse Restoration Project to help install new doors on the front of the building to replicate the original doors.

Plans for the future include hiring a children's program coordinator, expanding our services to children ages 8-12, providing additional family programs, and creating a web site that will list library activities and community events.

We could not continue in this manner without the dedication of all our volunteers, and the personal and financial support of our community, for which the Board is ever grateful. Our Library functions as a municipal library making us a department of the Town and while we, the Board of Trustees, oversee the functions of the Library we welcome participation by all members of the community. We will continue in our mission to provide the best library service possible to all residents of Rupert.

Board of Trustees

Sharon Rishell, President

Jason Fry, Veronica Hale, Jane Lourie, Mandy Mayer, Jean Pritchard, Lisa Wilson

Ruth Gilbert, Library Director

ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

Income

Bake Sale	744.00
Bingo	548.00
Donations	20,641.00
Interest Income	1,138.27
Miscellaneous	361.05
Rupert School Sinking Fund	2,000.00
Silent Auction	821.00
Tote Bag Sales	30.00
Town of Rupert	600.00
Used Book Sale	<u>556.41</u>
Total Income	27,439.73

Cash on Hand 1/1/03	27,757.28
Endowment Fund 1/1/03	<u>38,986.52</u>
Total Funds Available	94,183.53

Expenses

Book Discussion Group	54.20
Books	3,365.84
Children's Room Project	2,296.29
Computer Expense	271.95
Film Series	190.00
Fundraising	699.61
Gifts - Volunteer Recognition	253.30
Miscellaneous Expense	235.18
Newsletter	469.37
Office Supplies	505.66
Periodicals	98.95
Postage	167.10
Programs	1,262.54
Repairs & Maintenance	493.06
Rupert School Restoration Project	2,000.00
Summer Program	3,814.59
Telephone	715.52
Wages - Administrative Assistant	4,179.00
Wages - Employment Taxes	<u>319.68</u>
Total Expenses	21,391.84

Cash on Hand 12/31/03	17,473.32
Endowment Fund 12/31/03	<u>55,318.37</u>
Total Use of Funds	94,183.53

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Lourie, Treasurer

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RUPERT SCHOOLHOUSE RESTORATION COMMITTEE 2003

In 2003, the Rupert Town Selectboard appointed a committee to raise funds to physically restore two former schoolhouses. The Rupert building is currently used for a public library and historical society. The West Rupert building now houses the Town Office. Both buildings are registered on the Vermont State Register of Historic Places. Both buildings need repair to preserve them for future use.

Advice was sought from the Vermont Preservation Trust; and an assessment of needed repairs was done in 1999 by Tom Keefe, a preservation/restoration architect. Estimated costs were given at that time. The committee of nine members named the project Rupert Schoolhouse Restoration Project (RSRP). The original estimate to complete all repairs has been revised to \$101,437 to reflect inflation. Major repairs needed on the Town Office building include repairs to roof, brick siding, windows, gutters, and interior work. The Rupert Library/Historical Society building needs extensive roof repair, replacement of bell tower, foundation repair, new front door, windows, handicapped access ramp, and installation of an elevator to access the second floor.

In 2003, the RSRP committee raised \$33,527.42 through private donations, a bake sale and tee-shirt sale. Expenses in 2003 were \$7,321.48. RSRP received a grant of \$5000.00 from the Vermont Arts Council toward cost of the elevator. Further grant applications are pending. Plans are developing to hold a large silent auction in the fall of 2004.

To date, a new door for the Rupert building has been installed, and roof repairs to the Town Office building are nearly complete. The RSRP committee is excited about this project to insure that these treasured buildings will grace our Town for another century.

THE TUTORIAL CENTER

This past year at The Tutorial Center has again been one of exciting growth. Due to the support from towns such as Rupert, we were able to provide a growing range of unique and vital services to more and more people.

Once again, The Tutorial Center has been recognized by the Vermont Department of Education as the most cost-effective adult basic education provider in the state. We pride ourselves on stretching every dollar to its limit.

A special highlight of this past year was the opening of a Community Computer Lab in our Manchester branch, which was made possible entirely through donations. In recognition of The Tutorial Center's role as a community education provider, IBM donated over \$30,000 in computer equipment, Microsoft donated \$33,000 in software, Adelpia provided high-speed internet access, and Southern Vermont College provided free technical support to establish the Lab. This Lab now complements the existing Lab in our Bennington branch and enables us to offer accessible computer literacy and computer-based instruction conveniently to all residents of Bennington County.

Overall highlights of our past year at The Tutorial Center include:

*** For adult learners-** 338 students were enrolled in basic education classes (a 10% increase over the previous year) and received approximately 9,500 hours of FREE instruction; 73 adults passed the GED exam or received their high school diploma; 25 adults received English as a Second Language instruction; 27 adults were enrolled in our award-winning Bridge-to-College program; and 52 adults participated in basic computer skills classes.

***For children-** 173 students received individual tutoring instruction, with a total of 3,656 hours of instruction provided - virtually all subject areas were taught including all levels of math, reading, writing, and foreign languages; more than 15 students enrolled in an alternative education program offered at The Tutorial Center; and 38 students participated in our summer enrichment program.

***For families-** 7 community family literacy workshops called Building Links were offered.

The Town of Rupert has generously supported the work of The Tutorial Center. We are very grateful to the town for supporting our literacy efforts in the past and we look forward to your continued support.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jack Glade, Executive Director

BENNINGTON COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kendy Skidmore
Executive Director



CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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

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

91% of all referrals are under the age of 21. **87%** of Diversion participants successfully completed the requirements of their Diversion contract. **91%** of those who complete their requirements do not commit further criminal acts. In addition, Court Diversion participants have returned over **\$58,000** in restitution and donations to their communities and performed over **31,000** hours of public service work. The Senior Meals Program, American Red Cross, Equinox Terrace, Merck-Forest, Happy Days Childcare, Second Chance Animal Shelter and the Martha Canfield Library are some of the organizations or projects that have benefited from Diversion clients' community service work or charitable donations.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Kennedy, Esq.
Executive Director

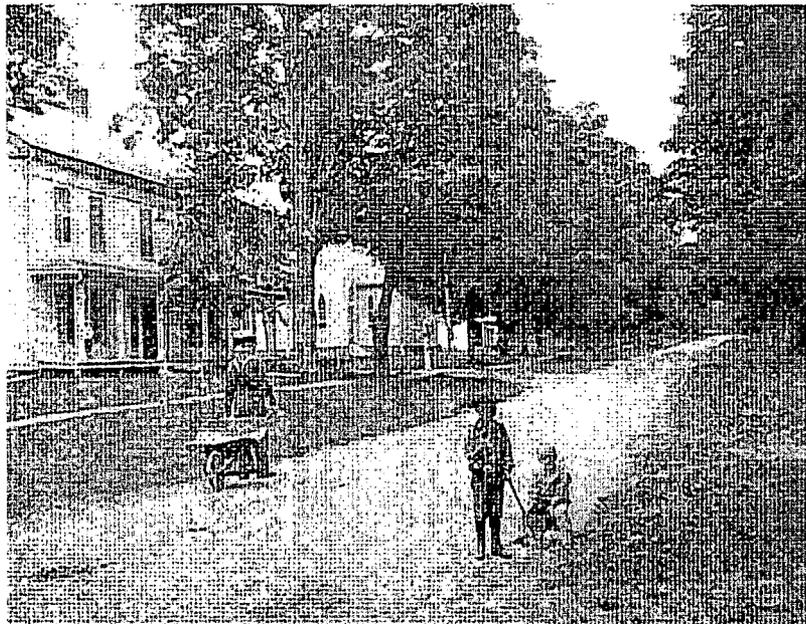
I.S.W.A.P.
INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE APPLICATIONS PROGRAM

ISWAP Programs

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

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

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



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

<u>EXPENSES</u>	2002/2003	2003/2004	TOTALS
CRAFTS	\$47.50	\$73.52	\$121.02
FOOD/CANDY	\$25.32	\$53.57	\$78.89
PRIZES	\$107.13	\$75.31	\$182.44
PAPER PRODUCTS	\$29.32	\$75.41	\$104.73
DECORATIONS	\$19.95	\$86.19	\$106.14
<hr/>			
subtotals	\$229.22	\$364.00	\$593.22
 <u>INCOME</u>			
Rupert Town	\$100.00	\$300.00(2002-2003)	\$700.00
Donations		\$300.00(2003-2004)	
Out of Pocket	\$104.22	\$0.00	\$104.12
Penny Sale	\$25.00		\$25.00
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subtotals	\$229.22	\$600.00	\$829.22
BALANCE IN ACCOUNT	\$0.00	\$236.00	\$236.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Perkins & Laura Thompson

RESULTS OF TOWN MEETING ELECTION - MARCH 4, 2003

TOWN OFFICERS

Selectman for 3 years - Austin G. McKeighan	247
Selectman for 1 year - Edward Lewis	206
Selectman for 1 year - Thomas Wilson	210
Lister for 3 years - Rollin C. Smith	246
Road Commissioner for 1 year - Jay E. (Skip) Wilson III	247
First Constable for 1 year - Erwin Tobin	183
Second Constable for 1 year - Jeffrey W. Lourie	269
Auditor for 3 years - Chris Porter	256
Town Agent for 1 year - Horace Moore	249
Grand Juror for 1 year - Horace Moore	245
Moderator for 1 year - Austin G. McKeighan	256
Rupert School Director - Jane Lourie	156
School Moderator for 1 year - Michael Krauss (Write-In)	26
Library Trustee for 3 years - Christina Chambeau	207
Library Trustee for 3 years - Joanne S. Smith	224
Library Trustee for 1 year - Jason Atlakson-Fry (Completing 3 yr. term)	249

RUPERT TOWN WARNING

	YES	NO
Article 2 (to borrow money)	239	51
Article 3 (to pay State Assessments & County tax)	268	21
Article 4 (to pay taxes in two installments)	268	25
Article 5 (\$120 for Vt. Ctr. Independent Living)	226	63
Article 6 (\$400 for S.W. Vt. Council on Aging)	237	54
Article 7 (\$1,000 for Salem Rescue Squad)	267	28
Article 8 (\$400 for Granville Rescue Squad)	258	38
Article 9 (\$2,500 for Dorset Nursing)	252	46
Article 10 (\$12,500 for Rupert Vol. Fire Co.)	248	49
Article 11 (\$10,000 for tax mapping)	136	149
Article 12 (\$400 for Benn/Rut. Opport. Council)	163	121
Article 13 (\$600 for Keshin Kittay Pub. Library)	212	82
Article 14 (\$500 for Nothshire Trans. Prog.)	229	58
Article 15 (\$250 for Benn. Cty. Conserv. District)	183	103
Article 16 (\$500 for Watershed Partnership Prog.)	145	136
Article 17 (\$250 for Benn. Cty. Tutorial Ctr.)	171	114
Article 18 (\$300 for Rupert Youth Program)	195	93
Article 19 (\$200 for Center for Restorative Justice)	129	145
Article 20 (Town Budget)	219	59
Article 21 (\$500 for Benn. Coalition for Homeless)	171	115
Article 22 (\$3,000 police protection & traffic control)	143	144
Article 23 (to re-authorize tax exemption status for Mt. Anthony Grange)	213	67
Article 24 (to change Delinquent Tax Collector to elected position)	154	128
Article 25 (legislative initiatives for Vt. future in sustainable energy)	206	72

RUPERT SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT

Article 4 (Budget)	195	92
Article 5 (to borrow money)	204	82

UD #47 DISTRICT BALLOT (Commingled)

Article 11 (Budget)	373	243
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TOWN WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Rupert, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the RUPERT TOWN OFFICE on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004 AT 7:00 P.M. for a pre-town informational meeting and on TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the RUPERT TOWN OFFICE to transact the following business:

ARTICLE 1. To elect all Town and School officers and to vote on the following articles, all by the Australian Ballot. Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 AT THE RUPERT TOWN OFFICE. The polls will open at 10:00 A.M. and will close at 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town authorize the Selectmen to borrow money to pay current expenses of the Town for the ensuing year?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to spend any budget surplus funds (if there are any) in the next fiscal year?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town pay all State assessments and County taxes from the general fund?

ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to approve the collection of the Town and School taxes in two installments; the first installment to be due on or before September 10, 2004 and the second to be due on or before February 10, 2005. Each installment, if not paid when due, to bear interest at the rate provided by the law, from the due date of that installment.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town vote \$120 by taxes for the Vermont Center for Independent Living?

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town vote \$400 by taxes for the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town vote \$1,000 by taxes for the Salem Rescue Squad?

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town vote \$400 by taxes for the Granville Rescue Squad?

ARTICLE 10. Shall the Town vote \$2,500 by taxes for the Dorset Nursing Association, Inc.?

ARTICLE 11. Shall the Town vote \$12,500 by taxes for the support of the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company?

ARTICLE 12. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of starting property mapping for the Town of Rupert?

ARTICLE 13. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$400 by taxes for the Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council, Inc.?

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$600 by taxes for the Rosalind Keshin Kittay Public Library?

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$500 to support the Northshire Transportation Program and other Red Cross services provided by the Green Mountain Chapter of the American Red Cross?

ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$250 to support the program of the Bennington Country Conservation District?

ARTICLE 17. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$500 to support the programs of the Poultney - Mettowee Watershed Partnership?

ARTICLE 18. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$250 for the support of the Bennington County Tutorial Center, a non profit educational service organization?

ARTICLE 19. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$300 to support the Rupert Youth Activity Club, providing the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party and other activities?

ARTICLE 20. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$200 to support the Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ), formerly the Bennington County Court Diversion Program?

ARTICLE 21. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$500 to support the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?

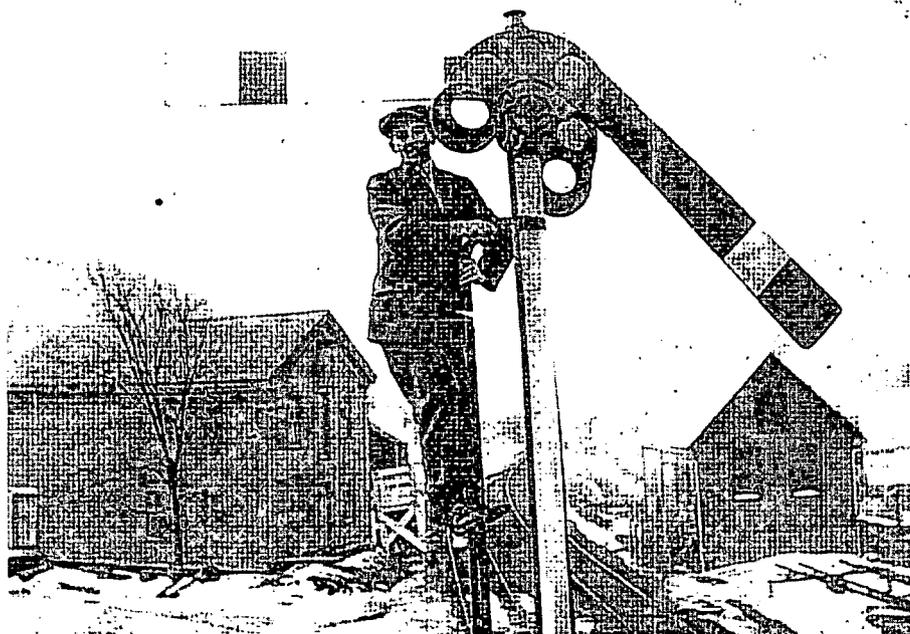
ARTICLE 22. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$100 to support the Project Against Violent Encounters (P.A.V.E.)?

ARTICLE 23. Shall the Town vote the sum of \$10,000 to blacktop a section of Class 3 road for the purpose of reducing gravel maintenance costs?

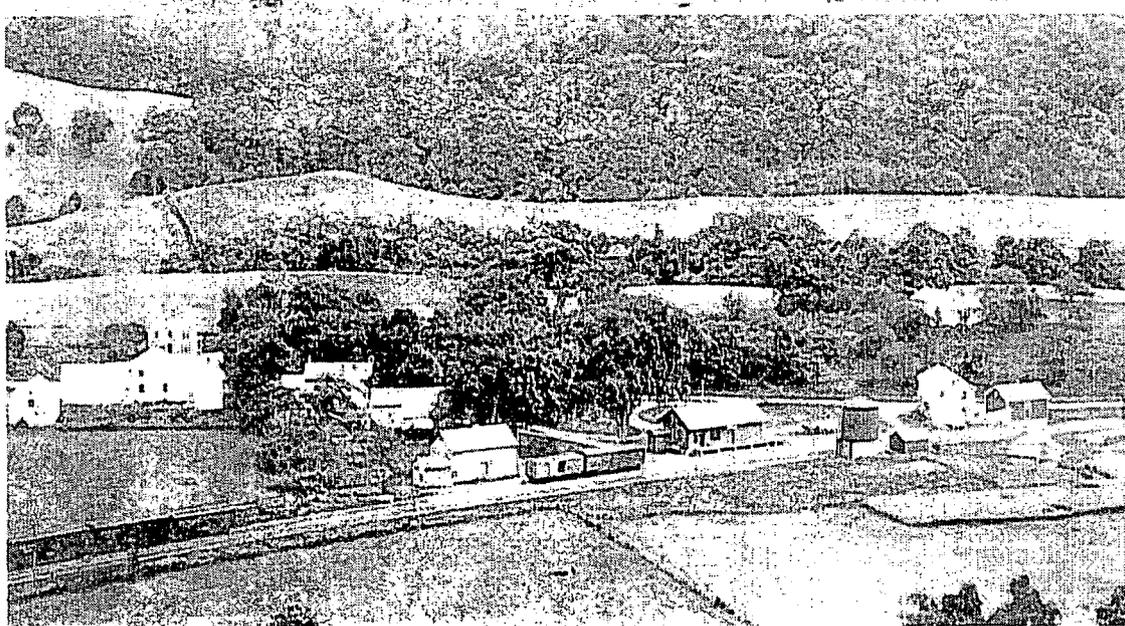
ARTICLE 24. Shall the Town vote to adopt a budget of \$528,400 to defray expenses of the Town for the period from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005?

**Mark Lourie, Chairman
Axel Blomberg, Edward Lewis
Austin McKeighan, Thomas Wilson**

MARSHALL PERRIN ON SIGNAL POLE - LATER BECAME STATION AGENT



DEPOT AREA - RUPERT RAILROAD STATION (D&H RAILROAD)



**Rupert Town Office
East Street
West Rupert, VT 05776
Phone: 802-394-7728**

**Town Office Hours Mon: 2:00pm - 7:00 pm
Wed: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Thurs: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Road Department Phone: 802-394-7844

**Winter Dump Hrs. Sat: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sun: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Summer Dump Hrs. Wed: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sat: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Mettawee Community School: 802-645-9009

Salem High School: 518-854-7600

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



**VT Dept. of Libraries
109 State St.
Montpelier VT 05609-0601**