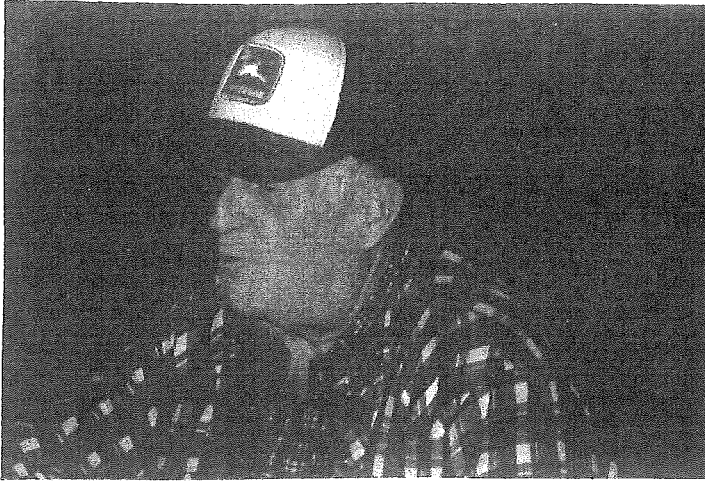


## DEDICATION



EDWARD LEWIS 1941-2020



JAMES ELI McKEIGHAN 1933-2020

In the year 2020 Rupert lost 2 of its citizens whose lives were interwoven with the Town's story and its long agricultural history coupled with the modern needs in a community no longer independent in its culture and in its consumption.

Ed's Family traces its roots to the early settlers who established the home farm in the little valley still lived in by his widow and their descendants, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, several of who are involved in many aspects of community service. Ed, himself, held town offices, including SelectBoard for several years. He and Marie were active in Mt. Anthony Grange for many years.

Eli, as he was known to nearly all of us, was the last of his generation in a numerous family who immigrated from Northern Ireland in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was a Military Veteran, a farmer, and, in his last years, a tireless overseer of Rupert's Waste. His good humor, and patience, loyalty and kindness helped make a thankless job admirable. He and Marge had many friends.

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

**Voter Name**  
Required

**1**

First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_  
Last \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Other Contact Info**  
If applicable

**2**

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

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

**3**

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

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

**Mailing Address**

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

**4**

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Election**  
Required

**5**

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

- ☐ Annual Town Meeting ☐ All Local Elections  
☐ Presidential Primary Election (You Must Select a Party) ☐ Democratic Ballot ☐ Republican Ballot  
☐ General Election ☐ Primary Election

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

**6**

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

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

- ☐ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Ballots cannot be returned electronically)  
☐ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Deliver by two Justices of the Peace (This can only be selected if you are ill or physically disabled.) Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

**7**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ Ballot picked up at clerk's office

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

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

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

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## RUPERT TOWN OFFICERS

### ELECTED POSITIONS:

<u>SELECTBOARD</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Thomas Wilson, Co-Chair.....	2021
Linda Montague, Co-Chair.....	2021
Philip E. Mazzucco.....	2021
Deborah Baker.....	2022
Charles Rockwell.....	2023
<u>LISTERS</u>	
Val Almosnino, Chairman.....	2022
Jed Rubin.....	2023
Richard Ventrella.....	2021
<u>RUPERT SCHOOL DIRECTORS – Mettawee School District Board</u>	
Arlene Bentley.....	2021
Michael Krauss.....	2022
<u>AUDITORS</u>	
Eugene Higgins.....	2022
Kelly Lewis.....	2023
Chris Porter.....	2021
<u>TOWN CLERK</u>	
Andrea Lenhardt.....	2023
<u>TOWN TREASURER</u>	
Andrea Lenhardt.....	2023
<u>TOWN MODERATOR</u>	
Eugene Ceglowski.....	2021
<u>ROAD COMMISSIONER</u>	
Jay E. Wilson III.....	2021
<u>TOWN AGENT (Position now eliminated per H.143, Act 84)</u>	
John C. Pelton.....	2021
<u>FIRST CONSTABLE</u>	
Brett Lourie.....	2021
<u>SECOND CONSTABLE</u>	
Jeff Lourie.....	2021

**DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR**

Mark Lourie..... 2021

**LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**TERM EXPIRES**

Judy Zinn. ....	2022
Jean Nardi.....	2022
Sarah Porter.....	2021
Arlene Horn .....	2022
Peter Casenhiser.....	2021
Casey Czahor (resigned July 22, 2020).....	2023
Carey Braidt – appointed by Selectboard Aug. 25, 2020 until March 2, 2021	
Nicole Croff (resigned July 21, 2020).....	2023
Erica Shott - appointed by Selectboard Aug. 25, 2020 until March 2, 2021	

**APPOINTED POSITIONS:**

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:** John LaVecchia Jr. (3 year term, which ends March 25, 2023)

**TOWN SERVICE AGENT:** Rupert Selectboard

**TOWN FIRE WARDEN:** Mark Lourie

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

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:** Kelli Raymond

**TREE WARDEN:** Mark Lourie

**WEIGHER OF COAL & FENCE VIEWERS:** David Tooley, Donald Lewis, Jed Rubin

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

**CLERK OF THE BOARD -** Linda Montague

**OFFICIAL BANKING INSTITUTION -** Berkshire Bank

**OFFICIAL BANKING INSTITUTION FOR HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCT. -** TD Bank

**OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPERS FOR PUBLICATIONS -** Rutland Herald & The Vermont News Guide

**DISTRICT RUTLAND-BEN REPRESENTATIVE (Elected Nov. 3, 2020):**  
Sally Achey

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE** : (Elected Nov. 3, 2020) –2 year term begins Feb. 1, 2021  
Eugene (Gene) Higgins, Kate Canning,  
Mark Lourie, Jeremy Russo, Patrick Wilson

**PLANNING COMMISSION**   Jed Rubin - Chairman, Robert Bain,  
Charles Rockwell, Jean Ceglowski, Kimberly  
Davis, Philip E. Mazzucco, Peter Pelton, Val  
Almosnino

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD:** Charles Rockwell, Chairman, Robert  
Bain, Jed Rubin, Philip E. Mazzucco, Peter Pelton, Val Almosnino, Rima  
Georgeson

**BCRC REPRESENTATIVES:** Charles Rockwell, Commissioner & John  
Lavecchia Jr., Co-Commissioner   Appointed by the Selectboard Sept. 22,  
2020

## AUDITOR'S REPORT TOWN FUNDS JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

### ASSETS:

Cash on hand as of June 30, 2020	
General Fund Account - Berkshire Bank	\$ 393,648.40
Less Outstanding Checks	\$ 10,310.72
Total Cash on Hand	\$ 383,337.68

Health Reimbursement Account - TD Banknorth	\$ 20,297.24
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### RECEIVABLES:

Delinquent Taxes	\$ 60,606.31
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Respectfully submitted,

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

## Statement of Delinquent Taxes

January 11, 2021

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2019-20	Katherine T. Brooks	\$ 1,001.24
2019-20	Tammy Brookbanks	\$ 74.74
2019-20	Kevin & Rachel McDonald	\$ 2,584.58
2019-20	Antony Chandler	\$ 4,417.70
2019-20	Jeremy C & J Russo	\$ 1,357.16
2019-20	Jason Kerson	\$ 2,963.78
2019-20	Anthony & Barbara Andrea	\$ 1,673.47
2019-20	Glen & Christine Morey	\$ 2,488.24
January 11, 2021 TOTAL:		\$ 16,560.91

I will accept tax payments at any time at my home office located at 585 State Rt.  
153, West Rupert or by mail to the Rupert Town Office, PO Box 140, West Rupert,  
VT 05776.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Lourie  
Rupert Delinquent Tax Collector



## Delinquent Taxes

Balance uncollected June 30, 2020

2018-19 \$ 10,878.92

2019-20 \$ 49,727.39

New amount received from Rupert Town Treasurer

2/25/2020 \$ 123,729.01

Amounts Paid to Rupert Town Treasurer – Tax, Interest & Fees

2/10/2020 \$ 900.00

3/10/2020 \$ 50,570.49

4/13/2020 \$ 13,184.08

5/11/2020 \$ 5,428.13

6/11/2020 \$ 6,228.47

7/13/2020 \$ 5,348.50

8/13/2020 \$ 11,773.12

9/11/2020 \$ 2,700.00

10/13/2020 \$ 8,122.32

11/16/2020 \$ 16,303.37

12/10/2020 \$ 5,261.18

1/11/2021 \$ 1,962.19

**TOTAL:** \$ 127,781.85

Fees to Delinquent Tax Collector \$ 8,456.16

Interest to Town \$ 7,294.58

Balance Uncollected January 10, 2021 \$ 16,560.91

## TOWN FUNDS

### HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT (TD Bank)

Balance as of 06/20/19	\$ 16,423.59
Deposits 07/21/19 - 06/20/20	\$ 10,800.00
Electronic Payments withdrawn	(\$ 6,926.35)
Balance as of 06/20/20	\$ 20,297.24

### GENERAL FUND CHECKING - (Berkshire Bank)

Cash on Hand 07/01/19	\$ 394,536.31
Receipts	\$2,873,985.73
Disbursements	\$2,885,184.36
Cash on Hand 06/30/20	\$ 383,337.68

### LINE OF CREDIT LOAN (Berkshire Bank)

Loan date 07/01/15 @4.25%	\$ 100,000.00
Borrowed from loan to purchase Tractor/Mower 06/23/16	(\$ 50,000.00)
Loan paid back 08/31/16, with interest (via electronic transfer)	\$ 50,199.69
No activity FY 2017/2018, No activity FY 2018/2019, No activity FY 2019/2020	
Balance 06/30/20	0.00

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

Amount of loan not to exceed \$290,000 @ 3.5% as of July 2014	
Ending balance as of July 1, 2019	\$ 186,067.40
Payment made Sept. 10, 2019	(\$ 34,928.32)
Principal of 06/30/2020	\$ 151,139.08
Plus Interest	\$ 6,602.81
Balance as of 06/30/20	\$ 157,741.89

### 2019 INTERNATIONAL HX620 TRUCK FINANCING (KS BANK)

Original Balance	\$ 169,980.00
Transaction Rate 3.990%	
Deposit at closing	\$ 34,980.00
(4 payments of \$37,129.82 will be due each August)	
Payment Aug. 27, 2019 (\$31,824.32 plus interest \$5,305.50)	\$ 37,129.82

**REVENUE REPORT - RUPERT GENERAL FUND**  
**FY JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020**

<b>Current Taxes (including interest)</b>	2,329,841.10
Property Tax Adjustment via State	16,403.50
<u>Town Clerk Fees</u>	
Dog Licenses via Town Clerk	798.00
Town Green Rent	0.00
Photocopies via Town Clerk	1,832.00
Record Restoration Fees via Town Clerk	2,328.00
Record Restoration Fees via State	490.00
Record Restoration Fees via IRS	.00
Truck Permit Fees	110.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class License – Sherman's Store	<u>00.00</u>
<b>TOTAL TOWN CLERK FEES</b>	<b>5,558.00</b>
<u>Zoning Fees</u>	
Zoning Et al. Permits	<u>1,757.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ZONING FEES</b>	<b>1,757.00</b>
<u>Interest</u>	
Checking Account Interest	367.00
Delinquent Tax Interest	4,706.67
Treasurer Del. Tax Interest	<u>2,163.89</u>
<b>TOTAL INTEREST</b>	<b>7,237.56</b>
<u>Delinquent Taxes</u>	
Tax to Town	27,434.83
Delinquent Tax Warrants	0.00
Delinquent Tax Fees	7,502.46
Overpayment of Delinquent Tax	<u>3.64</u>
<b>TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES</b>	<b>34,940.93</b>
<u>Federal &amp; State Aid, Grants &amp; Fines</u>	
FEMA	0.00
Bridge Reimbursement	0.00
Highway State Aid (Roads)	99,386.98
Paving Grant	175,000.00
Hazard Mitigation	0.00
Better Back Roads Grants	7,680.00
Current Use	94,089.00
Current Use Withdrawal	3,230.00
Reappraisal funds via State Treasurer	5,491.00
Lister Education	616.98
Grant in Aid	13,600.00
Municipal Planning Grant	14,738.40
Sheriff / Trooper Fines	<u>86.44</u>
<b>TOTAL STATE AID &amp; FINES</b>	<b>413,918.80</b>
<u>Payment In Lieu Of Taxes</u>	
Merck Forest	10,500.00
US Government - Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008	475.00
PILOT - Vermont Natural Resources - State Land	<u>1,882.80</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES</b>	<b>12,857.80</b>
<u>Reimbursements</u>	
Library Salaries	11,039.56
Rupert Volunteer Fire Co. Insurance	6,623.00
VLCT Refund on audit	<u>500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>18,162.56</b>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Fidelity Charitable Grant via Mrs. S. Hatch	5,000.00
Hauler Fees	50.00
Town Garage Driveway Grant	7,454.00
Town Green Picnic Tables Donations	<u>1,960.00</u>
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>14,454.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2,855,141.25</b>

## TAXES COLLECTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 - 2020

Total Billing (including interest & penalties)	\$2,665,081.89
*Adjustments to taxes billed	<u>\$ 836.84</u>
TOTAL BILLED	\$2,665,918.73
Direct Deposits (including interest)	(\$2,262,422.27)
Electronic Deposits via Vermont State Treasurer Prebates	<u>(\$ 266,620.27)</u>
	(\$2,529,042.54)
Delinquent list as of Feb. 25, 2020(includes interest & penalties)	\$ 136,876.19

\*Treasurer's Note: Adjustments made after the August 2019 /2020 billing due to current use changes, errors, and omissions.

## TOTAL WARRANTS RECEIVED FROM SELECTBOARD

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Net payroll	-	\$ 171,350.84
*Accounts payable	-	\$2,713,833.32

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

Mettawee School District	-	\$ 1,226,759.00
Vermont State Treasurer	-	\$ 521,465.20

## CAPITAL ASSETS - TOWN OF RUPERT

2019 International HX Tandem Dump Truck (Stainless Steel Body)	\$190,000.00
2014 Case IH Maxxum 130 CVT Tractor	\$ 55,000.00
2014 Landpride RPC 3060 – 03 Ditch Mower	\$ 2,500.00
2014 Dodge 5500 Truck	\$ 25,000.00
2013 John Deere 524 Payloader	\$ 70,000.00
2009 Air Flow Sander	\$ 1,000.00
2009 Fisher 10 Ft. Snow Plow	\$ 1,000.00
2009 Zwack Stainless Hopper Sander	\$ 5,000.00
2006 International Tandem Dump Truck (White)	\$ 20,000.00
2006 International Tandem Dump Truck (Green)	\$ 20,000.00
2004 John Deere 772CH Motor Grader	\$ 50,000.00
2004 Woods Ditchbank Mower	\$ 500.00
1999 Zwack Stainless Steel Sander	\$ 2,000.00
1999 Everest Plow & Wing	\$ 1,500.00
1993 Eager Beaver Model 290 Brush Chipper	\$ 3,000.00
1988 York Stone Rake	\$ 2,000.00
Town Office Building	\$117,200.00
Rupert Library/Historical Society Building	\$193,400.00
Municipal Tools at Town Barn	\$ 13,000.00
Town Highway Garage (including the Creamery Lot)	\$568,500.00
Town Green	\$ 44,700.00
Salt Shed	\$105,000.00
Former Grange Lot	\$ 24,300.00
Old Dump on Hebron Rd	\$ 42,500.00

## TOWN OF RUPERT PAYROLL - 2019/2020

Gross Wages*	\$211,737.54
FICA Withholdings	18,097.03
Medicare Withholdings	3,070.19
Federal Withholdings	12,453.46
Vermont State Withholdings	4,929.11
Retirement Withholdings	7,888.95

\*Treasurer's Note:

Includes \$11,039.56 for Library Salaries which were reimbursed to the Town.

Statement of Expenditures – Town of Rupert  
Budget and Actual – General Fund Year Ending June 30, 2020

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/19-6/30/20</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>
<b>School Tax Payments</b>		
Rupert School District Homestead		\$600,385.82
Rupert School Non-Resident		\$626,373.18
Rupert School Resident		<u>\$521,465.20</u>
<b>Total School Tax Payments</b>		<b>\$1,748,224.20</b>
<b>TOWN BUDGET</b>		
<b><u>Salaries</u></b>		
Town Clerk	\$14,000.00	\$13,225.68
Library Employee Salary	\$12,000.00	\$9,261.00
Treasurer	\$18,400.00	\$19,174.32
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$2,000.00	\$1,183.16
Selectmen	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$0.00
Del Tax Collector Fees	\$9,000.00	\$6,498.51
Auditors	\$1,900.00	\$1,900.00
Listers	\$7,500.00	\$11,100.00
Board of Civil Authority	\$1,000.00	\$770.00
Fica/Medi	\$8,000.00	\$6,492.12
Town Officers Expense	\$1,000.00	\$773.50
Dog Ordinance Expense	\$1,000.00	\$505.22
Zoning and Planning	\$2,000.00	\$268.99
Elections	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,936.30</u>
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>\$84,800.00</b>	<b>\$77,088.80</b>
<b><u>Supplies &amp; Maintenance</u></b>		
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$2,324.24
Postage	\$1,500.00	\$979.31
Town Report	\$1,700.00	\$1,909.74
Office Equipment Repair	\$700.00	\$0.00
Town Records Restoration	\$500.00	\$756.86
Office Capital Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$2,085.22
Land Purchase	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEMRC – Annual	\$1,300.00	\$2,095.81
Computer Schooling	\$1,500.00	\$285.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$779.26</u>
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$14,700.00</b>	<b>\$11,215.44</b>
<b><u>Utilities</u></b>		
Electric – Town Office	\$1,000.00	\$1,093.04
Electric – Library/Historical	\$1,300.00	\$1,196.14
Electric – Town Garage	\$2,400.00	\$2,576.09
Electric – Street Lights	\$8,800.00	\$6,221.31
Telephone – Town Office	\$2,500.00	\$2,354.40
Telephone – Town Garage	\$1,000.00	\$930.95
Benn. Co. Solid Waste Alliance	\$5,000.00	\$1,816.01
Fuel Oil – Library/Historical	\$2,500.00	\$1,633.50
Town Office Heating Oil	\$2,300.00	\$2,142.76
Town Building Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$6,570.30
Town Office Cleaning	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$32,880.00</b>	<b>\$26,534.50</b>

**Outside Services**

Attorney's Fees	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
General Town Insurance	\$29,000.00	\$17,391.00
Audit	\$4,200.00	\$0.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	\$1,800.00	\$1,877.00
Property Mapping	\$1,600.00	\$1,550.00
Cemetery Maint.	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Bennington County Tax	\$10,100.00	\$10,680.48
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	\$2,200.00	\$4,462.98
Speed Control	\$4,000.00	\$4,501.07
Fire Alarm Maint	\$0.00	\$440.00
State Permits/Fees	\$2,000.00	\$1,350.00
Town Website	\$0.00	\$954.85
Radio Communication	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$1,872.00</u>
<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<b>\$64,200.00</b>	<b>\$45,079.38</b>

**Appropriations**

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

<b>Total Town Budget</b>	<b>\$203,000.00</b>	<b>\$166,038.12</b>
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**HIGHWAY BUDGET****Salaries/Wages**

Highway Crew	\$130,000.00	\$141,747.79
Mileage Reimbursement	\$200.00	\$116.58
Fica/Medi	\$11,000.00	\$11,801.61
Health Insurance	\$49,000.00	\$53,168.96
Retirement	\$7,500.00	\$7,888.95
Unemployment Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$100.00
Workers Compensation	<u>\$13,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,570.00</u>
<b>Total Salaries/Wages</b>	<b>\$211,700.00</b>	<b>\$225,393.89</b>

**Supplies and Maintenance**

Parts and Supplies	\$14,000.00	\$21,669.16
Equipment Rental	\$4,000.00	\$4,292.17
Oil & Lube	\$2,000.00	\$2,609.12
Diesel	\$24,000.00	\$25,798.03
Equipment Repair	\$28,000.00	\$22,029.03
Town Barn Repair	\$1,000.00	\$1,073.00
Town Barn Heating Oil	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$3,112.56</u>
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$77,500.00</b>	<b>\$80,583.07</b>

**Outside Services**

Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Blasting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dead Tree Removal	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,250.00</u>
<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,250.00</b>

**Road Maintenance Material**

Gravel	\$50,000.00	\$50,179.79
Sand	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Salt	\$60,000.00	\$65,698.10
Calcium Chloride	\$8,000.00	\$8,152.16
Hot & Cold Patch	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,679.34</u>
<b>Total Road Maintenance Material</b>	<b>\$148,000.00</b>	<b>\$141,027.84</b>

**Projects**

Paving	\$85,000.00	\$335,754.79
Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Class III Roads	\$15,000.00	\$14,900.00
Guard Rails/Culverts	\$8,000.00	\$4,263.20
Town Garage Loan Payment	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$34,928.32</u>
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>\$153,000.00</b>	<b>\$389,846.31</b>

**Equipment Costs**

Vehicles and Equipment	\$45,000.00	\$37,830.77
Blades	\$4,000.00	\$4,148.25
Tires	\$7,500.00	\$3,161.02
Miscellaneous	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$5,652.00</u>
<b>Total Equipment Costs</b>	<b>\$58,300.00</b>	<b>\$50,792.04</b>

<b>Total Highway Budget</b>	<b>\$651,500.00</b>	<b>\$894,574.70</b>
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<b>TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$854,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,060,612.82</b>
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**Voted Non-Budgetary Articles & Grants**

Establish Town Lines	\$250.00	\$0.00
Reappraisal Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pawlet Mountain Road Cem. Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Better Back Roads	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Voted Appropriations**

Rupert Volunteer Fire Co.	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Dorset Nursing Association	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
R.K. Kittay Library	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Salem Rescue Squad	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Rupert Village Sidewalks	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Town Office Restoration	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,700.00</b>	<b>\$29,700.00</b>

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$919,450.00</b>	<b>\$1,090,312.82</b>
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**Committed Funds**

Town Green Fund-Timber Sale & Mrs. Hatch \$5000	\$34,479.48	\$6,289.40
Town Office Restoration Fund – leftover	\$6,597.00	\$0.00
Rupert Town Forest Sale-Town office Renovation	\$91,000.00	\$3,201.00
Fiduciary Grant from Mrs. Hatch	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Land Records Restoration Fund	\$9,888.00	\$0.00
Town Financial Audit	\$4,200.00	\$0.00
Paving – rolled over from previous year	\$81,640.00	\$81,640.00



# SELECTBOARD REPORT - ANTICIPATED INCOME

## JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

State of Vermont - Highway Aid	\$101,000.00
Current Use - Hold Harmless	\$102,000.00
Reimbursement Library Salaries	\$ 10,000.00
Merck Forest in lieu of taxes	\$ 10,000.00
Rupert Volunteer Fire Company	\$ 6,500.00
Delinquent Tax Collector Fees	\$ 8,000.00
Government PILOT	\$ 2,500.00
Interest - Bank Accounts	\$ 500.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ 7,500.00
Licenses & Zoning Permits	\$ 2,000.00
Speed Control Fines	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$255,200.00</b>

Budget July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	
General Government	\$ 193,350.00
Highway Expense	\$ 706,000.00
<u>TOTAL BUDGET</u>	<u>\$ 899,350.00</u>
Less anticipated income	<u>(\$ 255,200.00)</u>

**AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES            \$ 644,150.00**

### FISCAL YEAR END BALANCE

Cash On Hand	June 30, 2020	\$ 383,337.68
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### COMMITTED FUNDS

Town Lines	\$ 250.00
Town Building Restoration	\$ 6,594.00
Land Records Restoration	\$ 9,888.00
Rupert Town Green Fund	\$ 28,190.08
Rupert Town Forest Sale	\$ 87,799.00
Fiduciary Grant via Mrs. S. Hatch	\$ 10,000.00
Town Office Improvement Fund	\$ 25,000.00
Sidewalks	\$ 10,000.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$177,721.08</u>

Year End Balance	\$383,337.68
Committed Funds	<u>(\$177,721.08)</u>
Actual 19/20 FY Balance	\$205,616.60

**GENERAL FUND BALANCE                    \$205,616.60**  
**Uncollected Delinquent Taxes (6/30/20)    \$ 54,767.45**

Statement of Expinditures - Town of Rupert  
Budget, Actual and Proposed – General Fund Year Ending June 30, 2021

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>7/1/2020-6/30/20</u>	<u>(6-MONTH) ACTUAL</u> <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>7/1/21-6/30/22</u>
<b><u>School Tax Payments</u></b>			
Rupert School District Homestead		\$307,671.08	
Rupert School Non Resident		\$308,541.92	
State Education Payment		<u>\$305,842.00</u>	
<b>Total School Tax Payments</b>		<b>\$922,055.00</b>	
<b>TOWN BUDGET</b>			
<b><u>Salaries</u></b>			
Town Clerk	\$14,000.00	\$6,612.84	\$15,000.00
Library Employee Salary	\$12,000.00	\$3,475.00	\$10,000.00
Treasurer	\$18,400.00	\$9,587.16	\$19,000.00
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$2,000.00	\$ 390.63	\$1,500.00
Selectmen	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Constable	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Del Tax Collector Fees	\$9,000.00	\$4,481.84	\$8,000.00
Auditors	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	\$1,900.00
Listers	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Board of Civil Authority	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Fica/Medi	\$8,000.00	\$4,246.35	\$8,500.00
Town Officers Expense	\$1,000.00	\$76.95	\$900.00
Dog Ordinance Expense	\$1,000.00	\$479.23	\$1,000.00
Zoning and Planning	\$2,000.00	\$225.95	\$1,000.00
Elections	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$1,460.40</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>\$84,800.00</b>	<b>\$42,536.35</b>	<b>\$81,600.00</b>
<b><u>Supplies &amp; Maintenance</u></b>			
Office Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$1,409.60	\$3,000.00
Postage	\$1,500.00	\$4.10	\$1,000.00
Town Report	\$1,700.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Office Equipment Repair	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Town Records Restoration	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Office Capital Purchase	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Land Purchase	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
NEMRC – Annual	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Computer Schooling	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$806.73</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$17,600.00</b>	<b>\$7,220.43</b>	<b>\$17,200.00</b>
<b><u>Utilities</u></b>			
Electric – Town Office	\$1,000.00	\$338.10	\$1,000.00
Electric – Library/Historical	\$1,300.00	\$399.29	\$1,000.00
Electric – Town Garage	\$2,400.00	\$908.93	\$2,000.00
Electric – Street Lights	\$6,300.00	\$2,648.06	\$6,300.00
Telephone – Town Office	\$2,500.00	\$927.60	\$2,000.00
Telephone – Town Garage	\$1,000.00	\$489.27	\$1,000.00
Benn. Co. Waste Alliance	\$3,500.00	\$2,826.72	\$3,500.00
Fuel Oil – Library/Historical	\$2,500.00	\$395.60	\$2,500.00
Town Office Heating Oil	\$2,300.00	\$313.97	\$2,500.00

Town Building Maint.	\$6,000.00	\$1,267.00	\$6,000.00
Town Office Cleaning	<u>\$80.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$28,880.00</b>	<b>\$10,514.54</b>	<b>\$27,880.00</b>

#### **Outside Services**

Attorney's Fees	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
General Town Insurance	\$20,000.00	\$17,848.00	\$20,000.00
Audit	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Vermont League Cities/Town	\$2,000.00	\$1,953.00	\$2,000.00
Property Mapping	\$1,600.00	\$837.50	\$1,800.00
Cemetery Maint.	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Bennington County Tax	\$12,000.00	\$10,811.05	\$12,000.00
Benn Cty Reg'l Comm Dues	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Speed Control	\$4,000.00	\$1,146.34	\$4,000.00
Fire Alarm Maintenance	\$600.00	\$440.00	\$550.00
State Permits and Fees	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Town Website	\$1,000.00	\$802.24	\$1,000.00
Radio Communications	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$720.00</u>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>
<b>Total Outside Services</b>	<b>\$60,700.00</b>	<b>\$38,558.13</b>	<b>\$60,350.00</b>

#### **Appropriations**

VT Ctr for Indep Living	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Rupert Youth	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Front Porch Forum	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
SW VT Council on Aging	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Granville Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Benn. Rutl Opportunity Cncl	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
American Red Cross	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Bennington Cty Con. Dist	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Poultney/Mett Water Shed	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Bennington Tutorial	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Coalition for Homeless	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Manchester Rescue Squad	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Benn. Area Habitat for Humanity	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
Rupert Food Pantry	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$6,420.00</b>	<b>\$6,120.00</b>	<b>\$6,320.00</b>

<b>Total Town Budget</b>	<b>\$198,400.00</b>	<b>\$104,949.45</b>	<b>\$193,350.00</b>
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#### **HIGHWAY BUDGET**

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

Highway Crew	\$150,000.00	\$68,256.05	\$155,000.00
Mileage Reimbursement	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Fica/Medi	\$13,500.00	\$6,171.50	\$14,000.00
Health Insurance	\$54,000.00	\$20,297.90	\$55,000.00
Retirement	\$8,500.00	\$4,096.10	\$9,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$200.00	\$181.00	\$500.00
Workers Compensation	<u>\$13,000.00</u>	<u>\$13,629.00</u>	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
<b>Total Salaries/Wages</b>	<b>\$239,400.00</b>	<b>\$112,631.55</b>	<b>\$247,700.00</b>

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

Parts and Supplies	\$14,000.00	\$8,296.55	\$14,500.00
Equipment Rental	\$4,000.00	\$2,665.00	\$4,000.00

Oil & Lube	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Diesel	\$26,000.00	\$9,487.13	\$26,000.00
Equipment Repair	\$28,000.00	\$19,515.80	\$28,000.00
Town Barn Repair	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Town Barn Heating Propane	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$4,500.00</u>
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$79,500.00</b>	<b>\$39,964.48</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>

#### **Outside Services**

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

#### **Road Maintenance Material**

Gravel	\$50,000.00	\$367.67	\$60,000.00
Sand	\$20,000.00	\$16,200.00	\$20,000.00
Salt	\$60,000.00	\$15,904.64	\$60,000.00
Calcium Chloride	\$8,000.00	\$8,812.68	\$9,000.00
Hot & Cold Patch	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,972.40</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
<b>Total Road Maintenance Material</b>	<b>\$148,000.00</b>	<b>\$52,257.39</b>	<b>\$159,000.00</b>

#### **Projects**

Paving	\$85,000.00	\$86,671.49	\$85,000.00
Bridges	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Class III Roads	\$15,000.00	\$300.00	\$15,000.00
Guard Rails/Culverts	\$8,000.00	\$3,242.00	\$8,000.00
Town Garage Loan Payment	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$34,928.32</u>	<u>\$35,000.00</u>
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>\$153,000.00</b>	<b>\$125,141.81</b>	<b>\$153,000.00</b>

#### **Equipment Costs**

Vehicles and Equipment	\$50,000.00	\$75,448.82	\$50,000.00
Blades	\$4,000.00	\$2,603.00	\$4,000.00
Tires	\$7,500.00	\$6,852.98	\$7,500.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$1,800.00</u>	<u>\$1,026.70</u>	<u>\$1,800.00</u>
<b>Total Equipment Costs</b>	<b>\$63,300.00</b>	<b>\$85,931.50</b>	<b>\$63,300.00</b>

**TOTAL HIGHWAY BUDGET**    **\$686,200.00**                      **\$415,926.73**                      **\$706,000.00**

**TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES**    **\$884,600.00**                      **\$520,876.18**                      **\$899,350.00**

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

Establish Town Lines	\$250.00	\$0.00
Reappraisal Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pawlet Mountain Road Cem. Main	\$0.00	\$0.00
Better Back Roads	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$6,016.80</u>
<b>Total Voted Non-Budgetary Articles</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$6,016.80</b>

#### **Voted Appropriations**

Rupert Volunteer Fire Company	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00
Dorset Nursing Association	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	
R K Kittay Library	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Salem Rescue Squad	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Rupert Village Sidewalks	\$20,000.00	\$11,006.11	
Town Office Restoration	<u>\$50,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
<b>Total Voted Appropriations</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>	<b>\$41,006.11</b>	

**Total Expenditures**                      **\$984,850.00**                      **\$567,899.09**

## TOWN OF RUPERT DOG LICENSES ISSUED FOR 2020

CASH ON HAND JAN. 1, 2020	\$ 0.00
168 DOGS LICENSED	\$ 1,791.00
(Includes 1 Farm Dog License)	
1 BREEDER LICENSES @ \$35.00	<u>\$ 35.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,826.00
 Fees to Vermont State Treasurer (\$5.00) per license	 (\$ 868.00)
\$2.00 per license fee retained by T.C.	<u>(\$ 338.00)</u>
TOTAL	(\$ 1,206.00)
Net revenue for Town of Rupert for the 2020 calendar year	\$ 620.00

### NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

New dog licenses for 2021 are now at the Town Office. Registration due date is April 1, 2021. The rabies vaccination law reads that all dogs over the age of three months shall be vaccinated against rabies and this initial vaccination is good for 12 months. Within 9 - 12 months of that initial vaccination the animal must receive a booster vaccination. After that, all rabies vaccinations will be valid for 3 years. One dollar of every license goes towards the State of Vermont Rabies Control Program. If you have any questions as to whether or not your pet needs to be vaccinated, in order to be registered, please call the town office.

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

#### 2021 Dog License Fees are as follows:

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

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

I am truly blessed to have wonderful grandchildren and also blessed to have wonderful grand-dogs and grand-cats. This year our family sadly lost Otis, one of the sweetest Labs ever who loved his family so much he would turn to mush at the slightest pet on the head. We also lost Rocket who was one of those cats that would melt in your arms. Pets add so much love to a family. We should enjoy every moment they are here, for their time on this earth is way too short.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

## VITAL STATISTICS – 2020

## 2020 BIRTHS

Woodrow John Czahor  
Born to John J. Jr. & Casey L. Czahor

Feb. 06, 2020

Jesse Michael Davenport  
Born to Ryan D. & Brylea E. Davenport

March 9, 2020

Everett John Travis  
Born to Benjamin D. & Kelly R. Travis

June 03, 2020

## 2020 CIVIL MARRIAGES

Melissa Kathleen Carll	to	Daniel Patrick Sullivan	Jan.	19, 2020
Jason Roy Kerson	to	Julianna Malia McGonigle	April	20, 2020
Deneen Elizabeth MacLeod	to	Patrick Jonathan Wilson	Aug.	15, 2020
Kenneth MacMenamin Leach	to	Joanne Lynn Chickering	Aug.	20, 2020
Joseph Herrick Edwards	to	Priscilla Argelis	Nov.	28, 2020
Peter John Pelton	to	Jill Elizabeth Sady	Dec.	05, 2020

## 2019 & 2020 DEATHS

Melford Bibens	Dec.	08, 2019	76
Marion Nancie Tift	Jan.	05, 2020	86
Burt R. Geraghty	Feb.	18, 2020	94
William Edward Lewis	Feb.	23, 2020	78
Janice H. Moore	March	07, 2020	95
James Eli McKeighan	May	21, 2020	89
Luetta May Gordy	July	12, 2020	97
Rosemarie K. Lenhardt	Nov.	25, 2020	94
Jessie Alice Ayers	Nov.	30, 2020	77
John David Markle	Dec.	11, 2020	67

These are the vital records for 2020. If a birth, civil marriage or death does not occur in the town and you would like to have the event recorded at the town office, please file a certified copy of the record with the town clerk. If I have missed some event, I do apologize.

Respectfully submitted: Andrea Lenhardt, Town Clerk

## Zoning Administrator's Report 2020

The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of each month at the Town Office at 7:00 pm. Meetings may be held remotely as needed during the health emergency. The Development Review Board meets similarly on an as-needed basis.

For the year 2020, there were a total of 13 applications. The breakdown is as follows:

Residence Addition/Renovation.....	4
New/Replace Existing Residence..	3
Subdivision.....	1
Boundary Adjustment.....	4
Access Waiver.....	1

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

Respectfully submitted,

John La Vecchia Jr.  
Administrative Officer

## Listers Report

This past year was pretty quiet as far as appeals of property assessments are concerned. We will look at new construction this spring whether it is completed or not. The state is recommending no interior inspections because of the virus so we will take exterior measurements and then ask questions about the interior either in person or on the phone. We try to keep regular office hours on Monday and Thursday from 9:00-1:00.

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

Jed Rubin, Rich Ventrella, Val Almosnino



RUPERT STREET CEMETERY INC.

PO BOX 82

WEST RUPERT, VT 05776

The Rupert Street Cemetery Incorporation meets at the Rupert Historical Building in the upstairs of the Rosalind Keshin Kittay Public Library. We meet twice a year, at 6:30pm, on the second Wednesday of April and October. The meetings are open to the public and all is invited.

Due to this year of Covid 19 we could not have the April meeting, the officers stayed the same, we will elect new officers in the spring.

Mike McKeighan – President

Don Lewis – Vice President

Deborah Baker – Secretary/Clerk

Tracy Lourie – Treasurer

Trustees: Phil Mazzuca Sr., Eugene Higgins, Charlie Rockwell, and Kelli Lewis

The mowing at the cemeteries was taken care of, by Lourie's Caretaking.

John Mahar from Manchester was hired to work on the stones at the Warren Hopkins Cemetery. He fixed the broken stones and cleaned them up. We will be having John star on the Old section of Rupert Street Cemetery in the spring.

At the last meeting in October we voted to raise the prices of cemetery plots \$400 for a 5 x 10 each.

Cemeteries will be closed from December 1 through May 1.

All flowers, Iron Rods, and decorations need to be removed by October 1. Veterans Markers will remain.

In 2020 we had 8 Burials:

Janice Moore – News Sheldon Section Lot 36 Plot 4

Eli McKeighan – Carver Section Lot 38A Plot 7

Edward Lewis – Carver Section Lot 44A Plot 1

Connie Bronson – New Sheldon Section Lot 39 Plot 3

Stanley Hurley – Carver Section Lot 49A Plot 3

Douglas Hurley – Carver Section Lot 50A Plot 4

Robert Anderson – New Sheldon Section Lot 29 Plot 2

Gloria Croff Hoffman – Carver Section Lot 28 A Plot 2

8 plots were also sold this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Baker

Secretary/Clerk of

Rupert Street Cemetery

# RUPERT STREET CEMETERY

April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020

Berkshire Bank Checking beginning balance 4/1/2019 - \$13,428.87

Berkshire Bank Investments beginning balance 4/1/2019 - \$61,695.18

## Income

John Sheldon Estate	\$ 7,566.17
Burials/Cremations	\$ 3,600.00
Town of Rupert	\$ 2,000.00
Plot Purchase	\$ 125.00
<u>Donation</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total	\$13,341.17

## Expenses

Green Mtn Boys Landscape	\$ 5,000.00
Open/Close Graves	\$ 3,450.00
Louries Caretaking	\$ 1,765.00
Southern Vt Signworks	\$ 1,584.00
Tree Service	\$ 400.00
Office Supplies	\$ 352.49
Wilson Lawnmowing	\$ 300.00
Saratoga Flag Co.	\$ 294.00
MSA Insurance	\$ 197.00
Checks/Deposit Slips	\$ 96.99
VT Cemetery Dues	\$ 65.00
PO Box Rental	\$ 64.00
<u>CBH (Tax Filing)</u>	<u>\$ 30.75</u>
Total	\$13,599.23

Berkshire Bank Balance as of March 31, 2020 \$13,170.81

Berkshire Bank Investments as of March 31, 2020 \$55,144.07

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tracy M. Lourie, Treasurer

**METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
WARNING**

The legal voters of Mettawee School District, consisting of the towns of Pawlet and Rupert, are hereby notified and warned to meet for an Informational Hearing virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. to consider and act upon the following articles.

**Zoom Link:** <https://brsu.zoom.us/j/81259068634>  
**Meeting ID:** 812 5906 8634  
**Passcode:** meeting

**To be acted upon on Wednesday, February 24, 2021:**

Article 1: To hear and act upon the reports of the School District directors and officers.

Article 2: To discuss articles to be voted upon by Australian ballot.

Article 3: To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

**To be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021:**

Article 4: Shall the voters approve the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Mettawee School District be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00PM at the Mettawee Community School?

Article 5: 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, 2021 to June 30, 2022?

Article 6: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$5,671,569, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,298 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.17% lower than spending for the current year.

Article 7: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the Building and Grounds Maintenance Reserve Fund?

Article 8: To elect the following positions:  
Moderator to serve from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022  
School District Clerk to serve from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022  
School District Treasurer to serve from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022  
Pawlet – 1 Director for one (3) year term expiring in February 2024  
Pawlet – 1 Director for three (3) year term expiring in February 2024  
Rupert – 1 Director for one (3) year term expiring in February 2024

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

Pawlet voters will vote at the Town Clerk's Office in Pawlet. The Polls will open on Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 9:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Rupert voters will vote at the Rupert Town Office in West Rupert. The Polls will open on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 10:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

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

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

On behalf of the Mettawee School Directors:  
Julie Mach, Chair

Received for the record and recorded this 19th day of January 2021 by:  
Deb Hawkins, Clerk of the District

## 2020: FIRST CONSTABLE REPORT

The following is a summary list of the incidents that I have handled from March 3, 2020 to December 30, 2020; for the ten months of my service as First Constable.

- 3 Vermont State Police Assists.
- 1 Fire Warden Assist.
- 8 Motor Vehicle Accident Assists.
- 9 Traffic Complaint Calls.
- 4 Dog Complaint Calls.
- 6 Warrants hand delivered to Owners of Unlicensed Dogs.
- 5 Citizen Assist Calls.
- 5 Volunteer Days for Rupert Food Booths.

Total Mileage: 233 miles

Thank you to everyone for your on-going support over the course of this very challenging year. Please do not hesitate to call me anytime with your questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Lourie,

First Constable

447 East Street

West Rupert, VT 05776

802.394.7898 (h)

518.338.5331 (c)

[louriescaretaking@yahoo.com](mailto:louriescaretaking@yahoo.com)

## FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

Wildland fires in Vermont were kept to minimum in 2020 due to a late spring with normal precipitation. A dry period in the first half of summer caused some concern, however there were only a small number of fires due in part to the awareness of the general public about the hazards of open burning. This year there were 94 fires reported in 42 Vermont towns that burned approximately 133 acres.

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

Please remember that burning household trash is illegal in Vermont and violators are subject to fines and possible loss of license. A permit is required for any outdoor burning when there is no snow on the ground. Please call anytime you have questions regarding outdoor burning. Always think about weather conditions before you start any fire. Thank you. Below are the 2020 fire statistics for the state of Vermont.

### 2020 FIRE STATISTICS - STATE OF VERMONT

Number of human caused fires	94
Number of lightning caused fires	0
Number of acres burned caused by humans	133
Number of acres burned caused by lightning	0
Total number of fires	94
Total number of acres burned	133
10-year total average number of fires	82
10-year total average number of acres burned	181

To obtain a burning permit please call 394-2494.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark D. Lourie  
Rupert Fire Warden

## REPORT OF THE RUPERT FIRE CHIEF

**The Rupert Fire Department answered 39 calls in 2020**

### **In Town Calls 26**

3 EMS Assist	1 Medical Assist Merck Forest	4 Fire Alarm Activations
1 Furnace Malfunction	1 Snowmobile Accident	5 MVA
2 CO Alarm Activations	1 Utility Fire	1 Tree on Lines
1 Shed Fire	1 ATV Accident	1 Electrical Fire
2 Car Fires	1 Tractor Accident	1 Appliance Fire

### **Calls to Neighboring Communities**

2 Structure Fires Hebron	1 Grass & Brush Fire Wells	1 Structure Fire Dorset
1 Structure Fire Pawlet	2 Grass & Brush Fire Dorset	3 Stand By's Dorset
1 Tree on Lines Salem	1 Grass & Brush Fire Salem	1 Structure Fire W. Pawlet

### **Election of Officers is as follows:**

Chief	Jimmy Joe Lewis	President	Grace Morey
1st Assistant	Jason Norton	Vice President	Nicole McKeighan
2nd Assistant	George Fisher	Secretary	Kelly Lewis
		Treasurer	Michael Lourie

Trustees: George Fisher, Melinda Lewis, Tim Mackey, John Fisher and finishing out Merritt Morey's term is Paul Myhack.

Due to the pandemic and the regulations imposed upon the department we were unable to do our normal training and fundraising events. We did continue with training at the department on Tuesday nights and held several takeout options to help with our fundraising events. We also sent a fund drive letter which was very successful.

Our new truck should arrive in early March and will help the department continue to meet the needs of our town. We were able to purchase the truck through a grant we awarded and monies we had set aside for this purpose as well as fundraising events.

I would like to thank the fire department members and the community for all of their support for the past 15 years as Chief. I will remain an active member and continue to support the department.

Emergency numbers continue to be 911 or by calling dispatch directly at 1-518-747-3325.

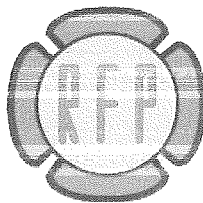
Any questions you may have should be referred to the new Chief at 394-0035. Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
George W. Lewis  
Rupert Volunteer Fire Department

## Vermont Association of Conservation Districts

The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction. During the **23+ years** of the program, almost **1200 grants** totaling **\$2.6 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs. **The Town of Rupert and the Rupert VFD has received \$30,686 over the years to help improve rural fire protection for the community through this program.** For more information please contact Troy Dare at 802-828-4582 or [dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com](mailto:dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com).

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



# RUPERT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

## TREASURER'S REPORT - 2020

### **RECEIPTS:**

CARNIVAL	\$7,593.00
TOWN	\$20,000.00
BINGO	\$3,482.19
DONATIONS	\$3,189.00
FISH FRY	\$6,014.00
MEMORIAL DONATIONS	\$2,385.00
GUN RAFFLE	\$7,132.00
FUND DRIVE LETTER	\$19,159.00
OCTOBER BBQ	\$2,483.00
WOODMAN DINNER	\$2,065.00
TABLES & CHAIRS	\$1,283.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74,785.19</b>

Balance on hand 1/1/20	\$31,501.47
Balance Equipment Fund 1/1/20	\$189,732.80

### **EXPENSES:**

CARNIVAL	\$4,590.17
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$4,307.82
FUEL OIL	\$2,465.44
ELECTRICITY	\$3,162.28
INSURANCE	\$6,402.00
EQUIPMENT	\$18,190.67
DINNERS	\$3,518.82
DISPATCHING	\$4,100.00
BUILDINGS	\$859.74
TELEPHONE	\$1,054.48
TRAINING	\$1,080.25



TRUCK	\$100,000.00
RAFFLES	\$857.96
OFFICE	\$549.00
SUPPLIES	\$200.79
PROPANE	\$278.68
DUES	\$632.00
DONATIONS	\$2,652.00
GASOLINE	\$114.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$155,016.14</b>

Balance on hand 12/31/20	\$25,075.49
Balance Equipment Fund 12/31/20	\$109,809.65

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
Michael Lourie

## 2020 Rupert Food Pantry

The Rupert Food Pantry continues to meet the needs of not only our community but the surrounding communities as well. The Food Pantry meets those needs through the generosity of people who donate through the churches and the library as well as the monetary donations given by other community members and the \$500 from our town.

Due to the pandemic, the Food Pantry is currently only open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from 9-10 am. We ask that people enter one at a time and wear a mask. The Food Pantry is available to anyone who has a need. Groceries are also delivered to those who aren't comfortable coming into the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is also the delivery spot for the Community Share Baskets that are handed out in our community around Christmas. This year, the Food Pantry either delivered or arranged a pickup time for 22 baskets.

If you would like any other information regarding the Food Pantry, please call 394-2491.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelli Lewis  
Rupert Food Pantry Chair

**R.K. Kittay Library  
2827 State Route 153  
Rupert, Vermont 05768**

**Annual Report for 2020  
January 18, 2021**

**Contact Information:**

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 53

West Rupert, Vermont 05776

Phone: 802-394-2444

**E-Mail:** [rupertkittaylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:rupertkittaylibrary@gmail.com)

**Website:** [rupertkittaylibrary.org/](http://rupertkittaylibrary.org/)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/rkkittaylibrary/](https://facebook.com/rkkittaylibrary/)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/rkkittaylibrary/](https://instagram.com/rkkittaylibrary/)

**Library Director:** Casey Czahor

**Board of Trustees:**

**President:** Judy Zinn

**Treasurer:** Jean Nardi

**Secretary:** Erica Shott

Arlene Horn

Sarah Porter

Peter Casenheiser

Carey Braidt

**Volunteer Book keeper:** Jane Lourie

The trustees and staff of the R.K. Kittay Library share their utmost gratitude to the Rupert Community for the continued support of our free public library. We also are beyond grateful for the dedicated volunteers who keep the doors of the library open, and maintain and organize our materials, as well as share their knowledge and compassion for reading with our visitors. We also must include a very special and sincere gratitude to Pat Mullen who retired from director of the library this year, her presence will be greatly missed, and her long dedication and service always fondly appreciated. Meg Casenheiser also resigned from her position as the Library Administrative Assistant in 2020, her support and assistance was key to our successes. Where one door closes another one opens, our new director Casey Czahor brings in new ideas and a vibrant energetic attitude for our library and its patrons. We are also always appreciative of our past and present board of trustee members; we thank outgoing trustee members Jane Lourie, Nicole Croff, and Casey Czahor and welcome our new trustees Peter Casenheiser, Erica Shott and Carey Braidt.

The community connection that the library offers proved itself invaluable during the challenges faced in 2020. Our services although reduced, and reinvented throughout the year were an essential service for our patrons during long periods of isolation due to the pandemic. With the enthusiasm of our new director and a great need to virtually connect with the community during the pandemic, a new website was created and an expanded social media presence on both Facebook and Instagram, that is continually expanding its reach. Our director and board members overcame unusual circumstances to offer services through curbside pick-up and eventually reopen the doors.

Fundraising is essential for us to meet our goals. The pandemic certainly limited fundraising

opportunities, but we were still able to safely reschedule and host our annual golf tournament in September, and have our very first fall Mum, Pumpkin & Pie Sale with a complete sell out. With the help of volunteers and the outstanding support of the surrounding communities the library managed to raise matching funds of \$250 for the Children's Book Project Grant from the Pilcrow Foundation (Grant funds will be used in 2021), giving us a strong finish to a troubling year. The events faced new obstacles, and pandemic restrictions but they still managed to be a positive community fundraising effort for our library and a healthy outlet for the community to participate in.

Below you will find a list of our current library services. We continue to provide, expand and support these resources for our patrons.

**Services offered at the Library:**

**Expanded Fiber Optic Technology:** the internet can now be accessed in a larger radius around the library

**Catalog of holdings:** Accessible on library website

**Universal class:** Over 500 virtual classes available

**Educational Portal:** Links to more than 600 free video lessons

**Heritage Quest:** Genealogy Research Tool

**Art Exhibits:** Local Artists display their work in the library usually a two-month rotation

**Community Programs:** There was limited programming in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, but we did enjoy a wonderful snow shoe program from John Pelton at the beginning of the year, as well as two art shows physically and virtually from local poet and photographer Carey Braidt and a virtual show with painter Jessica Smith. Our Summer Reading Program was a very successful and we can boast that 100 books were read by local children. The plans continue for annual events last seen in 2019 such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the No Strings Marionettes. There are also ambitious plans to bring back previous workshops and programming as well as introduce new ones as soon as it is safe to do so. The Gingerbread House Workshop, Origami Class, and Mushroom Education Program were all very well attended in 2019. We encourage patrons to share their interests for future events, and welcome knowledgeable locals to consider offering a program at the library.

**Free Passes for Patrons are available to:**

Vermont state Parks, Vermont Historical Museum, Historical Site, The Clark Museum, Hildene

**Community Groups:** Card group and book discussion groups utilized the library until the pandemic began in March 2020, and will be welcome to resume as soon as it safe to do so.

Our director, trustees, and volunteers remain enthusiastic to continually provide and adapt our services in any circumstances we are faced with. The year 2020 has had its challenges, but has only reinforced the importance of the library for our community. We were delighted to assist our patrons with various forms of books, movies and information throughout the pandemic. We look forward to more innovative services in 2021.

# ROSALIND KESHIN KITTAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

### Income

Bake Sale	\$	517.71
Donations	\$	15,884.63
Golf Tournament	\$	2,985.45
Interest	\$	3,689.82
Plant Sale	\$	680.50
Town of Rupert	\$	1,500.00
Used Book Sale	\$	12.00
	\$	<u>25,270.11</u>
Cash on Hand 1/1/20	\$	11,097.36
Total Funds	\$	<u>36,367.47</u>

### Expenses

Audio-Visual	\$	250.55
Books	\$	1,196.07
Computer Expense	\$	1,976.56
Fundraising	\$	728.00
Miscellaneous	\$	196.12
Office Supplies	\$	200.50
Periodicals	\$	26.00
Postage	\$	141.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$	1,025.65
Scholarship	\$	50.00
Summer Program	\$	214.72
Telephone	\$	579.03
Wages - Admin Asst & Lib Dir	\$	6,068.00
Wages - Employment Taxes	\$	<u>508.22</u>
		13,160.42
Transfer to Investment	\$	3,689.82
Cash on Hand 12/31/20	\$	<u>19,517.23</u>
Total Funds	\$	<u>36,367.47</u>

### Investment(Endowment Fund)\*

Bank of Bennington CDs	\$	176,898.23
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Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Nardi, Treasurer

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

# THE RUPERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Our Year, like many others, has been one of relative inactivity, without our usual Public Programs and other activities promoting the colorful history of our Town, which, for nearly the last 300 years, has managed to survive many changes in its population, its industries, its well-being, and its contributions to the wider world. We have survived the challenges of early settlement, armed invasion, epidemics (both local and widespread), Civil War and the loss of many of our young generation, the pandemic of 1918 and 1919, World Wars I and II, and the changes which the post-war 20<sup>th</sup> century have brought us. So, here we are, a community confronting a new challenge.

We have managed to make some accomplishments in spite of the social limitations we adhere to. We have successfully completed a long-planned project to install a slate roof on the COBBLER SHOP HOUSE. We received a gift of roofing slate and related materials from the generosity of Jack Williams of the NewMont Slate Company of West Pawlet. Work was done by Crown Woodwork of Mendon. Andy and his crew completed the work in the fine weather of our autumn, just in time to meet the challenges of Vermont Winter. With the exception of handicap accessibility, this new Museum is ready to welcome visitors individually, and in school groups, with its exhibits of 19<sup>th</sup> century daily life and industry. Our Museum schedule will resume whenever the Covid restrictions are lifted.

We wish to thank the community for your generous support throughout the year. Our Officers and Board of Trustees are: Nan Leach, Leesa Bradley, Diane Lourie, Don Lewis, Axel Blomberg, Claude Barden, John LaVecchia: Gene Higgins, Pres.; Margaret Bain, V. Pres.; Anne Lourie, Sec.; Tracy Lourie, Treas.

## EXPENSES

\$217.22

**GLOVES/REPELLENT** **\$ 18.29**

**INCOME:** \$ 0.00

Subtotal income:	\$ 0.00
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(Transferred to Kittay Public Library  
For the annual Easter Egg Hunt)

\$0.00 Account closed

39

Northshire Rescue Squad  
PO Box 26  
Manchester Center VT 05255  
Business: (802) 362-1995 Fax (802) 362-8175  
Email: [northshirerescue@gmail.com](mailto:northshirerescue@gmail.com)  
*"Serving the community since 1964"*  
[www.northshirerescue.com](http://www.northshirerescue.com)

Northshire Rescue Squad has the honor of serving this community with Emergency Medical Service at the paramedic level. We do this with a mixture of dedicated volunteer first responders and full & part-time paid staff. This past year has shown the dedication our members have to providing this service to our friends, family, neighbors, and visitors. With the growing angst that has come with the unknown of COVID-19 virus their commitment to this community has not waived. We would also like to acknowledge the overwhelming support of this community and would like to thank all that have reached out with words and gestures of gratitude. We will continue to respond to your calls for assistance and ever strive to provide the highest level of care to this community.

We responded to the following calls during fiscal year 2019-2020:

Danby	87	Mount Tabor	15
Dorset	151	Winhall	7
East Dorset	64	Hospital transfers	15
Manchester	884	Mutual aid	46
Rupert	8	Total	1277



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

To the Citizens of Towns Served:

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

Granville Rescue handled 1543 calls in 2020, traveling over 41,000 miles. The following is a breakdown of calls by area covered:

Village of Granville	617	Town of Hebron	44
Town of Granville	541	Town of Wells	107
Town of Pawlet	136	Town of Rupert	14
Town of Danby	13	Other Areas	84

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

Our service is licensed in New York and Vermont as an advanced life support agency. Volunteer members are supplemented by employees to provide 24 hour a day, 7 days a week emergency medical coverage. Our roster has over 45 members and staff, ranging from drivers to paramedics. In 2019, members participated in over 10,000 hours of emergency call time and in excess of 800 hours of training. We do offer community CPR and first aid training, depending on instructor availability, as well as the "Stop the Bleed" program. This has been slightly altered this year due to the pandemic.

As the world has been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, our operations too have been changed. In addition to increased training and personal protective procedures, medical protocols have been altered by the health departments who regulate these. We wish the best to all who have been affected by this disease.

Our agency was fortunate to be the recipient of a large federal grant to purchase new power stretchers, outfitting all ambulances with these devices. An additional grant purchased equipment for incidents on waterways.

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

The members and staff of the Granville Rescue wish everyone a healthy 2021!

**VNA & HOSPICE of the Southwest Region**  
**Main Office: 7 Albert Cree Drive**  
**Rutland, VT 05701**  
**1.800.244.0568**  
**[www.vermontvisitingnurses.org](http://www.vermontvisitingnurses.org)**  
**Locations in Bennington, Dorset and Manchester**

**TOWN REPORT**

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

In 2019, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, formerly known as Dorset Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice provided Bennington County residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From infants with hi-tech needs to our most senior population facing end-of-life care, we continued to bring medically necessary healthcare wherever it is needed, location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

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

In 2019, VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 141,507 visits to 3,212 patients. In the town of Rupert, we provided 584 visits to 16 individuals.

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

Ronald J. Cioffi, CEO  
CEO

Dan DiBattista  
President of the Board of Directors

## BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

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

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning in the region has become one of the BCRC's main program areas. Economic development planning at the BCRC, including dedicated staff directed by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation, supports business retention, growth, and recruitment. The BCRC also has provided support for the Putnam Block project in Bennington's downtown and is cooperating with local and state officials on new redevelopment initiatives in downtowns and village centers. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property. Other important accomplishments have included: assistance with updates to several municipal comprehensive plans and land use bylaws, development of municipal energy plans and support for local energy committees, village center and neighborhood development area designations and successful grant applications, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan in cooperation with the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, and planning for roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, public transportation improvements.

Like everyone, the BCRC has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The office transitioned to remote work and meetings in April and, while staff have recently started spending some time in the office, it generally is easiest to contact us via email (see contacts at [www.bcrcvt.org](http://www.bcrcvt.org)). Fortunately, technology has allowed us to continue work on all of our projects with little interruption in progress. Of course, significant staff resources have been dedicated to providing assistance to businesses and municipalities as they work to navigate the challenges associated with changes to the way operations are conducted, with staffing and revenue disruptions, and to chart of course forward through and beyond the current crisis.

The BCRC is governed by locally appointed commissioners from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. As of January 2021, our offices will have relocated to 210 South Street in Bennington, and post-pandemic, we expect to have regular office hours at the Manchester Town Offices as well. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: [www.bcrcvt.org](http://www.bcrcvt.org)).

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Sullivan, Director

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

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

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

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

This past year the Alliance assisted 40 businesses as well as several major event organizers primarily via phone, email, and webinars due to COVID-19. Given COVID-19, meals and snacks in most schools are served in classrooms rather than lunchrooms. To help with this, the Alliance received 170 food scrap buckets from the Agency of Natural Resources that we distributed to 17 schools along with instructional signage to allow for food scrap collections within classrooms.

The Alliance held two household hazardous waste events with nearly 500 participating households. We also sold over 180 backyard compost bins and 60 green cones to residents. In 2021, we will hold three household hazardous waste events for residents and small businesses of all thirteen towns. The spring event will be in Bennington and the fall in Dorset. We will hold a third event for residents and businesses of Searsburg and Stamford given the long driving distance they have to either of our other events. Check the website above for updates and details. The Alliance receives most of its funding from the 13 towns, but this past year received grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.

## BENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT (BCCD)

The mission of the BCCD is to promote rural livelihoods and protect natural resources in southwestern Vermont. Our work in fiscal year 2020 included:

Agriculture technical assistance and outreach was provided to farmers county-wide, to develop nutrient management plans, conduct soil and water samples and assist with resources and grants. Livestock exclusion fencing was provided for a local dairy farmer to keep cattle out of a small tributary in Manchester, in conjunction with the Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). We also participated and provided grant writing for the Northshire Grown: Direct CSA (a project of Merck Forest and Farmland Center – MFFC), which provides directly marketed produce to customers and assists producers during Covid. This effort also supports Neighbors in Need, by providing free food to community members who need it the most.

Partnering with the Town of Bennington and Shelly Stiles (previous BCCD district manager) to research and apply for the necessary permits to connect Headwaters Park with the old One World Conservation property and Y woods in Bennington. Permits were obtained for a new floater's trail and additional hiking access down and across Jewitt Brook.

Participated in the Batten Kill Watershed Comprehensive Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA) including the management of an Eco Americorp Service member and projects like a workshop for Orvis; newspaper articles; and social media outreach.

A VT DEC Trees for Streams / Pur Projet buffer planting was completed in North Bennington to reduce sediment and nutrient run-off into the Walloomsac River. Planting occurred in partnership with the PMNRCD. Over 1000 trees were planted at this site. Further buffer plantings are scheduled for Spring 2021. Outreach was also provided to landowners throughout the county, who would benefit from similar plantings.

Participated in forest connectivity research and outreach, via a High Meadows Grant shared with MFFC. Ecologically significant land that is susceptible to parcelization was identified in the Taconic Forest block (Rupert, Arlington, Sandgate, Manchester, Dorset). Outreach and site visits began this fall, in conjunction with VT FPR County forester, Cory Creegan.

Developed three stormwater projects, one of which we will apply for design funding at the next grant opening. Projects were located along River Road in Winhall, Bennington College in Bennington and on private property in Woodford. Culverts were also assessed in Rupert and Dorset, in conjunction with USFWS and the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) for aquatic organism passage. We will seek funding in upcoming months for culverts in need of replacement.

Assisting with the development of the new 5-year Battenkill, Hoosic and Wallomsac Basin 1 plan.

Topographic surveys and 50% engineered designs were obtained for stormwater system improvements at the Arlington school and library complex. In the upcoming months, these designs will be developed to 100% with the input of the Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union.

Started a new outreach effort with Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Battenkill Watershed Alliance (BKWA) to provide outreach, education and project development along the Battenkill and its tributaries. This effort has been supported by the US Forest Service and VT Fish and Wildlife.

BCCD has also worked to improve its internet presence with a newly developed website and increased facebook posts, more to come soon.

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

Respectfully submitted by  
Katy Crumley, District Manager

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

**Request Amount: \$120.00**

For the past 41 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 '20 (10/2019-9/2020) 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 236 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and 5 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted 124 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 89 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided 61 individuals with information on assistive technology; 36 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 573 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also now home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served 41 people and provided 30 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 12 people in its first few months. The Rise Program can help 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 (VIRS) 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 '20, 1 resident of **Rupert** received services from the following program:

•Peer Advocacy Counseling Program (PAC)

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

## BENNINGTON COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity International (HfHI) is a global non-profit housing organization whose vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works in all 50 of the United States and in 70 countries. Since its founding in 1976 by Linda and Millard Fuller, Habitat has helped more than 35 million people achieve strength, stability and self-reliance through safe, decent and affordable shelter.

Bennington County Habitat for Humanity (BCHfH) is an affiliate of HfHI. BCHfH works in partnership with Bennington County residents who cannot otherwise become homeowners or afford needed home repairs. Applicants must have a need for better housing, the ability to pay, and the willingness to partner with BCHfH. Once accepted into the homeownership program, each adult family member must complete 200 hours of sweat equity. Homebuyers pay an interest free mortgage thru monthly payments that include escrow for property taxes, insurance, and Homeowner Association fees, where applicable. Homebuyers' monthly payments never exceed more than 20% of their income. The monthly mortgage payments help build more homes.

BCHfH is locally run and funded. With the exception of some contract services, volunteers build Habitat houses. Businesses, subcontractors, and individuals help build, donate materials, and provide financial support. Town appropriations purchase building supplies and materials for our construction programs.

In Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020), BCHfH was well on its way to completing three houses and 10 home repair projects by June 30, 2020. Then COVID-19 hit, and we were required to suspend operations for 2 ½ months. We got back to building and reopened our ReSale Store the first week of June, although with fewer volunteers due to strict Reopening Protocols. We finished one of our three FY20 houses before June 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Greene family moved home to the Jennifer Lane neighborhood of Manchester Center in mid-August. By late November, we completed the second of our three FY20 houses, along Corcoran's Way in Bennington; closing is set for December 7<sup>th</sup> with the Furciniti-Julius family. We currently are working to finish the third house, which is in Manchester Center. Our home repair program remains on hold at this time, but we were grateful to finish the nine home repair projects in FY200 with homeowners who needed ramps and simple exterior repairs in order to remain safely in their homes.

Our Resale Store in Manchester sells, at reasonable prices, new and gently used furniture, building supplies, appliances, housewares, tools, and home improvements products that have been donated to us. Not only does the store provide people with quality furnishings they can afford, it also keeps items out of the landfill. The proceeds from the store provide meaningful support for our constructions programs.

The eighth home we built is located in Rupert and the ninth home we built is in West Rupert, providing safe, affordable housing for two Rupert families. Many Rupert residents helped build these and other local Habitat homes. We encourage residents of Rupert to apply for homes and home repair projects. We are grateful for the Town of Rupert's continued support and hope we can count on your assistance in the future. None of our projects would be possible without the support we receive from area towns, businesses, houses of worship, and individuals. Together, we do make a difference in the lives of hard-working, lower-income area residents. For more information about our work, please visit our website [www.benningtoncountyhabitat.org](http://www.benningtoncountyhabitat.org).

Respectfully submitted by Bill Hoyt, President, Board of Directors

## PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

P.O. Box 227 Bennington Vermont 05201

802-442-2370

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

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is the only domestic and sexual violence advocacy agency in Bennington County. For nearly 40 years PAVE has provided compassionate support, practical services and the pathway to healing and safety for countless victims of domestic and sexual violence, dating violence and stalking throughout Bennington County.

PAVE has grown from a crisis hotline to the multiple and comprehensive support services we now provide. These services include a 24—hour crisis hotline, court and social service advocacy, case management, emergency financial assistance, access to legal services, emergency shelter, supervised visitation services, parenting classes, community awareness, school-based prevention education and more. We are thrilled to announce the addition of a transitional housing program beginning in 2021.

In the past year, several residents of Rupert received comprehensive services through PAVE. In addition to the services above, 1 family with 2 children engaged in supervised visitation services through our Family Time Center; this is a critical, often court-ordered service that ensures safe and healthy contact for children with a non-custodial parent.

Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families. Our emergency shelter program provides families with short-term housing and case management services with the goal of obtaining safe permanent housing. In the past year, we provided 65 adults and 39 children in Bennington County with 5,028 nights of shelter services.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Nadia Lucchin, Executive Director

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is a non-profit agency that provides free and confidential services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Bennington County.



## **GREEN UP VERMONT**

**[www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)**

Green Up Vermont celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Green Up Day on May 30, 2020. Although 99% of all events were cancelled due to Covid-19, Green Up Day was successfully executed with social distancing by 14,000+ volunteers, cleaning up over 241 tons of litter, and 9,000 tires statewide. It is imperative for all of us to keep building awareness and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment. 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 engagement.

Support from municipalities is essential to our program. Funds help pay for administration, supplies (including 65,000 Green Up trash bags), promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, poster and writing contests, and a \$1,000 scholarship.

Early awareness initiatives for Green Up Day tripled the number of submissions to our annual poster art and writing contests and produced 184 applicants for our first scholarship. We were able to offer "Greener" bags made with 70% post-consumer waste; add a Green Scuba team to clean in Lake Champlain; and had over 100 editorial stories in the news as well as a national mention in the *Washington Post*.

Donations can be made to Green Up Vermont on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at **[www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)**.

Visit our website and follow us on Facebook (@greenupvermont) and Instagram (greenupvermont).

**Green Up Day, May 1, 2021**

**Thank You!**

## **SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING**

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

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to elders in Rupert in 2020:

#### ***Nutrition Support:***

SVCOA helped provide 105 nutritious meals to 45 Rupert elders who came together at community luncheon site in your area while enjoying the company of others.

Additionally, SVCOA provided 4.5 hours of one-on-one nutrition support, including nutrition assessments and resource connections and referrals, to 2 residents of Rupert.

The Council also remained available to provide home delivered meals, often referred to as "Meals on Wheels," to homebound elders residing in Rupert.

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

SVCOA case management and outreach staff helped 11 elders in your community for a total of 173.75 hours. Case managers meet with an elder privately in the elder's home or at another agreed upon location and assess the elder's situation. They will work with the elder to identify needs and talk about possible services available to address those needs. If the elder desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help elders connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail elders facing long term care placement who still wish to remain at home.

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

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

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

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

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

## CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

It is with your town support, the Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) was able to serve over 1,225 individuals this past year. Even in a year with an unprecedented pandemic, CRJ continued to provide county-wide, community justice programs and intervention services. CRJ's programs are based on the principles of restorative justice, a philosophy of justice that focuses on the people and communities harmed by crime; it emphasizes bringing together everyone affected by wrongdoing to address needs and responsibilities.

Some CRJ highlights from this past year include:

- CRJ launched a new program this past year called Threads. Threads is a teen clothing boutique shop that accepts donations of quality, gently used clothing. Any teen can come shop at Threads and all clothing and accessories are free of charge.
- 165 individuals with suspended licenses were assisted to get legally back on the road
- 238 youth and adults participated in CRJ's Court Diversion Programs; after successful completion, including repairing the harms caused to their victims, the individuals' criminal records were expunged.
- 124 youth cited for underage drinking or possession of marijuana participated in CRJ's screening, education and treatment program; successful completions resulted in dismissal of civil charges.
- 173 students in Manchester, Arlington, and Bennington were served through CRJ's school-based Truancy Program and Restorative Alternative Program.
- 138 at-risk teens received services through one of CRJ's many youth intervention programs such as The Lounge (after school program), movie nights, mentoring and life skill development.
- 47 adults reentering the community from incarceration were supported through a variety of programs to help them positively reintegrate into the community.
- 340 individuals were served through CRJ's many other programs including victim impact classes, risk assessments and screenings, pre-charge programming and expungement assistance.

CRJ is grateful for your continued support in helping individuals to get their lives on the right track, empowering victims to have a voice in the justice process, and helping to restore and strengthen our communities.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Leitha Cipriano, Executive Director

STATE OF VERMONT  
Department of Health  
Bennington Local Health Office  
324 Main St., Suite 2  
Bennington, VT 05201  
[phone] 802-447-3531 [toll free} 802-447-6406

At the Vermont Department of Health our twelve Local Health District Offices around the state provide health services and promote wellness for all Vermonters. More info on your local health office can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local>

### COVID-19

2020 has been a challenging year for Vermonters. However, the Vermont Department of Health has been recognized as a national leader in managing the virus. This is what Health Department has done in your community:

- COVID-19 Testing:
  - Since May 2020, the Health Department has provided no-cost Covid-19 testing. Through November 17, 2020, the Vermont Department of Health has held 509 testing clinics, testing 40,796 Vermonters. This important work helps to identify the spread of Covid-19 and is just one of the many ways your Health Department is promoting and protecting the health of Vermonters.
  - Statewide, 224,284 people have been tested as of November 20, 2020
- COVID-19 Cases:
  - As of November 25, 2020, Vermont had the fewest cases of COVID-19 and the Lowest rate of cases per 100,000 population of all 50 states.
  - Statewide, as of November 30, 2020, there have been 4,172 cases of COVID-19
- Even more up-to-date information can be found on the Health Department's website: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/currentactivity>

### Additional Programs

In addition to the COVID-19 response, the Health Department has programs such as influenza vaccinations and WIC.

- Flu Vaccinations: Protecting people with influenza is particularly important in 2020, As the flu may complicate recovery from COVID-19. (Data is as of November 17, 2020)
  - Approximately 213,000\* Vermonters have been vaccinated against the flu this season \*(Due to technology outages, flu vaccinations give are underreported by approximately 25%-33%.)
- WIC: The Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition Education and Food Supplementation Program remains in full effect, though much of the work that was done in person is now being done remotely through TeleWIC. (Data is as of October 20, 2020)
  - 11,308 infants, children, and pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding people were served by WIC in Vermont, either in traditional format or TeleWIC

Learn more about what we don on the web at [www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov)

Join us on [ww.facebook.com/healthvermont](https://www.facebook.com/healthvermont)

Follow us on [www.twitter.com/healthvermont](https://www.twitter.com/healthvermont)

## BROC – COMMUNITY ACTION

To the Citizens of the Towns of Rupert,

On behalf of BROC Community Action and the thousands of people with low-income or living in poverty that we serve throughout Rutland and Bennington Counties, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for supporting us over the years on Town Meeting Day. BROC Community Action assists families and individuals in crisis and help provide a sustainable path forward.

Over the past year, BROC Community Action assisted 18 residents of the Town of Rupert. Whether they need food at the BROC Community Food Shelf, senior commodities, housing counseling, homelessness assistance, weatherization, heating and utility assistance, forms assistance for benefits such as 3SqVT, budget and credit counseling and resources and referrals; we are here.

People come to us cold, hungry, homeless, jobless or facing major health conditions every day. Your town appropriation helps ease the struggle for nearly 10,000 people who seek assistance from us each year as we meet the basic needs of their families and provide a path forward whenever possible.

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

We truly value our collaboration with Rupert as we assist those most in need.

Sincerely,

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

## Southern Vermont Communications Union District

[www.sovtcud.net](http://www.sovtcud.net)

[info@sovtcud.net](mailto:info@sovtcud.net)

Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) was voted into existence in March 2019 by 12 towns in Bennington County. We have since grown to 13 towns: Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Woodford.

In less than a year we have:

- Been awarded grants totaling \$190,000, plus \$12,000 awarded to Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) to support our efforts,
- Conducted on a utility pole survey to lay the groundwork for fiber optic network construction,
- Entered into a teaming agreement with Tilson, a network technology company, Green Mountain Power (GMP), and others to seek federal grants for rural broadband

While the bid for federal rural broadband grants was not successful, we did build relationships with Tilson and GMP that continue to enhance and inform our development.

In June 2020 we were awarded \$60,000 Broadband Innovation Grant (BIG) from the state of Vermont to undertake a feasibility study of building a fiber optic network in Bennington County. Preliminary results from that study suggested we need to grow in size and merge or collaborate with the also newly formed Deerfield Valley CUD in Windham County in order to be financially viable. Such a collaboration has been in the minds of people in both counties from inception. We are currently redirecting our feasibility study to evaluate a two-county solution for getting broadband to our under-served.

In September we were awarded a \$100,000 COVID relief grant to accelerate our network deployment plans. That was used to conduct a utility pole survey in our most under-served towns, Sandgate, Rupert, Peru, Dorset. A pole survey is a necessary first step toward network design and construction. Each pole we intend to hang fiber on must be evaluated in several measures, such as:

- Does the pole need replacement or reinforcement?
- Will other telecom lines need to be moved to accommodate ours?
- Is the pole in favorable position to branch to a residence?

COVID relief money has allowed us to start early to design work for fiber option network construction.

The Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) donated \$30,000 to SoVT CUD and the other CUDs for operating expenses. This money was sorely needed and greatly appreciated.

Previously, SoVT CUD volunteers who had been given so generously of their time were also giving their money for basic operating expenses like teleconferencing software and filing fees.

In December, the FCC awarded \$16B for rural broadband in its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) reverse auction. Consolidated Communications (CCI) and SpaceX received significant awards in our area. This has changed the landscape significantly. Many areas that we had hoped to serve are now obligated to CCI and SpaceX. Our two-county feasibility study is working to create financial models to evaluate this new landscape.

All the representatives, alternates, and officers of SoVT CUD have given mightily to this effort and deserve respect and gratitude. They have made for an impressive first year.

**CERTIFICATE OF VOTES**  
**RESULTS OF TOWN MEETING ELECTION**  
**MARCH 3, 2020**  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST - 281**

**TOWN OFFICERS**

Selectboard for 3 years	-	Charles Rockwell.....	232
Selectboard for 1 year	-	Linda Montague.....	154
Selectboard for 1 year	-	Philip E. Mazzucco.....	171
Lister for 3 years	-	Jed Rubin.....	233
Town Clerk for 3 years	-	Andrea Lenhardt.....	266
Town Treasurer for 3 years	-	Andrea Lenhardt.....	262
Auditor for 3 years	-	Kelly Jo Lewis.....	249
Town Agent for 1 year	-	John C. Pelton.....	250
First Constable for 1 year	-	Brett Lourie... ..	123
Second Constable for 1 year	-	Jeffrey W. Lourie .....	243
Delinquent Tax Collector for 1 year	-	Mark Lourie .....	255
Road Commissioner for 1 year	-	Jay E. Wilson III .....	205
Town Moderator for 1 year	-	Eugene C. Ceglowski.....	242
Rupert School Director 1 year	-	Arlene Bentley.....	177
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Casey Czahor.....	230
Library Trustee for 3 years	-	Nicole Croff.....	254
Library Trustee for 1 year	-	Peter Casenhiser.....	233

**RUPERT TOWN WARNING**

	<b><u>YES</u></b>	<b><u>NO</u></b>
Article 2 (to borrow money).....	240.....	36
Article 3 (to authorize Selectboard to spend surplus, if any)	225 .....	50
Article 4 (to approve collection of taxes in two installments)	257 .....	17
Article 5 (\$2,000 for Salem Rescue Squad).....	254.....	24
Article 6 (\$6,500 Dorset Nursing Assoc.).....	222.....	50
Article 7 (\$20,000 for Rupert Volunteer Fire Co.).....	246 .....	29
Article 8 (to approve \$25,000 for Town Office Improvements)	221 .....	49
Article 9 (\$ 1,500 for Rosalind Kittay Library).....	237.....	36
Article 10 (to enter into S.VT. Comm. Union District).....	192.....	65
Article 11 (\$200 for Front Porch Forum).....	175.....	90
Article 12 (\$10,000 for Rupert Village Sidewalks).....	195.....	73
Article 13 (to adopt a budget of \$ 884,600).....	238.....	34

**RESULTS OF METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**TOTAL COMMINGLED RUPERT & PAWLET VOTES CAST - 821**

	<b><u>YES</u></b>	<b><u>NO</u></b>
Article 8 (to borrow money).....	575.....	228
Article 9 (approve budget of \$5,870,038).....	460.....	350
Article 10 (approve \$40,0000 for Building & Main.Res.Funds).....	530.....	275
True and correct copy of the certificate of votes for the town and school district offers elected and town articles elected and voted by Australian ballot on March 3, 2020		

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY RESULTS – MARCH 3, 2020**

DEMOCRATIC – out of 179 votes cast -	Bernie Sanders.....82
REPUBLICAN – out of 59 votes cast -	Donald Trump.....53

# TOWN WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Rupert, Vermont are hereby warned and notified that on MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. a Pre-Town Informational Meeting will be held online via Zoom and on TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. at the RUPERT TOWN OFFICE to transact the following business:

- ARTICLE 1. To elect all Town officers and to vote on the following articles, all by the Australian Ballot. Voting will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 AT THE RUPERT TOWN OFFICE.  
The polls will open at 10:00 A.M. and will close at 7:00 P.M.
- ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money, in anticipation of taxes, to pay current expenses of the Town for the ensuing year?
- ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to spend any budget surplus funds (if there are any) in the next fiscal year?
- ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to approve the collection of the Town and School taxes in two installments; the first installment to be due on or before September 10, 2021 and the second to be due on or before February 10, 2022. Each installment, if not paid when due, to bear interest at the rate provided by the law, from the due date of that installment.
- ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town vote \$2,000 by taxes for the Salem Rescue Squad?
- ARTICLE 6. Shall the Town vote \$6,500 by taxes for the Dorset Nursing Association, Inc.?
- ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$30,000 for the support of the Rupert Volunteer Fire Company to provide services to residents of the Town?
- ARTICLE 8. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to appropriate the sum of \$ 25,000 to add to the Rupert Town Office Building Improvement Fund?
- ARTICLE 9. Shall the Town of Rupert vote to appropriate \$1,500 to support of the Rosalind Keshin Kittay Public Library?
- ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert vote to approve to extend the terms of First Constable and Second Constable from a one year term to a two year term?
- ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert vote to change the position of Road Commissioner from a voted position to a Selectboard appointed position in accordance with 17 V.S.A. 2646 (16)?
- ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Rupert approve \$ 10,000 to be spent for improvements and / or replacement of the Rupert Village sidewalks?
- ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town vote to adopt a budget of \$ 899,350 to defray expenses of the Town for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022?

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

Received this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021  
Andrea Lenhardt, Rupert Town Clerk