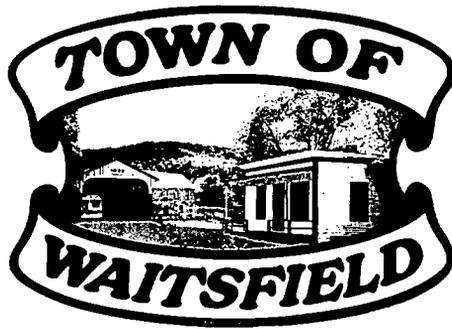


THE TOWN OF Waitsfield MONTA

Annual Report of The Town Office's For the Year Ending December 31, 2003
And of The Town School District For the Year Ending June 30, 2003



PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING



Chartered February 25, 1782

1970 Population 837

1980 Population 1302

1990 Population 1422

2000 Population 1659

Size: 15,500 acres (approx.)

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

9:00 - 4:00 (Mon.-Fri.)

(Lower Level, Joslin Library)

JOSLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Regular Hours

Monday 2 - 6 P.M.

Tuesday 12 - 4 P.M.

Wednesday 2 - 6 P.M.

Thursday 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Friday 12 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Saturday 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF LOCAL BOARDS

Selectboard

2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:30 P.M.

Town Office

Planning Commission

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 P.M.

Town Office

Zoning Board of Adjustment

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Town Office

School Board

2nd Thursdays of most months at 7:00 P.M.

Waitsfield Elementary School

Mad River Valley Planning District

3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 P.M. at the General Wait House

THE COVER:

The Waitsfield-Fayston Volunteer Fire Department and new pumper truck.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT ROSE



Bob Rose was the longest serving member of the Waitsfield Planning Commission, having served 23 years in that capacity at the time of his death in late 2003. Bob was a guiding force on the Commission and was an early advocate for its creation in 1974. He had an historical knowledge of the town, its early land use planning, and he helped write the original zoning bylaws. Bob was an outspoken advocate for land preservation, conservation and thoughtful land use. He was the first resident in Waitsfield to place land in conservation. Bob worked hard to support local agriculture, minimize the fragmentation of land and prevent degradation of important natural resources and view sheds. He was a passionate supporter of protecting the Northfield Ridge, which culminated in the adoption of additional protections in the Forest Reserve District in 2003. Bob's dedication to the Town of Waitsfield will be sorely missed.

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AN INVITATION TO ALL CITIZENRY AND OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE

The Town of Waitsfield, Vermont extends to all an invitation to the Town Meeting to be held at the Waitsfield Elementary School Auditorium, Route 100, Waitsfield, on Tuesday, March 2, 2004.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M., and will continue after lunch, reconvening at 1:00 P.M. with the affairs of the Waitsfield Town School District.

While only legal residents on the Checklist are allowed to vote on issues, all are invited to come to our Town Meeting and to meet the town officials, citizenry, neighbors, landowners and visitors, to become more familiar with our Town of Waitsfield, Vermont and its constituents.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Town of Waitsfield, it is deemed appropriate to hereby express appreciation for services given to the Town and its residents to the following:

Mark Grosby, Selectman
Susan Dillon, Library Trustee
Michael Taub, School Director
Claire Ewald, Board of Adjustment
Susan Simpson, Zoning Administrator
Blaine Laskowski, Interim Zoning Administrator
Edward Eurich, Trustee of Cemetery Funds
Robert Stevens, Lister

REPORT OF ELECTED AUDITORS

As required, we have examined the accounts, records and statements of the Town and Town School District for the Fiscal Year (Town ended on 12/31/03, School District year ended 6/30/03). In our opinion, based on the records and accounts examined, using generally accepted practices, the reports and statements herein reflect the general correctness and validity of the information presented.

Leo Laferriere
Laura Titus
Jim Leyton

**WARNING
FOR ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004**

The legal voters of the Town of Waitsfield, County of Washington, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Elementary School Auditorium on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. to transact the following business and to vote by Australian Ballot between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. for the Various Town Officers and the Articles so noted:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town.

ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 3: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift or purchase, land for a municipal forest to procure wood products, maintain wildlife habitat, protect water species, provide forest recreation and for conservation education purposes?

ARTICLE 4: Will the Town vote to collect taxes on real estate by two (2) equal payments made to the Treasurer as follows: Half (50%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Wednesday, September 1, 2004, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday, November 15, 2004?

ARTICLE 5: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to set the salaries of the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A. Sections 932 and 933?

ARTICLE 6: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of Taxes and State Aid Money?

ARTICLE 7: Will the Town raise and appropriate a sum of \$89,500 to be added to the Town's Reserve Funds as follows:

Fund	Amount
Equipment – Road Dept. Truck Reserve	\$27,500
Equipment – Road Dept. Heavy Equipment Reserve	10,000
Equipment – Fire Dept. Truck Reserve	15,000
Restroom, Recreation & Conservation Reserve	5,000
Route 100 Transportation Path Reserve	15,000
Street Trees Reserve Fund	2,000
Reappraisal Reserve Fund	15,000
Total	\$89,500

- ARTICLE 8:** Will the Town vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide for the voted Town and School District budgets?
- ARTICLE 9:** Will the Town vote to appropriate a sum of \$3,500 to be used by the Waitsfield PTA to purchase materials for the construction of a school and ski storage shed at the General Wait House, and to authorize placing this sum in reserve if the project cannot be completed in 2004?
- ARTICLE 10:** Will the Town vote to allow the use of vote tabulating machines in accordance with State statute, Title 17 V.S.A. §2491, and appropriate \$1,200 for the use thereof for the primary and general elections in 2004?
- ARTICLE 11:** Will the Town vote to renew and extend for a maximum period of three years ending March 31, 2006, the Agricultural Tax Stabilization Agreement for farm lands, to the extent allowed by State law? (This program was adopted by the voters of the Town at the Annual Town Meeting of 1986, and renewed and extended by articles passed at Town Meetings in 1989, 1992, 1995, 1998 and 2001.)
- ARTICLE 12:** Will the Town vote to appropriate \$15,000 for the preparation of an application to the Vermont Economic Progress Council for the creation of a Tax Increment Finance District within the Town, and to authorize setting aside any portion of such appropriation into a reserve fund for the same purpose if not fully expended during 2004?
- ARTICLE 13:** Will the Town vote to fill the office of Constable by appointment of the Selectboard rather than by election, in accordance with State statutes, Title 17 V.S.A. §2651a. (*This Article to be voted by Australian Ballot*).
- ARTICLE 14:** Will the Town vote to adopt Amendments to the Town of Waitsfield Zoning Ordinance as approved by the Selectboard on January 19, 2004, the complete text of which is on file in the Town Clerk's Office? The proposed Amendments would:
- 1) eliminate the minimum building height requirement of 1 ½ stories for accessory structures under 600 square feet located in the Village Residential, Village Business Districts and 2 stories in the Irasville Village Zoning District;

- 2) change the requirements for building height and the definition of "building height" so that height is measured from the average finished grade at ground level instead of the lowest point of finished grade, and to add chimneys to a list of rooftop appurtenances that are exempted from the measurement of building height;
- 3) change the definition of "noncomplying structure" and allow the Board of Adjustment to consider the enlargement or expansion of noncomplying structures in accordance with special requirements and conditional use review;
- 4) allow the Zoning Administrator to extend the expiration of zoning permits for the completion of a projects otherwise in conformance with the permit, on properties where no zoning violations exist;
- 5) eliminates the definition for "cottage industry," this use no longer included as a separate use in the bylaws; and
- 6) clarifies the definitions of "building" and "structure" such that gas and liquid storage tanks shall only require review and permitting in flood hazard zones in conformance with federal requirements.
(This Article to be voted by Australian Ballot.)

ARTICLE 15: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Dated at Waitsfield, Vermont, this 26th day of January, 2004 by:

Waitsfield Selectboard:

Elwin A. Neill, Jr., Chairman

Charles Hosford

J. LeRoy Hadden, D.V.M.

Paul Hartshorn

Salvatore Spinosa

CONDENSATION OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 4, 2003

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the Town. Peter Joslin was elected by unanimous voice vote.
- ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers. Various reports were reviewed and discussed.
- ARTICLE 3: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift or purchase, land for a municipal forest to procure wood products, maintain wildlife habitat, protect water species, provide forest recreation and for conservation education purposes? Approved by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 4: Will the Town vote to collect taxes on real estate by two (2) equal payments made to the Treasurer as follows: Half (50%) of taxes to be paid without discount not later than Monday, September 1, 2003, with the remaining half (50%) to be paid without discount not later than Monday, November 17, 2003? Approved by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 5: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to set the salaries of the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer pursuant to Title 24 V.S.A. Sections 932 and 933? Approved by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 6: Will the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of Taxes and State Aid Money? Approved by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 7: Will the Town raise and appropriate a sum of \$86,500 to be added to the Town's Reserve Funds as follows:
- | Fund | Amount |
|--|-----------------|
| Equipment – Road Dept. Truck Reserve | \$25,000 |
| Equipment – Road Dept. Heavy Equipment Reserve | 10,000 |
| Equipment – Fire Dept. Truck Reserve | 15,000 |
| Restroom, Recreation & Conservation Reserve | 5,000 |
| Route 100 Transportation Path Reserve | 15,000 |
| Street Trees Reserve Fund | 1,500 |
| Reappraisal Reserve Fund | 15,000 |
| Total | \$86,500 |
- Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- ARTICLE 8: Will the Town vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of

the Town and authorize the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide for the voted Town and School District budgets? Motion to approve a gross budget of \$1,131,985, including special articles, to meet the expenses of the Town, and authorizing the Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide for the Town and School District budgets was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: Will the Town vote to create a Conservation Commission pursuant to chapter 118 of Title 24 of the Vermont General Statutes and be subject to the following directives:

Without limiting the powers and duties granted to the Commission by statute:

The Waitsfield Conservation Commission shall work closely with the Mad River Valley Planning District, the Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership, and the Vermont Land Trust and other organizations with land conservation goals and objectives consistent with those of the Conservation Commission and the Waitsfield Town Plan; and

The Conservation Commission shall have five members, with two-year terms, appointed by the Selectboard. In appointing members, the Selectboard shall work to include individuals with experience in areas such as forestry, real estate, agriculture, planning and land conservation, and others with a strong working knowledge of Waitsfield's land and history; and

In making recommendations on land conservation projects, the Conservation Commission will be guided first by the goals and objectives in the Waitsfield Town Plan. The Conservation Commission will also use the Mad River Valley Rural Resource Protection Plan and analytical models where appropriate; and

The Waitsfield Conservation Commission shall be assigned responsibility for stewarding land owned by the Town for conservation or preservation purposes and overseeing conservation easements that have been granted to the Town. The initial list of properties to be managed by the Conservation Commission shall be voted by the Selectboard after a duly warned public meeting.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: Will the voters of the Town of Waitsfield adopt the following Resolution regarding Vermont's school funding law known as Act 60?

Whereas Act 60, the Equal Education Opportunity Act of 1997, promised an equitable allocation of educational spending among all taxpayers; and

Whereas Act 60 has failed to fulfill that promise,

- by establishing an income sensitivity formula that fails to protect all property owners from the escalation of property taxes relative to their income;
- by inventing a block grant program that fails to account for the costs of living and of operating schools from town to town, and that it is set arbitrarily low, resulting in inequitably high "Local Share" taxes for some towns;
- by adopting an equalization methodology (common level of appraisal) administered by the State that relies on an arbitrary and capricious formula for calculating a town's equalized grand list;
- by preventing voters and taxpayers from planning for the future, due to the imposed insecurity of the rising cost of owning their home, their sanctuary;
- by adopting an education funding system that relies predominately on taxes on those who choose to own property and businesses;
- by creating an atmosphere where "sending towns" have a disincentive to grow their economy out of fear there will be an increase in property taxes, and "receiving towns" have a disincentive to grow their economy out of a fear of becoming a "sending town";
- by encouraging the alarming growth in the cost of the educational system in Vermont by \$400 million dollars over four years, without effective spending caps;
- by destroying any meaningful opportunity for local control of education spending; and
- by setting towns against towns in a mad race for equity, which instead has resulted in higher spending for education without measurable improvements in schools;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the voters of the Town of Waitsfield hereby urge the Selectboard to consider withholding that portion of the State Equalized Property Tax that is above the \$1.10 rate, and to hold these monies in escrow, pending effective and positive legislative change to Act 60.

The Resolution was amended by adding to the end “, and to express to the Legislature the strong sentiment of the voters of the Town of Waitsfield that such effective and positive changes to Act 60 is imperative and overdue.” The amended Resolution was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: Will the voters of the Town of Waitsfield disapprove the Vermont Agency of Transportation’s planned project for the replacement of the Vermont Route 17 Bridge over Mill Brook, the official name of the project being Fayston-Waitsfield RSEGC-RS 0200(7), in accordance with Title 19, Vermont Statutes Annotated, Section 1511? Agency plan disapproved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the legislature be urged to change Vermont’s voting law for statewide elections, which currently can result in no candidate receiving a majority and thus the selection of a governor by the legislature instead of the voters, and replace it with a system that allows voters to rank their choices so that, without the need for a separate runoff election, the candidate preferred by a majority of voters is elected? Defeated due to tie vote by show of hands (38 in favor, 38 opposed).

ARTICLE 13: Should Vermont Governors have a four-year term beginning in the year 2008? Motion in favor of four-year term approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: Will the Town vote to adopt the Amendments to the Town of Waitsfield Zoning Ordinance affecting the Forest Reserve Zoning District, as approved by the Selectboard on January 27, 2003, the complete text of which are on file in the Town Clerk’s Office? The purpose of the proposed amendments, affecting all properties in the current Forest Reserve District, is to change sections of Article II, Table 2.8 for the Purpose, Permitted Uses, Conditional Uses, and Dimensional Standards. The proposed amendments would also establish Special District Provisions to ensure that all proposed development complies with subsections concerning Forest Management, Headwaters Protection, Density & Siting, and Sewage Disposal for Seasonal Camps. In addition, the amendments propose to either replace or create new definitions under Article VII for Public Utility, Seasonal Camp, and Steep Slope. The amendments also propose to redefine the boundary of the Forest Reserve Zoning District by excluding those properties in the Ski Valley Acres development located above 1,500 feet elevation from the District and including them in the Agricultural-Residential Zoning District.

Approved by Australian ballot vote with 285 in favor, 224 opposed, and 13 blank ballots.

Note: This article was subject of a reconsideration petition and was re-voted at a Special Town Meeting held on May 20, 2003 at which it was approved with 287 in favor, 146 opposed, and 3 blank ballots.

ARTICLE 15: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

A motion was made by Jim Leyton, and approved by voice vote to "request the Selectboard work with the Treasurer to consider changing from a calendar year to a fiscal year of July 1st to June 30th so that there could be a better timing of property tax due dates."

Note: A committee consisting of the Treasurer, elected Auditors, and Town Administrator was appointed by the Selectboard to study this issue during the summer of 2003, and recommended that no change be made in the Town's fiscal year at this time.

A motion was made by Mary Alice Bisbee, and approved by voice vote to adopt a "Non-binding Resolution to Protect Our Constitutional Rights and Freedoms: We the voters of the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont, gathered today at this Town Meeting, and voting from the floor, do resolve to direct our Town Clerk to notify all of our local, state and federal representatives to do all in their power to rescind parts of the USAPATRIOT Act, Homeland Security Act, and recent Federal Executive orders which threaten our most precious civil liberties; freedom of speech, assembly, privacy, protections from unreasonable searches and seizures, wire tapping, access to personal records of all kinds, and the right to legal counsel. We further resolve that the Freedom of Information Act be upheld and that citizens have the right to be notified of any investigations being undertaken by the FBI, or any other branch of government, when there is no evidence of a crime or no court order."

A legislative report was heard from State Representative Kinny Connell.

TOWN OFFICERS 2003

Elected by Australian Ballot

Selectboard:

Charles Hosford	Mar. 2004
J. LeRoy Hadden	Mar. 2004
Mark Grosby (resigned)	
Sal Spinoso (appointed)	Mar. 2004
Elwin Neill, Jr., Chair	Mar. 2005
Paul Hartshorn	Mar. 2006

Town Clerk:

Sandra J. Gallup	Mar. 2004
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Town Treasurer:

Sandra J. Gallup	Mar. 2004
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Auditors:

Leo Laferriere	Mar. 2004
Jim Leyton	Mar. 2005
Laura Titus	Mar. 2006

Listers:

John Simko	Mar. 2004
John Reilly	Mar. 2005
Allen Gaylord	Mar. 2006

Collector of Delinquent Taxes:

Janet Smith	Mar. 2004
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Constable:

John Southwick	Mar. 2004
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Grand Juror:

Dana Haskin	Mar. 2004
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Law Agent:

Peter B. Joslin	Mar. 2004
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Library Trustees:

John Reilly	Mar. 2004
Dana Goss	Mar. 2005
Avis Bentley	Mar. 2006
Art Conway, Chair	Mar. 2007
Peter B. Joslin	Mar. 2008

Waitsfield School Directors:

Christopher Brynga, Chair	Mar. 2004
Melissa Siner-Shea	Mar. 2004
Wrenn Compere	Mar. 2005
Valerie Snapp	Mar. 2005
Rob Williams	Mar. 2006

Harwood School Director:

Joann Duhl	Mar. 2004
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Waitsfield School Treasurer:

Sandra J. Gallup	Mar. 2004
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Cemetery Commissioners:

Troy Kingsbury	Mar. 2004
Marion Turner	Mar. 2005
Paul Hartshorn	Mar. 2006
Eric Haskin	Mar. 2007
Robert Danaher	Mar. 2008

Trustees of Cemetery Funds:

John "Jack" Smith	Mar. 2004
Andrew Baird, Jr	Mar. 2005
Gilbert Geigher, Jr.	Mar. 2006

Justices of the Peace:

Arthur Bennett	Nov. 2004
Cecil "Zeke" Church	Nov. 2004
Charles Goodman III	Nov. 2004
Jon Jamieson	Nov. 2004
Andreas Lehner	Nov. 2004
Thomas Mehuron	Nov. 2004
Kathleen Woodruff	Nov. 2004

TOWN OFFICERS 2003

Appointed by the Selectboard

Planning Commission:

Peter Laskowski	Mar. 2004
Jamie Sherman	Mar. 2004
John Reilly, Chair	Mar. 2005
Richard Hiscock	Mar. 2005
Russ Bennett	Mar. 2006
Hadley Gaylord, Jr.	Mar. 2006
Jeffrey Knight	Mar. 2006
Pam Barnard	Mar. 2007
William Parker	Mar. 2007
Robert Rose (deceased)	
Albert Raphael (resigned)	

C.V. Regional Planning Commission:

Harrison Snapp	Mar. 2004
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Zoning Administrator:

Susan Simpson (resigned)	
Shari Edmands	June 2006

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

William Stinson, Chair	Mar. 2004
Charles "Chach" Curtis	Mar. 2004
Brian Shupe	Mar. 2005
Albert Raphael	Mar. 2005
Jim Boylan	Mar. 2006
Mark Sinclair	Mar. 2006
Hallie Tamez	Mar. 2006
Claire Ewald (resigned)	

Health Officer:

Dr. Francis Cook	Nov. 2005
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Dog Warden:

Robert Tracy	Mar. 2004
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Service Officer:

Rev. Jonathan New	Apr. 2004
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Emergency Management Coordinator:

Frederick Messer	Mar. 2004
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Road Commissioner:

Charles Goodman III	Mar. 2004
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Waitsfield/Fayston Fire Department:

Fire Chief:	
Delbert Palmer	Jan. 2004
Assistant Chiefs:	
Gordon Eurich	Jan. 2004
Paul Hartshorn	Jan. 2004
Captain:	
Jack Corliss	Jan. 2004
Lieutenants:	
Travis Michaud	Jan. 2004
Owen Wimble, Jr.	Jan. 2004
Moderator:	
Eric Haskin	Jan. 2004

Treasurer:	
Gordon Eurich	Jan. 2004

Secretary:	
Renee Michaud	Jan. 2004

Fire Warden:	
Delbert Palmer	June 2006

Fence Viewers:

Everett Larrow	Mar. 2004
Douglas Kenyon	Mar. 2004
Allen Gaylord	Mar. 2004

Inspector of Lumber:

Andrew Baird, Jr.	Mar. 2004
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Weigher of Coal:

Charles Hosford	Mar. 2004
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Green Up Coordinators:

Valerie & Harrison Snapp	Mar. 2004
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Tree Warden:

Leo Laferriere	Mar. 2004
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Tree Board:

Jean Sherman	Mar. 2004
Vince Gauthier	Mar. 2005
Charles Hosford	Mar. 2006

M.R.V. Recreation District Reps.:

Renee Berrian (at large) Mar. 2004
Jonathan Jamieson Mar. 2005
Julie Galati Mar. 2004

M. R. Solid Waste Alliance Reps:

Sal Spinosa Mar. 2004
William Bryant, Alternate Mar. 2004

M.R.V. Planning District Reps:

Elwin Neill, Jr. Mar. 2004
Russ Bennett Mar. 2004

Conservation Commission:

Ted Joslin Mar. 2004
Kristen Rose Lacy Mar. 2004
Mark Grosby, Chair Mar. 2005
Paul Hartshorn Mar. 2005
Phil Huffman Mar. 2005

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

The Selectboard met 25 times in 2003. The Board holds its regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Citizens are encouraged to contact Town Administrator Bill Bryant to confirm meeting dates or to have a matter placed on the agenda. Our meetings are open to the public and citizens are invited to attend.

2003 was a busy year for the Selectboard on a number of issues as discussed below:

Forest Reserve Zoning Vote and Revote – The voters approved an amendment to the Town's Zoning Ordinance regarding the Forest Reserve Zoning District at the March 4, 2003 Town Meeting (285 in favor, 224 opposed). A reconsideration petition was received and a second vote was held on May 20th confirming approval of the amendments (287 in favor, 146 opposed). These were the third and fourth votes on regulations to prohibit residential construction above 1,700 feet elevation (camps, recreation, agriculture and forestry uses still being allowed). Residential uses between 1,500 feet and 1,700 feet continue to be allowed subject to conditional use review by the Board of Adjustment.

Formation of Conservation Commission – Voters at the March 4, 2003 Town Meeting approved the formation of a Town Conservation Commission. The Selectboard reviewed applications from a strong group of candidates, and five members were appointed in accordance with the charge passed at Town Meeting. The new Commission began its work in the late summer and their report appears elsewhere in this Town Report. It is expected that the Conservation Commission will be involved in the stewardship of several Town owned conservation properties, as well as advising the Selectboard and Planning Commission on future conservation initiatives.

Tardy Land Conservation Project – The Selectboard worked with several local citizens, the Vermont Land Trust, and the Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership to purchase a parcel of 6+/- acres along Route 100 and the Mad River south of Irasville, from Astrid Tardy. The parcel was purchased to protect the views along the Route 100 scenic corridor, and nicely compliments the Town's Lareau Swimhole and Austin parcel which are located nearby.

Reappraisal Contract – The Selectboard and Listers hired Vermont Assessor, Inc. of Waitsfield, to complete the town-wide reappraisal scheduled to take effect for the April 1, 2006 Grand List. The reappraisal project was put out to bid, with three firms responding. Interviews were conducted and the contract was awarded based upon price, knowledge of the town, and experience. The Town received notice from the Division of Property Valuation and Review in the spring, that a reappraisal will be required by the State because the Town's common level of appraisal has now fallen below 80%. The voters have approved setting aside \$15,000 per year beginning in 2002 to

pay for the reappraisal, and the 2004 appropriation is on the Warning.

Municipal Water and Sewage Infrastructure Projects – Work on both the municipal water and sewage projects progressed in 2003. The sewage system feasibility study progressed to the “90% stage,” meaning that the study is essentially completed and has been submitted to the Agency of Natural Resources for comment and final revision. The study concludes that the Town owned Munn parcel located off Route 100 at Kingsbury Road, is adequate to support a sewage disposal system handling up to 70,000 gallons per day. It is anticipated that about a third of existing buildings in the Waitsfield and Irasville villages would connect to the new system, and the remaining properties would maintain their existing adequate on-site systems. “Adequate,” being a key word here and meaning that if a municipal water system was also in place, that these septic systems would no longer be located too closely to water supplies for the protection of public health.

The water study also moved forward during 2003. It was determined that the Town’s old LeClair gravel pit parcel located off of Bushnell Road, would be an ideal site for a water system storage tank due to its elevation. The Town decided to pursue the drilling of a well on the property to see if we could have the good fortune of having the source and storage tank located at the same place. A good yielding well of 17 gallons per minute was drilled, but is considerably shy of the 100 to 150 gallons per minute needed for the municipal water supply. Several other options are being pursued for the water source as of this writing.

In addition to the engineering issues relating to the development of municipal water and sewage systems, are the many financial aspects of such projects. The Town has successfully completed an income survey of the proposed service area to establish eligibility for the better funding options from state and federal sources. Senators Leahy and Jeffords have co-sponsored a special appropriation of \$1,000,000 toward the projects, that is making its way through the FY2005 federal budget process. The possibility of a Tax Increment Finance District, to recapture a portion of state education property taxes from new construction over a ten year period within the service area is up for discussion on the Warning. The Taskforce that has been assisting with the water and sewage projects, the Planning Commission and the Selectboard will continue to develop the funding package and other details necessary to bring the projects forward for bond vote consideration, possibly in November or at next year’s Town Meeting. We will do our best to keep citizens informed as these initiatives move forward in the coming year.

Route 100 Transportation Path Project – Quiet progress was made on this project in 2003, as municipal project manager Kevin Russell and contracted engineer Mark Bannon worked to complete the preliminary phase of final project design for the bike lane and sidewalk project in the Route 100 corridor through Waitsfield and Irasville Villages. The Town was able to confirm ownership of the right-of-way for the historic village sidewalk, which had been found to be outside the right-of-way acquired for the state highway in the early 1900s. General Benjamin Wait himself was a

signer, as Town Clerk, of a Selectman's survey of 1797 laying out the road as a 4 rod right-of-way (66 feet), which includes the sidewalk that has been in place for most of the last century.

Routes 17&100 Bridge and Intersection Project – The Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Town continued to wrestle with the scope for the proposed projects at this intersection, with no resolution reached by mid summer. The continued deterioration of the Route 17 bridge led VTrans to undertake a rehabilitation project on the old bridge in the late fall. These repairs, an approach which the Selectboard had previously recommended to VTrans, means that there will be several years for the community to see what traffic growth actually occurs before making a final determination about the intersection and bridge.

Town Constable – The Selectboard is placing an article on the Warning concerning the appointment of the Constable. This is currently an elected position, but statute allows voters to delegate this responsibility to the Selectboard. The Board is anticipating the future transition of personnel in our traffic patrol program through the Sheriff's Department and would like to have the flexibility to continue to coordinate these two roles. The office of elected Constable, while largely ceremonial and outdated, comes with law enforcement authority under state law regardless of whether the person has any training. By changing to an appointed Constable, there is a requirement for state certification as a part-time police officer in order to exercise law enforcement authority, and the Selectboard would be able to conduct an appropriate selection process and background check. Current Constable John Southwick has recommended the change to an appointed office. By law, this article must be voted by Australian ballot.

Butternut Hill Road/Mad River Streambank Stabilization Project – The Road Department and abutting property owners have been monitoring a river erosion situation along Butternut Hill Road for many years. A Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant was secured for a stabilization project. Property owners Jim and Marta Marble allowed use of their road/river frontage for the project. Kingsbury Construction completed the work in accordance with the design prepared with the assistance of the State's stream alteration program staff. A second grant was obtained from the Winooski Conservation District in the amount of \$5,000. Total project cost was \$23,970, with all but \$274 covered by the two grants.

Road Department – For our road crew, 2003 came in like a lion and went out like a lion. For the preceding winter season (Oct. 2002 to April 2003), our crew was out a record 89 times for winter maintenance, as compared to an average season of about 55. December ended the year with two record snowfalls (in the top ten recorded Vermont snowstorms). In February of 2003, the Village Covered Bridge was hit by a delivery truck, and the Town recovered a \$20,948 insurance settlement for the needed repairs. While such accidents have been greatly reduced since the posting of stop signs at each end of the bridge, this particular accident was the most severe in memory. Following the major repaving project on North and Tremblay Roads in 2002, the road

crew concentrated on general maintenance in 2003 including tasks such as ditching, tree & brush cutting, and resurfacing of several gravel roads. The summer season also saw the paving of the portion of Airport Road from Route 100 to the Mad River Park entrance road. For 2004 we are planning a major culvert replacement on Brook Road (a \$60,000 project with 80% grant funding), the repaving of Bragg Hill Road, and continued general maintenance. Your Road Department consists of Road Foreman Mike Ricker, Bob Smith and Richard Barton, with Charlie Goodman serving in the capacity of volunteer Road Commissioner.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elwin Neill, Jr., Chairman
Charles Hosford
J. LeRoy Hadden, D.V.M.
Paul Hartshorn
Sal Spinosa

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

In 2003 the Zoning Administrator issued a total of 117 zoning permits (zoning, variance, and conditional use), 39 Certificates of Occupancy, and 9 Subdivision permits. The 9 subdivision permits resulted in the creation of 16 new building lots, all in the Agricultural/Residential district. Of these permits there were 15 single family permits with a combined applied for value of \$4,200,000. There were 35 commercial permits issued. This activity is comparable to what has been happening in recent years.

In May of 2003 Shari Edmands took over the reigns as Zoning Administrator, from Susan Simpson who resigned after two years of very capable service. Shari brings a lot of related experience to this position and strives to be as helpful as possible with all applicants.

Waitsfield continues to experience growth at a projected rate of around 1.4% to 1.6% a year. At this time all of the residential growth is occurring in the Agricultural/Residential district. Growth, both commercial and residential, in Irasville and the Waitsfield Village Districts has been limited for various reasons. Chief among the reasons are strained water/sewage capabilities and wetland mitigation issues. Planning efforts dealing with these, and other infrastructure items, are underway and will hopefully resolve these sticky issues in the coming year.

Much of the year's planning effort has gone into the updating of the Waitsfield Town Plan. In the process of the rewrite it becomes apparent how much real progress has been made on the goals and tasks outlined in the current town plan, which was adopted in 1993 and minimally updated in 1998. Significant among these accomplishments are; the protection of the Forest Reserve District, zoning updates for the Waitsfield village business and residential district, acquiring the Historic Wait house, the senior center at Evergreen Place, the movement of the State Salt Shed and creation of the Lareau Swimhole park.

As work on the updated town plan proceeds the plan continues to support a vision for Waitsfield that accommodates a reasonable amount of growth, with diverse demographics, in a manner that preserves Waitsfield's heritage, its rural character and scenic beauty. To realize this vision appropriate policies and tools are cited in the updated plan that aim to channel a significant portion of the projected growth to Irasville, Waitsfield Village, and residential hamlets. The updated plan targets 50% of Waitsfield's projected residential growth to occur in the Irasville and Waitsfield Village districts. Achieving this goal will be required to take the development pressure off of Waitsfield's prime agricultural land and scenic resources. This objective of compact development is also essential to continuing to provide town services in a cost efficient manner.

The Waitsfield town plan is currently being publicly reviewed and discussed. This process, with public involvement, will continue to refine the plan with a target for adoption by the middle of this year.

On a sad note the Planning Commission lost its longest standing member, Bob Rose. Bob's dedication to Waitsfield, and his strong desire that Waitsfield's agriculture and scenic resources be preserved, kept these objectives clear and in the forefront of Planning Commission deliberations. He remains with us in spirit and it is my hope that he would be pleased with our future planning efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Reilly, Chairman

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment work hand in hand with the Zoning Administrator to administer the Town's Zoning Bylaws. The purpose of the Zoning Bylaws is to implement the current Waitsfield Town Plan. Changes to the Bylaws are initiated by the Planning Commission. While the Planning Commission is responsible for subdivision of land, planned residential development and planned unit development, the job of the ZBA is to review those special projects that require conditional use review including site plan review and /or variances. The ZBA meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month with special meetings called as required. During this year the ZBA, which originally consisted of five members, was increased in size to seven members. The members of the Board represent a cross section of the community. They represent the leadership view that we maintain a strong representation in keeping to the origins of the Waitsfield Town Plan.

During 2003, twenty-seven applications were received for review. Three are still pending in 2004. One multi-family project was denied and one project was withdrawn by the applicant. It should be noted that 88 applications were reviewed and approved by the Zoning Administrator without having to be presented to either board.

Simply put, the ZBA reviews non standard development that needs additional review in order to protect the Town from a level of development that is not in keeping with the goals of the Waitsfield Town Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
William Stinson, Chairman

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2002

	2002	2003
Grand List		
Municipal Grand List	1,620,243	1,656,465
Local & State Education Grand List	1,626,380	1,662,472
Tax Rate		
Municipal	.510	0.530
Local Education	0.811	0.970
State Education	1.209	1.300
Total Tax Rate	2.530	2.800
Taxes Billed		
Municipal	826,324	877,926
Local Education	1,318,994	1,612,597
State Education	1,966,294	2,161,213
Total Taxes Billed	4,111,612	4,651,736
Less Corrections and Adjustments	122	0
Net Taxes Due	4,111,734	4,651,736
Less Current Collections – 2003		(4,377,073)
Delinquent Taxes Referred to Collector – 2003		274,663

STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES

Beginning Delinquent Taxes Receivable	85,850.00
Amount turned over to Collector of Delinquent Taxes	274,663.00
Total Delinquent Taxes to be accounted for	360,513.00
Delinquent Tax Collections – 2002	(170,746.00)
Delinquent Tax Collections – Prior years	(75,689.00)
Abatement/Adjustments	(16.00)
Balance of Delinquent Taxes Receivable	114,062.00

DELINQUENT TAX LIST

DECEMBER 31, 2003

	2003	2002	PRIOR YEARS
Anderson, Ronald	4,138.40	879.62	
Armstrong, Dawn	92.40		
Armstrong, Dawn**	3,600.80	2,024.00	5,979.90
Arslanian, Marian	1,585.04		
Aylward, Gregory	1,841.00*		
Babcock, A. Judson	1,303.32		
Bahnsen, Raymond	1,323.00		
Bein Friends LP	13,116.04		
Bellusci, Michael	119.69*		
Boardsen, Bertram	3,656.80		
Bridgewater, John	1,108.80		
Canney, John	9.81*		
Chickadee Hill Farm	169.17*		
Christensen, Thore	1,047.20		
Clark, Chester	272.08		
Clark, Jamie	610.40		
Coleman, Jean	147.94		
Cooke, Christine	520.80	377.88	
Daneu, Jean	182.00		
Darrad Services Inc.	2,324.41		
Eurich, Elaine	2,061.21		
Farnham, Todd	389.02		
Freeman, A. Albert	627.20		
Gannon, Marjorie	366.80		
Gaylord, Hadley	878.94*		
Gerlach, Charles	1,539.38		
Jarecki, Eugene	4,323.20*		
Johnson, William	1,792.00		
Jones, Rodney	1,223.60		
Kent, Michael Trust	1,248.80*		
Kent, Michael Trust	1,069.60		
Kerr, Cathy	655.20		
Knaul, Lawrence	23.13*		
LaRochelle, Ray	587.20		
Mad River Valley Ventures	7,344.40		
Marquardt, Helen	2,368.80	896.37	
Marsh, John III	1,776.60		
McGowan, Elizabeth	21.39*		
Miller, Lester	484.40		
Moulton, George	114.80		

Mullany, Richard	4,304.78		
Pamucina, Dorothy	1,768.20		
Pierce, Victoria	593.60*		
Potter, Shari	1,201.20*		
Rogers, Allen	46.66		
Scharges, Robert	1,851.60		
Sharpe, James	1,200.00		
Swain, Virginia	78.04*		
Tardif, Jerry	217.80		
Trabant, Kirk Ann	96.14*		
Two Route Seventeen	10,687.60		
Valley Housing Association	6,886.60*		
Vecchione, Elia	18.94		
Vlahos, Konstantino	12.48		
Von Trapp, Bernhard	2,042.22		
Warner, Michael	2,951.23		
White, Kim	8.28*		
Yerks, Robert A.	3,873.66		
	<hr/>		
Totals as of December 31, 2003	103,903.80	4,177.87	5,979.90

*Paid Since December 31, 2003

**Under Bankruptcy Protection

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

2004 PROPOSED BUDGET

	ACTUAL 2002	BUDGET 2003	ACTUAL 2003	BUDGET 2004
TOWN MEETING				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Board of Auditors	0	100	90	100
Town Meeting	165	200	150	220
Town Report	3,571	3,700	3,539	3,800
TOTAL TOWN MEETING EXPENSES	3,736	4,000	3,779	4,120
LEGAL & AUDITING	47,128	30,000	23,646	25,000
TOWN OFFICE OPERATIONS				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Insurance & Bonds	7,828	7,800	7,175	7,200
Office Rent	18,500	19,100	19,100	21,455
Office Repairs	1,984	3,000	4,084	0
Postage	3,803	4,120	3,540	4,120
Supplies	4,619	4,700	6,059	4,700
Computer Services	1,617	2,100	1,445	2,100
Training	285	800	454	800
Cleaning	1,560	1,600	1,717	1,600
Equipment Maint. & Contracts	1,410	1,900	1,700	2,520
Telephone	2,145	2,500	2,305	2,625
New Office Equipment	3,569	3,300	1,665	3,800
Public Notice Expense	2,934	3,500	3,182	3,500
TOTAL TOWN OFFICE EXPENSES	50,256	54,420	52,426	54,420
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Town Clerk/Treasurer & Assistant	56,335	58,070	58,209	60,087
Tax Anticipation Interest	1,938	3,500	1,082	2,000
Ballot Clerks	744	250	319	900
<i>Subtotal Expenses</i>	<i>59,017</i>	<i>61,820</i>	<i>59,610</i>	<i>62,987</i>
<i>Revenues</i>				
Town Clerk Fees	33,597	25,000	42,013	28,000
Money Market Interest	6,626	8,000	5,202	6,000
Beverage Sale Permits	3,170	3,000	3,130	3,000
<i>Subtotal Revenues</i>	<i>43,393</i>	<i>36,000</i>	<i>50,345</i>	<i>37,000</i>
NET CLERK/TREASURER EXPENSES	15,624	25,820	9,265	25,987

	ACTUAL 2002	BUDGET 2003	ACTUAL 2003	BUDGET 2004
SELECTBOARD				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Selectboard Stipends	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,250
Town Administrator	45,015	46,000	46,000	47,300
TOTAL SELECTBOARD EXPENSES	48,265	49,250	49,250	50,550
PLANNING & ZONING				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Special Planning Projects	31,269	28,500	18,174	31,220
Town Plan	0	0	0	12,000
Zoning Administrator	24,009	34,300	30,864	35,000
<i>Subtotal Expenses</i>	<i>55,278</i>	<i>62,800</i>	<i>49,038</i>	<i>78,220</i>
<i>Revenues</i>				
Grants	15,900	19,200	10,388	20,220
Zoning Fees	14,554	15,000	16,737	15,500
<i>Subtotal Revenues</i>	<i>30,454</i>	<i>34,200</i>	<i>27,125</i>	<i>35,720</i>
NET PLANNING & ZONING EXPENSES	24,824	28,600	21,913	42,500
BOARD OF LISTERS				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Assessor's Contract	7,180	7,250	7,180	7,250
Computer Equipment/Services	520	500	2,234	1,000
Property Map Maintenance	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<i>Subtotal Expenses</i>	<i>8,700</i>	<i>8,750</i>	<i>10,414</i>	<i>9,250</i>
<i>Revenues</i>				
Act 60 Annual Support	7,623	7,600	7,644	7,600
NET LISTERS' EXPENSES	1,077	1,150	2,770	1,650
COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Collector's Fees	17,308	17,000	19,940	19,000
<i>Revenues</i>				
Penalty Fees	17,808	17,000	19,731	19,000
NET DELINQUENT TAXES EXPENSES	(500)	0	209	0

	ACTUAL 2002	BUDGET 2003	ACTUAL 2003	BUDGET 2004
ROAD DEPARTMENT				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Labor	101,732	102,000	103,044	108,000
Equipment Operations & Repairs				
Insurance	4,733	4,700	4,584	4,600
Gas, Oil, Grease	2,846	1,500	1,733	2,500
Diesel	9,624	10,000	10,846	10,000
Dodge One Ton 1996	2,229	0	0	0
Int'l. Dump Truck 1994	8,116	6,500	3,471	1,500
Int'l. Dump Truck 1997	4,311	4,500	2,611	4,500
Int'l Low Profile Truck 2002	3,038	500	3,751	3,000
2004 New Dump Truck	0	0	0	1,500
Cat. Loader 1994	2,192	2,000	669	2,000
Galion Grader 1998	12,697	2,000	2,125	2,000
Cat. Backhoe 1992	1,025	4,500	2,697	3,000
Garage Expense	11,687	14,300	14,453	14,000
Chipper & Rake	8	500	384	500
Plow Blades/Shoes/Chains	2,510	3,000	4,298	3,000
<i>Subtotal Equipment Operations Expenses</i>	65,015	54,000	51,622	52,100
Hired Equipment & Labor				
Roadside Mowing	3,190	3,500	3,695	4,000
Sidewalk Mowing	2,205	2,500	3,233	2,500
Sidewalk Plowing	3,500	3,500	3,500	4,500
Trail Maintenance	500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Personnel Mileage	0	0	0	2,000
Other Equipment Rental	1,596	3,000	2,465	3,000
<i>Subtotal Hired Equip. & Labor Expenses</i>	10,991	14,000	14,393	17,500
Materials				
Salt	28,357	20,000	25,291	20,000
Sand	43,929	40,000	50,866	40,000
Chloride	8,329	9,000	7,681	9,000
Bank Run Gravel	0	5,000	2,557	5,000
Crushed Gravel	13,335	40,000	26,134	40,000
Stone	291	500	1,194	500
Culverts	17	1,200	0	1,200
Tools	276	1,500	504	1,500
Signs	1,569	1,500	354	1,500
Fabric	0	500	0	500
Cold Patch, Hay & Seed	1,675	1,500	967	1,500
<i>Subtotal Materials Expenses</i>	97,778	120,700	115,548	120,700

	ACTUAL 2002	BUDGET 2003	ACTUAL 2003	BUDGET 2004
Miscellaneous				
Fayston Winter Agreement	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Moretown Maintenance Support	450	0	0	0
Tree Cutting	650	1,000	0	1,000
Bridge Repairs	676	2,000	18,962	14,400
Paving Bond (East Warren Rd)	108,310	104,205	104,205	0
Paving Note (North & Tremblay Rds)	25,989	25,000	24,625	126,360
Airport Road Paving	0	18,000	21,887	0
Bragg Hill Road Paving	0	0	0	15,000
Pavement Crack Sealing	7,000	5,000	5,000	7,500
Sidewalk Repair	812	2,500	10	0
Culvert & Road Inventory	0	0	0	2,500
Street & Covered Bridge Lights	5,527	5,500	5,346	5,500
Radios & Pagers	1,145	1,000	440	1,000
Training	124	300	225	300
<i>Subtotal Miscellaneous Expenses</i>	-153,682	167,505	183,700	176,560
<i>Subtotal Road Department Expenses</i>	429,199	458,205	468,307	474,860
Revenues				
State Aid for Highways	62,129	62,000	64,974	65,000
Insurance Reimb. Bridge Repair	0	0	20,948	0
Misc. Road Dept. Income	710	0	631	0
<i>Subtotal Revenues</i>	62,839	62,000	86,553	65,000
NET ROAD DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	366,360	396,205	381,754	409,860
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS				
<i>Expenses</i>				
FICA/Medicare	19,155	20,200	21,023	21,750
Retirement	10,758	11,500	11,724	12,500
Unemployment	362	460	460	547
Workers Compensation	5,678	5,700	7,461	9,000
Health & Flexible Benefits	23,392	27,500	28,740	34,750
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXP.	59,345	65,360	69,408	78,547

	ACTUAL 2002	BUDGET 2003	ACTUAL 2003	BUDGET 2004
FIRE DEPARTMENT				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Gas, Oil, Grease	382	400	674	650
Insurance	3,802	4,000	3,420	4,000
Telephone & Communications	14,373	15,000	14,920	15,000
Electricity	1,573	2,000	1,714	2,000
Heat	2,813	3,000	3,065	3,500
Building Repairs/Supplies	1,235	1,000	843	1,000
Truck Repairs	4,224	5,000	825	5,000
Equipment Repairs	832	500	461	500
Photo & Supplies	68	100	221	100
Bottled Gas	196	300	471	500
Training	452	2,500	539	1,000
Hose & Equipment	5,966	5,000	4,727	5,000
Fire Prevention	580	500	587	500
Miscellaneous	295	200	59	500
Dues	310	300	345	350
Physical Exams	1,575	1,500	1,800	1,800
Fire Dept. Labor/FICA/Medicare	9,194	10,000	9,078	9,700
<i>Subtotal Expenses</i>	47,870	51,300	43,749	51,100
<i>Revenues</i>				
Fire Dept. Income (Fayston)	19,412	20,520	19,244	20,440
Sale of Equipment	0	0	1,200	0
<i>Subtotal Revenues</i>	19,412	20,520	20,444	20,440
NET FIRE DEPARTMENT EXPENSES	28,458	30,780	23,305	30,660
POLICE PROGRAM				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Sheriff's Department Billings	16,099	18,000	16,366	21,528
Police Cruiser Purchase	7,606	0	23,187	7,500
Gasoline	1,411	1,500	2,119	2,007
Repairs/Maintenance	544	1,200	1,467	1,560
Insurance	551	550	495	500
Miscellaneous	0	500	25	520
Equipment	3,541	750	157	750
<i>Subtotal Expenses</i>	29,751	22,500	43,816	34,365
<i>Revenues</i>				
Traffic Fine Income	25,247	19,000	22,008	21,000
Sale of Equipment	0	0	5,000	0
Police Cruiser Note	0	0	14,000	0
Misc. Income	2,018	2,000	3,401	3,360
<i>Subtotal Revenues</i>	27,265	21,000	44,409	24,360
NET POLICE PROGRAM EXPENSES	2,486	1,500	(593)	10,005

	ACTUAL 2002	BUDGET 2003	ACTUAL 2003	BUDGET 2004
DUES & ASSESSMENTS				
<i>Expenses</i>				
CV Regional Planning Commission	1,410	1,410	1,410	1,410
Joslin Memorial Library	8,000	8,400	8,400	9,195
Mad River Solid Waste Alliance	2,903	2,903	2,903	2,903
Mad River Valley Planning District	19,100	19,100	19,100	19,100
Mad River Valley Recreation District	7,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
Mad River Transit bus purchase	0	6,250	6,250	0
Vt League of Cities & Towns	1,078	1,362	1,362	1,460
Washington County Tax	22,250	22,509	22,509	22,282
TOTAL DUES & ASSESS. EXPENSES	62,241	71,934	71,934	66,350
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS				
Battered Women's Services & Shelter	375	350	350	350
CV Community Action Council	300	300	300	300
CV Council on Aging	866	866	866	866
CV Economic Development Corp.	800	800	800	800
CV Home Health & Hospice	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Green Up Vermont	100	100	100	100
Mad River Valley Health Center	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Senior Citizens Programs	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500
Onion River Arts Council	200	0	0	200
People's Health & Wellness Clinic	100	100	100	100
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	300	300	300	300
Sexual Assault Crisis Team	250	0	0	250
Vt Center for Independent Living	620	620	620	620
Vt Children's Aid Society	500	500	500	500
Washington County Youth Services	750	750	750	750
Woman Centered	250	250	250	0
TOTAL SPECIAL APPROP. EXPENSES	11,711	11,736	11,736	11,936
MISCELLANEOUS				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Dog Warden Salary & Fees	1,155	900	960	900
Dog Pound Fees	750	300	250	300
Maintenance of Parks	4,700	4,000	3,789	4,000
Sugarbush/Munn Site Note	24,643	23,000	23,010	22,260
Community Share School Maint.	31,793	45,610	45,610	47,206
Cemeteries - Veteran's Flags	19	100	270	100
MRVTV Hearing Coverage	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Prior Year Tax Adjustments	3,168	0	0	0
Other	12,837	500	5,566	500
Subtotal Expenses	81,064	76,410	81,455	77,266

Revenues

Dog Fine & Impoundment Fees	905	400	425	400
State Forest Land Payment	1,717	1,700	1,717	1,700
Current Use Hold Harmless Payment	24,069	24,000	26,623	26,000
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	10,537	10,000	12,278	11,000
Other	8,236	0	10,298	0
<i>Subtotal Revenues</i>	45,464	36,100	51,341	39,100

NET MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	35,600	40,310	30,114	38,166
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SPECIAL ARTICLES*Expenses*

Equipment Reserve Fund	35,000	35,000	35,000	37,500
Fire Dept. Reserve Fund	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Restroom/Recreation/Conservation	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Gen Wait House school/ski storage shed	0	0	0	3,500
Rt. 100 Transportation Path Reserve	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Street Tree Planting & Maintenance	2,000	1,500	1,500	2,000
Reappraisal Reserve	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Ballot Programming	0	0	0	1,200
Tax Increment Finance Dist. Application	0	0	0	15,000
TOTAL SPEC. ARTICLES EXPENSES	92,000	86,500	86,500	109,200

TOTAL BUDGET

Total Operating Budget Expenses	1,010,869	1,045,485	1,058,508	1,097,971
Total Special Article Expenses	92,000	86,500	86,500	109,200
Total Non-tax Revenues	254,258	234,420	307,592	248,220
NET TOTAL EXPENSES	848,611	897,565	837,416	958,951

BEGINNING YEAR CASH BALANCE	42,806	26,650	26,650	46,373
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TAX REVENUES

Current Taxes	749,553	870,915	787,412	912,578
Delinquent Taxes	82,902	NA	69,727	NA
NET RAISED BY TAXES	832,455	870,915	857,139	912,578

YEAR END SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	26,650	0	46,373	0
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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
PROJECTS:						
Financed by Reserve Funds:						
Replace 94 Dump Truck	90,000					
Replace 97 Dump Truck				90,000		
Replace 92 Backhoe			50,000			
Replace 94 Bucket Loader						75,000
Town-wide Reappraisal	25,000	25,000	25,000			
Rt. 100 Trans. Path (Town 10% only)	5,000	95,000				
Financed by Borrowing:						
Village Water System		4,000,000				
Village Sewage System		6,000,000				
New Municipal Building				500,000		
Financed by Operating Funds:*						
Replace Salt Shed			20,000	20,000		
Total Annual Project Costs:	120,000	10,120,000	95,000	610,000	75,000	
CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESERVES:*						
Fire Truck Reserve	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Road Department:						
Trucks	27,500	27,500	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Heavy Equipment	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Restroom/Recreation/Conservation	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Reappraisal Reserve	15,000	15,000	15,000			
Street Trees Reserve	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Gravel Reserve	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Rt. 100 Transportation Path	15,000	25,000				
Total Annual Reserve Costs:	93,500	109,500	87,000	72,000	72,000	72,000
DEBT SERVICE REPAYMENTS:*						
Sugarbush/Munn Site Purchase	22,250	22,500	22,000			
North-Tremblay Rds Paving Note	126,500	125,000				
2002 Fire Truck Note	4,080					
General Fund Portion Water & Sewer			45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Municipal Building Bond					40,000	40,000
School Addition Bond (thru 2011)	46,680	44,640	41,535	39,450	37,350	35,250
Total Annual Debt Service:	199,510	192,140	108,535	84,450	122,350	120,250
TOTAL ANNUAL C.I.P. COSTS:*	293,010	301,640	215,535	176,450	194,350	192,250

*NOTE: Total Annual Capital Improvement Program Costs include funds from operating year budget, contributions to reserve funds and debt service repayments.

LONG TERM INDEBTEDNESS

Sugarbush/Munn Property Purchase

Original Date of Borrowing - December 20, 2000

Note Balance December 31, 2002	\$84,000
Principal Repayment - December 20, 2003	(\$21,000)

Balance December 31, 2002 - Chittenden Bank (Due 12/16/04 2.0% Interest Rate)	\$63,000
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Road Improvement - Paving East Warren Road

Original Date of Bond Sales - July 23, 1998

Loan Balance December 31, 2002	\$100,000
Principal Repayment - December 1, 2003	(\$100,000)

Balance December 31, 2003 - Vermont Bond Bank	\$0
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Capital Equipment - Fire Truck

Loan Balance December 31, 2002	\$19,000
Principal Repayment - December 3, 2003	(\$15,000)

Note Balance December 31, 2003 - Chittenden Bank (Due 12/04/04 Interest Rate 2.0%)	\$4,000
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Road Improvement - Paving North & Tremblay Roads

Original Date of Borrowing - December 4, 2002

Loan Balance December 31, 2002	\$248,000
Principal Repayment - December 2, 2003	(\$5,000)

Note Balance December 31, 2003 - Chittenden Bank (Due 12/02/04 Interest Rate 2.0%)	\$243,000
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Capital Equipment - 2003 Police Cruiser

Original Date of Borrowing - December 28, 2003

Loan Balance December 31, 2002	\$0
Loan Proceeds - December 28, 2003	\$14,000

Balance December 31, 2003 - Chittenden Bank (Due 12/28/04 Interest Rate of 2.0%)	\$14,000
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Municipal Water and Sewer Planning

VT-EPA State Revolving Loan Fund - loaned to the Town without interest. Water repayable over five years following completion of the feasibility study. Sewer repayable over 10 years following the completion of the feasibility study.

Water

Loan Balance December 31, 2002 \$122,114

Amount drawn from \$138,750 Loan for Municipal Water \$16,636

Loan Balance December 31, 2003 - Water \$138,750

Sewer

Loan Balance December 31, 2002 \$240,644

Amount drawn from \$327,500 Loan for Municipal Sewer \$40,667

Loan Balance December 31, 2003 - Sewer \$281,311

TOWN RESERVE FUNDS

EQUIPMENT RESERVE

Balance December 31, 2002	\$89,936
Deposits	\$53,000
Interest Earned	\$756
Withdrawals	(\$15,397)
	\$128,295
Balance December 31, 2003	\$128,295

Allocations:

Road Department-Trucks

Balance December 31, 2002	\$36,437
Deposits	\$25,000
Interest Earned	\$310
Withdrawals	\$0
	\$61,747
Balance December 31, 2003	\$61,747

Road Department-Heavy Equipment

Balance December 31, 2002	\$51,614
Deposits	\$10,000
Interest Earned	\$430
Withdrawals	\$0
	\$62,044
Balance December 31, 2003	\$62,044

Fire Department

Balance December 31, 2002	\$1,885
Deposits (includes sale of old fire truck \$3000)	\$18,000
Interest Earned	\$16
Withdrawals (Pumper Loan repayment)	(\$15,397)
	\$4,504
Balance December 31, 2003	\$4,504

GRAVEL RESERVE FUND

Balance December 31, 2002	\$67,188
Deposits	\$0
Interest Earned	\$522
Withdrawals	(\$926)
	\$66,784
Balance December 31, 2003	\$66,784

RESTROOM, RECREATION & CONSERVATION RESERVE

Balance December 31, 2002	\$53,969
Deposits	\$5,000
Interest Earned	\$361
Withdrawals (Tardy Property)	(\$15,000)
Balance December 31, 2003	\$44,330

ROUTE 100 TRANSPORTATION PATH RESERVE

Balance December 31, 2002	\$39,085
Deposits: 2003 Appropriation	\$15,000
State Reimbursements	\$42,044
Interest Earned	\$217
Withdrawals	(\$35,399)
Balance December 31, 2003	\$60,947

LAREAU PARK IMPROVEMENT RESERVE

Balance December 31, 2002	\$5,891
Revenue (Donation)	\$5,000
Interest Earned	\$43
Withdrawals	(\$278)
Balance December 31, 2003	\$10,656

STREET TREES RESERVE

Balance December 31, 2002	\$1,709
Deposits	\$1,500
Interest Earned	\$6
Withdrawals	(\$2,486)
Balance December 31, 2003	\$729

APPRAISAL RESERVE

Balance December 31, 2002	\$15,011
Deposits	\$15,000
Interest Earned	\$113
Withdrawals	(\$13,446)
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2003	\$16,678

OTHER TOWN FUNDS**GENERAL WAIT HOUSE MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT**

Balance December 31, 2002	\$6,867
Rental Income	\$15,250
Interest Income	\$0
Operating Expense	(\$16,444)
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2003	\$5,673

RECORDS RESTORATION

Balance December 31, 2002	\$6,750
Receipts (\$1/page of Recording Fees)	\$4,989
Restoration Expense	(\$1,599)
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2003	\$10,140

BELDEN FUND

(for the Town Clock at the Waitsfield United Church of Christ)

Balance December 31, 2002	\$1,588
Interest Income	\$30
	<hr/>
Balance December 31, 2003	\$1,618

WAITSFIELD-FAYSTON FIRE DEPT GRANTS

FEMA Grant for Equipment

Grant Revenue - Balance December 31, 2003 \$40,682

Expenditures through December, 2003 (\$40,682)

Balance December 31, 2003 \$0

Homeland Security Grant for Equipment

The Fire Department was awarded a sub-grant from the Homeland Security Unit in the amount of \$6,439 for equipment. A portion of the equipment was purchased in 2003 and will be reimbursed in 2004.

Grant Revenue - 2003 \$0

Expenditures (\$1,188)

Balance December 31, 2003 (\$1,188)

TOWN CAPITAL PROJECTS

MUNICIPAL WATER & SEWER FEASIBILITY STUDY VERMONT STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (SRF)

In 1998, the Town of Waitsfield applied to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VANR) for State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans to undertake planning and engineering for municipal water and wastewater systems. The systems are being considered for serving the Irasville and Waitsfield Village portions of the town. The State Revolving Fund is funded primarily by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These loans are at zero percent interest, and repayment of the loan principal is almost always made as a part of the overall construction financing package for such projects. If all planning and engineering work on the projects is terminated and no future planning is anticipated, the loans are repayable over five years following completion of the water study and over ten years following completion of the sewage study. Please refer to the Selectboard's narrative report for further information about the status of these projects.

Municipal Water Feasibility Study Loan

Total loan funds available December 31, 2002	\$138,750
Loan amendments #3&4, Sept. 2003 (pending)	\$46,417
Total loan funds available December 31, 2003 (pending)	\$185,167
Loan funds advanced as of December 31, 2002	\$122,114
Amount drawn on loan for 2003 Expenditures	\$16,636
Subtotal	\$138,750
Amount requisitioned for remaining 2003 Expenditures (pending Amend. #3&4)	\$27,624
Loan Balance December 31, 2003	\$138,750
Special Project Fund Balance December 31, 2003	(\$27,624)
Total anticipated Loan Balance	\$166,374

Municipal Wastewater Facilities Study Loan

Total loan funds available December 31, 2002	\$327,500
Total loan funds available December 31, 2002	\$327,500
Loan funds advanced as of December 31, 2002	\$240,644
Amount drawn on loan for 2003 Expenditures	\$40,667
Loan Balance December 31, 2003	\$281,311

ROUTE 100 TRANSPORTATION PATH PROJECT

In 2001, the Route 100 Transportation Path Project began the final design phase with the hiring of a municipal project manager to oversee the project. In 2002, the final design engineering team was hired, and final design work begun. Conceptual planning for the project was completed between 1996 and 1999. This project is being funded with 90% assistance through the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Beginning in 1997, the Town has set aside a total of \$75,000 in reserve funds for this project. Please see the project reserve fund report for further information about the fund's status. Additional contributions are included in the Capital Budget for the years 2004 and 2005 to go toward the Town's projected share of the project. Please refer to the Selectboard's narrative report for further information about the status of the project.

TARDY LAND CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Town acquired a 6 +/- acre parcel of land from Astrid Tardy, located between Route 100 and the Mad River at their juncture with the Route 100 bridge south of Irasville. The Town contributed \$15,000 from the Restroom, Recreation and Conservation Reserve Fund toward the costs of this purchase. The costs included a purchase price of \$60,000, various closing costs and an environmental assessment. The remainder of the project funding was provided by several local citizens, donation of legal services, and grant funding obtained by the Vermont Land Trust and the Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership. The Vermont Land Trust was deeded conservation covenants on the parcel as part of the transaction.

BUTTERNUT HILL ROAD – MAD RIVER STABILIZATION PROJECT

A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant was secured for a streambank stabilization project on Butternut Hill Road. The FEMA grant covered 75% of project construction costs plus an administrative allowance. The local share was largely covered by a \$5,000 grant from the Winooski Conservation District, from penalties set aside by the State regarding the Phenn Basin matter. Total project cost was \$23,970. Grant checks of \$18,696 (FEMA) and \$5,000 (WCD) were received in the later part of 2003, leaving a project balance of \$274 to be charged to the Town General Fund.

REAPPRAISAL PROJECT

In 2003, the Town contracted for a town-wide reappraisal to be completed for the April 1, 2006 Grand List. The base contract price is \$80,000, plus additional expenses for computer equipment and software, and expenses related to tax appeals. The Town began a reserve fund for the reappraisal in 2002, and is setting aside \$15,000 per year to cover the project. 2003 expenses totaled \$13,446. Please see the project reserve fund report for further information about the fund's status.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Town has two long term loans receivable as a result of a 1999 Vermont Community Development Program Grant, which funded two affordable housing projects at the VerdMont Mobile Home Park and the Evergreen Place Senior Citizens Center. Repayments of the loans from these projects to the Town will be re-usable for community development eligible activities subject to the negotiation of a close-out agreement with the Vermont Community Development Program in 2007. These two notes receivable are due as follows:

Evergreen Place Senior Citizens Center:

Mortgagee: Evergreen Place, Inc. (this note was originally issued to the Mad River Valley Senior Citizens, Inc., and was transferred to EPI in 2002)

Principal Amount of Note: \$150,000

Interest Rate: 0%

Payment Schedule: 24 annual payments of \$6,250 beginning April 2007.

VerdMont Mobile Home Park:

Mortgagee: Central Vermont Community Land Trust

Principal Amount of Note: \$115,000

Interest Rate: 0%

Payment Schedule: \$20,000 due January 2019, with 14 annual payments of \$6,786 beginning January 2020.

TOWN CLERK**STATEMENT OF FEES COLLECTED**

Recording	28,608
Search	836
Copies	4,774
Permit Fees	1,040
Marriage/C.U. Licenses (Net of State Fees)	441
Passport/Misc. Fees	2,215
Dog Licenses (Net of State Fees)	1,713
 Total Fees Collected	 39,626
 Vital Records:	
Births	23
Deaths	11
Marriages	53
Civil Unions	6
 Number of Dog Licenses Issued:	 349

VITAL STATISTICS

2003 Deaths

February 4	E. Donald Benoit	84
February 6	Dorothy L. Carpenter	79
March 6	William Otis Wallis	94
April 30	Barbara M. Huggins	71
May 1	Harry L. Keown	85
June 9	Owen Allan Wimble	82
July 21	Bert A. Hellman	96
September 10	Mabel Schenk	90
October 2	Abraham L. Miller	57
October 16	Kathryn H. Palmer	93
October 19	Joseph A. Casey	75

2003 Births

January 21	Winter Tarburton Haberle	Mark D. Haberle
		Sandra L. Tarburton
January 22	Kennedy Mikael Kelaher	Kasey M. Kelaher
		Carole A. Stephenson
January 24	Molly Anne Hans	Peter L. Hans
		Susan J. Walker
February 9	Ayla Sky Fidel	Jamey D. Fidel
		Rachel L. Rosenblum
February 10	Julia Kathryn Brophy	Jere W. Brophy
		Lynne H. Hagen
March 17	Sage Amanda Devereux	William P. Devereux
		Jane A. Lynch
April 16	Mary Margaret Curley	William G. Curley
		Jennifer Seline
April 18	Myles Curtis Fisher	Curtis W. Fisher
		Alison J. Holmes
April 18	Jessica Marie Farnham	Todd A. Farnham
		Sondra L. Carden
April 20	Kelci Annmarie Greenslit	Miles A. Greenslit
		Sharon M. Patno
May 18	Natasha Lynn Nelson	Brooks A. Nelson
		Kristen J. Beers
May 20	August Ryan Peterson	Erik K. Peterson
		Jennifer Ryan
June 2	Grace Buckland Moore	Brett A. Moore
		Sydney A. Buckland

June 30	Henry Piper Lowe	A. Wesley Lowe III Suzanne E. Mays
July 30	Jacob Connor True	David J. True Beth Anne Cochran
September 14	John Richard Cady III	John R. Cady Jr. Zoanne Kangas
September 25	Maxwell Anthony Spaulding	Jonathan L. Spaulding Jodi L. Garofano
October 5	Lillian Ruth Cadwell	Cecil W. Cadwell Jr. Elizabeth Whitehead
October 27	Alexandra Ann Lawton	Alexander R. Lawton Kirsten A. Seibert
October 31	Jordan Roberto Grimaldi	Bruno G. Grimaldi Sharon M. Dube
November 9	Brennen Lane Dasaro	Robert A. Dasaro Stephanie L. Brackin
November 17	Anna Noelle Liston	Benjamin W. Liston Erin R. Rausenberger
December 5	Cameron Shea Gaidys	Michael C. Gaidys Gina M. DiNicola

2003 Marriages

January 5	David J. Mulley, NC to Heidi K. Ludewig, NC
January 25	Ray P. Morris Jr., TN to Donna G. Fields, TN
February 1	Michael R. Grillo, NY to Patricia Diaz, NY
February 24	Charles V. Surette, CT to Martina C. Verhoeven, CT
March 3	Michael K. Byrd, TN to Donna L. Keeney, TN
March 22	Seth W. Brennan, MA to Elizabeth A. DeWinter, MA
May 12	Christopher S. Kamont, Waitsfield to Carrie A. Grab, Waitsfield
May 25	Thomas D. Henry II, DC to Lucy K. Roberts, DC
May 25	Stephen G. Costallos, CT to Diane A. Chilko, CT
June 4	John M. Pece, Waitsfield to Leigh A. Milne, Waitsfield
June 14	David E. Robbins, MA to Elizabeth G. Tiemann, MA
June 20	Tyler C. Simones, LA to Catherina L. Baxter, LA
June 21	Jonathan N. Robinson, MA to Pennie E. Edgren, MA
June 21	Henry F. Meissner, CA to Melanie L. Buerkle, CA
June 21	Emanuel Glin, MA to Natalie E. Haight, MA
June 21	Walter R. Thomas Jr., CT to Elizabeth R. Hicks, CT
June 28	Raymond R. LaRochelle, Waitsfield to Brenda A. Shea, Waitsfield
June 28	Ian Whitmarsh, DC to Jennifer L. Muskopf, DC
June 28	Mathew M. Millett, MA to Danielle M. Driscoll, MA
June 28	Piero A. Bonamico, Waitsfield to Andrea L. Maas, Waitsfield

July 5	Brian C. Buczek, Waitsfield to Samantha M. Law, Waitsfield
July 19	James G. Damon, MA to Jean L. Richards, Waitsfield
July 19	Matthew J. Ferrari, PA to Emily S. Von Trapp, Waitsfield
July 26	Robert S. Howe, MA to Lee A. Hawke, MA
July 26	Kenneth J. Olsen, NH to Sarah B. Delfausse, NH
July 26	Leonard A. Lucas, MA to Susan E. Overman, MA
August 2	Bradley E. Long, Waitsfield to Jessica M. Przystawski, Waitsfield
August 9	Peter V. Pomerantz, Waitsfield to Sara L. Kaminski, Waitsfield
August 16	Matthew N. Kane, MA to Julie R. Lane, MA
August 23	Christopher S. Badger, Waitsfield to Leslie A. Cockburn, Waitsfield
August 24	Cary S. Kogan, Canada to Isabelle Boutet, Canada
August 30	Craig L. Robinette, MA to Jennie J. Taubenheim, MA
August 31	Ethan H. Jessup, MA to Sara K. Schaeffner, MA
September 6	Michael J. Fiaschetti, Waitsfield to Sheila Maunsell, Waitsfield
September 6	Daniel Martell, PA to Megan L. Bedford, PA
September 13	Christopher E. Carlson, NY to Rebecca H. Beaudin, NY
September 13	Eoin J. Theobald, NY to Emily Thomas, NY
September 13	Christopher R. Parsons, OR to Anne M. Dandurand, OR
September 13	Jeremy M. O'Mara, MA to Kerrie E. Clark, MA
September 20	Marc R. Hammond, UT to Jennifer A. Ludlow, UT
September 20	William M. Siegel, NY to Sara M. Kantor, NY
September 21	Michael A. Swartz, CT to Donna M. Sweidan, CT
October 4	Thomas G. Macy, PA to Elizabeth A. Glascott, PA
October 4	Thorsten Kramer, CO to Rebecca J. West, CO
October 4	Paul A. Schilling, NC to Megan R. Sharlow, NC
October 7	Cleon Moores, Canada to Connie J. Chaulk, Canada
October 11	Andre G. A. Gressieux, MA to Keliagh S. Culpepper, MA
October 11	Brett A. Nardini, MA to Erika K. Ayers, MA
November 1	David M. Eggers, MA to Lise A. Weig, MA
November 8	Joseph C. Cuccinelli Jr., MA to Melissa A. Crowe, MA
November 15	Matthew E. Semco, NJ to Stacy L. Baker, NJ
December 21	Robert D. Easley, Waitsfield to Shelby E. Guggemos, Waitsfield
December 29	Troy E. Symonds, Bermuda to Tona N. Douglas, Bermuda
December 30	Bernard P. Gibson Jr., VA to Barbara J. Gauthier, VA

2003 Civil Unions

January 12	Karl D. Klein, Waitsfield to John M. Lumbra, Waitsfield
May 3	Margherita G. Macaluso, NY to Kelly A. Donovan, NY
May 27	David T. Cantaffa, NY to Anthony J. Laulette, NY
May 31	Susan P. Elias, ME to Virginia A. Purcell, ME
September 2	Kathryn A. Hill, CA to Marilyn A. Legan, CA
September 8	Michelle M. McMullin, IL to Kathryn B. Hailer, IL

WILLIAM YACAVONI
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

93 Barre Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Tel. 229-9978

Fax 229-4836

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Selectboard
Town of Waitsfield, Vermont
Waitsfield, Vermont 05673

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont prepares its financial statements on the cash basis which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances of the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont, as of December 31, 2003, and the revenue it received and expenditures it paid for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued my report dated January 15, 2004 on my consideration of the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont internal control over financial reporting and my tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of my audit.

Selectboard
Town of Waitsfield, Vermont

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My audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying financial information listed as schedules in the Table of Contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of the Town of Waitsfield, Vermont. The information in these schedules has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in my opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.



William Yacavoni
Certified Public Accountant
License # 92-0000153
Montpelier, Vermont
January 15, 2004

Exhibit A

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD, VERMONT
 COMBINED STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES
 AND FUND EQUITY
 (ARISING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS)
 ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS
 DECEMBER 31, 2003

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES		FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES			ACCOUNT GROUPS			Total (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Funds	Expendable Trust Funds Belden Fund	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt			
ASSETS									
Cash - Note 2	\$544,773	\$ 35,468	\$327,139	\$ 1,618	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 908,998	
Due from Other Funds - Note 4	45,943	10,140	0	0	0	0	0	56,083	
Loans Receivable - Note 8	0	265,000	0	0	0	0	0	265,000	
Property and Equipment - Note 1	0	0	0	0	1,742,144	0	0	1,742,144	
Amount to be Provided for the Retirement of Long-Term Debt	0	0	0	0	0	744,061	0	744,061	
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$590,716</u>	<u>\$310,608</u>	<u>\$327,139</u>	<u>\$ 1,618</u>	<u>\$1,742,144</u>	<u>\$744,061</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$3,716,286</u>	
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY									
Liabilities:	\$ 29	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 29	
Payroll Withholdings Payable	180,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	180,000	
Due to School District	10,140	29,067	16,876	0	0	0	0	56,083	
Due to Other Funds - Note 4	354,177	0	0	0	0	0	0	354,177	
Due to State - Education Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deferred Revenue - Note 8	0	265,000	0	0	0	0	0	265,000	
Notes Payable - Note 3	0	0	0	0	0	744,061	0	744,061	
Total Liabilities	<u>544,346</u>	<u>294,067</u>	<u>16,876</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>744,061</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,599,350</u>	

Fund Equity:									
Investment in Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0	1,742,144	0	1,742,144	0	1,742,144
Fund Balances:									
Reserved - Note 7	0	10,868	232,823	1,618	0	0	0	0	245,309
Unreserved:									
Designated - Note 7	0	5,673	77,440	0	0	0	0	0	83,113
Undesignated	<u>46,370</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>46,370</u>
Total Fund Equity	<u>46,370</u>	<u>16,541</u>	<u>310,263</u>	<u>1,618</u>	<u>1,742,144</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,742,144</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,116,936</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	<u>\$590,716</u>	<u>\$310,608</u>	<u>\$327,139</u>	<u>\$ 1,618</u>	<u>\$1,742,144</u>	<u>\$744,061</u>	<u>\$1,742,144</u>	<u>\$744,061</u>	<u>\$3,716,286</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

WAITSFIELD-FAYSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department continues to operate under agreement of the Towns of Waitsfield and Fayston, with a 60% - 40% cost sharing arrangement. The Department responded to 60 calls in 2003 as follows:

Calls by town:

Waitsfield calls	31	51.67%
Fayston call	28	46.67%
Warren calls	1	1.67%
Moretown calls	0	0%

Calls by type:

Structure fire	0	Utility assistance	6
Structure fire w. mutual aid	1	Furnace/electrical malfunction	5
Chimney fire	5	Propane leak	2
Hazardous spill	1	Fire alarm/smoke & CO2 detector	14
Vehicle fire	1	Arson	4
Woodland fire	1	Hazardous conditions	2
Mutual Aid Assist	1	Good intent call, no fire	7
Motor vehicle accident assist	10		

Firefighters worked hard this year with departmental training, including mutual training with the Warren Fire Department concerning water relay. One firefighter is attending the State funded 140-hour firefighter school. The new truck purchased last year has proven to be a valuable piece of equipment. The Department was awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security for just under \$7,000 to purchase a high & low frequency radio, enabling us to communicate with any agency responding to any emergency situation in the state. Also, the grant will pay for a cascade system to fill air bottles faster, and an automatic emergency difibulator and reference books regarding hazardous materials.

Officers for 2003 were:

Chief	Delbert Palmer (Waits.)
1 st Asst. Chief	Gordon Eurich (Waits.)
2 nd Asst. Chief	Paul Hartshorn (Waits.)
Captain	Jack Corliss (Fays.)
Lieutenant	Owen Wimble, Jr. (Waits.)
Lieutenant	Travis Michaud (Waits.)
Secretary	Renee Michaud (Waits.)
Treasurer	Gordon Eurich (Waits.)
Moderator	Eric Haskin (Waits.)
	Rick Peterson (Fays.)

Active Firefighters:

Robert Aldred (Waits.)
Arnold Burbank (Waits.)
Bruce Howard (Fays.)
Scott Howard (Fays.)
Leon Holle-Ensalada (Waits.)
Bob Lockett (Fays.)
Lester Miller, Jr. (Waits.)
Michael Munn (Fays.)
Ramsey Orr (Waits.)
Kevin Van Schaick (Waits.)

Junior Firefighters:

Shilo Howard (Fays.)
Alison Kernan (Fays.)

Respectfully Submitted,
Delbert Palmer, Chief

WAITSFIELD CEMETERY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT 2003

Funds Available - January 1, 2003

Checkbook Balance - Howard Bank	4,404.36
Equipment Reserve Fund-CD-Northfield Savings Bank	8,181.66
	12,586.02

Income - 2003

New Perpetual Care Funds	1,200.00
Sale of Lots	780.00
Care of Lots	15.00
Sale of Cornerposts	300.00
Burials	1,750.00
From Trustees	22,375.00
Interest of CD	329.85
Flags Reimbursement	29.88
Installment Payments of Lots	657.00
Total Income	27,436.73

Funds Available - 2003	40,022.75
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Disbursements - 2003

Tardy Contract	20,000.01
Purchase of Corner posts	225.00
To: Trustees- Perpetual Care Fund	1,700.00
To: Trustees- Lot Fund	1,095.00
Treasurer of Trustees	225.00
Treasurer of Commission Expense	2,000.00
Shed & Fence Repair	136.04
Miscellaneous-Flags, Flowers-Lime	345.27
Bank charges - BankNorth	74.21
VT Cemetery Association	130.00
Burials	975.00
Total Expenditures	26,905.53

Funds Available Less Expenses	13,117.22
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Funds Available - January 1, 2004

Checkbook Balance-Howard-Bank	4,605.71
Equipment Reserve Fund -CD-Northfield Savings-Bank	8,511.51
	13,117.22

CEMETERY TRUST FUNDS

2002 Earning & Expense Statement

EARNINGS:

Stock Dividends	6,211.50	
Mutual Fund	4,395.56	
Corporate Bond Interest	4,772.62	
Money Market Interest	73.29	
Total Earnings		15,452.97

EXPENSES

Grant to Commissioners	22,375.00	
Total Expense		(22,375.00)
LOSS		(6,922.03)
NEW FUNDS		1,700.00
NET LOSS		(5,222.03)

ANALYSIS OF CHANGE IN FUNDS

Individual Funds 1-1-2003		416,872.17
Income	15,452.97	532,325.14
Less Expense	(22,375.00)	409,950.14
New Funds	1,700.00	411,650.14
Loss From Transactions	(8664.34)	
Individual Funds 12-31-03		402,985.80
	2002	2003
INDIVIDUAL FUNDS	416,872.17	402,985.80

CEMETERY LOT FUND

A G Edwards & Son 1-1-03		8,804.40
New Funds	1,095.00	
Savings Interest	81.16	
Paid to Commissioners	0.00	
A G Edwards & Son 12/31/03		9,980.56

WAITSFIELD CEMETERY TRUST**Investments December 31, 2002**

MONEY MARKET FUNDS	13,500.01
MUTUAL FUNDS (At Cost)	63,761.22
COMMON STOCKS (At Cost)	269,242.62
CORPORATE BONDS (At Cost)	56,481.95

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2002	2003
Common Stock (At Cost)	257,007.76	269,242.62
Mutual Funds (At Cost)	95,820.99	63,761.22
Money Market Funds	7,597.24	13,500.01
Corporate Bonds (At Cost)	56,446.18	56,481.95
Total Assets	416,872.17	402,985.80

JOSLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

This last year has been eventful and rewarding.

The big event was our 90th anniversary celebration, held on the Wait House lawn under a huge tent, with Peter Joslin impersonating the founder George Joslyn, Fletcher Joslin telling us about this wonderful family, and Chris Bohjalian sharing his reverence for the book with all of us. If you missed this, borrow the video we have.

Thanks in part to the Vermont Public Library Foundation, funded by the Freeman Grant, we made progress in several areas. Most of these were one-time projects—repaired steps with a central railing provide safety; overhead fans keep us cooler in summer and warmer in winter with reversed blades. The skylight has been cleaned, comfortable chairs improve meetings and new shelving extends our book capacity.

Of long term interest is the staffing of the library to provide improved service. Saturday is now our most active day; the cost of the library assistant for this time has been a large part of the increase in this year's budget. Last year we offered adult programs once a month; we may continue this program under another grant.

This year's VPLF grant amounts to \$5,000. At this writing (January) plans for the use of this money are being debated. A new computer, audio books in CD format, improvement of the office and public computer space are among the suggestions.

We are aware that an increased budget in these times will meet some resistance. We appreciate the financial support from Fayston, and are trying for a similar contribution from Moretown. About 12% of our patrons come from each of these towns.

Special thanks are due the Friends of the Library; contributions from their membership provided the expenses of the Anniversary celebration this year, and annually reduce the amount of tax support needed from the town.

And above all we want the community to know that without the volunteer corps, our budget would indeed be far higher. They work at the desk and on the computer, file cards, add new books and discard old, update the web site and the patron data base. Their contribution provides a substantial saving to the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Howlett, Librarian

Email: waitsfield@dol.state.vt.us

Web site: www.joslinmemoriallibrary.com

JOSLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS REPORT 2003

Cash in Checking	\$6,124.63
Transfer from Repair Escrow	\$1,282.50

Ordinary Income/Expense
Income

300	Town of Waitsfield	\$27,500.00	
301	Town of Fayston	\$4,600.00	
302	Patron Contributions	\$1,120.00	
303	Conscience	\$510.50	
304	Lost or Damaged Books	\$210.99	
305	Postage Income	\$22.00	
306	Copies	\$408.15	
307	Sale of Books	\$85.25	
325	Interest Income-Howard Bank	\$184.42	
326	Interest Income-Howard Bank	\$ 9.82	
327	Interest Income-Northfield SB	\$202.45	
328	Interest Income-Northfield SB	\$619.39	
329	Friends of the Library	\$3,000.00	
330	Patron Deposits	\$200.00	
331	Computer Use Donations	\$167.00	
332	Misc. Income	\$19.99	
Total	Income	\$38,859.96	\$38,859.96

TOTAL CASH	\$46,267.09
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Expenses

401	Adult Fiction	\$3,829.98	
402	Adult Non-fiction	\$1,633.19	
411	Juvenile Fiction	\$473.26	
412	Juvenile Non-fiction	\$315.58	
413	Easy	\$774.85	
421	Books on Cassette-Adult	\$1,189.99	
422	Books on Cassette-Juvenile	\$94.36	
431	CD Rom's	\$105.58	
450	Library Supplies	\$795.08	
450.1	Office Supplies	\$693.74	
451	Postage	\$774.00	
451	Mileage	\$69.18	
453	Periodicals	\$547.54	
457	Maintenance & Repairs	\$5,432.79	
458	Electricity	\$1,397.12	

459	Fuel	\$3,016.20	
460	Telephone	\$279.43	
462	Copier	\$1,083.61	
463	Tape Repairs	\$53.75	
475	Staff Salaries	\$19,855.29	
476	Payroll Tax Expense	\$42.47	
477	Dues & Memberships	\$81.00	
479	Computer & Supplies	\$698.73	
485	Bank Charges	\$172.08	
490	Misc. Expense	\$186.50	
565	Programs	\$387.07	
Total	Expense	\$43,982.37	\$43,982.37
Other	Income		
332.1	State of Vermont Grant	\$100.00	
350	Celebration Donations	\$1,700.00	
355	Larsen Grant	\$1,850.00	
Total	Other Income	\$3,650.00	\$3,650.00
Other	Expense		
497	Freeman Grant Books-Prev.YR	\$332.60	
500	Celebration Expenses	\$1,621.45	
501	New Computer-Larsen Gift	\$1,031.00	
502	World Book-Larsen Gift	\$849.00	
503	Special Program- VT Grant	\$125.00	
Total	Other Expense	\$3,959.05	\$3,959.05
Cash as of December 31, 2003			\$1,975.67

JOSLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**Trust Fund Report
2003**

HOWARD BANK		
Cash in Checking		\$1,975.67
Certificate of Deposit		\$20,000.00
McGrath Fund CD		\$1,755.80
Savings Account		
	1/1/2003	919.65
Interest on CD Savings	23.02	\$942.67
Joslin Repair Escrow		
	1/1/2003	1851.21
Interest 11/01/02 to 10/31/03	7.96	
Less Transfer to Checking	-1282.50	
Balance 12/31/03		\$576.67
Northfield Savings Bank		
Geo. A. Joslin Book Fund		
	1/1/2003	12176.30
Interest to 12/31/03	173.62	
Transfer to Checking	-173.62	
Balance 12/31/03		\$12,176.30
Wallis Book Fund CD		
	1/1/2003	25000.00
Interest to 12/31/03	658.04	
Transfer to Checking	-658.04	
Balance 12/31/03		\$25,000.00
Geo. A. Joslin Repair Fund		
	1/1/2003	8842.44
Interest to 12/31/03	43.04	
Balance 12/31/03		\$8,885.48
Building Fund		
	1/1/2003	0.00
Patron Gift-Reba Hall Estate	5000.00	
Interest to 12/31/03	20.04	
Balance 12/31/03		\$5,020.04
TOTAL INVESTEMENTS 12/31/03		\$76,332.63

JOSLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**Freeman Grant Fund
2003**

Year 2 Fund Balance 1/1/03		\$9,980.99
EXPENSES		
Adult Program Services	\$600.56	
Bank Charges	\$20.05	
Hand Rail	\$1,300.00	
Library Staff Salaries	\$1,913.16	
Lighting	\$650.00	
Book Return Box, Display Bookcase and Shelving	\$1,993.13	
Programming-Children's Services	\$475.04	
Skylight Refurbishing	\$1,600.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,551.94	\$8551.94
Year 2 Fund Balance 12/31/03		\$1,429.05

WAITSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission was created by action of the voters at last years town meeting and after interviewing the many applicants the Select Board appointed Mark Grosby, Paul Hartshom, Philip Huffman, Ted Joslin and Kristen Rose Lacy to serve as the first commissioners.

Starting with our first meeting in August, the commission has pursued two primary activities. Determining which town owned lands should be stewarded by the commission and building a database of local resources and land data.

The commission has requested that six parcels be initially assigned for stewardship: Tardy lot (6 acres), Austin parcel (5), Scrag mountain municipal forest (360), Donny Joslin forest (20), High Bridge Brook lot (3) and the Baked Beads conservation easement (10).

The commission has been communicating with the many existing organizations that are working to conserve land in the Mad River Valley to avoid duplicating the work that these fine organizations have done and to establish a town specific data base that the commission can use to evaluate conservation proposals and prioritize the town's conservation efforts.

The commission looks forward to starting its stewardship duties in the coming year, assisting the planning commission with the conservation portions of the new town plan and continuing its work with local conservation organizations.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Grosby, Chairman

WAITSFIELD TREE BOARD

The Tree Board is continuing progress on the Waitsfield tree planting project.

Extensive pruning was done on Rte. 100 this past summer and a Pat Moore Ash was planted on Rte. 100 in front of the Wait Farm Inn.

The board is continually seeking funds for further beautification of the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Sherman

Vince Gauthier

Charles Hosford

WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING WAITSFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT - 2004

The inhabitants of the Town School District of Waitsfield who are legal voters in the Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Waitsfield Elementary School in the Town of Waitsfield on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at 1:00 P.M. to act on the following matters:

- Article I: To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.
- Article II: To hear and act upon reports of the Town School District.
- Article III: To set salaries, if any, that shall be paid to the officers of the district.
- Article IV: To authorize the Board of School Directors of Waitsfield Town School District to borrow money by issuance of notes in anticipation of revenue to pay the expenses of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005.
- Article V: To authorize expenditure for the Town School District of such a sum of money as is deemed necessary for the support of schools in specific amounts for deficits, if any, for current expenses, capital improvement or other lawful purposes for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2005.
- Article VI: To authorize the use of the FY 2003 unreserved Fund Balance totaling \$8,270 by depositing it in the Building Reserve Fund.
- Article VII: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Board of School Directors

Christopher Brynga, Chairman

Wrenn Compere

Melissa Shea

Valerie Snapp

Rob Williams

**CONDENSATION OF MINUTES
OF ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL
DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 4, 2003**

- ARTICLE I To elect a moderator for the ensuing year. Peter Joslin was elected by unanimous voice vote.
- ARTICLE II To hear and act upon reports of the Town School District. Various reports were reviewed and discussed.
- ARTICLE III To set salaries, if any, that shall be paid to the officers of the district. Salaries of \$900 for Treasurer and \$300 for School Directors were approved by voice vote.
- ARTICLE IV To authorize the Board of School Directors of the Waitsfield Town School District to borrow money by issuance of notes in anticipation of revenue to pay the expenses of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004. Approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- ARTICLE V To authorize expenditure for the Town School District of such a sum of money as is deemed necessary for the support of schools in specific amounts for deficits, if any, for current expenses, capital improvements, or other lawful purposes for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2004. A gross school expenditure of \$1,559,084 was approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- ARTICLE VI To authorize the use of the FY 2002 unreserved Fund Balance totaling \$20,069 by applying the entire amount towards the FY 2004 budget. Approved by unanimous voice vote.
- ARTICLE VII To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Various comments and concerns were heard.

WAITSFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The following is a report of the progress and present status of your school:

Elementary Enrollment as of October, 2003:

Grade	Preschool	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
# Students	21	20	14	22	25	20	24	22	168

Secondary Enrollment as of October, 2003:

Grade	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
# Students	20	24	22	17	14	15	112

Professional Staff List 2003-2004

Teacher	Position	Certification
Carol Hosford	Principal	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Georgeanne Baker	Primary Unit	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Ann Beattie	Primary Unit	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Nina Brennan	French	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Sylvia Chapman	Intermediate Unit	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Sue Dillon	Nurse	Level I Beginning Ed. Lic.
Raymond Drake	Physical Education	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Ellen Drysdale	Librarian	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Dan Easley	Guidance	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Betsy Eckfeldt	Early Education	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Arlene Elliott	Learning Specialist	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Daniel Greenleaf	Intermediate Unit	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Jeremy Hill	Music	Level I Prof. Ed. Lic.
Taylor Hubbard	Primary Unit	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Lynne Kingsbury	Primary Unit	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Kay Marcelle	Technology	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Kara Quinn	Intermediate Unit	Level 1 Prof. Ed. Lic.
Sarah Sausville	Art	Level 1 Prof. Ed. Lic.
Leigh Stockton	Speech-Language	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Lee Van Dine	Intermediate Unit	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.
Tom Young	Primary Unit	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic.

The year began with a special presentation by the Chuck Meese, Director of the Red Wing Theater and his son. The hilarious puppet show and magical stunts captivated the students and made a nice transition from summer to the school year. PTA, which had funded the show, also provided a coffee for parents.

Staff

There were a few changes in personnel this year. Ann Beattie continues to teach reading, and math in the primary unit during the morning. This has enabled us to create smaller groupings in these important areas, a strategy which has been very successful, as indicated by the sharp improvement in DRA scores. Ann's professional salary was covered by local funds, Medicaid funds, and money from Title I. She also is doing a job share with Georgeanne Baker the equivalent of two days a week. Jeremy Hill is our new music teacher and Sarah Sausville is our new art teacher. Resource Room assistants include new additions Polly Moore and Heidi Nishi, who works as a speech assistant. Katie Westhelle and Barb Morrison share an individual assistant's position.

Action Plan

Each year, the school is required by Act 60 to develop an Action Plan to guide school improvement. The Action Plan is based primarily on test data. This year, the staff met in September to review last year's progress toward goals and to consider new directions. Target areas include reading, grammatical conventions, math problem solving, and positive school climate - an ongoing goal. Last year's test results indicated that goals had been met in the 2nd grade DRA reading test, all portions of the 4th grade NSRE's, the 5th grade PASS science test, and the 5th and 6th grade SAT 9's. The 3rd grades failed to meet the target goals.

Math problem solving is an ongoing challenge for all schools in the state. Waitsfield School has helped support four teachers in taking courses to attain their MA in mathematics and the teaching of math. These teachers have spearheaded an effort to begin scoring math portfolio scoring in the primary unit, beginning in kindergarten. The discussions are proving very fruitful, and the students are getting feedback on what goes into a good solution for a math problem. This should help our students become more proficient by 4th grade.

The Waitsfield Elementary School Mission Statement states, "The Waitsfield Elementary School community of students, staff, and parents is committed to providing a physically and emotionally safe learning environment, fostering academic, social and emotional growth, and nurturing a sense of belonging in all its members." One new initiative in striving to meet the goals of our Action Plan is a year long study by staff members of students with a variety of challenges and learning styles in hopes that better understanding will lead to better serving the children as well as helping the school community as a whole develop tolerance for differences. In addition to this staff study, a "tolerance week" was held in November. Students were asked to sit with children other than their best friends and to carry on focused discussions. The purpose of the activity was to make it possible to get to know students with whom they might not normally interact.

Accountability

The new federal educational law, "No Child Left Behind," dictates that schools will make steady progress toward goals established by the state, leading to all children

meeting a standard across all areas of testing. Vermont has responded by hiring groups of teachers to work through last year to establish grade level expectations in all tested areas. These GLE's, as they are known, start with the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities and define in some detail exactly what students should know at each grade level. The State has also established yearly targets to make sure that all students are on track by 2014. Results are based not only on total population scores, but also are disaggregated to look at the results for students by gender, on IEP's, receiving free or reduced hot lunch, and by ethnicity. All groups of our students exceeded the expected accountability targets. In general, scores were high enough last year to meet goals established for 2011-2012. However, results will differ from grade to grade, so must be looked at over several years of test data.

The State Department of Education has sent us figures on our standing in state required tests as compared to the other "large" schools in the state, which we defined as schools testing 20 or more students. The standings are as follows:

Test	Grade	Standing
Developmental Reading Assessment	2	10th of 125 schools (tie)
NSRE Reading, Basic Understanding	4	4th of 116 schools (tie)
NSRE Reading: Analysis & Interpretation	4	5th of 116 schools
NSRE Writing Effectiveness	4	2nd of 116 schools
NSRE Writing Conventions	4	2nd of 116 schools
NSRE Math Concepts	4	8th of 117 schools (tie)
NSRE Math Skills	4	4th of 117 schools (tie)
Math Problem Solving	4	33rd of 117 schools

We are extremely proud of our students and their fine results. It should also be noted that although comparisons with other schools were not available, 90% of our 5th graders met or exceeded the standard in the PASS science test. This compares with the state average of 46% of the students meeting or exceeding the standard.

Awards

Over the summer, the school received a Medallion Award from the Business Roundtable recognizing Waitsfield School as one of the top elementary schools in the state. This is the second time that the school has won this honor, the first time being in 2000.

The Arts

Waitsfield students have had many opportunities to view outstanding performances and to take part in music, art, and drama. Thanks to collaboration with other schools in the Valley and the support from PTA, students have seen the Tuvan Throat singers, a group from Siberia who can sing two notes at once. This group evoked the sounds of the animals, water, and wind of the Russian steppes. The group also went to Moretown to see an excellent Karelian quartet comprised of two fathers who are skilled musicians and their children. Our students particularly liked the chance to see

students their age playing so skillfully, and to listen to unusual instruments, including a variety of "flutes" made from pipes, a cow horn, home made bagpipes, and kantela. Another excellent opportunity was the chance to see "Silk Road" a group of singers of Chinese music. The three performers, two of whom were raised in China, sang music unfamiliar to our ears, yet made it accessible to the students.

This year we have been able once again to offer drama workshops for students in grades 1-4, with about half the eligible students participating. In the spring, we will be doing our popular annual play with students in grades 5 and 6. Band numbers have risen markedly, with two thirds of the eligible students taking an instrument and playing in the band.

Health and Nutrition

We continue to focus on good nutrition. Under the guidance of Polly Moore our "healthy snacks food bar" continues. Three days a week, students are able to buy nutritious snacks such as cheese, fresh fruits and fruit leathers, cider, yogurt, and whole grain snack bars at cost. Thanks to Sue Dillon, who began the snack bar, Polly, who continues on with the work, and many parents, the snack bar has been open three days a week. Students have been enthusiastic about the program; as a side benefit, they are also learning how to calculate how to spend the money they have brought for snacks.

Health screenings for vision, hearing, height, weight, and blood pressure were completed by November; referrals were sent home, as appropriate. Sue also organized weekly fluoride treatments for those students whose parents wanted them to participate. Again, parent volunteers made the program possible.

Community Service

Community service is an important part of each child's education. It is, in fact, part of the new social studies curriculum. Efforts this year included doing work around the school yard and playground, outreaches to the Senior Citizens, support for needy students in Central Vermont and support of the local "Food Shelf."

PTA

Our very active PTA has once again played a significant role in the life of our school. Using funds earned by their single fund raiser, the ski and skate sale, PTA has supported a wide variety of initiatives in the school. Among these are funds for our Artist-in-Residence program, which brought muralist Sarah Lee Terrat to the school last year. They have also sponsored curriculum nights, funded trips to the Flynn Theater as well as supporting other field trips, purchased books for the library, responded to staff requests for materials and special events, and hosted a staff appreciation breakfast. In addition, they have supported our efforts to provide better food for our children by buying a commercial refrigerator for the kitchen and funding the improvement of the soil in the school garden. This year, thanks in part to PTA, our students have seen performances by Russian and Chinese musical groups.

Technology

In a world marked with increasing change, exploding information growth, and evolving technologies, our education system is challenged to provide learning opportunities that produce technology-capable students. This summer, several teachers from Waitsfield School joined with educators from area schools in a Multimedia graduate course taught by Kay Marcelle, Technology Coordinator at Waitsfield School and instructor for Saint Michael's College. They expanded their skills in taking and editing digital images and digital video. Also during the summer, Waitsfield School hosted an i-movie workshop for area students taught by Channel 44's Adam Tyksinski.

Students working with Mr. Greenleaf and Mrs. Marcelle earned national recognition for a project in which they created 30 second Public Service Announcements. The announcements aired on local television and are posted at Apple Computer's web site. Thanks to a grant from Exxon Mobil's Village Grocery and Small Dog Electronics, the school received a computer enhancing the capacity to edit digital video.

Facilities

Although our facility is in generally good shape, we have made some improvements in the course of the year. These include replacing worn carpet in three classrooms, replacing the tile at the south entrance to the school and in the bathrooms, and replacing the windows and rotting window sills at the south end of the building.

Thanks to Waitsfield!

The staff, board, and administration would like to offer our thanks to the citizens, to our many volunteers, and to the road crew of the Town of Waitsfield who have continued to support our excellent educational program and help us keep our facility up to date.

Respectfully Submitted By:

The Waitsfield Board of School Directors

Christopher Brynga, Chairperson

Wrenn Compere, Board Member

Melissa Siner Shea, Board Member

Valerie Snapp, Board Member

Carol Hosford, Principal

Bob Gerardi, Superintendent

John Pike, Business Manager

Rob Williams, Board Member

ANGOLANO & COMPANY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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SHELburnE, VERMONT 05482

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FAX (802) 985-9442

LOCATED AT:
2834 SHELburnE ROAD

DAVID H. ANGOLANO, CPA
HEATHER L. ANGOLANO, CPA
DAVID J. ANGOLANO

Independent Auditors' Report

To The School Board
Waitsfield School District

We have audited the accompanying general-purpose financial statements of Waitsfield School District, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, as listed in the table of contents. These general-purpose financial statements are the responsibility of Waitsfield School District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general-purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The general-purpose financial statements referred to above do not include the General Fixed Assets Account Group which should be included in order to conform with generally accepted accounting principles. The amount that should be recorded in the General Fixed Assets Account Group is not known.

In our opinion, except for the effects on the general-purpose financial statements of the omission described in the preceding paragraph, the general-purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Waitsfield School District, Vermont, as of June 30, 2003, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 31, 2003 on our consideration of Waitsfield School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general-purpose financial statements of Waitsfield School District, Vermont taken as a whole. The combining and individual fund and account group financial statements and schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the general-purpose financial statements of Waitsfield School District. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general-purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, except for the effects on the general, special revenue, and capital projects funds of the omission described in the preceding paragraph, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the general-purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

Angolano & Company

Angolano & Company
Shelburne, Vermont
Firm Registration Number 92-0000141

July 31, 2003

Waitsfield School District
 Combined Balance Sheet
 All Fund Types and Account Groups
 June 30, 2003

EXHIBIT I

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Type	Account Groups	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Agency Funds	General Long-Term Debt	
ASSETS:						
Current Assets:						
Cash	\$ 58,944			\$ 31,442		\$ 90,386
Accounts Receivable - State	7,596					7,596
Accounts Receivable - Supervisory Union	8,878					8,878
Accounts Receivable - Other	8,989					8,989
Prepaid Expenses	8,255					8,255
Due From Other Funds	77	\$ 8,270	\$ 38,535	-	-	44,882
Total Current Assets	90,839	8,270	38,535	31,442	\$ -	167,088
Other Assets:						
Amount to be Provided for:						
Early Retirement Incentive					8,445	8,445
Accrued Vacation & Leave Time					124	124
Retirement of Long-term Debt					345,400	345,400
Total Other Assets					353,969	353,969
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 90,839	\$ 8,270	\$ 38,535	\$ 31,442	\$ 353,969	\$ 521,055
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITIES:						
Liabilities:						
Accounts Payable - Other	\$ 20,572					\$ 20,572
Accrued Expenses	1,401				124	1,525
Due To Other Funds	44,805	\$ 77				44,882
Amount Held for Agency Funds				\$ 31,442		31,442
Early Retirement Incentive Payable					8,445	8,445
Note Payable					75,400	75,400
Bond Payable					270,000	270,000
Total Liabilities	68,778	77	\$ -	31,442	353,969	452,268
Fund Equity:						
Fund Balance - Unreserved	3,992	(77)				3,915
Fund Balance - Reserved	20,069	8,270	38,535			64,874
Total Fund Equities	24,061	8,193	38,535	-	-	68,789
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITIES	\$ 90,839	\$ 8,270	\$ 38,535	\$ 31,442	\$ 353,969	\$ 521,055

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Waitsfield School District
 Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and
 Changes in Fund Balances
 All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Funds
 For The Year Ended June 30, 2003

EXHIBIT II

	Governmental Fund Types				Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	
REVENUES:					
Property Taxes	\$ 1,319,781				\$ 1,319,781
Tuition	450				450
Interest on Investments	11,971				11,971
Rental Income	31,793				31,793
Private		\$ 8,051			8,051
State	1,824,452				1,824,452
Federal	43,193	11,318	-	-	54,511
TOTAL REVENUES	3,031,640	19,369	\$ -	\$ -	3,051,009
EXPENDITURES:					
Direct Services	1,971,748	2,347			1,974,095
Support Services:					
Students	73,124				73,124
Instructional Staff	36,033				36,033
General Administration	30,460				30,460
Area Administration	112,119				112,119
Fiscal Services	17,415				17,415
Operation & Maintenance of Building	104,426		20,048		124,474
Transportation	36,363				36,363
Lunch Program	5,490				5,490
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement				45,080	45,080
Interest Charges				21,695	21,695
Other Outlays	633,864	11,305	-	-	645,169
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,021,042	13,652	20,048	66,775	3,121,517
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	10,598	5,717	(20,048)	(66,775)	(70,508)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
Transfers In (Out)	(68,775)	-	-	66,775	-
EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	(56,177)	5,717	(20,048)	-	(70,508)
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1, 2002	81,658	2,476	56,583	-	140,717
Prior Period Adjustment	(1,420)	-	-	-	(1,420)
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30, 2003	\$ 24,061	\$ 8,193	\$ 36,535	\$ -	\$ 68,789

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

WAITSFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL YEAR 2004 - 2005 BUDGET PROPOSAL

	2002-2003 BUDGET	2002-2003 ACTUAL	2003-2004 BUDGET	2004-2005 PROPOSED	PERCENT CHANGE
1100 REGULAR EDUCATION					
Salaries	551,341	555,636	576,840	587,233	
Benefits & Staff Development	131,613	145,777	162,549	169,226	
Materials and Equipment	53,775	41,222	59,833	73,968	
TOTAL REGULAR EDUCATION	736,729	742,635	799,222	830,427	3.90%
1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION & ESSENTIAL EARLY EDUCATION					
Salaries	69,692	69,706	83,266	87,983	
Benefits & Staff Development	19,783	16,742	22,140	20,896	
Spec. Ed. Contracted Services	17,270	19,326	62,000	56,065	
Transportation	-	10	100	1,000	
Materials and Equipment	2,800	3,393	7,370	3,850	
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION	109,545	109,177	174,876	169,794	-2.91%
1250 COMPENSATORY EDUCATION					
Salaries	28,295	28,248	29,099	30,115	
Benefits & Staff Development	7,387	7,598	8,663	9,127	
Materials and Equipment	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL COMPENSATORY EDUCATION	35,682	35,846	37,762	39,242	3.92%
2120 GUIDANCE SERVICES					
Salaries	15,395	15,395	15,466	16,285	
Benefits & Staff Development	2,376	2,461	2,626	1,556	
Contracted Services & Supplies	300	92	300	315	
Psychological Services	2,700	-	2,700	2,700	
TOTAL GUIDANCE SERVICES	20,771	17,948	21,092	20,856	-1.12%
2130 HEALTH SERVICES					
Salaries	12,766	12,835	13,608	18,230	
Benefits & Staff Development	1,070	1,085	1,176	1,868	
Contracted Services & Supplies	500	337	500	1,555	
TOTAL HEALTH SERVICES	14,336	14,257	15,284	21,653	41.67%
2150 SPEECH SERVICES					
Salaries	30,622	28,142	37,678	42,227	
Benefits & Staff Development	10,056	10,553	14,764	15,025	
Contracted Services & Supplies	700	2,224	900	1,845	
TOTAL SPEECH SERVICES	41,378	40,919	53,342	59,098	10.79%
2210 IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION					
In-service	2,800	3,735	2,800	7,300	
TOTAL IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTION	2,800	3,735	2,800	7,300	160.71%

	2002-2003 BUDGET	2002-2003 ACTUAL	2003-2004 BUDGET	2004-2005 PROPOSED	PERCENT CHANGE
2220 EDUCATION MEDIA					
Salaries	23,475	24,804	20,674	24,792	
Benefits & Salary Development	4,011	3,885	2,555	3,648	
Materials & Equipment	4,539	3,609	4,539	5,737	
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL MEDIA	32,025	32,298	27,767	34,177	23.09%
2310 BOARD EXPENSE	7,014	5,943	7,014	7,603	8.40%
2321 WASH. W. GEN'L ASSESSMENT	24,517	24,517	29,348	31,998	9.03%
2400 ADMINISTRATION					
Principal & Secretary Salaries	92,452	92,908	94,749	97,568	
Benefits & Staff Development	17,534	17,157	22,922	21,212	
Postage, Supplies & Equipment	2,250	2,054	2,250	2,523	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	112,236	112,119	119,921	121,303	1.15%
2520 FISCAL SERVICES					
Business Management	4,867	4,867	5,894	6,477	
Payroll & Accounting Services	10,598	10,598	13,319	14,921	
Audit	1,800	1,950	4,600	4,876	
TOTAL FISCAL SERVICES	17,265	17,415	23,813	26,274	10.33%
2600 MAINTENANCE					
Salaries	41,007	41,516	45,686	50,433	
Benefits & Staff Development	16,194	15,972	21,224	20,753	
Building Supplies & Operations	56,682	46,938	62,078	72,265	
TOTAL MAINTENANCE	113,883	104,426	128,989	143,451	11.21%
2710 DAILY TRANSPORTATION	29,070	29,070	30,930	32,881	6.31%
2720 FIELD TRIPS TRANSPORTATION	3,300	2,998	3,300	3,300	0.00%
5100 DEBT SERVICE					
Principal	45,000	45,080	45,080	48,850	
Interest	21,930	21,695	20,401	17,583	
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	66,930	66,775	65,481	66,433	1.45%
5500 FOOD SERVICE	9,351	9,785	7,223	9,684	34.07%

	2002-2003 BUDGET	2002-2003 ACTUAL	2003-2004 BUDGET	2004-2005 PROPOSED	PERCENT CHANGE
TOTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COSTS	1,376,831	1,369,863	1,548,163	1,625,474	4.99%
HARWOOD SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT	7,921	7,921	7,921	-	-100.00%
VOCATIONAL TUITION	2,925	5,045	3,000	6,518	117.26%
TOTAL WAITSFIELD REQUEST	1,387,677	1,382,829	1,559,084	1,631,992	
Block grant paid by State to tech centers in prior years	6,512	6,512	5,810	-	
Act 68 Local Adopted Budget	1,394,189	1,389,341	1,564,894	1,631,992	4.29%
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL COSTS					
Harwood Assessment	1,071,123	1,071,124	1,134,256	1,288,123	13.57%
Gross Act 68 Budget	2,465,312	2,460,465	2,699,150	2,920,115	8.19%
LESS REVENUES:					
Local Revenue	43,793	43,764	55,610	53,610	
Tuition	-	450	-	-	
Prior Year Fund Balance	61,589	61,589	20,069	3,915	
State Categorical & Special Ed Grants	239,208	226,705	255,411	272,836	
Federal Revenue	32,320	43,193	36,899	46,865	
Total Local Revenues	376,910	375,701	367,989	377,226	2.51%
Capital Debt Aid	42,967	42,968	35,581	-	
Total Revenues	419,877	418,669	403,570	377,226	-6.53%
Education Spending (Act 68 Definition)	2,045,435	2,041,796	2,295,580	2,542,889	10.77%
Equalized Pupils	243.93	243.93	250.07	262.65	5.03%
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	8,385	8,370	9,180	9,682	5.47%
District spending adjustment (\$9,612 / \$6,800)				142.377%	
Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized (141.352% x \$1.05 - assumes passage of H.540)				\$1.495	
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)		88.60%	82.96%	77.10%	
Anticipated homestead tax rate (equalized rate / CLA - assumes passage of H.540)				\$1.939	

Note - H.540, a technical corrections bill relating to Act 68, includes provisions which reduce the base homestead tax rate from \$1.10 to \$1.05 and the base non-homestead tax rate from \$1.59 to \$1.54; additionally, H.540 uses the most recent CLA to determine the actual tax rates for FY05

Annual Report *of* Student Performance Results *for the* 2003 School Year

Introduction

How do our students measure up? Can they meet challenging state and national standards for student performance? What are we doing to improve the results? What do we know about their health and social well being?

Continuing our practice of the last few years, we are presenting the following report in order to provide at least partial answers to these important questions.

At the Waitsfield School, students in grades 2 through 6 are tested annually using tests provided by the State of Vermont Department of Education and by McGraw Hill. We use the information we get from these assessments to improve what we teach.

We are careful to avoid over-reliance on test data, however. The results of a group test show only one part of the picture of an individual student's work and potential. I hope you will read the descriptions of the various assessments used, and consider the limits of their usefulness.

December, 2003

**WAITSFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GENERAL INFORMATION
2002-2003 Data**

Average Class Size
K - 6 16.3

Total Enrollment
Pre-K-gr. 6 168

Special Services % of total enrollment
Students with Individualized Educational Plans 14.3%
504 Plans 2.7%
Title 1/Remedial Programs 10.2%

Staff
Professional Teachers 13.75 FTE
Instructional Assistants 4.8
Administrator 1
Secretary 1.3

Professional Teachers' Salary
Waitsfield Average \$40,557 (2001-2002)
Vermont Average \$ 39,166*(2001-2002)

Length of School Year
Student Days 175
Teacher Days 184

Length of School Day
Kindergarten 3.3 hours
Grades 1-6 6.75 hours

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEALTH & SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN IN WAITSFIELD

Source: VT Dept Education School Report ('01-'02 data)

Waitsfield Elementary School	Waitsfield	Vermont
Students eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch	22.2%	25.2%
Families eligible for Food Stamps	8%	10.4%
Adjusted Gross Income per exemption *	\$24,488	\$19,020
Median Family Income (for Joint & Head of Household) *	\$53,263	\$44,069
Adults in Waitsfield with at least some post- secondary education (2000 data)	72.2%	NA
Attendance Rate	96.6%	97.4%

2001-2002 Data

Other Washington West Communities	Fayston	Warren	More- town	Thatcher Brook
Students eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch:	7.2%	25.2%	22%	22.6%
Families eligible for Food Stamps:	.7%	4.2%	3.6%	4.5%
Adjusted Gross Income (1998)	\$23,455	\$23,270	\$21,305	\$22,315
Median Family Income (1998)	\$55,461	\$52,527	\$50,366	\$54,067
Adults with at least some post-secondary education	80.1%	73.8%	60.1%	62.8%

Action Plan

In the summer and fall of 2001, a committee of teachers, board members, and parents reviewed student performance on these tests, and wrote an "action plan for school improvement" – identifying a few important areas that needed work, and setting performance goals until 2004. These were reviewed in the fall of 2002 2003.

GOAL 1: IMPROVE MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM SOLVING

Targets for 2002:

1. NSRE Target: 48% will meet or exceed standard.
2. SAT 9 Target: 80th percentile in each of three grades.

*Those students not attaining or exceeding the Standard will show growth on their IEP goals and Title I learning plans.

Results:

1. A review of NSRE's showed that 53% of the students met or exceeded the standard. (Goal exceeded).
2. A review of the problem solving section of the SAT9 showed that students in grades 5, and 6 met the Action Plan target. Grade 3 did not.

GOAL 2: IMPROVE READING SKILLS

Targets for 2002:

1. NSRE Target: 80% will be at or above grade level in reading, basic understanding.
2. SAT 9 Target: Students in each grade will average in the 76th percentile in Total Reading.
3. DRA Target: 80% of students will be at or above grade level.

*Students not meeting the Standard will show improvement in IEP goals and Title I Learning Plans.

Results:

1. A review of NSRE Reading/Basic Understanding results showed that 95% of students met or exceeded the standard. (Goal exceeded).
2. A review of SAT9 scores showed that student s in grades 5 and 6 met the target. Grade 3 did not.

3. 4. A review of DRA results showed that 95 percent of students in grade 2 read at or above level. (Goal exceeded)

Goal 3: IMPROVE GRAMMAR, USAGE, AND MECHANICS

Targets for 2002:

1. NSRE Target: 77 % of students will meet or exceed the standard in Writing Conventions.
2. SAT 9 Target: Students in each of 3 grades will show average scores in the 66th percentile.

Results:

1. A review of the Writing Conventions portion of the NSRE's showed that 92% of girls and 88% of boys met or exceeded the standard.
(Goal Exceeded)
2. A review of the Total Language portion of the SAT 9's showed that 5th and 6th grade scores met the target, but grade 3 did not.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Stanford Achievement Tests (9th Edition)

We give these standardized "norm-referenced" multiple-choice tests to students in grades 3, 5 and 6 to measure their achievement in reading, mathematics, and writing skills. The scores given are an indicator of the performance of the typical student in the group in terms of percentile rank. All of the percentile ranks in a group of scores are converted to Normal Curve Equivalents; these are averaged and the mean is converted back to a percentile rank. For instance a score of 80 means that on average, Waitsfield students scored better than 79% of the national norming group who took the test

Any comparisons or interpretations should be made with care. The SAT9 is a battery of multiple-choice tests of general academic achievement; the scores indicate how well a child can perform a small sample of language arts and math tasks in a group setting. They show only one part of a child's overall academic picture.

The Vermont Developmental Reading Assessment

The DRA is an individually administered standards-based reading assessment given at the end of grade 2. It involves students reading and retelling selected short books. Teachers administer the assessment using uniform procedures, scoring the accuracy of students' oral reading, as well as their comprehension. Teachers determine the highest range of text difficulty at which students read with both acceptable accuracy and comprehension. The tables show the percent of students who met or exceeded the performance standard.

The New Standards Reference Exams

How well can 4th graders meet the national standards in *Mathematics*? The NSRE provides a partial answer. A standards-based test, it includes both multiple-choice questions, and questions in which a student is required to provide the solutions to problems. It is administered in three separate 50 minute sittings to all students in grades 4 (and 8 and 10), assessing their accumulated knowledge and understanding of mathematical skills, concepts, and the ability to solve problems. Although the test is given to 4th graders, the results indicate the overall effectiveness of the K-4 math program.

Similarly, the English Language Arts NSRE seeks to determine how well 4th graders can meet very high academic standards in reading and language arts. Administered to 4th, graders (as well as 8th and 10th graders), it assesses their ability to comprehend and analyze different kinds of texts, including multiple-choice questions and open-ended responses. It also measures *writing effectiveness* based on two writing assignments, and knowledge and use of conventional grammar, usage and punctuation, based on multiple-choice editing questions and a scoring of their written response.

Grade 2

2003

- Information indicating progress toward meeting student performance standards.

Second graders' reading skills were measured in all Vermont schools using the Developmental Reading Assessment. The table below shows the percent of students who met (or exceeded) the Vermont State standards.

2003 Developmental Reading Assessment		% of students who met or exceeded standards		
		Waitsfield	WW-SU	State
Second grade reading skills	Vermont Standard 1.2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read grade-appropriate material, with at least 90% accuracy, in a way that makes meaning clear. • read for meaning, demonstrating both initial understanding and personal response to what is read. 	95%	89%	82%
	<i>Number of students assessed:</i>	22		
2002		81%	86%	81%

Grade 3**2003**

- Information indicating progress toward meeting student performance standards

Third graders took the Stanford Achievement Tests in all Washington West Schools. We report the national percentile rank.

2003 Stanford Achievement Tests (9 th Edition)		National Percentile Ranks		
		2001 Waits-field	2002 Waits-field	2003 Waits-field
Reading: Vocabulary	Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synonyms • Context • Multiple Meanings 	68	71	58
Reading: Comprehension	Measures comprehension of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational, textual and functional reading • Interpretation and critical analysis 	69	66	45
Total Reading:	Overall Reading score	69	69	49
Math: Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number facts • Computation in symbolic notation and in context • Rounding 	78	75	62
Math: Problem Solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number concepts, sense, numeration • Geometry & spatial sense • Measurement • Patterns, relationships, problem solving 	86	74	54
Total Math	Overall Math Score	83	74	56
Language	Pre-Writing skills	77	60	48
Language	Composition	70	48	43
Language	Editing (mechanics, usage, spelling)	70	52	39
Total Language	Overall Language Score	74	51	41
	<i>Number of students tested:</i>	18	21	21

Grade 4

2003

- Information indicating progress toward meeting student performance standards

2003 New Standards Reference Examination in Math		% of students who met or exceeded standards			
		2002 Waitsfield	2003 Waitsfield	2003 WW-SU	2003 State
<i>Skills</i>	compute and measure accurately, use \$, ¢, and decimal points correctly, read data on bar graph, etc.	100%	96%	79%	73%
<i>Concepts</i>	understand how numbers work for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, can count in groups, recognizes and uses linear patterns, and understands fractions as divisions of wholes.	85%	71%	50%	46%
<i>Problem-solving</i>	use concepts and skills to solve problems: figure out an approach to a problem, carry out the solution, explain the solution, and say how that solution may be used in other situations.	80%	53%	41%	41%
<i>Number of students assessed:</i>		20	21	NA	NA

Grade 5

2003 Pass Science Assessment		% of students who met or exceeded standards			
		2002 Waitsfield	2003 Waitsfield	2002 WW-SU	2002 State
	Test indicates overall understanding of Vermont Science content standards	72%	89%	60%	46%

		% of students who met or exceeded standards			
		2002 Waitsfield	2003 Waitsfield	2003 WW-SU	2003 State
2003	New Standards Reference Examination in Language Arts				
Reading Basic Understanding	comprehend a variety of materials of varying length and complexity.	95%	95%	88%	80%
Reading Analysis & Interpretation	analyze the interpret what s/he reads in the process of becoming critical readers.	85%	90%	77%	70%
Writing	write effectively in a variety of formats for a variety of purposes, audiences, and contexts.	85%	95%	63%	60%
Usage Spelling Punctuation	demonstrate control of the conventions and grammar of the English language according to current standards of effectiveness.	90%	90%	71%	62%
<i>Number of students assessed:</i>		20	21	NA	NA

Grade 5

2003

- Information indicating progress toward meeting student performance standards

Fifth graders took the Stanford Achievement Tests. We report the national percentile ranks.

2002 Stanford Achievement Tests (9 th Edition)		National Percentile Ranks		
		2001 Waitsfield	2002 Waitsfield	2003 Waitsfield
<i>Reading Vocabulary</i>	Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synonyms • Context • Multiple Meanings 	74	80	83
<i>Reading Comprehension</i>	Measures comprehension of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational, textual and functional reading • Interpretation & critical analysis 	80	84	86
<i>Total Reading</i>	Overall Reading score	80	85	88
<i>Math Procedures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computation in symbolic notation and in context • Rounding 	84	81	90
<i>Math Problem Solving</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement, Estimation • Problem-solving strategies • Number relationships, systems, and theory • Statistics, Probability • Algebra and Geometry 	79	85	87
<i>Total Math</i>	Overall Math score	82	86	91
<i>Language</i>	Pre-Writing	74	73	82
<i>Language</i>	Composition	75	74	84
<i>Language</i>	Editing (mechanics, usage, spelling)	62	72	79
<i>Total Language</i>	Overall Language score	70	75	84
<i>Number of students assessed:</i>		24	16	20

Grade 6

2003

- Information indicating progress toward meeting student performance standards.

Sixth graders took the Stanford Achievement Tests. We report the national percentile rank.

2002 Stanford Achievement Tests (9 th Edition)		National Percentile Ranks		
		2001 Waitsfield	2002 Waitsfield	2003 Waitsfield
<i>Reading Vocabulary</i>	Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synonyms • Context • Multiple Meanings 	77	82	81
<i>Reading Comprehension</i>	Measures comprehension of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational, textual and functional reading • Interpretation and critical analysis 	81	84	88
<i>Total Reading</i>	Overall Reading score	81	85	87
<i>Math Problem Solving</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement, Estimation • Problem-solving strategies • Number relationships, systems, and theory • Statistics, Probability • Algebra and Geometry 	94	87	86
<i>Math Procedures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computation in symbolic notation and in context • Rounding 	94	87	88
<i>Total Math</i>	Overall Math score	95	89	88
<i>Language</i>	Pre-Writing	79	79	71
<i>Language</i>	Composition	79	79	76
<i>Language</i>	Editing (mechanics, usage, spelling)	79	70	65
<i>Total Language</i>	Overall Language score	80	81	74
	<i>Number of students assessed</i>	24	24	19

2003-04 REPORT FROM THE WASHINGTON WEST CENTRAL OFFICE

PO Box 1450, Waitsfield, Vermont
802-496-2272

CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

Dr. Robert Gerardi, <i>Interim Supt. of Schools</i>	John Pike, <i>Business Manager</i>
Dr. Edith Beatty, <i>Director of Curriculum & Assessment</i>	Diane Story, <i>Financial Assistant</i>
Donarae Cook, <i>Special Education Director</i>	Marilyn Spaulding, <i>Accounts Payable</i>
Laura Titus, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Jeanette Hunter, <i>Payroll/Benefits</i>
Angela Young, <i>Special Ed. Secretary/Medicaid Clerk</i>	

The Washington West Office welcomed several new staff members this year. Dr. Robert Gerardi was hired as Interim Superintendent of Schools, starting on September 15, 2003. John Pike began his duties as Business Manager on September 1, 2003, and Dr. Edith Beatty was employed as Director of Curriculum and Assessment effective January 2, 2004.

Angela Young was Secretary to the Special Education Director and former Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. This year she continues as Secretary to the Special Education Director and has assumed the duties of the Medicaid Clerk.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE

We have established partnerships with four community preschool/childcare providers; namely, The Children's Space, Waitsfield Children's Center, Spring Hill School, and The Learning Ladder. Staff from the supervisory union schools and community partners has worked together to develop curricula aligned with the Vermont Standards.

CURRICULUM

Over the last couple of years, eleven standards-based curricula have been developed, adopted, and are being implemented in Washington West Supervisory Union. The three remaining disciplines to be developed are technology education, physical education, and early childhood education. With the employment of our new Director of Curriculum and Assessment, we will see the development of these curricula in the near future.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment activities included participation in the state testing programs in English/language arts, math and science. Several schools also participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). This past spring all supervisory union schools participated in this national program in compliance with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Schools continue to use portfolio assessment

at the local level as well as norm-referenced assessment at grades 3, 5, 6, and 7. As district school personnel implement and review the various curricula, work will continue on strengthening local assessments specific to each curricular area. Work also will continue on standards-based reporting as mandated in NCLB. Upon installation of a district-wide student data management system, development of an electronic database and reporting system will begin.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This is the second year of the district-wide system of professional development based on the concept of professional learning communities (PLC). Thirty teachers and administrators participated in a daylong facilitators' training program in the summer of 2003, and one attended a five-day training sponsored by the National School Reform faculty.

There are twenty-seven professional learning communities active in the Washington West Supervisory Union. The groups are diverse, varying in both composition and topics, but all affording an opportunity for teachers to work together on common interests that will advance their professional learning. This year the goals and objectives of the PLC groups also needed to show an impact on student learning.

In order to determine the changes and directions needed for year three, information will be gathered from facilitators throughout the year, as well as an end of the year program evaluation. Opportunities for further facilitator training will also be provided.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Every school within the Washington West Supervisory Union (WWSU) has an array of educational opportunities available to support children with unique learning challenges. Classroom teachers are able to differentiate instruction within their classrooms, making the curriculum accessible to all students, given their strengths and challenges. Our goal is to provide accommodations and services to children within their regular education classrooms to the extent possible. Title I support is available for students in regular education who need more attention in language arts and math. Students who have English as their second language receive support within the regular education continuum of services as well.

Students with disabilities are provided more intensive accommodations and remedial services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA-B) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. We are mandated to locate, evaluate, and serve students with disabilities and provide them with a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).

Currently, WWSU serves 320 students in special education from age 3 through age 21. This represents 14% of our total average daily membership.

Special education is funded by federal and state block grants and through a state reimbursement formula. All other support services are provided through local budgets, Title I grant, and Medicaid reimbursement revenue generated by special education.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

FY '04 saw a changing of the guard with the hiring of a new Business Manager. Thanks go out to Michelle Baker, the previous Business Manager, for her hard work and dedication to Washington West Supervisory Union.

The FY '05 budgeting process takes us into the era of Act 68, and questions still remain at the time this goes to press as to how the actual tax rates will turn out. One of the primary differences in Act 68 relates to splitting the Education Grand List into a Homestead and a Non-Residential Education Grand List. Another major change in Act 68 is closing the "loophole" of local education funds. Two towns in our supervisory union will be impacted by this change. Provisions have also been included in Act 68 to "penalize" towns whose per pupil spending exceeds 135% of the state average. (This threshold amount is estimated to be \$10,800 by the state.) This excess spending provision will be ratcheted down to 130% in FY '06 and to 125% in FY '07 and thereafter. There are no towns in our supervisory union that are currently impacted by this specific provision, but we need to look to the future to manage costs at a level that will not place any excess burden on the taxpayers within our supervisory union.

FY 2005 BUDGET

The Washington West budget for FY '05 continues the present level of services. Based on competitive salaries and benefits for Superintendent positions regionally, our budget incorporates a salary and benefit package relating to the hiring of a long-term Superintendent. Overall, the budget reflects an expenditure increase for Washington West of 6.12%.

ALL BOARDS RETREAT

On Saturday, November 1, 2003, the Washington West Supervisory Union conducted an all-day all boards retreat at the Best Western Hotel in Waterbury. Winton Goodrich of the VT School Boards Association facilitated this meeting. After reviewing the challenges facing school districts today, the members focused on what the Washington West Supervisory Union should stop doing or start doing to prepare our students to become contributing members of society. After much discussion, some boards members indicated a willingness to serve on one of two committees - (1) a committee to improve our existing governance structure, and (2) a committee to look further at a single K-12 Board for the supervisory union.

NOTE OF OUR APPRECIATION

All board members, building administrators, certified teachers, instructional assistants, and support staff make a tremendous commitment to provide students with a quality education. To their credit, all indicators are that a quality education is being offered successfully in all of our schools.

Your continued efforts are encouraged and appreciated. Kudos for a job well done this past school year.

WASHINGTON WEST SUPERVISORY UNION SUMMARY BUDGET

	FY 03	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
	Budget	Audit	Budget	Proposed
EXPENDITURES				
General Assessment				
Salaries	118,565	118,023	120,613	195,884
Benefits	28,795	29,960	33,855	60,534
Contracted Services and Operating Costs	170,814	177,321	169,998	73,700
Total General Assessment	318,174	325,304	324,465	330,118
Special Education Assessment				
Salaries	62,100	62,100	62,100	76,867
Benefits	14,077	15,526	15,785	19,278
Contracted Services and Operating Costs	3,606	3,556	3,610	5,160
Total Special Education Assessment	79,783	81,182	81,495	101,306
Business Manager Assessment				
Salaries	60,000	60,000	60,000	62,100
Benefits	15,526	15,363	17,307	18,232
Contracted Services and Operating Costs	3,470	3,458	4,220	4,600
Total Business Office Assessment	78,996	78,821	81,527	84,932
Payroll/Benefits and Fiscal Services Assessment				
Salaries	88,328	88,823	93,000	97,031
Benefits	17,838	18,790	19,942	23,811
Contracted Services and Operating Costs	5,401	4,286	5,400	5,700
Total Payroll/Benefits and Fiscal Svcs Assessment	111,567	111,899	118,342	126,543
Total Expenditures	588,520	597,206	605,829	642,898
REVENUE				
Interest	8,400	3,587	5,872	3,600
Other Revenue	6,202	8,657	0	12,000
Fund Balance	51,709	62,753	3,181	(12,761)
Assessments	522,209	522,209	596,776	640,059
Total Revenue	588,520	597,206	605,829	642,898

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

This is the nineteenth year that the Mad River Valley Planning District has served the Valley Towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren. Following is a summary of projects to which the Mad River Valley Planning District contributed in 2003.

Mad River Housing Coalition

The housing shortage in the Mad River Valley is one of the most significant issues facing the community today. The Housing Coalition has been working on raising awareness regarding the severity of the problem. A Housing Forum for the business community was held in April and was well supported by local businesses. In August, the Planning District assisted in organizing a high profile event in Fayston that was attended by Governor Douglas and Senator Jeffords to celebrate the success of Habitat for Humanity in the Valley. The Coalition is evaluating methods of raising funds and building partnerships with the private sector in an effort to facilitate the construction of housing units in the community.

Sugarbush

The Mad River Valley Planning District and Steering Committee worked cooperatively with Sugarbush planning staff in 2003 to carefully review and provide comments on development plans for the Lodge at Lincoln Peak. The open review process initiated by Sugarbush resulted in a project that was widely supported by the greater community. The Act 250 process was relatively smooth and led to a positive outcome for the Valley. As a result of the process, Sugarbush contributed \$76,000 to an affordable housing fund that will be managed by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The funds will be used to supplement the development of affordable units in the Mad River Valley towns of Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren, Duxbury and Moretown. In addition to working with Sugarbush on development issues, the Planning District assisted the resort in acquiring and administering \$40,000 in grant funding for storm water management in Sugarbush Village. The Planning District continues to cooperate with the Resort on data collection as required by the MOU.

Transportation

Chittenden County Transportation (CCTA) has assumed responsibility for public transportation services in Washington County. The MadBus will continue to serve the Valley floor and the ski resorts as it did last year with minor changes to the schedule. The ski bus, connecting Montpelier to the Valley on weekends and holidays, has been reinstated; it began service in December 2003. Over the next few months, the Transportation Advisory Committee will be working with PDI Creative of Burlington to develop a long-range marketing plan for the MadBus. The acquisition of locally-owned buses in 2002 and the formation of a partnership with a professional transporter

tation agency this year gives the Transportation Advisory Committee an opportunity to improve public transportation in the Valley for residents and visitors.

Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership

The Conservation Partnership put a significant amount of effort into updating the Rural Resource Protection Plan during 2003. Funded in part by two grants (Vermont Community Foundation and the Land Trust Alliance), the Partnership undertook an extensive inventory of natural and cultural features in the Mad River Watershed. A well-informed conservation strategy based on community input and on the inventory and analysis of the natural features in the watershed will help to guide decisions about local conservation efforts, and assist in garnering the community support and funding necessary to complete successful land conservation projects. The Partnership has been working steadily with landowners who wish to conserve their land. The 309-acre Blair Farm in Warren closed in December. The 6-acre Tardy project was finalized in June, through the efforts of the Town of Waitsfield, the Conservation Partnership, and private landowners. The Partnership is confident several additional priority projects will close during 2004.

Wastewater Task Force

The Task Force has been reviewing the 90% report on wastewater treatment options. Two alternatives have been presented to Waitsfield by consultants Phelps engineering. Various funding options are being considered and will be discussed in detail in 2004.

Phenn Basin

The MRVPD represented the Valley's interests on the Phenn Basin Advisory Committee. The Long Range Management Plan for the Phenn Basin block of Camel's Hump State Park is now in place. Work on the existing bridges has been completed. FPR expects to continue meeting with the Advisory Committee to monitor issues of access and management.

CLG-Historic Preservation and Rural Resource Protection

The Rural Resource Commission completed an update of the State Historic Survey of Buildings and Structures in 2003. The initial survey of buildings in the Mad River Valley was done over twenty years ago. This was an involved project that took nearly a year to finish. The survey records are available to the public at the Mad River Valley Planning District office. CLG funds were also acquired this year to finance the feasibility study for the Warren Municipal Building expansion proposal, and to survey significant trees and landscape features on North and Center Fayston Roads.

Data Collection

New information is continually being added to the MRVPD Data Book to keep it up-to-date. Information from the 2000 census on population and socio-economics

is now current. Information on housing, wages and income will be added as it becomes available. A Data Book is available in each town office.

The focus of the Planning District for 2003 has been primarily on Valley-Wide issues, Sugarbush and the Act 250 process, affordable housing, historic preservation, land conservation and public transportation. The office works with State agencies and organizations to ensure the Valley's viewpoint and needs are represented on a variety of issues. The Planning District's annual budget is funded through annual contributions from each Town and Sugarbush Resort. In 2004, the level of funding will remain at \$19,100 for each contributor, bringing the total to \$76,400. MRVPD activities continue to be overseen by a seven-member Steering Committee consisting of a Selectman and a Planning Commissioner from each town and a representative of the Chamber of Commerce. The Steering Committee meetings are open to the public and are held at the General Wait House on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The Executive Director can be reached weekdays at 496-7173, or by e-mail at mrvpd@madriver.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwin Neill, Waitsfield Selectboard

Russ Bennett, Waitsfield Planning Commission

MAD RIVER VALLEY RECREATION DISTRICT

Since its inception in 1993 the Mad River Valley Recreation District (MRVRD) has evolved into an organization that provides financing and additional support to assist new and existing recreation programs within the membership towns of Fayston, Warren and Waitsfield. We distribute our funds upon review and approval of a submitted proposal and budget.

The MRVRD funded quite a few projects this year. These included the yearly support of the Skatium and Mad River Path Association. We provided funding to the Catamount Trail Association for their purchase of essential trail maintenance equipment. We also contributed to three local playgrounds, helped out with purchasing property around Blueberry Lake and supported the Mad River Chorale with a project.

We are now in the process of putting aside enough capitol to work on some long-term projects, which could involve land development on a rather large scale. With these potential expenditures, projects we know we must budget for, and the rise in fund requests, the MRVRD is requesting funds for the fiscal year 2004 in the amount of \$10,000 from each contributing town.

The board of the MRVRD encourages groups and individuals who are interested in creating recreational opportunities in the Mad River Valley to contact any member of the Board to discuss funding guidelines for their proposals or programs. The board meets monthly to discuss requests and encourages involvement and input from community members. Please visit our revamped website to view the proposal guidelines at www.madriverrec.com.

The volunteer MRVRD board members have been appointed by the Select Boards of their respective towns and serve 2-3 year terms.

Michael Riddell, Fayston - President

Doug Bergstein, Warren - Treasurer

Ken Felderman, Warren - Secretary

Renee Berrian, Waitsfield

Amy Scharges, Waitsfield

Jon Jamieson, Waitsfield

Kelley Lewis, Fayston

Dayna Lisaius, Warren

Beginning Balance	\$26,850.27
Income:	
Funding from towns	\$30,000.00
Interest	\$91.53
Total Income	\$30,091.53
Expenditures:	
Skatium	\$7,900.00
Website	\$770.00
Mad River Path Assn.	\$10,000.00
Mad River Chorale	\$200.00
Verd-Mont Park Assn.	\$700.00
Catamount Trail Assn.	\$1,000.00
PO Box	\$26.00
Spring Hill Playground	\$1,000.00
Moretown Playground	\$100.00
Blueberry Lake Fund	\$1,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$22,696.00
Ending Balance	\$34,245.80

MAD RIVER SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE

*P.O. Box 210, Waterbury Center VT 05677
(802) 244-7373 / fax (802) 244-7570*

The Mad River Solid Waste Alliance includes the Towns of Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren and Waterbury. The Alliance was formed through an Interlocal Agreement that began in 1994.

During 2003, the Alliance held two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day events at the Harwood Union High School in Duxbury on May 10, 2003 and on October 4, 2003. A total of 315 households participated in the events this year which represents 6.3% of our population. We collected over 1,680 gallons and 2,328 pounds of hazardous waste at the two events. Residents within the Alliance communities are able to bring all their waste pesticides and up to 10 additional gallons of hazardous waste to each event for disposal at no charge. **If you have waste mercury containing products such as: thermometers or thermostats; medical or scientific instruments; switches; lamps; batteries or other mercury containing waste you can dispose of these products at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Events.** The Alliance will swap your mercury fever thermometer for a digital thermometer at no charge at these events. Remember that latex paint is not a hazardous waste and will not be accepted. You can mix latex paint with kitty litter to solidify it and dispose of the mixture in your garbage. We are again planning two collection day events in 2004 at Harwood Union High School. They are scheduled for May 8 and October 2, 2004.

Over 1,175 gallons of used crankcase oil was collected within the Alliance at our Used Oil Collection Tanks during 2003. The tanks are located in Waitsfield at the Earthwise Transfer Station and at the WSI Landfill in Moretown. As an Alliance resident, you can bring up to 5 gallons of used crankcase oil to either of these sites at a cost of fifteen cents per gallon at the Earthwise Transfer Station and twenty five cents per gallon at the WSI Landfill for proper disposal. A car and truck oil filter crusher is also available for Alliance residents at the WSI Landfill at a cost of twenty five cents per filter.

The Alliance continues to work with the Association of Vermont Recyclers to provide educational programs and theater productions promoting reduction, reuse and recycling. During 2003 the Association of Vermont Recyclers completed pollution prevention and resource conservation programs for the Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren and Thatcher Brook Elementary Schools and the Crossert Brook Middle School.

The seventh truckload sale of compost bins was successful with the distribution of 54 composters and 24 kitchen composters. It is estimated that each composter can compost 500 pounds of garden and kitchen waste annually. This means rich soil to add to your garden and less waste to go to the landfill. We will hold an eighth Compost Bin Sale this spring. The Alliance held two car and pickup truck tire and metal collection events at the WSI Landfill and one at the Earthwise Transfer Station during

2003. A total of 3,326 tires and over 35 tons of metal were collected during these events. We are planning to hold two tire and metal collection events during 2004.

The Waste Systems International of Vermont, Inc. Landfill (WSI) provides Alliance residents with the opportunity to bring their recyclables to the facility at no charge. This is done as part of the arrangement between the Alliance and WSI for being the Ahost district@ for the facility. During 2003 single stream recycling became a reality in the Alliance. You can now bring your mixed paper, glass bottles and jars, metal cans and #1 and #2 plastic bottles in the same container for recycling. The recyclables are taken to the Chittenden County Materials Recovery Facility for processing. The WSI Landfill in anticipation of reaching capacity in it's existing disposal cell in 2005, has initiated an application to get additional cell space permitted for future disposal. The Casella Earthwise Transfer Station and WSI also participated in the free disposal of roadside litter during the Green Up Day celebrations. The Alliance continues a computer and television collection and recycling program and this year 145 computer systems and printers and 33 televisions were collected. This is an on-going program at the WSI Landfill. The cost to recycle the computers and printers is \$12.00 per system and tv's are \$15.00 each. The Alliance is a member of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association which helps us market some recyclable commodities such as tires, textiles, propane cylinders and other materials. Backyard burning of trash is illegal and causes air pollution problems. Be a good neighbor and don't burn trash. If you know of any illegal dumping sites within your town that would benefit from an Adopt a Site Program give John Malter, Alliance Administrator a call at 244-7373 and let's see what we can do to help eliminate these types of problems together.

The Alliance Solid Waste Implementation Plan is being reviewed by the State for conformance with the revised State Solid Waste Plan. There will be two public hearings on the plan following the State's review and approval. The plan will be available for review at the Town Clerk's Office prior to the public hearings.

The FY 04 assessment for the administrative and program costs remain the same at \$1.75 per capita.

The representatives of the Alliance include: Duxbury; Diane Lynch; Fayston, Bob Vasseur; Moretown, Jonathan Siegel; Waitsfield, Sal Spinosa; Warren, Ken Blair; Waterbury, Fd Steele and John Malter from Waterbury is the Administrator for the Alliance.

MAD RIVER SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE

2004 BUDGET PROJECTIONS AND FINANCIAL REPORT

	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	2003 Accts. Receivable	Budget 2004
INCOME:				
Town Assessments Per Capita:				
Duxbury (1,289)	2,256	2,256		2,256
Fayston (1,141)	1,997	1,997		1,997
Moretown (1,653)	2,893	2,893		2,893
Waitsfield (1,659)	2,903	2,903		2,903
Warren (1,681)	2,942	2,942		2,942
Waterbury (4,915)	8,601	8,601		8,601
Subtotal Assessments:	21,592	21,592		21,592
Interest Income	24			184
WSI - Education	19,637	11,811	813	19,637
Household Hazardous Waste:				
WSI - HHW	13,282	9,982	5,248	10,882
Ag. Pest. Grant	3,000	1,517		3,000
Small Quantity Generators	1,000	1,157		1,500
DEC HHW Grant	3,500	1,337	1,913	3,500
Subtotal HHW Income:	20,782	13,993	7,161	18,882
Misc. Income:				
Compost Bins	2,448	2,451		3,000
Tires	3,600	3,722		3,780
Computers	1,200	2,161		3,150
Solid Waste Plan Imp. Grant	1,439			1,439
Backyard Burning Grant	4,000	2,261		1,739
Subtotal Misc. Income:	12,687	10,595		13,108
TOTAL INCOME:	74,722	57,991	7,974	73,403

	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	2003 Accts. Receivable	Budget 2004
EXPENSES:				
Administration:				
Administrator Contract	17,168			16,878
Insurance	600			750
Solid Waste Mgr. Assoc.	150			150
Subtotal Administration:	17,918	16,321		17,778
Education:				
Administrator Contract	10,933			10,440
Travel/Office	1,924			1,924
Newsletter/Printing/Mailing	2,000			2,000
School Programs	3,500			3,500
GreenUp/HomeShow/Spec.	500			993
N.R.R.A. Membership	180			180
Conference	600			600
Subtotal Education:	19,637	17,060		19,637
Household Hazardous Waste:				
Administrator Contract	8,555			7,540
Travel/Materials	2,409			2,409
HHW Contractor	15,600			15,000
Subtotal HHW:	26,564	21,590		24,949
Misc. Expenses:				
Equipment Maintenance	200			-
Tire Collection	3,750	3,446		3,540
Metal Collection	500	775		200
Computer Collection	1,744	2,150		2,200
Compost Bins	2,268	2,258		3,075
Brochure	2,100			2,100
Subtotal Misc.	10,562	8,629		11,115
TOTAL EXPENSES:	74,681	63,600		73,479
				\$76 exp over rev

MAD RIVER SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE

JANUARY 1, 2003 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2003

Balance Sheet

Assets		
Cash		\$8,229.96
Accounts Receivable:	WSI-Education	812.51
	WSI-HHW	5,248.32
	Dept of Ag Pesticide Grant	0
	DEC Grant	0
Capital/Reserve/Contingency		13,000.00
Oil tank closure escrow		1,058.00
Fixed Assets		
	Oil tank	\$3,929.00
	Oil filter crusher	2,400.00
	Banners	195.00
	Sandwich board	114.00
	Total fixed assets	\$6,638.00
	less depreciation @ \$106/mon	-5,006.00
Total Assets		\$29,980.79
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		0
Owners' Equity/Net Worth		\$29,980.79
Total Liabilities/Owners' Equity		\$29,980.79

CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The economy in Vermont and nationally has struggled for the past year. Central Vermont has not been immune from this trend. Notably Bombardier has mothballed the Barre Town plant due to a lack of work for rail car production through out their system. Bombardier is negotiating a number of new contracts but the work, if they are the successful bidder, is several years out. On the plus side there are 800 more people working in Central Vermont than there were a year ago according to Department of Employment and Training statistics. Our unemployment rate is below the Sate and National averages but underemployment is a concern.

Housing continues to be an issue in Central Vermont There is more demand for housing than there are units available and employers report that new employees are having difficulty finding appropriate housing. Most new construction is being done for the owner and there is little being built for the market. Cost and affordability at all levels are a concern. CVEDC will continue to work on this issue.

CVEDC has approved four SBA 504 loans in the past year, providing those businesses with long term, fixed rate financing that allowed them to expand. We have also assisted several businesses with VEDA financing.

We continue to work with area organizations on a variety of projects including filling empty buildings with tenants. Workforce development is still at the forefront of CVEDC's efforts and we are working closely with area businesses and the CV Workforce Investment Board on this issue.

The Small Business Development Center Specialist that works out of the CVEDC office continues to provide area residents with information about starting a new business or in the case of an existing business, marketing financing or other information to assist their business. Over 140 Central Vermont residents took advantage of this free service last year.

Our web site continues to grow and we encourage you to visit the site at www.central-vt.com/cvedc. A commercial/industrial sites data base has been added.

We appreciate the support given to CVEDC by Waitsfield over the years and look forward to continuing our successful relationship with the town in the future

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is a consortium of 23 towns and cities in Washington County and western Orange County. CVRPC provides a forum in which municipalities work together to address regional issues and opportunities. It also offers its member communities professional assistance with local planning efforts through its experienced and knowledgeable staff

This past year, the Commission focused on quality of life issues that are addressed in the *Regional Plan* and worked on the update of the Regional Transportation Plan that also serves as the transportation element of the *Regional Plan*. With the completion of the revisions to these Plans, both documents were adopted by the Commission. In addition, the Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee annually evaluates the regional inter-modal transportation needs and problems and makes recommendations to the State Transportation Agency on projects that should be included in the Agency's five year capital program. The Commission is also involved in the review of regionally significant Act 250 development projects and the local designation of village and growth centers. The Commission continues to work on the development of regional and local pre-disaster mitigation plans, approved 8 town plans during the year, and was awarded an EPA Brownfields grant to identify and assess potential brownfields sites.

CVRPC assisted the Town with the administration of the Mad River Valley Planning District and the Mad River Solid Waste Alliance, reviewed and approved the Town Plan, provided traffic counts, updated the zoning map, and initiated the development of a pre-disaster mitigation plan.

CVRPC continues to work with local officials to provide GIS mapping, including planning maps for a variety of projects and municipal plans, bicycle path suitability maps, and maps of the region's natural resources. CVRPC provides model bylaws, such as the telecommunication facilities bylaws that can be used as a stand-alone ordinance or as an amendment to existing zoning bylaws. CVRPC continues to maintain its web-based planning tools that can guide officials in updating town plans and zoning ordinances and finding additional resources related to planning.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another year of serving our member communities and the Central Vermont Region.

Susan M. Sinclair, Executive Director

Harrison Snapp, Waitsfield, Commissioner

EVERGREEN PLACE, INC. AND MAD RIVER VALLEY SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.

On behalf of the Mad River Valley Senior Citizens, Inc. (MRVSC) and Evergreen Place, Inc. (EPI), we would like to thank you for your generous support over the years.

EPI and MRVSC, with tremendous effort and enthusiastic support from the Mad River Valley community and friends, have had great success this past year. The renovated Evergreen Place provides affordable senior shared housing and a center for senior activities. Evergreen Place housing has had high occupancy rates and the Senior Center, open three days a week, has continued to increase activities for the members of MRVSC and all other participating seniors. The Meals on Wheels Program is revitalized. Word has it that the food at Tuesday and Thursday's senior meals is terrific. Also, the Valley Food Shelf is located, rent free, at Evergreen Place.

EPI is a non-profit Vermont corporation with a five member Board of Directors, made up of Valley residents. This Board is responsible for the entire operation of Evergreen Place, including all financial considerations and hiring and oversight of the management company. EPI has retained Cathedral Square Corporation, a non-profit Vermont corporation, to manage the Evergreen Place property including both its housing and Senior Center functions.

MRVSC is also a non-profit Vermont corporation with a seven member Board of Directors, primarily made up of local seniors. For many years MRVSC has provided area seniors with health, cultural and social activities.

EPI, through an agreement with MRVSC, maintains the Senior Center at Evergreen Place, at no charge to seniors. The Senior Center at Evergreen Place provides a venue for socializing and various activities such as bingo, musical presentations, speakers, health clinics and holiday celebrations. EPI and MRVSC have established a joint activities committee to increase and schedule activities available to Valley seniors. As part of its Senior Center program, EPI provides a noon day meal on Tuesdays and Thursdays to both residents and community seniors, with a suggested voluntary donation of \$3.50 from community seniors.

EPI, with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers, also is currently serving meals through the Meals on Wheels program to homebound seniors in Moretown, Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren. A Joint committee of EPI and MRVSC members is working to bring in additional volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program and to expand the number of seniors who are served by the program.

The Town's financial support is critical to maintain the housing and Senior Center functions at the Evergreen Place facility and to maintain and expand senior functions and activities. Although EPI and MRVSC working together have made significant progress, the operation of Evergreen Place will continue to be financially

challenging. We will continue to undertake private fundraising and work with the EPI lenders to provide additional resources to operate and pay residual debt. Municipal support of Evergreen Place will attract the continued support of our lenders, other public sources and private contributions.

On behalf of both Boards of Directors, we would like to request a town appropriation of \$2,500 at the March 2004 town meeting. The Town's generous support should be made payable to EPI to be allocated between the two organizations by their mutual agreement upon receipt of the check.

Thank you in advance for your support of our cooperative programs currently serving the Valley towns.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet King, President, E.P.I.

Helmut Hietzker, President, M.R.V.S.C.

FRIENDS OF THE MAD RIVER

Thanks again to the residents of the Mad River Watershed for supporting our thirteenth successful year! Over these past thirteen years, Friends of the Mad River (FMR) has been a leader in promoting a healthy environment and community.

This year we continued to implement "The Best River Ever", our community developed conservation plan, while making and retaining many loyal friends, and having fun along the way. One of our most well known programs, Mad River Watch, entered its eighteenth consecutive year of citizen based water quality sampling. Volunteers collected samples for analysis at our office laboratory. The results were posted on "Friends" signs, in The Valley Reporter, and on our website.

Once again volunteers helped our cooperative effort with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Winooski Conservation District by planting hundreds of trees and shrubs along the banks of the Mad River. Volunteers also participated in a "River Cleanup" event and Junk Art Contest to help celebrate the Vermont Festival of the Arts. We were proud to organize a workshop for Horse Owners in August that was well attended.

As some of you may remember, in 2002, a study of the Mad River watershed was completed for the Vermont Geological Survey and FMR. Over 50 miles of tributaries, and 26 miles of the main stem were walked and paddled to examine their current condition and likelihood of future stability. Using the study as a base, we have drafted recommendations on how citizens can protect their property, reduce flood damage, and improve the Mad River watershed. It is a living document, containing suggestions and resources on what towns can do to pacify the Mad. Both of these studies can be found on our website. If you'd like the Friends to present this study to your select board, planning commission or neighbors, please contact us.

This spring our board of directors will be conducting a strategic planning initiative. After 13 years, we want to take time to reflect on the communities' needs and create a sound plan of action to guide our future work. We hope you will take the time to share with us your thoughts on how we can be most effective.

Please contact us if you would like to get involved. We welcome your comments and ideas. Stop by the Friends' office at the General Wait House in Waitsfield, visit us online at www.FriendsOfTheMadRiver.org, or contact us, 496-9127, friends@madriver.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Friends of the Mad River Board of Directors:

Kinny Connell, Warren, President

Jack Byrne, Moretown, Vice-President

Elizabeth Walker, Duxbury, Secretary

Ken Felderman, Warren, Treasurer

Leon Holle-Ensalada, Waitsfield

Nancy Spencer, Fayston

John Norton, Warren

Katie Sullivan, Waitsfield

Mary Gow, Warren

Brian Shupe, Waitsfield

Shayne Jaquith, Fayston

MAD RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Mad River Valley Ambulance Service (MRVAS) responded to 448 calls in 2003, a slight increase from 2002. Thirty-eight percent, or 170 of these calls were from Waitsfield. [The average call takes about three hours, including cleaning and re-stocking the rig and finishing paperwork.] These calls were answered by a team of over 60 trained and dedicated volunteers. The only compensation they receive is the satisfaction of helping their neighbors. [MRVAS does employ a full-time administrative assistant]. Many members of our team are trained in more than one discipline, giving us 13 EMT-Basics, 20 EMT-Intermediates, 9 First Responders, 17 drivers, 15 dispatchers [most are EMD certified], and 18 members of our Rescue team [which includes subspecialties such as ropes and extrication technician].

A major change to our team is the addition of a new category of membership, the Junior Ambulance member. These are teenagers that are interested in a career in a healthcare field. Some are only 16 but have been certified by the State as a First Responder attendant. Others have not been certified, but may ride along to observe emergency medicine in action. These new members are also members of the Harwood Union Teen Ambulance Corps (HUTAC), an Explorer Post at Harwood.

Thanks to the efforts and perseverance of a few of our members, MRVAS received over \$50,000 in Federal, State and Corporate grants. MRVAS now has 14 AEDs (defibrillators) that are carried by our most active members, along with their jump kits and oxygen, greatly decreasing the response time of an AED to a patient in cardiac arrest. This is in addition to 2 new cardiac monitors/ defibrillators in the rigs, which also monitor vital signs such as pulse and blood pressure. A Homeland Security grant allowed us to purchase a large enclosed trailer and stock it with supplies and equipment needed to treat up to 50 critically injured patients at a large scale incident. It also has an emergency generator and extra floodlights. This Emergency Support Unit (ESU) is the only resource like it in central Vermont, and is available for any incident in the region. The ECS was rolled out in October, when MRVAS hosted an MCI (Mass Casualty Incident) training at Sugarbush's Mt. Ellen parking lot. A scenario was simulated that a fuel oil truck ran into a school bus. Ambulance services and fire departments from as far away as Richmond, Stowe and Barre participated in the drill. Another HSU grant allowed us to install UHF radios in all of our rigs so that we can communicate with other agencies on their frequency, such as Sugarbush Ski Patrol, State Police, Sheriff, etc. In December, our local snowmobile club, the Ridge Runners, donated a new snowmobile, an enclosed sled for transporting an injured patient, and a trailer to transport them. They are also providing training. The snowmobile and sled were used on a call within two weeks of receiving it.

For over 25 years, MRVAS had used the "red phone" or "firebar" system for receiving emergency calls. Up to 15 phones, located in our dispatcher's homes and busi-

nesses, would all ring at the same time, allowing any of our dispatchers to take the emergency call or assist the duty dispatcher with a complex call. This analog system was getting unreliable, parts were hard to get and it was no longer compatible with the telephone company's new digital equipment. After much research and testing, we replaced the old system with an Emergency Conference Bridge (ECS) developed for MRVAS. It sits at our station and answers the emergency call and then simultaneously dials all of our dispatchers' phone numbers, using outgoing lines. The numbers it dials are easily changed. Although it is expensive, the ECS has allowed MRVAS to continue to dispatch its own calls at a cost less than that of having an outside agency dispatch the calls, and with better service.

Thanks to the generous support of the community and a more efficient billing system, MRVAS ends 2003 with a solid financial footing. In October, MRVAS ordered a new ambulance, at a cost of \$135,000, and will be seeking help through donations and grants to help pay for it and to stock it with equipment and supplies. Delivery is expected in April, and we will not trade in our oldest rig, as we have done in the past. With the new rig, we will begin to maintain 3 ambulances, in addition to our Rescue vehicle.

Please visit us on the web: www.mrvas.org.

Call us (496-8888) or e-mail us (mrvas@madriver.com) to:

- Find out how you can contribute
- Find out how you can join us
- take a CPR course or refresher
- how to post your E-911 address so that we can find you

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Brad Cook, President MRVAS

MAD RIVER VALLEY HEALTH CENTER, INC.

The Mad River Valley Health Center Inc. is a 501-c-3 nonprofit corporation governed by a community Board of Directors composed of individuals representing the towns of Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown and Duxbury. MRVHC Inc. was incorporated in 1980 when a group of concerned citizens and businesses raised the funds to purchase the health center building and the medical practice from Dr. John Saia to secure accessible, family health care for the Valley towns. In 1986, MRVHC Inc. relinquished administrative responsibility for the existing practice by selling it to Dr. Francis Cook.

Mad River Valley Health Center Inc. continues to own the building while leasing the space to the current medical practice that operates as a separate entity.

The mission of the Mad River Valley Health Center Inc. is to provide a quality facility to insure the availability of local health care to residents of the Mad River Valley, neighboring towns and visitors. Dr. Cook, together with two nurse practitioners, two registered nurses, and a three person administrative staff, operates a comprehensive family practice that encompasses health care to persons of all ages. Physical and gynecological exams, well child care, immunizations, lab work, diabetes and mental health care as well as timely response to illness, injury and accidents. In 1996, the Health Center received Rural Health Center designation further enhancing the services available to Medicaid and Medicare patients.

Over its' 23 year history the practice at the Mad River Valley Health Center has served an estimated 70-80 percent of the population of the Mad River Valley. Dr. Cook's practice sees an average of 600 patients per month and provides an average of 1050 patient procedures per month. In response to a 48 percent increase in the population over the last 20 years, the health center building is strained to serve the increased demands of the community. The Board of the Mad River Valley Health Center Inc. is currently undertaking a capital campaign for the purpose of raising money to construct a new and expanded health facility on the existing site. The new building will provide increased medical office space to more efficiently serve the needs of the current medical practice. A second floor will provide additional space for complementary health services, a health information resource library, as well as space to hold health and wellness workshops. The building is designed to fit aesthetically into the streetscape of the historic Waitsfield Village location.

The Mad River Valley Health Center Inc. is committed to promoting and improving health services to meet the needs of the Mad River Valley Community.

Visit www.MRVHC.com, and review the Valley's new health and wellness directory, the history of the Health Center and to further your understanding of the plans for the new center and its' contribution to the Mad River community.

The MRVHC, Inc. Directors would like to thank the surrounding towns for their continued support, and all those who have already contributed so generously to this important project. This project will benefit all area residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert Lindsay, Fayston, President

Marta Marble, Waitsfield, Vice President

Jack Barnes, Moretown, Treasurer

Mary Jane Blouin, Warren, Secretary

Ellen Strauss, Warren

Jennifer Morris, Waitsfield

Kevin O'Brien, Fayston

MAD RIVER PATH ASSOCIATION

In 1993 the Mad River Path Association (MRPA) was officially organized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization. This was the outcome of community planners who formed a committee to create the Mad River Greenway recreation trail system connecting the towns and villages of the Mad River Valley. Today in addition to building and maintaining trails, the MRPA has grown to include many facets to its community building work. The MRPA participates in community planning including alternative transportation initiatives, advocating for bicycle and pedestrian facilities and developing other recreation opportunities. They organize community events advocating for physical fitness and sponsor youth recreation activities. They assist with public land management planning, maintain private landowner relationships and participate in land conservation projects. They inform and educate through meaningful articles in the local media and their membership newsletter *Pathways*.

Key to their success as a community organization has been their ability to link the community together through establishing partnerships with a wide variety of public, private and non-profit organizations. It is partnering that has enabled them to bring broad-based resources to bear on the effort of growing the Mad River Greenway, protecting the existing recreation trails and assisting in community planning. They work closely with the Valley towns, other non-profit organizations, a wide-variety of user groups and private citizens toward their goals.

They derive their financial support through similar diversity with membership dues, government grants, private donations, sponsorships, event proceeds and local municipal tax support. Thankfully the Mad River Valley community as a whole endorses their many efforts and provides broad-based support to the organization. MRPA income in 2003 was derived through public and private grants (32%), Mad River Valley Recreation District funding (28%), membership dues and contributions (27%) and fund-raising events (13%). Businesses contribute generously to the Mad Dash, the annual foot race and community fitness event held on the path.

The MRPA maintains an office in the General Wait House, 4061 Main St., Waitsfield, where the Executive Director is on staff to assist residents and visitors as well as provide administrative support to the organization on a daily basis. The organization is governed by a board of directors of local citizens and operates under a set of approved bylaws and articles of incorporation. Board meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month and are open to all who wish to attend. Contact them at: Mad River Path Association, PO Box 683, Waitsfield, VT 05673.

Phone: (802) 496-7877, email: recpath@madriver.com, website: www.madriverpath.com.

Board of Directors:

Harrison Snapp, Chairman
Richard Hiscock, V. Chairman
Alfred C. Gilbert, III, Treasurer

Matt Strassberg, Director
Danielle Hampton, Director
Peter Laskowski, Director
Audrey Huffman, Director

Barclay Rappeport, Secretary
Kevin Russell, Executive Director
Carl Lobel, Director

Eric Sharnberg, Director
William Heinzerling, Director
Raymond Schenk, Director

Current projects for 2004 include:

- maintaining and extending the Mad River Greenway,
- completing the Kingsbury Bridge Greenway section,
- publishing the Fayston Trails Plan,
- continuing to provide public planning support,
- updating the Walks and Rambles map and guide,
- producing two *Pathways* newsletters and
- organizing the 9th annual Mad Dash community event.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION CHANNEL 44

Mad River Valley Television is a community-based television channel dedicated to giving the community access to the airwaves. MRVTV Channel 44 is part of Waitsfield Cable's basic tier of service. MRVTV broadcasts locally generated programs with a focus on public, educational and governmental (PEG) programming.

MRVTV was incorporated in March 1998 by a small group of Valley residents who wanted to bring public access television to the community. Since incorporation the board of directors has surveyed community organizations, sought support from municipal boards and has successfully negotiated a contract with Waitsfield Cable. We are incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.

MRVTV went on the air in February 2000 with the Lareau Swim Hole public hearings. We air 12-16 hours of local programming daily with a bulletin board of community messages filling the remaining time. We expect the number of hours of local programming to continue to grow in 2004.

Anyone with appropriate training on the equipment can use the station and equipment in accordance with MRVTV broadcast standards. MRVTV holds workshops to teach the public how to film events and how to edit the tapes. MRVTV also has space available for studio taping and accepts prepared tapes for broadcast.

MRVTV-CH 44 broadcasts tapes of local town, district and school board meetings, events such as the Warren Fourth of July celebration, Harwood Union concerts, and many other school and community events. MRVTV looks to community members to learn to tape events and is working with Harwood Union to train students to cover local events. Additionally, MRVTV airs locally produced talk shows, political debates, specialty shows and other programs generated by members of the community.

MRVTV-CH 44 is funded by Waitsfield Cable as required by state and federal

regulations. Cable subscribers see a 5% PEG surcharge on their cable bills. Waitsfield Cable also provided start up funds for equipment and organizational fees. The towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren have granted MRVTV sponsorships funds and the Board is considering a local membership drive to raise revenues to support increased staffing and programming.

To learn more about MRVTV-CH 44 please contact Alex Maclay, our program director, or Adam Tyksinski, our channel manager, at 583-4488 (44TV) or by email-tv@mrvtv.com, or stop by our offices and studio in the Diffraction Building at 49 Fiddlers's Green, Suite 306. You can also check us out on the web at www.mrvtv.com, or call our 24-hour hotline 583-4747 for program information and schedules.

Members of the board are: Chuck Allen, Dan Eckstein, Michael Hock, Lisa Loomis, Alex Maclay, Adele Nicols, Brian Shupe, and Margo Wade,. We meet twice a year and welcome public input to the meetings or to any board member.

WAITSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The purpose of the Waitsfield Historical Society is to collect, preserve and exhibit material relating to the history of Waitsfield and to establish, manage and maintain a museum at the General Wait House for the preservation of historical objects.

The cleaning and repairing of the 1812 military drum is completed and a generous gift of Civil War artifacts was made by Henry Bushnell Jones. An antique drop leaf table was donated and is in the Wait House.

This year the Society acquired a much needed television for the purpose of exhibiting current events.

Grant applications have been made to restore the Wait House barns, but to date unsuccessful. The search for funds goes on.

Last June the Society showed a photo exhibit called "Captured on Glass" with a slide show featuring glass negatives from our collection at the Tunbridge Fair. It was a great success.

The Society plans to have outdoor events using the barns next summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Sherman, Vice-President

President, Ruth Pestle

Jack Smith, Treasurer

Sandra Reilly, Secretary

Judy Dodds

John Dillon

Chuck Allen

Shirley Viens

Bob Burley

Peter Laskowski, Directors

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns' mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. Most government services used by Vermonters on a daily basis are those provided by its cities and towns. These include highways, police, fire, recreation, sewer and water. Vermont municipal officials are responsible for raising and expending nearly one-half of the non-federal taxes raised in the state.

In large part, volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials lead these governments. VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns to serve and strengthen the ability of these officials to provide quality services at affordable levels of taxation:

- Advocacy representation before the State legislature, administration and judiciary, ensuring that municipalities have the resources and authority to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs.
- Training, technical assistance and publications to strengthen the ability of municipal officials to serve their communities. In the past year, we have responded to almost 50,000 telephone calls, 21,200 of them from local officials on the toll-free telephone line available to them. Our Municipal Assistance Center and Group Services staffs provided over 750 workshops and small group training sessions attended by over 4,000 municipal officials and answered over 2,300 legal questions posed by municipal officials. VLCT distributed over 575 copies of local-government publications and distributed over 3,200 hard copies or electronic mail versions of VLCT's Weekly Legislative Report to municipal officials each week during the legislative session.
- Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost. These include an array of municipal insurance programs, among many others. Examples of how this saves local taxpayers dollars are the securing of municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to your employees. The value of VLCT PACIF to all our members was made painfully clear last year when the major re-insurer for the largest private sector option available for municipal property and casualty insurance was declared insolvent by the State of Pennsylvania threatening the payment of claims made under those policies.

All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 140 other municipal entities including villages and fire districts. Membership dues are \$.72 per capita plus a \$250 service fee per year. VLCT maintains its offices in Montpelier and employs 42 staff members. It has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3.0 million.

WAITSFIELD INFORMATION DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

POLICE	911
FIRE (TO REPORT A FIRE ONLY)	911 or 496-2400
AMBULANCE (FOR EMERGENCY ONLY)	911 or 496-3600
M.R.V. HEALTH CENTER	496-3838

OTHER NUMBERS

Ambulance Information		496-8888
Dogs - Lost & Found	Dog Warden	496-4166
Education - Schools	Supt. Of Schools	496-2272
	Elementary School	496-3643
	Harwood Union H.S.	496-2300
Fire Chief	Delbert Palmer	496-3675
Fire Station (non-emergency)		496-2403
Game (hunting/fishing)	Game Warden	496-2475
Green Mountain Power Corp.		223-5235
M.R.V. Health Center		496-3838
Hospital (Berlin)		229-9121
Hospital (Burlington)		658-3456
Poison Control (Burlington)		658-3456
Highway/Roads	Town Garage	496-8897
Library	Librarian	496-4205
Planning & Zoning	Zoning Administrator	496-2218
M.R.V. Senior Citizens	Evergreen Place	496-2020
Sheriff	Washington County Sheriff	223-3001
State Highway	District 6	496-3972
State Police	Middlesex	496-2262
Town Clerk & Treasurer		496-2218
* State Representative	Kinny Connell	
* Washington Co. Senators	William Doyle	
	Ann Cummings	
	Phil Scott	

* The Legislative session usually runs from early January through April.

Messages may be left with the Sergeant-at-Arms at the State House
(828-2228 or 1-800-322-5616) for delivery to the Legislators.

Please keep this page by your phone.

Town of Waitsfield

9 Bridge Street

Waitsfield, VT 05673

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