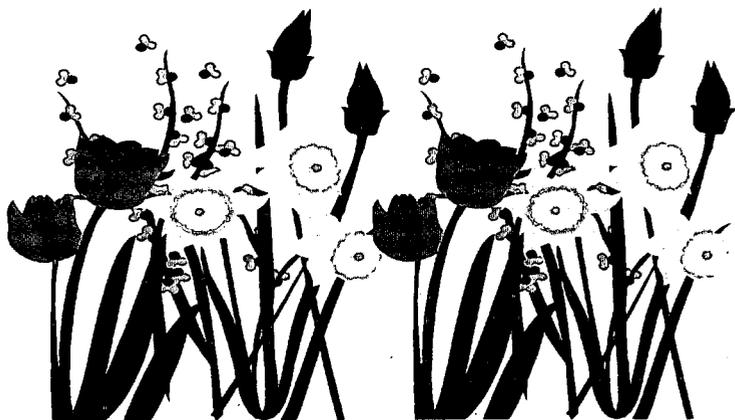


*Town of
Bridgewater*



Vermont

*2003 Annual Report
Town & School District*

(For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2003)

Town Reminders:

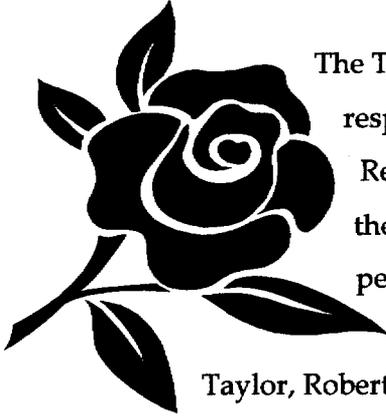
Fast Trash at the Town Garage – Saturday mornings - 8:00 – 11:00 A.M.
 Direct questions to: ABLE Waste Management 672-3569

- ❖ **March 2, 2004** Town Meeting Day 9:00 a.m. BVS Multi-purpose room
 Australian Ballot – WUHS Budget Vote 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 Presidential Primary Town Office 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ **March 13, 2004** Rabies Clinic – 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. @ BVS
- ❖ **April 1, 2004** Remember to License your Dog/Wolf Hybrid
 Call the Town Clerk if you have questions.
- ❖ **April 1, 2004** Property Assessment Date – Property is assessed
 each year as of this date.
- ❖ **May 1, 2004** Liquor License Renewal Date
- ❖ **June 2004** Grievance Hearings – Call Town Office for more details.
- ❖ **August 4, 2004** Tax Bills mailed
- ❖ **September 14, 2004** Primary Election Town Office 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ **November 2, 2004** General Election Town Office 8:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ **November 3, 2004** Property Taxes Due – Please remember that taxes
 paid after this date are considered late, and subject to interest & penalty
 charges.

➤ Town Permits required:

- Highway – Driveway Access Permit \$105.00
- Septic permit – New or replacement system \$105.00
- Excess Weight Permit – No Fee

DEDICATION



The Town of Bridgewater very respectfully dedicates this Town Report to three individuals who, over the years, have devoted much of their personal lives to the betterment of our community. Carroll (Pete) Taylor, Robert Heinemann and Mary Mosher.

They accomplished a great deal for us through their conscientious effort, good will and a sound and quiet wisdom that pulled us through a lot. They gave us pride in our town and confidence in the future.

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Minutes of Town & School District Meeting
March 4, 2003

The 2003 Town & School District Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Selectman, Nelson B. Lee, Jr.

Article 1: Audie Bellimer was nominated as Town moderator for the ensuing year. Motion made and seconded for nominations to cease and the Clerk to cast one ballot for Audie Bellimer. Motion carried.

Audie made the following announcements:

- * PTO selling refreshments
- * Audie reviewed Town Meeting procedure and reminded the audience that in order to vote, they must be checked off the checklist and stamped at the entrance.
- * Australian Ballot vote at the Town Office for the Woodstock Union High School Budget 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- * Rabies clinic at Bridgewater Village School on March 15th, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Dogs are to be licensed by April 1, 2003.

Audie continued with the pledge of allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for all loved ones lost during the past year.

Audie asked if meeting could be put on hold for a brief time to allow Rep. Harry Chen to speak. Approval was given.

Rep. Harry Chen presented a legislative update and proposed changes to Act 60. Any changes made will not take effect until 2005. Rep. Chen answered questions and will bring concerns to Montpelier.

Hank Smith spoke on behalf of the Bridgewater Education Foundation. Without BEF this year, tax rate could be \$2.80. With BEF, raising \$400,000, the tax rate would drop approximately 20 cents to \$2.60 and reduce the amount to be sent to the sharing pool from \$777,000. to \$440,000. Pledge forms are available today and the committee is looking for 75% participation from the members present in order for the BEF to continue. Committee also needs a leader, more volunteers and greater taxpayer participation. Last year 55% of the taxpayers contributed, while the remaining 45% of the taxpayers took advantage of the lower tax rate.

Dedication of the 2002 Town and School Report was noted.

Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes of the 2002 Town Meeting as written. Motion carried.

Article 2. To act on all reports submitted: Motion made and seconded to accept reports. Motion carried.

Article 3: Motion made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$4,275. to support the

Visiting Nurse Alliance of New Hampshire/Vermont and Hospice. Carried.

Article 4: Motion made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$150. to the Woodstock Job Bank. Carried.

Article 5: Motion made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$100. to the Martha Lussier Health Information and Referral Service, Inc. Carried.

Article 6: Motion made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$2,500. to run the Thompson Senior Center. Carried.

Article 7: Motion made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$895. to the Health Care & Rehabilitation Services, Inc. Carried.

Article 8: Motion made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$1,250. to the Woodstock Recreation Department. Carried.

Article 9: Motion made and seconded to appropriate the sum of \$400. to Pentangle. Carried.

Article 10: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$15.00 per capita for a total of \$14,700. for the Norman Williams Public Library for services provided to all citizens of Bridgewater. Phyllis Arata-Meyers explained that the increase was due to a change in formula. Bridgewater currently pays \$13.00 per card per patron. New formula would increase the card fee to \$15.00 and change from a per patron (314) to per capita (980) amount. James Bulmer reminded voters that several years ago the town asked for \$10,000. to keep our local library open and it was voted down. Lynn Dentz spoke on behalf of the Killington library, open to the public at no cost. William Geno asked that discussion cease and that the vote be taken by paper ballot. Motion seconded and carried. Audie asked for a show of seven hands in order to have a paper ballot. More than seven hands were raised. 129 votes were cast, Yes 52 No 77. Article defeated

Article 11: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town would authorize the Town Clerk to approve additions to the voter checklist pursuant to Title 17, V.S.A., section 2144(b). Brief explanation given by Nelson Lee, that applications could be processed more timely and that fewer meetings would be needed. Motion carried.

Article 12: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to create a municipal Conservation Commission pursuant to 24 V.S.A. sections 4501 to 4506. Nelson Lee read from the Town Officials Handbook the Role and Responsibilities of Conservation Commissions. William Geno asked that article be tabled. Leo Batten seconded motion. Article tabled.

Article 13: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise money to pay its current expenses and pay any part of its debt. Hank Smith amended the motion to read "to see if the town will vote to raise the amount of \$767,410. to pay its current

expenses and any part of its debt". Amendment carried.

William Geno asked that vote be by paper ballot. More than seven hands were raised. Motion carried. 124 votes were cast: Yes -92 No - 32. Budget passed as amended.

Article 14: Motion made a seconded to see it the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money to pay current town expenses. Motion carried.

Article 15: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to place its taxes or any part thereof in the hands of the Current Tax Collector for collection on August 5, 2003 and to be paid on or before Wednesday, November 5, 2003. Motion carried.

Article 16: The following Town Officers were elected as required by law.

- a. Selectman (3 yrs) Nominated: Tom Zuba, Edward Flynn and Dale Carvalho
122 votes cast – Zuba – 68, Flynn – 31, Carvalho – 23. Tom Zuba elected for 3 year term.
- b. Lister (3 yrs) William Young Clerk cast one ballot
- c. Collector of Current Taxes (1 yr.) Victoria Young Clerk cast one ballot.
- d. Cemetery Commissioner (3 yrs) James Bulmer Clerk cast one ballot
- e. Del. Tax Collector (3 yrs) Joni Kennedy Clerk cast one ballot
- f. Town Constable (1 yr) Edwin Earle Clerk cast one ballot
- g. Grand Juror (1 yr.) Coleman Hoyt Clerk cast one ballot
- h. Town Agent (1 yr) Coleman Hoyt Clerk cast one ballot
- i. Trustee of Public Funds (1 yr) Henry (Hank) Smith Clerk cast one ballot

Article 17: Other business – Gerry Hawkes asked if the town would approve by non binding vote the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the citizens of Bridgewater urgently call upon our municipal leaders, state legislators, governor, and Congressional delegation to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont homes, businesses, public building, and transportation systems, and to encourage expansion of the renewable energy industry in the State of Vermont." A show of hands was taken. Passed by majority. Laurie Bramhall asked about the recent refund of taxes on the Stonegate property. Tom Standish explained the five years of tax appeals. Town has refunded approx. \$160,000. including interest to the property owners as the difference between the towns assessed value and the State Appraisers decision. Town recently settled case at \$5.25 million. The budget that was just passed includes a deficit to cover some of the above refund. Hank Smith asked for a round of applause for Tom and the Board of Listers for their hard work and dedication. Nelson Lee added that without these Listers, the town could not have fought this appeal. Discussion of Sheriff's Department – Raymond Kennedy, Jr. questioned that need for the Sheriff's Department and the amount of hours that they are here in town. Nelson explained that we have a contract with the Sheriff's Department for 56 hours and that they cost the taxpayers nothing. Ticket revenue covers the cost of the Sheriff's. Board is looking at lowering the speed limit and increasing safety through Bridgewater.

Being no further business, motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried and the 2002 Town portion of the meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Annual School Meeting was called to order at 11:36 AM by Nelson B. Lee, Jr.

Article 1. Audie Bellimer was nominated as moderator for the ensuing year. Motion was made and seconded for nominations to cease and the Clerk to cast one ballot for Audie Bellimer. Motion carried.

Article 2. To elect a Town School Director for a three year term: Laurie Bramhall, Shari Goudreau and Dale Carvalho were nominated. 109 votes cast. Laurie Bramhall – 39 Shari Goudreau – 51 and Dale Carvalho – 19. 55 or more votes needed as majority. Dale was asked if he wished his name to be withdrawn. He declined withdrawing. Revote taken. 101 votes cast, Shari Goudreau – 52, Laurie Bramhall – 36 and Dale Carvalho – 13. Shari Goudreau declared School Director for three years.

Article 3. To elect a Town School Director for the remaining one year of a three year term. Laurie Bramhall nominated and declined. Amy Titus and Dale Carvalho were nominated. 93 votes cast. Amy Titus – 41 and Dale Carvalho – 50. Laurie Bramhall had 2 write-ins. Dale Carvalho declared School Director for one year.

Brian Bontrager asked if the voters would approve reversing Articles 4 and 5 as the outcome of Article 5 would effect Article 4. Audie asked for approval. Approval given by voice vote.

Article 5. Motion made and seconded to see if the voters of the Bridgewater School District would authorize the School Board to liquidate the renovation project deficit in the amount of \$30,720. over a term of five years. Brian explained that a Federal Health and Safety Grant that was expected to offset the original \$47,500. was not granted. Brian reviewed areas of construction work that had gone over budget or had not been budgeted. Elevator system still needs some work and the Air Exchange unit needs to be replaced. The School Board had to hire a new contractor at a higher rate because the original contractor was not bonded. Brian explained that if the article was passed \$4,217. would be added to the proposed budget and if the article was defeated the whole \$30,720. would have to be added to the proposed budget. After some discussion, the motion was passed by voice vote.

Article 4. Motion made and seconded to see if the voters of Bridgewater School District would appropriate \$772,981. as the amount necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2003. Hank Smith amended article to read "shall the voters of the Bridgewater School District appropriate \$777,198. as the amount necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2003". Amendment carried.

Paper ballot requested and with a show of seven hands, vote was taken by paper ballot. 101 votes cast, Yes – 62 No – 39. Budget as amended passed.

Article 6. Motion made and seconded to see it the District will authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money, if necessary, for payment of current expenses of the District pending receipt of payment of taxes. Passed by voice vote.

Article 7. Other business: Hank Smith reminded voters to sign their BEF pledge forms. Alice Paglia asked that the Teachers and School Board be thanked for helping with the renovations. Brian Bontrager thanked Laurie Bramhall for her help with grant writing and assistance with budgets.

Being no further business, motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 12:50 PM.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Robinson
Town Clerk

Audie Bellimer
Moderator

Nelson B. Lee, Jr.
Chairman, Selectboard

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS**Moderator:**

Audie Bellimer 2004

Town Clerk:

Nancy Robinson 2004

Town-School Treasurer:

Victoria Young 2004

Selectboard:

Stephen G. Tarleton, Sr. 2004

Nelson B. Lee, Jr. 2005

Thomas Zuba 2006*

Mary Oldenburg **

Bridgewater School Director:

Dale Carvalho 2004

Brian Bontrager 2005*

Owen Astbury**

Shari Goudreau 2006

WUHS Director:

James Oldenburg Jr. 2004

Sheryl Phelps 2005*

Brian Bontrager **

Listers:

Victoria Young 2004

Tom Standish 2005

William Young 2006

Cemetery Commissioner:

Coleman Hoyt 2004

Paul Hutt 2005

James Bulmer 2006

Current Tax Collector:

Victoria Young 2004

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Joni Kennedy 2006

Grand Juror:

Coleman Hoyt 2004

Town Agent:

Coleman Hoyt 2004

Town Constable:

Edwin Earle 2004

Trustee of Public Funds:

Henry Smith 2004

* Resigned ** Appointed

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS**Health Officer:**

Dr. Howard Jonas 2006

Town Service Officer:

Barbara Candee 2004

Road Commissioner:Selectboard
Tom Zuba 2003***Fence Viewers:**Clifford Geno 2004
Andy Bird 2004
Owen Astbury 2004**Tree Warden:**

Gerry Hawkes 2004

Poundkeeper:

Woodstock Animal Care 2004

Forest Fire Warden:

Shane Geno 2002-2007

Planning Commission:Lynn Bertram
Jeanette Sawyer*
Roy M. Wardwell**E 9-1-1 Coordinator:**

Steve Hill

Emergency Management Coordinator:

Steve Hill

* Resigned

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS (Terms Expire February 1, 2005)**Board of Civil Authority/Justices of the Peace:**Charles Astbury
Donald Gray
Gloria Martin
Nancy Robinson
Gregory Soula

The legal voters of the Town of Bridgewater, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet in the basement of the Village School in said town on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following business, viz:

1. To elect a Moderator for the term of one year.
2. To accept all reports as submitted in the 2003 Annual Report
3. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$4,500.** to support the home care and hospice care of patients in their homes by the staff and volunteers working out of the Woodstock VNA branch of the Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire, Inc. The Town has provided support in previous years for home care of person's without health insurance and with limited incomes.
4. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate to the Woodstock Area Job Bank, the sum of **\$150.** to match the like amount from contributions.
5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate to the Martha Lussier Health Information and Referral Service, Inc. the sum of **\$200.** to be added to the greater amount of contributions from Town residents.
6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$2,500.** as the Town's share of service for the Woodstock Area Council on Aging to run the Edwin Thompson Senior Center.
7. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$895.** to the Health Care & Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
8. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$500.** to Pentangle Council on the Arts to help defray the expenses of operating the Town Hall Theatre for movies, live performances, school shows and meetings for the benefit of the local community.
9. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$14,700.** (\$15.00 per capita) for the Norman Williams Public Library for services provided to all citizens of Bridgewater.
10. To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of **\$10,000.** for a Reappraisal Sinking Fund.
11. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to **\$45,000.** To purchase/replace a truck (2000 F-550)for the Highway department, payments to come from the Equipment Sinking Fund.
12. To see if the Town will vote to grant tax exempt status to the Bridgewater Grange #284 for a period of 5 years as per 32 V.S.A. 3840.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise money to pay its current expenses and any part of its debt.
14. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money to pay current Town expenses.
15. To see if the Town will vote to place its taxes or any part thereof in the hands of the Collector of Current Taxes for collection on August 4, 2004 and to be paid on or before November 3, 2004 (1st. Wednesday)
16. To elect all Town Officers as required by law:
 - a. Selectperson – three years
 - b. Selectperson – two years
 - c. Town Clerk – three years
 - d. Town Treasurer – three years
 - e. Lister – three years
 - f. Collector of Current Taxes – one year
 - g. Cemetery Commissioner – three years
 - h. Town Constable – one year
 - i. Town Agent – one year
 - j. Grand Juror – one year
 - k. Trustee of Public Funds – one year
17. To do any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

Dated at Bridgewater this 27th day of January AD 2004 Bridgewater Selectboard

Nelson B. Lee, Jr.

Stephen G. Tarleton, Sr.

Mary Oldenburg

WARNING ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The legal voters of the School District of Bridgewater, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet in the basement of the Village School Building in said Town on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following business.

1. To elect a Moderator.
2. To elect a Town School Director for a three-year term.
3. To elect a Town School Director for the remaining one year of a three-year term.
4. To elect a Woodstock Union High School Director for a three year term.
5. To elect a Woodstock Union High School Director for the remaining one year of a three year term.
6. Shall the voters of the Bridgewater School District appropriate the sum of \$791,305 (Seven Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Three Hundred Five Dollars) as the amount necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2004?
7. To see if the District will authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money, if necessary, for payment of current expenses of the District pending receipt of payment of taxes.
8. To do any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

Dated: January 26, 2004

Dale Carvalho
Owen Astbury
Bridgewater Board of School Directors

Selectboard's Report

The past year does not reflect a great deal of positive progress in achieving the main goal of the town's citizens that being the lowering or even the stabilization of the property tax rate. We feel that the Selectboard and the Schoolboard have done their utmost to achieve this goal without lowering the quality of education and maintaining the integrity of our municipal infrastructure such as roads, bridges, culverts and the wastewater treatment facility.

The Board plans on a significant repaving project on the Center road, provided we are awarded a sizable state grant. We plan on one bridge replacement on Chateauguay road and are planning on a concentrated program of ditch and road maintenance, weather permitting.

The final Bridgewater Education Fund effort was successful and reduced this year's rate by 54 cents. We thank all the volunteers, the donors and the efforts leaders, Hank Smith and Phil Winsor. You performed a great service for your community.

The legislature has eliminated Act 60 so there will be no BEF this year. While the shark pool is gone, we in Bridgewater will still have to support other town's schools to the detriment of our own through a convoluted system of higher taxes mandated by the legislature. Bridgewater and many other small towns are no better off than we were with Act 60.

The town needs a planning commission. We are surrounded by and have our own growth problems as well as opportunities. Several key members, after long and productive service, have resigned. Please help us fill their shoes!

The Selectboard strongly supports the fire departments need for a new truck. We hope to be of assistance in organizing a drive to raise a substantial amount of money to make this purchase possible.

Sadly the past year saw us lose some outstanding citizens who contributed heavily to our community. I'm thinking of Pete Taylor, Mary Mosher and Bob Heinemann. Our thanks and best wishes go out to their families.

No report is complete without our very sincere thanks for the good work of our employees, elected officials and the many persons who have volunteered their personal time to make Bridgewater a great community. I would also like to add a special thanks to Mary Oldenburg for stepping up to fill a vacancy on the Selectboard.

Sincerely,

Nelson B. Lee
Chairman, Selectboard

ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT 2003

We replaced one bridge over the summer this year, and replaced one bridge deck late this fall. The Fireman's bridge project #34 started on August 4, 2003 and was reopened for travel on September 2nd, 2003. This bridge was posted for a 3 ton weight limit and was in danger of collapsing. The old abutments were removed and new concrete abutments were poured. The deck is pre-cast, pre-stressed concrete and has a rubber membrane glued to the top. The deck and approaches are also paved. My original estimate on this bridge was approximately \$106,000.00, but with some design changes that I worked out with the bridge engineers we were able to reduce the cost of the bridge to \$94,400.00 of which the State pays 80% and we pay 20%. We fought the weather all the way on this bridge as it rained most of August.

The second bridge to be rebuilt this year was the Hubbard Bridge #43 on the Daley Hollow Road. I had planned on this bridgework being done in 2006, but the State Bridge Inspector caught up to me during August and requested this bridge be closed to all traffic. So on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 the Highway Department removed the old bridge deck and prepared the abutments, which are in great shape having been rebuilt in 1973.

On Wednesday the new pre-cast, pre-stressed deck was set up by Miller Crane and on Thursday, November 6, after post tensioning the deck, the bridge was reopened to the public. The membrane and paving will be done next spring. And yes, this bridge was also done in the rain. We also glued down membrane and paved the Baker Bridge #46.

We were not able to do any class 2 paving this past summer because we did not receive expected grant money. The Bridgewater Center Road is the only Class 2 road we pave. Next summer we will be paving a minimum of ½ mile of the Bridgewater Center Road regardless of whether or not we receive a class 2 paving grant. If we do receive a grant then we'll pave more on the Center road.

This past summer was one of the wettest summers on record. We were not able to gravel as many places as was originally planned but instead found ourselves repairing rain damaged roads.

This summer the Parsonage road was paved after prepping the road the year before. This was a planned class three road project with no grant money involved. Grading was done on all class three roads and minor work was done to some class four roads.

People often ask me about the number of bridges and roads we have, how many roads do we plow or do I know how many culverts we have, etc. So here goes. We currently maintain, year round, 51 roads, 42 bridges and about 600 culverts, not including driveway culverts. In addition to plowing and sanding the class two and class three highways we also take care of the plowing and sanding for the Southgate/school parking area, the school yard, the sewer plant and sub-station, the fire access road off Blanchard road, 2 school bus turnarounds and the Grange hall parking area.

As always, I wish to thank my co-workers, David Jenne and Randy Kennedy for a job well done.

Thank you
James A. Oldenburg Jr. Road Foreman

REPORT OF THE LISTERS TO THE TOWN

The Listers report to the Town that the Grand List increased in the year 2002/03 from \$95,870,842.00 to \$99,597,434.00. an increase in listed property of \$3,726,592.00. This increase in assessed value is principally attributable to additions to the tax base from new construction and improvements to existing properties.

It is important for the citizens of the Town to note that, again this past year, the market for all types of property -- particularly at the high end of the residential market -- continued to experience upward pressure. Property is selling at all-time highs. This can be expected to be more pronounced over the coming year now that the economy is moving out of recession on the national level.

As the Listers have noted in previous years, as this trend continues, a revaluation of assessments will be necessary, as it assuredly will be mandated by the State. This is because there is a widening gap between the dollar amount realized from recent sales of real estate and the amount at which these same properties were listed back in 1995 at the time of the last Town-wide revaluation. This disparity is measured by a statistical calculation done by the State known as the Common Level of Appraisal (or CLA). This year's CLA, as calculated by the State Division of Property Valuation and Review, is 81.33%.

Beside the CLA being calculated at 81.33%, the statistic which measures dispersion of values, the COD, was calculated by the State this year to be 18.27%. If the CLA reaches .80 or the COD reaches .20, the State will mandate a revaluation. The sum and substance of this is that the Listers foresee that funds should be set aside by the Town to prepare for a Town-wide revaluation that, in all certainty, will be mandated by the State in the near future. There is some good news in all this and it is that, because of the fact that the Lister Cards have been kept up to date and have been corrected for accuracy, the cost of a revaluation may be as low as \$50,000 and not the \$100,000 to \$125,000 found in many towns of our size where the cards are not updated on a regular basis.

The number of appeals from appraisals of the Listers is down significantly from years ago. Appeals to the Town Listers numbered only five. And, prior to determination, one was withdrawn at the time of Grievance Hearings, once the taxpayer received explanation of how and why their property had been assessed as it was. Adjustments were made to two of the others and two were left as the Listers had set them. None were appealed to the BCA.

The objective of your Board of Listers is to create a fair and equitable system of property taxation. To this end, for any taxpayer or citizen of Bridgewater with questions or with a need for explanation, we invite you to call any of the Listers (or call Town Office) and we will go over your tax card with you so that you are fully aware of how your assessment is determined and whether it accurately describes your property in relation to others which are similar in the marketplace.

Thomas K Standish

Victoria Young

William Young

DOG LICENSES

7/01/2002-6/30/2003

0 @ \$ 4.00	\$ 0.00
140 @ \$ 5.00 (Neutered)	\$ 700.00
109 @ \$ 7.00 (Late Neutered)	\$ 763.00
27 @ \$ 9.00 (Un-neutered)	\$ 243.00
27 @ \$ 13.00 (Late Un-neutered)	\$ 351.00
Replacement Tag	\$ 1.00
Kennel	\$ 40.00
Totals:	
303	\$2098.00
Sent to State:	<u>\$- 303.00</u>
Town Share:	\$1795.00

All dogs & wolf-hybrids, six months of age or older, **MUST** be licensed each year on or before April 1st. Proof of rabies vaccination, (a current rabies certificate), is required for licensing.

Cats & Ferrets are also required to have rabies vaccinations. Even though we do not license them, we do request a copy of rabies certificates to be filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

There will be a Rabies Clinic at the Bridgewater Village School from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, 2004 . Sponsored by VVSA Humane Society. \$7.00 per shot.

Cats must be in carriers, Dogs must be on leashes.

LIQUOR LICENSES

8 @ \$ 50.00	\$400.00
5 @ \$100.00	<u>\$500.00</u>
TOTALS:	
13	\$900.00

**VITAL STATISTICS:
MARRIAGES**

DATE	GROOM	BRIDE	PLACE MARRIED
8/10/02	Eric Sherman Middleton MA	Rachel Lawrence MA	Woodstock
8/26/02	Joseph Wm. Greene Sr. Bridgewater, VT	Sherry Anne Riggs Bridgewater, VT	Thetford, VT
8/29/02	Joseph David Rogers Bridgewater, VT	Hannah Lynn VanAlstyne Bridgewater, VT	Bridgewater
9/14/02	James Joseph Sorenson New York	Amy Jo Copley New York	Woodstock
10/19/02	Billy Ray Tarleton Bridgewater	Nicole Jean Young Bridgewater, VT	Bethel
12/28/02	Max Gorfinkel Canada	Louise Anne Downey Bridgewater, VT	Bridgewater
6/7/03	Jason Benjamin White Arizona	Heidi Brielle Andrews Bridgewater, VT	Bridgewater

CIVIL UNIONS

None

BIRTHS

(Not printed due to confidentiality issues)

DEATHS / BURIAL PERMITS / CREMATION CERTIFICATES

DATE	SEX	AGE	NAME	RECORD	DIED/BURIED
7/09/02	M	51	James Allard Carr	Death/CR	Bridgewater/Mt. Pleasant
7/19/02	M	85	Robert Heineman	Death/CR	NH/Bridgewater Hill
7/25/02	F	45	Beverly D. Jennings	Death/CR	Randolph/Barnard
9/11/02	F	76	Elsie A. Woodward	Death/CR.	NH/Mt. Pleasant
9/12/02	M	64	Robert Astbury	Death/CR	VA/Mt. Pleasant
11/26/02	F	85	Veda W. Dawley	Death/CR	NH/Mt. Pleasant
1/03/03	M		Kenward George	Death/CR	Springfield/Baker Hill
1/21/03	F	3 days	Shannon Marie Smith	Death/CR	Burlington/Baker Hill

BUDGET SUMMARY	BUDGET 2002/03	ACTUAL 2002/03	BUDGET 2003/04	BUDGET 2004/05
General Fund				
Expenses:	278,187.00	336,159.65	339,930.00	314,522.00
Warned Articles:	<u>9,050.00</u>	<u>9,050.00</u>	<u>9,570.00</u>	<u>33,445.00</u>
Total Expenses:	287,237.00	345,209.65	349,500.00	347,967.00
Non-Tax Revenue:	<u>-107,300.00</u>	<u>-170,185.42</u>	<u>-147,700.00</u>	<u>-146,900.00</u>
	<u>179,937.00</u>	<u>175,024.23</u>	<u>201,800.00</u>	<u>201,067.00</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		7,541.29	(+66,024.00)	(+22,635.00)
Amount to be raised in Taxes:	<u>179,937.00</u>	<u>182,565.52</u>	<u>267,824.00</u>	<u>223,702.00</u>
Highway				
Expenses:	394,301.00	389,670.92	417,910.00	433,698.00
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,826.11		-1,826.00
Non-Tax Revenue:	<u>104,158.33</u>	<u>101,354.36</u>	<u>98,150.00</u>	<u>-70,750.00</u>
Amount to be raised in Taxes	<u>290,142.67</u>	<u>290,142.67</u>	<u>319,760.00</u>	<u>361,122.00</u>
Total General&Highway				
Exp:	681,538.00	734,880.57	767,410.00	781,665.00
Non-Tax Revenue:	-211,458.33	-271,539.78	-245,850.00	-217,650.00
Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>9,367.40</u>	<u>+66,024.00</u>	<u>20,809.00</u>
Town Taxes to be Raised	470,079.67	472,708.19	587,584.00	584,824.00
Schools:				
Act 60 Statewide Tax	1,159,818.00	1,519,818.00	1,227,545.00	N/A
Act 60 Local Tax	<u>131,025.00</u>	<u>131,025.00</u>	<u>*226,102.00</u>	N/A
Total Schools:	1,290,843.00	1,290,843.00	1,453,647.00	
<u>Estimated Taxes to be Raised</u>	1,760,922.67	1,763,551.19	2,041,231.00	

* Budget '04 - ACT 60 Local Tax - was reduced by BEF Donations of \$400,000.00

ESTIMATED TAX RATE FOR 2004-2005 TAX YEAR

	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
EDUCATION	1.96	1.89
TOWN	.56	.56
TOTAL:	2.52	2.45

Note: Assumes current Grand List, Base State Education Tax Rate if \$1.05 resident and \$1.54 Non-Resident, Grant of \$6,800. Per student, Spending of \$10,300. Per student and CLA of 81.33% -- Final tax rate will be available in July.

ACTUAL TAX RATE IN CURRENT YEAR 2003-2004

If you paid your BEF Donation	2.53	2.53
If you <u>didn't</u> pay your BEF Donation	2.00	2.00

<u>General Account</u>	<u>Budget</u> 02-03	<u>Actual</u> 02-03	<u>Budget</u> 03-04	<u>Budget</u> 04-05
<u>INCOME</u>				
Current Taxes	179,937.00	182,565.52	267,824.00	223,702.00
Taxes Stonegate	0.00	-31,654.37	0.00	0.00
Interest on Taxes	8,000.00	6,952.75	6,000.00	6,000.00
Current Use Reimb.	25,000.00	30,580.00	35,000.00	30,000.00
Federal & State PILOT	3,000.00	3,706.20	3,500.00	3,500.00
Clerk Fees	10,000.00	13,866.25	15,000.00	15,000.00
Traffic Fines	43,000.00	110,995.08	70,000.00	76,000.00
Dog Licenses	1,800.00	1,795.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
Liquor Licenses	800.00	900.00	900.00	900.00
Rent	9,600.00	9,636.00	9,600.00	10,800.00
Sewer Permits	0.00	670.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Earned	6,000.00	4,905.45	6,000.00	3,000.00
Box Rent	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Act 60 Administration	0.00	1,632.38	0.00	0.00
Prev. Year Surplus / (Deficit)	0.00	0.00	(-66,024.00)	(-22,635.00)
Misc.	0.00	13.37	0.00	0.00
Reimb. Prior Years (Ins.)	0.00	5,797.51	0.00	0.00
<i>Totals this section:</i>	287,237.00	352,750.94	349,500.00	347,967.00

EXPENSES**PAYROLL****Wages**

Clerk Salary	23,700.00	23,699.25	24,174.00	24,658.00
Treasurer Salary	23,700.00	23,699.25	24,174.00	24,658.00
Selectmen	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Auditors	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00
Listers	8,730.00	8,442.50	8,730.00	8,730.00
Constable	2,000.00	487.50	1,000.00	500.00
Treasurer School Stipend	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Compensated Absences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc. Wages	300.00	320.73	300.00	300.00
Travel	350.00	348.60	350.00	350.00
<i>Totals this section:</i>	64,180.00	62,398.37	62,328.00	62,796.00

Benefits

Social Security	6,000.00	5,601.41	6,000.00	5,050.00
Insurance	7,500.00	9,806.72	14,600.00	10,000.00
Training/Seminars	500.00	265.00	500.00	350.00
Work. Comp. Ins.	250.00	222.00	250.00	250.00
VMERS	0.00	0.00	2,450.00	1,385.00
<i>Totals this section:</i>	14,250.00	15,895.13	23,800.00	17,035.00
<i>Total Payroll:</i>	78,430.00	78,293.50	86,128.00	79,831.00

	Budget 02-03	Actual 02-03	Budget 03-04	Budget 04-05
OFFICE EXPENSE				
Gen. Office Supplies	3,400.00	3,317.05	3,600.00	3,600.00
Clerk Supplies	2,845.00	2,529.31	2,175.00	2,225.00
Treasurer Supplies	1,600.00	1,537.97	1,600.00	1,600.00
Lister Supplies	150.00	108.10	150.00	150.00
Constable Supplies	300.00	178.97	300.00	200.00
Election Exp.	500.00	403.11	300.00	400.00
Computer Exp.	1,200.00	1,902.22	1,200.00	2,000.00
Telephone	2,000.00	1,826.66	2,000.00	1,500.00
Electricity	10,000.00	9,619.24	10,000.00	10,000.00
Heat	3,000.00	3,168.77	3,000.00	3,000.00
Sewer Fee	<u>1,230.00</u>	<u>1,230.00</u>	<u>1,326.00</u>	<u>1,326.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	26,225.00	25,821.40	25,651.00	26,001.00

OPERATING EXPENSE

Advertising	250.00	269.55	250.00	250.00
Printing/Town Report	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
VLCT Dues	750.00	1,305.00	1,200.00	1,000.00
Legal Services	5,000.00	6,840.16	5,000.00	3,000.00
Professional Services	4,600.00	5,515.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Dog Pound	200.00	332.00	200.00	200.00
BVS Water Testing	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
Tax Mapping	500.00	409.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
So. Hse. Prop. & Liab.Ins	1,700.00	3,749.00	1,900.00	2,800.00
Southgate House Maint.	3,000.00	5,566.67	4,000.00	4,000.00
Southgate Hse Repairs	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Norman Williams Library	3,470.00	3,470.00	4,710.00	.00
Sewer Upgrade Bond	18,750.00	18,750.00	18,750.00	18,750.00
County Taxes	13,429.00	13,428.84	12,598.00	12,417.00
GUVSWD Assessment	5,390.00	5,390.00	5,390.00	5,390.00
Southgate Hse Reserve Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Memorial Day Flags	200.00	201.60	250.00	250.00
Two-Rivers Regional Plan.	1,083.00	1,083.00	1,083.00	1,083.00
Community Center	2,500.00	3,586.59	3,000.00	3,500.00
Cemetery	7,500.00	7,500.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Planning Comm.	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Office Equipment Fund	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Landfill Monitoring	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Stonegate Tax Interest		4,404.50		0.00
WUHS Rental	0.00	0.00	22,100.00	0.00
<u>Misc. Adj.</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>.30</u>		<u>0.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	79,022.00	92,501.21	106,631.00	78,840.00

Emergency Services	Budget 02-03	Actual 02-03	Budget 03-04	Budget 04-05
SHERIFF & CONSTABLE				
Constable Training	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
ConstableExp/Travel	500.00	484.08	400.00	500.00
Sheriff's Dept.	48,000.00	93,149.95	75,000.00	81,500.00
Police Liab.& Work. Comp.	<u>450.00</u>	<u>131.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>255.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	49,150.00	93,765.03	76,100.00	82,255.00
FAST SQUAD				
Fast Squad Appropriation	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Liab.&Work Comp. Ins.	500.00	488.00	600.00	585.00
Ambulance Sinking Fund	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Woodstock Ambulance	<u>11,760.00</u>	<u>11,760.00</u>	<u>13,720.00</u>	<u>15,680.00</u>
Assessment				
<i>Totals this section:</i>	16,260.00	16,248.00	16,320.00	18,265.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT				
Fire Dept. Appropriation	8,800.00	8,800.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Fire Dept. Ins.	3,200.00	3,446.00	3,500.00	3,470.00
Fire Dept. Work. Comp.	500.00	780.00	600.00	860.00
Fire Warden Supplies	1,600.00	1,504.51	0.00	0.00
Fire Truck Improvement	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	29,100.00	29,530.51	29,100.00	29,330.00
<i>Total Emergency Services:</i>	94,510.00	139,543.54	121,520.00	129,850.00
Total General Acct. Exp.	278,187.00	336,159.65	339,930.00	314,522.00
APPROPRIATIONS				
Mental Health Services	0.00	0.00	895.00	895.00
Woodstock VNA	4,150.00	4,150.00	4,275.00	4,500.00
HRIS (M. Lussier)	100.00	100.00	100.00	200.00
Woodstock Senior Center	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Woodstock Recreation Dept	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
Woodstock Job Bank	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Pentangle	400.00	400.00	400.00	500.00
SEVCA	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Norman Williams Library	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,700.00
<u>Reappraisal Reserve</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>
<i>Total Appropriations:</i>	9,050.00	9,050.00	9,570.00	33,445.00
Total Selectmen's Rev.	287,237.00	352,750.94	349,500.00	347,967.00
Total Selectmen's Exp.	287,237.00	345,209.65	349,500.00	347,967.00
Carry Forward Surplus:		7,541.29		

Highway Fund: Revenue:	Budget 02-03	Actual 02-03	Budget 03-04	Budget 04-05
Current Taxes (Highway)	290,142.67	290,142.67	319,760.00	361,122.00
St. of VT -Highways	65,000.00	70,852.48	70,850.00	70,750.00
Grants (Paving)	10,000.00	0.00	27,300.00	0.00
Permit Fees	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Prev. Yr. Surplus / (Deficit)	29,158.33	29,158.33	0.00	1,826.00
Misc.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>343.55</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Totals this section:	394,301.00	391,497.03	417,910.00	433,698.00
Expenses:				
Payroll & Benefits				
Highway Salaries	97,000.00	106,982.47	98,940.00	103,500.00
Social Security	7,421.00	7,459.43	7,570.00	7,920.00
Compensated Absences		0.00	0.00	0.00
Benefits	19,000.00	22,862.00	18,200.00	25,278.00
VMERS		0.00	5,000.00	5,175.00
Training	140.00	100.00	150.00	100.00
Work. Comp. Ins.	5,000.00	6,829.00	6,000.00	8,550.00
Unemployment	<u>940.00</u>	<u>724.62</u>	<u>700.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Totals this section:	129,501.00	144,957.90	136,560.00	151,023.00
GARAGE				
Phone	2,050.00	1,606.63	2,050.00	2,525.00
Electricity	1,300.00	1,282.56	1,100.00	1,100.00
Heat	1,500.00	2,669.21	1,800.00	1,800.00
Bldg. & Liab. Ins.	1,800.00	1,497.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Equipment Ins.	3,000.00	2,925.00	3,200.00	2,975.00
Prof. Liab. Ins.	1,400.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,775.00
Misc.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>581.65</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Totals this section:	11,050.00	12,262.05	11,850.00	12,175.00
MAINTENANCE				
Equipment Hired	8,250.00	6,500.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Equipment Fuel	12,000.00	12,946.72	10,500.00	11,500.00
Equipment Repairs	7,500.00	5,496.38	6,000.00	6,000.00
Materials	77,000.00	64,698.40	79,000.00	79,000.00
Equipment Maint.	<u>23,000.00</u>	<u>26,809.47</u>	<u>23,000.00</u>	<u>23,000.00</u>
Totals this section:	127,750.00	116,450.97	128,500.00	129,500.00
Yearly Projects	15,000.00	15,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
Paving	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>39,000.00</u>	<u>39,000.00</u>
Totals this section:	35,000.00	25,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00

	Budget 02-03	Actual 02-03	Budget 03-04	Budget 04-05
CAPITOL SINKING				
Building Improv.	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Equipment Sinking Fund	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00
Bridge Appropriation	<u>40,000.00</u>	<u>40,000.00</u>	<u>40,000.00</u>	<u>40,000.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	91,000.00	91,000.00	91,000.00	101,000.00
Total Highway Rev.	394,301.00	391,497.03	417,910.00	433,698.00
Total Highway Exp.	394,301.00	389,670.92	417,910.00	433,698.00
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,826.11		

SEWER FUND

Revenue:				
Quarterly Fees	61,254.00	60,997.30	66,087.00	67,802.80
Delinquent Interest	732.00	311.48	350.00	400.00
Sewer Permit/Hook-Up Fees	0.00		400.00	0.00
Interest on Investments	155.00	155.00	100.00	0.00
Misc.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>26.22</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	62,141.00	61,490.00	66,937.00	68,202.80
Expenses:				
Plant Labor	37,680.00	37,963.20	37,680.00	38,400.00
Supplies	850.00	832.11	700.00	750.00
Electricity	3,000.00	3,118.74	2,900.00	3,200.00
Heat	700.00	862.90	650.00	850.00
Administrative Fees	200.00	251.80	300.00	300.00
Outside Testing	1,800.00	2,288.20	1,500.00	2,300.00
Outside Labor	500.00	537.00	1,000.00	1,200.00
Materials	500.00	537.40	500.00	300.00
Maintenance	6000.00	9,095.85	5,900.00	5,800.00
Sludge Disposal	6,000.00	7,606.83	6,500.00	7,000.00
Bond Payment	4,306.00	1,122.00	4,306.00	4,306.00
Sinking Fund Approp.	2,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	1,000.00
Misc.	<u>105.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>96.80</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	62,141.00	64,416.03	66,937.00	68,202.80
Total Sewer Revenue:	62,141.00	61,490.00		68,202.80
Total Sewer Expense:	62,141.00	64,416.03		68,202.80
Balance Forward:		(-2,926.03)		

<u>Recreation Committee Fund</u>	Budget 02-03	Actual 02-03	Budget 03-04	Budget 04-05
Revenue:				
Donations	300.00	3,449.00	300.00	3,000.00
Interest on Investments	2,700.00	8,273.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
Misc.(Transfer from Fidelity)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	3,000.00	11,722.00	3,000.00	5,700.00
Expense:				
Rec. Salaries	3,000.00	3,716.00	3,000.00	3,700.00
Rec. FICA/MEDI	0.00	229.56	0.00	0.00
Postage	0.00	74.00	0.00	75.00
Rec. Field Electricity	0.00	326.48	0.00	350.00
Insurance	0.00		0.00	0.00
Grounds Maint.	0.00	1,712.58	0.00	1,575.00
Sports Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sport Trips	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	3,000.00	6,058.62	3,000.00	5,700.00
<i>Balance Forward:</i>		5,663.38		
<u>Cemetery Fund</u>				
Revenues:				
Appropriations	7,500.00	7,500.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Sale of Lots	0.00	1,060.00	0.00	0.00
Interest on Investments	0.00	635.00	0.00	600.00
Donations	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Misc.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	7,500.00	10,195.00	8,000.00	8,600.00
Expenses:				
Mowing	7,650.00	7,633.32	7,800.00	7,800.00
Corner Stones	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ground Maintenance	0.00	8,528.22	0.00	800.00
<u>Misc.</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>253.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<i>Totals this section:</i>	7,650.00	16,414.54	7,800.00	8,600.00
<i>Balance Forward:</i>		(-6,219.54)		

<u>Brick School Fund</u>	Budget 02-03	Actual 02-03	Budget 03-04	Budget 04-05
Revenues:				
Appropriation	2,500.00	2,500.00	3,000.00	3,500.00
Misc. Revenue	<u>0.00</u>	<u>120.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Totals this section:	2,500.00	2,620.00	3,000.00	3,600.00
Expense:				
Labor	0.00	378.00	0.00	500.00
Fica/Medi	0.00	28.92	0.00	0.00
Electric	0.00	263.69	0.00	275.00
Heat / Oil	0.00	1,079.31	0.00	1,200.00
Sewer	0.00	820.00	0.00	820.00
Facility Maint.	0.00	49.67	0.00	805.00
Misc.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Totals this section:	0.00	2,619.59	0.00	3,600.00
Balance Forward:		.41		

SCHOOL**BVS / WUHS**

Act 60 Statewide Tax	1,159,818.00	1,159,818.00	1,227,545.00	N/A
Act 60 Local Tax	<u>131,025.00</u>	<u>131,025.00</u>	<u>226,102.00</u>	N/A
Totals this section:	1,290,843.00	1,290,843.00	1,453,647.00	N/A*

* Due to ACT 68 changes-
please refer to page 57 for
school information.

**BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2003
GENERAL ACCOUNT**

ASSETS:

Checking Account	93,914.86
Due to other funds:	-115,090.44
Landfill Coupons	1,047.50
Petty Cash	100.00
AR-Delinquent Taxes due	<u>30,371.66</u>
Total Assets	10,343.58

LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable	23,686.26
Other Deductions -AFLAC	32.25
Pre-paid Taxes	1,156.00
Del. Tax Collector	241.04
St. of VT- Dog Licenses	45.00
Tax Sale Proceeds	3,570.51
Tax Sale Escrow	.90
Emergency Radios	1,988.00
Planning Comm. Fund	4,716.81
Road Sign/911 Admin.	745.79
Landfill Testing	1,928.37
Listers / Reappraisal Fund	26,325.85
Office Capital	1,639.67
Large Tract Grant	2,100.00
Southgate House Reserved Fund	861.67
Environmental Conserv. Grant	-6.75
Fire Truck Improvement Fund	<u>31,867.22</u>
Total Liability	100,898.67

TOTAL FUND BALANCE	-90,555.09
Total Liability, Fund Balance	10,343.58

Adjusted Fund Balance per AM Peisch Audit '03:	-96,200.00
Fund Balance '02 (raised in '04)	-66,024.00
Fund Balance 06/30/03	<u>7,541.29</u>
Adjusted Fund Balance (deficit to be raised '05)	-22,635.00

HIGHWAY ACCOUNT**Assets:**

Due from General Account	109,944.00
Bridge Grants Receivable	<u>3,882.00</u>
Total Assets	113,826.00

Liabilities:

Equipment Reserve Fund	38,764.10
Building Improvements & Salt Shed	2,063.18
Bridge Payable	4,852.00
Bridge Reserve Fund	<u>66,320.93</u>

Total Liabilities **112,000.21**

Fund Balance:

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE **1,826.00**

SEWER ACCOUNT**Assets:**

Due from General Account	-5,011.08
AR-Delinquent Sewer Taxes	<u>4,765.33</u>
Total Assets	-245.75

Liabilities:

Accts. Payable	3,649.00
Sewer Bond Payable	<u>20,242.00</u>
Total Liabilities	23,891.00

Fund Balance:

Fund Balance 7/1/02	-24,210.72
Fund Balance Restricted	3,000.00
Current Year Fund Balance	<u>-2,926.03</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	-245.75

RECREATION COMMITTEE ACCT.**Assets:**

Due from General Fund	4,005.01
Robert Thomas Sec. Investment	46,312.50
Fidelity Invest.	<u>35,127.94</u>
Total Assets	85,445.45

Liabilities:

0.00

Fund Balance:

Fund Balance 7/1/02	79,782.07
Current Year Fund Balance	<u>5,663.38</u>
Fund Balance 6/30/03	85,445.45
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	85,445.45

CEMETERY FUND**Assets:**

Due from General Fund	6,152.85
Cemetery CD # 1	21,940.67
Cemetery CD # 2	<u>20,000.00</u>
Total Assets	48,093.52

Liabilities:**Liabilities:**

0.00

Fund Balance:

Fund Balance 7/1/02	54,313.06
Current Year Fund Balance	<u>-6,219.54</u>
Fund Balance 6/30/03	48,093.52
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	48,093.52

Town Indebtedness:

Compensated Absences	7,417.00
Freightliner Truck Loan	33,488.00
International Truck	75,000.00
Sewer Upgrade Loan Payable	150,000.00
<u>BVFD Fire Truck Loan</u>	<u>46,400.00</u>
Total Indebtedness:	312,305.00

*The numbers presented in this report of FY 02-03 have been audited by A.M. Peisch & Co., the Town's contracted audit firm. The complete audit report is available for inspection at the Town Office.

**Explanation of 2002 Grand List
Town Fiscal Year 2002-2003**

Fair market and Listed Value of
Real Estate and Personal Property 99,597,434.00

Total 2002 Grand list (1% of above) 995,974.34

Category Breakdown

Residential	38,860,189.00		
Mobile Homes	2,386,700.00		
Vacation Properties	38,578,226.00		
Commercial	6,413,100.00		
Commercial Apartments	1,357,500.00		
Industrial	2,573,500.00		
Utilities	1,076,900.00		
Farms	1,477,300.00		
Woodland	4,645,376.00		
Miscellaneous	<u>2,228,643.00</u>		
Total:	99,597,434.00	x 1%=	995,974.34

Education Grand List:

Cable:	<u>35,000.00</u>	x 1%=	350.00
<u>Exempted Property:</u>	<u>115,700.00</u>	x 1%=	<u>1,157.00</u>
Total Education Grand List:			997,481.34

Municipal Grand List:

Cable:	<u>35,000.00</u>	x 1%=	350.00
Personal property:			
Machinery & Equipment	<u>1,927,272.00</u>	x 1%=	<u>19,272.72</u>
Total Municipal Grand List:			1,015,597.06

STATEMENT OF CURRENT TAXES

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2003

Taxes Billed:

R.E. & P.P.	Tax Rate		Grand list	Taxes Raised
Local Agreement	.0015	+/-	1,015,597.06	1,497.04

Amounts to be Raised in Taxes:

Municipal	.4648	+/-	1,015,597.06	470,079.67
Local Share	.1313	+/-	997,481.34	131,025.00
Statewide	<u>1.1626</u>	+/-	997,481.34	<u>1,159,818.00</u>
Total Tax Rate:	\$1.7602			1,762,419.71
Adjustments to billed taxes:				<u>1,131.48</u>
				1,763,551.19

Receipts:

School Taxes Received:	1,290,843.00		
Highway Taxes:	290,142.67		
Town Taxes:	182,565.52		1,763,551.19

Delinquent Tax Collectors Report

Dear Bridgewater Residents, Taxpayers and Community Members,

I would once again like to thank the residents of Bridgewater for allowing me the opportunity to continue serving as Delinquent Tax Collector. I have enjoyed working with the taxpayers in an effort to reduce the delinquent taxes.

I'd like to go over the progress that has been made in the collection of delinquent taxes over the past year. As of January 5, 2004 the total amount of delinquent property taxes listed in this year's town report is currently at **\$16,315.16**. In November 2002 **\$116,801.49** in property taxes became delinquent for the fiscal year 2002/03 and over the past year all but **\$11,710.00** of that tax year has been collected. It has been a very busy year and a lot of effort has gone into collecting town revenue. The balance will continue to go down as I am currently working with several mortgage companies, lenders and refinances. I will also be moving forward to begin the process of formal tax sale proceedings on several properties. This will reduce the taxes due by a significant amount.

On November 5, 2003, in this current fiscal tax year 2003/04, **\$218,923.97** in property taxes became delinquent. This amount is up **\$102,122.48** from last year's delinquent property taxes that are listed above. As of January 5, 2004 over two thirds of this amount has been collected in the past two months leaving a balance of **\$69,003.80**. Many of these taxpayers have payment arrangements or installment agreements to resolve these delinquent accounts.

I hope to continue to lower the amount of delinquent taxes in our town and community. If you ever have any questions or if I can be of any help please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joni Kennedy
Delinquent Tax Collector, P.O. Box 372
Bridgewater Corners, VT 05035, 672-3402

Town of Bridgewater
POLICY FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT TAXES

A. As soon as the warrant has been received, and each month afterwards, the tax collector will send a notice to each delinquent taxpayer indicating the amount of taxes, penalty and interest owed.

B. Only payment arrangements that will pay the bill in full before the due date of next year's bill will be accepted.

C. Mortgage holders and lien holders may be notified of the delinquent taxes 30 days after the first notice has been sent to the taxpayer and shall be notified prior to tax sale.

D. Partial payments will be applied first to the Interest portion of the amount due, and the remainder will be divided proportionally between the principal amount of the tax and the 8% fee.

E. If the amount due is \$500 or more and no satisfactory payment arrangements have been made in one month, or if the prior agreement has not been met, the tax collector will begin the following actions to conduct a tax sale of the property or as much of the property as is necessary to pay the tax, plus costs and fees:

1. The collector will notify the taxpayer and all mortgage and lien holders of the tax sale decision, the date by which full payment must be received, and the costs to expect once the sale process begins.
2. If the deadline date has passed and full payment has not been received, the collector will proceed with a tax sale according to the procedures specified in 32 V.S.A. § 5252.
3. Costs of preparing and conducting the sale, including legal fees up to a maximum of 15 % of the amount of the delinquent tax, will be charged to the delinquent taxpayer.

F. Each taxpayer has a right to apply for abatement of property taxes based on any of the grounds listed in 24 V.S.A. § 1535.

G. In the event that no one purchases the property at tax sale, or, if in the judgment of the tax collector, proceeding with the tax sale is inadvisable, the tax collector shall collect the delinquent taxes using any or all of the methods permitted by law.

Joni Kennedy
Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Town of Bridgewater
P.O Box 372 Bridgewater Cors. VT 05035

(802) 672-3402

Delinquent Tax Report

Name:	Tax Year:	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	Total:
Aldrich, Jeffrey		343.45					343.45
Biamonte, David		466.51					466.51
Bivens, Michael		253.50		246.48		167.12	667.10
Blanchard, Andy		1385.43	603.00				1988.43
Blanchard, Brian(East)		640.79					640.79
Blanchard, Brian(West)		514.82	900.02				1414.84
Brennan, Wm.		107.39					107.39
Caizzi, Lawrence		1535.07	757.07				2292.14
Calve, Christina		693.60					693.60
Cogswell, Kevin		1013.99					1013.99
Daignault, Carol		1447.05	1623.95				3071.00
DeFrancesco, Mark		695.36					695.36
Elliot, Diana		1079.47					1079.47
Fulton, Barry		348.56					348.56
Hoyt, Eric		27.44					27.44
Johnson, Iver, Estate		2087.83	2610.27		29.29		4727.39
Lombard, Alexander		2895.86	2089.24				4985.10
Milo, Francis		1214.68	235.79				1450.47
Moulton, Harry		1585.78					1585.78
Oldenburg, James Jr.		191.37					191.37
Page, Edward		163.72	115.88				279.60
Paiva, Frank		142.59					142.59
Rogers, Joseph		1106.97					1106.97
Seibert, Oliver		567.23					567.23
<u>Sloan, Mildred, et al</u>		<u>341.52</u>					<u>341.52</u>
FY Total:		20,992.91	8,935.22	246.48	29.29	167.12	30,371.02
As of June 30, 2003							

Delinquent Sewer List

Bellimer, Lyle	FY '02	462.12	FY '03	820.00
Blanchard, B.	FY '02	102.50	FY '03	410.00
Caizzi, L.			FY '03	307.50
Carr, Lois			FY '03	8.55
Doyle, B. Est.			FY '03	102.50
Franklin, Nancy			FY '03	410.00
J & S Enterprises			FY '03	102.50
Reap, Nancy			FY '03	205.00
Shepard, D.	FY '00,'01,02 & '03			1,201.61
St. Jean, S.			FY '03	102.50
Testa, G.			FY '03	205.00
Total Del. Sewer				4,765.33

As of June 30, 2003

BRIDGEWATER VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT

We sponsored a fishing derby at Walker's Pond, on the Blanchard Road, which was a big hit with everyone. We do this for the children every year. Anyone under fifteen is welcome.

We had two firemen complete the 143-hour Level One certification Basic Fire Fighters Course. We purchased one complete set of turnout gear for one of the firemen, and we had a set of turnout gear for the other one. A complete set of turnout gear costs about \$1,150. The fire department would like to thank Scott Van Gol and Larry Kasden for driving to Springfield, two nights a week and some weekends all last winter to take this course.

We completed the Tanker I conversion last spring. It now has a 1600 gal. Polytank with a lifetime warranty, 500 GPM pump, ladders, hose, nozzles and adapters. This truck now has some fire fighting capabilities that could be very useful. As this truck is 4-wheel drive it could be the first or only truck to make it to the scene because of slippery or muddy roads.

The Fire Department paid off Engine 2's loan from the town in full.

The fire department had to repair one of its dry hydrants this year. We flush and test all of them every year. In house training this year was 300 hours. We have nineteen regular fire fighters and two junior fire fighters. We raised the minimum age of junior fire fighters from 14 to 15.

The fire department applied for and received a Homeland Security Grant for \$10,000, which we will use to buy SCBA's to replace two of the older ones, a gas detector and a 2-way radio that will enable us to communicate with the state police. We will have to put in \$550 to go with this grant. The fire department will have to pay for the equipment and then be reimbursed from the Homeland Security Unit, sometime during the year.

We responded to 19 calls this year in town. There were 2 chimney fires, 1 structure fire, 2 controlled burns, 3 fire alarm activations, 1 vehicle fire, 1 power line down, 1 smoke odor scare, 3 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, 1 motor vehicle accident without injury, 1 fire extinguished before our arrival, 1 gas spill, 1 hydraulic fluid release and 1 assist DHART landing. These calls totaled 78 hours of volunteer time.

We also responded for mutual aid to Killington to assist Sherburne Fire Dept. at 5 structure fires, 1 fire alarm activation and 1 manpower assist. These calls totaled 66 hours. We responded mutual aid to Woodstock for 1 auto accident and 1 structure fire. These totaled 12 hours of volunteer time. We also responded to Plymouth for 2 auto accidents, a total of 4 hours volunteer time.

We believe it is time to replace one of our pumpers. One pumper is a 1982 and the other is a 1983, which we purchased from Sherburne Fire Dept. in 1996. We feel the Sherburne truck would be the one to be replaced at this time, because it now has a leaky tank, a very tired pump and other maintenance issues.

If anyone would like to join the fire department, we have our meetings every fourth Monday of each Month at Seven p.m. at the fire station.

Stephen Hill President

BRIDGEWATER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 2003

General Account

Balance as of January 1, 2003 \$70,475.28

RECEIPTS

Fund raisers	2947.45	
Donations	5620.97	
Interest	61.23	
Town Appropriation	10,000.00	
Dues	<u>18.00</u>	
	18,647.65	\$89,122.93

DISBURSEMENTS:

Unicel	137.79
Telephone	461.60
CVPS	784.13
Fuel Oil	1,392.60
Propane	354.95
Furnace service	146.07
Gas neater service	86.65
Trash pick up	51.00
Snow removal	25.00
Postage stamps	37.00
Deluxe checks	16.05
Dues & memberships	350.00
Balance (E-2) vehicle loan	350.00
Communications	332.50
SCBA filled	26.95
Re-fill fire extinguisher	12.90
Fishing derby supplies	92.08
Salvage tarps	19.98
Hydrant repairs	180.00
Truck repairs & parts	1,213.37
7-1 conversion (completed)	35,777.50
Equip T-1	10,361.50
Generator parts	12.92
Bunker gear (1-set)	1,152.23
Fire gear	870.65
Misc.	<u>311.89</u>
	\$ 54,557.31

Balance as of December 31, 2003

\$34,565.62

Report of the Bridgewater Cemetery Commission

For the Town Report, March, 2004

Bridgewater has twelve cemeteries, of which six (Mt. Pleasant, Baker Hill, Topliff, North Bridgewater, Bridgewater Hill and Mendell) are regularly mowed and maintained. Two others (Bridgewater Hollow and Kellogg) are in remote off-road locations and are inspected and brush-cut every few years. The remaining four (Sylvanus White, Pratt, Woodward and Josselyn) are private cemeteries whose upkeep is not the responsibility of the Town, although we keep a friendly eye on them.

Over the years the condition of gravestones in all Vermont cemeteries has become worrisome. They are subject to breakage, leaning, falling over and damage due to frost, weather, fallen trees, mischief and erosion -- and our Bridgewater cemeteries are no exception. Since 1997 we have been able to increase Bridgewater's cemetery assets by over \$16,000 from the sale of plots and the encouragement of voluntary contributions. In the year 2002 we decided that it was time to spend a portion of those funds on long-needed repair work. During 2002 and 2003 we have made major restoration to gravestones in Mt. Pleasant and Mendell, where the worst damage had occurred, with many leaning and broken gravestones, and even worse, with some seriously tilted, heavy monuments. Some of this work was contracted out to professional restorers, but most of it was done by volunteers at no expense to the Town under the supervision of Commissioner Paul Hutt. Passing by or visiting those two cemeteries today will clearly show the extent and value of this work. We are proud of what has already been accomplished, and we plan to continue this work in 2004 and beyond in other cemeteries, with particular attention next to Baker Hill and North Bridgewater.

Another problem shared by many small Vermont towns with several isolated cemeteries, many created over two centuries ago, is a lack of organized inventory information about who is buried where, and in which cemetery. In 2002 a Volunteer Angel named Thomas Adams descended upon Bridgewater -- son of Gladys Adams, author of Bridgewater's Town history. Tom has so far made digital photographs of every gravestone in five of our cemeteries (Baker Hill, Mendell, Bridgewater Hollow, North Bridgewater and Kellogg) showing all names, dates and inscriptions, including historic poetry. He plans to continue this voluntary work until he has completed an inventory of all of our cemeteries. Not only that, but he has made computer maps showing the location of every gravestone, and has arranged the names alphabetically to facilitate finding a given person's grave. This information is now available to the public in the Town Clerk's office. We have asked him to write a description of his innovative work in Bridgewater for submittal to the Newsletter of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) so that his technical expertise describing how to produce this valuable information can be shared with other Vermont towns. His voluntary, invaluable contributions to Bridgewater will be of immeasurable value to all Vermont communities.

Jim Bulmer Coleman Hoyt Paul Hutt

Bridgewater Cemetery Commissioners

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2003 Annual Report of Activities
— BRIDGEWATER —

Bridgewater is a charter member of the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District which was created in 1990 for the express purpose of managing waste generated within its member municipalities.

Services to **Bridgewater** and its residents in 2003 included—

- Access to household hazardous waste and recycling services required by the State of Vermont.
- Planning for the town's long-term waste management needs, including continued planning and development of the North Hartland landfill.
- Special clothing and used motor oil collections in Bridgewater.
- Direct service to 40 Bridgewater residents who participated in District sponsored events including household hazardous waste events, used oil collection, compost bin sales, tire collections, clothing recycling, and computer recycling events.

We welcome your suggestions on ways to improve our services and are always on the outlook for new opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle. District events for the upcoming collection season will be available at Town Meeting, at all Town Clerks' offices, and the District office at 296-3688 or www.guvswd.org.

Fred Moody
Executive Director, GUVSWMD

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION 2003 YEAR-END REPORT

During 2003, the Regional Commission continued to provide technical expertise and resources for municipal officials as well as advocated for members' needs with the State Legislature and with state and federal agencies. We function as staff for many of our towns and most of our work was initiated at the request of Selectboards, Planning Commissions, and other town officials. Major accomplishments for this past year included:

Regional and Local Transportation Planning - The Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) worked with member municipalities on numerous local transportation projects. Two Rivers' staff wrote many Transportation Enhancement Grants and assisted our towns in procuring design engineers, processing requisitions for payment, and organizing public meetings for local input - Two Rivers helped projects get built. This office also assisted communities as they worked their way through the environmental permitting process on transportation projects.

Local Technical Assistance - Over the past year, we provided advice and support to all town officials on a wide range of activities. This included grant writing and administration, assistance on town plan revisions, ordinance development, GIS mapping, transportation planning, and Act 250 development review. The TRORC Region once again received the largest share of municipal planning grants statewide. This allowed our towns to conduct the planning necessary to respond to changes in state and federal requirements.

Emergency Planning Activities - The Regional Commission's emergency management planning program continued to be funded by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. Projects focused on all-hazards planning associated with natural and man-made disasters. Our staff helped write and coordinate many of the \$800,000 First Responder Grants for safety equipment received by our towns.

Economic Development Planning - In 2003, the Regional Commission continued working on a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant to assess the level of contamination on many sites throughout our Region. Once the level of contamination is known, the Regional Commission will help towns locate funding sources for clean-up. Additional federal dollars are being sought to continue this program. In addition, TRORC spent considerable time obtaining and maintaining the eligibility of our Region for federal economic development administration money. This resulted in over \$800,000 for the Town of Randolph.

We value your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

William B. Emmons, III, Chairperson, Pomfret

VISITING NURSE ALLIANCE OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Home Care, Hospice and Family Health Services –Report to the Town Bridgewater

The Visiting Nurse Alliance is like the local police and fire departments - a strategic part of the community's safety net - with services that must be continuously available to anyone in need. The need varies dramatically from month to month and year to year. The VNA provides a comprehensive range of care, requisitioned by hospital staff and physicians, for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

We value the continued partnership with the Town of Bridgewater to help us meet your residents' home care, hospice and family health needs. Town funding accomplishes the following:

- Enables your family, friends and neighbors to remain independent and at home as they receive skilled clinical care during times of injury, recovery from surgery or accidents, disability, whether for short-term and chronic illness. For many such patients, many are addressing multiple medical, emotional and social issues at the same time.
- Provides emotional support plus pain and symptom management during terminal illness. Hospice care extends to family members as well. More and more patients want to be at home during their end of life, and through hospice they have that control.
- Provides community-wellness programs and assistance to young families at risk. Clients range from fathers and/or mothers who want to be more effective parents through learning parenting skills or providing a balanced diet; infants who require hi-tech health care; and children who grow and learn through play groups that offer interaction with other children.

The VNA provided the following services this last year: July 1, 2002 through June30, 2003

Skilled Nursing	176
Physical Therapy	105
Speech Therapy	7
Occupational Therapy	28
Medical Social Worker	4
Home Health Aide	140
Homemaker	5
Total Visits	465

Hospice VNH

Patient Families served	1
MCH	
Children	9
Home Visits	51

On behalf of the people we serve in your community, thank you for your continued confidence.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Larman, BSN, MBA President and Chief Officer

NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY

10 South Park Street, Woodstock, Vermont 05091 802 457-2295 fax: 802 457-5181

e-mail: nwpl@normanwilliams.lib.vt.us**Annual report 2002 - 2003**

The past year has been an exciting one as we continue to build on the opportunities provided us with our new facility. This coming year will mark our 120 anniversary and we wish to thank everyone who has donated their time, effort and money to enrich our community through books, information and knowledge. The past has been remarkable; the future looks even brighter.

Some highlights of the past year

-Our circulation is steadily over 5000 materials per month. Computer and internet use now exceeds 1200 users per month. Library staffing is professional and very helpful.

-We now have 1001 books on tape or cd, 135 DVDs, 864 VCR tapes, 188 music CD's, 143 magazine and 8 newspaper subscriptions as we seek to meet all of our patrons needs.

-In addition to our growing book collection and number of computers we have purchased a new page magnifier, microfiche and photocopiers.

-In partnership with the Friends of the library and several business sponsors, we hosted over 100 different events including films, author and dramatic readings, music presentations and lectures on various topics. These events and our facilities are free to the public.

-Our Children's library continues to stimulate young minds 'with preschool, toddler and school age programs.

-We provided facilities fat book clubs, scouts, and a variety of meetings and functions.

-Our own website www.normanwilliams.lib.vt.us is now up and running and will continue to expand. We also began membership in Vermont's new online reference library with magazines, journals and newspapers for students and adults.

-Woodstock and Barnard voted to increase their funding of our efforts in the coming year for which we are very grateful. We hope Bridgewater and Pomfret will continue the trend next year.

Martha Lussier
Health Information & Referral Service, Inc. (HIRS)

The list of more than 80 caregivers registered with the Health Information and Referral Service (HIRS) will provide the names of qualified caregivers for those seeking in-home health care for family or friends. Some of the caregivers will work full-time; others are interested in part-time work. The HIRS Board of Directors makes this essential community service available, without charge, to all those who live in the greater Woodstock area including Barnard, Bridgewater, Hartland, Plymouth, Pomfret, and Reading. During 2003 we have earned the trust of 178 families who depended on this referral service to find the help they needed.

HIRS is appealing for broad support from the area we serve. In the past year 105 individuals, eight organizations with local interests and all seven towns helped us to sustain this vital resource. Many gifts have been given in memory of those whom we have helped through difficult times.

The HIRS office (457-3478) on the second floor of Simmons House, in front of the Dartmouth-Ottauquechee Health Center in Woodstock, is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, from 8 am to 12 noon. Our coordinator, Lynne Tracy, checks regularly for messages left on the answering machine during non-office hours. Our success is due to her reliable and compassionate service.

Submitted by Gerry Fields - 457-4839

The Woodstock Area Job Bank

Born as an answer to the recession of 1974, the Woodstock Area Job Bank will this year celebrate thirty years of service to the greater Woodstock community. In good times and bad, it has performed its vital service, matching people who need work with people in need of workers. During the past year, assistance was offered to more than 800 area residents.

Our offices, are located in the Town Hall where Coordinator Bev Moodie may be reached Monday - Friday mornings, 9 a.m. to noon. Now in her sixteenth year in this position, Bev has become most accomplished in assisting prospective employers and employees. In the latter case, she is often able to refer them to programs to improve their work skills.

The Job Bank service is offered free to both employers and employees. As a nonprofit 501(3)(c) organization, our barebones budget is supported by individual contributors, a few local organizations and the towns we serve: Barnard, Bridgewater, Pomfret and Woodstock. An eleven-person board with members from all the participating towns oversees the work of the Job Bank. Once again we anticipate a year of renewed service to Woodstock and its surrounding communities.

The Woodstock Area Job Bank Board requests the voters of Bridgewater for a grant of \$150 to assure the continuation of this fine do-it-yourself community employment service.

Job Bank Board Members:

Gina Auriema, Janice Bean, June Campbell, Lois Havill, Jeannie Killam, Gina Lancaster-Salguero, Vassie Sinopoulos and Jane Smith. Three more will be added in 2004

**Vermont Department of Health
Annual Report - Town of Bridgewater**

The Vermont Department of Health works to protect and improve the health of all citizens. The following are some of the essential services available to residents of Bridgewater.

Food & Lodging Inspections: Public health sanitarians inspect eating establishments (restaurants, schools, fairs) to decrease the risk of food borne disease outbreaks. Inspections include review of a 44-item check list to evaluate food storage, preparation and handling as well as to identify where there is a high likelihood of practices contributing to illness if left uncorrected. Of the 13 establishments in Bridgewater, 9 inspections were completed by a sanitarian during 2002.

Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children ('WIC'): WIC improves the health of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children by assuring **access to health care**, teaching families about good nutritional practices, and providing an individually designed package of nutritious food to eligible individuals. During 2002, 52 women, infants and children living in Bridge-water received foods as well as health screening and individualized nutrition education through this program at an average value of \$35.00 per person per month.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Proper vaccination protects children and adults against many diseases, saves health care dollars, and minimizes sick leave from school or work. Immunization has reduced reportable cases of preventable diseases in Vermont to record low levels. Still, total annual hospital charges from vaccine-preventable disease in Vermont is \$2.6M, and each year 150 to 200 Vermonters die of pneumonia or influenza. During 2002, the Health Department 12,054 doses of vaccine to health care providers in Windsor County. This represents a value of \$153,341.90 to these communities, including children living in Bridgewater.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance: WNV first appeared in the US in New York City in 1999 and has become well established in the United States. Birds, mammals and people can get WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito. The Vermont Departments of Health and Agriculture conduct surveillance for WNV each year from June until cold weather limits mosquito activity in the fall. In 2003, 5 Town Health Officers in different parts of the state also participated in the program, assisting primarily with mosquito trapping. As of September 19, 2003: 450 mosquito pools were tested, with nine positives for WNV, and three horses have tested positive (one each from Addison, Orleans and Franklin Counties). In

Windsor County from June-Sept. 16,th 2002, 110 dead birds were reported, 56 were tested, and 5 found to be infected with WNV. There were no reported human or equine cases reported during this same time period.

New public health issues emerge every year. Some challenges being addressed by the Health Department include emergency preparedness and response to disease threats like SARS or potential acts of bioterrorism; expansion of substance abuse prevention and treatment; and improving health care for people with chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease.

If you would like more information about these efforts, or if you have a public health concern, please call the White River Jct. District Office at 802-295-8520. Please visit our web site at www.HealthyVermonters.info for information on health topics, public health emergency preparedness and response, news releases, publications, reports and general public health information

Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to work in collaboration to foster sustainable self-sufficiency, to strengthen our communities, and to eliminate the root causes of poverty. SEVCA has a multitude of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Transportation, Weatherization, emergency services (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), crisis intervention, Parent Education, Micro-Business Development, Head Start, Individual Development Accounts, and three thrift stores.

In the community of Bridgewater we have provided the following services during FY02:

Weatherization: 2 homes @ \$3,891.00
Fuel/Utility Assistance: 9 Assists @ \$1056.00
Family Services (Outreach): 8 families; 36 services

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of community action funds and town funds allows us to not only increase, but improve service.

We thank the residents of Bridgewater for their support.
Deborah M. Osienski Executive Director

Woodstock Senior Center Report

The Woodstock Area Council On Aging, Inc., Edwin J. Thompson Senior Center is dedicated to serving the seniors in the community by providing a wide variety of programs and services. Services include nutritional noon meals, Meals-On-Wheels, Medical Transportation, Senior Advocate, Flu, Foot and Blood Pressure Clinics, along with a van to transport people to and from the Center daily.

Many new and ongoing programs have become favorites, thanks to Debbie McCosker, Program Director, assisted by the many gifted community members who share their talents with The Center.

The series of ongoing monthly programs includes the following: a book group, with its unique feature of not requiring participants to purchase books; a poetry hour, led by local poets or lovers of poetry; "Remember When?" with Kathy Wendling; and "Current Vermont Issues" facilitated by Peter Behr. These wonderful, volunteer-run programs inspire lively and engaging conversation among the seniors.

Another highly popular new activity is Double King Pedo, a traditional Vermont card game, which is played once a week here at The Center. The foreign language tables program has taken on a life of its own, having grown from one language to four: French, Spanish, Italian and German. The latest table to join the noontime series is an Investment Round Table, where people speak a language foreign to many.

Flo Lucot, Executive Assistant, has developed a talented team of traveling clowns. This new program, "The Center Clowns," brings joy and smiles to seniors throughout the Upper Valley. The program travels once a month in the "Circus Wagon" to other senior centers, senior housing facilities and even to the homes of shut-ins. This program is beneficial to all.

The Center's programs that relate to the welfare of the community continue to grow and now include the Commodities Food Program, a free Diabetes Screening Clinic and a support group entitled Life Process led by David Baldwin. The noon meal program also has grown, especially the Meals-On-Wheels component, which has increased 115 percent over the past two years.

The new growth and vigor at the Thompson Senior Center would not be possible without the dedicated support of the staff and the ongoing commitment of the Woodstock Area Council on Aging Board of Directors and the generosity of its community members. I feel honored to be part of such a talented team. If anyone has comments about ongoing programs or would like to discuss new program ideas, please feel free to stop in or call.

Thank you for your support last year. It was deeply appreciated. Your continued support will ensure the success of this valuable community service for our friends and neighbors.

Joan Randall

Executive Director

Vermont Coalition of Municipalities

Annual Report - 2003

The organized effort to substantially reform Act 60 and reduce the reliance on the property tax to fund education is not over. Despite the recent enactment of Act 60 reform, we believe the promise of lower education property taxes will be short term.

We contend that in July of 2004, when this new law goes into effect, the property taxes will be a good deal higher than estimated and will continue to rise rapidly over the next two years. When the rising tax impact is felt, the pressure to reform the statewide property tax system will greatly increase.

In a letter to all legislators in May of 2003, we stated the following reasons for our opposition to the changes in the reform legislation because it still retained many of the onerous features that were a part of Act 60 such as:

- **Over-dependence on the property tax to fund education; Reliance on a flawed property valuation and equalization system;**
- **Rapidly rising property values, which under the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) system, increase tax rates;**
- **A system based on tax rate instead of tax burden;**
- **Lack of cost controls over rising education costs; and**
- **Tax policy inhibiting economic development and job creation.**

As noted above, there continue to be serious problems with the state system of financing education. **The Coalition intends to continue to be an organized force fighting for property tax relief. In the coming year we also intend to monitor closely the studies on cost containment and grand list issues established by the law.**

We will also work through the legislature and the administration to correct the inequities in the education equalization system and the problems caused in the way property values are determined.

Vermont Coalition of Municipalities, 63 Lakeshore Road, Ludlow, Vermont 05149
For Information: 228-7601

**2003 ANNUAL REPORT
CHATEAUGUAY – NO TOWN CONSERVATION PROJECT**

The Chateaugay-No Town (CNT) Conservation Project is a partnership of people representing the Towns of Bridgewater, Barnard, Stockbridge, and Killington, landowners, land trusts, and the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. Organized as a group in 1997, the Project's purpose is to conserve productive forest lands, sustain critical wildlife habitats, and retain recreational opportunities within the 56,000 acre CNT Area. To accomplish this, Project Committee members remained focused on permanent conservation of land by talking with people about the importance of this area for the future generations to use and enjoy as we are now and have in the past.

Through the collaborative efforts of the Vermont Land Trust, The Conservation Fund, Appalachian Trail Conference, other land trusts, and landowners, the Project promotes voluntary conservation of land by limiting development, while keeping land protected for forestry and recreation, now and forever. To do this, our group supports keeping land in the Area in private ownership and use of a legal tool called 'conservation easements' which provide the means to ensure that land is protected over time in accordance landowner desires.

During 2003, the Committee focused its efforts on educating landowners and the general public about the unique character of this largely upland remote area, comprising portions of the four towns participating in the project. Work continued with several landowners to explore long-term conservation options specific to their properties. A Natural Resource Inventory was completed, giving us baseline information on the range of biodiversity existing in the Area. Landowners and parcel databases were updated, additional GIS mapping of the area completed, and bear habitat assessment studies commenced. This information will help all involved in conserving this Area, better understand the importance of retaining it for largely what it is being used for today.

The Committee recognizes that attaining our goals will be slow and take many years to accomplish. I am, however, very pleased to report that support for our efforts remain very strong. Again, I appreciate the involvement of each of partners and look forward to a successful year in 2004,

For further information on the Project, contact the Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission at 457-3188 or email me at - jerry10310@aol.com.

Gerald K, Fredrickson, Chair Barnard

Joan Jenne Memorial Scholarship Fund

Balance July 1, 2002		9,681.76
Interest Earned	101.31	
Treasury Int.	885.75	
Donations	25.00	

		1,012.06
Total Receipts:		\$10,693.82

Disbursements:		
02/03 Scholarships	\$ 1,000.00	
Check expenses	6.00	

Balance June 30, 2002		\$9,687.82
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Assets:		
Treasury Bond	\$15,000.00	
2 Yrs. 5.75%		

Joan Jenne Memorial Scholarship Members:
 David Jenne Henry (Hank) Smith
 Nancy Robinson

Bridgewater School District
Revenue Report and Proposed Budget
Budget Year 2004-2005

	Budget 2002-03	Actual 2002-03	Budget 2003-04	Proposed 2004-05
Local Revenues				
5400 Prior Year Balance Applied	\$2,753	\$2,753	\$11,605	\$0
1510 Interest Income	\$1,300	\$1,261	\$1,300	\$0
1610 Hot Lunch Revenue	\$10,000	\$10,929	\$9,000	\$8,800
1920 Gifts & Contributions		\$225		
1990 Miscellaneous Income		\$135		
5230 Transfer from Audit Reserve		\$1,500		
1920 Freeman Grant and Matching Donations	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$400,000	
Prior Year Refunds		\$713		
State & Federal Revenue				
3201 Special Ed Block Grant	\$42,554	\$42,554	\$40,574	\$42,277
3204 Special Ed EEE Grant	\$6,838	\$6,852	\$6,491	\$7,097
3202 School Kitchen Grant				
3450 State School Lunch Match	\$300	\$355	\$300	\$300
3452 State Breakfast Match		\$128		
4451 Federal Lunch Reimbursemt	\$5,600	\$6,323	\$6,000	\$5,800
4452 Federal Breakfast Reimbursement	\$2,600	\$1,727	\$2,200	\$1,600
3202 Special Ed Expenditures Reimb.	\$74,000	\$90,966	\$70,000	\$80,000
3145 Small Schools Grant	\$58,610	\$58,610	\$61,045	\$59,000
3150 Transportation Reimbursement	\$13,019	\$13,018	\$13,851	\$14,126
5400 Transportation - Prior Yr Reimb.		(\$157)		
Sub-Total	\$547,574	\$567,891	\$622,366	\$219,000
Local Education Spending				
1150 Property Tax - Education Fund		\$58,605		
3160 Capital Debt Hold Harmless Aid	\$9,258	\$9,258	\$8,664	
3110 General State Support Grant	\$833,342	\$827,386	\$837,221	
3111 GSSG-At Risk Students		\$5,956		
3110 Transfer from Education Fund				\$1,452,728
1110 Local Ed Tax Retained by District	\$71,420	\$72,420	\$122,621	
Total Local Ed Spending	\$914,020	\$973,625	\$968,506	\$1,452,728
Total Revenue K-12	\$1,461,594	\$1,541,516	\$1,590,872	\$1,671,728
Grant Revenues & Donated Funds		\$8,900		
Construction Revenue		\$23,466		
Sub-Total		\$32,366		
Total All Revenue	\$1,461,594	\$1,573,882	\$1,590,872	\$1,671,728

Bridgewater School District
Expenditure Report and Proposed Budget
2004-2005 Budget Year

	Budget 2002-03	Actual 2002-03	Budget 2003-04	Proposed 2004-05
1000 INSTRUCTION				
110 Salaries - Teachers	\$274,395	\$275,720	\$267,914	\$236,027
110 Salaries - Art/Music	\$13,248	\$13,248	\$13,718	\$15,479
110 Salary - Title I	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$0	
110 Salary - Aide	\$7,300	\$7,300	\$7,520	\$15,165
120 Salaries - Substitutes	\$5,000	\$5,839	\$5,000	\$5,000
Sub-Total	\$304,943	\$304,607	\$294,152	\$271,671
320 Pentangle (Transportation)	\$400	\$301	\$0	
320 Elf Program Expense				\$800
610 Supplies - English	\$1,900	\$1,241	\$520	\$4,511
610 Supplies - French			\$200	\$200
610 Supplies - Phys Ed	\$400	\$370	\$450	\$450
610 Supplies - Math	\$440	\$690	\$2,000	\$3,206
610 Supplies - Music	\$350	\$264	\$350	\$350
610 Supplies - Science	\$950	\$973	\$970	\$2,442
610 Supplies - Reading	\$860	\$738	\$1,090	\$1,234
610 Supplies- Social Studies	\$800	\$684	\$400	\$2,057
610 Supplies - General	\$3,000	\$4,108	\$4,000	\$4,000
610 Supplies - Art	\$600	\$465	\$600	\$725
610 Supplies - Kindergarten	\$200	\$18	\$200	
640 Books and Textbooks			\$3,000	
Sub-Total	\$9,900	\$9,852	\$13,780	\$19,975
390 EST/504 Expenses	\$1,000	\$1,232	\$1,500	\$1,500
TOTAL INSTRUCTION	\$315,843	\$315,690	\$309,432	\$293,146
2120 GUIDANCE				
610 Supplies and Materials			\$100	\$100
610 Standardized Testing	\$400	\$303	\$400	\$400
TOTAL GUIDANCE	\$400	\$303	\$500	\$500
2130 HEALTH				
110 Salary - Nurse	\$5,284	\$9,216	\$8,759	\$9,120
610 Health Supplies	\$200	\$151	\$300	\$300
TOTAL HEALTH	\$5,484	\$9,367	\$9,059	\$9,420
2210 SUPPORT SERVICES				
270 Course Reimbursement	\$6,000	\$5,321	\$7,000	\$7,000
2212 CURRICULUM COORDINATOR				
331 WCSU Assessment	\$1,447	\$1,447	\$1,534	\$1,124
2220 EDUCATIONAL MEDIA				
110 Salary	\$7,324	\$7,324	\$7,479	\$7,840
430 AV/Computer Repairs			\$1,000	\$1,000
610 Library Supplies	\$1,300	\$1,472	\$100	\$100
610 AV/Computer Supplies	\$1,200	\$760	\$400	\$1,000
640 Library Books			\$0	\$1,300
730 Computer Equipment & Software	\$3,000	\$2,516	\$3,000	\$3,000
730 Computer Sinking Fund			\$0	\$500
810 Internet Fees	\$360	\$342	\$360	\$360
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL MEDIA	\$13,184	\$12,414	\$12,339	\$15,100
2321 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION				

Bridgewater School District
Expenditure Report and Proposed Budget
2004-2005 Budget Year

	Budget 2002-03	Actual 2002-03	Budget 2003-04	Proposed 2004-05
331 WCSU Assessment	\$24,467	\$24,467	\$25,935	\$23,111
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION				
360 Legal Services	\$200	\$33	\$200	\$200
320 Bank Charges		\$40		\$50
370 Audit	\$300	\$1,900	\$350	\$2,350
540 Advertising		\$2,898		\$500
580 Travel	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750
610 Clerk Expenses	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$350
610 School Board Expenses	\$800	\$265	\$800	\$800
810 Dues & Fees	\$725	\$700	\$725	\$725
TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$3,125	\$6,936	\$3,175	\$5,725
2410 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION				
110 Salary - Principal	\$30,601	\$30,601	\$31,519	\$31,930
110 Salary - Secretary	\$6,399	\$6,399	\$6,591	\$8,809
580 Travel (Mileage)	\$400	\$398	\$400	\$400
430 Contracted Svc - Equipment Repair	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200
440 Equipment Lease	\$3,500	\$3,894	\$3,500	\$4,000
540 Postage	\$700	\$486	\$750	\$750
610 Photocopier Supplies	\$700	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
610 Supplies	\$600	\$446	\$200	\$500
730 Equipment			\$0	\$150
810 Professional Developmt - Principal	\$1,200	\$1,403	\$1,200	\$1,750
TOTAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	\$44,300	\$43,627	\$45,360	\$49,489
2520 FISCAL SERVICES				
210 Group Health Insurance	\$55,758	\$60,815	\$73,139	\$57,309
220 Social Security	\$28,315	\$28,391	\$28,179	\$26,504
211 Dental Insurance	\$2,952	\$3,213	\$3,423	\$3,665
240 Municipal Retirement	\$1,319	\$1,266	\$1,359	\$1,469
250 Workers' Compensation	\$1,349	\$1,809	\$1,990	\$2,683
230 Annuity	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$4,000
212 Life Insurance	\$40	\$34	\$36	\$284
521 Property & Liability Insurance	\$813	\$927	\$1,112	\$1,280
522 E & O Insurance - School Board	\$435	\$699	\$839	\$1,490
523 Fidelity Bond	\$100	\$158	\$190	\$190
830 Interest	\$2,500	\$1,184	\$2,500	\$2,500
TOTAL FISCAL SERVICES	\$94,581	\$99,496	\$113,767	\$101,374
2600 OPERATION OF PLANT				
110 Salary - Custodian	\$19,282	\$18,598	\$19,859	\$17,084
421 Trash Removal	\$2,000	\$993	\$2,500	\$2,000
430 Contracted Maintenance Svcs - Building	\$500	\$863	\$500	\$1,200
430 Contracted Svcs - Sewer Pipe Repair		\$1,200		
430 Building Repairs	\$2,000	\$3,254	\$2,000	\$3,500
430 Painting			\$0	\$1,000
430 Care of Grounds-Equipment	\$100	\$50		\$200
430 Snow Removal & Mowing	\$2,600	\$1,501	\$2,800	\$2,800
430 Repair Non-Instructional Equipment	\$300	\$1,604	\$1,000	\$2,000
490 Water Testing	\$1,000	\$1,255	\$2,000	\$1,000
610 Custodial Supplies	\$2,500	\$3,363	\$2,500	\$3,500
610 Supplies - Repair of Building	\$1,200	\$1,457	\$2,000	\$2,000
610 Window Shade Replacement	\$100	\$0		\$500
730 Capital Equipment/Sinking Fund	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

**Bridgewater School District
Expenditure Report and Proposed Budget
2004-2005 Budget Year**

	Budget 2002-03	Actual 2002-03	Budget 2003-04	Proposed 2004-05
TOTAL OPERATION OF PLANT	\$32,082	\$34,638	\$35,659	\$37,284
UTILITIES				
411 Sewage	\$4,400	\$4,100	\$4,400	\$4,600
531 Telephone	\$4,000	\$2,749	\$4,000	\$3,500
623 Propane Gas	\$200	\$206	\$200	\$275
622 Electricity	\$8,000	\$5,700	\$7,000	\$6,300
624 Heat	\$7,300	\$4,376	\$7,500	\$7,000
TOTAL UTILITIES	\$23,900	\$17,131	\$23,100	\$21,675
2711	TRANSPORTATION			
513 Contracted Services	\$29,430	\$29,430	\$30,015	\$34,517
513 Field Trips	\$1,700	\$1,163	\$1,700	\$1,950
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	\$31,130	\$30,593	\$31,715	\$36,467
3100	FOOD SERVICES			
110 Lunch Agent Salary	\$12,978	\$13,405	\$13,369	\$13,772
210 Health Insurance	\$0	\$3,559	\$4,235	\$4,649
210 Dental Insurance		\$342	\$376	\$387
220 Lunch Agent Fica	\$993	\$1,026	\$1,023	\$1,054
240 Municipal Retirement	\$519	\$525	\$535	\$551
250 Worker's Comp	\$330	\$460	\$340	\$694
630 Food Purchases	\$10,000	\$9,206	\$10,500	\$11,000
730 Equipment	\$500	\$435	\$500	\$500
TOTAL FOOD SERVICE	\$25,320	\$28,958	\$30,878	\$32,607
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$621,263	\$630,388	\$649,453	\$634,023
1210	SPECIAL EDUCATION			
110 Salary - Teacher	\$30,419	\$30,419	\$31,996	\$22,399
114 Salary - Aide	\$24,971	\$33,546	\$11,826	\$21,648
120 Salary - Substitutes		\$630		
210 Health Insurance	\$7,120	\$4,443	\$0	\$9,371
211 Dental Insurance	\$628	\$456	\$0	\$903
212 Life Insurance				\$18
220 Social Security	\$4,237	\$4,916	\$3,352	\$3,370
240 Municipal Retirement	\$999	\$1,339	\$473	\$866
250 Workers' Compensation	\$127	\$178	\$172	\$221
270 Course Reimbursement		\$318		
320 Evaluations	\$1,800	\$8,287	\$2,150	\$2,150
320 Consulting Services - Teacher Training	\$0		\$1,910	\$2,025
320 Counseling	\$3,600	\$9,218	\$3,800	\$3,800
730 Equipment	\$1,350	\$408	\$148	\$150
610 Supplies	\$350	\$161	\$590	\$550
610 Instructional Materials	\$200	\$131	\$230	\$200
110 Extended Year Salary	\$1,672	\$1,210	\$1,672	\$2,025
220 Extended Year Social Security	\$128	\$93	\$128	\$155
Extended Year Tuition	\$0	\$160	\$0	
Extended Year Mileage	\$0	\$132	\$150	
320 Extended Year Speech Svcs.	\$720	\$492	\$720	\$600
SUB-TOTAL	\$78,321	\$96,537	\$59,317	\$70,451
EEE PROGRAM				
566 EEE Preschool Tuition	\$1,998	\$0	\$1,887	\$1,700
320 EEE Extended Year Purchased Services				\$360
TOTAL EEE PROGRAM	\$1,998	\$0	\$1,887	\$2,060

**Bridgewater School District
Expenditure Report and Proposed Budget
2004-2005 Budget Year**

	Budget 2002-03	Actual 2002-03	Budget 2003-04	Proposed 2004-05
2139 WCSU OT Assessments	\$9,357	\$9,357	\$9,918	\$13,464
2400 WCSU Special Ed Assessments	\$13,222	\$13,222	\$14,015	\$12,093
WCSU EEE Assessment	\$6,261	\$6,261	\$6,637	\$8,869
TOTAL SPECIAL ED PROGRAMS	\$109,159	\$125,377	\$91,774	\$106,937
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$730,422	\$755,765	\$741,227	\$740,960
5100 DEBT SERVICE				
910 Principal	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
910 Deficit Retirement-Renovation Project	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$12,082	\$12,082
830 Interest	\$5,860	\$5,860	\$5,195	\$4,520
830 Interest on Renovation Project			\$1,635	\$1,151
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$25,360	\$25,360	\$28,912	\$27,753
TOTAL EXPENSES ELEMENTARY	\$755,782	\$781,125	\$770,139	\$768,713
Payments to Education Fund		\$58,605		
1300 Vocational Tuition	\$7,508	\$6,134	\$7,059	\$22,592
Total Bridgewater School Dist Exp	\$763,290	\$845,864	\$777,198	\$791,305
1000 WUHS ASSESSMENTS	\$699,304	\$699,303	\$813,674	\$880,423
TOTAL COSTS K-12	\$1,462,594	\$1,545,167	\$1,590,872	\$1,671,728
Expenditure of Grants & Donated Funds				
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,462,594	\$1,545,167	\$1,590,872	\$1,671,728
Expenditure of Grant & Donated Funds		\$8,254		
Construction Expenses		\$78,219		
Sub-Total		\$86,473		
Total All Expenses		\$1,631,640		

Bridgewater School District
Balance Sheet
June 30, 2003

Assets		
Checking Account	\$7,488	
Accounts Receivable	\$21,871	
Due from Fancher Trust	\$746	
Total Assets		\$30,105
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$5,505	
Notes Payable	\$45,254	
Payroll Withholdings Due - Retirement	\$2	
		\$50,761
Reserves		
Reserve for Encumbrances	\$716	
Reserve for Elf Program	\$800	
Equipment Sinking Fund	\$1,500	
Reserve for FES Grant	\$225	
Reserve for Wellborn Grant	\$1,792	
Reserve for E-Rate Discounts	\$1,713	
Reserve Library Donated Funds	\$276	
Reserve for CEEP Grant	\$120	
		\$7,142
Fund Balance		
Designated for FY04 Budget		\$18,671
Construction Project Deficit		(\$44,975)
Undesignated Fund Balance:		
Balance Reported June 30, 2002	\$18,671	
Adjust Special Ed Reimbursement FY02	\$1,930	
Adjust Reserve for Encumbrances FY02	\$226	
Adjusted Fund Balance	\$20,827	
Transfer to Designated Fund Balance	(\$18,671)	
	\$2,156	
Revenue 2002-2003	\$1,541,517	
Expenses 2002-2003	\$1,545,168	
Operating Deficit 2002-2003	(\$3,652)	
Undesignated Fund Balance June 30, 2003		(\$1,495)
Total Liabilities, Reserves, Fund Balance		\$30,105

Windsor Central Supervisory Union
Revenue & Expense Summary and Proposed Budget
Budget Year 2004-2005

	2002-03 Budget	2002-03 Actual	2003-04 Budget	2004-05 Budget
WCSU Operating Budget				
Revenue				
EEE	\$27,155	\$26,787	\$12,215	\$12,694
Special Services	\$94,752	\$94,752	\$112,017	\$126,291
Executive Administration	\$41,452	\$35,475	\$39,558	\$48,078
OT Services	\$35,925	\$37,299	\$37,427	\$38,924
Dist. Wide Staff Development		\$11,200		
Assessments				
EEE	\$49,453	\$49,453	\$75,874	\$80,259
Special Services	\$225,115	\$225,115	\$225,312	\$236,514
Executive Administration	\$416,554	\$416,554	\$437,322	\$451,983
OT Services	\$66,037	\$66,037	\$69,293	\$72,708
Curriculum Coordinator	\$24,639	\$24,639	\$21,396	\$21,977
Total Assessments	<u>\$781,798</u>	<u>\$781,798</u>	<u>\$829,197</u>	<u>\$863,441</u>
Total WCSU Operating Revenue	\$981,082	\$987,311	\$1,030,414	\$1,089,428
Expenses				
EEE	\$76,608	\$79,323	\$88,089	\$92,953
Special Services				
Speech/Language	\$131,992	\$130,522	\$137,596	\$147,172
Director of Instructional Support	\$117,647	\$106,710	\$121,690	\$126,975
Employee Benefits	\$66,528	65182	\$74,343	\$84,958
Operating Expenses	\$3,700	\$3,171	\$3,700	\$3,700
Executive Administration				
Office of the Superintendent	\$140,892	\$138,577	\$146,189	\$151,660
Fiscal Services	\$176,835	\$141,282	\$179,258	\$186,919
Professional Development	\$2,000	\$2,949	\$2,000	\$2,000
General Administration	\$26,925	\$24,281	\$27,350	\$28,465
Employee Benefits	\$61,307	\$53,269	\$71,421	\$79,019
Board Expenses	\$4,700	\$3,657	\$4,700	\$4,700
Audit	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,600	\$2,900
Building Operation & Maintenance	\$43,247	\$36,437	\$43,362	\$44,398
OT Services	\$101,962	\$99,244	\$106,720	\$111,632
Curriculum/Technology Coordinator	\$24,639	\$24,403	\$21,396	\$21,977
Dist. Wide Staff Development		\$9,671		
Total WCSU Operating Expenses	\$981,082	\$920,778	\$1,030,414	\$1,089,428

Three Prior Years Comparisons

ESTIMATES ONLY

District: **Bridgewater**
County: **Windsor**

LEA: **028**
S.U.: **Windsor Central**

	Fiscal Year				
	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	
Expenditures					
Budget (local budget; approved in prior years)	716,323	763,291	777,196	791,305	1.
62% of base payment per FTE paid to each center by the State on behalf of the district in FY2005				15,167	2.
S.U. assessment (included in local budget)	62,988	64,750	57,986	88,081	3.
Deficit (if included in local budget)	12,803	16,197	18,534	12,082	4.
Block grant paid by State to each center in prior years	-	-	-	-	5.
1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-	6.
2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-	7.
3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-	8.
Act 144 Expenditures (included from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-	9.
Act 68 local adopted budget	729,126	779,488	795,732	791,305	10.
Union school or joint school district assessment	669,490	699,303	813,674	880,423	11.
Deficit if not included in budget or revenues	-	-	-	-	12.
Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)	-	-	-	-	13.
Gross Act 68 Budget	1,398,616	1,478,791	1,609,406	1,671,728	14.
Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-	15.
Revenues					
Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, unions, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)	210,031	547,574	622,366	219,000	16.
Capital debt aid	9,687	9,258	8,660	-	17.
Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)	-	-	-	-	18.
Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures	-	-	-	-	19.
Act 144 revenues	219,718	556,832	631,028	219,000	20.
Fund raising (if any)	-	330,000	400,000	-	21.
Adjusted local revenues	219,718	226,832	231,026	219,000	22.
Education Spending (Act 68 definition)	1,178,898	1,251,959	1,376,380	1,452,728	24.
Equalized Pupils	157,53	152,83	147,29	142,13	25.
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	7,484	8,203	9,358	10,221	26.
Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)					27.
Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment					28.
District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	(\$10,221 / \$6,800)				29.
Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized	(150.309% x \$1.10)			\$1,653	30.
Household Income Percentage for Income sensitivity	(150.309% x 2.0%)			3.01%	31.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January, 2004

On behalf of all your school personnel let me express our joyful commitment to the development of the gifts, talents, knowledge, and skills of our students. Let me also express our good fortune to work in a community, which supports this message to our young people: We need you, and our community cannot thrive and be complete without you!

Our school year is designated "The Year of the Brain" in recognition of the new connections being made between education and the brain sciences. In the 1940's Arthur Koestler, author of *Darkness at Noon*, wrote:

Of all forms of mental activity, the most difficult to induce even in the minds of the young, who may be presumed not to have lost their flexibility, is the art of handling the same bundle of data as before, but placing them in a new system of relations with one another by giving them a different framework, all of which virtually means putting on a different kind of thinking-cap for the moment. It is easy to teach anybody a new fact...but it needs light from heaven above to enable a teacher to break the old framework in which the student is accustomed to seeing.

In addition to the sometimes-needed "light from heaven above," we now teach with knowledge of current research about the amazing plasticity of the human brain; that is, its ability to "rewire," grow, change, and even repair itself to become smarter. As our students grow and learn, so do we too engage in multiple task and data analyses, and draw upon our expanding armory of teaching strategies. Last spring our supervisory union sponsored a conference entitled "Exploring the Interface Between Education and the Brain Sciences" which attracted over one hundred educators and neuroscientists from Vermont and New Hampshire. Keynote speakers and presenters affiliated with the Dartmouth College Department of Psychology and Brain Sciences and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical School's Department of Psychiatry and Clinical Brain Imaging offered their insights about how education and the brain sciences are being tightly connected into a new discipline called education neuroscience.

Dr. Abigail Baird, a developmental neuroscientist at Dartmouth College gave the opening address to faculty and staff on our return to school in August, and continues to work with faculty, students and parents. Dr. Baird is currently conducting research with our middle school students who have the opportunity to have functional magnetic resonance imaging done of their brains. (The "light from heaven above" sounds kinder now, doesn't it?)

Based on refined knowledge in teaching and learning, the union is now in its third year of the Differentiated Instruction initiative. This work is closely tied to the professional evaluation model in use throughout the district, and the new teacher mentoring model. The recently completed K-12 Science Framework is being piloted in all schools, with revision dates reserved in June. The K-12 Math Curriculum Team work is in progress, with Dr. Kriesler, chair of the mathematics

department of Castleton State College, contributing his expertise to our ongoing study.

As enrollment declines, all citizens wonder about the future cost and quality of their schools. Discussions about class combinations, school combinations, supervisory union re-organizations, creation of new districts, are frequent and thoughtful. In budget meetings school board members anguish over the balance of quality and cost, ever mindful of the people they represent. As the Legislature considers vouchers, expansion of school choice, cost containment measures, elimination of the small schools grant, and Act 68 adjustments, many citizens stand ready to offer testimony in Montpelier representing the best interests of our students, our schools, and our towns.

Please know we appreciate the opportunity to work with you. We are grateful for your help, interest, support, questioning, and expectations.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Gallagher

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES JANUARY 2003

Windsor Central Supervisory Union has undergone several changes during this past year not the least of which was the fire that destroyed our offices in October. Amazingly the fire had very little impact on the quality of services we provide to our students. It is with pride that I commend all of the staff for putting aside their grief and loss to focus on the needs of our students.

Strengthening our support system has been a priority since I began 3 years ago. A strong support system that can respond to student needs in a preventive and expedient manner is critical in a strong educational system. A clear process guiding the implementation of supports and a well developed continuum of available resources is best for our students and has also proven to be cost effective. We have made considerable progress toward developing our support system. A multi-year training process for all staff has been implemented to enhance teacher skills in differentiating instruction in the regular classroom. Our goal is that every teacher by the end of the next school year will have completed this important training. Secondly, in response to the growing concerns over school safety we have initiated training in crisis prevention. Staff from our Supervisory Union has been trained as instructors in "Nonviolent Crisis Intervention". This 12-hour certification program focuses on de-escalating crisis situations to maintain a safe school environment.

Improvements to our support system include the addition of a district-wide Reading Specialist that has proven very helpful in identifying reading difficulties and working with staff to remediate those weaknesses. We have also begun a process of assessing early literacy skills and reviewing programs and curriculum to ensure we are addressing every aspect of this foundational skill. The addition of "Options", an alternative program, at the middle and high school has provided small group and individualized instruction paired with the necessary behavioral supports to identified students. We have also added an Advisory Program at the high school designed to ensure each student has a network of caring adults that he or she can go to when they have an issue.

A second aspect of a strong support system is the skill and expertise of the staff. It seems the complexity of the reasons students are unsuccessful in school is expanding. The professional staff requires ongoing and explicit training in the latest evaluation tools and programs to address these complex issues. Monthly consultation with a local expert has proven beneficial in continuing to develop these skills. Additionally the needs of our students could not be met without our paraprofessional staff. For the first time we are providing a comprehensive approach to training our support personnel. Several topics have been identified and include fundamentals of instruction and behavioral interventions, an overview of disabilities and legal issues.

Continuing with a program we began last year, we will designate April 7th-10th as "Disability Awareness Week". This program has been designed to increase the awareness of our students and staff to the various disabilities that exist and especially to those that

are prevalent in our schools. This year we are hosting a series of musical performances by Chris Burke with Joe and John DeMasi. Chris is a young actor with Down's syndrome who starred as "Corky" in the popular TV show "Life Goes On". The performances are designed to show what matters in life is your abilities and not your disabilities.

Lastly I continue to stay current with national and state legislation as it pertains to special education and school funding. I remain concerned about the seemingly endless array of federal mandates and the lack of adequate funding to support these requirements. Let me assure you that we are utilizing every possible resource to keep the costs of our programs and services as low as possible while maintaining the level of service we have come to expect. We continue to apply grant monies where appropriate and allowable to support our efforts. Medicaid reimbursements have proven to be incredibly important to meet the needs of our students. We hope that we can continue to depend on these monies.

As always I encourage you to share your ideas and concerns with me. Please feel free to contact me at the Supervisory Union.

Respectfully submitted,

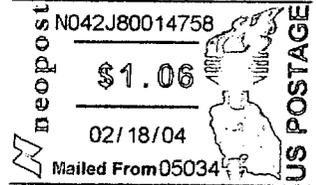
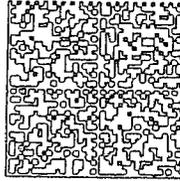
Thomas DeBalsi
Director of Instructional Support Services

**FYI
- Phone Numbers -**

Town Office	672-3334
Town Office Fax	672-5395
Town Highway Garage	672-3579
Bridgewater Village School	672-3464
Bridgewater Corners Post Office	672-5345
Bridgewater Village Post Office	672-5166
Town Fire Warden – Shane Geno	672-5415
Town Fire Chief –Bruce Maxham	672-3495
Emergency Phone Numbers:	
Fire, Police, Ambulance	911
State Police (Bethel Barracks)	234-9933
Town Constable – Edwin Earle	672-5032

**Town Meeting March 2, 2004
9:00 a.m.
Bridgewater Village School
Multi-Purpose Room**

**Town of Bridgewater
P.O. Box 14
Bridgewater, VT 05034-0014**



VT State Library
State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Please bring this report with you to Town Meeting