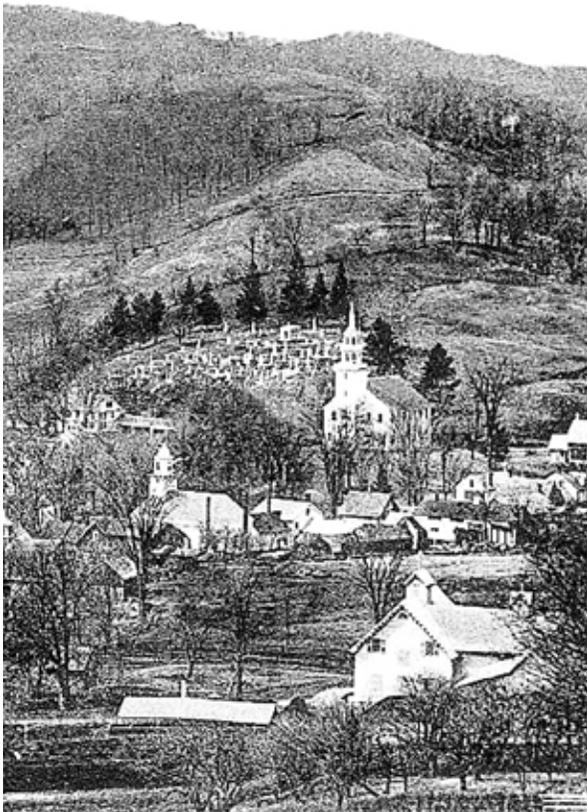


STRAFFORD, VERMONT

TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2019

HISTORICAL NOTE

STRAFFORD'S CEMETERIES

Do you consider yourself a taphophile? I suspect many of you are and do not even realize it! A taphophile is a fancy word for someone who loves cemeteries. Many people have traditionally thought of cemeteries as gloomy and depressing, perhaps even a bit haunted. Nothing could be further from the truth, at least in the daylight hours. Cemeteries serve a much wider purpose than merely a resting place for the bodies and ashes of the deceased. A local community's history is preserved in these quiet plots of land. Graveyards serve as a place not only for remembering loved ones, but as a treasure trove of information about early residents, historic events, lifestyles, and religion. Strafford is no exception. Many residents are unaware that Strafford and South Strafford together have at least sixteen recognized cemeteries.

Strafford Cemetery is undoubtedly the most familiar, containing the mausoleum of Justin Smith Morrill. What perhaps is a little less well known is that the original name of the Strafford Cemetery was "Orchard Hill Cemetery," and the land for it was deeded to the Town by Frederick Smith, Jr. in 1826. Before deeding the land to the town, Fredrick had married Sally Hatch, the widow of Upper Village storekeeper Joel Hatch. Frederick then purchased the Inn, store and land of the Upper Village (for the very large sum of \$3,275) at age 23, probably with Sally's widow's dower.

Evergreen Cemetery, due much to its size and proximity to the road and entrance into South Strafford, is equally known and well visited. Its origins are not quite as clear as the Strafford Cemetery's. It is believed that it was first used as a family burying ground in the early 1820's. The land at that time was owned by Wells Blaisdell and in 1820 he buried his wife, Lovey, there. On November 30, 1832, Joseph Barrett, who had since acquired some of the Blaisdell property, deeded about one half acre of land to the Meeting House Society. The Universalist Church and shed may be found on this land today. Additional contributions of land to the cemetery were made by the estate of Jessie

C. Lane by M.C. Lane, and later in 1934 by Charles J. & Florence E. Linton. An examination of the gravestones and dates will lead one to that of Samuel McMaster, dated 1809. However, two discarded head stones in the Kibling Hill Cemetery would indicate that Samuel and his wife were first buried in Kibling and then later moved to Evergreen. It is generally accepted that Evergreen was first used as a public place for burials around 1832.

The Old City Cemetery, near the falls, was in use as early as 1798 and contains over 250 grave sites. The last known burials here were at the turn of the nineteenth century, around 1901. The oldest cemetery in Strafford, though, is the Gove Cemetery. It is a small cemetery, found off of Pennock Road, which was in use for only three years and contains less than 10 graves. Its recorded use was from 1777 through 1780. Other recognized cemeteries within the town are: Buzzell Cemetery with a handfull of graves and no known dates as to its first use and discontinuation; Cook-Huse-Fulton Cemetery in use from 1818 to 1866 with at least ten graves; Drew Cemetery in use from 1815 to 1983, tucked in the woods near a pond with only four graves; Wood Cemetery in use from 1832 to 1972 off of Miller Pond Road with approximately twenty-five graves; Clough Cemetery in use from 1812 to 1921 also off of Miller Pond Road with almost seventy graves and a couple of broken stones; Blake Cemetery, off of Rock Bottom Farm Road, deep in the woods surrounded by a low stone wall and containing over twenty graves from 1794 and forward; Kibling Cemetery in use from 1788 to 1920 and containing over two hundred and twenty five grave sites; Dow Cemetery in use from 1813 to 1863 containing a few broken stones and seven graves; Zebulon Flanders Cemetery off of Brook Road used first in 1799 containing nine graves; Robinson Cemetery also first used in 1799 and containing over one hundred and fifty grave sites; Levi Bacon and Esther Bacon Cemeteries which many consider to be nothing more than single burial sites, as

Continued on inside back cover

Continued from inside front cover

Levi's contains one and Esther's two known burials. The previously mentioned Bacon sites are literally lost in the woods and can only be found with a little bit of luck and a keen eye.

Statewide vital registration in Vermont began in 1857, when the General Assembly passed legislation requiring towns to report all deaths to the Secretary of State. Prior to that time, some towns kept such records in order to resolve questions concerning the distribution and inheritance of property. Vital records - particularly death records - became recognized as an important tool for studying the location and spread of epidemics, such as the 1918-1919 Spanish influenza pandemic which caused up to 500,000 deaths in the United States. Vermont, between October 1918 to April 1919 experienced over 50,000 cases (15% of the State population) and 2,146 recorded deaths. In 1896, the Legislature transferred responsibility for the vital statistics system to the newly formed Board of Health, the forerunner of the Vermont Department of Health. Since 2000, the Vermont vital records system includes nine types of vital events: births, deaths, marriages, divorces, civil unions, dissolutions, reciprocal beneficiaries, fetal deaths, and abortions.

Vermont law prohibits burying a body without proper paperwork; however, the law provides that a private individual may set aside a portion of land he or she owns to use as a burial space for immediate family members, so long as this use does not violate the health laws and regulations of the state and the town in which such land is situated. The required paperwork generally includes a death certificate and a burial transit permit. The purpose of these requirements is to create a paper trail that establishes the cause of death and the location of the body or remains. This requirement was not always followed early in Strafford's history and it is still possible to find family grave sites unknown to the town tucked into what is now wooded terrain.

The most common letters seen on tombstones in movies and at Halloween are RIP. This is an abbreviation for the Latin words *Requiescat In Pace*, which translates nicely

to the English words "Rest In Peace". The phrase was not found on tombstones before the eighth century.

Strafford cemeteries contain many types of burials and grave types. In most, you will find the traditional headstone, tombstone, or gravestone as a marker. In most cases, they have the deceased's name, date of birth, and date of death inscribed on them, along with a personal message, or epitaph, and may contain pieces of funerary art. An epitaph is a short text honoring a deceased person that is inscribed on a tombstone or plaque, and it may be sad, witty, or serious. In Evergreen Cemetery, you will find inscribed on Mary J. Avery's tombstone the following: "Loving friends weep not for me, I long to be at rest. How happy, happy I shall be, when pillowed on my savior's breast." You may also find footstones in Strafford cemeteries. A footstone is a marker at the foot of a grave and is usually stone, though modern footstones are often made of concrete, or some metal (usually bronze) in the form of a cast plate, which may or may not be set in concrete. The footstone may simply mark the foot of a grave, serving as a boundary marker for the grave plot, but more often provide additional information about the interred decedent. Additionally, you may come across medallions indicating that the deceased was a veteran. Each medallion will be inscribed with the word "VETERAN" across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom. You will find these in many of Strafford's cemeteries.

Our cemeteries also include mausoleums, such as Justin Morrill's, which are external free-standing buildings constructed as a monument enclosing the interment space or burial chamber of a deceased person or people. Such a monument or freestanding tombstone without the interment, or body, is a cenotaph.

Cemeteries in Strafford are places of serenity, be they in the woods or fields. Our collective history lies buried there waiting to be discovered, contemplated and enjoyed. I would encourage one and all to be a tombstone tourist on the next sunny day and to enjoy Strafford's many outdoor "museums".

Alan Donohue

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOWN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Town Officers	2
Elected State Officials.....	6
Permit Fees	6

TOWN BUSINESS

Warning for Town Meeting 2020	7
Proceedings of Town Meeting 2019.....	9
Selectboard Report.....	12
Reports of Other Town Officers	15
Town Accountings	
Budget	34
Balance Sheet	45
Other Accounting Information	46
Tax Information.....	52
Delinquent Taxes	54
Vital Statistics.....	56
Animal Licensing.....	58
Funds and Scholarships	59

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Morrill Memorial and Harris Library	68
Strafford Fire and Rescue	70
Other Strafford Organizations.....	73
Health, Social and Planning Services	81
Recycling and Solid Waste.....	101

STRAFFORD SCHOOLS

Newton School Graduates	103
Warning for School Meeting 2020	104
Proceedings of School Meeting 2019.....	105
School Directors' Report	108
Superintendent's Report	112
Thetford Academy.....	114
School Accountings	
Budget	118
State Mandated School Funding Reports	124
White River Valley Supervisory Union Budget.....	126
Graduates	139
Newton School Enrollment.....	139

TOWN OFFICE HOURS AND SERVICE SCHEDULES..... 140

*Cover: Old photo of Town House with Strafford Cemetery behind
Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society*

TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator (Town & School):

Robert Bauer Term expires March 2020

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2021

Selectboard:

Toni Pippy Term expires March 2021

Brian Johnson Term expires March 2021

Lauri Berkenkamp Term expires March 2020

Kate Siepmann Term expires March 2020

Patrik Kelly (*appointed*) Term expires March 2020

Listers:

Kerrie Bushway Term expires March 2022

Allan Wylie Term expires March 2021

Tim Denny Term expires March 2020

Auditors:

June Solsaa Term expires March 2022

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2021

Suzanna Liepmann Term expires March 2020

School Directors:

Sarah Root Term expires March 2022

Micaela Tucker Term expires March 2021

Glenn Wylie Term expires March 2021

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2020

Sarah North Term expires March 2020

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro Term expires March 2020

Town Agent and Town Grand Juror:

Alan Donohue Term expires March 2020

Trustee of Public Funds:

Elizabeth Ruml Term expires March 2022

Genevieve Gibson Term expires March 2021

John Hawkins Term expires March 2020

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2020

Town Officers (continued)

Harris Library Trustees:

Miriam Newman	Term expires March 2022
Curt Albee.....	Term expires March 2021
Carol Wilson (<i>Selectboard Trustee</i>).....	Term expires March 2021

Cemetery Commissioners:

Sherm Wilson	Term expires March 2022
David Harris	Term expires March 2021
Andrew Behrens	Term expires March 2021
Gretchen Graner	Term expires March 2020
Gary Kendall	Term expires March 2020

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee	Alan Donohue	Rosalind Finn
Andrew Lane	Sarah North	Vincent Robinson
	<i>Vacant</i>	

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Road Foreman and Supervisor of Public Works	Jon MacKinnon
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Regina J. Josler
Selectboard Assistant	Lisa Bragg
Town Constable	Edwin Eastman
Zoning Administrator	Brian Johnson
Zoning Administrator Alternate	Ed Eastman
Town House Overseer.....	Paul Kifner
Emergency Management Director	William Burden
Deputy Emergency Management Director	Josh Kahan
Emergency 9-1-1 Contact	Lisa Bragg
Town Health Officer	Stephen Marx
Dog Officer and Pound Keeper	Janet Hardy
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	Bob Wilson
Tree Warden	Bob Wilson
Town Service Officer	Susan Coburn
Recycling Coordinator.....	<i>Vacant</i>
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association	Shawn Harlow
Fire Warden, appointed by the State	Calvin Benjamin
Fence Viewers	Greg Lewis, Gary Kendall
South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative	Susan Coburn
Deputy Registrar	Dennis Cilley

Appointive Officers (continued)

Development Review Board:

Terrence Garrison (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2022
Dan Ruml	Term expires March 2022
Martha Walke	Term expires March 2022
Sean Lewis	Term expires March 2021
Bonnie Bergeron (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Kip Lindsay (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2021
Alan Donohue (<i>Alternate</i>)	Term expires March 2020

Planning Commission:

Alan Donohue	Term expires March 2022
Michael Scanlan	Term expires March 2022
Stuart Crocker	Term expires March 2022
Stephen Willbanks (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2022
Brent Cadwell	Term expires March 2021
Donald Graham (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2021
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2021
Martha Walke (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Chrissy Jamieson	Term expires March 2020

Conservation Commission:

Steve Faccio (<i>Recording Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2023
Stephen Willbanks (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2023
Micki Colbeck	Term expires March 2022
J. T. Horn	Term expires March 2022
Jared Jenisch	Term expires March 2022
Michael Hebb (<i>Trails Commissioner</i>)	Term expires March 2021
Kate Root.....	Term expires March 2021
Charles Sherman.....	Term expires March 2020
David Paganelli	Term expires March 2020

Town House Advisory Group:

Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2022
Curt Albee	Term expires March 2020
Lori Mikusa	Term expires March 2020
Martha Manheim	Term expires March 2020
Steve Handy	Term expires March 2020
Silas Treadway	Term expires March 2020
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2020
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2020
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2020

Recreation Board:

Neal MacPhail	Term expires March 2022
Christa Wurm	Term expires March 2022
Jason Loomis	Term expires March 2022
Hilary Linehan	Term expires March 2020
David Taplin	Term expires March 2020

Appointive Officers (continued)

Historic Preservation Commission:	
Ann Thorp (<i>Clerk</i>)	Term expires March 2021
Tim Utt	Term expires March 2021
Robert Johnston (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2020
Silas Treadway (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2020
David Taplin	Term expires March 2020
Regional Planning Commission:	
John Echeverria	Term expires March 2020
<i>Vacant (Alternate)</i>	Term expires March 2020
East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network	
Governing Board Representative:	
Steve Willbanks	Term expires March 2020
David Webb (<i>Alternate</i>).....	Term expires March 2020
Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:	
Stephen Willbanks	Term expires March 2020
Michael Scanlan (<i>Alternate</i>).....	Term expires March 2020
Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:	
Elizabeth Preston	Term expires March 2020
Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:	
Danette Harris	Term expires March 2022
Joanna Hawkins	Term expires March 2021
Diana Leddy	Term expires March 2020
Community-Building Award Committee:	
Roz Finn	Term expires March 2021
John Freitag	Term expires March 2021
Kate Linehan	Term expires March 2021
Rebecca Seibel	Term expires March 2021
Lori Mikusa	Term expires March 2021
Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:	
Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2021
Joanna Hawkins.....	Term expires March 2021
Rod Maclay	Term expires March 2021
Maureen Wilson	Term expires March 2021
Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:	
Barbara Murray	Term expires March 2021
Susan Coburn.....	Term expires March 2021
Rose Silloway	Term expires March 2021

Notaries Public

Susan Coburn	Alan Donohue	Regina J. Josler
Lisa Bragg	Roderick Maclay	Victoria Lloyd
	Sarah North	

ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Senator Patrick Leahy	800-642-3193
Senator Bernard Sanders	800-339-9834
Congressman Peter Welch	888-605-7270
Governor Phil Scott	802-828-3333
Lt. Governor David Zuckerman	802-828-2226
State Senator Mark MacDonald	802-433-5867
Representative Tim Briglin	802-785-2414
Representative James Masland	802-785-4146

While the Vermont Legislature is in session, you may call the Sergeant-at-Arms and leave a message at 1-800-322-5616.

Permit Fees

Zoning Application	\$ 70.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Zoning Variance/Site Plan Appl.	\$100.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Minor Subdivision Application	\$200.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Major Subdivision Application	\$400.00 + \$100.00 per lot + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee
Highway Access Application	\$ 30.00 + \$ 15.00 Recording Fee

Regional Environmental Office

For information on Sewage Disposal, Water Supply, Act 250, Act 249, Electrical and Plumbing Inspection and Fire Safety, contact the Regional Environmental Office:

Act 250 Permits
Springfield Office
100 Mineral St., Suite 305
Springfield, VT 05156
885-8855

Act 249 Permits
Barre Office
5 Perry St., Suite 80
Barre, VT 05641
476-0190

**WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 3, 2020**

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following articles of business.

- Article 1:** To elect a Moderator.
- Article 2:** To hear a report of the Auditors.
- Article 3:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,078,787 to defray 2020 budget expenses.
- Article 4:** To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for town purposes.
- Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments, as follows. One half of the total tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The balance is due at the Town Office by or before Wednesday, December 2, 2020. Mailed payments must bear an official U.S. postmark before those dates. Postage machine dates are unacceptable. Late tax payers are charged at a rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months, and a rate of 1.5% per month for each month thereafter. After a seven (7) day grace period ending 4:30 p.m. on December 9, 2020, an additional one-time 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes.
- Article 6:** To elect the following officers:
- For a term of three years:*
- Selectman (paper ballot)
 - Lister (paper ballot)
 - Auditor (paper ballot)
 - Cemetery Commissioner
 - Cemetery Commissioner
 - Trustee of Public Funds
- For a term of two years:*
- Selectman (paper ballot)
 - Selectman (paper ballot) *(to complete a 3-year term)*

For a term of one year:

Delinquent Tax Collector

Town Grand Juror

Town Agent

Agent to Deed Real Estate

Article 7: Shall the Town raise \$7,000 for a Regional Energy Coordinator?

Article 8: WHEREAS, the United Nations, climate scientists from around the world, and world leaders of 175 countries, all recognize and agree that to avoid catastrophic climate change, drastic reductions in global greenhouse emissions must be achieved by 2030.

WHEREAS, carbon emissions in Vermont are up 16% from 1990 levels, dramatically failing to meet our state goal of 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2012;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF STRAFFORD:

1. Declare that a climate emergency threatens our town, the State of Vermont, and the whole world;

2. Commit to integrating the need to act urgently on climate into all future decision-making, while incorporating transitions that are just and equitable, and to working toward a goal of zero greenhouse gas emissions in Strafford by 2030;

3. Direct the Strafford Select Board to ask the Strafford Energy Committee, in collaboration with other organizations and individuals, to report periodically on the Town's greenhouse gas emissions and to present information and ideas for achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in Strafford by 2030; and

4. Urge the government of the State of Vermont to promptly initiate and enact legislation needed to ensure that Vermont's goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions are met, and take steps to mitigate any resulting harm to vulnerable populations in Vermont.

Article 9: To transact any legal business to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 29, 2020

By Strafford Board of Selectmen

Toni Pippy

Brian Johnson

Kate Siepmann

Lauri Berkenkamp

Patrik Kelly

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Welcome to the 2019 Town Meeting. Moderator Bauer started with some announcements while lunch is being completed. If there are no objections from the floor, we will suspend rules and hear from Jim Masland and Tim Briglin.

Moderator Bauer read the warning for the annual Town Meeting.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator.

The Article was moved and seconded. Robert Bauer was nominated and seconded. Motion was made and seconded to close nominations and Robert Bauer was elected.

Article 2. To hear a report of the Auditors.

Article 2 was moved and seconded. Nellie Pennington spoke on the Auditors report and several corrections to the town report. 1) On the inside cover, update title to “Preserving Strafford’s Villages”. The stipend for the Selectboard is \$450 a year and has not been raised since 1982. In 2020 the Auditors are going to request that the selectboard stipends be raised to \$750. On page 84 a line is not showing for the Town House special donations, the actual figure for 2017 was \$41,364 and actual for 2018 is \$71,826 and that line should be marked “E” for the note at the bottom of the page. This doesn’t change the actual totals amounts anywhere and Nellie spoke on the amazing job the Town House did raising money to repair the spire. On page 88 the same thing happened with the Energy Committee. Nellie thanked all the officials for getting their reports to her and thanked the Selectboard for doing such a great job staying in the budget.

Article 2 was moved and seconded to close discussion. Article 2 passes.

Article 3. To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,050,136 to defray 2019 budget expenses.

Article 3 was moved and seconded. Toni Pippy started with the 2018 report, noting the balances in the general fund and highway fund, and spoke about projects for 2019.

With no objections, vote on article 3. Article 3 passes.

Article 4. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes.

Article 4 was moved and seconded. No discussion; Article 4 was voted on. Article 4 passes.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total annual taxes due. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Strafford office on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of September and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of December. An official United States Postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% (one percent) per month for the first three months and 1.5% (one and a half percent) thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% (eight percent) collection fee after the grace period ending at 4:30 p.m. seven days after the first Wednesday of December.

Article 5 was moved and seconded. Open for discussion. No discussion and no objection, proceeded to vote on Article 5. Article 5 passes.

Article 6. To elect the following officers:

Article 6 was moved and seconded.

For a term of three years:

Selectman (paper ballot): John Freitag is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of John Freitag. John Freitag is elected.

Lister (paper ballot): Kerrie Bushway is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Kerrie Bushway. Kerrie Bushway is elected.

Auditor (paper ballot): June Solsaa is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of June Solsaa. June Solsaa is elected.

Cemetery Commissioner: Sherm Wilson is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Sherm Wilson is elected.

Trustee of Public Funds: Elizabeth Ruml is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Elizabeth Ruml is elected.

Harris Library Trustee: Miriam Newman is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Miriam Newman is elected.

Two year term:

Selectman (paper ballot): Brian Johnson is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer instructed the Town Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Brian Johnson. Brian Johnson is elected.

One year term:

Delinquent Tax Collector: Jeanne Castro is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Jeanne Castro is elected.

Town Grand Juror: Alan Donohue is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Alan Donohue is elected.

Town Agent: Alan Donohue is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Alan Donohue is elected.

Agent to deed Real Estate: Lisa Bragg is nominated and seconded. With no other nominations, Moderator Bauer moved to close nominations and Lisa Bragg is elected.

Article 7. Shall the town establish a reserve fund to be called the “Municipal Building Reserve” to be used for “Renovations and Maintenance” in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804?

Article 7 was moved and seconded and open for discussion. Question was called and seconded. Vote to end discussion passes. Article 7 was voted on and passed.

Article 8. To transact any legal business to come before the meeting.

Article 8 was moved and seconded. Robert Johnston thanked Nellie Pennington for her many years of putting the Town Report together. Jim Schley asked for clarification on the schedule for next year’s meeting and understands that last year we established that we would alternate meetings. Having made the observation that there are more people in both halves of the day, can we make the recommendation that we maintain that schedule. A suggestion was to take a straw poll, non-binding. #1 school meeting first, or #2 alternate school and town? Moderator Bauer said let the record reflect that far more hands to let the school go first, and unless there are objections will let the boards figure it out for next year.

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 2:09 p.m.

Robert Bauer
Moderator

Lisa M. Bragg
Town Clerk

Toni Pippy
Selectboard

SELECTBOARD REPORT

It has been said that the primary job of Vermont selectboards is to deal with roads, dogs, and rights of way. 2019 proved this adage correct, at least in terms of Strafford's roads: the primary issues the selectboard addressed over the course of 2019 were with the more than 80.44 miles of roads—Classes 2, 3, and 4, of which 11 are paved—throughout town.

Strafford has the dubious distinction of being one of the few towns in Vermont with no state-maintained roads, leaving all maintenance and repair on the shoulders of the town. 2019 presented the Strafford road crew, short-staffed by one member, with one of the messiest—and longest—mud seasons in recent memory, and the ongoing repair and maintenance of the many miles of dirt roads throughout town prompted much discussion by the board on both practical and philosophical decisions regarding paving: is it better to limit the use of funds to maintain already-paved roads or to pave roads that cost the town excessive amounts of repair and maintenance?

In April, the board voted to pave a section of Justin Morrill Highway, in addition to a few other sections of road in town in need of repair. The decision was not unanimous, and shortly after it was made, John Freitag resigned from the board. In May, Pat Kelly joined the board to serve out John's term. In September, Justin Morrill Highway was paved, along with several other sections of town roads, including Downer Forest Road and Hatch Road.

Roads will continue to be a major issue for the selectboard and the town: because we receive no state funding for the upkeep of any of our roads, including Route 132, Strafford relies on grants and taxpayers to fund paving and maintenance. While the board—and Toni Pippy in particular—has worked throughout the year with Road Foreman Jon MacKinnon on an inventory of the paved roads in town and their general state of repair, the hard reality is that the only way to properly fund maintenance of the roads is through tax dollars. It will mean that taxes will inevitably go up as our roads age and more people use them.

In June, the selectboard voted to hire Garold Jamieson as a member of the Strafford road crew, filling out the crew to full capacity.

After multiple complaints from residents regarding speeding, the board authorized Constable Ed Eastman to conduct informal traffic studies on Downer Forest Road and asked the state to conduct a formal traffic study on Route 132 near the Coburns' Store corner. The studies indicated that while many drivers use 132 as a commuting corridor between Interstates 91 and 89, most aren't going at excessive speeds. Ed Eastman came to the same conclusion after his speed tracking on Downer Forest Road. Still, please remember that our friends and neighbors live, walk, and drive along town roads—and slowing down for a minute or two won't affect your journey in the long run.

Over the course of the summer, state foresters discovered that the emerald ash borer, scourge of forests throughout New England, had made its way to Orange County. Bob and Carol Wilson volunteered considerable time to create a comprehensive inventory of ash trees along town roads; the board will need to consider how to address the borer's damage to trees in town, particularly those bordering roads.

We were lucky this year in that (as of this writing) the town suffered no catastrophic weather events comparable to those we've had in past years, and Lisa Bragg successfully shepherded \$541,023 in FEMA reimbursement applications and \$59,390.97 in State Emergency Funds for the natural disaster on July 1, 2017. Thanks to Lisa's meticulous and diligent work, Strafford was one of a very few towns to realize their FEMA reimbursements within two years of application. Most of the funds came in 2018.

And on to dogs: throughout the year, the board heard various dog complaints, ranging from loose and lost dogs to excessive barking. The board wants to extend a huge thank you to animal control officer Janet Hardy, who approaches every complaint with patience and every animal with kindness.

Other milestones: After almost 20 years, the EPA cleanup of the Elizabeth Mine site is nearly complete. The EPA updated the board regularly in 2019 and projected that the entire project will be finished by 2020.

A year after citizens in several Upper Valley towns successfully stopped the New Vistas project, Strafford, South Royalton, Sharon, and Tunbridge held a series of community dinners and public meetings to brainstorm ways to continue to work together to create a stronger four-town community. More than 400 residents of all towns attended the four dinners, and the Our Four Town Future project is ongoing.

After more than 150 years, the board voted to move forward with exploratory plans to renovate the town office. The board hired an architect to provide preliminary plans, solicited questions and responses from townspeople, and will ask the town to vote on moving forward with the renovation plan.

Finally, we ended 2019 with an unrestricted surplus in the general fund of \$51,622 and in the highway fund of \$3,050. The 2020 budget includes these amounts as balance forwards to offset expenses and taxes. The amount to collect in taxes for 2020 represents a 2.01% increase in the tax rate. As we look at future years, we will be challenged with how we finance the repair of our paved roads in a systematic and cost-effective manner. A glimmer of light is that the Highway Bond will be paid off in 2022, which will free up funds to support a plan.

Two board members will step down at Town Meeting: Kate Siepman after a three-year term, and Lauri Berkenkamp after a two-year term. Two new townspeople will be voted on to the board at Town Meeting. Pat Kelly volunteered to take over John Freitag's term, which expires in 2021; town

residents will need to vote Pat in to fill out John's term or choose another candidate.

As always, the selectboard thanks the town for the opportunity to serve; road foreman Jon MacKinnon and his fine road crew for their exceptional dedication to maintaining and enhancing Strafford's roads; and Lisa Bragg and Regina Josler for their dedication, professionalism, and expertise in keeping Strafford running smoothly.

Strafford Board of Selectmen

Toni Pippy

Brian Johnson

Kate Siepmann

Lauri Berkenkamp

Patrik Kelly



Old City Cemetery

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

The Vermont Municipal Clerk's and Treasurer's Association announced several levels of education certifications as a way to sponsor and promote education, which will increase proficiency and strengthen the quality of local government and afford clerks and treasurers recognition for their abilities. At the 2019 VMCTA annual conference in September, I am proud to say that I applied for and received my Advanced Level 1 Certified Vermont Clerk and Advanced Level 1 Certified Vermont Treasurer certifications. This took four additional years of training to get the requirements need for the next level. I am also happy to report that Regina Josler also applied and received her Advanced Level 1 Certified Vermont Assistant Clerk certifications as well.

Last year we voted to establish a reserve fund for the Municipal Building for needed repairs of the building. A small group; Curt Albee, Tom Root, Kate Siepmann, and I, met and reviewed several design options submitted by gbA Architecture & Planning to restore the municipal building. We came down to a final plan design and estimated costs for the project and presented that to the Selectboard on May 22, 2019. On July 2, 2019, DeWolfe Engineering Associates came and did a structural inspection of the building and submitted a report of their findings. This report can be reviewed at the Town Office. The findings were "that it appears that the planned renovations are appropriate for the structure and will likely improve the condition of the structure." While we were hoping to move forward with an article at Town Meeting, we recently learned that a note over five years must be voted on by Australian ballot. Therefore the only option we have at Town meeting is to discuss this project under article 8, and hold a special town meeting later on.

I reported that Regina was scanning our land records into our NEMRC system, a project that started in 2018. 33 land record books, 1 lien book, 2 survey books, 19,496 pages later the project was completed. I want to give a big thank you to Regina for being so persistent and not giving up. A job well done!

At this year's Town meeting we will also be holding the presidential primary. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and would ask that anyone wanting to vote before town meeting come early and do so. The meeting will start right at 9 am so please arrive early. A couple of weeks before this I will be looking for election workers during the day to help with check in for town meeting and voting. You can e-mail if you are interested at townclerk@straffordvt.org.

On April 15th, 2019, we were hit with another rain storm that caused damages to several of our roads. Rte. 132 received \$36,403 in damages, which is funded by the Federal Highway Administration at 100% reimbursement. These damages were completed and the town funds have

been received. There were six roads damaged and expenses of \$98,307 have been submitted to FEMA for reimbursement. We will receive 75% from Federal funds, 12.5% from the State of Vermont, and the remaining 12.5% is our share at \$12,288. This process will take a bit longer, but we hope to see our reimbursement in 2020.

There were sufficient changes to vital records this year, fees went up for recordings to \$15 per page, and we licensed 344 dogs.

Please remember to file your Vermont homestead declaration form HS-122 and your household income form HI-144. The HS-122 and the HI-144 should be filed by April 15, 2020 to avoid any penalties. These forms can be filed by April 15th even if you apply for an extension.

This year will mark Paul Hardy's 20th year with the town, Congratulations PD, and welcome to Garold Jamieson who started with us last year. Thank you as well to Jon MacKinnon and Danny Prescott for their many years of service to the town and all that the road crew does.

After 14 years Regina Josler continues to provide dedicated service to me and the work that she does for the town. Thank you, Regina, for your hard work and your support.

The Selectboard has been extremely busy over the last year and they have done so with communication and cooperation throughout the year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you. A special thank you to Kate Siepmann and Laurie Berkenkamp, who will not be running again for a selectboard seat; you will be missed.

Sincerely,
Lisa M Bragg
Town Clerk/Treasurer

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2019. Based upon our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Town of Strafford. We have found audited accounts to be consistent and well-managed.

We would like to thank Lisa Bragg, Regina Josler, the Selectboard, and other town and school officials for their continued cooperation in the auditing process and in the preparation of the Town Report.

Nellie Pennington
June Solsaa
Suzanna Liepmann

LISTERS' REPORT

The Grand List for the tax year 2019 consisted of 752 properties (684 taxable) assessed at \$184,428,324. The listers maintain a Grand List database which tracks changes in property assessments owing to new construction, property transfers, inclusion in Vermont's Land Use program (Current Use), changes of address, and reassessments for any reason. This work is accomplished by three elected listers and one contractor working four hours a week in the Town Offices.

Listers are also responsible for recording information on Homestead declarations, HS-122, for use in the Income Sensitivity Program. Taxpayers can help themselves and the listers by filing Homestead Declarations with their Vermont Income Taxes. Late filing creates more work for the Town Clerk and the listers and delays tax rebates.

Strafford has 168 properties comprising 17,018 acres enrolled in the Land Use program. Land Use applications are due by 1 October and are processed through the end of the year. 168 enrolled properties makes Strafford one of the top ten towns in Vermont respecting the number of enrolled properties. Again, late filing creates additional work for listers and the Town Clerk as well as having a direct affect on the Grand List since the filing deadline is after the publication of the final Grand List.

The Listers completed a town-wide audit of contiguous properties to assure that they are being assessed similarly to properties that are not contiguous. We found that many owners of contiguous properties had been under-assessed for multiple years and consequently updated our procedures to correct this inequity. The new policy will go into effect on April 1, 2020, the beginning of the next Grand List cycle (and can be viewed on the Lister's page of the town's web site). A letter was sent to the affected property owner's informing them of the likely change in assessed value and providing some

possible options to avoid possible increases. These owners will also receive the standard 'Change of Appraisal' letter this coming year and can appeal the change using the normal grievance procedure.

The state performs an Equalization study each year in every town in Vermont. The study is a statistical comparison of property sale values vs. their assessed values. This year assessed values were within an average of 1.65% of sale values.

Listers are responsible for maintaining correct mailing addresses. Since mail is the only way the town can communicate with some property owners and since tax bills must be delivered by mail, it is important that taxpayers submit a signed change of address form to the Town Clerk in order to avoid the consequences of unpaid taxes. Forms are available at the Town Clerk's or on the town website.

Finally, if there are any questions about assessment or the assessment process, the listers are available Monday morning from 9 a.m.-12 noon and Tuesday afternoon 3-5 p.m. and by appointment and are happy to answer any questions.

Kerrie Bushway

Tim Denny

Allan Wylie

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

In 2019 there were 26 permits applied for. This is up by one from 2018, but one was withdrawn and one was unnecessary (a permit to change use of an existing space). Hence we are even with 2017, 24 permits. I am changing the format I have used for years for this report. My apologies to anyone who might be upset by the change. Here we go: There were seven houses, some with sheds and/or porches attached to the application. Two cabins/camps. Five garages. One had a covered breezeway attached, and one was an extension of an existing garage. One house addition, with a porch included. Six decks and covered porch permits were granted, as well as two outbuildings and sheds.

Finally there was one barn, and a riding arena. Thanks to all who applied for permits for their building projects. It is appreciated.

Feel free to call (765-4514), hopefully I will have, or can get you answers.

Brian Johnson, Zoning Administrator

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

The members of the Strafford Planning Commission are Chair Steve Willbanks, Vice Chair Donald Graham, Secretary Martha Walke and members Brent Cadwell, Stuart Crocker, Alan Donohue, Christina Jamieson and Michael Scanlan. Steve Campbell stepped down as chair and resigned in May, 2019.

The Planning Commission continued to work on the rewrite of the Strafford Unified Bylaw. We clarified the definitions and worked on new wording, throughout the document, with the help of Kevin Geiger from TRORC. In 2020 we will host two hearings before the document is given to the Selectboard.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha M. Walke, Secretary

STRAFFORD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Strafford Development Review Board (DRB) is the quasi-judicial body in town that holds hearings for potential approval of land use applications including subdivisions, conditional use permits, variances from zoning ordinances and lot line adjustments. The DRB works with the Zoning Administrator (ZA) when building permits and other administrative decisions are not clear-cut to help clarify issues so that the proposed action supports the interests of the property owner and the Town of Strafford. The DRB also acts as a forum for the appeal of decisions of the ZA. The DRB interprets the Town Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, but does not write the ordinances. That is done by the Town Planning Commission with the Selectboard. In cases where the interpretation or intent is ambiguous, the Selectboard may seek legal counsel.

The volunteer members of the DRB are appointed by the Selectboard, as is the Zoning Administrator. Presently the DRB members are Terry Garrison, Chair, Bonnie Bergeron, Secretary, Dan Ruml, Martha Walke and Sean Lewis with Alan Donohue as an alternate when needed. The Zoning Administrator is Brian Johnson. The Clerk of the Board is Bonnie Bergeron.

Steve Campbell our Vice Chair, stepped down from his position in 2019 to pursue other adventures. On behalf of the board and the town I would like to thank him for his many years of service and commitment to our town; he will be missed.

The DRB meets on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at the Town Office building in Strafford when there is business before the Board. All meetings are open to the public, and the minutes are available to the public in the Town Records.

The DRB met six times in 2019 to address business and hear applications.

Applications for subdivisions, conditional use, and/or variance are considered formally warned hearings. Lot line adjustments do not require warned hearings and are now heard in front of the board not the Zoning Administrator. Decisions are publicly posted for a 15-day period to allow interested parties to appeal the decision.

In 2019, the DRB held one (1) subdivision hearing, one (1) variance, one (1) annexation, and four (4) lot line adjustments.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bergeron
Clerk of the Strafford Development Review Board

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

Another year is in the books. This past year will go down as possibly the least active wild land fire season in Vermont. There were only 15 reported fires from Forest Fire Wardens that burned approximately 22 acres.

Weather conditions contributed to keeping wild land fire numbers down. But all of you that call for BURN PERMITS play a significant role in fire prevention. Thank you for your ongoing efforts.

Fires were caused by lightning (1), campfires (1), burning .05 acres; smoking (0), arson (0), debris burning-brush (5), burning 6.46 acres; equipment use (5), burning 7.42 acres; railroads (0), children (1) burning 5 acres; and miscellaneous (power lines/unknown) (3), burning 3.1 acres.

I would also like to add that the Department of Environmental Conservation provides fire wardens information about air quality forecasts. It identifies times of poor smoke dispersion and provides recommendations for minimizing health impacts from open burning to consider when issuing burn permits.

State law requires a permit for open burning with 200' of grass, woodlands or buildings, or if there is less than one inch of snow on the ground. Although no permit is required with snow cover, it is always a good idea to call the Fire Warden if you are going to have a large fire. If someone happens to see it and reports it, then the fire department will not be dispatched unnecessarily. Burn permits are free of charge. To acquire one or get more information, call your local Fire Warden at 802-765-9920. Please remember, you cannot obtain a permit by leaving a message; you need to speak with the Fire Warden.

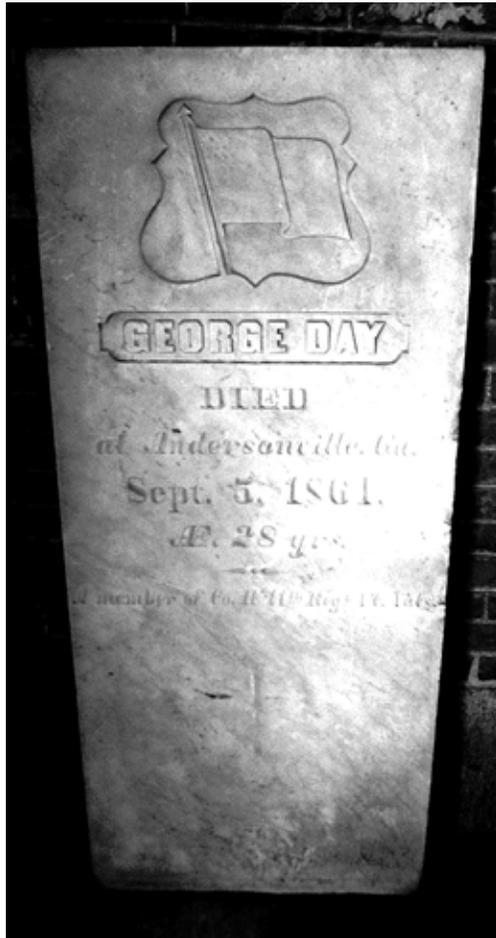
Thank you to all those who obtained fire permits.

Calvin Benjamin
Forest Fire Warden

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

This year we continued to keep the Evergreen Cemetery mowed and clear of debris with spring and fall cleanups. Also cutting the other cemeteries yearly. This year also saw the straightening and repairing of many of the stones in the Evergreen Cemetery as well.

Strafford Cemetery Commissioners
Andy Behrens
Gretchen Graner
David Harris
Gary Kendall
Sherm Wilson



*Cenotaph of George Day, Strafford Civil War soldier
who died at the age of 28 at Andersonville Prison*

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

REPORT OF THE TOWN AGENT AND GRAND JUROR

During 2019, it was a quiet year for the Town Agent. I believe though that my advice was helpful on one or two occasions. I did not, however, have occasion or call to prosecute and/or defend suits in which Strafford or the Strafford school district had an interest. Further, as Grand Juror, I was also not asked to prosecute any criminal offenses that occurred within the town by having to give information to state and/or local law enforcement. How fortunate we are, to live in a village such as Strafford.

Alan Donohue
Grand Juror
Town Agent

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Strafford Conservation Commission (SCC) sponsored or participated in the following activities in 2019:

- In February, Kiley Briggs of the Orianne Society gave a presentation on his local field work regarding the reclusive wood turtle. Like far too many other species, wood turtle numbers are declining due to habitat loss. The Orianne Society is working to increase awareness of their plight.
- Town Tree Warden Bob Wilson and his wife, Carole, inventoried the ash trees along the 70 miles of Strafford's rights-of-way, which will be useful when the emerald ash-borer inevitably becomes established in Strafford. These ash trees will die and need to be removed before they fall into the road or onto the utility lines. The inventory was prepared for the Selectboard and will be of value when it is time to consider an ash tree removal policy.
- Early in the summer, a kiosk with maps and photos, dedicated to the memory of Anne Aversa, was installed at the Cobb Town Forest trailhead on Hemenway Road. Anne was an artist, a nature-lover, formerly a lister and a board member of the Strafford Historical Society.
- In July and August, the Strafford Girl Scout troop consisting of Amelia Bailey-Kellogg, Ada Breese and Iris Chesnut offered, as a community service project, to spruce up and help maintain the Old City Falls Nature Area. They also worked extensively to clean and refinish the covered picnic building and in general improved the overall appearance of the picnic area. They also celebrated the completion of their project with a program of music and dance at Old City Falls. The SCC is very appreciative of their efforts.
- In September, Tim Appleton, the new Forest and Parks Wildlife biologist, met with the SCC. He is responsible for the Podunk and Clover Hill Wildlife Management Areas in Strafford. It was an opportunity to get to know him and discuss the usage policies for the WMAs. At the same

meeting, Jennifer Byrne and Andrew Davis, representing the White River Natural Resource Conservation District, stopped by to describe their planning work on Basin 14, the watershed that includes the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.

- **ASHLEY COMMUNITY FOREST:** Throughout the year, SCC members, David Paganelli, J.T. Horn and Steve Willbanks continued to meet with Michael Sacca of the Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC) and Sharon Conservation Commissioners to discuss the plans for the proposed community forest which straddles Strafford and Sharon. It is the AVC's intention to give the 254-acre Ashley parcel to the two towns for outdoor recreation and natural resources management.
- **TOWN OF STRAFFORD WEBSITE:** <Straffordvt.org>. Please visit the Conservation Commission & Natural Resources webpages. Town Clerk Lisa Bragg and SCC members Mike Hebb and Mickie Colbeck have spent many hours developing these webpages for your pleasure. They are literally crammed with maps, photos and information.

The SCC meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., in the Morrill Education Center. Members of the public are always welcome. The SCC has nine appointed members: Micki Colbeck, Steve Faccio, J.T. Horn, Jared Jenisch, David Paganelli, Kate Root, Chuck Sherman and Steve Willbanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Willbanks, Chair

STRAFFORD TRAIL SYSTEM

Around 2008 a village survey indicated more trails were desirable and the Selectboard referred the request to the Conservation Commission. The Strafford Trail System has grown since then to 20 miles long. Again we are thanking all the landowners who continue to make it possible. The trail system continues to be a valued village resource. It gets traffic summer and winter from local and outside hikers.

All human powered traffic is welcome including hikers, show shoes, skis, and bicycles. Hunters, birders, flower lovers are included too.

Whenever trail land changes owners we have to re-request permission to keep it in place. This year several new land owners have been receptive and allowed the trail to continue. Recently we have been able to reopen nearly 2 miles that have been closed for two years due to the work of the EPA in the Elizabeth Mine area.

The trails of the Cobb Town Forest are included in this system and have been expanded.

We have also adopted the short Coburn Trail that starts at the Justin Morrill Homestead and climbs up to a picnic table and a rewarding view of the upper village and the Pompanoosuc valley.

Additional trails are under consideration, all of which are dependent on landowner support.

Also making the trails possible are the 9 volunteers who keep them clear and marked.

Maps and trail descriptions continue to be available here

<http://straffordtrails.yolasite.com/>

Additional information can be found on the town website.

<https://www.straffordvt.org/conservation-commission>

Mike Hebb

Trails Manager

Strafford Conservation Commission

STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

The Strafford Recreation Board continues to use our mission to guide us in our work: *The Strafford Recreation Board believes that recreation is critical to a healthy mind and body and that recreation enriches our community and our connection to one another.*

With that in mind, the goal of the Strafford Recreation Board is to provide well-maintained town recreation facilities and encourage outdoor recreation for all ages.

This year, many of our programs continued successfully. The Jedi Camp saw an increase in participation, the addition of a camp counselor, and a week of fun for younger kids. Soccer camp participation was lower than usual, with fewer than 20 youth participating. The tennis courts and ice skating rink are very well used during their seasons. We expect to continue these programs for the next year.

As of this writing the skating rink was open at Murray Field. This year we made the rink smaller and repaired all the holes in the liner, thanks to the efforts of a great crew of volunteers. These changes have made the rink better for skating and easier to maintain this year. If you are interested in helping with the volunteer effort, perhaps by adopting the rink for a week, or with other tasks please contact Jason Loomis directly. Volunteer work is essential to keeping the rink skateable throughout the season.

The soccer camps allow for an exciting volunteer opportunity for families to host the coaches for the week in their home. Soccer coaches are very well-mannered young men and women from the United Kingdom. They have their own transportation but require a place to sleep and meals for the week. If you are interested in sharing some Strafford hospitality and learning about a different culture this summer, please contact the camp coordinator Hilary Linehan. We are also looking for someone to take over coordination of the soccer camp.

The Recreation Board has continued to clean out the red barn of items that are no longer useable, with the assistance from the various local organizations who use the red barn for storage. We plan to continue with Open Barn dates so that the quantity of un-useable items placed into the barn is managed. In case you are not aware, there is an equipment exchange area inside the red barn, which is primarily used for sports equipment like skis, skates and helmets, with a few odds and ends from other sports as well as limited medical equipment like crutches, wheel chairs and temporary beds. Please contact any of the board members if you need access to the equipment in the red barn, or if you want to place something you no longer need there.

New this winter, the Tyson Gym will be opened on occasion for kids (with parent chaperone) to play pickup basketball or just for indoor play. Look for a notice on the list-serv of upcoming openings! Children must be supervised. Clean shoes only are allowed in the gym.

We also encourage all community members to join the board or attend meetings. We always welcome new ideas as well as bodies to help maintain and improve recreational opportunities in the town. We try to schedule meetings quarterly, and put notice of meetings in advance on the list-serv.

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Linehan, Chair
David Taplin, member
Christa Wurm, member
Jason Loomis, member
Neal MacPhail, member



Old City Cemetery, Old City Falls Road

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

The year 2019 brought with it several changes in how the town manages significant incidents and town-wide emergencies. We implemented the new Local Emergency Management Plan format for the first time. The changeover from the old Local Emergency Operations Plan went smoothly thanks to the efforts of Selectboard member Lauri Berkenkamp. The new plan was reviewed by the Selectboard and approved. In addition to distribution of the plan to key staff in town, the plan was filed with TRORC and the State of Vermont.

In 2019, Josh Kahan came on board as my assistant. Josh brings experience with public safety issues and computer skills necessary when working with emergency management issues. He has taken on the task of getting Strafford back on the VtAlert system so that we can issues alerts and information directly within town.

We encourage all residents to sign up for VtAlert Emailings and other alert mechanisms to improve our ability to prepare for incidents. We have been using the town Listserve and Facebook pages to generate situation updates and alerts. This is a limited resource as it depends on local power and continued operation of the networks. We do encourage residents to get simple scanners so as to monitor the town channels for real-time information.

Heavy winter snow falls were limited to the month of January – approximately 30" – and power outages were scattered throughout the whole year. The worst event was the wind and rain storm on October 31- November 2. We had trees and power lines down all over town with resulting power outages. Our town road crew did a great job of dealing with trees that were not involved with power lines and GMP was fully prepared and responded quickly to get power back on.

In some instances, we alerted the town shelter volunteers when it looked like some sheltering might be needed. Fortunately we didn't have any incidents that brought folks to the shelter this year even though we made sheltering available. One planned shelter opening occurred in mid-January with a heavy snow storm. Many thanks to Danette Harris and Kim Welsh and others for their support of the shelter program.

We learned from Tropical Storm Irene that preparing for shelter openings and availability of sheltering are important in many incidents as we may not have good data on the severity or duration of these events. In the run-up to a pending incident, check the town Listserve and/or Facebook pages to get information on sheltering or call the town office.

Hurricane Dorian in September was a case of doing emergency management preparation and notification even though the storm moved off shore before it reached us.

We had some training opportunities in 2019 including a session with the Selectboard members, Josh Kahan, and the Fire Department. We used an outline that included preparation, opening, operating, and closing the town Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the town office. The session was based on our whole town experience with Tropical Storm Irene and covered most of the activities and events that impacted the team at the EOC and how we responded using our town's resources and keeping in contact with state agencies when we needed additional resources. We included lessons learned during Irene such as the need to open shelters sooner and use of volunteers in a major event.

In 2019, we had one partial EOC opening to provide communications support.

An important aspect of this training was helping the Selectboard understand its role and duties as prescribed by the state in the case of a major emergency. Providing timely and accurate information to residents was also highlighted in the training.

In October, I attended an active shooter training session at Newton School (ALICE) to help develop a better understanding of current practices in this evolving situation. I am looking at ways to apply some of the knowledge to other regular group gatherings in town.

One final observation: looking at my log data for the year, I am seeing winter storms that now consistently have larger rain/sleet/ice components. Also significant snowfalls are occurring more in January and February. Being prepared for walking or driving in icy conditions is becoming more routine in our area.

Many people helped with the emergency management effort in town and I have named some in this report. My thanks to Lisa and Regina for their help. And to the selectboard for helping me address the town's preparedness. Constable Ed Eastman, the road crew (great team!), Josh Kahan, and Fire and Rescue provide professional level support to our town's preparedness.

Thank you all!

Bill Burden
Emergency Management Director

THE TOWN HOUSE ADVISORY GROUP

The mission of the Town House Advisory Group is to advise the Selectboard on policies and means of raising revenue for the purpose of using, maintaining, and preserving the historic Strafford Meeting House, and to implement such related procedures as approved by the Selectboard.

The Town House is used for a variety of events that include Town Meeting, voting, musical concerts, the Lions Club Variety Show, seminars, weddings,

Newton School graduation, memorial services and promotional events for the building itself.

This was the ninth year of pursuing our mission as the Town House Advisory Group. We currently have a core group of 7 official members plus the Overseer, Paul Kifner. If you would like to be on our email list to follow our activities please provide me with your address. Our activities are posted in the Strafford News as well as on the Strafford Webpage: www.straffordvt.org/townhouse. Anyone interested in participating in any way is welcome to contribute. We meet monthly, typically at Martha Manheim's house on the Common.

This past year we undertook minor repairs and maintenance of the building but no major projects. The north side of the building was painted. We paint one side each year to keep up with the protection of the exterior. After four years we usually take a year off before embarking on the cycle once again. At this writing we are still looking for a painter to finish painting the lantern section of the bell tower. Since it is so high, the current painting contractor doesn't have staff that can tackle it. Next season we hope to have it completed as well as the east side of the building. Following that it will then be about time to paint the exterior of the backhouse.

Our next focus for improvements will be to upgrade the electrical system including additional outlets and improved lighting. This has been an ongoing process that we are slowly making some progress on.

A special thanks goes out to our tireless clock overseer, John Echternach. He has spent many hours maintaining and adjusting the clock so that it functions as close to the right time as possible. It is an amazing piece of machinery that requires patience and skill to keep it going. It has been there since 1935. He believes it is good for another hundred years if properly taken care of. John's attention will keep it on the right path.

We continue marketing the use of the building. Future rentals will further fund our ongoing projects. The season for rentals is from May 1 to October 31.

Our 10th annual Clean Up Day will be held in late April or the beginning of May. All are welcome to participate in sprucing up the building for the upcoming season. The date will be posted on the list serve as well as the Town webpage.

If you have questions about plans for the Town House or if you would like to help support our efforts with a contribution, please contact Rocky Fuller at rockwellfuller@gmail.com or call 802-763-8603.

Respectfully submitted,
Rocky Fuller
Town House Advisory Group Chair

STRAFFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Strafford Energy Committee's (SEC) mission is to promote energy conservation and alternatives to fossil fuels in heating or cooling buildings, powering vehicles, and generating electricity. As an advisory committee to the Selectboard, we offer town officials and members of other committees information on energy-related policy matters, and we provide assistance to the residents and businesses of Strafford in adopting efficient, cost-effective ways to be comfortable while reducing the negative impacts of human activities on our planet.

Vermont has set a statewide goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050. This not only means increased renewables-derived electricity from our utilities, but also a reduction in home heating-fuel usage through weatherization, shifts to higher-efficiency equipment (heat pumps and woodchip/pellet boilers), and pursuit of cleaner options in transportation (including electric vehicles, mass transit, and carpooling).

Visit the Energy Committee pages on the Strafford town website to find valuable information and links to organizations that can provide services and financial assistance for your future energy- and cash-saving projects: www.straffordvt.org/energy-commission or contact energy@straffordvt.org.

Ongoing ventures:

The 110-kilowatt School/Municipal solar array has continued to supply electricity for the Town Garage, Town Office, Town House, Newton School, Barrett Hall, the United Church of Strafford, and the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library.

The 7-megawatt DC Elizabeth Mine solar array provides enough electricity to power approximately 1,300 typical Vermont homes, and offsets 7,136 tons of carbon dioxide every year. Moreover, this project also generates tax revenue for the town.

The 185-kilowatt Thetford Strafford Community Solar project is now also generating, with a unique organization structure: a partnership of residents of Thetford, Strafford, and Norwich, a commercial farm, and the town of Thetford itself. The photovoltaic array—which is not fenced, to allow wildlife movement—is expected to produce about 230,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year.

In 2019/20:

We continued to pursue goals set out by the Committee and the Selectboard on several fronts:

- For the second year, in Strafford's 4th of July celebration the SEC organized a contingent of electric cars for the parade, and displayed electric bikes and other rechargeable electric home and garden equipment for people to try out. This was a chance to chat with the owners and learn

more about the advantages of electric over fossil-fuel cars and tools, from lawn mowers to chain saws.

- Barbara and Wally Smith continued to expand their wonderful project, The Strafford Edible Pocket Park, located alongside the river next to the soccer field. A good crowd came out for the putting-to-bed work last November, and a 2020 Pocket Park photo calendar is available at Coburns' General Store. For more on the park, visit: www.wallyandbarbara.com/pocketpark.
- The SEC brought the Button Up (through Efficiency Vermont) and Capstone weatherization programs to town. From the launch on November 8, 2018 to the December 15, 2019 deadline, thirty-five households signed up for no-cost home energy evaluations and job estimates by two certified energy contractors. Many participants have spoken to a local contractor or had an Efficiency Vermont representative come by to help evaluate what could be done to tighten up their homes and switch to more environmentally friendly and energy-efficient means of heating and cooling.

Committee members are available at any point to help participants pursue completion of projects proposed as part of the Button Up evaluations. We also had three residents participate in the zero-cost Capstone weatherization program. Those who are income qualifying can have conservation projects completed at no cost, including appliance replacement. We are very eager to help other Strafford folks interested in weatherization projects, so please contact Doc Bagley, chair, at 765-4433 or energy@straffordvt.org.

- In 2019/20, the Strafford and Thetford town energy committees teamed up to work with the nonprofit organization WindowDressers, which has helped towns in Maine build 35,000 inserts over the past ten years (see: www.windowdressers.org).

This winter, 249 interior storm windows were made for folks in Strafford and Thetford as well as for the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission offices in Woodstock. A team of volunteer measurers worked with 17 Strafford participants for a total of 119 inserts.

A "Community Workshop" was held between January 4-9 at the North Thetford Congregational Church, where over 125 volunteers helped to assemble and complete the storm window inserts over a six-day period. Volunteers included recipients of the inserts along with other members of the community, who helped not only build the inserts but provided food and snacks for noontime meals. This was a true community effort and folks said how much they enjoyed themselves and the camaraderie with neighbors made us all feel more connected to each other and to the struggle to save energy.

\$3,870 was raised in grants from Mascoma Bank, New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and donations from local residents—Many thanks! These funds helped cover some production expenses and allowed income-eligible participants to receive windows at reduced or no cost.

These inserts greatly increase the comfort level in a home, eliminating the circulation of cold air and yielding savings of up to a gallon of heating fuel per square foot of window.

Comfort, savings, reduced CO2 emissions and community building: it doesn't get much better!

For 2020:

- The SEC is investigating the legal requirements for changing our name to the “Strafford Energy and Climate Committee,” to emphasize the larger impact of local efforts. The town’s Selectboard has already provisionally approved this change.
- We have started a discussion on how our forests and farms help reduce climate impacts by sequestering carbon that might otherwise be released into the atmosphere. We look forward to working with the town Conservation Commission along with local farmers and foresters, and are interested in hosting a community forum on the subject.
- We plan to have another session, probably next fall, with WindowDressers to provide highly effective storm windows for those who missed out this winter (see above). With volunteer help and low-cost materials, we’ve been able to provide inexpensive and removable interior storm windows that can greatly increase home comfort and reduce heating costs.
- We will continue to work with Capstone and Efficiency Vermont and help provide updates on incentives and programs to help us all continue to weatherize our homes.
- We will keep on working with town officials on improved efficiency and reduced reliance on fossil fuels, and we’ll participate in the planning for renovation of the town office building.
- We hope to work with the Newton School and our local high schools to help our children understand the threat of climate change and the importance of changes we make locally in our buildings, vehicles, and activities.
- We will continue to work with and support the Strafford Climate Action Group and the Two-Rivers Action Coalition (TRAC) in their efforts to monitor commitments from the towns in our region to reduce greenhouse gases.
- We will continue to research electric vehicles (EV), ride sharing and other transportation initiatives to help reduce CO2 emissions.

- On the legislative front, we plan to support efforts to pass the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), which would make Vermont’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions-reduction goals statutory obligations requiring policy, regulation, and enforcement, and would empower Vermonters to hold state government accountable if we fall behind our GHG emission-reduction targets; the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional partnership developing a cap-and-invest system to reduce use of fossil fuels for transportation and strengthen support for alternatives; and additional support for the shift to “Beneficial Electrification,” whereby statewide efficiency and conservation measures reduce electric use enough that renewables-based energy systems become viable alternatives to all fossil-fuel use for heating and transportation, with most of the renewable energy needed for this transition produced in Vermont, close to its point of use.

The Strafford Energy Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room above the Town Clerk’s office. All meetings are open to the public. We are eager to welcome new people with fresh ideas to become involved and join the SEC. On occasion, the time and date of the meeting changes, so please contact energy@straffordvt.org to confirm prior to attending.

Come join us in working toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing programs and strategies for helping our neighbors and town reduce fossil fuel use and increase comfort and efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

Doc Bagley, Chair

Jim Schley, Secretary

Kevin Grady

David Lutz

Tii McLane

Barbara Smith

Gus Speth

Matt Christie

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

This past year, Strafford received a grant as a Certified Local Government to upgrade our survey and inventory of historic properties within Strafford. Under the auspices of the Historic Preservation Commission, more than 130 properties in Strafford were identified, photographed, and their historical and architectural significance recorded. The extensive survey should be very important as the town moves forward in its historic preservation efforts.

Two years ago, Strafford established a Historic Preservation Commission in order to encourage our town to develop and maintain historic preservation efforts as part of local land use planning and development. The ordinance that established the commission was an important part of Strafford being officially recognized as a Certified Local Government by both the State Division of Historic Preservation and the National Park Service, recognition that indicates our town's commitment to keeping safe what is historically significant for future generations.

The Historic Preservation Commission is composed of five members: Bob Johnston, David Taplin, Ann Thorp, Silas Treadway, and Tim Utt.



Strafford Cemetery entrance, Brook Road

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2018, 2019, and Proposed 2020

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed	
GENERAL FUND Revenue						
Taxes/Fund Balance						
Balances Forward	\$ 30,449	\$ 46,942	\$ 46,942	\$ -	\$ 51,622	<i>a</i>
Current Taxes	287,553	306,861	304,419	(2,442)	306,859	
Taxes/Fund Balance Total	\$ 318,002	\$ 353,803	\$ 351,361	\$ (2,442)	\$ 358,481	
Governmental						
PILOT/Fish and Game Tax	\$ 18,174	\$ 18,174	\$ 20,053	\$ 1,879	\$ 20,053	
State of Vermont Hold Harmless	127,588	127,588	121,527	(6,061)	121,527	
Governmental Total	\$ 145,762	\$ 145,762	\$ 141,580	\$ (4,182)	\$ 141,580	
Interest						
1% Interest on First Payment	\$ 1,542	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,001	\$ (399)	\$ 1,400	
Delinquent Tax Interest	12,850	9,000	12,850	3,850	10,000	
Interest	1,217	150	825	675	300	
Interest Total	\$ 15,609	\$ 10,550	\$ 14,675	\$ 4,125	\$ 11,700	
Penalty						
Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ 9,407	\$ 9,000	\$ 13,650	\$ 4,650	\$ 9,000	<i>b</i>
Penalty Total	\$ 9,407	\$ 9,000	\$ 13,650	\$ 4,650	\$ 9,000	

a - Balance Forward uses a surplus from a prior year to offset taxes and/or represents spending from reserves

b - Delinquent Tax Penalty represents the 8% delinquent penalty, and is paid to the Delinquent Tax Collector

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
Fees Total					
Dog License Fees	\$ 1,536	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,484	\$ (16)	\$ 1,500
Dog Violation Fees	565	300	426	126	300
Liquor License Fees	185	185	185	-	185
Other Fees for Services	5,351	2,500	4,835	2,335	3,500
Recording Fees	7,841	7,500	11,556	4,056	8,500
Recording Surcharge	829	1,000	2,879	1,879	2,000
Subdivision Permit Fees	400	400	600	200	400
Zoning Permit Fees	1,260	1,500	2,200	700	1,500
Fees Total	\$ 17,967	\$ 14,885	\$ 24,165	\$ 9,280	\$ 17,885
Grants					
Miscellaneous Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Parcel Mapping	\$ 11	\$ 100	\$ 4	\$ (96)	\$ 100
State of Vermont Lister Education	-	400	-	(400)	400
Equal Education Grand List	703	-	701	701	-
State of Vermont Reappraisal Fund	5,976	6,600	5,959	(642)	6,600
Grants Total	\$ 6,690	\$ 7,100	\$ 6,664	\$ (437)	\$ 7,100
Donations					
Donations - Pocket Park	\$ 5,485	\$ -	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,400	\$ -
Donations - Town House	1,833	500	3,553	3,053	500
Donations - Town House Spec Proj	71,826	-	-	-	-
Donations - Dogs	300	-	144	144	-
Town House Usage	2,400	1,200	600	(600)	1,200
Donations Total	\$ 81,844	\$ 1,700	\$ 8,697	\$ 6,997	\$ 1,700
Miscellaneous					
Evergreen Cemetery	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 410	\$ 410	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	8,721	4,000	25,342	21,342	4,000
Recycling Revenue	1,265	1,500	2,020	520	500
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 9,986	\$ 5,500	\$ 27,771	\$ 22,271	\$ 4,500

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn Fund	\$ 14,045	\$ -	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	\$ -
Energy Committee	-	-	3,870	3,870	-
Recreation Revenue	1,060	1,000	2,635	1,635	1,000
Independent Committees Total	15,105	1,000	16,005	15,005	1,000
GENERAL FUND Total Revenue	\$ 620,373	\$ 549,300	\$ 604,568	\$ 55,268	\$ 552,946
GENERAL FUND Expenses					
Administration					
Select Board Salary	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ -	\$ 3,750
Select Board Expenses	315	515	394	121	515
Select Board Assistant	7,145	7,398	7,444	(46)	7,734
Town Clerk/Treasurer	40,471	41,919	42,193	(274)	43,829
Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer	34,030	38,445	35,985	2,460	39,826
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	29,316	25,772	26,423	(651)	26,803
Municipal Retirement	3,358	3,560	3,539	21	3,933
Social Security Tax	7,846	9,279	8,290	989	9,691
Unemployment Insurance	70	-	168	(168)	651
Workers' Compensation	1,496	1,317	1,317	-	1,528
Property & Liability Insurance	11,686	9,795	9,795	0	10,457
Financial Services	10,148	6,300	4,000	2,300	6,300
Administration Total	\$ 148,130	\$ 146,550	\$ 141,798	\$ 4,752	\$ 155,017

c - These committees function independently and revenues are moved to their respective reserve funds

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
General Services					
Town Office	\$ 16,847	\$ 17,700	\$ 14,425	\$ 3,275	\$ 18,200
Records Restoration	-	-	730	(730)	-
VLCT Dues	2,599	2,338	2,338	-	2,433
Town Meeting & Elections	1,968	921	147	774	2,300
Town Report	2,791	2,900	2,757	143	2,900
Auditing	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
Outside Audit/Professional Services	3,200	5,000	3,800	1,200	5,000
Delinquent Tax Collector Salary	9,407	9,000	13,650	(4,650)	9,000
Listers	1,805	2,150	1,865	285	2,200
Lister Contract Services	13,088	13,034	12,561	473	12,615
Parcel Mapping	335	700	338	362	700
Police Services	21,589	33,500	25,074	8,426	30,500
Dog Officer	2,002	2,000	1,763	237	2,000
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	37,000	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
Emergency Management	125	1,000	25	975	1,500
Ambulance Service	47,214	48,236	48,312	(76)	48,712
Solid Waste	12,207	12,078	12,457	(379)	12,078
Recycling	17,217	16,000	19,894	(3,894)	19,000
General Services Total	\$ 190,594	\$ 217,757	\$ 211,337	\$ 6,420	\$ 220,338

d - Records restoration is paid from reserve funds from the recording surcharge

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
Community Services					
Adult Basic Education	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
Capstone Community Action	300	300	300	-	300
Clara Martin Center/OCMH	2,700	2,700	2,700	-	2,700
Council on Aging	750	750	750	-	750
Health HUB School Clinic	500	500	500	-	500
Historic Conservation	-	500	4,424	(3,924)	250
Library	34,000	34,000	34,000	-	34,000
Orange County Court Diversion	200	240	240	-	340
Public Health Council	110	111	110	1	111
Red Cross	500	500	500	-	575
Safeline	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Senior Citizens Center	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Stratford Historical Society	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Streetlights	1,427	2,600	1,041	1,559	2,600
Vermont Center for Independent Living	200	200	200	-	200
Visiting Nurse Alliance	3,250	3,250	3,250	-	3,250
Community Services Total	\$ 50,737	\$ 52,451	\$ 54,816	\$ (2,365)	\$ 52,376
Planning					
Development Review Board	\$ 675	\$ 1,250	\$ 660	\$ 590	\$ 1,250
Regional Planning	1,592	1,592	1,636	(44)	1,680
Town Planning	-	400	-	400	400
Zoning	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Planning Total	\$ 3,267	\$ 4,242	\$ 3,296	\$ 946	\$ 4,330
General Government					
County Tax	\$ 42,795	\$ 42,795	\$ 46,017	\$ (3,222)	\$ 47,000
Leaseland Rent	85	85	85	-	85
Legal Fees & Consultants	1,755	3,000	2,013	987	3,000
General Government Total	\$ 44,635	\$ 45,880	\$ 48,115	\$ (2,235)	\$ 50,085

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Municipal Building	\$ 18,371	\$ 37,720	\$ 13,549	\$ 24,171	\$ 36,100
Town House	117,277	23,450	15,048	8,402	13,450
Town House Restrooms	236	500	-	500	500
Cemeteries	7,700	10,800	13,038	(2,238)	10,800
Recreation Areas	4,821	5,700	6,503	(803)	5,700
Pocket Park	1,477	-	66	(66)	-
Municipal Property Total	\$ 149,882	\$ 78,170	\$ 48,205	\$ 29,965	\$ 66,550
Grant Expenditures					
Miscellaneous Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,559	\$ (2,559)	\$ -
Grant Expenditures Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,559	\$ (2,559)	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 8,320	\$ 4,000	\$ 25,294	\$ (21,294)	\$ 4,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 8,320	\$ 4,000	\$ 25,294	\$ (21,294)	\$ 4,000
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn	\$ 13,272	\$ -	\$ 6,960	\$ (6,960)	\$ -
Conservation Fund	866	-	-	-	-
Energy Committee	-	250	-	250	250
Independent Committees Total	\$ 14,138	\$ 250	\$ 6,960	\$ (6,710)	\$ 250
GENERAL FUND Total Expenses	\$ 609,702	\$ 549,300	\$ 542,379	\$ 6,921	\$ 552,946
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 10,670	\$ -	\$ 62,189	\$ 62,189	\$ -

e - These committees function independently and expenses are moved from their respective reserve funds

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
HIGHWAY FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Balances Forward	\$ 79,111	\$ 93,529	\$ 73,029	\$ (20,500)	\$ 23,050 <i>f</i>
Current Taxes	719,712	743,275	743,275	-	771,928
Taxes Total	\$ 798,823	\$ 836,804	\$ 816,304	\$ (20,500)	\$ 794,978
Governmental					
FEMA	\$ 1,467	\$ -	\$ 116,430	\$ 116,430	\$ -
Grants	197,904	216,000	192,647	(23,353)	217,820
State of Vermont Emergency Fund	-	-	12,288	12,288	-
Vermont Gas Tax	143,413	143,413	144,697	1,284	144,697
Governmental Total	\$ 342,784	\$ 359,413	\$ 466,063	\$ 106,650	\$ 362,517
Loans					
Loan Proceeds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 456,856	\$ 456,856	\$ 195,000 <i>g</i>
Loans Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 456,856	\$ 456,856	\$ 195,000
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 355	\$ -	\$ 13,660	\$ 13,660	\$ -
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 355	\$ -	\$ 13,660	\$ 13,660	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Revenue	\$ 1,141,962	\$ 1,196,217	\$ 1,752,883	\$ 556,666	\$ 1,352,495
HIGHWAY FUND Expenses					
Labor & Benefits					
Highway Department Labor	\$ 192,655	\$ 221,926	\$ 195,058	\$ 26,868	\$ 226,819
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	48,535	50,069	44,365	5,704	47,945
Municipal Retirement	7,838	9,432	8,280	1,152	10,207
Social Security Tax	14,074	16,977	14,686	2,291	17,352
Workers' Compensation	15,189	13,536	13,536	(0)	14,630
Labor & Benefits Total	\$ 278,291	\$ 311,940	\$ 275,925	\$ 36,015	\$ 316,953

f - Balance forward includes a prior year surplus of \$3,050 and \$20,000 from the Equipment Reserve

g - Loan for Fire Truck, offset by purchase in Capital Expense

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
Municipal Property					
Contract Services	\$ 780	\$ 1,000	\$ 780	\$ 220	\$ 6,000
Materials	1,332	7,000	2,067	4,933	3,000
Recycling	247	500	197	304	500
Sidewalks	10,080	9,000	6,120	2,880	9,000
Mowing	8,325	8,325	8,820	(495)	8,820
Town Garage	27,471	26,600	25,499	1,101	29,300
Municipal Roads Permit	2,230	2,230	240	1,990	240
Municipal Property Total	\$ 50,465	\$ 54,655	\$ 43,723	\$ 10,932	\$ 56,860
Materials					
Chloride	\$ 11,263	\$ 15,000	\$ 9,056	\$ 5,944	\$ 12,000
Gravel	43,765	31,800	38,478	(6,678)	31,800
Miscellaneous Materials	25,412	30,000	10,434	19,566	20,000 ^h
Salt	68,847	65,000	78,715	(13,715)	65,000
Sand	31,406	33,000	26,538	6,463	33,000
Contract Services	58,414	26,485	54,954	(28,469)	20,000
Contract Services-Hauling	-	22,000	19,525	2,475	15,000
Materials Total	\$ 239,107	\$ 223,285	\$ 237,698	\$ (14,413)	\$ 196,800
Bridges					
Bridge Grant Expenditures	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 175,000
Bridge Grant Town Match	55,822	-	-	-	50,000
Materials	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Bridges Total	\$ 230,822	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 230,000
Paving					
Paving Grant Contract Services	\$ -	\$ 78,922	\$ 95,343	\$ (16,421)	\$ -
Paving Grant Expenditures	-	175,000	151,647	23,353	-
Retreatment	36,000	33,000	29,750	3,250	30,000
Paving Total	\$ 36,000	\$ 286,922	\$ 276,740	\$ 10,182	\$ 30,000

h - Guard rails, culverts, ditching materials, fabric, etc.

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
Grants for Public Works					
Highway Misc. Grants	\$ 24,441	\$ 52,919	\$ 52,919	\$ -	\$ 54,302
Contract Services	180	-	-	-	-
Grants for Public Works Total	\$ 24,621	\$ 52,919	\$ 52,919	\$ -	\$ 54,302
Equipment					
Capital Expense	\$ 45,248	\$ 37,383	\$ 494,239	\$ (456,856)	\$ 195,000 <i>i</i>
Interest	680	695	5,267	(4,572)	19,190
Debt Service	26,728	88,930	53,615	35,315	116,933 <i>j</i>
Gas & Oil	49,157	55,000	40,467	14,533	55,000
Supplies	34,241	23,000	25,408	(2,408)	23,000
Insurance	10,128	7,988	7,988	(0)	8,457
Backhoe Repairs	3,141	5,000	869	4,131	1,500
Grader Repairs	5,827	7,500	19,606	(12,106)	18,500
Loader Repairs	8,831	3,000	913	2,087	3,000
Mower Repairs	298	2,000	1,933	67	2,000
Truck 1 Repairs	2,061	3,000	1,948	1,052	2,000
Truck 2 Repairs	6,086	10,000	13,133	(3,133)	10,000
Truck 3 Repairs	5,834	15,000	9,698	5,302	10,000
Truck 4 Repairs	4,752	3,000	8,301	(5,301)	3,000
Equipment Total	\$ 203,011	\$ 261,496	\$ 683,387	\$ (421,891)	\$ 467,580
FEMA					
Contract Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134,710	\$ (134,710)	\$ -
Interest	6,616	-	-	-	-
Labor	-	-	2,792	(2,792)	-
Miscellaneous Expense	-	-	53	(53)	-
FEMA Total	\$ 6,616	\$ -	\$ 137,556	\$ (137,556)	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Expenses	\$ 1,068,933	\$ 1,196,217	\$ 1,707,948	\$ (511,731)	\$ 1,352,495
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 73,029	\$ -	\$ 44,935	\$ 44,935	\$ -

i - Represents capital purchase + principal of lease payments for equipment; offset by Loan Proceeds when loan is received

j - Principal payments for loans

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
TOWN GARAGE BOND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 47,931	\$ 46,540	\$ 46,540	\$ -	\$ 45,068
Taxes Total	\$ 47,931	\$ 46,540	\$ 46,540	\$ -	\$ 45,068
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Revenue	\$ 47,931	\$ 46,540	\$ 46,540	\$ -	\$ 45,068
TOWN GARAGE BOND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000 <i>k</i>
Interest	12,931	11,540	11,540	(0)	10,068
Bond Total	\$ 47,931	\$ 46,540	\$ 46,540	\$ (0)	\$ 45,068
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Expenses	\$ 47,931	\$ 46,540	\$ 46,540	\$ (0)	\$ 45,068
Town Garage Bond Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ -
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 132,321	\$ 130,301	\$ 130,301	\$ -	\$ 128,281
Taxes Total	\$ 132,321	\$ 130,301	\$ 130,301	\$ -	\$ 128,281
HWY RECON BOND Total Revenue	\$ 132,321	\$ 130,301	\$ 130,301	\$ -	\$ 128,281
HIGHWAY RECONSTRUCTION BOND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 122,222	\$ 122,223	\$ 122,222	\$ 1	122,222 <i>k</i>
Interest	10,099	8,078	8,079	(1)	6,059
Bond Total	\$ 132,321	\$ 130,301	\$ 130,301	\$ (0)	\$ 128,281
HWY RECON BOND Total Expenses	\$ 132,321	\$ 130,301	\$ 130,301	\$ (0)	\$ 128,281
Hwy Recon Bond Grand Total	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ -

k - Principal payments for bonds; these are now recorded as expenses and borrowing as revenue

	2018 Actual	2019 Proposed	2019 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2020 Proposed
TOTALS					
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 10,670	\$ -	\$ 62,189	\$ 62,189	\$ -
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ 73,029	\$ -	\$ 44,935	\$ 44,935	\$ -
Town Garage Fund Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ -
Hwy Reconstr. Fund Grand Total	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ (0)	\$ (0)	\$ -
ALL FUNDS Revenue	\$ 1,942,587	\$ 1,922,358	\$ 2,534,292	\$ 611,934	\$ 2,078,790
ALL FUNDS Expenses	\$ 1,858,887	\$ 1,922,358	\$ 2,427,169	\$ (504,811)	\$ 2,078,790
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 163,187	\$ -	\$ 107,123	\$ 107,123	\$ -

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET ALL FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS

For Years Ending December 31, 2018 and 2019 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Town Garage	Hwy Reconstr.	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
ASSETS							
Cash	\$ 245,775	\$ 40,926	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 33,075	\$ 339,105	\$ 931,907
Delinquent Tax Receivable	93,218	-	-	-	-	93,218	131,088
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	10,162	-	-	-	-	10,162	12,902
Accounts Receivable	62	93,729	-	-	-	93,791	558,383
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 349,217	\$ 134,654	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 33,075	\$ 536,276	\$ 1,634,280
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE							
LIABILITIES							
Deferred Revenue	\$ 80,172	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,172	\$ 107,993
Accounts Payable	6,874	16,643	-	-	-	23,517	1,079,589
Accrued Payroll	2,672	7,451	-	-	-	10,122	9,929
Prepaid Taxes	923	-	-	-	-	923	37,751
Logging Bond	-	-	-	-	-	-	500
Due to School District	44,984	-	-	-	-	44,984	38,430
Due to Tax Collector	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	5,116
Miscellaneous Liabilities	393	-	-	-	-	393	2,125
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 140,017	\$ 24,094	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 164,111	\$ 1,281,433
FUND BALANCE							
Restricted (Note 3)	\$ 157,578	\$ 100,591	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 33,075	\$ 310,573	\$ 251,152
Unrestricted	51,622	3,050	-	-	-	54,671	101,695
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 209,200	\$ 110,560	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 33,075	\$ 365,245	\$ 352,847
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 349,217	\$ 134,654	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)	\$ 33,075	\$ 529,356	\$ 1,634,280

The accompanying notes are a necessary part of this financial statement.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2018 and 2019

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Town Garage Fund	Hwy Recon Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2018	\$ 157,022	\$ 131,735	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)
Prior Year Adj <i>(See Note 4)</i>	\$ 43,851	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Adj. Fund Bal. Dec. 31, 2018	\$ 200,873	\$ 131,735	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)
Transfers Out <i>(See Note 5)</i>	\$ (53,862)	\$ (73,029)	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers In <i>(See Note 5)</i>	\$ -	\$ 6,920	\$ -	\$ -
Revenues	\$ 604,568	\$ 1,752,883	\$ 46,540	\$ 130,301
Balances and Additions	\$ 751,579	\$ 1,818,508	\$ 66,322	\$ 129,849
Expenditures:	\$ (542,379)	\$ (1,707,948)	\$ (46,540)	\$ (130,301)
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2019	\$ 209,200	\$ 110,560	\$ 19,782	\$ (452)



Evergreen Cemetery

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2019

2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor/Mower

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
August 8, 2020	\$ 22,845	\$ 4,379	\$ 18,466	\$ 102,852
August 8, 2021	22,845	3,703	19,142	83,709
August 8, 2022	22,845	3,014	19,832	63,878
August 8, 2023	22,845	2,300	20,546	43,332
August 8, 2024	22,845	1,564	21,281	22,051
August 8, 2025	22,845	794	22,051	-

Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$139,153.
Mascoma Savings Bank

2019 Int'l 4400 SBA 4x2 Fire Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
April 11, 2020	\$ 38,143	\$ 20,426	\$ 17,718	\$ 261,088
April 11, 2021	38,143	9,399	28,744	232,344
April 11, 2022	38,143	8,364	29,779	202,565
April 11, 2023	38,143	7,292	30,851	171,714
April 11, 2024	38,143	6,199	31,945	139,769
April 11, 2025	38,143	5,032	33,112	106,657
April 11, 2026	38,143	3,840	34,304	72,353
April 11, 2027	38,143	2,605	35,539	36,815
April 11, 2028	38,143	1,329	36,815	-

Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$288,806.
Mascoma Savings Bank

2020 Freightliner Model 108SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
October 31, 2020	\$ 36,037	\$ 4,401	\$ 31,636	\$ 101,349
October 31, 2021	36,037	3,345	32,692	68,657
October 31, 2022	36,037	2,266	33,771	34,886
October 31, 2023	36,037	1,151	34,886	-

Terms: 3.3% interest. Original amount borrowed \$168,050.
Mascoma Savings Bank

For other indebtedness information, please refer to Note 6 in the "Notes to Financial Statements."

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
TOWN ENDOWMENTS AND TRUST FUNDS - SELECTMEN, TRUSTEES
Year Ending December 31, 2019

Fund	Principal	Trust Income Balance 12/31/18	Interest Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Frank Brown Fund	\$ 10,000.00	2,789.44	13.82	0.00	13,123.97
Selected Highways	320.71				
James S. Morrill Fund	1,000.00	1,242.68	0.00	0.00	2,242.68
Municipal Building					
James Morrill Fund	3,000.00	1,370.47	0.00	0.00	4,992.74
Selected Highways	622.27				
George Brown Fund	5,000.00	5,319.25	7.10	(1,800.00)	8,686.71
Town House	160.36				
Francis Dunbar Fund	200.00	1,424.78	0.00	0.00	1,624.78
Cemetery-Flanders Lot					
Howard Robinson Fund	1,000.00	1,075.21	0.00	0.00	2,075.21
Robinson Cemetery					
Ada J. Smith Fund	50.00	278.44	0.00	0.00	328.44
Smith Lot - Old City Cemetery					
TOTAL	\$ 21,353.34	\$ 13,500.27	\$ 20.92	\$ (1,800.00)	\$ 33,074.53

In 2019, the management of these funds was turned over to the Trustees of Public Funds. The Selectboard will continue to maintain the balances of these separate funds and make decisions about any disbursements of funds.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Equipment Inventory

- 2020 Freightliner Model 108SD Dump Truck
- 2017 Ford Ton Truck with 2-way Everest Plow and MG 4-Season Side Dump 550
- 2014 Western Star 10-Wheeler with MG Side Dump Body and Everest Plow and Wing
- 2007 International 5500 4x4 with Everest Side Dump Body and Plow
- 2015 John Deere 544G Loader
- 2015 John Deere 410 Backhoe
- 2012 772G John Deere Grader
- 2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor
- 2005 Dump Trailer
- 1,000 Gallon Aboveground Fuel Tank with Pump
- 2 –Chloride Tanks – 3000 gallon each
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 500 gallon
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 1,000 gallon
 - 1 – Motorola Base Radio
- 10 – Motorola 16 channel Scan Mobile Radio
- 2 – Motorola 2 channel Hand Held Radios
- 1 – 20' x 20' Sand Screen
- 1 – Jonsered Chain Saw
- 4 – Husqvarna Chain Saws
- 1 – 225 Husqvarna Weed Cutter
- 1 – 325 Husqvarna Power Broom
- 1 – 8' Sweepster Power Broom
- 1 – Lincoln Mig Welder
- 1 – Yamaha 4500 Generator
- 1 – Landa Power Washer
- 1 – Hydraulic Hose Press
- 1 – Culvert Compactor
- 1 – Husqvarna Pole Saw
- 1 – Desktop Computer
- 1 – Printer

Highway Department

Buildings

- Town Garage Building
- Rear Storage Shed – Three bays
- Salt Shed
- Fuel Shed

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Year Ending December 31, 2019

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FUND ACCOUNTING—The accounts of the Town are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operation of each fund is accounted for on the modified accrual basis with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenues and expenditures, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

GENERAL FUND: The General Fund is the general operating fund of the town. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS: *Highway Fund*—The operating fund for road maintenance and improvements funded by a specific revenue source and restricted for road maintenance use only. *Town Garage Fund*—The Town Garage Fund was established in 2006 to build a new town garage. *Highway Reconstruction Fund*—The Highway Reconstruction Fund was established in 2012 to finance road reconstruction and non-reimbursable expenses from Tropical Storm Irene.

Note 2: ENDOWMENTS—This number represents both principal and interest of all endowments/trust funds for which the trustees are the Selectboard. Each endowment is shown further on in these statements. As of the end of 2019, these funds will be managed by the Trustees of Public Funds.

Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted fund revenue and expenditures are reflected in the General Fund and Highway Fund statements. Net changes to restricted funds in each year will be reported in these notes. In the Highway Fund, restricted funds represent the equipment reserve and any other highway restricted funds; unrestricted funds are still restricted to highway use.

GENERAL FUND:	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2019</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
Reserve-Town House	\$ 19,441.71	\$ 13,055.49	\$ 32,497.20
Reserve-Town House Clock	338.03	-	338.03
Reserve-Town House Spec Proj	9,312.66	-	9,312.66
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	829.00	2,149.00	2,978.00
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2019</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
GENERAL FUND (cont.)			
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	\$ 38,143.29	\$ 6,659.50	\$ 44,802.79
Reserve-Recreation	4,476.71	1,331.68	5,808.39
Reserve-Municipal Building	-	26,021.48	26,021.48
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	3,765.88	-	3,765.88
Reserve-Dogs	880.00	144.00	1,024.00
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	11,802.79	(3,128.24)	8,674.55
Reserve-Pocket Park	4,341.89	4,333.71	8,675.60
Reserve-Energy Committee	1,572.33	1,310.73	2,883.06
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	5,736.77	-	5,736.77
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	2,509.50	2,540.13	5,049.63
Reserve-Fire Truck	6,920.20	(6,920.20)	-
Total General Reserve Funds	\$110,080.66	\$ 47,497.28	\$157,577.94

	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2019</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
HIGHWAY FUND:			
Reserve-Equipment	\$ 58,705.43	\$ 41,885.20	\$100,590.63
Total Highway Reserve Funds	\$ 58,705.43	\$ 41,885.20	\$100,590.63

Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

This section contains adjustments to fund balances from adjustments made by the outside auditors.

GENERAL FUND:

Change in deferred revenue \$ 43,850.57

Note 5: TRANSFERS

GENERAL FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$ 46,942.00

Fire Truck Reserve Fund 6,920.00

HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$ 73,029.00

HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFER IN:

Fire Truck Reserve Fund \$ 6,920.00

Note 6: OTHER INDEBTEDNESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of December 31, 2019, is \$66,999.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019

Grand List				
Real Estate			204,719,700	
Plus Equipment			15,524	
Less Exemption			(160,000)	
Less Current Use			(18,052,200)	
Less Local Agreements			(215,000)	
Total			<u>186,308,024</u>	
Total Listed Value				
Residential			111,378,900	
Special Exemptions			2,550,300	
Non-approved Contracts			62,500	
Non-residential			72,378,824	
Taxes Billed				
			Tax rate	Tax
General Fund	1,863,080.24	x	0.1647	306,849
Highway Fund	1,863,080.24	x	0.3989	743,183
Town Garage	1,863,080.24	x	0.0250	46,577
Hwy Reconstruction	1,863,080.24	x	0.0699	130,229
Local Agreements	1,863,080.24	x	0.0015	2,795
Homestead Educ.	1,113,789.00	x	1.5311	1,705,322
Nonresidential Educ.	723,788.24	x	1.5465	1,119,339
Total				<u>4,054,294</u>
Adjustments to Taxes Due				
Lister errors and omissions				3,295
Current use change				606
State Homestead Declaration errors				(555)
Board of Civil Authority appeal				(771)
Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration				(272)
Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties				1,736
Total Taxes Due				<u><u>4,058,332</u></u>
Taxes accounted for as follows:				
Collections				3,925,380
Board of Civil Authority abatements				428
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2019)				132,523
Total Taxes Collectible				<u><u>4,058,332</u></u>

REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY**2019 Listed Values**

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education Listed Value (Homestead)	Education Listed Value (Nonresidential)	Total Education Listed Value
Residential less than 6 acres	45,106,700	34,378,500	10,728,200	45,106,700
Residential more than 6 acres	101,556,900	68,927,800	32,629,100	101,556,900
Mobile home without land	76,700	25,400	51,300	76,700
Mobile home with land	1,768,100	1,244,200	523,900	1,768,100
Vacation home less than 6 acres	947,300	261,900	685,400	947,300
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,978,100	2,184,400	8,793,700	10,978,100
Commercial	4,428,900	537,700	3,891,200	4,428,900
Commercial Apartments	611,700	-	611,700	611,700
Utilities Electric	7,460,400	-	7,460,400	7,460,400
Farm	14,262,400	8,520,800	5,741,600	14,262,400
Woodland	12,344,900	372,000	11,972,900	12,344,900
Miscellaneous	5,177,600	1,508,000	3,669,600	5,177,600
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	204,719,700	117,960,700	86,759,000	204,719,700
Cable	15,524		15,524	15,524
TOTAL LISTED VALUE	204,735,224	117,960,700	86,774,524	204,735,224
Veterans' Exemptions	(160,000)	(30,000)	(10,000)	(40,000)
Current Use	(18,052,200)	(6,432,500)	(11,619,700)	(18,052,200)
Special Exemptions			(2,550,300)	(2,550,300)
Local Agreements	(215,000)	-	(152,500)	(152,500)
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	186,308,024	111,498,200	72,442,024	183,940,224
<i>2018 TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY</i>	<i>183,062,700</i>	<i>108,493,800</i>	<i>72,201,100</i>	<i>180,694,900</i>

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Year Ending December 31, 2019

Name	Total	Name	Total
Begnoche, Jason (McPhee)	\$ 1,226.81	Nutting, Robert, Rae, Dillon/ Difrancesco, Lacey	3,812.37
Bucchi, Peter & Linda	1,173.86	Odell Revocable Trust	2,213.45
Claffey, Keran & Rachel	2,463.88	Owen, Kate	5,825.16
Conant, James & David	1,095.84	Partissi, Jeremy	26.68
Curley, Erin/MacPhail, Neal	4,310.95	Ransom, Earl J.	46.35
Denechaud, Guy C.	3,842.62	Rockbottom Farm, Inc.	7,059.20
Downey, Kristen	92.67	Savery, Frank	1,338.79
Farina, Chris	11,081.04	Schoelen, Kenneth	961.28
Gaudreau, Kevin	2,616.91	Smith, Keston	1,496.01
Jarnot, Joseph Jr.	972.61	Stanley, Henry	11,390.01
Jenks, Cheryl/Pixley, Sidney	3,190.60	Stone, Robert	2,123.53
Kidder, Christopher	5,044.06	Traudt, Scott & Victoria	1,334.22
Lawrence, Duane Sr.	6,219.21	Ward, Dana/Moses, Kristina	3,569.69
Lepenven, Larry	376.37	Welch, Collamer	5.58
Mazella, Robert & Lisa	1,407.74	Welsh, John / Ziai, Ashley	1,936.76
Moran, Mark/Onega, Tracy	4,963.97	Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2019	<u>\$ 93,218.22</u>

	Total	2019	2018	Prior Years
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2019	\$ 93,218.22	\$ 83,125.63	\$ 1,281.60	\$ 8,810.99
Plus December Collections	49,997.25	49,397.81	599.44	-
	<u>\$143,215.47</u>	<u>\$132,523.44</u>	<u>\$ 1,881.04</u>	<u>\$ 8,810.99</u>

Previously uncollected	\$ 10,692.03
2019 Delinq. Tax Warrant	132,523.44
Total Delinquency	<u><u>\$143,215.47</u></u>

Please Note: Due to legislative changes and a Supreme Court ruling regarding the confidentiality of tax bill information, individual delinquent tax information by year will no longer be reported.

Opposite: Wood Cemetery, Maple Hill Road

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN
DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVABLE**

Year Ending December 31, 2019

	Total	2019	2018	2017 & prior
Balance January 1, 2019	\$130,032.21		\$94,455.71	\$35,576.50
Delinquent to Collector	132,523.44	132,523.44		
Subtotal	262,555.65	132,523.44	94,455.71	35,576.50
Collections/abatements/discharges	(169,337.43)	(49,397.81)	(93,174.11)	(26,765.51)
Balance December 31, 2019	\$ 93,218.22	\$83,125.63	\$ 1,281.60	\$ 8,810.99

**TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES
COMPARED TO TOTAL TAXES BILLED**

2011 - 2019

	Delinquent Taxes	Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2012	78,579.70	2011	3,342,306.13	2.35%
January 1, 2013	98,441.60	2012	3,331,810.12	2.95%
January 1, 2014	60,587.42	2013	3,409,992.00	1.78%
January 1, 2015	62,386.58	2014	3,703,651.00	1.68%
January 1, 2016	74,804.44	2015	3,785,861.56	1.98%
January 1, 2017	95,605.35	2016	3,899,828.07	2.45%
January 1, 2018	93,628.92	2017	3,866,892.28	2.42%
January 1, 2019	94,455.71	2018	3,897,401.78	2.42%
January 1, 2020	83,125.63	2019	4,058,332.15	2.05%



VITAL STATISTICS

Births

NAME OF CHILD	SEX	DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	PARENT'S NAME	PARENT'S NAME
Galilee G. G. Guaraldi	F	8/8/19	S. Strafford, VT	Rachel E. G. Guaraldi	Benjamin L. Guaraldi

Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Audra P. Dunivan	Brighton, MA	Rory L. O. Cahill	Brighton, MA	6/8/2019	Post Mills, VT
Bryce C. Murphy	Arlington, TX	Keely M. Doyle	Arlington, TX	6/15/2019	Strafford, VT
Jason A. Brickner	Strafford, VT	Jenna J. Hill	Strafford, VT	9/7/2019	Strafford, VT
Rachel A. Sullivan	Stamford, CT	Jordan E. F. Doucette	New Milford, CT	9/28/2019	Strafford, VT
Benjamin J. Flint	Brighton, MA	Keyla K. F. Carvalho	Brighton, MA	10/12/2019	Strafford, VT
Kerrie M. O. Bushway	S. Strafford, VT	Matthew J. Ingram	S. Strafford, VT	10/24/2019	S. Strafford, VT

VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)**Deaths**

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
James Dewey Chase	M	62	Strafford, VT	2/4/2019	Strafford, VT
Richard O. Bushway	M	78	S. Strafford, VT	3/20/2019	S. Strafford, VT
Roland Ward Hanchett	M	78	Strafford, VT	5/24/2019	Strafford, VT
Marvin Pixley	M	79	Strafford, VT	10/13/2019	Strafford, VT
Helen Stone	F	97	Windsor, VT	7/18/2019	Strafford, VT
Richard Tyson Wilson	M	97	Strafford, VT	6/22/2019	Strafford, VT
Ada C. Race	F	92	Lebanon, NH	10/13/2019	Strafford, VT
Stephen W. Wetmore	M	68	Lebanon, NH	11/23/2019	Strafford, VT

Burials

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
Richard T. Wilson	M	97	Strafford, VT	6/22/2019	Evergreen Cemetery
Edmund M. Ilsley	M	78	Thetford Center, VT	9/4/2019	Evergreen Cemetery

These vital statistics represent marriages, civil unions, births, deaths and burials recorded in the Strafford Town Office.

Certificates filed elsewhere are not automatically forwarded to the Town Office.

If you would like those statistics to be included in this report, please arrange for copies of the records to be sent.

If you would prefer not to have your vital statistics listed in the Town Report due to privacy concerns or for any other reason, please notify the Town Clerk's office.

ANIMAL LICENSING

18	Male dogs
148	Neutered dogs
14	Female dogs
163	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,505.00

All dogs or wolf-hybrids six months of age and older must be licensed annually on or before the first day of April. A late fee of \$20.00 shall be due if a license is obtained after April 1.

Before obtaining a license, a copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented to the Town Clerk. A dog or wolf-hybrid over three months of age must be vaccinated; the initial vaccination is valid for 12 months. Within 9-12 months of initial vaccination, the animal must receive a booster vaccination. All subsequent vaccinations following the initial vaccination will be valid for 36 months.

License fees are \$9 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$13 for an unspayed female or unneutered male dog. Dog licenses issued after April 1st will be subject to an increase in the fee.

Proof of spaying or neutering, signed by a veterinarian, must be exhibited to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing.

Dogs should wear tags at all times, because if the dog is lost, it is more likely to be returned. If you should find or lose a dog, report it to the Dog Officer and/or the Town Clerk immediately.

Dog violations: First offense – \$20 full penalty/\$1 waiver penalty (waiver penalty applies when an alleged violator pays the fine without contesting the violation); Second offense – \$25 penalty; Third offense – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$50 penalty; Subsequent offenses – Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$100 penalty; Impoundment cost – \$40/day.

VERMONT RABIES HOTLINE: 1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)

Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2014 Market Value	12/31/2015 Market Value	12/31/2016 Market Value	12/31/2017 Market Value	12/31/2018 Market Value	12/31/2019 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 85,455.99	\$ 85,391.11	\$ 89,925.47	\$ 101,013.92	\$ 91,128.98	\$ 106,603.45	\$ 15,474.47	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 17,974.47
Gilman	8,574.92	8,718.92	9,386.12	10,773.12	9,953.52	11,916.77	1,963.25	-	1,963.25
Mix *	82,594.73	83,981.80	90,408.31	103,768.11	80,873.64	109,325.32	28,451.68	-	15,951.68
Newton	99,304.45	100,172.14	107,837.57	121,452.37	112,212.51	134,345.54	22,133.03	-	22,133.03
Ordway	211,044.55	203,563.77	209,961.01	231,247.33	207,154.49	240,514.07	33,359.58	7,500.00	40,859.58
Robinson	7,579.05	7,706.33	8,296.04	9,521.96	8,797.55	10,532.79	1,735.24	-	1,735.24
RWW	20,278.80	20,619.36	22,197.20	25,477.32	23,539.06	28,181.95	4,642.89	-	4,642.89
SCE	5,714.28	5,635.24	5,866.47	6,523.37	5,827.08	6,726.43	899.35	250.00	1,149.35
SAA	50,717.59	51,569.33	3,901.46	4,477.99	4,137.31	4,953.36	816.05	-	816.05
ERF	12,608.39	12,820.13	13,801.16	15,840.58	14,635.46	17,522.19	2,886.73	-	2,886.73
CST	370,010.33	370,023.11	390,752.19	438,204.47	396,639.46	467,913.60	71,274.14	6,959.87	78,234.01
C-B A	-	-	51,614.09	58,241.20	52,810.32	62,226.74	9,416.42	1,000.00	10,416.42
STF *	-	-	-	-	-	33,074.53	33,074.53	-	-
Total	\$953,883.07	\$950,201.24	\$1,003,947.08	\$1,126,541.73	\$1,007,709.37	\$1,233,836.74	\$226,127.37	\$18,209.87	\$198,762.71
Disbursed	14,728.40	19,701.06	69,008.07	25,760.44	38,172.27	18,209.87			

Notes: * \$12,500 in donations were received by Mix in FY19; \$33,074.53 in Selectboard Transferred Funds (STF) were received in FY19

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds

Change before disbursements and additions

19.72%

INVESTMENTS

<u>Cash</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Equity Funds</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Mascoma Checking (total of 2 accounts)	\$ 10,053.57	Oakmark International (OAKIX)	\$ -
Vanguard Federal MM (VMFXX)	27,814.62	Primecap Odyssey Aggressive Growth (POA)	198,609.98
VT Community Loan Fund	10,000.00	Vanguard Dividend Growth (VDIGX)	157,192.87
Total Cash	3.9% \$ 47,868.19	Vanguard Equity Income (VEIRX)	160,587.16
		Vanguard Extended mkt index (VEXAX)	139,580.65
		Vanguard REIT Index (VGSLX)	74,000.32
		Vanguard International Growth (VWILX)	134,580.99
<u>Fixed Income</u>		Total Equity Funds	70.1% \$ 864,551.97
Fidelity New Markets Income (FNMIX)	\$ 69,062.20		
Morgan Stanley CD maturing 5/15/20 (61760AR)	17,075.65		
Morgan Stanley CD maturing 11/16/20 (61690U)	17,213.69		
Vanguard Total Bond Market (VBTLX)	110,322.09		
Vanguard ST Bond (VFSUX)	107,742.95		
Total Fixed Income	26.1% \$ 321,416.58		
Total Cash & Fixed Income	29.9% \$ 369,284.77	End of the year total	100.0% \$ 1,233,836.74

GARDNER N. COBB CHILD WELFARE FUND

In 1968, the Town of Strafford received under the Will of Gardner N. Cobb \$10,000 to be held in Trust with the Corpus to be invested in direct obligations of the United States, with the net income to be disbursed by the Trustees for “the promotion of child hygiene, the treatment of remediable defects of needy children, including dental, or orthopedic or other medical care, routine immunizations against disease, and detection and elimination of tuberculosis and the dissemination of literature on the subject of Child Welfare.”

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD FUND

This fund is the result of a \$50,000 bequest from the Edmund Coffin estate. It was established on September 1, 2016.

The purpose of the fund is to give an annual award to persons and/or organizations who, in the opinion of the selection committee, have made major contributions to building a sense of community in the town.

A committee, appointed by the Selectboard, recommends recipients annually.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

This fund was established in 2013 in concert with the wishes of Marion Slusser, who contributed \$10,000 to the Town of Strafford in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene.

The goal of this fund is to support efforts related to emergency management for the residents of the Town of Strafford. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of Town designated shelters, procuring and maintaining communications equipment, and assisting with grant matches when appropriate. The Selectboard shall act as advisors to the Trustees of Public Funds with regard to distributions from this Fund.

ROBERT I. GILMAN AND EVELYN ROBERTS GILMAN TRUST FUND

In 1988 \$2,000 was given by Mr. and Mrs. R. Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Gadzinski to establish the Robert I. Gilman and Evelyn Roberts Gilman Trust Fund to be used to benefit the Municipal Building.

ROBIN MIX MEMORIAL FUND

On September 2, 1987 the Town of Strafford received, under a Trust Agreement, \$5,407.83 establishing the Robin Mix Memorial Fund for Preservation of the Strafford Town House. “The purpose of this Fund is to provide an augmenting source of funding for the accomplishment of extraordinary repairs to, and for major preservation and restoration projects for, the Strafford Town House.”

NEWTON FUND

In 1931 the Town of Strafford received, under the Will of William E. Newton, \$14,200 to be held in trust, the income from which is “to be used first in keeping the two Newton lots in the cemetery at South Strafford in good condition, and then in any public improvement or for any public purpose in the village of South Strafford.”

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND

In 1980 the Town of Strafford received a bequest under the Will of Robert H. Ordway of \$56,671.99 in trust, from which the income is “to be used in assisting a deserving high school graduate or graduates who are inhabitants of the town of Strafford, Vermont in obtaining education above the high school level.” See the Robert H. Ordway Scholarship Committee Report for further information.

WALTER C. ROBINSON FUND

On December 23, 1985 the Town of Strafford received \$1,000 under the Will of Walter C. Robinson “to be held in trust by the Trustees of Public Funds and to use the interest for the care of the Willard Robinson and Daniel Robinson cemetery lots in the Robinson Cemetery.”

CARRIE SANBORN TRUST

In May of 1986 the Carrie Sanborn Trust (CST) began providing assistance to aid the poor and needy of Strafford. In 2008 authority to manage this trust was transferred from TD Banknorth to the Trustees of Public Funds. The Trustees shall make funds available for distribution by the CST Committee who act on referrals or requests. Please contact Sue Coburn, Barbara Murray or Rose Silloway for assistance.

SELECTBOARD TRANSFERRED FUND

The Selectboard Transferred Fund (STF) was created when the Trustees of Public Funds accepted a lump sum of \$33,074.53 from the small endowments managed by the Selectboard. The Selectboard will decide how to disburse the funds (except those controlled by the Cemetery Commission). A report on the individual funds appears on page 48 in this report.

THE STRAFFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND

This fund was established in December of 1999. The purpose of this fund is to receive and grant money to aid educational programs in the Town of Strafford, Vermont.

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FUND

The SAA Fund was established on October 25, 2004 to provide continued and improved financial support for the enhancement of athletic and recreational facilities for the people of Strafford.

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971 and was turned over the Trustees of Public Funds for investment management in 1994. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate; the Newton School Library is named in her honor.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The Trustees distributed a total of \$18,209.87 in 2019 from the following Town Funds:

The Carrie Sanborn Trust distributed a total of \$6,959.87 via the CST Committee to provide needed assistance to multiple families and individuals in our community.

The Cobb Fund granted \$2,500 to the Strafford School Based Health Clinic.

The Community-Building Award Fund distributed a total of \$1,000 in 2019: One \$1,000 award went to Melvin & Sue Coburn. These awards are based on the CBA Committee's recommendation.

The Ordway fund distributed a total of \$7,500 in 2019: The three 2019 recipients were each granted a one-time award of \$2,500 for a combined total of \$7,500.

The Strafford Community Education Fund granted the PTA \$250 to support supplemental programs for the benefit of our Newton Elementary School students.

The Trustees deposited a total of \$45,574.53 in 2019 into the following Town Funds:

The Mix Fund deposited a \$12,500 donation from the Town House Advisory Group.

The Selectboard Transferred Fund (STF) was created when the Trustees of Public Funds accepted a lump sum of \$33,074.53 from the small endowments managed by the Selectboard. STF is treated as a sub-account like the others presently managed by the Trustees of Public Funds, with the Selectboard deciding how to disburse the funds (except those controlled by the Cemetery Commission). The Selectboard will keep track of the available income from each fund and of the different requirements for the gifts from each fund.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Hawkins

Elizabeth Ruml

Genevieve Gibson

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

The Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee establishes guidelines, evaluates applications and determines award recipients. The awards are funded by proceeds derived from the Trust established by Robert H. Ordway's will. The Trustees of Public Funds manage the Trust and their financial statement and report appear elsewhere in this report.

The committee has developed criteria based on academic achievement, citizenship and character.

High school students must apply by June 1 of their senior year. Application forms may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office. All graduating seniors wishing to further their education beyond the high school level are encouraged to apply.

2019 Awards: Charles Plottner, Olive Scull, Eli Silovich

Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee:

Joey Hawkins Diana Leddy Danette Harris

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate. The Newton School Library is named in her honor.

The award is for Strafford residents recently graduated from High School who are preparing for teaching careers. It will be granted periodically at the discretion of the Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship committee.

Donations to the fund are welcome and can be made through the Trustees of Public Funds. Applications can be picked up at the Strafford Town Clerk's Office, and sent to any member of the committee. Anyone who would like to be on the committee is encouraged to contact any committee member and express his or her interest.

Committee members: Maureen Wilson, Rod Maclay, Rockwell Fuller, and Joanna Hawkins.

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD

The 2019 Community Building Award — created through a generous bequest from Ned Coffin to recognize people or organizations “who have made major contributions to building a sense of community in the town” — will honor two of the best known and perhaps beloved people of Strafford — Sue and Melvin Coburn. The role they play in the community is perhaps best explained by a question many Strafford residents have asked themselves: What would our town be like without them?

Of course, there’s the store they run with grace and good humor. The store is used by Melvin and Sue in a way that manages to support just about every organization in town. Melvin and Sue graciously provide prime space to the town’s many fund-raisers; they run an informal food shelf; they make sure every Newton School eighth-grader receives a little gift at graduation; every December, we find the Holiday Angel tree to help create memories for Strafford children, as well as helping with the memorial tree lit up in front of Barrett Hall. On top of that, they help run the fuel club that helps keep heating costs affordable for town residents, and have been driving forces in some of the most vital community-building organizations in town, including the Lions Club and Strafford Seniors.

And, as we all know, their store is really the heart and soul of our community, crossing the line from an enterprise that supplies us with groceries and necessities to a community institution that serves as the town’s social center — a place we all visit almost daily and reconnect with our neighbors, gather information (yes, sometimes gossip) and, in many ways, just check in on each others’ well-being. Without the personal touch of Melvin and Sue, it’s hard to imagine this all happening or happening in the way that makes Strafford such a special community.

Their contributions to the community are so numerous and ongoing, it’s almost easy to take them for granted. This year’s award is a way to remind Strafford residents that we shouldn’t. More important, it’s the community’s way of saying to Sue and Melvin: Thank you.

BARRETT MEMORIAL HALL

Well, it's been a busy year at Barrett Memorial Hall. It hosted the full slate of annual community events: Driftskippers' spaghetti dinner, Cabin Fever University classes and dance, Lions Club dinner meetings and Citizen of the Year event, UCS rummage sale, Lord's Acre show and dinner, Masons' turkey dinner, Lions' memory tree lighting, Holiday Artisans sale, and so forth. If you missed any of these last year, be sure to check the listserv and Coburn's bulletin board this year and enjoy these fun events!

As the Newton School auditorium, Barrett Hall provided the setting for national holiday assemblies, the annual art show and concert, school plays, Pi Day, PTA Winter Carnival and Halloween party, overflow space for tutoring, and occasional student fundraisers.

Barrett Hall is our local spot for private meetings and parties, concerts and dances, and the Strafford Ball put on by Upper Valley country-dance enthusiasts. The hall also provides meeting space for pre-town meeting, local committees, public forums and informational meetings on Selectboard and school board activities. And don't forget, the BMH corner is where you will see concerned citizens demonstrating and informing the public about important topics of the day. Democracy requires available open gathering places, and we in Strafford are lucky to have that.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Barrett Memorial Hall is committed to providing space for a variety of community and educational activities at very affordable rental rates. Our modest endowment enables us to offer such reduced fees, but we depend on donors to help sustain our stately older building and its mission. The hall receives no town government funding.

A major expenditure this year was to prepare and resurface the upper parking lot. This work is part of a larger project to improve access to Barrett Hall. The topography of the property is a challenge, but we continue to develop and refine the design plans for a stairway leading from the parking lot to the rear entry to the building. This will require a significant fund drive, which has already begun with a first wave of grant applications. We appreciate the generous donations and support of Strafford residents, and depend on this for the continued maintenance and improvement of Barrett Memorial Hall.

Thank you from the trustees:

Robert C. Bushway
Gretchen Graner
David McWilliams

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

Two unwelcome surprises made 2019 a challenging year for the library.

A heavy rain and melting snow in April resulted in a fair amount of water coming off the library roof and entering the basement through our bulkhead. Hiring a company to pump out the water and thoroughly clean the flooded area was an unexpectedly expensive undertaking and not covered by our insurance. Not long after that, we discovered that our septic system had failed. Fortunately, we found a suitable site for a leachfield in the area behind the library that we had just recently cleared out. The system, comprised of a new collecting tank, pump and leachfield, should serve us well for many years to come.

Not surprisingly, our unexpected expenses — the two projects exceeded \$25,000 — resulted in a considerable operating deficit for 2019. That was significantly offset by a bequest we received during the course of the year — and by the generosity of Strafford residents and other supporters who either responded to our annual appeal letter or stepped forward and offered help without being asked. Those contributions, combined with the reserves we have been careful to build up over the years, leave us in decent financial shape. Once again, we were able to level-fund our request for funding from the town.

These challenges did not interfere with our normal operations, although we had to make do without an operating bathroom for a while. Circulation of books, periodicals, DVDs, audiobooks and digital offerings remains strong. We recently learned that the Turrell Foundation, which has been providing an annual grant to help us offer after-school and summer children's programming, will be providing us increased funding in 2020. This year, librarian Melissa Strayton will be assisted in running those programs by Sarah Rogers, who was hired right before the start of the school year. A relatively new delivery service currently subsidized by the state is now well established and has improved the interlibrary loan program that allows us to make materials from other libraries around Vermont available to Strafford residents. This year, we also began offering the Kanopy streaming service, offering our patrons a wide selection of movies, television shows and educational programming via the internet.

We're assuming, or at least hoping, that 2020 will prove less eventful and allow us more time to think about how we can better serve Strafford residents. We welcome suggestions.

The Trustees of the Morrill Memorial and Harris Library

Cindy Binzen
Curt Albee
Carol Wilson
Rachel Kurland
Miriam Newman
Martin Frank

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2019

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2019		\$ 50,674
Prior Year Adjustments		(27)
Adjusting Beginning Balance		50,647
Income		
Town of Strafford	\$ 34,000	
Friends of the Morrill Library	11,461	
Endowed Funds	86	
Grants	3,390	
Donations & Fundraising	21,404	
Miscellaneous Income	221	
Total Income + Transfers In		\$ 70,562
Expenses		
Special Building Projects	\$ 26,008	
Materials and Programs	9,693	
Personnel	32,808	
Buildings and Grounds	2,236	
Utilities (including telephone)	2,794	
Administration	4,660	
Miscellaneous	39	
Transfer to CD	25,000	
Total Expenses + Transfers Out		\$ 103,238
Ending Balance		\$ 17,972
Reserve Account		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2019		\$ 4,118
Interest		1
Ending Balance		\$ 4,119
CD		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2019		\$ -
Transfer to CD		25,000
Interest		190
Ending Balance		\$ 25,190

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Value January 1, 2019	\$ 294,599
Transfers to the Operating Fund	
Swan Fund transfer	43
Downer Fund transfer	43
Ordway/Steele Fund transfer	-
Subtotal	<u>294,513</u>
Gifts to the Endowment Funds	
Friends of the Library 5/30	<u>1,000</u>
Subtotal	295,513
Market Value December 31, 2019	\$ 357,935

STRAFFORD FIRE AND RESCUE

2019 was a busy year for our members, responding to 105 calls for assistance which consisted of a cat stuck in a tree, responding mutual aid to Bradford on a multi-alarm building fire, to 80 EMS calls, 18 of which came in a three week stretch in November. We had two members become nationally registered EMTs bringing us to seven total and have two members currently enrolled in the Vermont Fire Academy's Level I/II class which consists of them attending classes two nights a week along with many Saturdays for approximately nine months.

We took delivery of our new Engine 1 in late August and placed it in service about a month later. Thank you again to the voters for supporting the purchase. Both Engines are now housed at the substation in South Strafford along with the Rescue that we are currently in the process of replacing as well. Funds from our reserves, our annual fundraisers such as the BBQ, auction, and the many generous donations we receive throughout the year made the purchase and upfit of this truck possible.

For those of you who had the inconvenience of having to change your address last year we appreciate your understanding as this will allow us or any other agency to find you easier and more quickly when you need assistance. Please remember to have your 911 number visible from the road no matter which direction you come from even if your address hasn't changed. If you are in need of a new 911 number contact the town clerk's office and they will provide you with one.

We would like to remind you that in the event of an emergency, please call 911 instead of trying to contact a member directly. We are strictly volunteers and may not always be around so by calling 911, you will be assured to get the help you need from one agency or another. The dispatchers you speak with are capable of reaching us through multiple avenues 24 hours a day and may even be able to help you over the phone with your situation.

The following officers were elected at our annual meeting in January:

President: Erin Masteller, Vice President: P.D. Hardy, Treasurer: Aaron Dotter, Secretary: Andrew Lane, Fire Chief: Shawn Harlow, EMS Chief: Beth Preston, Board of Directors: B.J. Miller, Sean Lewis, Pat Kelly, Shawn Harlow, Beth Preston.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Harlow
Fire Chief

Beth Preston
EMS Chief

**STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
and FIRST AID SQUAD, INC.
January 1 - December 31, 2019**

I. INCOME	Actual
<u>Category</u>	<u>2019</u>
Town Operating Income	\$ 50,000
4th of July	4,988
Donations	3,578
Interest	107
Rabies Clinic	1,220
Total Income	\$ 59,893
II. EXPENSES	Amount
<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 18,273
Buildings Repair & Maintenance	-
Insurance Auto & Liability	12,597
Miscellaneous	4,915
Electricity	1,053
Phone/Internet	3,265
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	23,624
Fast Supplies	5,461
Heating Oil	4,521
Membership/Dues	4,521
Loan Payment	881
Training	200
Total Expenses	\$ 79,311

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

We live in interesting times, no less in Vermont than in other parts of the country. While the legislature faces many of the same issues we have grappled with for many years – delivering affordable health care, providing quality education, making efficient use of limited resources, supporting families and Vermont businesses – addressing the climate crisis before us has taken on heightened urgency.

The climate crisis affects every part of Vermont life from how we get to work, to how we heat our homes, to how we carry our groceries, to what we eat and where we play. With this broad and deep a societal challenge before us, there is plenty of disagreement in Montpelier on how to proceed. That disagreement is exacerbated by the collapse of our federal government’s ability to forge a national policy to address this emergency. In the face of these headwinds, and being clear on the need to act decisively and collectively, we are pressing forward on several high priority bills that we hope pass both chambers with sizable majorities.

The Global Warming Solutions Act establishes statutory greenhouse gas emissions reductions requirements for Vermont and a planning and regulatory process to get us there. Another bill will accelerate our state’s electric utilities path to get to 100% renewable energy. In the budget, we will be debating putting more funding toward home weatherization, improving our electric grid, and providing incentives for purchasing electric vehicles.

Another big push – the Transportation Climate Initiative, or TCI – has to do with curbing emissions from motor vehicle fuels. TCI is a 12-state regional program from Maine to Virginia. It would allow states to pollute more (burn more gasoline and diesel) if they pay more. States would then get those funds back to invest in projects to reduce future fossil fuel use.

On the state budget front, while we began the session with a nearly \$70 million shortfall, it appears that state revenues will be increasing approximately the same amount making us hopeful we can avoid some of the cuts in state programs we’ve seen in recent years. Perhaps it goes without saying there will always be more worthy causes to fund than there are budget funds to cover.

It has been heartening to hear Governor Scott and Speaker Johnson call upon legislators to reach across the aisle to solve seemingly intractable problems that might otherwise divide us. We applaud that sentiment and will work with open minds with our fellow legislators of all political stripes.

We live in challenging times when many of us question the direction of our nation and its leaders. Yet, Vermont stands apart, playing an important role to lead with civility in a time of Washington’s paralysis. As always, thank you for playing your civic role. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us through the medium of your choice at the coordinates below:

Representative Tim Briglin
459 Tucker Hill Road
Thetford Center, VT 05075
(h) 785-2414, (m) 802-384-8256
tbriglin@leg.state.vt.us

Representative Jim Masland
714 Pero Hill Rd
Thetford Center, VT 05075
785-4146
jmasland@leg.state.vt.us

STRAFFORD AREA LIONS CLUB

The Strafford Area Lions Club was started 33 years ago to both help meet the needs of our community and to be a local component of the largest service organization in the world. Due to our connection with the larger organization and the benefits it provides, our Lions Club has been very successful in keeping things going like the swimming pond, ski hill, and ski program. We have also been able to tie into resources such as a camera that takes pictures of eyes and is able to do a screening for potential eye problems. All the students at Newton School have been screened by our club. In addition, the Lions Club has added to our sense of community with monthly dinner programs open to all and by annually honoring a “citizen of the year.” The 2019 Citizen of the Year was Mike Hebb.

The Lions Club raises money in a number of ways. This past year included a 4th of July variety show, pie sale, memory tree, a food from the heart food drive, sale of roses, and collection of returnables at the recycling center.

Besides running and maintaining the ski hill and pond, this past year the club made lap blankets for those in hospitals, supported special projects for children at Newton School, helped buy an audio testing machine for Thetford Academy, and provided support for Conservation Camp, the Guide Dog Foundation, the Vermont Hearing Impaired Camp, Vermont Lions Charities, and the Lions Club International Foundation.

Sue Coburn is serving for her second year as President of the club and with Jane Whelihan has put together some very interesting programs, including one on bobcats and fishers. Upcoming plans for the club include a chili cook-off and a welcome-to-Strafford gathering this summer for our many recent new residents.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please speak to Melvin, Sue, Chrissy, or Vince at Coburns Store, or any club member.

Respectfully submitted,
John Freitag, Secretary

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 2020, the Strafford Historical Society will celebrate its 65th birthday. Its mission is to preserve the sites, relics, and related materials pertaining to the history of our town. We are supported by our town, the sale of our publications, and by the generosity of our contributors.

Our 2019 season began in May with the opening of our doors to visitors on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and by appointment. Our May 5th opening featured the opening of an exhibit of hand-forged ironwork offered by Paul Kristensen, followed by his tour of old cellar holes along Skunk Hollow Road in South Strafford. The exhibit was augmented by donated hand-wrought iron implements from Wade and Silas Treadway and Jeffrey Gale.

In June, John Freitag developed a six-page narrative for an *Architectural Tour of the Upper Village*. He was able to lead the tour only a matter of weeks from having double by-pass surgery. Early in the season, we helped the Strafford Post Office celebrate its 200th birthday with a beautifully decorated cake made by Susan Hodges and through recognition of the event by participation in the July 4th parade.

Our August annual meeting featured a talk by Scott Moore entitled *Digging Up History, Amazing Finds Using a Metal Detector*. For years, he has ranged throughout our region and may be seen anywhere, over a neat hole, excavating a mystery object identified by his metal detecting equipment.

Bob Johnston retired last year as historian after many years of service, but he remains active in your Historical Society. In September he led a genealogy workshop at the Society rooms using our research materials and our membership in Ancestry.com. His efforts have proven invaluable to SHS over the years and have included four publications, the latest of which, *South Strafford – A Village History*, was published late in 2018. Our new historian is Alan Donohue.

The season ended with a presentation by Jon Gilbert Fox, a professional photographer and a former resident of Strafford. His work has been featured in numerous worldwide publications including *Vermont Life*, where he was a principal photographer. He has written several books and many of his photos have featured residents of our area. He has donated a collection of photographs and color slides of Strafford to the SHS, including a matted enlargement of *The Town House in Winter* for us to raffle as a fundraiser.

In addition to the exhibit of hand-forged ironwork in May, your Society held an exhibit of Activism in Strafford over the summer. This exhibit was created in part by a large donation of materials by Carol Langstaff from her 1980 production of her anti-nuclear play *Button, Button*. It was augmented by items from marches and rallies dating as far back as 1840.

There were many additional items donated to the SHS collection during the year. We received a full-length silk gown owned by the Tyson family

donated by Randy Wilson Coffin, which may have belonged to Elizabeth Tyson, for whom the mine was named. The family of Gertrude Willard gave a folding key, a tiny penknife shaped like a woman's shoe and a pre-1820 solid gold frame for spectacles. Gil Robertson donated three graduation cards from the Centre School dating back to 1897. Curt Albee contributed a small child's shoe found in the wall of a house he was renovating. Scott Moore gave us a Revolutionary War era cannonball and an 18th century shoe buckle, both found with his metal detector. The Lewis family through Olive Lewis donated a drum bought by Johnnie H. Preston in 1884 and which he played in the Strafford Cornet Band of that era. Finally, Mike McElroy donated a beautifully restored parlor stove to be sold for the benefit of the SHS. The stove was sold for proceeds of nearly \$1,500, which represented an important contribution toward our fundraising goal.

We are pleased to announce the completion of our new Strafford Historical Society website, www.straffordvthistory.org, which replaces the smaller link available through the town website. The site was set up by board member Jenny Mullins with the help of Maddie Perkins and will be managed by Jane Whelihan.

Board of Directors: Susan Cloke, John Dumville, Scott Knoerlein, Laura Ogden, Gil Robertson, Silas Treadway; Officers: President, John Whelihan; Vice President, Martha Walke; Secretary and Curator, Stefanie Johnston; Treasurer, Roberta Robinson; Registrar, Francis Devlin.

Respectfully submitted,
John Whelihan

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

The Justin Morrill State Historic Site and National Landmark is the homestead of Strafford's famous son, Senator Justin Smith Morrill – author of the Land Grant College Acts. The site is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), with support from the Friends of the Morrill Homestead (Friends). In 2019, over 2,000 people from near and far attended programs, events, and exhibits offered by the Friends, took guided tours of the historic house conducted by VDHP docents, and visited the elegant grounds and gardens. All of this was made possible by the efforts of the Friends in offering public programs and maintaining the gardens and orchard, by VDHP's dedication to preserving the buildings and collections, and by the strong support received from the residents of the Town of Strafford, for which we are most grateful.

Once again in 2019, support from the Friends made it possible for the VDHP to offer guided tours from Wednesday through Friday each week, in addition to the Saturday and Sunday tours. The Friends also supported the state in hiring Marble Valley Engineering to conduct a drainage study of the property including maps of existing historic and modern drainage

systems and other key features. With this study, the VDHP is developing a water management plan to preserve Morrill's home and the art and artifacts within.

Public events presented by the Friends are produced by board members with help from residents of the Strafford community, VDHP staff, Master Gardeners, and many hard-working and dedicated volunteers. In 2019, the Friends' calendar included garden and horticulture presentations, art workshops, children's camp, and walking tours of Strafford village. We hosted a record number of guests at our annual community events: Open House, Gallery in the Garden, and AppleFest.

2020 is shaping up to be another spectacular season at the Homestead! Please join the Friends for an Open House including free admission for guided house tours on June 14. The Minis for Morrill auction and Gallery in the Garden "Farms & Barns, Roads & Rivers" art exhibit opening, will take place on July 3. The ever-popular Apple & Cheese Harvest Festival will be held on September 27. In addition to our usual lineup of workshops, garden talks, and nature walks, 2020 includes some exciting new programs including natural beekeeping and fiber-dyeing workshops and a photo & video camp for youth ages 12-16. For full descriptions of our many 2020 programs, events, and exhibits for please visit www.morrillhomestead.org.

The Friends greatly appreciate the financial support from individuals, area businesses, and foundations whose generosity makes possible all of our activities.

Guided tours of Morrill's historic home will run from May 23 through October 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. We look forward to seeing you and your families in 2020. Again, we would like to thank our neighbors and friends for your continued support of our endeavors!

Respectfully Submitted

Tracey McFadden, Director

Peter Floeckher, Board Chair

CABIN FEVER UNIVERSITY

Cabin Fever University, Strafford's institute of random learning, is a nonprofit adult education program. Established in 1995 by Eva Behrens, CFU focuses on the wealth of knowledge and experience held by people right here in town. Eva observed that craftspeople, artists, seasoned travelers, and tech wizards populate our community. With neighbors as faculty members, CFU provides affordable classes and workshops, offering enrichment and recreational opportunities while building a stronger community.

Though Eva passed away in 2014, her initiative lives on. CFU continues with fun and whimsical offerings in March and April each year. Classes from the 2019 season included Basket-Making, Cooking Samosas, Home Brewing, Belly Dance, Introduction to Bryophytes, Instruction in Using Game Cameras, Everyday Bicycle Repair, and an Energy Efficient Home Tour. The Cabin Fever Travel Slide Show Series, a much valued and treasured component of CFU, featured presentations on Tanzania, Cameroon, Newfoundland & The Maritimes, and Hiking on the Appalachian Trail. A highlight of the season, the Cabin F'Eva Dance Party featuring The Party Crashers, was a community celebration as well as a successful fundraiser for Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Classes and workshops take place at the Newton School, Barrett Hall, Morrill Library, and at private homes. At this institution, any topic is possible. The workshops offer a chance to meet and learn from our neighbors. We welcome volunteers, as well as ideas for new or rerun classes.

Leslie Berger, Therese Linehan, and Barbara Masteller are the current board members. Contact one of us with your ideas or wishes.

Website: www.cabinfever.org

Contact: info@cabinfever.org

STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

The 2019-2020 school year at our preschool is off to a great start. Leading the team is our Teaching Director of four years, Jody Lowes. Also returning are teachers Kate Reimanis and Katie Guter. Leelee Bookwalter and Kiersten Harlow joined our teaching staff at the start of the school year. We, as a board, are delighted to have such a strong team of early childhood educators, and are so grateful for what each brings to our community by guiding our young members.

As we try to meet the ever-growing demand for affordable, high-quality early childhood education, we have increased our enrollment to eighteen children per day, up from fifteen. We currently serve 23 children from the towns of Strafford, Thetford, Tunbridge and Chelsea. Our robust waiting list of eligible children for the upcoming year will keep our enrollment strong.

We are once again a Vermont pre-qualified preschool program within Act 166. As such, every child, aged 3, 4, and 5 by September 1, 2019, is able to receive 10 hours a week, 35 weeks a year, of free instruction, regardless of parental income or circumstance.

We follow Vermont's Department for Children and Families (DCF) Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS), which acknowledges programs that go above and beyond state regulations to meet the needs of children and families in our state. The Creative Preschool continues to receive 5 Stars.

The preschool receives aid from the White River Valley Supervisory Union by – among other things – supporting visits from an Early Essential Educator, Speech and Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Musician, and STEM instructor. In addition, the children's librarian from Morrill Memorial and Harris Library visits weekly. The preschool and its advocates work very hard to ensure the students' needs are being met, as these years are so important to build a foundation for all future learning and development.

We will be changing our fundraising strategy this year and hope to have your support so we can remain an effective program and hold true to our mission: Our goal is to create a community that will help children grow and develop into joyful, curious, and secure individuals who are able to interact positively with the people and world around us.

With Regards,
Ann MacPhail
Jennifer Perry
Lauren Phelps
Rachel Rich
Brooke Wilkinson

THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Cemetery Association is a private, non-profit organization responsible for the care and maintenance of the Strafford Cemetery, located across the river and up the hill from the Strafford Town House.

Like the town, ownership of a plot comes with some rules. They include notification of burials, installing monuments (any stone above ground is considered a monument), taking care of artificial flowers by September 15th, no solar lights, and no shrubbery over three feet in height. We ask that headstones be placed at ground level so that the mowers can mow over them.

New cemetery plots are currently available for purchase in the new section. Plots are of two sizes: full plots and half plots. The purchase includes four corner markers, which the SCA will install. Included also are perpetual care, mowing, trimming, and stone cleaning as necessary. A full plot allows installation of one monument and four normal size caskets with headstones, or twelve burial urns with headstones. Half plots allow one monument and two caskets of normal size or six burial urns with headstones. Ownership is limited to residents, former residents, and relatives of former residents. If you have not updated your deed as to whom the ownership of the plot will



Strafford Cemetery Winter Vault, Brook Road

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

be passed to, we suggest you do so. Also we recommend that if you have not had the deed recorded in the town clerk's office, that would be a good idea. Cost is \$15 payable to the Town of Strafford.

Punka Brown is the one to contact about purchase and rules for the cemetery.

All lot owners are members of the Association, but only those members who show interest by attending the quarterly meetings and paying a small fee (established with the beginning of the cemetery) become voting members. We need new voting members to help carry on the function of the cemetery. Current board members are President - Gary Kendall; Vice-President - Greg Lewis; Secretary - Bob Murray; Treasurer - Kerry Claffey; Sexton - Punka Brown; Directors - Ed Eastman, Melvin Coburn, Barbara Murray. Any board member will be glad to answer questions about the cemetery.

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK

Strafford is a member of ECFiber, Vermont's first Communications Union District.

ECFiber is owned by its 24 member municipalities. Under Vermont law, however, the District's operations, capital expenditures, etc. cannot be subsidized from local taxes. Instead, the District is employing a \$10 million revenue bond offering to cover such 2019-2020 capital expenditures as completing the network design and the pole preparation work for the remainder of the 23 active towns in our fiber-optic cable network.

As of December 31, 2019, ECFiber had completed over 1000 miles of fiber-optic network in all or part of 22 member towns and now serves more than 4,100 customers. More than a thousand new customers were added to its network in 2019, including over 1,500 new subscriptions, of which 55 were added to the 294 subscribers already served in Strafford at the end of 2018.

Unserved areas continue to be our top priority. In 2019 we built out six towns border-to-border, chosen based on town-wide signups. These were: Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Hancock, Rochester and Stockbridge. Next year's build includes remaining parts of: Bethel, Chelsea, Norwich, Randolph, Reading, Sharon, Royalton, Tunbridge, Vershire and Woodstock. The Governing Board is also beginning a process to evaluate adding new towns to the system, as several neighboring towns have expressed an interest in joining. Any new towns added would be constructed after 2021 when Hartford, the last of the original 23 current towns to be connected to the network, is expected to receive service.

The roads to be built in 2020 are highlighted in red or blue on our "zoomable" map at <https://map.ecfiber.net>. All currently served areas are highlighted in green on the map.

ECFiber plans to continue to raise capital through the municipal bond market in 2020 and to complete the remaining 1,400 miles of network to reach all locations in its 23 active towns by 2021.

Beginning in 2020, ECFiber is pleased to state it is reducing its cost for Basic service (25Mbps symmetrical up and download speeds), while increasing its speeds for Standard, Ultra and Wicked Fast service levels from 50Mbps to 100, 200Mbps to 300, and 700Mbps to 800 respectively. Again, all speeds are symmetrical – upload and download. With these significantly increased speeds, however, come, for the first time in 8 years, slightly increased costs, but the features and service-quality are actually improved. The same is true for our phone service.

ECFiber offers reliable service and the best available speeds for high speed internet, along with voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phone services. Other features of ECFiber services are:

- Simple, stable pricing with no contracts, fine print, or data caps.
- Local and personable customer service. During business hours, phones are answered by an employee without an automated queue.
- Local ownership and control: Governing Board members appointed by their Select Boards advocate for their towns’ concerns and meet monthly to set District policy.
- Community services. For example, ECFiber provides its highest level of service at its lowest monthly fee to over 25 community anchor institutions (including, in Strafford, the Newton School, the Town Office and the Morrill Memorial and Harris Public Library).

For additional information, visit the website, email or call the office at (802) 763-2262, or contact Strafford’s delegates to the ECFiber Governing Board: Steve Willbanks and David Webb at stafford@ecfiber.net.

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

For the past 40 years, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY2019 (10/2018-9/2019), VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies, and community groups for information, referral and assistance, and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors provided one-on-one peer counseling to 250 individuals to help increase their independent living skills, and 6 peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL’s Home Access Program assisted

163 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 122 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 36 individuals with information on assistive technology; 46 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 499 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, which served 40 people and provided 31 peers with adaptive telecommunications, enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing, and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland, and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Montpelier office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (previously under the Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English, and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil, and recreational settings.

During FY2019, 2 residents of Strafford received services from the following programs:

- Home Access Program (over \$15,000 spent on home modification)

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



CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc. (CVABE), a community-based nonprofit organization has served the adult education and literacy needs of Strafford residents for fifty-four years.

CVABE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16-90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Strafford is served by our learning center in Randolph. The site has welcoming learning rooms (with computers, laptops and internet access to support instruction). CVABE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

On average, 1 Strafford resident enrolls with CVABE a year. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving a job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more. Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels. By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Strafford residents for generations to come.

CVABE provides free instruction to nearly 500 people annually in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVABE \$3,320 per student to provide a full year of instruction. Nearly all students are low income. Over 100 community volunteers work with CVABE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Strafford's voter-approved past support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVABE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVABE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the neighbors who need education for a better life.

Opposite: Clough Cemetery, Miller Pond Road

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

For more information regarding CVABE's adult education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Randolph Learning Center
10 S. Main St., PO Box 84
Randolph, Vermont 05060
(802) 728-4492
www.cvabe.org

SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

The South Royalton Area Senior Citizen Center serves the towns of Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. Many times seniors from other towns will come to the center for meals and other activities, all are always welcome. To qualify as a senior you must be 60 years old or older.

The Board of Directors is composed of three representatives from each of the four towns. Sue Pirie is the director for both meal sites, one being in South Strafford at Barrett Hall, serving meals on Wednesday and the other in Royalton, at the Royalton Academy building, serving meals on Tuesday and Thursday. We are fortunate to have Ed Eastman as the cook for Strafford and Mary Lamb as the cook for Royalton. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional required. We served a total of 14,822 meals for the year 2018-2019. The food cost per meal was \$1.91; total cost per meal \$9.64.

Each year fundraisers are held to help raise money for the services and trips. Fundraisers include raffles, 50% of the proceeds from the Thrift Shop, and we have put jars out to area businesses to collect change to be used to help defray the expenses of the rising cost of meals on wheels and running the senior centers.

A fund has been established to offer assistance to any senior who may have a need. The funding comes from part of the Thrift Shops profits. Any senior needing assistance may contact Sue Pirie, the Senior Director, Karen Eddy, the Senior Advisor, or one of your Senior Board Representatives with your request. Requests are reviewed in a confidential manner.

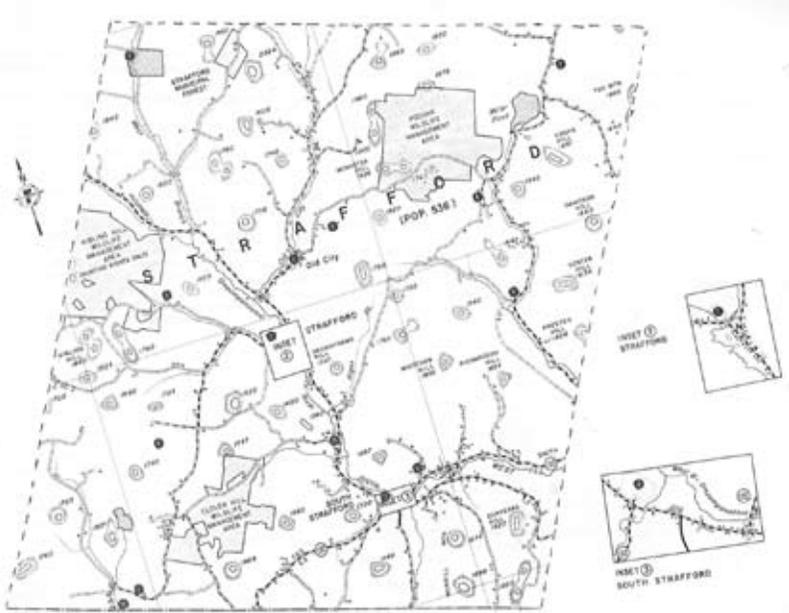
The Royalton Coop Market pays for any senior who attends the Royalton meal site for lunch on the second Tuesday of each month. Willing Hands donated approximately 4,300 pounds of fresh produce and eggs to the senior meal sites this year. Panera Bakery donated bread, sweets and bagels. Several local farms also donate lots of fresh produce and fruits. We thank them all.

Services offered include home-delivered meals, transportation to the meal site, and blood pressure clinics, foot clinics and flu shot clinic. A person is

often available to help seniors with their taxes in April. Karen Eddy, the senior adviser, is available to assist seniors with any problems that they may have. Karen has an office at the Royalton Academy. Another service has been distribution of USDA commodities. Entertainment is offered during many of the meals.

Each year different trips are offered to the seniors. Sue Pirie works very hard to make each trip a memorable time.

Submitted by,
SRASCC Board of Directors
Martha Fisk, President
Kay Ingraham, Vice-President
Corrine Ingraham, Secretary
Susan Coburn, Treasurer



*Map of Strafford Cemeteries
by Vermont Old Cemetery Association*

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

Central Vermont Council on Aging is a private, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the mission of supporting elders and family caregivers in leading self-determined, healthy, interdependent, meaningful and dignified lives in their homes and communities.

For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters aged 60 and up to remain independent for as long as possible. We connect the elders in our communities to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive. All services are made available to our clients at no charge without regard to health, income or resources.

Some of the options we make available include:

- CVCOA Help Line - (800) 642-5119 - has the answers to hundreds of common questions from elders, families and caregivers.



- Information & Assistance staff counsel elders and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, and more.
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.
- Nutrition Services oversees the menu development and technical assistance for home-delivered and Community meals and provides the largest source of funding for the 14 meal sites that prepare and deliver these meals.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, Medicare & You workshops, and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Support promotes the well-being of the family members serving as caregivers to loved ones, including administration of the Dementia Respite Grant.

During the last year, Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more of the above services to 40 Strafford (including South Strafford) residents. Case Manager Karen Eddy is designated to work directly with the seniors in Strafford.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Strafford for their ongoing commitment to the health, independence, and dignity of those who have contributed to making the Central Vermont communities what they are today.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION VA MEDICAL CENTER

The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans who are homeless or unemployed to providing primary and specialty care. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women’s Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community-based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro,

Opposite: Flanders Memorial, Flanders Cemetery, Brook Road

Photo by Joie Finley

Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans. Please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363 extension 5118. A single form – VA form 10-10EZ – and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including nonmembers in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is a compassionate, non-profit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home healthcare and hospice services to individuals and their families. VNH provides care for people of all ages and at all stages in life, and delivers care to all, regardless of ability to pay.

VNH services reduce costs associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, VNH made 1,336 homecare visits to 34 Strafford residents. This includes approximately \$21,896 in unreimbursed care to Strafford residents.

- Home Health Care: 595 home visits to 27 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- Long-Term Care: 80 home visits to 3 residents with chronic medical problems who need extended care in the home to avoid admission to a nursing home.

Opposite: Evergreen Cemetery, South Strafford

Photo courtesy Strafford Historical Society

- Hospice Services: 661 home visits to 4 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.

Additionally, residents made visits to VNH wellness clinics at local senior and community centers throughout the year, receiving low- and no-cost services including blood pressure screenings, foot care, cholesterol testing, and flu shots.

Strafford's annual appropriation to the VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Hilary Davis, Director

Community Relations & Development

1-888-300-8853



VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. Your district office is in White River Junction at the address and phone numbers below. We provide a wide range of resources and services to 22 Vermont towns of the Upper Valley to promote health and wellness for all Vermonters. For example, in 2019 we:

Supported health for everyone in the community: We worked on a variety of projects and programs in partnership with schools, worksites, town offices, and local providers. We also served individuals and families right in our office. Our focus is on health equity because all people should have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy.

Provided WIC food and nutrition education to families: We served more than 900 residents of our district with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Education and Food Supplementation Program, which provides individual nutrition education and breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and a debit card to buy fruit and vegetables.

Ensured emergency preparedness: We worked with local partners, including schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel, to ensure we are prepared to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during a public health emergency.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: We investigated more than 90 infectious disease cases in our district. We also responded to New Hampshire's Hepatitis A outbreak by immunizing more than 125 vulnerable individuals in our region of Vermont against the disease.

Student health and youth empowerment: According to the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 52% of students in Orange County agree or strongly agree that they "believe they matter to people in their community." Regionally, we see efforts like mentoring and afterschool enrichment programs helping to ensure youth feel valued and included.

Substance misuse and abuse: Regional substance abuse prevention consultants worked with community groups, schools, human service agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement.

White River Junction Local Health Office
118 Prospect St., Suite 300
White River Junction, VT

Toll-free 888-253-8799
Main line 802-295-8820

AHS.VDHOLHWhiteRiverJunction@vermont.gov

Learn more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction>

Join us on www.facebook.com/vdhwj/

PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL OF THE UPPER VALLEY

Thank you to the residents of Strafford for supporting the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (PHC) in 2019.

The PHC has quickly become the largest and broadest coalition of advocates on public health issues in the greater Upper Valley region. The PHC is a dynamic organization with the flexibility to forge solutions that respond to the needs of its grassroots members with backing from governmental, philanthropic, and health care institutions. Through regular meetings and ongoing initiatives, the PHC empowers organizations, professionals, and citizens, who together make our communities healthier and better places to live, work, and play.

In 2019, PHC staff and partners worked together to address increase collaboration, promote greater health equity, and address the priority public health issues for the region. The PHC supported a number of initiatives such as:

- Hosted five flu clinics in rural communities across our region, providing over 1,300 free vaccines, with support from Dartmouth Hitchcock, Geisel School of Medicine and various local partners.
- Hosted an educational event for Upper Valley legislators from Vermont and New Hampshire to increase cross-border understanding and communication.
- Hosted a Racism of the Well-Intended training with 100 participants from across the region, with major support from Hypertherm.
- Hosted regular meetings for Aging in Community Volunteer groups and community nurses and for Town Service/Welfare Officers.
- Expanded availability of summer meal programs for children in the region.

PHC greatly appreciates the support we receive from Strafford and will continue to work hard to meet your needs in 2020. For more information about PHC, visit us at www.uvpublichealth.org.

SAFELINE

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, Safeline's staff and volunteers provided 2,732 services for 355 victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking. 32 services were provided for 5 victims who identified themselves as residents of Strafford. This is an increase from last year in the number of services that were provided. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety. Most of the victims have children within their family.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7 days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking.

We thank the voters for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Strafford.

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

As one of 10 Designated Agencies in the state of Vermont, Clara Martin Center provides mental health and addiction recovery services for Orange County and the greater Upper Valley area.

Clara Martin Center’s broad range of programs serve children, families, couples and individuals. Services are confidential and include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, hospital diversion, respite care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24 hour emergency services.

The agency continues to work with a wide variety of local partners to enhance community health and wellness including Stagecoach, local police departments, primary care providers, schools and supervisory unions, the Chelsea Health Center Board and local officials, to name a few.

With 50+ years of experience and leadership under our belt, we remain positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve, such as the opiate crisis. Clara Martin Center is at the forefront of this epidemic, providing help to those in the community dealing with this problem.

Prevention programming for at-risk teens through Clara Martin Center’s TAY (Transition Age Youth) puts clinicians out on the street to engage and connect with youth in order to intervene and/or treat substance abuse and mental health issues that impact their ability to thrive in the world. This program aims to reduce the risk factors for youth by helping them to obtain and keep stable housing, jobs, and build skills to achieve long term success in their lives for themselves and others.

For more information about Clara Martin Center services, visit our website at www.claramartin.org.

<u>FY2019</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	545	5
School Services	110	0
JOBS	106	0
Adult Services	658	7
CSP Services	166	0
Supportive and Transitional Housing	26	1
Substance Abuse Services	497	3
Corrections Services	71	1
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	430	8
Access	1,236	13
Total Served by Program (unduplicated)	2,270	20
CVSAS	595	0

VERMONT FAMILY NETWORK

The mission of the Vermont Family Network is to empower and support all Vermont families of children with special needs. Formed in 2008 when two organizations, the Vermont Parent Information Center and Parent to Parent of Vermont merged, Vermont Family Network has collectively served the families of Vermont for more than 30 years and created a virtual “one-stop shop” for families of children with special needs and the providers who serve them.

We are proud to serve over 1,400 families yearly with expert information, referral and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport, and Rutland, an annual conference, and much more through our Family Support Program.

We are also the state’s largest Children’s Integrated Services Early Intervention Program, serving all infants and toddlers in Chittenden County. Last year 601 families received services that support their young children’s developmental and early education needs. Vermont Family Network has recently become the home to Puppets in Education, an educational puppetry team who teach children and parents all around the state about important topics like bullying prevention, child abuse prevention, and disability awareness through engaging performances that emphasize compassion, respect, effective leadership, and communication. In the last school year, 10,401 school children were able to benefit from one of these educational programs.

www.vtfn.org

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

The mission of Upper Valley Ambulance (UVA) is to provide around-the-clock emergency medical response to residents and visitors of the nine communities we serve. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is one of the three legs of public safety, along with law enforcement and fire/rescue. While we all hope that we never require the services of a public safety agency, having those services available is very important to our peace of mind.

The communities of Bradford, Corinth, Fairlee, Orford, Piermont, Thetford, Strafford, Vershire and West Fairlee have a combined population of over 12,000 full-time residents. We think of it as a single community with a population similar to the larger communities in our region, Hanover, Hartford, and Lebanon, but with a much larger area, over 340 square miles! Approximately 1,200 calls for medical aid came through the 9-1-1 system for our area in 2019.

When someone calls 9-1-1, they typically are experiencing an event that overwhelms their ability to cope with the situation. We and our community

FAST squads respond and bring professional intervention skills, mostly medical but often just a helping hand and reassurance. Perhaps an individual has fallen and cannot get up without assistance. In that case, we conduct an assessment to determine if they are injured or have an underlying medical problem that caused them to fall. If not, we help them up and leave them with advice on how to stay safe in the future. Those kinds of calls make up about 35% of what we do and typically there is no ambulance transport. We provide that service at no charge to the patient. The next call could be a rollover accident on the highway with multiple injured patients. We have to be prepared to handle anything. That is what you, our constituents, expect of us.

UVA employs highly skilled, highly educated allied health professionals (EMTs, Advanced EMTs, Paramedics). Two providers are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition, we have a second and most days a third ambulance crew on duty during the daytime. If our ambulances are already committed to calls when another call comes in, we pay for another ambulance service to respond to that call. You are thus ensured that if you call 9-1-1, an ambulance will always respond to help you.

Upper Valley Ambulance signed a purchase order to buy a new ambulance that is desperately needed this year. We expect delivery of the new ambulance in April-May of 2020. Two of our ambulances are going on six years old and are gaining mileage. In order to help ensure that we have reliable equipment, these need to be replaced on a regular basis.

The expense of running UVA is split between the income we generate by billing for ambulance transport, and a fee that we charge the communities. The split is roughly 50-50. The fees that are paid by the towns is based upon the year-round population. The UVA Board of Directors and I are very careful with the public's money. We believe we run a tight financial ship, and welcome a comparison with any other public safety entity covering a community of 12,000 souls.

Finally, we are grateful to have the opportunity to serve you, although we sincerely hope you won't need us.

Alan Beebe, Executive Director

ORANGE COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

Orange County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJ), also known as Orange County Court Diversion, is a community based restorative justice program, offering cost effective alternatives to the criminal and civil court system. Our programs include:

- Court Diversion for youth and adults referred by the State's Attorney who are facing criminal charges in court. A Restorative Panel, comprised of volunteers, works with clients to address the harm they caused to victims and the community, while working on underlying factors that contributed to the criminal act. Clients must take responsibility for their actions and be accountable for completing a contract that they develop with the Restorative Panel.
- Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program (YSASP) for youth receiving civil complaints for underage alcohol or marijuana possession;
- Driver's License Suspension Program (DLS), helping Vermonters reinstate their licenses through income-sensitive fine repayment plans;
- Pre-Trial Services Program, providing support and services related to mental health and substance abuse for adults facing charges in criminal court.
- Reparative Panels, for adults found guilty of crimes. As part of probation, participants work with a Restorative Panel, comprised of volunteers, to address the harm they caused to victims and the community, while working on underlying factors that contributed to the criminal act. Participants must take responsibility for their actions and be accountable for completing a contract that they develop with the Restorative Panel.
- Restorative Re-entry, for adults returning to our communities after incarceration. A case manager works with participants to access housing, employment and, where applicable, services and treatment for underlying issues. Volunteers help support successful re-entry.
- Circles of Support and Accountability, for offenders re-entering community who are at a high risk for re-offense. Participants meet weekly with a case manager and volunteers for 12-18 months, to support their successful and safe re-entry into community.
- Victims Assistance, for those impacted by the crimes referred to OCRJ programs. A dedicated case manager works with harmed parties to address their concerns and needs related to the individuals and the incidents referred for restorative programs.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019, 258 clients were referred for services, a 21% increase from the previous year. Of those, 103 were referred from juvenile and adult court for criminal offenses, 62 were referred for YSASP, 11 for DLS, 67 for Pre-Trial Services, and 15 were referred

for re-entry services. With few exceptions, all cases involved offenses that occurred in Orange County. In FY19, OCRJ worked with 3 cases in which the offender either resided in and/or the offense occurred in Strafford.

OCRJ's FY19 operating budget was \$180,409.15. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. Strafford appropriated \$240 for FY19 to support Orange County Court Diversion. Orange County Court Diversion requests \$350 for 2020 to support its expanded mission, as it now does business as the Orange County Restorative Justice Center.

Thank you for your continued support. For additional information contact Jessica Schmidt, Executive Director, Orange County Restorative Justice Center at 802-685-3172 or jessie@occdp.org.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

About the League

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state. The most recent audited financial statements are posted on our website, vlct.org/about/audit-reports, and show that our positive net position continues.

Member Benefits

All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 139 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- Legal, consulting, and education services, including prompt responses to member inquiries. In 2019, VLCT continued to provide members with timely legal and technical assistance, including answering more than 4,000 legal questions and publishing legal compliance guidance, templates and research reports, many of which are available to our members on our website.
- Training programs on topics of specific concern to officials who carry out the duties required by statute or are directed by town meeting mandates. The League provided training on various topics related to municipal law and governance to more than 1,000 members this past year.
- Representation before the state legislature and state agencies, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped provide cities and towns additional resources to achieve tangible results on pressing issues

such as road and bridge repair, cybersecurity, housing and economic growth, renewable energy, emergency medical services, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring water quality. Members are also represented at the federal level primarily through our partner, the National League of Cities, as well as directly with Vermont's Congressional delegation.

- Access to two exceptional insurance programs. The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Employment Resource and Benefits Trust (VERB) provides unemployment insurance, life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products to members at a competitive price. Both programs provide coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are only available to VLCT members.
- Access to a host of educational and informative materials and member conferences, including a news magazine, handbooks, reports, articles, and events that all focus on the needs of local government and provide additional educational and networking opportunities.

At the heart of all these activities is VLCT's commitment to serving as a good steward of member assets, and we are proud of the progress we continue to make in that effort. Members are welcome to visit the VLCT office anytime to review the operations of the organization, to ask questions, and to access resources that can help each individual official and employee carry out the important work of local government.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit the VLCT website at vlct.org.

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission is an association of thirty municipalities in east-central Vermont that is governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our member towns. As advocates for our members, we seek to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the Region's quality of life. The following are highlights from 2019:

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

Our staff provided technical services to local, state and federal levels of government and to the Region's citizens, non-profits, and businesses. TRORC staff assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies, and assisted towns with Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) applications.

Water Quality

TRORC staff was involved in the development of the White River Tactical Basin Plan as well as assisting with public hearings to gain input from community members. TRORC also completed several water quality grant projects with our town and non-profit partners that focused on stormwater master planning, scoping green stormwater infrastructure projects, and promoting watershed resiliency.

Creative Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC obtained Federal grant funding to support the Region's creative economy. Staff hosted several Cornerstone Creative Community of Vermont (3CVT) steering committee meetings, as well as informational and networking events. TRORC continued to serve as the Zone Agent for the Vermont Art Council's Creative Network, and is on the Council's statewide steering committee. TRORC also worked on public health projects, including incorporating health-related goals and policies into town plans.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

TRORC conducted a statewide Hazardous Materials Flow Study to inform and update local emergency response plans. Our Local Emergency Planning Committee efforts with local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials continued meeting the needs of our first responders. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Energy

TRORC assisted six towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the state energy goals to meet 90% of Vermont's energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has begun working

to support town Energy Committees on energy efficiency outreach and education with funding from Efficiency Vermont.

Transportation

TRORC is managing the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid program in our Region. This provides funding for towns to implement Best Management Practices (BMP) on municipal roads ahead of the state's forthcoming Municipal Roads General Permit provisions. Funding provides for projects including grass and stone-lined ditches, up sizing and replacement of culverts, and stabilizing catch basin outlets.

Specifically in Strafford this past year, TRORC helped complete the Local Emergency Management Plan and provided assistance on the zoning and subdivision revisions. TRORC participated in securing the Village Center Designation for Strafford and South Strafford. As part of the Grants in Aid program, ditching and culvert improvements on Mundel Road were completed.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
Jerry Fredrickson, Chairperson, Barnard

STRAFFORD RECYCLING

The big news in recycling in 2019 was steadily increasing costs. The total cost to the town for operating the recycling center in 2019 was \$18,119.40. This number was \$15,952 in 2018. Each time the thirty-yard containers are hauled and emptied, Casella charges us about \$250. There is also a per ton charge for the contents, which is determined by “market” conditions. The markets haven’t been helping us. In past years we were getting some revenue per ton for the mixed paper and cardboard. Now we are paying an additional amount on top of the haul charge for everything. Some numbers for 2019 are below.

Jan. 2019 Commingled:	95.29/ton cost
Dec. 2019 Commingled:	125.80/ton cost
Jan. 2019 Mixed paper:	48.70/ton cost
Dec. 2019 Mixed paper:	53.70/ton cost
Jan. 2019 Cardboard:	21.30/ton <i>revenue</i>
Dec. 2019 Cardboard:	24.86/ton cost

We have changed in 2019 to asking people to separate out glass bottles and jars. This reduces weight in the commingled container significantly and that is our most expensive one. Our first bill for a commingled haul in 2020 has the cost now up to \$146.25 per ton. The glass itself is taken to Lebanon and charged at \$35 per ton. This significant difference in the per ton charge means that the glass separation about broke even for us in 2019 even with the monthly rent on the gambrel container. Please remember that not all glass is the same stuff. The glass collection is only for bottles and jars. Any other sort of glass is not recyclable and should go in trash.

We ask people at Strafford Recycling to do a lot of sorting of their material. This is a pain, but it is an effort to keep costs as low as possible. If we just had single-stream and let someone else do our sorting for us, we would be paying the commingled price on everything that was hauled out of Strafford. The separation of deposit bottles and cans (and also non-deposit aluminum beverage cans and foil) provides a revenue stream to the Strafford Lions Club for various good works in town (including donations to the Recycling Center).

As you are probably aware from various media, the problems we have with recycling are part of a national and global problem and look like they will be ongoing in various forms. If you have ideas about how to respond here in Strafford, the Recycling Committee is happy to hear about them. The committee currently consists of David Harris, Scott Moore, and Vince Robinson, besides myself. Any interested Strafford person can be a member of the committee. There are lots of ways to help out. Contact your favorite committee person.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Scanlan, Chair

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs. In addition, the District offers technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

- GUV collected 14.1 tons of tires; 4.2 tons of scrap metal; 7.3 tons of electronics; 12.9 tons of “big” trash/construction & demolition debris; 2.3 tons of batteries; and thousands of fluorescent bulbs.
- 331 GUV residents (1 from Strafford*) participated in four household hazardous waste events held in FY2019. *Some Strafford residents may have participated in the Tunbridge or Bradford collections. Central VT SWMD ran these two events and we did not ask them to record “per town” data. 11.1 tons of hazardous material were collected, including 1,230 gallons of paint
- 124 GUV residents attended six backyard composting workshops where we sold 58 Soil Saver composters and 53 Sure-Close food scrap pails.
- ***Food scraps will be banned from residential trash as of July 1, 2020.*** Contact GUV with questions.
- In FY 2019, Steve Willbanks represented Strafford on the GUVSWMD Board of Supervisors. We thank him once again for his long-term dedication and support of our work.
- We would also like to thank the dedicated volunteers who always show up and help with collection events as well as year-round recycling of batteries and fluorescent bulbs.
- 2020 GUV collection event dates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town list serves, and in newspapers.

For information call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email hgillett@swcrpc.org, or visit www.guvsmd.org

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS



Newton School Class of 2019

*Jillian Ziai, Kailey Ekegren, Jennafer Worth, Charlotte Reimanis,
Eva Kelly, Caleb Benjamin, Harland Ransom, Finn Linehan*

(Photo by Laura Kelly)

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING**

March 3, 2020

The legal voters of the Strafford Town School District are hereby WARNED AND NOTIFIED to meet at the Town Hall in Strafford on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 1 P.M., to transact the following business:

- Article 1.** To Elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office.
- Article 2.** To fix the salaries of the School District Officers for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Article 3.** To Hear and Act upon the report of the School Directors.
- Article 4.** Shall the voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021?
- Article 5.** Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,381,221 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,641.47 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.34% higher than spending for the current year.
- Article 6.** To Vote a sum of \$8,000 from the 2020-2021 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund.
- Article 7.** To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article 8.** To Address any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 30, 2020

Strafford Board of School Directors
Sara Root, Chair
Glenn Wylie, Vice Chair
Sarah North, Clerk
Jeff Solsaa, Member
Micaela Tucker, Member

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 5, 2019

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am by Moderator Robert Bauer. Moderator Bauer asked Constable Edwin Eastman to lead in saluting the flag, followed by a moment of personal silence.

Moderator Bauer explained the Robert's Rules of Order and the guidelines of the meeting.

Robert's Rules of Order were suspended to hear from Mark McDonald.

Moderator Bauer requested a motion to move the duplicate Article 3 to Article 4 and so forth, motion was seconded. No objections, motion passed.

Moderator Bauer read the Strafford School District Warning.

Article 1. To Elect a Moderator.

Article 1 was moved and seconded. Robert Bauer was nominated and seconded. Motion was made and seconded to close nominations and Robert Bauer was elected.

Article 2. To Hear and Act upon the report of the School Directors.

Article 2 was moved and seconded. Moderator asked to suspend the rules to hear from Jody Lowes, Preschool Director. Rules were also suspended to allow Greg Bagnato to read directly from his notes. Greg spoke on the consultant works and hoped for the report in late March or Early April. Greg also spoke on the budget.

Erik reported that the results of Act 46 are over for us and Strafford will not be combined or forced to be combined with any other town. Sarah North spoke on the hire of the outside consultant and over 300 surveys were received and talked about the creation of a task force. Sarah asked that anyone interested in being on the task force should write a letter or e-mail to any school board member.

Erik explained the school budget is up 2.15 percent and is proposed at \$3,174,430. The original budget was \$35,000 higher.

Robert's Rules were suspended to hear from the School Superintendent. Article 2 was moved and seconded to close discussion. Article 2 passed.

Article 3. To Vote to establish compensation for the elected officers of the said School District.

Article 3 was moved and seconded. Erik spoke on the article and the many hours and miles put on to attend school meetings, and that we reinstate the

stipend. Article 3 was moved and seconded to close discussion. Vote on Article 3 passes.

Article 4. Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$3,174,430 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,599.18 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.8% higher than spending for the current year.

Article 4 was moved and seconded. Glenn Wylie spoke about the school budget. The article was discussed by the voters. John Freitag made a motion to table Article 4, the motion was seconded. Moderator Bauer explained that the School Board would have to warn a special meeting with a 30-day posting notice. A motion was made to call the question to end discussion. A vote to end discussion failed. Discussion continued.

A motion was made once again to call the questions to end discussion. A vote to end discussion passed.

Moderator Bauer discussed the motion to table the article and John Freitag stated his motion again, "I make a motion that this Article 4 be tabled until the reports from the consultants are made available to the public and the school board and administration have developed a plan to correct the problems."

Moderator Bauer asked for a vote on the motion presented by John Freitag. Motion did not pass.

Floor opens again for further discussion on article 4. Ellen Langtree made a motion to add the \$35,000 back to the budget and vote on \$3,209,430. Motion was seconded and open for discussion.

Stephen Marx moved the question and it was seconded to end the discussion on the amendment. A vote to stop the discussion on the amendment passed.

The amendment on the floor is to add back \$35,000 to the school budget and seconded. By a show of hands vote 70/38. The amendment passes.

Moderator Bauer read article 4 which is now open for discussion. Discussion ensued. A motion to call the question and seconded to end discussion. Vote to end discussion passed.

Moderator Bauer called for a vote on article 4 to approve a budget of \$3,209,430. Vote was not clear, and seven indicated to vote by paper ballot. 117/43 Article 4 passes.

Article 5. To vote the sum of \$8,000 from the 2017-2018 school year general fund balance to be added to the Tyson Gym Maintenance Reserve Fund.

Article 5 was moved and seconded; question has been called and seconded.
Vote on Article 5 passes.

**Article 6. To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years,
one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.**

Sarah Root was nominated and seconded for a three year term. Sarah Root
was elected.

Mica Tucker was nominated and seconded for a two year term. Mica Tucker
was elected.

**Article 7. To Address any other business proper to come before the
meeting.**

Article 7 was moved and seconded. No discussion and no objections motion
to adjourn and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Robert Bauer
Moderator

Erik Goodling
School Director

Lisa M. Bragg
Town Clerk



Flanders Cemetery, Brook Road

Photo by Joie Finley

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

Our mission is to develop each child's potential for academic success, engagement, and overall well being. Through this process, we will enrich each child's education with community involvement, collaboration, and outreach.

The School Board would like to express our gratitude to the Task Force, who worked very hard looking into whether we as a community should educate our 7 and 8 graders here at Newton with a redesigned program or tuition them out to middle schools in our area. Their thorough work raised many questions that the board and community members are continuing the process of researching and answering. Thank you very much for your hard work and dedication to our students.

We continue our work on what is best for all our students by focusing on the 7 and 8 graders. At the end of the last school year we were unable to find teachers to fill the part time positions of foreign language instructor and art. We were presented with an opportunity to engage in a partnership with Thetford Academy, (TA), that allowed our 7 and 8 graders to attend TA for two classes each afternoon. These are a foreign language class of their choice and an elective. It also allowed our students to stay and participate in sports after school. We met with parents to present this option and felt as a board that it was the best short term solution available to us. It was therefore adopted, with the understanding that we would reevaluate to see if we found it viable for another year.

Reports for the most part are favorable. Our students are on a bus in the middle of the day for the 20 minute ride to Thetford and that is not always seen as the best use of their time. The students like the classes they are attending, they like making new friends and many have taken advantage of the sports opportunities.

We are aware that this is a temporary solution and we have spent time as a board weighing what is best for our students, our school and our town.

We feel strongly that the long term decision of where to educate our 7 and 8 grade students is a town conversation and decision. It ought not be done in a rushed manner. We believe everyone has a voice and we will make sure there are opportunities for everyone to be heard. If there is a change in the structure of our school that will be done by a vote of the registered voters of the town of Strafford.

We are very pleased to welcome to our school Tracy Thompson as our new interim principal. She comes to us from Hartford, Vermont where she was a veteran teacher with many years of experience with teaching middle school. We also pleased to welcome our 3 and 4 grade teacher Lauren LaCasse, 7 and 8 grade teachers Erik Reimanis and Colin Breen and our Guidance Counselor Will McDonald. We are fortunate to have a

dedicated and outstanding staff and we thank them all for their hard work and professionalism.

As this report is being written we have started the search for a full time principal. Tracy was hired at the end of the last academic year and as an interim. We look forward to presenting to the town a candidate for the permanent principal position.

Just before our holiday break our amazing PTA hosted another Artist in Residence for Newton School. This year artist Liz Van Saun helped our students create 4 mosaic panels for the entry way to the school. They represent the four core values of Newton School, overall wellbeing, collaboration, engagement and community and academic success. Please stop by and see these beautiful works of art.

The Newton School playground structure has to be taken down and replaced. It has been the focal point of many years of children playing and laughing, and it is the worse for all that wear. This creates an opportunity for us as a community. We have not put money in our budget for a new structure. Rather, we will be applying for grants and doing community fund raising. We do not feel this to be ideal, but we chose this course of action in order to keep the budget increase as low as possible. Our principal and Facilities Manager along with all our staff are creatively working on a plan for a new structure and ways to make it happen as inexpensively as possible.

Because of delays in the budgeting process due an audit at the SU, the school board has not agreed on a budget at the time this report needed to be completed. We will, however, make all information available to you prior to the Annual Meeting.

All of our budget scenarios result in an increase in the budget and to the per pupil spending and bring us over the threshold amount where we will be penalized. This is related to the fact that in the last few years Newton has seen a decrease in our student enrollment with parents opting to educate their children in other ways. This affects our daily enrollment which directly affects the per pupil spending. While changes have been implemented to address the issues that the school faced, the decrease in student enrollment will continue to affect per pupil spending for at least the next two years.

We thank you for the support you give to Newton School.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

The mission statement of The Newton School speaks to the core values of our learning environment: “To develop each child’s potential for academic success, engagement and overall well-being. Through this process, we will enrich each child’s education with community involvement, collaboration and outreach.” This is the lens that guides much of the decision making process and focuses the education offered to our students.

Academic Success: This year the Newton staff, alongside other teachers from the White River Valley Supervisory Union, focused a great deal of time, resources and attention to the implementation of a structured reading program for our kindergarten through sixth grade students. Although this work is still in the initial stages, we are already seeing improvements in our students’ reading abilities when given benchmark assessments. This year our seventh and eighth grade students are participating in a partnership arrangement with Thetford Academy where they receive their foreign language classes and electives. These students spend two hours per day at TA participating in Spanish, French, Design Tech, Outdoor Leadership, Cooking, Art, Drama, Instrumental Music, Chorus and/or Digital Literacy. Despite the decrease in enrollment and on-going discussions regarding the structure of The Newton School, our students continue to perform well on the state SBAC Assessment as demonstrated in the chart below.

Grade 2018-2019	Math		ELA/Literacy		Science	
	School	State	School	State	School	State
3rd Grade - % of students proficient or above	50%	53%	40%	50%		
4th Grade - % of students proficient or above	82%	47%	64%	51%		
5th Grade - % of students proficient or above	50%	42%	67%	56%	50%	38%
6th Grade - % of students proficient or above	50%	38%	83%	53%		
7th Grade - % of students proficient or above	44%	43%	78%	56%		

Engagement and Overall Well Being: Our Guidance, Health, and Physical Education departments are working collaboratively to offer classes to all of our students with a focus on childhood development and well-being. Students regularly participate in classes which focus on their social, emotional, and physical health. Additionally, students receive instruction and opportunities to participate in directly instructed art and music classes, as well as the opportunity to participate in school based athletic teams for soccer and basketball. Our seventh and eighth grade students have additional access to clubs and teams at Thetford Academy.

Community Engagement / Collaboration: The Newton School is fortunate to have a community invested in the school. We are enriched by the community volunteers, local organizations, and volunteers who regularly organize and participate in the traditional activities important to the Newton students, staff and community. Each year the whole school participates in collaborative activities which are focused on bringing our entire school together. Annual activities include Hike for Hunger, Winter Literacy Triad, Veterans Day Assembly, Winter Carnival, MLK Assembly, and many more. These events provide structured opportunities for our school and community to actively join together. In December the staff and students of The Newton School participated in a collaborative mosaic project which has transformed the entrance of the school. Alongside Lizz Van Saun, artist and owner of Kast Hill Studio, our students, staff and many community members participated in an eight-day mosaic residency creating panels to represent our school's mission statement. This work serves as a visual representation of the Newton School and community and is supported by our active and generous PTA. It is these inclusive opportunities which enrich the Newton School students' education and connect us with the Strafford community.

The collaborative efforts for the school are not simply left to the children. This year The Newton School welcomed several new faces to our staff, which has required us to develop and practice new working norms and relationship. The staff goals for the year include open and transparent communication, consistent discipline practices, and building strong working relationships across clusters. This work has involved book groups, professional development opportunities, and staff outings.

I sincerely want to thank The Newton School staff for their willingness and commitment to continuous professional improvements. It has been a pleasure to work alongside each member of the staff as we develop collaborative relationships and school structures to improve the daily work we have to do at The Newton School. These relationships have a direct and positive impact on our students. Additionally we continue to be highly supported by the PTA, classroom volunteers, coaches, and family/community members who give of their time to make us a stronger learning community. We cannot thank you enough for the opportunities and experiences you help us to offer the students of Newton.

Tracy Thomspson
Principal

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Once again I am very pleased to address the residents and voters in the ten towns and six school districts that comprise the White River Valley Supervisory Union. Once all of the mergers were decided two years ago, it has been our task to make this new Supervisory Union an efficient and well run entity. I must say that this has not always been without its challenges, but the staff at the WRV SU and all the member districts have been engaged and worked hard toward building relationships across the Supervisory Union. I view the status of all of the work as a work in progress that seems to get better and better as we make policies and refine our work.

We have been working very hard to improve Curriculum Instruction and Assessment in all 8 buildings in the SU. Our school system educates all of the students from our 10 towns in a rigorous and relevant way addressing student interest while preparing students for life after high school. All students are supported, challenged and engaged with a personalized education built on strong relationships between and among students, teachers, families and community members.

Vermont, as a state, adopted the Education Quality Standards and Act 77 which strives to personalize learning through proficiencies, personal learning plans, and flexible pathways. What this means for our students is that teachers, Pre-Kindergarten through graduation, will focus on good high quality classroom instructional practices. The class of 2020 will graduate demonstrating evidence of proficiency in content areas or the equivalent flexible pathway articulating the proficiency learned. In other words, for all of our students there will be a pathway to graduation, with alternatives for those students who struggle and enrichment for those students who exceed proficiency standards.

We have used a lot of time and effort and most of all resources to focus on literacy in the SU this year. We have expanded the time we spend on literacy and math each day in the classroom so that students get a minimum of 90 minutes for literacy and at least 60 minutes for math in grades PK- 6. We have employed a literacy coach to work with teachers so that the teachers are trained to use the materials we are employing. WRV SU has invested a large sum of money to purchase both new classroom instructional materials as well as money for classroom libraries in each classroom in every school. We have adopted two different curriculum approaches for this work so that we have more than one approach to improve literacy. The early signs show that these efforts are working and that more students are becoming proficient in reading during the first few months of this work.

The White River Valley Special Education Team has been focusing on the WRV SU literacy initiative this year. The collaborative effort in all of the schools to improve literacy will continue to be a focus for the next few years. Special education staff has participated in training in Direct Instruction in Reading, Wilson Language System and other literacy courses.

The Restorative Classroom program now has 3 classrooms. There is a K-2 classroom in South Royalton Elementary School, a 3-5 classroom in South Royalton Elementary School and a 6-8 classroom in White River Valley Middle School. These classrooms serve students from the schools in the SU that need special services; and they are designed to transition students back into the mainstream setting as soon as they are able to return. So far a high percentage of students have returned to their regular school classrooms after time in the Restorative Classroom.

I am very proud of the steps that we have made throughout the system to work towards a higher level of student achievement and classroom instruction. With the help of a dynamic teaching staff, committed administration, and supportive school board members, we will continue on the path of improvement guided by our strategic plan. I wish to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve the students of the White River Valley Supervisory Union over these past six years.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce C. Labs
Superintendent of Schools
White River Valley Supervisory Union

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

The past 18 months have been an especially productive period of activity and milestones at Thetford Academy. The school accomplished the rigorous once-a-decade process of earning re-accreditation through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in July 2018. The trustees led the development of a new strategic plan in the months that followed, informed by the NEASC self and external evaluations. Simultaneously, the trustees engaged in a nation-wide search for the next head of school and assembled a search committee comprised of TA's many stakeholders. Throughout this period, board, staff, and community also came together to coordinate and celebrate Thetford Academy's bicentennial with many special events, including a speaker series and gala.

As a new head of school arriving in the summer of 2019, I was grateful for these recent major accomplishments on many levels: the collective efforts that made them successful illustrated that I was coming into a school and a community that values collaboration and stakeholder input; the processes of accreditation and strategic planning required deep thinking, candor, and consensus-building; and the year-long marking of the bicentennial was a thoughtful dive into the school's past and a joyful celebration of its rich history. This recent period has been a pivotal time for Thetford Academy – to appreciate the long arc of the school's past, to rekindle its essential role in the community, and to gain clarity about its values and goals for the future.

At the heart of Thetford Academy's new five-year strategic plan is a two-fold focus on academic engagement and student well-being. Both goals build on a strong foundation of past practices at TA featuring an academic program that balances rigor and flexibility and provides opportunity for deep learning experiences on campus and in the community – all in the context of a caring and inclusive school culture that honors and respects the uniqueness of each student.

Additional goals in the strategic plan are necessary priorities for delivering an outstanding and relevant program for all students: educator excellence and a resource-rich campus. Thetford Academy prides itself on its top-notch faculty and staff and the strategic plan acknowledges the importance of fostering a professional culture to support growth, teacher retention, and innovation. The school's campus is renowned for its resources and beauty and plays an integral part in the hands-on, authentic learning experiences for TA's students; the strategic plan builds on this strength and sets goals to increase accessibility and environmental sustainability.

The final two goals of the strategic plan focus on fostering healthy governance and fiscal strength to ensure a vital future for Thetford Academy.

Specific action items relate to financial modeling, community engagement, increased grant and philanthropic support, and strategic partnerships.

January 2020 marks the start of a new year and a new decade – and for TA, a new century. I am honored to be leading Thetford Academy into its third century of providing a world-class education for students from throughout the Upper Valley region. We appreciate our history and relationship with the communities of Strafford and South Strafford and currently have 21 graduates of The Newton School pursuing their studies at Thetford Academy. This school year we are enjoying the additional collaboration with Newton and the Strafford School Board, working together to enrich the curricular experience for Strafford’s middle school students.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Brennan, Head of School
Thetford Academy

THE SHARON ACADEMY

The mission of The Sharon Academy is to nurture intelligent, independent and creative thinking in a small school community, awakening students to their immense potential and ^{to}the difference they can make in the world.

The Sharon Academy feels privileged to belong to such a supportive community that values education and takes an interest in our young peoples’ lives. We are proud that so many Newton graduates choose to come to TSA for their high school years.

In June of 2019, TSA graduated 27 students, 4 of whom were Strafford residents. TSA’s Strafford graduates are experiencing a wide range of post-graduation programs, from a gap year in Germany to Oberlin and DePaul University.

TSA is excited to share news with the Strafford community of more initiatives that will usher in our next phase of development. First, we have appointed Strafford’s own Mary Newman as the next Head of School, starting July 1, 2020. Mary, currently the Assistant Head of School at TSA, will succeed current Head of School Michael Livingston who is stepping down from the top position at the end of the academic year. Michael will have served at TSA for 20 years, helping to oversee the transformation of TSA from a young school to a prominent independent school serving 160 students from 20 communities throughout the Upper Valley. Mary has filled many roles at TSA over her twelve years, from being a Spanish teacher to serving as the Dean of Faculty, the Director of Performing Arts, and a long-time student advisor. We are sure you will join us in both welcoming Mary in her new role and showing appreciation to Michael for all he has done for students over his tenure at TSA.

Additionally, TSA has recently launched a capital campaign to raise \$2 million to construct a new science wing and make additional school improvements. The ‘Leaving a Legacy: Building a Future’ Campaign will add new science labs for hands-on learning, improving our students’ learning experiences significantly. It will also enable us to improve our energy efficiency, which directly addresses the long-term sustainability of both the school and our environment. TSA has already raised \$1 million toward our goal of \$2 million, and we expect to begin construction starting in the summer of 2020. For more information or to make a donation, please visit www.sharonacademy.org/campaign.

As always, we invite you to come celebrate learning with us at any of our upcoming Spring events:

Free Family Arts Day March 8	Middle School Science Fair June 11
Middle School Circus March 27 & 28	Middle School Graduation June 18
TSA’s Annual Gala May 2	High School Graduation June 20

Michael Livingston
Head of School
The Sharon Academy

NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

The Newton School Parent Teacher Association is an organization dedicated to supporting Strafford’s school and community. The PTA is composed of parents, school personnel, and community members, working together to provide the very best support programs to benefit the entire student body and school community.

The PTA coordinates and supports a number of events throughout the year, including Winter Carnival, Bike and Walk to School Day, Field Day, Fourth of July Fair, Halloween festivities, Artist-in-Residence, Teacher and Staff Appreciation events, and card- and gift-making workshops. The PTA also grants teacher and staff requests for classroom enrichment materials and field trips.

This year, the Newton School welcomed Lizz Van Saun of Kast Hill Studio for our winter Artist-in-Residence program in December 2019. Lizz worked with the K-8 students, teachers, staff, and parent volunteers to create 4 beautiful mosaic panels that are now on display in the school entryway. The panels were designed to reflect the Newton School mission statement and embody Community Engagement, Academic Success, Overall Well-being and Collaboration. I was able to volunteer with a few clusters and it was a

wonderful experience. Watching the celebration when a student found the glass piece that fit absolutely perfectly was unforgettable. It was amazing to see the progress over the week.

In addition to funding the Artist-In-Residence each year, we also enthusiastically fund art and culturally related performances for students. This year, the performances include “Wilma Jean” at Pentangle Arts and “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” at the Hopkins Center. The PTA also funds student trips to the Hood Museum of Art through the Art Start/Images Program. These programs encourage students to explore, create, and experience art. They are a wonderful addition to the Newton School curriculum and the PTA has supported them for several years.

The PTA is able to support these programs through our annual appeals letter and other fundraising efforts. These include the 4th of July festivities, PTA phone book sales, town meeting lunch, fall bulb and holiday poinsettia fundraisers, and spring plant sale. We are always eager for additional volunteers to support us in our efforts. Anyone interested in joining the PTA is invited to attend our monthly meetings (usually held on the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00 pm, at the Newton Library).

We offer our sincere gratitude to all of the Strafford community for your generous support. Your contributions of time, talent, and funds support wonderful programming for the children of Strafford. The PTA would not be able to meet its goals without the continued generosity and volunteer efforts of wonderful members and townspeople.

Sincerely,
Christine Bailey-Kellogg, President
Kira Campbell, Vice-President
Shannon Varley, Secretary
Nicole Ekegren, Treasurer

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXPENDITURE BUDGET FY 2020-2021**

DESCRIPTION	FY20 APPROVED	FY21 PROPOSED	CHANGE
1100 REGULAR ED INSTRUCTION	\$1,948,410	\$2,080,210	6.76%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 562,005	\$ 574,685	\$ 12,680
102 PARA SALARY	1,330	-	(1,330)
103 SALARY SUB	8,000	8,800	800
108 SALARY- GENERAL	-	-	-
109 OTHER SALARY	3,000	3,000	-
130 OVERTIME SALARY	-	-	-
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	82,266	114,473	32,207
211 HRA	16,964	18,755	1,791
220 FICA	41,011	42,682	1,671
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	3,686	1,782	(1,903)
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	2,578	3,500	922
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	6,233	7,034	801
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	2,990	4,662	1,672
280 DENTAL INS	4,195	4,349	154
291 LIFE	1,072	903	(170)
293 LTD	1,433	1,460	27
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	28,378	31,116	2,738
332 PURCHASED SERVICE	1,931	9,740	7,809
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	6,250	9,250	3,000
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	482,296	518,875	36,579
562 TUITION TO NON- VT LEA	213,169	234,763	21,594
563 TUITION TO PRIVATE SOURCES	442,436	453,445	11,009
568 VOC TECH ON BEHALF	5,817	7,351	1,534
569 TUITION-OTHER VOC	4,449	4,449	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	10,604	10,604	-
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	9,067	7,282	(1,785)
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-
810 DUES & FEES	7,250	7,250	-
1102 ART	\$ 18,012	\$ 2,009	-88.85%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 14,853	\$ -	\$ (14,853)
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	-
220 FICA	1,137	-	(1,137)
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	13	-	(13)
280 DENTAL INS	-	-	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	2,009	2,009	-
1106 FOREIGN LANGUAGE	\$ 24,785	\$ -	-100%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 22,660	\$ -	\$ (22,660)
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	-
220 FICA	1,734	-	(1,734)
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	-	-
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	59	-	(59)
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	39	-	(39)
280 DENTAL INS	-	-	-
291 LIFE	-	-	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	147	-	(147)
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	147	-	(147)

DESCRIPTION	FY20	FY21	CHANGE
	APPROVED	PROPOSED	
1108 PE	\$ 43,555	\$ 45,326	4.07%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 30,564	\$ 31,481	\$ 917
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	7,154	8,058	904
211 HRA	480	546	66
220 FICA	2,338	2,339	1
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	-	-
260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	106	106
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	190	195	5
280 DENTAL INS	253	255	2
291 LIFE	27	52	25
293 LTD	79	34	(45)
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	2,470	1,715	(755)
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	545	545
1112 MUSIC	\$ 18,541	\$ 18,893	1.90%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 15,282	\$ 15,741	\$ 459
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	-
220 FICA	1,169	1,170	1
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	130	22	(108)
430 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	325	325	-
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLOGY	100	100	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,535	1,535	-
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-
810 DUES & FEES	-	-	-
1200 SPECIAL ED INSTRUCTION	\$ 251,952	\$ 296,523	17.69%
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 251,952	\$ 296,523	\$ 44,571
1300 VOC TECH TUITION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1400 ATHLETICS & COCURRICULAR	\$ 2,747	\$ 2,747	0%
109 OTHER SALARY	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -
220 FICA	77	77	-
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	-	-	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	970	970	-
810 DUES & FEES	700	700	-
2120 GUIDANCE	\$ 66,028	\$ 75,259	13.98%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 48,082	\$ 59,823	\$ 11,741
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	11,924	7,140	(4,784)
211 HRA	-	1,365	1,365
220 FICA	3,678	4,443	765
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	-	-
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	409	494	85
280 DENTAL INS	422	422	0
291 LIFE	30	87	57
293 LTD	24	13	(11)
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	1,200	1,200	-
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	-	-	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	88	100	12
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	172	172	1

DESCRIPTION	FY20 APPROVED	FY21 PROPOSED	CHANGE
2130 HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 41,406	\$ 40,718	-1.66%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 28,849	\$ 29,716	\$ 867
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	7,154	4,284	(2,870)
211 HRA	-	819	819
220 FICA	2,207	2,207	0
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	-	-
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	88	147	59
280 DENTAL INS	253	422	169
291 LIFE	18	53	35
293 LTD	14	60	46
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	2,210	2,210	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	613	800	188
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-
2212 CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION	\$ 7,849	\$ 8,838	12.60%
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 7,849	\$ 8,838	\$ 989
2213 STAFF TRAINING	\$ 21,405	\$ 21,405	\$ -
105 SUPERVISOR SALARY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
220 FICA	-	-	-
250 TUITION BENEFIT	14,000	14,000	-
293 LTD	5	5	-
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	-	-	-
330 INSERVICES & TRAINING	6,000	6,000	-
580 TRAVEL	1,400	1,400	-
2220 LIBRARY/MEDIA SERVICES	\$ 45,799	\$ 49,254	7.54%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 32,277	\$ 33,245	\$ 968
102 PARA SALARY	-	-	-
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	7,154	8,046	892
211 HRA	-	1,638	1,638
220 FICA	2,469	2,469	-
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	274	165	(110)
280 DENTAL INS	253	253	-
291 LIFE	18	52	34
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	147	180	33
640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	2,156	2,156	-
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	450	450	-
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-
810 DUES & FEES	600	600	-
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$ 9,101	\$ 9,101	0.00%
104 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -
106 CLERICAL SALARY	1,000	1,000	-
220 FICA	268	268	-
310 HRA ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	400	400	-
320 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	500	500	-
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	100	100	-
520 INSURANCE OTHER THAN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,936	2,936	-
540 ADVERTISING	800	800	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	98	98	-
810 DUES & FEES	500	500	-
2313 BOARD TREASURER	\$ 2,916	\$ 2,916	0.00%
104 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ -
220 FICA	168	168	-
533 POSTAGE	350	350	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	98	98	-
810 DUES & FEES	100	100	-

DESCRIPTION	FY20	FY21	CHANGE
	APPROVED	PROPOSED	
2315 LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.00%
342 LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -
2320 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION	\$ 32,846	\$ 36,985	12.60%
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 32,846	\$ 36,985	\$ 4,139
2410 OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL	\$ 202,919	\$ 209,589	3.29%
104 ADMIN SALARY	\$ 96,938	\$ 87,550	\$ (9,388)
106 CLERICAL SALARY	38,027	41,406	3,379
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	35,175	39,557	4,382
211 HRA		5,460	5,460
220 FICA	10,325	9,578	(747)
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	1,462	2,000	538
250 TUITION BENEFIT	500	3,876	3,376
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	1,147	683	(464)
280 DENTAL INS	844	844	0
291 LIFE	300	435	135
293 LTD	31	30	(1)
330 INSERVICES & TRAINING	850	850	-
443 RENTALS OF COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY	6,000	6,000	-
550 PRINTING & BINDING	800	800	-
580 TRAVEL	1,000	1,000	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	3,920	3,920	-
739 EQUIPMENT-OTHER	-	-	-
810 DUES & FEES	1,800	1,800	-
531 TELEPHONE SERVICES	3,800	3,800	-
2490 TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT	\$ 14,717	\$ 15,656	6.38%
101 TEACHER SALARY	\$ 10,759	\$ 11,082	\$ 323
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	2,385	2,682	297
211 HRA		546	546
220 FICA	823	823	(0)
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	420	420	-
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	245	18	(227)
280 DENTAL INS	84	85	1
580 TRAVEL	-	-	-
2510 FISCAL SERVICES	\$ 69,957	\$ 76,378	9.18%
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 50,957	\$ 57,378	\$ 6,421
835 INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT	19,000	19,000	-
2580 ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 35,346	\$ 33,150	-6.21%
352 OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,500	\$ (3,500)
432 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY	500	500	-
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	10,346	11,650	1,304
650 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	3,000	3,000	-
734 TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE	15,500	15,500	-
2590 OTHER CENTRAL SUPPORT	\$ 5,337	\$ 6,110	14.47%
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 5,337	\$ 6,110	\$ 773

DESCRIPTION	FY20 APPROVED	FY21 PROPOSED	CHANGE
2610 OPERATION OF BUILDING	\$ 137,956	\$ 137,375	-0.42%
105 SUPERVISOR SALARY	\$ 44,342	\$ 45,627	\$ 1,286
108 SALARY- GENERAL	18,743	19,314	571
130 OVERTIME SALARY	-	-	-
210 HEALTH INSURANCE	6,349	1,500	(4,849)
220 FICA	4,826	4,823	(3)
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	1,722	1,722	-
250 TUITION BENEFIT	200	200	-
270 WORKERS COMPENSATION	3,736	5,000	1,264
280 DENTAL INS	294	844	550
291 LIFE	30	130	100
293 LTD	14	15	1
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,500	3,500	-
410 UTILITY SERVICES	-	500	500
421 WASTE REMOVAL	3,000	3,000	-
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-
441 MAINTENANCE RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	-	-	-
520 INSURANCE OTHER THAN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	6,180	6,180	-
610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	13,720	13,720	-
622 ENERGY ELECTRICITY	16,000	16,000	-
624 ENERGY FUEL OIL	15,000	15,000	-
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	-	-	-
810 DUES & FEES	300	300	-
2620 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING	\$ 46,600	\$ 44,600	-4.29%
340 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
410 UTILITY SERVICES	-	-	-
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLOGY	42,000	40,000	(2,000)
441 MAINTENANCE RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	4,600	4,600	-
2630 GROUNDS	\$ 8,000	\$ 11,500	43.75%
422 SNOW REMOVAL	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 1,000
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE NON-TECHNOLOGY	-	-	-
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	-	2,500	2,500
2711 TRANSPORTATION-RESIDENT	\$ 94,451	\$ 97,285	3.00%
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	\$ 94,451	\$ 97,285	\$ 2,834
2715 TRANSPORTION-FIELD TRIPS	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,600	8.57%
519 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PURCHASED FROM OTHER SOURCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,600	\$ 600
2790 OTHER TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
519 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PURCHASED FROM OTHER SOURCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3100 FOOD SERVICES	\$ 49,295	\$ 49,295	\$ -
912 TRANSFER TO FOOD SERVICE	\$ 49,295	\$ 49,295	\$ -
5020 DEBT SERVICE-LONG TERM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
831 REDEMPTION OF PRINCIPAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
832 INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$3,209,430	\$3,381,221	5.35%
	\$	171,791	

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE BUDGET FY 2020-2021**

Description	STRAFFORD Budget 2020	STRAFFORD Budget 2021
BAL. CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR YRS	\$ 38,233	\$ -
<u>REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES</u>		
Interest	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Tuition	\$ 14,700	\$ 16,300
TuitionPK	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous/RENTALS	\$ 5,600	\$ 5,000
Donations		
Total Local Source Revenues	\$ 45,300	\$ 46,300
<u>REV. FROM STATE/FED. SOURCES</u>		
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$ 2,909,644	\$ 3,097,571
ACT 60 Related Transportation	\$ 36,765.50	\$ 42,182
SMALL SCHOOLS	\$ 123,316	\$ 123,316
Medicaid Reimbursement (IEP & EPSDT)	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$ 3,094,725	\$ 3,288,069
<u>OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS</u>		
School Wide CFP/previously Title I/other	\$ 25,355.00	\$ 39,500.00
Total Other FEDERAL Grants	\$ 25,355	\$ 39,500
Vocational Education		
Tech Ctr from State to the Tech Ctr	\$ 5,817	\$ 7,351
Grand Total All Revenues	\$ 3,209,430	\$ 3,381,221
		5.35%
	FY20	FY21
Expenditures	\$ 3,209,430	\$ 3,381,221
Less local revenue	\$ (293,970)	\$ (276,298)
Education Spending	\$ 2,915,461	\$ 3,104,923
Equalized Pupils	171	166.56
Per Pupil Spending	\$ 17,049.48	\$ 18,641.47

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES ONLY

District: Stratford SU: White River Valley		T199 Orange County	Property dollar equivalent yield 10,883	Homestead tax rate per \$10,883 of spending per equalized pupil 1.00		
			13,396	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income		
Expenditures		FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673	\$3,209,430	\$3,381,221	1.
2.	<i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-	2.
3.	<i>minus</i> Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-	3.
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673	\$3,209,430	\$3,381,221	4.
5.	<i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	5.
6.	<i>plus</i> Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	6.
7.	Total Budget	\$3,150,021	\$3,107,673	\$3,209,430	\$3,381,221	7.
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	8.
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	9.
Revenues						
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$222,444	\$354,518	\$335,970	\$276,298	10.
11.	<i>plus</i> Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-	-	11.
12.	<i>minus</i> All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	NA	12.
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$222,444	\$354,518	\$335,970	\$276,298	13.
14.	Education Spending	\$2,927,577	\$2,753,155	\$2,873,460	\$3,104,923	14.
15.	Equalized Pupils	179.07	177.20	171.00	166.56	15.

16.		Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$16,348.79	\$15,536.99	\$16,803.86	\$18,641.47	16.
17.	minus	Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	minus	Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$14.99	\$22.62	\$22.34	\$29	18.
19.	minus	Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	19.
20.	minus	Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	minus	Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	21.
22.	minus	Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	22.
23.	minus	Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	23.
24.	minus	Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	\$18.36	-	\$9.00	\$22	24.
25.		Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$17,386 \$17,386.00	threshold = \$17,816 \$17,816.00	threshold = \$18,311 \$18,311.00	threshold = \$18,756 \$18,756.00	25.
26.	plus	Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	-	26.
27.		Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$16,349	\$15,537	\$16,804	\$18,641.47	27.
28.		District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	160.913% based on yield \$10,160	152.025% based on yield \$10,220	157.812% based on \$10,648	171.290% based on yield \$10,883	28.

Prorating the local tax rate

29.		Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$18,641.47 ÷ (\$10,883 / \$1.00)]	\$1.6091 based on \$1.00	\$1.5203 based on \$1.00	\$1.5781 based on \$1.00	\$1.7129 based on \$1.00	29.
30.		Percent of Stratford equalized pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	30.
31.		Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.71)	\$1.6091	\$1.5203	\$1.5781	\$1.7129	31.
32.		Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	104.51%	103.72%	103.07%	101.65%	32.
33.		Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.7129 / 101.65%)	\$1.5397 based on \$1.00	\$1.4658 based on \$1.00	\$1.5311 based on \$1.00	\$1.6851 based on \$1.00	33.

If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a **PARTIAL** homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.

34.		Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(18,641.47 ÷ \$13,396) x 2.00%]	2.73% based on 2.00%	2.51% based on 2.00%	2.57% based on 2.00%	2.78% based on 2.00%	34.
35.		Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.78%)	2.73% based on 2.00%	2.51% based on 2.00%	2.57% based on 2.00%	2.78% based on 2.00%	35.

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$10,883 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$13,396 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.654. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**
 - Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
 - The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

**WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
EXPENDITURE BUDGET
2020-2021**

FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Budget	FY20-21 Budget	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
2100 MUSIC PROGRAM	110 SALARIES	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ (3,000)	
	220 FICA	115	-	-	-	230	-	(230)	
	330 CONTRACTED SERV	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-	(1,000)	
	610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	2,385	-	-	-	770	-	(770)	
2100 MUSIC PROGRAM Total		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	#####
2200 CURRICULUM	110 SALARIES	\$ 140,280	\$ 97,854	\$ 128,000	\$ 111,038	\$ 209,005	\$ 96,071	\$ (112,934)	
	210 HEALTH INS	22,362	6,397	9,724	4,870	7,099	11,924	4,825	
	211 HRA	-	-	-	-	-	2,569	2,569	
	220 FICA	10,731	7,316	9,792	8,370	13,593	7,350	(6,243)	
	230 LIFE INSURANCE	310	678	310	370	524	524	-	
	240 RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	-	-	-	42	-	50	50	
	250 WORKERS COMP	3,263	3,424	3,718	9,196	5,902	5,523	(379)	
	260 UNEMPLOYMENT	-	-	-	-	-	41	41	
	290 DENTAL INS	444	268	600	(325)	770	462	(308)	
	330 CONTRACTED SERV	-	-	-	-	35,000	10,000	(25,000)	
	339 PROF DEV SUPPORT TRANS	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	(20,000)	
	580 TRAVEL	3,000	1,674	2,500	4,171	7,500	2,500	(5,000)	
	610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,500	1,627	1,250	2,328	24,750	1,500	(23,250)	
	640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	59	400	26	28,900	500	(28,400)	
	670 SOFTWARE	-	594	-	1,199	-	-	-	
	810 DUES & FEES	600	806	600	633	4,850	4,500	(350)	
2200 CURRICULUM Total		\$ 182,990	\$ 120,697	\$ 156,894	\$ 141,918	\$ 357,893	\$ 143,514	\$ (214,379)	-59.90%
2201 TECHNOLOGY	110 SALARIES	\$ 76,875	\$ 76,875	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 87,400	\$ 104,266	\$ 16,866	
	210 HEALTH INS	7,855	8,806	5,531	4,367	6,349	7,238	889	
	211 HRA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	220 FICA	5,881	5,783	6,120	5,900	6,686	6,887	201	
	230 LIFE INSURANCE	30	289	30	24	34	34	-	
	240 RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	4,228	4,338	4,400	4,485	4,530	4,757	227	
	250 WORKERS COMP	-	-	600	-	448	896	448	
	270 PROF DEV	1,500	1,783	900	714	2,876	2,876	-	
	290 DENTAL INS	444	479	444	229	444	444	-	
	330 CONTRACTED SERV	7,500	1,419	5,000	6,211	3,000	4,100	1,100	
	580 TRAVEL	1,000	3,756	1,250	3,179	3,500	3,500	-	
	610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	-	529	500	2,439	3,000	4,500	1,500	
	730 EQUIPMENT	500	459	2,500	-	-	6,000	6,000	
2201 TECHNOLOGY Total		\$ 105,813	\$ 104,517	\$ 107,275	\$ 107,546	\$ 118,268	\$ 145,498	\$ 27,230	23.02%

FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Budget	FY20-21 Budget	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
2219 IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCT	110 SALARIES	\$ 41,777	\$ 33,443	\$ 45,000	-	\$ 89,000	\$ 98,213	\$ 9,213	
	210 HEALTH INS	14,908	11,920	18,216	-	11,924	17,402	5,478	
	220 FICA	3,196	2,328	3,998	-	6,809	7,513	704	
	230 LIFE INSURANCE	-	-	-	-	-	295	295	
	240 RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	-	-	-	-	-	19,152	19,152	
	250 WORKERS COMP	376	-	400	-	378	534	156	
	270 PROF DEV	1,500	375	1,000	-	-	3,000	3,000	
	290 DENTAL INS	444	262	355	-	444	699	255	
	330 CONTRACTED SERV	1,000	126	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	
	580 TRAVEL	1,500	2,579	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-	
	610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	188	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	
	640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	400	-	200	-	200	200	-	
	810 DUES & FEES	500	-	500	-	500	500	-	
2219 IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCT Total		66,601	51,221	74,169	-	113,755	152,008	38,253	33.63%
2313 TREASURER	112 TREASURER SALARY	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 900	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,236	\$ 36	
	220 FICA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91	\$ 94	\$ 3	
2313 TREASURER Total		\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 900	\$ 1,291	\$ 1,330	\$ 39	3.00%
2321 SUPERINTENDENT	110 SALARIES	\$ 121,729	\$ 122,641	\$ 122,979	\$ 165,993	\$ 126,668	\$ 130,468	\$ 3,800	
	111 SUPPORT SALARIES	92,220	66,389	94,720	28,519	49,514	53,999	4,485	
	210 HEALTH INS	42,035	27,878	31,237	16,272	29,511	33,643	4,132	
	220 FICA	16,367	13,856	16,501	13,838	13,320	13,720	400	
	230 LIFE INSURANCE	340	769	340	431	340	340	-	
	240 RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	4,962	3,651	6,764	3,564	2,525	2,651	126	
	250 WORKERS COMP	1,926	1,926	834	7,360	381	763	381	
	270 PROF DEV	6,500	3,582	4,000	5,004	4,000	4,000	-	
	290 DENTAL INS	1,332	1,352	1,455	701	888	888	-	
	330 CONTRACTED SERV	1,500	3,452	11,500	-	5,000	5,000	-	
	360 LEGAL FEES	15,000	57,526	20,000	31,787	20,000	20,000	-	
	430 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	1,000	-	500	-	500	500	-	
	580 TRAVEL	5,000	5,424	5,000	4,996	5,500	5,500	-	
	610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	4,000	5,534	4,000	4,205	5,000	4,500	(500)	
	640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	1,144	400	525	400	200	(200)	
730 EQUIPMENT	1,500	641	1,000	-	-	-	-		
810 DUES & FEES	7,000	12,659	15,000	15,146	11,500	12,000	500		
890 HINGE&PRIN IING EXP	7,000	4,081	6,000	3,849	6,000	4,000	(2,000)		
2321 SUPERINTENDENT Total		\$ 329,911	\$ 332,506	\$ 342,230	\$ 302,189	\$ 281,048	\$ 292,172	\$ 11,124	3.96%

FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Budget	FY20-21 Budget	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
2400 GRANT ADMIN	110 SALARIES	\$ 53,871	\$ 53,871	\$ 55,217	\$ 15,118	\$ 56,874	\$ 48,367	\$ (8,507)	
	210 HEALTH INS	1,600	1,347	1,600	761	1,600	1,710	110	
	220 FICA	4,121	4,217	4,224	1,211	4,351	3,700	(651)	
	230 LIFE INSURANCE	280	133	280	12	280	560	280	
	250 WORKERS COMP	485	520	424	-	443	280	(163)	
	270 PROF DEV	1,000	160	1,000	197	1,000	2,000	1,000	
	290 DENTAL INS	355	459	355	389	444	430	(14)	
	300 AUDIT	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	-	
	533 POSTAGE	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	
	580 TRAVEL	800	4	800	-	800	1,600	800	
	610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	500	566	500	2,067	650	4,000	3,350	
	640 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	-	250	-	250	500	250	
	670 SOFTWARE	100	-	150	-	-	200	200	
	800 OTHER EXPENDITURES	-	290	-	-	-	400	400	
	911 GENERAL FUND TRANSFER	-	4,178	-	-	-	-	-	
2400 GRANT ADMIN Total		\$ 66,612	\$ 65,770	\$ 67,800	\$ 19,756	\$ 66,692	\$ 63,746	\$ (2,946)	-4.42%
2410 PRE K CORD	110 SALARIES	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,914	\$ -	\$ 22,677	\$ 39,169	\$ 16,492	
	220 FICA	765	-	835	-	1,935	3,746	1,811	
	270 PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	
	330 CONTRACTED SERV	-	-	9,676	7,971	11,000	12,000	1,000	
	580 TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,500	-	
2410 PRE K CORD Total		\$ 10,765	\$ -	\$ 21,425	\$ 7,971	\$ 37,112	\$ 58,415	\$ 21,303	57.40%
2525 FISCAL	110 SALARIES	\$ 156,997	\$ 102,309	\$ 90,000	\$ 79,919	\$ 232,212	\$ 97,850	\$ (134,362)	
	111 SUPPORT SALARIES	99,284	167,416	187,572	174,969	102,700	293,817	191,117	
	210 HEALTH INS	55,961	52,503	46,048	52,266	78,791	75,969	(2,822)	
	211 HRA	-	-	-	-	-	15,600	14,600	
	220 FICA	19,605	19,679	20,852	18,493	25,621	29,963	4,342	
	230 LIFE INSURANCE	370	839	400	559	1,574	1,574	-	
	240 RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION	15,820	13,206	14,991	13,418	14,991	15,741	750	
	250 WORKERS COMP	2,307	1,504	2,000	-	1,805	3,609	1,805	
	270 PROF DEV	2,000	815	2,000	2,193	2,000	2,000	-	
	290 DENTAL INS	1,721	1,707	2,132	1,036	2,509	2,509	-	
	330 CONTRACTED SERV	-	11,938	15,254	86,063	13,254	13,254	-	
	341 AUDIT	-	-	-	12,784	-	-	-	
	430 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	16,000	28,825	500	12,682	500	500	-	
	580 TRAVEL	6,000	4,778	4,500	2,815	4,600	4,600	-	
	610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	5,000	7,199	5,000	6,160	7,000	5,000	(2,000)	
	670 SOFTWARE	-	-	-	31,677	-	5,000	5,000	
	730 EQUIPMENT	2,500	1,659	3,074	-	-	-	-	
	810 DUES & FEES	1,000	933	600	6,547	600	1,000	400	
2525 FISCAL Total		\$ 384,565	\$ 415,309	\$ 394,923	\$ 501,582	\$ 488,156	\$ 567,985	\$ 78,830	16.15%

FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Budget	FY20-21 Budget	DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
2526 FISCAL AUDIT	341 AUDIT	\$ 7,300	\$ 10,300	\$ 10,300	\$ 33,608	\$ 47,694	\$ 50,000	\$ 2,306	
2526 FISCAL AUDIT Total		\$ 7,300	\$ 10,300	\$ 10,300	\$ 33,608	\$ 47,694	\$ 50,000	\$ 2,306	4.83%
2600 CENTRAL OFFICE	110 SALARIES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,457	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	211 HRA	-	-	-	115,795	-	110,000	110,000	
	220 FICA	-	-	-	176	-	-	-	
	260 UNEMPLOYMENT	4,500	-	4,000	2,056	4,000	4,000	-	
	293 LTD	-	-	9,000	1,962	4,000	4,000	-	
	294 HRA OOP COSTS	-	-	8,128	4,978	8,372	10,000	1,628	
	295 HRA ADMIN	-	-	3,503	13,904	3,503	5,000	1,497	
	330 CONTRACTED SERV	5,500	7,019	5,000	2,296	5,000	5,000	-	
	331 SECT 125 ADMIN	2,500	1,121	-	874	-	1,000	1,000	
	421 WASTE REMOVAL	2,200	1,211	1,500	713	1,500	1,500	-	
	430 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	3,000	2,026	2,000	11	2,000	2,000	-	
	441 MAINTENANCE RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	55,483	55,608	56,593	46,432	58,121	58,121	-	
	520 INSURANCE OTHER THAN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	7,200	7,899	7,500	10,254	7,875	11,254	3,379	
	530 COMMUNICATIONS	3,200	5,941	5,980	7,863	6,142	6,142	-	
	533 POSTAGE	4,000	5,849	5,000	4,048	5,135	5,135	-	
	540 ADVERTISING	4,000	3,766	2,000	1,707	2,000	2,000	-	
	610 SUPPLIES GENERAL	9,000	9,005	12,000	7,820	12,000	10,000	(2,000)	
	670 SOFTWARE	-	-	-	299	8,500	5,000	(3,500)	
	730 EQUIPMENT	\$ 8,500	\$ 6,758	\$ 8,500	\$ 7,626	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	
2600 CENTRAL OFFICE Total		\$ 109,083	\$ 106,202	\$ 130,704	\$ 240,271	\$ 128,147	\$ 248,152	\$ 120,004	93.65%
2900 OTHER	100 SAL/BENE POOL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
2900 OTHER Total		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	N/A
Grand Total		\$1,269,640	\$1,206,522	\$1,306,920	\$1,356,090	\$1,645,055	\$1,722,819	\$ 76,764	4.67%

WHITE RIVER SUPERVISORY UNION
SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET
2020-2021

1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION	FY17-18	FY17-18	FY18-19	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Revised	Proposed	DIFFERENCE
32-211-11-1200-5110-00 EEE TEACHER SALS	\$ 121,652	\$ 120,053	\$ 134,216	\$ 126,143	\$ 120,140	\$ 128,070	\$ 7,930
32-211-11-1200-5115-00 EEE SUPPORT STAFF SALS	18,355	8,319	12,958	-	1,802	11,000	9,198
32-211-11-1200-5210-00 EEE INSTR - HEALTH INS	29,643	28,070	20,773	19,612	23,059	33,533	10,474
32-211-11-1200-5220-00 EEE INSTR - EMPLOYER TAXES	10,710	9,566	11,259	9,439	10,284	10,956	672
32-211-11-1200-5230-00 EEE INSTR - LIFE INS	-	31	-	33	380	-	(380)
32-211-11-1200-5240-00 EEE INSTR - EMPLER RETIREMENT	6,805	-	8,163	100	9,551	-	(9,551)
32-211-11-1200-5250-00 EEE INSTR - WORKERS COMP	1,187	1,285	1,325	-	1,563	1,600	37
32-211-11-1200-5260-00 EEE INSTR - UNEMPLOYMENT	320	580	320	960	340	500	160
32-211-11-1200-5270-00 EEE INSTR - PROF DEV	4,000	532	4,000	2,792	4,000	4,000	-
32-211-11-1200-5290-00 EEE INSTR - DENTAL INS	915	1,657	915	900	888	900	12
32-211-11-1200-5290-01 EEE INSTR - DISABILITY INS	456	321	400	28	-	-	-
32-211-11-1200-5330-00 EEE - CONTRACTED SERVICES	10,021	-	10,100	5,900	12,200	12,000	(200)
32-211-11-1200-5560-00 EEE - TUITION	-	-	3,300	72	3,000	3,000	-
32-211-11-1200-5580-00 EEE INSTR - TRAVEL	3,169	2,588	3,000	2,346	3,300	3,300	-
32-211-11-1200-5610-00 EEE - SUPPLIES	3,000	803	1,000	858	1,200	1,200	-
32-211-11-1200-5730-00 EEE - EQUIPMENT	2,000	-	500	584	5,000	1,500	(3,500)
32-211-11-1200-5810-00 EEE-DIRECT INSTR.-DUES&FEES	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
TOTAL 1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION	\$ 212,233	\$ 173,804	\$ 212,229	\$ 169,768	\$ 197,707	\$ 212,559	\$ 14,852
32-211-11-1210-5110-00 IDEA B PK - TEACHER SALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,229	\$ 8,229	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-1210-5210-00 IDEA B PK - HEALTH INS	-	-	1,295	1,187	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5220-00 IDEA B PK - EMPLOYER TAXES	-	-	629	629	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5230-00 IDEA B PK - LIFE INS	-	-	38	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5240-01 IDEA B PK - VSTR CONTR FED FUNDED SALS	-	-	1,296	897	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5250-00 IDEA B PK - WORKERS COMP	-	-	23	299	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5290-00 IDEA B PK - DENTAL INS	-	-	58	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5290-01 IDEA B PK - DISABILITY INS	-	-	36	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1210-5610-00 IDEA B PRE-K - SUPPLIES	-	-	-	-	12,500	12,500	-
TOTAL 1210 IDEA B PK	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,603	\$ 11,241	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	\$ -

1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Revised	FY20-21 Proposed	DIFFERENCE
32-211-11-1211-5110-00 IDEA B PK BASIC - SALARIES	\$ 10,204	\$ 9,083	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-1211-5210-00 IDEA B PK BASIC - HEALTH INS	1,515	-	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1211-5220-00 IDEA B PK BASIC - EMPLYR TAXES	781	695	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-1211-5240-01 IDEA B PK BASIC - VSTR RETIR CONTR	1,358	171	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL 1211 IDEA B PK BASIC	\$ 13,858	\$ 9,948	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-11-2150-5110-00 EEE - SLP SALS	\$ 42,325	\$ -	\$ 43,383	\$ 43,383	\$ 24,511	\$ 73,809	\$ 49,298
32-211-11-2150-5210-00 EEE-SLP HEALTH INS PREM	9,459	-	2,321	2,172	-	7,586	7,586
32-211-11-2150-5220-00 EEE - SLP EMPLOYER TAXES	3,238	-	3,319	3,284	7,609	5,647	(1,962)
32-211-11-2150-5240-00 EEE - SLP RETIREMENT CONTR	-	-	7,119	1,701	-	-	-
32-211-11-2150-5250-00 EEE-SLP WORKERS COMP	-	360	200	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2150-5290-00 EEE- SLP DENTAL INS PREM	-	-	119	119	-	453	453
32-211-11-2150-5330-00 EEE - SLP CONTR SERVICES	-	-	500	500	-	500	500
32-211-11-2150-5580-00 EEE- SLP TRAVEL	500	-	-	-	500	500	-
TOTAL 2150 SPEECH SERVICES	\$ 55,522	\$ 360	\$ 56,961	\$ 51,159	\$ 32,620	\$ 88,495	\$ 55,875
32-211-11-2160-5110-00 EEE - OT SALARIES	\$ 21,200	\$ 29,305	\$ 21,836	\$ 21,836	\$ 20,294	\$ 33,364	\$ 13,070
32-211-11-2160-5210-00 EEE-OT HEALTH INS	4,740	3,049	2,292	2,292	-	-	-
32-211-11-2160-5220-00 EEE - OT EMPLOYER TAXES	1,622	2,242	1,671	1,671	3,346	2,552	(794)
32-211-11-2160-5240-00 EEE - OT EMPLOYER RETIREMENT BENIES	-	1,318	2,839	2,839	-	1,860	1,860
32-211-11-2160-5250-00 EEE-OT WORKERS COMP	-	-	199	-	-	-	-
32-211-11-2160-5290-00 EEE-OT DENTAL INS	-	-	200	200	-	435	435
32-211-11-2160-5330-00 EEE - OT CONTR SERVICES	4,000	-	4,000	2,390	5,000	4,000	(1,000)
32-211-11-2160-5580-00 EEE - OT TRAVEL	500	-	500	557	500	500	-

	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Revised	FY20-21 Proposed	DIFFERENCE
1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION							
TOTAL 2160 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	\$ 32,062	\$ 35,914	\$ 33,537	\$ 31,785	\$ 29,140	\$ 42,711	\$ 13,571
32-211-39-1200-5110-00 SPEC ED - TEACHER SALS	\$ 783,876	\$ 780,866	\$ 966,562	\$ 1,141,085	\$ 1,065,337	\$ 1,254,077	\$ 188,740
32-211-39-1200-5115-00 SPEC ED - SUPPORT STAFF SALS	1,251,947	1,272,673	1,207,768	1,280,006	1,217,657	1,066,062	(151,595)
32-211-39-1200-5116-00 SPEC ED - SUMMER SALS	35,000	17,728	35,000	29,342	36,343	38,000	1,657
32-211-39-1200-5120-00 SPEC ED - SUBSTITUTES	40,000	97,675	60,000	73,592	60,000	70,000	10,000
32-211-39-1200-5210-00 SPEC ED - HEALTH INS	664,108	460,085	426,077	423,284	438,316	460,000	21,684
32-211-39-1200-5220-00 SPEC ED - EMPLOYER TAXES	161,478	162,911	173,604	188,504	171,439	190,000	18,561
32-211-39-1200-5230-00 SPEC ED - LIFE INS	1,680	(294)	1,900	(689)	1,562	1,600	38
32-211-39-1200-5232-00 SPED-VSTRS OPEB	-	-	-	8,288	-	-	-
32-211-39-1200-5240-00 SPEC ED - RETIREMENT CONTR	59,466	47,143	66,427	60,509	72,240	72,240	-
32-211-39-1200-5250-00 SPEC ED - WORKERS COMP INS	18,637	18,069	19,884	34,348	13,353	13,353	-
32-211-39-1200-5260-00 SPEC ED - UNEMPLOYMENT	9,235	10,242	9,000	4,314	5,875	5,875	-
32-211-39-1200-5270-00 SPEC ED - PROF DEV	-	(324)	-	50,853	3,500	3,500	-
32-211-39-1200-5290-00 SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	25,648	19,775	29,734	20,318	30,689	28,000	(2,689)
32-211-39-1200-5291-00 SPECIAL ED- OTHER EMPEE BEN	6,107	3,051	6,523	171	6,138	-	(6,138)
32-211-39-1200-5330-00 SPEC ED - CONTRACTED SERVICES	227,595	158,185	168,200	159,559	256,000	260,000	4,000
32-211-39-1200-5530-00 SPEC ED - TELEPHONE	1,000	-	3,800	-	4,200	1,500	(2,700)
32-211-39-1200-5531-00 SPEC ED - POSTAGE	-	-	200	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-1200-5540-00 SPEC ED - ADVERTISING	-	54	200	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-1200-5560-00 SPEC ED - TUITION	725,614	850,476	918,400	991,105	799,700	888,532	88,832
32-211-39-1200-5580-00 SPEC ED - TRAVEL	4,000	5,705	10,000	6,530	11,000	10,000	(1,000)
32-211-39-1200-5594-00 SPEC ED - EXCESS COSTS	315,722	493,544	632,000	482,601	764,000	650,000	(114,000)
32-211-39-1200-5610-00 SPEC ED - SUPPLIES	30,000	6,872	43,000	18,464	32,813	43,500	10,687
32-211-39-1200-5670-00 SPEC ED - SOFTWARE	5,000	5,540	5,000	10,545	5,000	6,000	1,000
32-211-39-1200-5730-00 SPEC ED - EQUIPMENT	15,000	10,126	20,000	18,927	25,000	26,000	1,000
TOTAL 1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION	\$4,381,113	\$4,420,100	\$4,803,279	\$5,001,657	\$5,020,162	\$5,088,239	\$ 68,077
32-211-39-1201-5330-00 IDEA B- PROPORTIONATE SHARE EXP	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,214	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-1201-5610-00 IDEA B PROP SHARE SUPPLIES	-	-	-	-	5,806	5,806	-
TOTAL 1201 PROPORTIONATE SHARE EXP	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,214	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,806	\$ 5,806	\$ -
32-211-39-1202-5560-01 IDEA B - TUITION	\$ 347,550	\$ 320,806	\$ 290,115	\$ 289,515	\$ 300,300	\$ 300,500	\$ 200
32-211-39-1202-5610-01 IDEA B - DIRECT INSTR SUPPLIES	-	-	-	-	7,187	-	(7,187)
TOTAL 1202 IDEAB	\$ 347,550	\$ 320,806	\$ 290,115	\$ 289,515	\$ 307,487	\$ 300,500	\$ (6,987)

	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Revised	FY20-21 Proposed	DIFFERENCE
1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION							
32-211-39-2140-5110-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH SRVCS SALARY	\$ 41,200	\$ -	\$ 7,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-2140-5210-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH HEALTH INS	7,789	-	300	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2140-5220-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH EMPLOYER TAXES	3,151	-	551	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2140-5240-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH RETIREMENT	2,266	-	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2140-5250-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH WORKERS COMP	65	-	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2140-5290-00 SPEC ED - PSYCH DENTAL INS	165	-	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2140-5330-00 SPEC ED - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	213,380	226,130	307,949	351,060	395,371	572,280	176,909
TOTAL 2140 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$ 268,016	\$ 226,130	\$ 316,000	\$ 351,060	\$ 395,371	\$ 572,280	\$ 176,909
32-211-39-2141-5330-00 IDEA B - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$ 112,000	\$ 111,930	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL 2141 PSYCHOLOGICAL	\$ 112,000	\$ 111,930	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-2150-5110-00 SPEC ED - SLP SALS	\$ 184,425	\$ 221,832	\$ 151,669	\$ 228,081	\$ 195,924	\$ 299,202	\$ 103,278
32-211-39-2150-5210-00 SPEC ED - SLP HEALTH INS	27,788	39,007	-	31,952	-	53,205	53,205
32-211-39-2150-5220-00 SPEC ED - SLP EMPLOYER TAXES	14,109	16,064	11,603	16,762	64,365	22,889	(41,476)
32-211-39-2150-5230-00 SPEC ED - SLP LIFE INS	120	233	-	107	-	110	110
32-211-39-2150-5240-00 SPEC ED - SLP RETIREMENT CONTR	2,730	1,615	7,537	2,605	-	2,500	2,500
32-211-39-2150-5250-00 SPEC ED - SLP WORKERS COMP	1,595	1,595	-	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2150-5270-00 SPEC ED - PROF DEV	6,000	1,714	-	5,171	-	5,200	5,200
32-211-39-2150-5290-00 SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	1,830	2,445	-	(36)	-	880	880
32-211-39-2150-5290-01 SPEC ED - DISABILITY	922	426	-	41	-	-	-
32-211-39-2150-5330-00 SPEC ED - SLP CONTRACTED SERVICES	50,000	33,239	50,000	32,730	75,612	35,000	(40,612)
32-211-39-2150-5330-01 IDEA B BASIC-SLP CONSULTING	-	-	-	-	12,188	12,188	-
32-211-39-2150-5580-00 SPEC ED - SLP TRAVEL	3,000	1,421	3,000	2,453	3,000	3,000	-
32-211-39-2150-5610-00 SPEC ED - SLP SUPPLIES	4,000	2,689	4,000	3,795	3,000	3,000	-
32-211-39-2150-5810-00 SPEC ED - SLP DUES & FEES	1,500	949	1,500	788	2,000	1,000	(1,000)
TOTAL 2150 SPEECH SERVICES	\$ 298,019	\$ 323,229	\$ 229,309	\$ 324,449	\$ 356,089	\$ 438,174	\$ 82,085
32-211-39-2154-5290-00 IDEA B - SPEECH DENTAL INS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (41)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-2154-5290-01 IDEA B - SPEECH DISABILITY INS	-	-	-	41	-	-	-

	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Revised	FY20-21 Proposed	DIFFERENCE
1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION							
TOTAL 2154 SPEC ED IDEA B SPEECH	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32-211-39-2160-5110-00 SPEC ED - OT SALARIES	\$ 121,032	\$ 149,562	\$ 130,351	\$ 132,311	\$ 67,645	\$ 183,432	\$ 115,787
32-211-39-2160-5210-00 SPEC ED - OT HEALTH INS	25,367	25,215	8,827	21,292	-	38,443	38,443
32-211-39-2160-5220-00 SPEC ED - OT EMPLOYER TAXES	9,259	10,903	9,972	9,866	28,389	14,033	(14,356)
32-211-39-2160-5230-00 SPEC ED - OT LIFE INS	90	57	200	66	-	447	447
32-211-39-2160-5240-00 SPEC ED - OT EMPER RETIREMENT	6,916	8,233	7,169	5,859	-	10,227	10,227
32-211-39-2160-5250-00 SPEC ED - OT WORKERS COMP	1,047	1,047	200	-	-	-	-
32-211-39-2160-5260-00 SPEC ED - OT UNEMPLOYMENT INS	-	-	300	896	-	-	-
32-211-39-2160-5270-00 SPEC ED - OT PROF DEV	4,248	583	-	1,482	-	6,000	6,000
32-211-39-2160-5290-00 SPEC ED - OT DENTAL INS	1,372	531	600	194	-	1,305	1,305
32-211-39-2160-5330-00 SPEC ED - OT CONTRACTED SERVICES	25,000	29,014	25,000	35,436	5,000	5,000	-
32-211-39-2160-5580-00 SPEC ED - OT TRAVEL	3,000	2,887	3,000	3,390	3,000	3,000	-
32-211-39-2160-5610-00 SPEC ED - OT SUPPLIES	3,000	2,498	3,000	3,044	20,000	2,000	(18,000)
32-211-39-2160-5730-00 SPEC ED - OT EQUIPMENT	-	167	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL 2160 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	\$ 200,331	\$ 230,697	\$ 188,619	\$ 213,836	\$ 124,034	\$ 263,887	\$ 139,853
32-211-39-2190-5330-00 SPEC ED - OTHER SUPPORT SERV	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,875	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,250	\$ 32,875	\$ (3,375)
TOTAL 2190 OTHER SUPORT SERV	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,875	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,250	\$ 32,875	\$ (3,375)
32-211-39-2200-5270-00 SPEC ED - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAININGS	\$ 25,000	\$ 27,137	\$ 30,000	\$ 9,841	\$ 40,000	\$ 46,500	\$ 6,500
TOTAL 2200 STAFF TRAINING/CURRICULUM	\$ 25,000	\$ 27,137	\$ 30,000	\$ 9,841	\$ 40,000	\$ 46,500	\$ 6,500

1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION	FY17-18 Budget	FY17-18 Actual	FY18-19 Budget	FY18-19 Actual	FY19-20 Revised	FY20-21 Proposed	DIFFERENCE
SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUE							
IDEA B Basic Flow Through	\$ 510,000		\$ 514,003	\$ 514,003	\$ 556,797	\$ 556,797	
IDEA B Pre-School	12,000		12,193	12,193	13,585	13,585	
EEE					143,632	143,632	
Block Grant	703,669		746,543	746,543	610,956	627,923	
Extra-Ordinary Reimbursements	456,238		362,272	458,369	400,539	456,620	
Expenditure Reimbursement	2,625,593		2,883,797	2,479,065	3,128,669	3,409,197	
Admin Serv	-		-	-	-	-	
Tuition/Excess Cost	-		-	-	-	-	
Prior Yr Adjustment	-		-	-	-	-	
IEP Medicaid	30,000		30,000	30,000	35,000	35,000	
TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES	\$ 4,337,500		\$ 4,548,808	\$ 4,240,173	\$ 4,889,178	\$ 5,242,754	
MEMBER TOWN ASSESSMENT	\$ 2,397,393		\$ 2,450,715	\$ 2,399,532	\$ 2,496,400	\$ 2,797,383	
TOTAL	\$ 6,734,893		\$ 6,999,523	\$ 6,639,705	\$ 7,385,578	\$ 8,040,137	
EEE NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED					\$ 144,750	\$ 199,048	\$ 54,298
REGULAR SPECIAL ED SERVICES NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED					\$ 2,381,650	\$ 2,598,335	\$ 216,685

WRVSU FY21 SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

	FY20 SPED ASSESSMENT		FY21 PROPOSED ASSESSMENT	
	%	Amount	%	Amount
FBUD	22.1%	\$ 551,704	21.4%	\$ 598,640
GHUD	5.7%	142,295	5.3%	148,261
RSUD	10.5%	262,122	10.5%	293,725
SHARON	16.3%	406,913	15.9%	444,784
STRAFFORD	10.1%	252,136	10.6%	296,523
WRUD	35.2%	878,733	36.3%	1,015,450
		\$ 2,496,400		\$ 2,797,383

SPECIAL EDUCATION

	FY21 Assessment	
	%	Amount
FBUD	21.4%	\$ 556,044
GHUD	5.3%	137,712
RSUD	10.5%	272,825
SHARON	15.9%	413,135
STRAFFORD	10.6%	275,424
WRUD	36.3%	943,196
		\$ 2,598,335

EEE

	FY21 Assessment	
	%	Amount
FBUD	21.4%	\$ 42,596
GHUD	5.3%	10,550
RSUD	10.5%	20,900
SHARON	15.9%	31,649
STRAFFORD	10.6%	21,099
WRUD	36.3%	72,852
		\$ 199,048

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

Year Ending June 30, 2019

The Strafford School District had no outstanding long-term debt at the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year. Short-term debt included a tax-anticipation note in the amount of \$217,285.

Congratulations, Graduates!
~ 2019 ~

The Newton School

Caleb Benjamin
Finn Linehan
Jennafer Worth

Kailey Ekegren
Harland Ransom

Eva Kelly
Charlotte Reimanis
Jillian Ziai

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Thetford Academy

Taiten Linehan

Jennifer Ward

Leah Ziai

The Sharon Academy

Juniper Gillespie

Wednesday Gillespie
Fisher Kelley

Claire Jenisch

Hanover High School

Charles Plottner

Eli Silovich

Kegan Silovich

Kimball Union Academy

Pemma MacPhail

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2009-10		15	14	14	11	18	17	12	9	12	116
2010-11		13	17	10	16	11	18	19	11	10	122
2011-12		19	10	16	11	16	11	19	17	12	125
2012-13		11	15	8	17	13	15	13	20	17	131
2013-14		8	12	15	8	18	13	15	13	18	129
2014-15		14	8	11	16	10	19	14	16	12	120
2015-16	9	9	11	9	11	16	12	18	15	16	120
2016-17	8	12	9	12	9	11	16	14	17	15	117
2017-18	12	8	12	11	12	8	10	13	9	16	111
2018-19	15	10	10	14	11	13	8	10	10	9	110
2019-20	16	15	10	9	12	11	11	6	6	10	106

*Note: Reflects official October 1st student counts where available.
As of 2016-17, total includes pre-K.*

STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TOWN OFFICE: 765-4411 ~ TownClerk@StraffordVT.org

LISTERS: 765-4360 ~ Listers@StraffordVT.org

TOWN GARAGE: 765-4550

www.straffordvt.org

Board Meetings

Selectboard – Town Office – Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

*Subject to change –check www.straffordvt.org or
call the Town Office for current Selectboard meeting times*

Planning Commission – Education Center at Morrill Homestead –
Third Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Development Review Board – Town Office – Third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission – Education Center at Morrill Homestead –
Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Energy Committee – Town Office – Second Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

School Directors – Newton School (odd months),
Sharon Elementary (even months) – Second Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.,
*(Time/date subject to change;
check wrvsu.org/school-boards/strafford-school-board/)*

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9 1 1

Orange County Sheriff: 685-4875

STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon – South Strafford Substation

Durkee Rubbish Collection - 765-4308

STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY

Monday 1:00 - 8:00 p.m. ~ Wednesday 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ~ Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

765-4037 ~ StraffordVTLibrary@gmail.com

www.StraffordLibrary.org

LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Second Monday each month – 7:00 p.m. at Library