

TOWN OF
BERKSHIRE
VERMONT

A black and white photograph of an American flag, tilted diagonally. The stars are prominent in the upper left, and the stripes run from the bottom left towards the top right.

*Berkshire Salutes Vermont Soldiers
Serving Our Country*

❁ 2004 Annual Report ❁

AUDITORS'
ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF
BERKSHIRE
& Berkshire Town School District
VERMONT

For the Year Ended
December 31, 2004

Printed By Authority
L.G. Printing
St. Albans, VT

Please bring this report to Town Meeting
Monday, February 28, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

THE BERKSHIRE LIBRARY

A NON-FUNDED (BUT OFFICIAL) STATE LIBRARY, ON RTE # 105 IN EAST
BERKSHIRE ACROSS FROM SAINT'S QUICK STOP AT THE MYO CLINIC
TELEPHONE 933-2498

DOG LICENSES

**DOG LICENSES ARE DUE ON FRIDAY APRIL 1, 2005. A 50% PENALTY FEE
ADDED PLUS A \$20.00 FINE THEREAFTER. NO ADVANCE NOTICE SENT.
IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNER TO REGISTER HIS OR HER DOG.**

LICENSE FEES INCLUDES \$2.00 STATE FEE

FEMALES \$ 11.00

MALES \$11.00

SPAYED FEMALES \$7.00

NEUTERED MALES \$7.00

DOGS SIX MONTHS OF AGE AND UP TO ONE YEAR OF AGE MUST HAVE A
CURRENT RABIES CERTIFICATE. DOGS ONE YEAR OF AGE UP TO TWO
YEARS OF AGE MUST HAVE A RABIES CERTIFICATE DATED IN THE LAST
TWELVE (12) MONTHS. DOGS OVER TWO YEARS OF AGE MUST HAVE A
RABIES CERTIFICATE DATED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

Dr. STEVENSON FROM ANIMAL MEDICAL HOSPITAL OF NORTHERN VT
IN HYDE PARK WILL HOLD A RABIES VACCINE CLINIC HERE AT THE
BERKSHIRE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE ON **WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 2005**
FROM 4:30 P.M. TO 5:30 P.M. RABIES SHOTS \$10.00 DISTEMPER \$15.00
RABIES & DISTEMPER \$20.00 FELINE LEUKEMIA \$15.00 KENNEL COUGH \$15.00

DOG LICENSE ACCOUNT

2004

WE REGISTERED 396 DOGS IN 2004 157 NUTERED MALES
53 MALES 141 SPAYED FEMALES 45 FEMALES

Town
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Town Officers	1
Warning	3
Auditor's Report	5
Town Budget	7
Selectmen's Report	12
Town Treasurer Report	13
Statement of Taxes Raised	14
Delinquent Tax Report	15
Comparison Chart	18
Fire Department Report	19
Zoning Administrator's Report	20
Planning Commission Report.....	21
Berkshire Rescue	22

School
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Warning	32
Auditor's Report	33
Report of School Directors & Superintendent of Schools	34
Federal Grants Report	38
Principal's Report	43
2004-2005 Budget	48
Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union	55
Hot Lunch Program	56

TOWN OFFICERS

~~Anthony Lussier~~ ~~Ricky Doe~~

Moderator

Virginia Messier Town Clerk & Treasurer Term Expires 2005

Robert Archambault	Selectperson	Term Expires 2005
Vincent Hickey	Selectperson	Term Expires 2006
Anthony Lussier	Selectperson	Term Expires 2007

Virginia Kinney	Lister	Term Expires 2006
Andrew Smith	Lister	Term Expires 2007

Mary Larivee	Auditor	Term Expires 2005
Sheila Trudeau	Auditor	Term Expires 2006
Deborah Jacobs	Auditor	Term Expires 2007

Delinquent Tax Collector	Virginia Messier	Term Expires 2006
Town Agent	Douglas Weld	
Town Grand Juror	Troy Masse	

District Representatives	Albert Perry
	Norman McAllister

State Senators	Donald Collins
	Sarah Branon Kittell

Solid Waste Dist Representative	
Health Officer	Mark Silverstein
Deputy Health Officer	Vincent Hickey

Justices Of The Peace

Sheila Trudeau, Vincent Hickey, Heather McKeown Carol Hickey
Harvey Mayo, Paul Hatch, Marylin Lauffer

Inspector of Wood, Shingles & Lumber	Gerald Lavery
Service of Organization of The Selectpersons	Vincent Hickey
Energy Coordinator	Vincent Hickey
Road Commissioner	Anthony Lussier

Fence Viewers
Claude Charron, Orlyn Thompson, Thomas Shover

Darlene Marrier Zoning Administrator

Development Review Board
Carl Ruprecht Chairperson
Hans Jaensch, Claude Charron
Michael Burfoot, Margo Sherwood

Planning Board
Harvey Mayo Chairperson
Jeri Levin, Andrew O'Hazo, Claude Charron,
Daniel Burns, Timothy Larose, Michael Burfoot

TOWN OFFICERS' BOND
VLCT Insurance Agency

Virginia Messier, Town Clerk	\$ 50,000.00
Virginia Messier, Treasurer	\$ 50,000.00
Virginia Messier, School Treasurer	\$ 10,000.00
Kathryn Barbour, Asst. Town & Treasu	\$ 2,000.00
Virginia Messier, Delinquent Tax Collec	\$ 2,000.00
Robert Archambault, Selectperson	\$ 1,000.00
Vincent Hickey, Selectperson	\$ 1,000.00
Anthony Lussier Selectperson	\$ 1,000.00
David Kennison, Road Foreman	\$ 1,000.00

WARNING

2005 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legally qualified Voters of the Town of Berkshire, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Berkshire Elementary School on Monday February 28, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. to transact the following business:

Articles 2, and 4 pertaining to the election of officers and the budget will be voted on by Australian Ballot at the Berkshire Elementary School **Tuesday March 1, 2005** at which time the polls will open at 10:00 A.M. in the forenoon and will close at 7:00 P.M. in the afternoon.

Article 1: To receive and act on the report of the Town Officers for the past year.

Article 2: (A) A Town Moderator for the ensuing year.
(B) A Selectperson for a Term of three years.
(C) A Selectperson for a Term of Two years.
(D) A Selectperson for a Term of One year.
(E) A Lister for a Term of three years.
(F) A Town Agent for a Term of one year.
(G) A Town Grand Juror for a Term of one year.
(H) A Town Clerk for the Term of Three years.
(I) A Town Treasurer for the Term of Three years.
(J) A School Treasurer for the Term of Three years.

Article 3: Shall the Town of Berkshire Authorize and empower the Selectboard to borrow money on credit for the Town for current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to meet any deficit of the Town if expenditures exceed the estimated revenues and further authorize the issuance of notes.

Article 4: Shall the Town of Berkshire, approve the proposed 2005 budget in the amount of \$599,926.00 to defray the expense of the Town for the ensuing year to cover any present indebtedness of the Town and other loans State and County taxes and other ordinary expense with the amount of \$417,636.63 to be raised by taxes.

Article 5: Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to receive and expend for Town purpose any additional Revenue in excess of those calculated in determining the proposed budget for the year beginning January 1, 2005

Article 6: To transact any other non-binding business properly coming before this meeting.

Dated:

24-Jan-05

ATTEST:

Town Clerk:

Virginia Messier

Selectperson

Vincent J. Dechy

Robert Adamblaut

Todd Kinney

Rob. L. Lipp

William Thersund

TOWN ASSETS

Cash on Hand and in Checking Account		\$1,747.90
Money Market		\$456.00
Delinquent Taxes		<u>\$38,550.47</u>
General Town Fund	31-Dec-04	<u>\$40,754.37</u>

LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$	-
School Tax Owed	\$	<u>28,587.00</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$28,587.00
-------------------	-------------

FUND BALANCE	<u>\$12,167.37</u>
--------------	--------------------

COMPARITIVE BALANCE SHEET

Dec. 31, 2004

CURRENT ASSETS

	12/31/2003	12/31/2004
Cash on hand and in Bank	\$94,824.31	\$1,747.90
Money Market	\$52,281.58	\$456.00
Delinquent Taxes	<u>\$25,000.00</u>	<u>\$38,550.50</u>
	\$172,105.89	\$40,754.40

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Total Current Libalities	\$63,103.00	\$28,587.00
Total Assets	<u>\$172,105.89</u>	<u>\$40,754.40</u>
	\$109,002.89	\$12,167.40

General Ledger Long Term Debt:

31-Dec-04

Truck Loan

Balance December 31, 2003 \$ 24,675.00

Principal & Interest Paid \$ 24,675.00

Balance December 31, 2004 \$

Bond

Balance December 31, 2003 \$ 160,000.00

Principal & Interest Paid \$ 15,000.00

Balance December 2004 \$ 145,000.00

Total Town General Long Term Debt \$ 145,000.00

RESTRICTED FUNDS

REAPPRAISAL

CD's As of January 1, 2004 \$ 17,790.00

CD for 2004 \$ 4,830.00

TOTAL 31-Dec-04 \$ 22,620.00

CEMETERIES

Collected from Florence E. Gibson Estate \$3456.00

E. Berkshire Cem. Assoc \$1,728.00

Berkshire Ct. Cem. Assoc. \$ 1,728.00

Lease Land Rent for 2004 \$32.49 Divided between 4 Churches

PAUL HOADLEY MEMORIAL
TOWN HALL RENOVATION FUND

Opened April 30, 1993

Balance on hand January 1, 2004 \$5,420.88

Receipts

Interest \$ 13.61

\$ 13.61 \$ 5,434.49

Totals

DISBURSEMENTS

None

Balance on hand December 31, 2004 \$ 5,434.49

TAXES REVENUE	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Current Taxes	\$392,921.11	\$332,542.99	\$417,636.63
Current Taxes Paid Late	\$0.00	\$37,380.92	\$0.00
Delinquent Taxes	\$25,000.00	\$19,272.90	\$0.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$700.00	\$3,476.59	\$2,434.00
Hold Harmless	\$27,000.00	\$31,488.00	\$31,488.00
Total	\$445,621.11	\$424,161.40	\$451,558.63
OTHER REVENUE	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Dog Licenses	\$2,500.00	\$2,303.00	\$2,300.00
Liquor Licenses	\$250.00	\$350.00	\$250.00
Building Permits	\$600.00	\$1,621.00	\$1,200.00
Highway Permits	\$250.00	\$265.00	\$250.00
Septic Permits	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$150.00
Driveway Permits	\$175.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Occupancy/Compliance Perm	\$500.00	\$716.00	\$500.00
Interest on Statements	\$2,000.00	\$1,781.00	\$1,000.00
Recording Fees	\$19,000.00	\$17,950.00	\$15,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$1,001.00	\$0.00
Town Report Reimburse 2004	\$2,200.00	\$2,673.00	\$1,000.00
Variances/Subdividison	\$0.00	\$429.00	\$400.00
	\$27,625.00	\$29,439.00	\$22,200.00
TOTAL GENERAL	\$473,246.11	\$453,600.40	\$473,758.63
HIGHWAY REVENUE	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
St.Aide-Roads	\$110,500.00	\$112,814.00	\$113,000.00
Culverts	\$0.00	\$1,388.00	\$1,000.00
Paving & Resurfacing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sale of Materials/Equip	\$0.00	\$556.00	\$0.00
Total Hlghway	\$110,500.00	\$114,758.00	\$114,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$583,746.11	\$568,358.40	\$587,758.63

OFFICE PAYROLL	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Town Clerk Pay	\$18,100.00	\$18,100.00	\$18,800.00
Town Treasurer Pay	\$10,100.00	\$10,100.00	\$10,500.00
Assistant Pay	\$9,900.00	\$9,102.75	\$9,900.00
Listers Pay	\$7,000.00	\$5,927.75	\$8,000.00
Auditors Pay	\$600.00	\$371.25	\$600.00
Selectmen Pay	\$2,850.00	\$3,483.28	\$4,750.00
Health Officer Pay	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
BCA Pay	\$500.00	\$120.00	\$500.00
Planning & Zoning	\$1,000.00	\$933.01	\$3,000.00
Custodian Pay	\$750.00	\$342.50	\$750.00
General Share Fica/Medi	\$5,300.00	\$5,371.27	\$5,500.00
Total	\$56,850.00	\$54,601.81	\$63,050.00
OFFICE EXPENSE	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est Budget
Office Equipment	\$2,000.00	\$2,041.00	\$2,100.00
Computer Expense	\$3,500.00	\$3,627.10	\$3,500.00
Office Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$2,399.64	\$2,500.00
Office Telephone	\$1,600.00	\$1,521.63	\$1,600.00
Office Heat	\$950.00	\$780.32	\$950.00
Office Electricity	\$900.00	\$818.59	\$900.00
Office Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$1,872.69	\$2,500.00
Total	\$13,950.00	\$13,060.97	\$14,050.00
GENERAL EXPENSE	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Lawn Mowing	\$1,000.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00
Mileage	\$500.00	\$306.60	\$500.00
Traning/Seminars	\$2,000.00	\$1,530.00	\$2,000.00
Listers Supplies	\$500.00	\$382.30	\$500.00
Advertising	\$750.00	\$495.49	\$750.00
Postage	\$1,750.00	\$1,459.97	\$1,750.00
Street Lights	\$5,000.00	\$4,539.91	\$5,000.00
Franklin County Tax	\$9,000.00	\$8,908.84	\$9,000.00
Legal Fees	\$5,000.00	\$1,175.00	\$5,000.00
Fire Department	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00
Ambulance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,435.00
	\$0.00	0	0
	0	0	0
	0	0	0

Dispatch Fee	\$1,500.00	\$2,527.42	\$3,000.00
Elections Expense	\$1,000.00	\$1,302.25	\$1,000.00
Town Report Expense	\$2,800.00	\$2,796.50	\$2,800.00
Dog Census/Expense	\$4,000.00	\$1,782.44	\$3,000.00
Insurance	\$21,000.00	\$20,720.25	\$22,000.00
Solid Waste	\$1,388.00	\$1,388.00	\$1,388.00
Planning Expense	\$900.00	\$836.94	\$900.00
Interest on Loans	\$1,500.00	\$1,564.70	\$3,000.00
Unemployment Fund	\$350.00	\$205.14	\$350.00
Sand Shed	\$80,000.00	\$127,651.71	\$0.00
Town Hall	\$16,000.00	\$4,363.00	\$12,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$5,000.00	\$4,336.25	\$5,000.00
Totals	\$182,938.00	\$211,172.71	\$123,373.00
Total Office & General	\$253,738.00	\$278,835.49	\$200,473.00
HIGHWAY	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
HIGHWAY PAYROLL			
Highway Pay	\$124,000.00	\$116,425.78	\$125,000.00
Highway FICA/ Medi	\$9,500.00	\$8,239.38	\$9,000.00
Health Insurance	\$33,000.00	\$32,519.95	\$37,500.00
Total	\$166,500.00	\$157,185.11	\$171,500.00
HIGHWAY UTILITIES	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Highway Telephone	\$1,050.00	\$1,012.70	\$1,050.00
Highway Heat	\$1,000.00	\$544.69	\$1,000.00
Highway Electricity	\$1,500.00	\$1,566.15	\$1,800.00
Highway Rubbish Removal	\$700.00	\$706.00	\$750.00
Total	\$4,250.00	\$3,829.54	\$4,600.00
HIGHWAY OUTSIDE SERVICES	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Hired Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$7,874.60	\$8,000.00
Rented Equipment	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Paving/Resurfacing	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Total	\$78,000.00	\$77,874.60	\$78,000.00

MAINTENANCE	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Garage Maintenance	\$6,000.00	\$5,064.98	\$6,000.00
Truck 1 (1990)	\$5,000.00	\$1,371.01	\$5,000.00
Truck 2 (1993)	\$5,000.00	\$3,646.41	\$5,000.00
Truck 3 (2002)	\$2,000.00	\$1,297.27	\$2,000.00
Grader (1985)	\$3,000.00	\$2,858.38	\$3,000.00
Loader (1997)	\$5,000.00	\$5,082.63	\$5,000.00
Mower Tractor & Equip (81/84)	\$6,000.00	\$6,562.46	\$3,000.00
Sifter (1990)	\$2,500.00	\$348.13	\$2,500.00
Chipper (1984)	\$2,000.00	\$144.66	\$1,000.00
Plows & Sanders	\$5,000.00	\$5,257.52	\$6,000.00
Trailer	\$500.00	\$493.43	\$500.00
Minor Equipment	\$2,500.00	\$1,526.86	\$2,500.00
General Vehicle Supplies	\$4,500.00	\$4,819.96	\$4,500.00
Diesel	\$19,000.00	\$19,118.61	\$23,000.00
Gasoline	\$1,300.00	\$1,676.32	\$1,900.00
Radio Repair & Testing	\$1,000.00	\$1,119.38	\$1,000.00
Cleaning Supplies	\$800.00	\$501.65	\$800.00
Total	\$71,100.00	\$60,889.66	\$72,700.00
MATERIALS	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Salt	\$13,000.00	\$11,114.39	\$13,000.00
Chloride	\$12,750.00	\$12,710.00	\$15,000.00
Hot Mix & Cold Patch	\$500.00	\$986.42	\$500.00
Culverts	\$3,000.00	\$2,525.78	\$3,000.00
Road Signs	\$1,500.00	\$1,645.72	\$2,000.00
Guard Rails	\$5,000.00	\$4,986.00	\$5,000.00
Stabilizing Fabric	\$1,000.00	\$1,120.00	\$1,000.00
Grass Seed	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Total	\$37,050.00	\$35,088.31	\$39,800.00
Total Highway	\$356,900.00	\$334,867.22	\$366,600.00
DEBT SERVICE	2004 Est Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
Bond Principal	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Bond Interest	\$5,501.00	\$5,501.00	\$5,213.00
Truck Payment	\$27,825.00	\$26,775.00	\$0.00
Total	\$48,326.00	\$47,276.00	\$20,213.00

VOTED APPROPRIATIONS	2004 Est. Budget	2004 ACTUAL	2005 Est. Budget
NW Regional Planning	\$1,138.00	\$1,138.00	\$1,138.00
Vt League of C & T	\$1,324.00	\$1,324.00	\$1,604.00
Enosburg Ambulance	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	0
Richford Ambulance	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00	\$0.00
Home Health Agency	\$2,083.00	\$2,083.00	\$2,083.00
Richford Health Center	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$800.00
Northwest Couseling	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
St Albans Family Center	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Champlain Villy Agcy of Agin	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$850.00
Franklin Cty ind Dev Corp	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Vt Ctr for independent Livin	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
Franklin Cty Humane Society	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$360.00
Voice Against Violence	\$650.00	\$650.00	\$500.00
Northern Vt Resource	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$75.00
Northwest Unit Investigation	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Richford summer Camp	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Richford Library	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Green Up	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total	\$29,785.00	\$29,785.00	\$12,640.00
Estimated Expenditures 2004	\$688,749.00		
Actural Expenditures 2004		\$690,763.71	
Notes Payable			
Total Est. 2005 Expenditures			\$599,926.00
Estimated Revenune			\$170,122.00
Fund Balance			\$12,167.37
Total Amount to be funded by Taxes			\$417,636.63
	The Auditors have examined the record and accounts of the various officers of the Town of Berkshire. To the best of our knowledge they are true and accurate.		
			Mary Larivee
			Sheila Trudeau
			Deborah Jacobs

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Salaries	\$ 167,547.62
FICA	\$ 13,610.65
Truck 3 Payment	\$ 24,675.00
Appropriations	\$ 11,185.00
Office Expense	\$ 13,060.97
Interest on Loans	\$ 1,564.70
Fire Department	\$ 22,000.00
Highway Utilities	\$ 3,829.54
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,336.25
Liability Insurance	\$ 20,720.25
Health Insurance	\$ 32,519.95
Town Report Expense	\$ 2,796.50
General Expense	\$ 159,755.01
Black Top	\$ 60,000.00
Highway Construction	\$ 17,874.00
Garage Maintenance	\$ 7,586.92
General Vehicle Supply	\$ 4,819.96
Diesel & Gas	\$ 20,794.93
Radio & Pager Expense	\$ 1,119.38
Highway Equipment	\$ 26,568.47
Supplies	\$ 209.30
Highway Materials	\$ 35,088.31
Bond Principal & Interest	\$ 20,501.00
Ambulance	\$ 18,600.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 690,763.71

REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER
January 1, 2004 TO December 31, 2004

Cash on hand and in bank January 1, 2004	105,002.89
Liquor licenses	\$ 350.00
Borrowed Money	\$ 185,000.00
Building Permit	\$ 1,621.00
Dog License	\$ 2,303.00
Subdivision/Variance	\$ 429.00
Highway permits	\$ 265.00
Septic permits	\$ 200.00
Driveway permits	\$ 150.00
Occupancy permits	\$ 716.00
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ 3,476.59
Interest on Statements	\$ 1,781.39
Sales of Materials and equipment	\$ 556.59
State Treasurer-Money for Roads	\$ 112,814.60
State Treasurer-Current Use/Hold Harmless	\$ 31,488.00
Taxes Property 2004	\$ 331,236.05
Current Taxes Paid Late 2004	\$ 37,380.92
Delinquent Taxes	\$ 19,272.90
Recording Fees	\$ 17,950.00
Town Report Reimbursement (School)	\$ 2,673.50
Culverts	\$ 1,388.60
Refund Clearwater	\$ 759.78
Claude Desautel Steel	\$ 129.84
Returned Check's Paid	\$ 6,160.15
St of Vt Civil Fines	\$ 341.61
IRS Refund	\$ 1,086.01
Computer Refund	\$ 250.00
Camera/Tool Reimbursment	\$ 561.94
Reappraisal	\$ 4,830.00
G E Dividends	\$ 3,456.00
Misc	\$ 4,336.25
Total Receipts	\$ 772,964.72
Total Funds Available	\$877,967.61

DISBURSEMENTS

Selectboard's orders	\$ 690,763.71
Borrowed Money	\$ 185,000.00
Cash on hand and in bank 12/31/2004	\$ 2,203.90

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED 2004

Town Rate= \$0.60	Homestead School		Non-Residential Schc	
Town Grand List				\$ 66,575,969.00
Homestead School Grand List				\$ 46,343,053.00
Non-Residential School Grand List				\$ 20,351,778.00
Town Real Estate	\$ 66,575,969.00	x	1%	\$ 665,759.69
Homestead School	\$ 46,343,053.00	x	1%	\$ 463,430.53
Non-Residential School	\$ 20,351,778.00	x	1%	\$203,517.78
Taxes Assessed and Billed				
Town General Fund	\$ 665,759.69	x	\$0.60	\$ 399,455.81
Homestead School	\$ 463,430.53	x	\$	\$ 611,033.15
Non-Residential School	\$ 203,517.78	x	\$	\$ 352,553.85
Total Property Taxes				<u>\$ 1,363,042.81</u>

TAXES COLLECTED AND ACCOUNTED FOR

Property Taxes	\$ 1,296,129.99
Lease Land Rent	
School	\$ 38.94
Ministerial	\$ 32.49
Total	<u>\$1,296,201.42</u>
ADD:	
University Lease Land	\$ 19.91
Placed with Delinquent Tax Collector	\$ 66,821.48
Total Taxes Collected and Accounted For	<u>\$ 1,363,042.81</u>

Property Tax Disbursement	
Taxes Collected	\$ 1,296,129.99
Taxes Paid to School	\$ 935,000.00
Taxes Owed School	<u>\$ 28,587.00</u>
Taxes Collected for Town	\$ 332,542.99

Statement of Delinquent taxes Januray 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004

Year	Tax Balance	Collector	Collections	Abated	Balance
1997	\$88.00		\$88.00		\$0.00
2001	\$116.05		\$116.05		\$0.00
2002	\$3,711.36		\$1,028.46		\$2,682.90
2003	<u>\$24,467.43</u>		\$18,040.39		\$6,427.04
2004		<u>\$66,821.48</u>	<u>\$37,380.92</u>		<u>\$29,440.53</u>
Totals	\$28,382.84	\$66,821.48	\$56,653.82		\$38,550.47
2002 Herron Ruth					\$526.98
Martin Janet					\$1,993.95
Martin (Wetherby) Janet					<u>\$161.97</u>
Total					\$2,682.90
2003 Edgerly Timothy & Lisa					\$107.12
Friot Rodwin					\$37.74
Martin (Wetherby) Janet					\$1,156.62
Martin Janet					\$2,342.10
Patterson Thomas					\$530.53
Pryme Ruth					\$721.50
Talcott Dana					\$575.30
Wedin Margaret					\$600.00
Wetherby Michael & Nancy					<u>\$356.13</u>
Total					\$6,427.04
2004 Beauregard, Ricky					\$8.40
Beauregard Ricky					\$1,709.83
Burns, Ricky					\$1,642.24
Camisa, Timothy					\$1,826.03
Citi Financial					\$3.12
Conger, Robert & Sheila					\$2,293.22
Conger Robert III					\$288.74
Edgerly, Timothy					\$1,847.02
Friot, Rodwin					\$39.65
Hardy, Jonas					\$137.59
Jones, Ernest					\$201.44
Larose Angel					\$2.40

Larose, Timothy	\$6,821.69
Larose, Timothy	\$457.09
Martin(Colombe) Janet	\$1,118.49
Martin(Colombe) Janet	\$2,460.37
Martin, Robert	\$1,473.41
Patterson, Thomas	\$530.53
Prime, Ruth	\$627.80
Ricoh Corp	\$5.81
Ryea, Harry	\$411.45
Snyder (Stepling) Ida	\$692.63
Talcott, Dana	\$594.96
Wedin, Magaret	\$1,565.50
Wescott, Wayne	\$1,087.79
Wetherby, Michael & Nancy	\$1,118.49
Wood, David & Ardit	<u>\$474.84</u>
Total	29440.53

SUMMARY

TAXES RECEIVED FOR COLLECTION

Delinquent	\$19,272.93
Current Taxes Paid Late	\$37,380.92

INTEREST

Interest received as of December 31, 2004	\$3,476.59
Interest due as of December 31, 2004	\$2,434.67

TOWN EMPLOYEES WAGES & SALARIES
2004

NAME	DUTY	WAGES
Anderson, Cathy Ann	Election	\$ 45.00
Archambault, Robert	Selectperson, BCA	\$ 980.00
Barbour, Kathy	Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	\$ 9,445.75
Beauregard Gisele	Custodian	\$ 182.50
Beauregard Hilaire	Election	\$ 55.00
Burfoot, Michael	DBR/Planning	\$ 70.00
Charron, Claude	DBR/Planning	\$ 170.00
Chates William	Highway	\$ 3,168.00
Chung, Jane Sung-Hee	Election	\$ 55.00
Desautels, Patrick	Election	\$ 20.00
Desautels, Daniel	Highway	\$ 192.00
Hickey, Vincent	Selectperson, BCA. Zonning	\$ 1,541.00
Hickey, Carol	BCA Election	\$ 10.00
Jacobs, Deborah	Auditor	\$ 69.75
Jaensch, Hans	DBR	\$ 100.00
Kennison, Danny	Highway	\$ 37,080.44
Kennison, David	Highway Foreman	\$ 42,677.27
Kinney, Virginia	Lister/ Election	\$ 4,161.25
Kinney, Todd	Selectperson	\$ 316.64
Kittell, Blaine	Highway	\$ 660.00
Larivee, Mary	Auditor	\$ 132.75
Larose, Jeanne	Election	\$ 10.00
Lauffer, Marylin	BCA	\$ 10.00
Levin, GERALINE	Planning/Election	\$ 140.00
Lussier, Anthony	Selectperson, BCA	\$ 990.00
Marrier, Darlene	Zoning Administrator	\$ 1,370.50
Mayo, Harvey	Planning/ Election	\$ 145.00
Mayotte, Beverly	Election	\$ 45.00
McFadden, Albert	Highway	\$ 35,562.68
Messier, Virginia	Town Clerk, Treasurer, Del. Tax.	\$ 34,316.00
O'Hazo, Andrew	Planning/ Election	\$ 105.00
O'Hazo, Elieen	Election	\$ 55.00
Ruprecht, Carl	DBR	\$ 110.00
Sherwood, Arthur	Selectperson	\$ 316.64
Sherwood, Margo	DBR	\$ 120.00
Silverstein, Mark	Health Officer	\$ 750.00
Smith, Andrew	Lister	\$ 2,033.50
Tremblay, Laurie	Election	\$ 90.00
Trudeau, Sheila	Auditor, etc.	\$ 317.75
Weld, Doug	Town Agent	\$ 20.00
Wetherby, Kathy	Custodian	\$ 276.00
		\$ -
TOTAL		<u>\$ 177,915.42</u>

**TOWN TAX RATE COMPARISON CHART
JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST**

YEAR	GRAND LIST	TOWN TAX RATE
1984	\$ 177,974	\$ 0.740
1985	181,709	0.830
1986	184,018	0.900
1987	189,334	0.940
1988	192,933	0.930
1989	197,991	0.940
1990	371,951	0.630
1991	377,666	0.630
1992	383,635	0.655
1993	390,825	0.720
1994	396,258	0.710
1995	403,822	0.710
1996	390,570	0.630
1997	396,920	0.630
1998	408,851	0.700
1999	559,040	0.480
2000	559,742	0.510
2001	611,090	0.520
2002	634,207	0.540
2003	644,900	0.600
2004	665,759	0.600

BERKSHIRE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

January 1, 2004 Balance on hand

\$120,371.80

RECEIPTS

Town of Berkshire	\$22,000.00	
JD'S Pub	\$2,000.00	
Richford Loins	\$1,000.00	
Marcy Estate	<u>\$400.81</u>	
Total	\$25,400.81	\$145,772.61

DISBURSEMENTS

Truck Repairs	\$272.45
Gas for Truck	\$342.17
Phone	\$550.39
Electricity	\$181.94
Fuel Oil	\$1,938.39
Equipment	\$3,441.20
New Tanker	\$12,112.13
Misc	<u>\$623.77</u>
Total	\$19,462.44

December 31, 2004 Ending Balance

\$126,310.17

To report a fire in the Town of Berkshire, the telephone number is 911. Be prepared to give the dispatcher your Name, Location and a telephone number where you can be called back for additional information, if necessary. Do not assume that the fire department will automatically know where you are located. For this reason, we suggest that property owners and residents give thought to what information is necessary so that police, fire departments and ambulance can arrive as quickly as possible when the need arises. Information that is helpful are Town Road names and nurr highway route numbers, local land-marks, or the namme of neighbor who is well known in the community.

Anyone interested in joining the fire department the meetings are Tuesday nights, or call a member.

Thanks to Desautels Paving for use of the garage to work on New Tanker.

Thanks to everyone who gave donations.

The new tanker should be in service by summer.

Robert Archambault	Chief	Tony Archambault	Asst Chief
Raymond Phillips	Asst Chief	David Randall	Captain
Jamie Archambault	Captain	Bruce Potter	Sectertary
Andy Smith	Treasurer		

	Members	Claude Charron	
Amy Doe	Patrick Deautels	Scott Raymond	Dean Randall
Scott Billow	Gary Tetreault	Jan Pederson	Tim Desmarais

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT TOWN OF BERKSHIRE 2004

The Zoning Office was very busy this year with many calls regarding the State's new Septic Regulations and changes to Chapter 117. Several applicants visited the office for assistance completing applications for Zoning Permits to be processed or referred to the Development Review Board to be set for hearings.

Last year 48 applications were received for processing by the Zoning Administrator. These included 16 applications for new dwelling units and 2 replacement mobile homes. There were 23 Compliance Letters and 9 Certificates of Occupancy issued. Also issued were seven Subdivisions and 2 Variances.

The Zoning Administrator is in the Town Clerk's Office on Thursday's from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

If you require assistance on other days please call 802-933-2335 and leave a message.

Reminder: All new or modified septic systems need to be approved and inspected by the Select Board and the site plans filed with the Town Clerk. Also all driveway permits must be approved by the Select Board, Road Foreman and the Development Review Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene C. Marrier
Zoning Administrator

THE BERKSHIRE PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT FOR 2004

Since August 2004, the Berkshire Planning Commission has been working to update the Comprehensive Municipal Plan that was adopted in 2000. The purpose of the Municipal Plan is to serve as a document of the Town's present condition and to act as a guide to the achievement of Berkshire's short- and long-term goals. We anticipate final adoption in May of 2005.

Upon completion of the Plan, we will take up the issues of zoning districts and preparation of an updated zoning district map.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Planning Commission, please contact one of the commissioners or leave your name with the Town Clerk. We meet once a month and would welcome anyone interested in becoming a member.

All Planning Commission meetings are open to the public.

**Respectively Submitted,
The Berkshire Planning Commission**

BERKSHIRE RESCUE

Berkshire Rescue had approximately 60 calls last year. Three were transported by Richford Ambulance Service and the rest by Enosburgh Ambulance Service. The average response time to a call was 5 minutes.

I would like to remind everyone to please display your 911 numbers where they can easily be seen by rescue members and ambulance crews day or night. This enables us to find your residence without delay. These signs can be purchased at the Enosburgh Emergency Building.

Due to a grant from Homeland Security, we now have 4 automatic defibrillators in the town of Berkshire. These are allocated to members in East and West Berkshire and Berkshire Center.

Respectfully,
Mary Hatch

**Northern Tier Center for Health
NOTCH
Richford Health Center
53 Main Street
Richford, Vermont 05476
802-848-3829**

RICHFORD AMBULANCE SERVICE

December 27, 2004

Mr. Vincent Hickey, Chair
Berkshire Selectboard
4454 Watertower Road
Enosburg Falls, Vermont 05450

Dear Mr. Hickey:

Vince

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information concerning the services of Richford Ambulance to the Town of Berkshire.

Richford Ambulance Service responded to fourteen (14) emergency calls in the Town of Berkshire in year 2004. Each of these calls resulted in transport to Northwestern Medical Center. Richford Ambulance Service also responded to several calls in towns of Enosburg and Montgomery as back up to their own individual services.

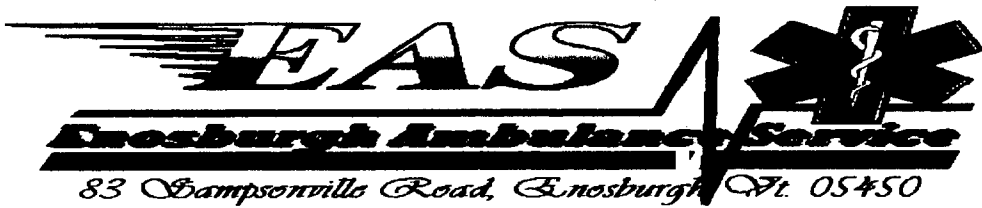
I would like to present the following information:

- 1) All District One area ambulance services, including Richford, Enosburg, Franklin and Montgomery, Missisquoi and Alburg bill for services to insurances including Medicare and Medicaid. The funds received from these services help to cover the costs of each run.
- 2) Richford Ambulance Service is a volunteer service, which provides ALS and BLS coverage 24 hours each day seven days a week.
- 3) Richford Ambulance Service maintains an Operational Letter of Agreement with Berkshire First Responder Service for transport to hospital.
- 4) Richford Ambulance Service depends upon the combined resources from billing, subscriptions (\$35.00 annually per household), donations such as those from individuals and the Town of Berkshire.
- 5) Funds are required to provide supplies as well as training and small stipend for each of three crewmembers for transport and each 12-hour shift (4,380 annually).

While Town of Richford is committed to maintaining the Richford Ambulance Service, it appreciates deeply the support of Town of Berkshire. Your contribution helps assure the ongoing twenty-four hour on-call coverage to both of our towns.

Sincerely,

Marcia
Marcia C. Perry, President
Richford Health Center



Tuesday, December 21, 2004

As we approach a new year, the staff of Enosburgh Ambulance Service looks back at the successes of our service.

Through the year, our members have trained, attended numerous classes and obtained a more advanced level of certification. The State of Vermont introduced additional training to update the Advanced EMT certification. Most of the membership has completed the new training. This allows us to provide more medications and perform new techniques to improve our patients experience while in our care.

The senior staff is still working together with the schools to create an effective injury prevention program, as well as an EMS Education program. We hope to have these programs up-and-running soon.

Last summer, we initiated a **"911 Address Sign"** program, offering highly visible, inexpensive signs to all the households of our communities. We are far from our goal of having near 100% of the population displaying a noticeable **"911 Address Sign"**, one that we can locate while searching for a residence under adverse conditions. If you already purchased a sign from us, we thank you. If you haven't purchased a sign, and are not displaying a noticeable sign yet, please consider doing so prior to having to call 911. Call us at (802)-933-2118 for more information.

This year, we are asking our supporters for an increase of \$2.00 per capita in our appropriations. The service continues to increase in costs, and we need to break even to survive.

Once again, we wish to extend our sincere thanks to everyone in our community for their continued support,

The Staff of Enosburgh Ambulance Service

Clement Roger
Director



As we all know, an unexpected ambulance trip to the hospital can be expensive. Transports necessary due to an illness or accident can easily turn into a thousand dollar bill. A typical "Basic Life Support" ambulance trip cost around \$ 580.00, while an "Advanced Life Support" trip could cost around \$ 950.00. Not all insurance companies cover these services at 100%.

Enosburgh Ambulance Service is proud to still offer a **SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM** to cover these unexpected expenses (many towns no longer offer this service). The program covers all family members living at the physical address you provide.

In the event a member of your household requires an ambulance transport, Enosburgh Ambulance Service will bill your insurance carrier. We will also absorb any portion of the costs not reimbursed by your insurance carrier.

If you would like to subscribe to this service, please fill in the enrollment form below and mail it, along with a check for \$ 35.00 to 83 Sampsonville Rd, Enosburgh, VT 05450. Or call our office at 933-2118 between the hours of 9:00 and 5:00PM. We will be glad to assist you and answer any question you may have.

Get peace of mind, subscribe today.

SUBSCRIPTION ENROLLMENT COUPON

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ ZIP: _____

PHYSICAL (911) ADDRESS: _____

NAMES OF DEPENDANTS/FAMILY MEMBERS AT SAME ADDRESS:

Vermont Department of Health Annual Report – for Berkshire

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

Reportable Disease Case Investigations: Infectious diseases continue to be a major source of illness, disability and death in the U.S. and Vermont, accounting for 25% of all doctor visits each year. The Health Department investigates all cases of disease such as meningitis, hepatitis, pertussis (whooping cough), and infectious diarrhea to determine their source, to recommend control measures (including current treatment standards) and to prevent further spread of disease. In 2002, the department investigated 82 cases of disease in Franklin County.

Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Proper vaccination protects children and adults against many diseases, saves health care dollars, and minimizes sick leave from school or work. Immunization has reduced reportable cases of preventable diseases in Vermont to record low levels. Still, total annual hospital charges from vaccine-preventable disease in Vermont is \$2.6 Million, and each year 150 – 200 Vermonters die of pneumonia or influenza. During 2002, the Health Department distributed 11,754 doses of vaccine to health care providers in Franklin County. This represents a value of \$159,845.43 to these communities, especially children living in Berkshire.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance: WNV first appeared in the U.S. in New York City in 1999 and has become well established in the United States. Birds, mammals and people can get WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito. The Vermont Departments of Health and Agriculture conduct surveillance for WNV each year from June until cold weather limits mosquito activity in the fall. In 2003, 5 Town Health Officers in different parts of the state also participated in the program, assisting primarily with mosquito trapping. As of September 19, 2003: 450 mosquito pools were tested, with nine positive for WNV, and three horses have tested positive (one each from Addison, Orleans and Franklin Counties). In Franklin County from June-September 19th 2003, 162 dead birds were reported, 46 were tested, and 3 were found to be infected with West Nile Virus. There were no reported human or equine cases reported during this same time period.

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

If you would like more information about these efforts, or if you have a public health concern, please call the St. Albans District Office at 802-524-7970. Please visit our web site at www.HealthyVermonters.info for information on health topics, public health emergency preparedness and response, news releases, publications, reports and general public health information.



Helping People Age with Independence and Dignity

THE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY AGENCY ON AGING, INC. has been helping people age with independence and dignity for over 25 years. CVAA is grateful to the citizens of Berkshire for their ongoing support of services for area seniors.

THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS OF BERKSHIRE INCLUDE:

MEALS ON WHEELS ~ CVAA provides hot wholesome meals to seniors who are age 60 or over. Volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound individuals who are ill, frail, or recuperating after a hospital stay and unable to prepare their own meal.

SENIOR COMMUNITY MEALS ~ In Berkshire, these meals are served in Franklin, Enosburg and Richford and at several area restaurants. In addition to a nutritious meal, the community meal provides socialization and companionship for older people who may be isolated or live alone.

CASE MANAGEMENT ~ CVAA Case Managers make in-home visits and connect individuals with the services and resources they need in order to remain independent and in their own home. Harry Benoit, the CVAA Case Manager for Berkshire, worked with 9 seniors in your town. Harry may be reached through the CVAA office at 865-0360 or 1-800-642-5119.

SENIOR HELPLINE ~ CVAA operates a toll-free service that provides answers to any question or concern regarding services for older people. Seniors, or their family members, can reach the Senior HelpLine by calling 1-800-642-5119 (Voice/TTY) during business hours.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AGENCY,
OR TO INQUIRE ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES,
CALL 865-0350 OR 1-800-642-5119 (VOICE/TTY)
YOU MAY ALSO VISIT US AT: WWW.CVAA.ORG**

**Franklin County Home Health Agency
Information Sheet
Berkshire**

What is Franklin County Home Health Agency?

Franklin County Home Health Agency is a 501(c)(3), non-profit corporation that has been providing health care and hospice services to individuals in their own homes since 1969. The Agency is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who represent the communities of our county.

We are accredited with Commendation by the Joint Commission of Health Care Organizations. This is the highest level of accreditation awarded by the Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest accrediting body for health care facilities and organizations.

What is the Agency's Mission and Purpose?

The mission of Franklin County Home Health Agency is to provide high quality health care in a community setting. We are committed to excellence in service. We strive to meet the needs of our clients in a professional manner that promotes health, independence, comfort, dignity and quality of life.

What is the Agency's service area?

The Agency serves all 15 towns in Franklin County through its two offices - one in St. Albans and one in Enosburg Falls.

How many people are on staff at the Agency?

The Agency currently has a staff of 235 Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Nursing Assistants, Care Attendants, Homemakers, Medical Social Work, and Office Support Staff.

How many clients did the Agency serve in 2003?

During the last year, the Agency made 88,643 visits. The Agency provides services to at least 850 residents of our county each month.

How many clients were served in Berkshire?

Berkshire residents received 1477 visits. The breakdown by discipline was:

434	Skilled Nursing
98	Physical Therapy
13	Occupational Therapy
52	Medical Social Work
486	Nursing Assistants
394	Medicaid Waiver

What are the Agency's Programs?

Our largest program is our Home Care Program. This program provides medically necessary health care services to people of all ages who are typically not able to leave their home to receive medical care. Examples include individuals who need dressing changes following surgery; a person newly diagnosed with diabetes needing insulin administration and instruction; or a mother and newborn newly discharged from the hospital.

The Hospice Program provides care to people with a terminal illness for whom the prognosis is less than 6 months of life. The focus of this care is on achieving comfort and quality of life in their last days.

The Agency administers the Home and Community Based Waiver, Traumatic Brain Injury and Homemaker Programs. These services assist disabled and elderly members of our community with activities such as limited personal care, housekeeping, meal preparation, errands and shopping to allow them to stay in their own home when they otherwise would be at risk of being admitted to a nursing home. This program grew substantially during the last year. It will likely continue to grow as the population of our county ages.

We also provide services to pregnant women and infants through our Healthy Babies Program. The Agency provide healthcare and education services to pregnant women and infants through our Childbirth Education classes and Healthy Babies Program. These programs help to prepare expectant women for labor, delivery and new infant care.

The Center for Health and Wellness, our collaborative effort with Northwestern Medical Center, Northwest Counseling and Support Services, and the Vermont Department of Health provides health education programs and screenings throughout the entire County. Our goal is to prevent disease and improve the overall health of our community.

How are services paid for?

As a Medicare certified Agency, Franklin County Home Health Agency, receives reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid and other third party insurances. In 2003, the Agency received 90 percent of its revenue from Medicare and Medicaid.

The Agency is committed to providing medically necessary home care services to all those in need regardless of their ability to pay. Without appropriations and contributions from the towns, United Way and donor gifts, our ability to provide care could be seriously jeopardized.

Why does the Agency need money from towns?

The Agency depends on money received from towns to subsidize the cost of care provided to patients who are uninsured or underinsured. Last year, the Agency provided more than \$250,000 in free and subsidized care.

Where do I call for more information about the Agency?

Information about the services provided by Franklin County Home Health Agency please visit our web site at www.fchha.org. or call 527-7531.



Lake Champlain Housing Development Corporation

Franklin-Grand Isle HomeOwnership Center
48 Lower Newton Road Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478
(802) 527-2361 Fax: 527-2373

Lake Champlain Housing (LCH) is a housing non-profit organization that provides affordable housing opportunities throughout Franklin, Grand Isle and Chittenden counties.

Lake Champlain Housing develops and builds affordable apartments and has built over 750 affordable apartments throughout the 3 county region since 1986. LCH also manages over 1000 apartments in our region. For more information about building units in your municipality, contact Meg Pond at the LCH office in St. Albans, at 527-2361. For information about available affordable apartments, check our website at www.lchdc.org.

The Franklin-Grand Isle HomeOwnership Center (F-GI HOC) in St. Albans provides homebuyer education and counseling to people interested in becoming homeowners and rehab loans to qualified homeowners. Since 2002, the F-GI HOC has educated 182 households on how to become homeowners, with 57 households who purchased their homes. **Since we began serving Berkshire, we have made 5 loans totaling \$68,042 to homeowners living in your town.**

The F-GI HOC is a partnership between Lake Champlain Housing and the Burlington Community Land Trust. For more information on the Franklin-Grand Isle HomeOwnership Center services, please call our St. Albans office at 527-2361 or visit our websites: www.getahome.org and www.lchdc.org.

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

SUMMARY FOR THE TOWN OF BERKSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) teaches people with significant disabilities how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. We also conduct public education and systems change activities that promote the full inclusion of disabled people into community life.

An estimated one in five Vermonters has a disability. VCIL, a private non-profit organization, is Vermont's first and only cross-disability center for independent living and the first organization in the state to be directed and staffed by a majority of people with diverse disabilities.

Statewide, from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004, VCIL responded to over **2,000** requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information and referrals on a broad range of subjects related to living with a disability. We provided one-on-one peer counseling to **355** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and life opportunities; provided **401** households with financial and technical assistance for making their bathrooms and entrances accessible to a disabled family member; provided over **345** with personal assistance and/or assistive technology; provided communications equipment to **76** Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired individuals through the Vermont Equipment Distribution Program, and delivered meals to almost **555** Vermonters through VCIL's Meals on Wheels program for Individuals Under 60 with Disabilities.

VCIL's central office is located in Montpelier with three regional offices in Bennington, Brattleboro and Burlington. The Montpelier office houses a disability resource library and the toll-free information line, through which answers to disability-related questions are provided to callers from every Vermont community. Our locally based Peer Advocacy Counselors are available to people with disabilities in every municipality in Vermont.

During FY 2004, VCIL provided direct services to **1** resident of the Town of Berkshire utilizing the following services/programs:

- Information & Referral

- Meals on Wheels for people with disabilities under age 60

- Home and Community Access Program

To learn more about VCIL, call toll-free at 1-800-639-1522

WARNING

BERKSHIRE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, February 28, 2005, and Tuesday, March 1, 2005

The legally qualified voters of the Berkshire Town School District, Berkshire, Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Berkshire Elementary School on Monday, February 28, 2005, at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, to transact the following business, viz:

Articles 1, 2, and 3 pertaining to the election of officers and Article 5 pertaining to the FY06 budget will be voted on by Australian ballot at the Berkshire Elementary School on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, between 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time the polls will close.

- ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.
- ARTICLE 2. To elect a School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- ARTICLE 3. To elect a School Director for a term of three (3) years.
- ARTICLE 4. To receive and act on the reports of the Town School District Officers.
- ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the Berkshire Town School District appropriate \$2,990,000 necessary for the support of schools for the year beginning July 1, 2005?
- ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Berkshire Town School District authorize placing up to \$30,000 of any excess from the current fiscal year, FY05, in a reserve fund to be utilized to purchase professional consulting services to study the feasibility of either tuitioning Berkshire Middle School Students to other school districts and/or for developing preliminary designs for an addition to Berkshire Elementary School to solve current student overcrowding.
- ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Berkshire Town School District authorize the School Directors to receive and expend for school purposes any additional gifts, or other revenue in excess of those calculated in determining the proposed budget for the year beginning July 1, 2005?
- ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the Berkshire Town School District authorize the School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes, not in excess of anticipated revenue for the year beginning July 1, 2005?
- ARTICLE 9. To transact any other nonbinding business thought proper.

Dated this 20th day of January 2005

School Directors

Ricky Doe, Chair
Lucy Ramsay, Vice-Chair
Cheryl Donlon, Clerk
Tim Riley
Mark Choquette

BERKSHIRE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS

~~Anthony Lussier~~ Ricky Doe

Moderator

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Mark Choquette	Term Expires	June, 2005
Ricky Doe	Term Expires	June, 2005
Lucy Ramsay	Term Expires	June, 2006
Timothy Riley	Term Expires	June, 2006
Cheryl Donlon	Term Expires	June, 2007

AUDITORS' REPORT TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cash on Hand, June 30, 2004

Checking Account	\$ 7,270.13
Money Market Account	<u>\$ 272,670.86</u>
	\$ 279,940.99

We have examined the accounts of the Berkshire School District for the year 2003- 2004 and to the best of our knowledge have found them to be correct.

Respectfully Submitted
Mary Larivee
Sheila Trudeau
Deborah Jacobs

**BERKSHIRE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
JOINT REPORT OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
AND
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

2004-2005

Enrollment as of September, 2004

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
	22	18	16	27	20	26	22	20	24	195

Enrollment as of September, 2003

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
	16	18	30	19	22	20	21	23	22	191

**Student-Centered, Standards-Based Education
The Vision:
What the FNESU Learning Community Will Look Like in
2007**

The Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union (FNESU) holds children and youth as the primary and obvious focus for all decisions and practices. School practices are clearly and directly aligned with current FNESU Goals which set high standards and high expectations for students, personnel and parents. School practices ensure safe, learning-focused schools by maintaining positive environments and genuine learning opportunities for all students.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

- Student interests, needs, and strengths drive instruction.
- Students have multiple opportunities to meet the standards through:
 - Instruction that corresponds to the learning opportunities described in the standards adopted by FNESU and responds to the individual interests, strengths, and needs of students;
 - Extended learning opportunities including accommodations, modifications, and interventions that are clearly articulated and available to help all students achieve the standards. Opportunities for advanced achievement, beyond the standards, are also provided. All teachers know what's available and who to go to to get help.
 - IEPs that are consistent with the standards and evidence in the *FNESU Standards-Based Curriculum*.

Data

- Data from the FNESU comprehensive assessment system are used to make informed decisions about planning, instructional and school improvement, and decisions about individual students (e.g., referrals, opportunities to learn, graduation.)

School Climate

- The social and emotional welfare of our students is the foundation of their learning.
- Families and community members share with faculty, staff, and administration the collective responsibility for student well being and improved student learning.
- Each school strives to be a safe, nurturing environment characterized by respect and is free from harassment, bullying, and violence in any form. Diversity is embraced in the FNESU learning community.

Professional Development, Supervision and Evaluation

- A Professional Development Council creates, coordinates, and communicates information about a long-term professional development plan that balances individual school needs, all schools' needs, and supervisory union opportunities and meets criteria for high quality professional development, including identification of staff needs through needs assessment.

Community Partnerships/Communication With Students, Families, Staff, Community and School Board Members

- Each student is known well by at least one adult in the school.
- Students receive regular feedback on their learning and on their progress toward meeting the standards.

District and School Resources for Continuous Improvement

- Two-year action plans and district strategic plans are reviewed and revised annually based on student results data (student performance data and other indicators, such as drop out rates), data about programs and practices, and data about resources.
- The FNESU administrative team functions as a learning community focused on continuous improvement in the school district. Team members support each other by regularly sharing expertise and experience. The team actively explores and reflects upon new information, research and best practices particularly as those relate to curriculum, instruction, and assessment of student learning within the unified FNESU Goals.
- The FNESU Central Office will support school districts (schools, boards, employees, teachers, paraeducators, and administrators) and one another effectively and in a friendly manner. People in Central Office will maintain fiscal responsibility, respond to all questions, communicate and clarify information, produce accurate work, and maintain common direction across the district. At all times, Central Office personnel will maintain confidentiality.

Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union's Work Mary K. Sherrer, Superintendent

The stage is set for the 2005-2006 school year. This past year has provided a strong foundation for the upcoming year through many positive actions that have taken place over the school year to prepare Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union schools for the future.

Presently, research-based reading programs are in place in all five elementary schools while a Reading First grant simultaneously supports reading initiatives and provides rich professional development for teachers. Consequently, reading scores on State assessments are increasing nicely, and teachers and families are feeling rewarded for hard work.

The work is far from complete yet, however. The next challenge is to address mathematics and high school reform across the Supervisory Union. Both areas have been or are being addressed in the following ways.

Regarding mathematics, administrators, using input from teachers across the Supervisory Union, met to review test data and create a plan of action to move the district forward. As a result of this meeting, several strategies are part of the plan.

With grant money, the Supervisory Union will hire an in-district mathematics expert to work with teachers of mathematics from K-12. This person will provide professional development, model lessons, research best practices, and provide leadership throughout the Supervisory Union regarding mathematics instruction and assessment. Thus, embedded professional development, which we found effective in the reading initiatives, will now be ongoing in mathematics.

During the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years, principals will visit schools with successful scores in mathematics and populations similar to schools in FNESU. Principals will share best practices they observed with their faculties.

In addition to following the previously outlined Supervisory Union plan, options for schools to consider at the building level include:

- Offering intensive instruction to increase student skills
- Providing professional development in-house, as well as across the district
- Offering problem-solving activities across the curriculum
- Working to make closer secondary/post-secondary and elementary/high school links
- Offering hands-on/relevant/applied instruction
- Creating professional learning communities focused on results
- Providing in-school facilitators/coaches
- Helping students to truly understand the meaning/importance of State tests
- Proctoring test-taking skills and assigning grades based on demonstrations of these skills
- Having incentive drawings for students who are truly engaged during the testing situation
- Supporting time for math teachers across schools to meet by grade level during the year
- Supporting parents so they gain greater understanding of mathematics as it is taught today
- Being sure assigned homework is at the student's independent level
- Providing common planning time for teachers
- Having student supports and safety checks in place at the building level

With implementation of both district-wide and in-school initiatives, administrators feel confident students will increase their skills.

A document entitled, "High Schools On the Move," has been the focus of much work. Just as planning has occurred around the teaching of mathematics, work has also been ongoing at the high school around the twelve principles of effective high schools. In August, all high school teachers in Richford Jr.-Sr. High School (RHS), Enosburg Falls Middle and High School (EFMHS), and Cold Hollow Career Center (CHCC) reviewed the twelve principles to determine where they felt the schools were in relation to these markers. Likewise, school board members assessed the schools in a similar manner. Twenty high school students, including representatives from RHS, EFMHS, and CHCC, met to review principles related to students. The day was intensive, and students took the work seriously with a promise from

the Superintendent to meet with members from this team in May to describe how the work is unfolding.

It is our hope that community meetings will have happened by the five annual town school meetings. Members of the Richford, Enosburg and sending town communities will meet to assess the two high schools in relation to the twelve principles.

Once the information from all stakeholder groups is collated, a plan will be formulated to move forward. The plan will be designed to move our schools in a direction that will incorporate some or all of these twelve principles of effective high schools into the work we do.

If you are interested in participating in any of the initiatives described or want more information, please advise Kate Parsons at (802) 848-7661x13. If you wish to speak with the Superintendent about these initiatives, feel free to call this same number and ask to speak with Mary Sherrer.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve the Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburg, Montgomery and Richford communities.

Curriculum

The vision for a student-centered standards-based education has been developed by our school administrators and supported by our school boards. Evidence for support of this vision includes the adoption of the Franklin NE Supervisory Union (FNESU) Standards-Based Curriculum. It is supported when educators ensure that students are central to the planning of instruction and assessment. It is supported when time is planned for educators to work together to improve their practice by providing instruction and assessing learning in new ways. While this vision includes much more than curriculum, instruction and assessment, these are key to the foundation of the vision and its achievement. This vision continues to be refined and provides an intentional focus for our work.

Much progress has been made over the past years in the area of curriculum. A pre-kindergarten through grade 8 Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union Standards-Based Curriculum notebook is available in all schools describing the standards and learning expectations for students by grade level. Standards-based course descriptions have been developed by high school teachers and are also included in the notebook along with other resources such as the Vermont School Quality Standards and "The Parent's Guide to Understanding Standards." Please stop by your local school or the superintendent's office if you wish to review this book.

Because of the federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now called No Child Left Behind, the Vermont State Department of Education has participated with two other states, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, in the development of grade level expectations for learning in grades two through twelve. These grade level expectations are available for your review at the Vermont State Department of Education's web site, <http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/pubs/framework.html>

The federal law requires annual testing of students in grades 3 through 8, and once in grades 9 through 11. The new tests are being called the NECAPs, which stands for the New

England Common Assessment Program. These assessments will be given to students in grades three through eight beginning in October 2005. These tests replace the New Standards Reference Exam, which has been administered for the past several years to students in grades 4, 8 and 10. The high school assessment has yet to be determined but will most likely be administered in grade 11. Results from these assessments will be used to provide information about whether our schools are meeting the adequate yearly progress goals established by the state.

Report cards for students in grades kindergarten through eight are being used for the second year in Berkshire, Bakersfield, Enosburg, Montgomery, and Richford Elementary Schools, as well as at the Richford Jr. High and the Enosburg Middle School. Parents and students will learn about progress toward achievement of standards that are clearly identified for each grade level in the curriculum. Parents are encouraged to talk with teachers about the new report cards so that they have a clear understanding of what the changes mean about their student's learning. Although some standards remain the same throughout their school careers, students will be learning more about these standards at each grade level as the learning becomes more complex. Standards-based learning emphasizes depth of learning rather than a broader knowledge of facts. We want our students to be creative thinkers and problem-solvers, and be prepared for dealing with all sorts of challenges once they leave our schools.

Now that grade level expectations have been clearly defined, our next work will include ensuring that our curriculum and programs provide appropriate learning opportunities for students to do well on the state assessments. Teachers have begun working together reviewing student work as evidence of achieving standards and grade expectations. This is very different from the way achievement has been decided in the past. Once levels of achievement have been defined by examples of student work, a data collection system will need to be implemented to collect information about each student and the standards achieved during the student's school career. This will be a determining factor for graduation in years to come.

As parents become more familiar with new programs and curriculums, comments about how these changes have affected their child's learning would be appreciated. Please take time to make suggestions to us at the superintendent's office, as well as directly to school staff.

Federal Grants

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) provides for most federal grant funds allocated to Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union (FNESU). Our grants from NCLBA, totaling \$1,428,997, include Title I, Title II Parts A and D, Title IV, and Title V. In addition, several grants from other sources are described below. While these grant funds cannot replace local responsibility for providing education resources, they may be utilized to fund a variety of educational activities and initiatives within our supervisory union. Most importantly, funds are being used to support achievement of our local goals. Local school plans have been developed which include measurable goals related to improving student achievement.

Additional federal grants and resources have been approved for school districts in FNESU. These are listed in a spreadsheet entitled FNESU Grants Summary. Some of the major grants are described below. The Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) reinvestment plan, is in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health in the amount of \$40,776. These funds are used to plan prevention and health promotion activities. Examples of expenditures this year include support of summer/after school health-related activities, increased time for guidance counselors, nurses or other health-related personnel, a student mentoring program, tooth tutor programs, and professional development for school

social work and food service personnel. In its fourth year is the School-Based Tobacco Use Prevention grant for all schools to provide curriculum and activities that will prevent student use of tobacco. This grant, amounting to \$10,464 for FNESU, is expected to last for several years as part of the tobacco companies' settlement with Vermont. Success By Six grants totaling \$16,931, are being utilized in all five towns to provide early literacy and social experiences to our young children. In its second year, is the Reading First grant that provides additional personnel and reading support to Bakersfield, Berkshire, Enosburg, and Richford Elementary Schools. It also supports professional development for teachers in all five FNESU elementary schools, including Montgomery. The Reading First grant award totals \$840,733 over three years, with the possibility of extending the grant to six years. New this year, is the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant for \$437,877. This total is for three years with a possible extension for another two years with additional funds. This grant supports after school and summer programs for students in Enosburg and Richford schools in grades five through twelve.

Please contact Mary Helen Hart if you would like further information about any of these grants.

Title I and Title II Part A

Most of the FNESU Title I and Title II Part A funds provide personnel to support student learning needs in each of the elementary schools and the Early Childhood Program. Twenty teachers and eight paraeducators are working in our schools to provide additional support for students. The goals in every school are to help students succeed in regular classroom programs and become academically proficient at their grade levels. Parents are invited and encouraged to be part of the planning of individual student programs. One way of achieving this is through Parent/School Compacts in which agreement is reached by parents, students, and teachers about what needs to happen for students to be successful in school. The process of working together to support student achievement through discussion and program planning is a critical part of Title I.

In Berkshire, Bakersfield, Montgomery, Enosburg and Richford Elementary Schools, the Title I programs are schoolwide models. This means that Title I resources may be used to support schoolwide programs such as Success For All Reading Program, Mathland, and the Responsive Classroom Program.

FNESU Title I and Title II Part A funds are used to support four teachers in Berkshire Elementary School, three teachers and two paraeducators in Bakersfield Elementary School, and four teachers in Richford Elementary School. In Enosburg Elementary School, FNESU employs six teachers and four paraeducators. In Montgomery, two teachers and one paraeducator are employed through this grant. In the Early Childhood Program, Title I employs one part-time teacher and one part-time paraeducator.

In all elementary schools, Title I funds provide resources for Parent Literacy and Math gatherings and resources for academic instruction and parent libraries.

Title II Part A

In addition to the personnel described above, Title II Part A funds are used for professional development which focuses on enhancing teacher expertise so that academic instruction to students improves and they better achieve the standards described in the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities and our local curriculum. Educators plan to use funds to support activities such as conferences, courses, and workshops that will improve their teaching, and provide them with new information and activities to share in the classroom. Many of our inservice activities and presenters are funded through this grant. Funds are also used to support teachers and paraeducators in meeting the new requirements in NCLB for becoming "highly qualified," a status that is determined by the Vermont State Department of Education for every teacher. NCLBA requires that all teachers not only be licensed in their

subject areas and for the grade levels in which they teach, but also meet further content area requirements through coursework and other types of professional development. In addition, paraeducators must hold an associate's degree or its equivalent or pass a state or local test or be approved through a portfolio review by 2005. Funds from this grant and from Title I are being used to support our staff in their pursuit of these requirements. FNESU activities funded through this grant have included specific education and content area courses, literacy and math training, curriculum development work, and various behavior management trainings.

Title II Part D

Title II Part D provides grant funds to support technology in all FNESU schools. Each school has funds that are being used to support their school's technology plan. \$52,629 is available to the schools through this grant.

In addition to these noncompetitive funds, there were also funds available on a competitive basis. Richford Elementary and Enosburg Elementary Schools were each awarded \$15,000 for improving the use of technology for student instruction in classrooms during the 2004 school year with use of these funds continuing into this 2005 school year. Additional technology equipment and training has been purchased with these funds.

Title V

Title V continues to fund innovative projects and staff development activities in our schools. District-wide activities such as drama production and an art and a music festival will all receive support from this grant. FNESU curriculum work is partially supported with Title V funds. A major expenditure by schools this year will be for a supplemental math program software and equipment to support improved student learning in the middle grades. Schools are continuing the process of planning how to best use available funds in a way that supports their local school action plan goals and improves student achievement. The amount available to FNESU during the 2004-2005 school year is \$152,763.

Title IV Safe & Drug Free Schools And Communities (S&DFS&C)/Related Grants & Programs

The 04-05 school year arrived; and although, as with many federal funding sources, FNESU Title IV (S&DFS&C) funds decreased slightly from last year, we ended up with more money than originally projected. As a result, we will be able to continue adequate funding of quality prevention initiatives in Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union (FNESU). Additionally, funding secured through the VT Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, blended with Title IV (S&DFS&C) monies will allow us to provide Student Assistance Program (SAP) counselors at both Enosburg Falls Middle & High School (EFMHS) and Richford Jr.-Sr. High School (RJSHS).

All schools in FNESU are utilizing funds to provide a variety of strong research based prevention programs. These include: Second Step (a violence prevention program), Life Skills, Project Alert, Know Your Body, and Responsive Classrooms. Title IV, as well as other funding sources, also allows our schools to provide "locally tailored" prevention programs and activities. These include: mentoring, the Achieving, Behaving and Caring Program, dialogue nights, and other informative programs for students, parents, and the community at large. Students from FNESU schools also participate in statewide youth leadership activities such as the Governor's Youth Leadership Conference and the Green Mountain Middle School Institute. Funding for student attendance comes from both Title IV

and the School Based Tobacco Prevention grant. Students attending are exposed to a variety of prevention related activities, and are empowered to return to their schools and communities where they take active leadership roles in prevention efforts. Often programs are replicated in two or more of our towns, and some are specific to a single school based on needs. I encourage residents to inquire about programs in your town that are provided all, or in part, with Title IV (S&DFS&C) funding.

For the past couple of years, I have reported on the Truancy/Dropout Prevention efforts in FNESU. These efforts were funded through a Title IV subpart two grant, which included selection of EFMHS as one of five pilot sites in Vermont. This pilot project will come to a close January 31, 2005; and a final report will be submitted, (a copy of this report is available from my office). As a result of this project, a new Community Based Learning course has been added to the program of studies at EFMHS. Additionally, many positive ideas have resulted from the project, which have the potential to be replicated in other FNESU schools. These can help engage students and make their educational program more interesting, exciting, and meaningful. We are also seeing some strong connections between information gathered during the dropout prevention project and the "High Schools on the Move" initiative, in which both EFMHS and RJSHS are currently participating. The long-term goal is that all of our students experience a productive and successful educational experience. Although the pilot project ends January 31, we successfully secured a second year of funding from the Agency of Human Services, VT Children's Trust Fund, to supplement our efforts and support the Community Based Learning Coordinator. There is the possibility that a third year of funding may be available to further enhance this program.

Title IV funds are also used to support professional development for FNESU teachers. During the 04-05 school year, we will support teacher training in the areas of alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and education including the "Drugs in Perspective" program. Also, we continue to provide our teachers with training opportunities geared toward the research-based prevention curriculums used in FNESU schools.

Other grants that bring additional funding into FNESU to help support prevention efforts and promote positive student outcomes are:

- Mini grants from the Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP) fund a variety of prevention and healthy choice programs. Also, these funds are used to provide programs such as "Parent Plus" and others aimed at informing and helping parents deal with various issues.

- The "School Based Tobacco Prevention Grant" was once again funded for the 04-05 school year. This grant provides funding for a variety of tobacco prevention/reduction activities and initiatives throughout FNESU. It also helps fund student participation in statewide activities.

- I noted last year that funding was being sought for a "Career Start" grant in coordination with the Franklin-Grand Isle (F-GI) Work Force Investment Board. We did receive approval; and through a cooperative effort, Career Start student groups will be forming in both EFMHS and RJSHS during the 2nd semester of 04-05.

In closing, I want to thank everyone (students, parents, community members, educators, and members of F-GI regional community & professional organizations) for your continued energy, effort and plain old hard work. Together we have developed, and continue to strengthen, school/community/business partnerships, which lead to quality education and help to insure success for all students in FNESU.

Contact Jake Schuler at 933-5608 Ext. 37 for additional information.

Special Education Funding in Vermont Schools
Town Reports
2004
Michelle Jewett, Director of Special Programs

We receive state and federal funding in Vermont to support the provision of special education to students with handicapping conditions. Vermont uses a reimbursement system to support local school districts in the provision of eligible special education services. This reimbursement system works in a three-pronged formula, with a mainstream block grant, extraordinary cost reimbursement, and actual special education expenditures reimbursement.

The **mainstream block grant** is a predictable amount for each town, is based on the number of students in each district, and is computed on state average for special education salaries. The state pays 60% of the cost and the school districts must expend or match the remaining 40% of the cost.

Extraordinary reimbursement is designed to protect districts from completely absorbing the burden of high cost programs for individual students. Once a student's program reaches a threshold of \$50,000, the state will reimburse the district for 90% of the additional cost. For example, if a district has a student in a residential program that costs \$97,000, the school district pays the first \$50,000 from local dollars. They then submit a report to the state for the remaining \$47,000, of which they will receive \$42,300 back from the Department of Education, leaving a total local cost of \$54,700. The \$50,000 deductible, however, is also figured into the actual expenditures reimbursement and will be reimbursed at a rate of between 50%-57% depending upon the Department of Education's receipts and expenditures.

The actual **expenditures reimbursement** reimburses town school districts for eligible special education expenditures not covered by federal funds, state block grants and local match, and extraordinary reimbursement and applies the reimbursement rate to the remaining funds. The same rate applies to each town, and the reimbursement rate is adjusted annually to assure that the state's share across all sections of the formula is 60%. In FY04, the reimbursement rate was 57.63%.

In addition to state funds that contribute to the cost of providing special education programs, we receive federal funds (IDEA-B) that are allowed to be used for the provision of special education eligible aides and services. Typically, this money is used to provide services such as speech and language services, special education administration, counseling, and in-service training for teachers and paraeducators. The rules governing IDEA-B require that towns have a maintenance of effort, which means that federal funds must be used to supplement the provision of services, not supplant local taxpayer's dollars. Last year in Franklin Northeast, our allocation from the federal government was \$343,047 for such services.

In addition to receiving reimbursement for expenditures to be used to provide special education services, we participate in the Medicaid Reinvestment program. This program allows school districts to submit claims to Medicaid for medically necessary special education services such as personal care services, remediation of a medical disability (physical, cognitive or academic in nature), speech and language services, etc. The money generated by those claims is split with the Department of Education, and is intended for prevention and intervention programs to help all students achieve high standards. Although this money CANNOT be used to pay for special education services at the local level, it is being used to provide support services to other students. The intent is to prevent the need for special education for some students by

providing intensive supports early. Over the past few years, towns have collected as much as \$60,000 from the Medicaid Reinvestment Program. Activities supported with these funds include increased guidance counselor time, increased nursing time, increased counseling, etc.

Despite many challenges and obstacles, we strive to improve our ability to provide supports and services in cost-effective, time efficient, and meaningful ways. Special Education funding in Vermont is a complex system, involving many different sources of funds, and many different public and government agencies. I would be happy to provide clarification or further information upon request.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AVAILABLE

The Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union assures that all school-aged children who are handicapped, regardless of the severity of their handicaps and who are 504 eligible or in need of special education, shall be entitled to free and appropriate public education.

Contact:

Michelle Jewett, Director of Special Programs/504 Coordinator
Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union
P. O. Box 130
Richford, Vermont 05476
Telephone: 802-848-7661, Ext. 6

BERKSHIRE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Berkshire Elementary School mission states that, "The Berkshire community is dedicated to the education of the whole child--intellectually, socially, emotionally, culturally, and physically. Together, we share the responsibility of helping each child reach his or her potential as a contributing citizen in our rapidly growing global society." In our effort to fulfill our mission, we turn to the FNESU School Goals and to the school's action plan for guidance.

New Beginnings

My daily commute over the mountain has provided me with not only the time to appreciate the outstanding views along Route 105 (which I am sure I will pay for this winter), but also the time to reflect upon my beginnings as Principal of Berkshire Elementary School. I made my first trek over Jay on one of those arctic cold days last January to visit the school and spend some time with Principal Harold Mitchell, known to most as "Mitch".

That evening, my wife asked me about my day and I told her that my gut feeling was that Berkshire was meant to be my next stop as an educator. Two weeks later, I was offered the position as Berkshire's next Principal.

I recently heard a quote from a CEO who was sharing information about the change in leadership at his company. He said, "I wanted my successor to be more successful than I." This reflects how the transition was between Mitch and I, and for that I am eternally grateful. I have told people that I was handed a school headed in a positive direction and an enthusiastic blended staff committed to the education of Berkshire's youth. The transition provided me with valuable institutional background and guidance. In conjunction with personal ideas and

philosophy, I am creating a team focused on the learning of all. Our learning community is looking within itself and taking the steps necessary to continually move forward keeping in mind that "We will work hard together because, hand in hand, we all learn." The transition in leadership at Berkshire has also been aided by the members of the FNESU administrative team. Their guidance, advice, and support of me, have been there from the moment I was hired. A constant in my reflections is that of my staff. They are dedicated and committed and have been patient in allowing me to learn and grow as a school leader.

In addition to a new Principal, Berkshire also welcomed three other professionals to its staff this fall: Leah Pinette (physical education/health), Eric Hoh (music), and Loretta Tyler (nurse). Mr. Hoh and Mrs. Tyler are shared positions with Montgomery Elementary School.

Technology

Over the years, there has been an effort to increase the technological expertise of Berkshire's staff and students. This has been made possible through the purchase of updated equipment and the training on its use. Federal and local funding have supported these endeavors. Specifically, a mobile computer cart was purchased in the spring of last school year. This mobile lab of a dozen laptop computers increases the abilities for our students to access and utilize technology. This year, we have installed a complete T-1 line into our building. This provides for consistent, speedy access to the internet for all of our computers and allows for research to be done by an entire class of students at one time. At this time, we are also investigating some supportive transformational technology for our middle school math program.

Curriculum and Literacy

This is the third year that Berkshire is utilizing the standards-based report card developed by the district in alignment with its curriculum. These "new" report cards look different from the report cards with which we all grew up. Letter grades remain a constant once students reach the fifth grade; however, quarterly progress in grade level expectations for each subject area is how students are measured in the early grades. Grade level expectation (GLE) progress grades are also provided as supporting data for the older students. This change in grading reflects changes in the statewide assessment program. This fall, Berkshire piloted the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). The NECAP replaces the New Standards Reference Exam (NSRE) as the measuring tool and benchmark for a school's AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) as determined by the No Child Left Behind Act. This new accountability test will be given in October of next school year to the students in grades three thru eight. The NECAP will assess students on their knowledge and retention of the grade level expectations from the end of the previous school year. Since we will be gaining information on all students grades 3 thru 8 every year, I feel that this new test will allow our school to provide a more comprehensive and thorough education for our students through careful analysis of the results.

We were notified this fall that Berkshire Elementary School did make its AYP as determined by the results of last spring's NSRE. It remains to be seen at this time how the government will integrate the old test results with next fall's NECAP results since they will be totally different tests and will assess different information. We will have to wait, as will everyone else. Hopefully at this time next year, we will be able to provide you with a clearer picture.

The professional development of our staff continues to be a priority. Areas of development are aligned with the Berkshire and FNESU goals. We have supported and encouraged teachers to attend workshops and conferences, as well as graduate courses, which provide enrichment

and further knowledge in areas of needed and desired growth. Our staff recognizes that they must also continue to learn in order to provide the students of Berkshire with the best possible education.

We believe that Berkshire Elementary School's greatest asset is the support that it receives from the Berkshire community. We thank you for your continued support. We truly enjoy working with your children; and we believe that with your support, we can, and will, continue to provide your children with a high quality education.

Business Manager's Update

With the passage of Act 68 and its implementation this school year, significant changes were made in how the State of Vermont funds public school districts. Act 68 created two separate grand lists and two separate state education property tax rates, one rate for residential property and one rate for non-residential property. It also standardized budget reporting for all Vermont School Districts. Local property tax rate projections provided in the annual report are based upon Act 68, current recommendations to the State Legislature, and pending legislation. Therefore, tax rate projections may change prior to the annual school district meeting. An update of anticipated tax rates will be provided during the meeting.

Act 68 utilizes a state equalized residential education tax rate and a state equalized non-homestead education tax rate. Only one of these tax rates is applied to each parcel of property. Current state tax rate estimates for FY06 are \$1.02 for residential property and \$1.51 for non-homestead property. The annual report and budget reflect these anticipated state tax rates. Qualifying taxpayers with household incomes of less than \$75,000 continue to be eligible to reduce their homestead property taxes by applying for a prebate when filing their state income taxes. A handout will be available during the annual meeting to help estimate property taxes based upon household income and homestead values.

Act 68 provides every school district Education Spending Revenue (ESR) based upon the district's approved spending and anticipated revenues. ESR is computed by subtracting anticipated revenues from anticipated expenses. ESR plus Technical Center Tuition Revenue equals education spending, which is the root for computing the equalized residential education tax rate.

Residential tax rates are computed by subtracting anticipated revenues from the spending level approved by taxpayers to obtain education spending. Education spending is divided by the district's equalized pupils to derive education spending per equalized pupil. The equalized pupil count is a weighted average of the number of resident students of a school district. Education spending per equalized pupil is divided by the state's per pupil base education amount, anticipated to be \$6,975 for FY06, to obtain education spending per equalized pupil. Education spending per equalized pupil is multiplied by the State education tax rate to produce the equalized residential education tax rate. Therefore, the residential education tax rate is based upon each school district's approved budget. Based upon the proposed budget of \$2,990,000, and anticipated state and local revenues of \$507,343, Berkshire's education spending is anticipated to be \$2,482,657. Dividing education spending by Berkshire's equalized pupil count of 292.61, produces the education spending per equalized pupil amount of \$8,485. This amount is 121.64% of the state base education amount of \$6,975. Multiplying the state education tax rate of \$1.02 by 121.64% generates Berkshire's FY06 equalized residential tax rate of \$1.2407.

It is anticipated that the state equalized non-homestead education tax rate will be \$1.51 for FY06. *The non-homestead rate is not based upon education spending and will not change regardless of the local budget approved by taxpayers.*

As the state education tax rates are "equalized" rates, they are adjusted by the town's common level of appraisal (CLA) to determine local tax rates. Berkshire's CLA has dropped from 88.91% to 81.36%. A falling CLA is a reflection of increasing property values and increases local education tax rates. Based upon the new CLA and the anticipated equalized tax rates, we anticipate Berkshire's local residential education tax rate to be \$1.5246 and the local non-homestead education tax rate to be \$1.8555. *The increase in the equalized educational tax rates due to the CLA will occur regardless of the level of spending approved by Berkshire voters.*

Under Act 68, a homestead is the principal dwelling owned and occupied by a resident individual in which the individual claims residence, and all contiguous land. Homesteads will be taxed using the residential education tax rate. All non-homestead property will be taxed using the non-homestead tax rate. **Vermont residents who own and occupy a Vermont dwelling as their principal residence on April 1, 2005, must file a Declaration of Vermont Homestead, Form HS-11 by April 15, 2005.** Failure to file could lead to improper property tax bills and property tax penalties. Free electronic filing of this form is available at www.state.vt.us/tax. This form must be filed annually. Additional tax information may be obtained by calling 866-828-2865 (toll-free in VT) or 802-828-2865.

Act 68 established a standardized state budget report format that must be used by all Vermont Public School Districts and be distributed to taxpayers in advance of annual meetings. This state report provides three years of historical financial data and FY06 projections based upon the proposed budget. The standardized format cannot be changed by local districts and can, therefore, be utilized to compare different school districts' finances using similar formulas. The tax projection in the state report is based upon anticipated tax rates. This report, titled "Three Year Comparisons," is included in the annual report.

Berkshire Budget Highlights

The elementary school portion of the budget has increased by \$193,486. The increase is primarily due to increases in the cost of salaries, wages, benefits, and required special education (SPED) services. Berkshire's student population continues to rise quickly. During the preparation of last year's budget, it was anticipated there would be 184 students in the elementary school. There are currently 211 students. The net cost per pupil for the FY05 budget was estimated to be \$6,586. With the increase in students, the FY06 budget anticipates the net cost per pupil will be \$6,416, or \$170 less per student, despite the increase in expenses. Due to the increase in students and required SPED services, staffing changes include increasing the kindergarten and physical education teachers' positions to full time and adding 4.5 FTE paraeducators.

The FY05 budget anticipated there would be 98 high school students. The proposed FY06 budget anticipates there will be 97 tuition students. Increasing tuition rates and an increase in the cost of out-of-district special education services means the total anticipated payments to other school districts will be \$145,130 higher in FY06. Therefore, the total anticipated budget increase is \$338,616, or 12.8% more than FY05.

Local revenues are anticipated to decrease by \$34,228 primarily due to a reduction in the unreserved fund balance. State Revenues are anticipated to increase by \$74,672. The increase

is primarily due to an increase in special education reimbursement due to the increase in SPED expenses and Berkshire's anticipated receipt of a state small schools grant.

Berkshire's education spending per equalized pupil for FY06 is anticipated to be \$8,485. This is a \$892 increase. The increase is a product of fewer equalized pupils, higher anticipated expenses and reduced revenues.

Act 68 is a very comprehensive law affecting public school funding and property tax laws throughout Vermont. Anyone who would like additional information concerning Act 68, the proposed budget, and the impact on local school property taxes should contact any Berkshire School Board Director; Andre Messier, Berkshire Elementary School Principal; or Bill Samuelson, the District's Business Manager.

Respectfully submitted,

Berkshire School Directors

Ricky Doe, Chair
Lucy Ramsay, Vice-Chair
Cheryl Donlon, Clerk
Mark Choquette
Tim Riley

Administration

Mary Sherrer, Ed.D., Superintendent
Mary Helen Hart, Curriculum/Grants Coord.
Edward Schuler, Employment Specialist/
Drug & Alcohol Grant Coordinator
Michelle Jewett, Dir. of Special Programs
Andre Messier, Principal
William Samuelson, Business Manager

Berkshire Town School District FY06				
		2004-05	2005-06	05 to 06
		Budget	Anticipated	Change
Anticipated Local Revenue				
1	Use of Unreserved Fund Balance	\$133,972	\$99,744	(\$34,228)
2	Leased (Glebe) Land	\$39	\$39	\$0
3	Anticipated Interest	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0
4	Total Local Revenue	\$138,511	\$104,283	(\$34,228)
5				
6				
7	Anticipated State Revenue			
8	Special Education State Aid	\$248,440	\$320,605	\$72,165
9	State Transportation Aid	\$52,130	\$54,434	\$2,304
10	Medicaid Funds	\$14,762	\$13,072	(\$1,690)
11	Early Essential Education Grant	\$13,056	\$14,948	\$1,892
12	Total State Revenue	\$328,389	\$403,060	\$74,672
13				
14	Anticipated Education Spending Revenue			
15	Education Spending Revenue	\$2,152,143	\$2,444,731	\$292,587
16	Technical Center Tuition Revenue	\$32,341	\$37,927	\$5,586
17	Total Education Spending Revenue	\$2,184,484	\$2,482,657	\$298,173
18				
19	Total Anticipated Revenue	\$2,651,384	\$2,990,000	\$338,616
20				
21	Anticipated Expenses			
22	Elementary School	\$1,457,006	\$1,650,492	\$193,486
23	Payments to Other School Districts	\$1,194,378	\$1,339,508	\$145,130
24	Total Anticipated Expenses	\$2,651,384	\$2,990,000	\$338,616
25				
26	Education Spending	\$2,184,484	\$2,482,657	\$298,173
27	Equalized Pupils	287.73	292.61	4.88
28	Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil	\$7,592	\$8,485	\$892
29				
30	Anticipated Education Tax Rates			
31		FY05	FY06	Change
32	State Education Tax Rate	\$1.0500	\$1.0200	(\$0.0300)
33	Above Base Ed Payment Spending Rate	111.65%	121.64%	9.99%
34	Equalized Residential Education Tax Rate	\$1.1723	\$1.2407	\$0.0684
35	Common Level of Appraisal	88.91%	81.38%	-7.53%
36	Local Residential Education Tax Rate	\$1.3185	\$1.5246	\$0.2061
37				
38	Equalized Non-Homestead Education Tax Rate	\$1.5400	\$1.5100	(\$0.0300)
39	Common Level of Appraisal	88.91%	81.38%	-7.53%
40	Non-Homestead Education Tax Rate	\$1.7321	\$1.8555	\$0.1234

Berkshire Town School District FY06 Anticipated Expenses					
Line	DESCRIPTION	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Budget	2005-06 Anticipated	05 to 06 Change
1	K-8 Instructional				
2	Salaries / Elementary	\$227,885	\$250,725	\$292,268	\$41,543
3	Salaries / Secondary	\$136,957	\$142,088	\$159,218	\$17,129
4	Salaries / Summer Instruction	\$2,166	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
5	Salaries / Substitutes	\$10,976	\$9,133	\$10,000	\$867
6	Health Ins / Elementary	\$29,679	\$42,324	\$41,796	(\$528)
7	Health Ins / Secondary	\$21,052	\$28,025	\$29,956	\$1,931
8	Life Ins / Elementary	\$219	\$235	\$253	\$18
9	Life Ins / Secondary	\$119	\$143	\$163	\$20
10	FICA / Elementary	\$17,783	\$19,180	\$22,358	\$3,178
11	FICA / Secondary	\$10,252	\$10,870	\$12,180	\$1,310
12	FICA / Summer & Substitutes		\$928	\$995	\$66
13	Dental Ins / Elementary	\$1,155	\$1,914	\$2,208	\$294
14	Dental Ins / Secondary	\$738	\$1,191	\$1,375	\$184
15	Workers' Comp / Elementary	\$1,466	\$1,314	\$2,256	\$942
16	Workers' Comp / Secondary	\$602	\$745	\$1,229	\$484
17	Workers' Comp / Summer & Subs	\$0	\$64	\$100	\$37
18	Unemp Ins / Elementary	\$138	\$355	\$337	(\$18)
19	Unemp Ins / Secondary	\$53	\$144	\$144	\$0
20	Tuition Reimbursement	\$3,255	\$7,527	\$7,682	\$156
21	Purchased Professional Svcs	\$3,097	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0
22	Inservice / Training	\$11,107	\$8,700	\$8,700	\$0
23	Mileage Reimbursement	\$64	\$0	\$100	\$100
24	Copiers	\$12,917	\$4,781	\$4,781	(\$0)
25	Technical Education	\$1,609	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500
26	Cultural Arts Program	\$1,567	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
27	Supplies	\$15,886	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$1,000
28	Books	\$4,850	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$1,000
29	Field Trips	\$1,831	\$2,000	\$2,900	\$900
30	Equipment	\$2,932	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
31	Total K-8 Instructional	\$520,353.80	\$572,885	\$643,998	\$71,113
32					
33	Special Education				
34	Salaries / Teachers	\$50,698	\$52,306	\$56,765	\$4,459
35	Wages / Paraeducators	\$72,205	\$76,989	\$112,121	\$35,132
36	Wages / SPED Clerk	\$0	\$0	\$3,916	\$3,916
37	Wages / Substitutes	\$1,020	\$2,141	\$2,141	\$0
38	Health Ins / Teachers	\$10,741	\$12,680	\$14,202	\$1,522
39	Life Ins	\$40	\$41	\$41	\$0
40	FICA	\$9,461	\$10,208	\$13,536	\$3,328
41	Dental Ins	\$411	\$510	\$516	\$5
42	Municipal Retirement	\$2,111	\$3,584	\$5,456	\$1,872
43	Workers' Comp	\$669	\$865	\$1,334	\$469
44	Unemp Ins	\$133	\$349	\$450	\$101
45	Tuition Reimbursement	\$1,389	\$1,060	\$993	(\$67)
46	Purchased Professional Svcs		\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
47	Extended School Year	\$1,886	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
48	Psychological Assessments	\$1,913	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0

Berkshire Town School District FY06 Anticipated Expenses					
Line	DESCRIPTION	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Budget	2005-06 Anticipated	05 to 06 Change
49	District Assessment	\$39,614	\$45,031	\$45,120	\$89
50	Mileage	\$226	\$300	\$1,200	\$900
51	Early Essential Education	\$23,865	\$30,712	\$36,945	\$6,233
52	Supplies	\$1,315	\$800	\$800	\$0
53	Books	\$575	\$600	\$600	\$0
54	Equipment	\$555	\$500	\$500	\$0
55	Total Special Education	\$218,827	\$245,176	\$303,134	\$57,958
56					
57	Co-Curricular Activities				
58	Supplies	\$917	\$500	\$500	\$0
59	Officials	\$820	\$900	\$900	\$0
60	Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
61	Total Co-Curricular	\$1,737	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$0
62					
63	Guidance Services				
64	Salary	\$30,475	\$31,950	\$34,613	\$2,663
65	Substitutes	\$59	\$500	\$300	(\$200)
66	Health Insurance	\$7,809	\$7,992	\$11,935	\$3,943
67	Life Ins	\$40	\$41	\$41	\$0
68	FICA	\$2,247	\$2,444	\$2,648	\$204
69	Dental Ins	\$246	\$340	\$0	(\$340)
70	Workers' Comp Insurance	\$167	\$167	\$267	\$100
71	Unemployment Insurance	\$13	\$36	\$36	\$0
72	Tuition Reimbursement	\$492	\$707	\$662	(\$44)
73	Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
74	Testing & Assessments	\$1,041	\$1,500	\$500	(\$1,000)
75	Total Guidance Services	\$42,589	\$45,677	\$51,501	\$5,824
76					
77	Health Services				
78	Salary	\$6,184	\$21,966	\$22,844	\$879
79	Health Insurance	\$0	\$5,328	\$5,967	\$639
80	Life Ins	\$0	\$20	\$20	\$0
81	Dental Ins	\$0	\$170	\$229	\$59
82	FICA	\$473	\$1,680	\$1,748	\$67
83	Workers' Comp Insurance	\$67	\$115	\$227	\$112
84	Unemployment Insurance	\$13	\$36	\$134	\$98
85	Staff Immunizations	\$15	\$400	\$400	\$0
86	Supplies	\$318	\$500	\$500	\$0
87	Total Health Services	\$7,070	\$30,216	\$32,069	\$1,854
88					
89	Paraeducators / Tutors				
90	Wages	\$19,250	\$20,874	\$48,343	\$27,469
91	FICA	\$1,638	\$1,597	\$3,698	\$2,101
92	Municipal Retirement	\$534	\$989	\$2,276	\$1,287
93	Workers' Comp Insurance	\$134	\$160	\$373	\$213
94	Unemployment Insurance	\$27	\$66	\$158	\$92
95	Total Paraeducators	\$21,583	\$23,686	\$54,848	\$31,162

Berkshire Town School District FY06 Anticipated Expenses					
Line	DESCRIPTION	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Budget	2005-06 Anticipated	05 to 06 Change
96					
97	Library				
98	Salary	\$36,367	\$37,767	\$40,151	\$2,384
99	Substitutes	\$510	\$720	\$600	(\$120)
100	Health Insurance	\$7,007	\$7,992	\$8,951	\$959
101	Life Ins	\$31	\$41	\$41	\$0
102	FICA	\$3,088	\$2,889	\$3,072	\$182
103	Dental Ins	\$246	\$340	\$344	\$3
104	Workers' Comp Insurance	\$167	\$198	\$310	\$112
105	Unemployment Insurance	\$13	\$36	\$36	\$0
106	Tuition Reimbursement	\$90	\$707	\$662	(\$44)
107	Books	\$2,117	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
108	AV Materials	\$596	\$500	\$500	\$0
109	Total Library	\$50,232	\$53,689	\$57,166	\$3,476
110					
111	Technology				
112	Contracted Professional Services	\$0	\$500	\$1,370	\$870
113	Internet Service & Communicatons	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$10,034	\$5,734
114	Equipment	\$1,691	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$500
115	Total Technology	\$5,991	\$7,800	\$14,904	\$7,104
116					
117	School Directors				
118	Salaries	\$2,500	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$0
119	Treasurer	\$2,639	\$2,690	\$2,771	\$81
120	FICA	\$393	\$493	\$499	\$6
121	Workers' Comp Insurance	\$33	\$34	\$50	\$17
122	Legal Services	\$6,667	\$8,000	\$6,700	(\$1,300)
123	Audit	\$2,350	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$0
124	Errors & Omissions Ins	\$768	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
125	Bonds	\$581	\$639	\$726	\$87
126	Supplies	\$160	\$400	\$400	\$0
127	Dues / Advertising / Miscel	\$9,091	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
128	School Directors Training	\$1,228	\$500	\$1,200	\$700
129	Total School Directors	\$26,411	\$28,406	\$27,997	(\$409)
130					
131	Supervisory Union				
132	Assessment	\$41,311	\$47,007	\$57,826	\$10,819
133					
134	School Administration				
135	Salary / Principal	\$62,609	\$62,609	\$60,000	(\$2,609)
136	Assistant Principal	\$3,000	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0
137	Salary / Secretary	\$17,550	\$18,299	\$19,079	\$780
138	Health Insurance	\$8,324	\$21,384	\$17,091	(\$4,293)
139	FICA	\$6,362	\$6,319	\$6,180	(\$140)
140	Dental Ins	\$839	\$1,455	\$798	(\$656)
141	Disability & Life Insurance	\$326	\$667	\$641	(\$26)
142	Municipal Retirement	\$702	\$915	\$954	\$39

Berkshire Town School District FY06 Anticipated Expenses					
Line	DESCRIPTION	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Budget	2005-06 Anticipated	05 to 06 Change
143	Workers' Comp Insurance	\$402	\$477	\$623	\$146
144	Unemployment Insurance	\$27	\$72	\$72	\$0
145	Tuition Reimbursement	\$0	\$1,129	\$1,176	\$46
146	Mileage & Training	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0
147	Supplies & Postage	\$1,581	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
148	Dues	\$571	\$500	\$650	\$150
149	Total School Admin	\$102,291	\$118,026	\$111,463	(\$6,563)
150					
151	Operation of Plant				
152	Wages / Custodians	\$53,746	\$52,243	\$53,789	\$1,546
153	Health Insurance	\$5,580	\$12,898	\$14,368	\$1,470
154	FICA	\$4,112	\$4,046	\$4,165	\$118
155	Municipal Retirement	\$2,535	\$1,943	\$1,988	\$45
156	Workers' Comp Insurance	\$2,678	\$3,078	\$4,355	\$1,277
157	Unemployment Insurance	\$27	\$76	\$76	(\$0)
158	Rubbish	\$1,300	\$2,000	\$1,800	(\$200)
159	Grounds Maintenance	\$1,975	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$200
160	Repairs to Bldg & Maintenance	\$12,421	\$13,200	\$13,200	\$0
161	Property & Liability Ins	\$6,301	\$7,427	\$8,550	\$1,123
162	Long Distance Telephone Service	\$2,507	\$2,750	\$300	(\$2,450)
163	Supplies	\$2,926	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
164	Equipment	\$619	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
165	Propane	\$504	\$500	\$500	\$0
166	Fuel Oil	\$6,381	\$11,562	\$11,563	\$0
167	Electricity	\$11,171	\$12,808	\$12,808	\$0
168	Total Operation of Plant	\$114,783	\$131,332	\$134,462	\$3,130
169					
170	Transportation				
171	To / From School	\$113,405	\$122,200	\$124,520	\$2,320
172	After School Activities Bus	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
173	Co-Curricular & Field Trips	\$1,475	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$4,500
174	Total Transportation	\$114,881	\$125,200	\$132,020	\$6,820
175					
176	Food Service Program	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
177					
178	Short Term Debt				
179	Tax Anticipation Interest	\$0	\$300	\$300	\$0
180					
181	Long Term Debt				
182	Bond Principal	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
183	Bond Interest	\$8,992	\$8,206	\$7,404	(\$801)
184	Total	\$23,992	\$23,206	\$22,404	(\$801)
185					
186	Elementary Budget	\$1,295,052	\$1,457,006	\$1,650,492	\$193,486
187					

Berkshire Town School District FY06 Anticipated Expenses					
Line	DESCRIPTION	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Budget	2005-06 Anticipated	05 to 06 Change
188	Payments to Other School Districts				
189	High School Tuition	\$898,973	\$909,025	\$953,600	\$44,575
190	Technical Education Tuition	\$18,278	\$59,790	\$62,595	\$2,805
191	SPED Excess Costs	\$144,949	\$81,864	\$122,270	\$40,407
192	SPED Tuition	\$72,163	\$110,100	\$171,048	\$60,948
193	SPED Transportation	\$39,109	\$33,600	\$29,995	(\$3,605)
194	Other School Costs	\$1,173,473	\$1,194,378	\$1,339,508	\$145,130
195					
196	Total Budget	\$2,468,525	\$2,651,384	\$2,990,000	\$338,616
The 2004/2005 school year budget anticipated there would be 98 high school students.					
The 2005/2006 school year budget anticipates there will be 97 high school students.					

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by DOE

ESTIMATES
ONLYDistrict: **Berkshire**
County: **Franklin**LEA: **018**
S.U.: **Franklin Northeast**

		Act 60		Act 68	
		FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Expenditures					
1.	Budget (local budget, excluding special programs reported in line 3, full tech expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$2,342,004	\$2,550,376	\$2,651,384	\$2,990,000
2.	Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years under Act 60	\$37,237	\$34,337	not applicable	not applicable
3.	Special revenue program expenditures (federal dollars, restricted grants, etc.)			\$2,651,384	\$2,990,000
4.		\$2,379,641	\$2,584,713		
5.	1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	+	+		
6.	2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	+	+		
7.	3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	+	+		
8.					
9.		\$2,379,641	\$2,584,713	\$2,651,384	\$2,990,000
Act 68 locally adopted or warned budget					
10.	Union school or joint school district assessment	+			
11.	Prior deficit reduction if not included in budgets	+			
12.		\$2,379,641	\$2,584,713	\$2,651,384	\$2,990,000
Gross Act 68 Budget					
13.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	\$42,241	\$41,311	\$47,007	\$57,826
14.	Prior deficit reduction (if included in local budget) - informational data				
Revenues					
15.	Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuition, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$382,828	\$353,915	\$466,900	\$507,343
16.	Capital debt aid	\$2,090	\$459		
17.	Special program revenues (if not included in local budget, included in FY2006)				
18.	Prior deficit reduction if included in revenues				
19.		\$384,918	\$354,374	\$466,900	\$507,343
20.					
21.	Fund raising, if any (included in line 15)				
22.		\$384,918	\$354,374	\$466,900	\$507,343
Adjusted local revenues					
23.	Education Spending (Act 68 definition)	\$1,994,723	\$2,230,339	\$2,184,484	\$2,482,657
24.	Equalized Pupils	287.70	288.35	287.73	292.61
25.					
25a.	Less eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	\$6,933	\$7,769	\$7,592	\$8,485
26.	Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	not applicable	not applicable	\$80.65	\$76.57
27.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	not applicable	not applicable	\$7,592	\$8,485
28.	District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%) (\$8,485 / \$6,975)	not applicable	not applicable	111.649%	121.649%
29.	Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized (121.649% x \$1.02)	\$1.458	\$1.582	\$1.172	\$1.241
30.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	104.35%	95.14%	88.91%	81.38%
31.	Estimated homestead tax rate, actual (\$1,241 / \$1.38%)	\$1,350	\$1,620	\$1,319	\$1,525
32.	Household Income Percentage for income sensitivity (121.65% x 1.85%)	2.65%	2.88%	2.12%	2.25%

The projected base education spending amount of \$6,975 is subject to legislative approval.

The base education homestead tax rate of \$1.02 and the income percentage cap of 1.85% are based on the recommendation of the Governor's Office and are subject to legislative approval.

Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union FY06 Budget

	EXPENSES	FY04 Actual	FY05 Budget	FY06 Budget	05 to 06 Change	Berkshire Share
1	Superintendent	\$84,606	\$92,072	\$96,675	\$4,603	\$11,076
2	Business Manager	\$66,853	\$69,293	\$72,529	\$3,236	\$8,310
3	Curriculum Coordinator	\$32,646	\$33,704	\$35,143	\$1,439	\$4,026
4	Technology Coordinator	\$0	\$0	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$2,750
5	Administrative Assistants	\$59,984	\$63,116	\$67,417	\$4,301	\$7,724
6	Bookkeepers	\$61,916	\$64,939	\$68,969	\$4,030	\$7,902
7	Health Insurance	\$43,722	\$48,651	\$59,792	\$11,142	\$6,850
8	Social Security	\$24,529	\$25,142	\$28,466	\$3,324	\$3,261
9	Life Insurance	\$924	\$952	\$1,088	\$136	\$125
10	Municipal Retirement	\$18,397	\$19,412	\$21,695	\$2,283	\$2,486
11	Workers Comp Ins.	\$1,372	\$1,566	\$2,872	\$1,306	\$329
12	Unemployment Ins.	\$535	\$612	\$707	\$95	\$15
13	Tuition Reimbursement	\$0	\$2,622	\$3,560	\$938	\$408
14	Dental Insurance	\$7,291	\$7,709	\$8,582	\$872	\$905
15	Disability Insurance	\$1,557	\$1,708	\$1,933	\$225	\$221
16	Technology Services	\$2,405	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$1,146
17	Service Contracts	\$4,486	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$1,000	\$516
18	Audit	\$1,600	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0	\$195
19	Rent	\$11,714	\$11,948	\$12,187	\$239	\$1,396
20	Mileage Reimbursement	\$5,900	\$6,025	\$7,867	\$1,842	\$901
21	Training	\$2,865	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$344
22	Property & Liability Ins.	\$4,918	\$4,487	\$5,000	\$514	\$573
23	Communications	\$4,023	\$4,000	\$4,607	\$607	\$528
24	Miscellaneous	\$3,302	\$2,600	\$3,300	\$700	\$378
25	Legal	\$2,098	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$600	\$241
26	Equipment Repair	\$0	\$450	\$450	\$0	\$52
27	Office Supplies	\$9,930	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0	\$1,375
28	Professional Books	\$1,097	\$750	\$1,200	\$450	\$137
29	Dues & Fees	\$3,943	\$4,090	\$4,090	\$0	\$469
30	Office Equipment	\$7,377	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0	\$516
31	Superintendent Search	\$0	\$0	\$11,150	\$11,150	\$1,277
32	Advertising	\$716	\$500	\$1,000	\$500	\$115
33	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$470,706	\$502,546	\$582,076	\$79,531	\$66,545
34						
35	REVENUES	FY04	FY05	FY06	Change	Berkshire
36	Transfer to SPED	\$28,677	\$29,673	\$34,439	\$4,766	\$3,946
37	Grants	\$31,045	\$38,669	\$34,823	(\$3,846)	\$3,990
38	Prior Year Excess	\$11,241	\$5,963	\$0	(\$5,963)	\$0
39	Other	\$4,817	\$8,100	\$8,100	\$0	\$928
40	TOTAL REVENUES	\$75,779	\$82,405	\$77,362	(\$5,043)	\$8,863
41						
42	ASSESSMENT AMOUNT	\$394,927	\$420,140	\$504,714	\$84,574	\$57,681
43						
44	SCHOOL DISTRICT	FY04	FY05	FY06	05 to 06	FY06
45	ASSESSMENTS	Actual	Assessment	Assessment	Change	RATE
46	Bakersfield	\$43,332	\$42,867	\$51,302	\$8,435	10.16%
47	Berkshire	\$41,311	\$47,007	\$57,826	\$10,819	11.46%
48	Enosburg	\$163,449	\$172,440	\$212,027	\$39,587	42.01%
49	Montgomery	\$27,616	\$31,906	\$40,033	\$8,127	7.93%
50	Richford	\$119,219	\$125,920	\$143,526	\$17,606	28.44%
51	TOTAL ASSESSMENTS	\$394,927	\$420,140	\$504,714	\$84,574	100.00%

Please direct questions to your School Board Members or Bill Samuelson
the FNEsu Business Manager, at 802-848-7661

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

Balance on hand	July 01, 2003	\$2,583.95
-----------------	---------------	------------

REVENUE

Adults & Children	Hot Lunch Sales	
Lunch & Breakfast		\$24,597.97
St. Treasurers Reimbursements		
Lunch & Breakfast		\$30,866.92
Lyndonville Bank Ck Bk Intersect		\$4.38
Transfer from School Money Market		<u>\$3,000.00</u>

TOTAL REVENUE	\$58,469.27
---------------	-------------

TOTAL REVENUE AVAILABLE	\$61,053.22
-------------------------	-------------

DISBURSEMENTS:

Lunch & Breakfast	
Salary Cooks Breakfast & Lunch	\$28,762.97
Health Ins	\$1,768.29
FICA/Cooks /Agent/Subs	\$6,732.56
Workers Compensation	\$1,503.00
Supplies	\$1,389.55
Food/Lunch & Breakfast	\$14,880.93
Milk/ Lunch & Breakfast	\$5,755.82
Storage	\$210.05
Freight	\$266.30
Service Charge	<u>\$25.00</u>

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$61,294.47
---------------------	-------------

HOT LUNCH FINAL BALANCE 6/30/04	-241.25
---------------------------------	---------

TEACHERS SALSRIES

Beverly Alexander	\$44,570.56
Cathy Anderson	\$14,649.92
Heather Anderson	\$1,086.76
Bessery-Towers Rene	\$92.88
Boudreau Elizabeth	\$240.00
Campbell Karen	\$399.25
Heidi Chamberlain	\$10,502.16
Mark Choquette	\$750.00
Randall Clark	\$29,554.95
Coleman Catherine	\$695.00
Colgrove Barbara	\$270.00
Covillon Annmarie	\$203.75
Davis Virginia	\$120.00
Doe Ricky	\$750.00
Donlon Cheryl	\$750.00
Dunakin Carrie	\$2,210.11
Earley Bernadette	\$45.50
Foote Joann	\$1,342.50
Garrow Gordon	\$38,838.10
Gonzales Jodi	\$3,358.28
Greenway Rhonda	\$360.00
Gross trever	\$45.50
Hale Daniel	\$60.03
Hall Kimberley	\$36,146.21
Hango Lisa	\$1,129.20
Hardy Deborah	\$13,088.23
Harkness Kathie	\$136.50
Jewett Nancy	\$46,156.96
Labounty Cynthia	\$27,255.85
Lamoureux Bradley	\$45.50
Lavallee Denise	\$3,470.03
Lavalle Roger Jr	\$6,977.22
Leahy Kevin	\$13,343.70
Lester Jeffrey	\$30,750.97
McDermott Jean	\$1,629.20
McFadden Tricia	\$6,129.78
McMillin Amy	\$60.00
Messier Virginia	\$2,677.96
Messier Andre	\$29,999.97
Minor Elizabeth	\$24,390.01
Mitchell Harold	\$31,854.52

Morris Rhonda	\$45.50
Morse Ginger	\$32,912.27
Murray Kristin	\$1,937.48
Nichols Christine	\$10,269.75
Osborne Kathryn	\$315.53
Ovitt Joanne	\$787.00
Paradee Natalie	\$8,505.12
Pearce Jr Albert	\$15,211.70
Pelkey Sally	\$18,140.00
Pelletier Suzanne	\$322.00
Pinette Leah	\$8,706.64
Poulin June	\$9,812.80
Ramsay Lucy	\$750.00
Renning Maha	\$121.00
Riley Timothy	\$750.00
Sanborn Mary Ann	\$9,814.50
Sanborn Sarah	\$227.50
Santopietro Deborah	\$10,833.49
Sleeper Valerie	\$564.85
Snider Jennifer	\$8,698.17
Snider Mary	\$5,434.86
Stanhope Tina	\$2,658.27
Steinhour Debra	\$40,782.22
Thompson Rebekah	\$2,375.10
Tower Emily	\$240.00
Wazny Joanne	\$39,536.73
Wescott Michelle	\$65.30
Wetherby Nancy	\$11,525.80
Wetherby Jessica	\$506.27
Woodward Viola	\$21,053.43
Wright Louise	\$480.00
Yoree Beverly	<u>\$35,637.10</u>
	\$725,157.44

HOT LUNCH

Cathy Anderson	\$51.89
Bonnie Donna	\$13,971.94
Cynthia Hance	\$925.35
Ovitt Joanne	\$28.00
Wanda Reed	\$10,122.94
Wetherby Jessica	\$28.00
Diane Stowe	<u>\$8,012.75</u>
	\$33,140.87

NOTES OF INTEREST

**EVERYONE PLEASE PUT YOUR 911 NUMBER WHERE IT
MAY BE SEEN FROM THE ROAD**

**REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE OCTOBER 7, 2005
AT 5:00 P.M. WE DO NOT ACCEPT POSTMARKS!!!! TAXES RECEIVED AFTER
THIS DATE WILL BE SUBJECT TO DELINQUENT FEES AND INTEREST. PLEASE
MAIL EARLY TO ARRIVE IN THIS OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATE.
PARTIAL PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE ON PROPERTY TAXES BEFORE THE TAX
NOTICES ARE MAILED OUT. PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE ON CURRENT TAXES
WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY, MONTHLY, OR BI-MONTHLY UNTIL THE DUE DATE
AND ARE WELCOME. WE WILL GIVE YOU A RECEIPT FOR ANY PAYMENTS
MADE. NO DISCOUNT OR INTEREST GIVEN FOR EARLY PAYMENTS.**

OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY
9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. ONLY**

ADDRESS

**BERKSHIRE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
4454 WATERTOWER ROAD, ENOSBURG FALLS, VT 05450**

VITAL STATISTICS FOR BERKSHIRE

The Vermont Dept. of Health had advised all Towns to discontinue the practice of publishing individual Vital Statistics. The statistical information is as follows:

Births	12 Males	11 Females
Deaths	4 Males	3 Females
Marriages	16	4 Civil Unions

ATTENTION

TOWN OF BERKSHIRE RESIDENTS

All residents of the Town of Berkshire, are here by reminded that they are not to plow snow across the road. This is in violation of Vermont Statutes, Title 23 vsa Section 1126, and Title 19 vsa section 1105, to plow or blow snow on the Town Highway. Violators are subject to a fine up to \$1000.00. The Violators can be held liable for the actual cost of repairing any damage and for reasonable attorney's fees. The snow can turn to ice thus causing a safety hazard for all motorists. When a plow hits these ridges of ice or frozen banks, severe damage can result to the snow removal equipment. All residents and private plow operators are asked to refrain from plowing snow across the road.

Town of Berkshire
4454 Water Tower Rd.
Berkshire, VT 05450

Department of Libraries
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0601

