

2017 Dorset Annual Report

Monday, March 5, 2018

Floor Meeting

at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Voting

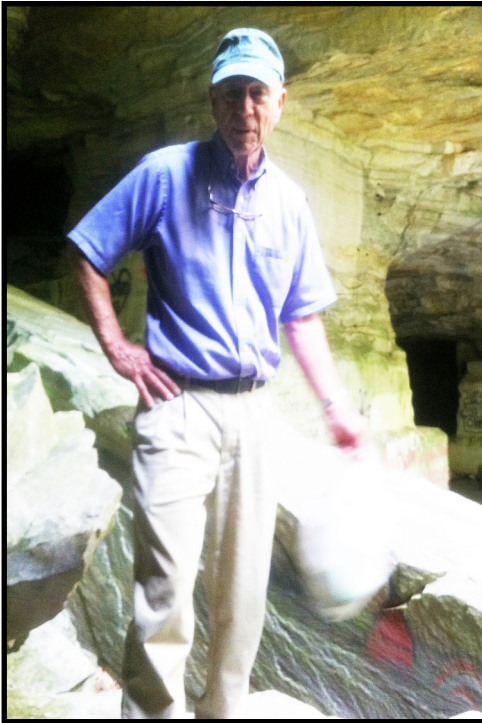
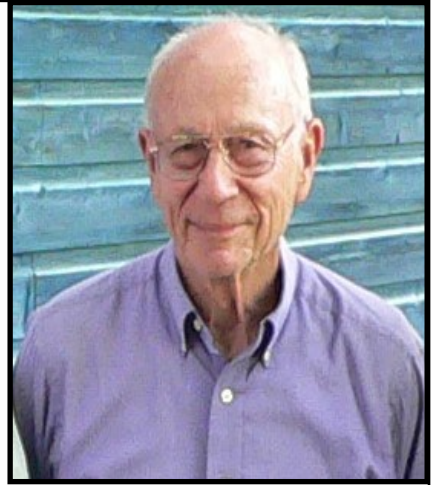
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

TOWN REPORT DEDICATION

Arthur W. Gilbert Jr: For many generations, members of the Gilbert family have called Dorset home. The Gilberts continue to hold their annual family reunion in early August, where family members come from all over the country to celebrate in Dorset.

Art Gilbert was born in Kansas City, MO in 1929. His undergraduate/graduate work took place at Beloit College, Kansas City University, and the University of Colorado, where he studied geology and developed his love for the Rocky Mountains. Art served his country during the Korean War and then established himself as a geologist with a long career working all over the world.

Upon retirement, he moved to Dorset and eventually built a home



next to his parent's home on the West Road. Shortly after moving to Dorset, he became involved with the Dorset Historical Society. He served as President for many years and has been a long time member of the Board of Directors. One of Art's most significant contributions to DHS was as a lead in the development of the Museum's Marble Exhibit. He has led many DHS sponsored hikes to various marble quarries in Dorset. He is a co-author of the Dorset "Walking" and "Driving" books and also conducted a study of the cemeteries throughout the Town. For several years, he coordinated the "Green Up Days" in Dorset.

Art's active lifestyle and love for the outdoors supported his effort to have the Town work toward conserving the hiking trails in the Dorset Mountains. Gilbert Lookout, named for Art's grandfather George Holley Gilbert, has been a local favorite for over 90 years. In fact, Art's first trip to Gilbert Lookout didn't involve much hiking as he was a young lad of 3 years accompanying family to the formal dedication ceremony of the lookout in 1932.

In recent years, Art was a driving force behind the 2016 acquisition of the Gettysburg Quarry lands, which expanded the Town Forest to nearly 300 acres. During this process, Art encouraged the Historical Society to help local schools use the Gettysburg Quarry as an outdoor classroom. In the past two years, hundreds of local kids have learned about the history, ecology and geology of Dorset by visiting the Town Forest, ~ all thanks to Art.



Art, Dorset thanks you for your passion and commitment to preserving and enlightening our community in many ways. We dedicate the 2017 Annual Town Report to you to show our gratitude for your positive impact on Dorset!

(Top right: Art at Hatch Studio Left: Art at Freedley Quarry Bottom right: Art at Gilbert Lookout)

Town Information & Reports

Town Office Calendar & Miscellaneous Information	4
Appointed Town Officers	5
Elected Town Officials	6
Select Board Report & Town Manager Report	7
Town Clerk Report (Liquor Licenses, Dog Licenses & Vital Records)	8
Treasurer Report	9
Animal Control Officer Report.....	9
Health Officer Report.....	9
Board of Lister Report	10-11
Zoning Administrator & Planning Commission Report & Design Review Report	12
Zoning Board of Adjustment Report	13
Design Review Board.....	13
Dorset Energy Committee.....	14
Conservation Commission Report	15
Delinquent Tax List.....	16

Agency Reports

Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC).....	17
Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) Solid Waste	18-19
Green Mountain National Forest	20
Vermont League of Cities & Towns 2011 Overview (VLCT).....	21
Bennington County Sheriff Department	22

Voter Approved Appropriations

Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC).....	24
Neighbor to Neighbor.....	25
Southwest Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA)	26
Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ).....	27
Bennington Coalition for the Homeless	28
Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE).....	29
Dorset Historical Society (DHS).....	30
Bennington Area Habitat for Humanities (BAHfH)	31
VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region	32
East Dorset Cemetery Association.....	33
Dorset Village Library	34
GNAT - TV.....	35
The Collaborative	36
Dorset Marble Preservation Association (DMPA)	37
Dorset Players.....	38
Bromley Observation Tower	39

Budgeted Appropriations

Northshire Rescue Squad	41-42
Green Up Vermont	43
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force	44-45
East Dorset Fire District #1	46-47
Dorset Fire District #1	48-49

Town Minutes, Warning & Budget

Town of Dorset Warning 2018.....	51-53
Minutes of Town Annual Meeting 2017	54-57
Town of Dorset Budget FY 2019	58-62
Town of Dorset Reserve Funds.....	63
FY19 Budget Breakdown Chart	64

School Reports, Warning & Budgets

Dorset School District Minutes 2017.....	66-68
First Annual Taconic & Green Town Report Notice	69
Dorset School District Warning 2018.....	70
Dorset School District FY17 Year End Summary.....	71
Superintendent, Enrollment & Audit Reports	72-73
Dorset Board Report.....	74-75
Dorset School Principal Report	76
Burr & Burton Academy (BBA)	77-78
Long Trail School (LTS).....	79-80

TOWN OFFICE CALENDAR & MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Town Manager's Office Monday to Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Town Clerk's Office Monday to Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Zoning Administrator Tuesday to Thursday ~ 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Assessor's Office Monday to Friday ~ 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Select Board Meetings Third Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m. ~ Town Office
 Planning Commission Meetings First Tuesday each month at 7:00 p.m. ~ Town Office
 Zoning Board Meetings Third Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. ~ Town Office
 Design Review Board Third Monday each month at 5:30 p.m. ~ Town Office
 School Board Meetings Fourth Tuesday each month at 6:00 p.m. ~ Dorset School

Bennington County Sheriff	Sgt Jesse Bravata	(802) 442-4900	www.benningtonsheriff.org
Town Office		(802) 362-4571	www.dorsetvt.org
Town Manager	Rob Gaiotti	x3	townmanager@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper	Nancy Aversano	x4	dorsetadmin@comcast.net
Town Clerk Assistant Town Clerk	Sandra Pinsonault Judy Collins	x2	dorsetclerk@gmail.com
Zoning Administrator	Tyler Yandow	x5	dorsetza@gmail.com
Assessors	Margot Schoffstall	x6	dorsetlister@gmail.com
Town Office Fax		(802) 362-5156	
Town Garage		(802) 362-5244	
Town Road Foreman	Jim Hewes	(802) 362-5244	
Animal Control Officer Vermont Game Warden	Ryan Downey Cody Jackman	(802) 362-7322 802-442-5421	
Health Officer	Dolores Marcotte	(802) 362-4571	
Town Constable	Ryan Matteson	(802) 430-8407	
Dorset Chamber of Commerce	chamber@dorsetvt.com	(802) 440-0455	www.dorsetvt.com
Schools	Dorset School	(802) 362-2606	brsu.learning.powerschool.com/brsu/thedorsetschool/cms_page/view
	Burr & Burton Academy	(802) 362-1775	www.burrburton.org
	Long Trail School	(802) 867-5717	www.longtrailschool.org
Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union		(802) 362-2452	www.brsu.org
Post Offices	Dorset	(802) 867-5501	
	East Dorset	(802) 362-3233	
East Dorset Fire Warden Dorset Fire Warden	Doug Beebe Shawn Hazelton	(802) 362-4601 (802)-867-5311	www.dorsetfiredistrict.org/
Dorset Library		(802) 867-5774	dorsetvillagelibrary.org
VNA & Hospice	Ron Cioffi, Executive Director	(802) 362-1200	vermontvisitingnurses.org
State Representative	Linda Joy Sullivan	(802) 768-8668	lsullivan@leg.state.vt.us
State Senator	Brian Champion	(802) 753-7705	bcampion@leg.state.vt.us
State Senator	Richard Sears	(802) 442-9139	rsears@leg.state.vt.us

2017 Appointed Town Officers

Town Manager	Rob Gaiotti
Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper	Nancy Aversano
Zoning Administrator	Tyler Yandow, AIA
Select, Planning & Zoning Boards Secretary	Nancy Aversano
Assessor	Margot Schoffstall
Health Officer	Dolores Marcotte
Animal Control Officer	Ryan Downey
Fence Viewers	Henry Chandler,
	Megan Thörn
Tree Warden	Hal Coolidge
Special Constable	Harold Beebe
Town Service Officer	Ellen Maloney
Energy Coordinator	Jim Hand

Planning Commission

Brooks Addington, Chairman	2019	Adam Danaher	2018
Gay Squire, Vice Chairman	2019	Kit Wallace	2019
Brent Herrmann	2020	Scott Thompson	2019
Charlie Wise	2021	Richard Coss	2020
Carter Rawson	2018		

All four (4) year terms expire April 30th of the year indicated

Zoning Board of Adjustment

John LaVecchia, Chairman	2018	Kevin O'Toole	2020
David Wilson, Vice Chairman	2019	Ruth Stewart	2020
Vacant	2016	Ed Tanenhaus	2019
Bill Bridges	2019	Steve Jones	2018
Tuck Rawls	2020		

All three (3) year terms to expire April 30th of the year indicated

Conservation Commission

Malcolm Cooper, Jr., Chairman	2021	Kevin O'Toole	2020
Alan Calfee	2021	Chip Ams	2020
Lee Romano	2019		

All four (4) year terms expire May 31st of the year indicated

Design Review Board

Kit Wallace, Chairperson	2020	Peter Palmer	2018
Arnie Gottlieb	2020	James Clubb	2018
Lindy Bowden	2020	Ruth Tanenhaus (Alternate)	2019

All three (3) year terms expire April 30th of the year indicated

Bennington County Regional Commission

John LaVecchia	2018	Nancy Faesy	2019
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All two (2) year terms expire on April 30th of the year indicated

Elected Town Officers

Moderator, Town	Kevin O'Toole	1 Year Term	Expires 2018
Moderator, School	Kevin O'Toole	1 Year Term	Expires 2018
Town Clerk	Sandra Pinsonault	3 Year Term	Expires 2020
School District Clerk	Sandra Pinsonault	3 Year Term	Expires 2020
Town Treasurer	Melissa Zecher	3 Year Term	Expires 2020
School District Treasurer	Melissa Zecher	3 Year Term	Expires 2020
Select Board	Henry Chandler	3 Year Term	Expires 2018
	John Stannard	3 Year Term	Expires 2019
	Tom Smith	3 Year Term	Expires 2020
	Liz Ruffa	1 Year Term	Expires 2018
	Megan Thörn	1 Year Term	Expires 2018
School Board	James Mirenda	2 Year Term	Expires 2018
	Jennifer Allen	3 Year Term	Expires 2019
	Vickie Haskins	2 Year Term	Expires 2018
	David Chandler	2 Year Term	Expires 2018
	James Salsgiver	3 Year Term	Expires 2019
First Constable	Ryan Matteson	1 Year Term	Expires 2018
Town Agent	Kevin O'Toole	1 Year Term	Expires 2018
Justices of the Peace	Willard (Bill) Bridges	Michael Bailey	
	Willard (Chip) Watson	Howard Coolidge	
	Katherine Beebe	Sandra Pinsonault	
	Roger Squires	Joseph Fontana	
	Mary Barrosse-Schwartz	Michael Oltedal	

2 Year Terms for all Justices Expire November 2018

2017 Select Board & Town Manager Report

In 2017, the Town of Dorset and Dorset Fire Dist. No. 1 (DFD) agreed on a contract to allow the Town Manager's Office to assist in the management and operations of Dorset Village Water System. The DFD utility billing and Water/Fire Division financial operations are being performed by the Town Manager's office as part of the contract as well. Some highlights include: collection of nearly \$30,000 in delinquent fire taxes and getting legal easements in place to drill a supplemental well for the Dorset Village System. The groups hope to take advantage of future opportunities for collaboration and efficiencies where possible. Much credit is owed to the members of the Dorset Prudential Committee for their efforts to improve the operations of the Fire District.

Public works projects for 2017 included pavement resurfacing of 0.25 miles of Cross Road and The Dorset School access and parking areas. The Town was the beneficiary of a USDA wildlife project that replaced an undersized culvert on Tower Road with a bridge that meets modern storm standards. The project is part of a multi-year effort by the USDA/USFS and Trout Unlimited to improve habitat for Brook Trout on the Mettawee River. The Mettawee River is one of the most productive spawning grounds for Brook Trout in our part of Vermont. A big thanks to all the homeowners on Tower Road, Grouse Lane, and Pastures Lane. They put up with a full summer's worth of road construction just like true Vermonters would!

In 2018, we will continue capital infrastructure projects with paving on Pleasant Street and Village Street in East Dorset. The Highway Department will replace a 2007 Tandem dump truck in 2018 as well. Much credit is due to: Road Foreman, Jim Hewes and crew members: Duane Sherman, Bill Nichols, and Mark Towslee. While we were inside spending the Christmas holiday with our families, they were out keeping our roads safe and passable. Plowing roads is only one of the many things this group does for the Town; we are lucky to have such a hardworking and competent Road Crew.

The summer of 2017 brought the establishment of the Owls Head Town Forest Public Trail. As established, the trail will give the community continued public access to the Owls Head and Gilbert Lookout. Our partnership with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps is hitting high notes. We were fortunate enough to have Governor Phil Scott and Lt. Governor David Zuckerman visit Dorset to learn about the trail work done by the VYCC and the ongoing partnership between the Town and VYCC. In 2018, the Town has included, as part of the municipal budget, VYCC internship funding that will afford four weeks of crew time in the Town Forest. Be sure to look for new trails below the Gettysburg Quarry by the fall of 2018. Visits to Owls Head Town Forest have been numerous and positive. We've had hikers from as far away as parts of Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

As most residents know, the Select Board has been working diligently to better understand and plan solutions for event noise in Dorset. The public has been actively engaged in this process which will assure a diverse and ranging discussion on the issue with a good outcome.

Spring of 2018 will mark the first year of law enforcement under the new contract with the Bennington County Sheriff's Department. Sgt. Jesse Bravata has been serving Dorset 40+ hours per week. During that time he has been able to help slow down traffic in our villages, spend countless hours doing backroad patrols and even worked to save a kitten for a resident. We look forward to continued success with this agreement. Traffic and pedestrian safety has been another issue the Town has been working hard on, particularly in the villages. The Planning Commission received a planning grant related to pedestrian safety in Dorset Village. The Select Board has been focused on improving the Mad Tom and Route 7 area as well. A hazardous intersection safety audit was performed by the State and various solutions will be implemented in the future.

Be sure to visit www.dorsetvt.org for any needed Dorset municipal information!

Respectfully Submitted, Robert Gaiotti, Town Manager

Town Clerk Report

I have had the pleasure of serving the Town of Dorset since March, 2005. While I am completing my thirteenth year in office, I still am amazed at how each day is different and the love for my job never fades. This year we completed the grand list restoration project, digitized the survey maps and refurbished the vault with new shelving. In 2018, we will continue to digitize the older land records. Have you ever wondered about the history of your home? If so, please stop by the office and we can help you locate the deeds.

Please remember to license your dog on or before April 1st of each year. A spay/neutered dog is \$11 and \$15 for one that is not. Large penalties will be assessed after April 1, 2018.

I want to thank my Assistant, Judy Collins, for her continued support and service to the Town.

Sandra "Sandy" Pinsonault, MMC/CVC

<u>Town of Dorset Liquor Licenses: 2017</u>	
<u>First Class License</u>	<u>Second Class License</u>
Barrows House..... \$115	Dorset Rising\$70
Chantecleer Restaurant..... \$115	Dorset Union Store \$70
Dorset Field Club \$115	HN Williams Store..... \$70
Dorset Inn..... \$115	Hasgas General Store..... \$70
Dorset Rising..... \$115	Jiffy Mart \$70
Inn at West View Farm \$115	Total Second Class \$350
Marble West Inn..... \$115	
Total First Class \$805	Total All Licenses \$1,155
<u>2017 Animal License Report</u>	<u>2017 Vitals</u>
185 Spayed Female @ \$6..... \$1,110	Births
136 Neutered Male @ \$6..... \$816	Males 6
20 Males @ \$10..... \$200	Female 2
19 Females @ \$10 \$190	Deaths
	Males 12
	Females 10
	Marriages
	Resident 5
340 Dogs - Total Town Revenue \$2,316	Non-Resident 15

Treasurer

I am currently serving the first year of my fifth three year elected term as Treasurer for the Town of Dorset and Dorset School District. As Treasurer, my duties include the review and approval of accounts payable, payroll checks and delinquent tax warrants for the Town of Dorset and the Dorset School District.

In addition to an annual external audit (currently conducted by Mudgett, Jennett, & Krough – Wisner, PC) the Town of Dorset has in place internal controls into the municipal finance system; this includes monthly testing of accounts by retired finance person and monthly review of balanced bank statements by the Treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa W. Zecher

Animal Control Officer

In 2017 the Animal Control Officer received 25+ calls about animal related issues. Common issues were dogs running at large, unlicensed dogs, and a vicious dog hearing. The Animal Control Officer is responsible for responding to calls about problems with domestic animals, and can be reached at 362-7322. If you have a problem with a wild animal please call VT Game Warden Cody Jackman at 442-5421. If the Game Warden cannot be reached, the ACO should be contacted in case of an emergency. Due to the fact that we live in a rural area with wildlife, rabies and distemper can be a concern, so be sure to get your pets vaccinated.

Please remember to license your dog, it's required by Vermont Law. Dog licenses are due April 1st, all dogs over the age of 6 months are required to be licensed and have proof of vaccination with the Town Clerk's Office.

During the year we always have dogs that get loose from a property. PLEASE buy a collar with your name, address, and phone number for your dogs. This will help us return your dogs to you safely and quickly. PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryan Downey

Health Officer

In 2017 the Health Officer received over 15+ phone calls with regard to health questions. One site visit was conducted: Both incidents that were reported required a site visit, regarding tenant landlord issues, and rental property conformance to the Vermont Housing Code. These inspections are done with the Health Officer and the Town Manager. The health officer responds to health & safety complaints and helps residents get in touch with the proper resources to remedy the situation.

The Vermont Department of Health provides support to the Health Officer and is a good resource for residents: <http://healthvermont.gov>

Respectfully Submitted,
Dolores K. Marcotte

Assessor's Department Report

For the twelve months ending December 31, 2017, the Assessor's Office processed 56 valid "arms-length" residential sales. These sales ranged from \$100,000 to \$1,210,000 for residential property, \$25,000 to \$160,000 for land, and \$450,000 to \$470,000 for commercial property. In addition, there was other routine maintenance done on the working Grand List such as property transfers into trusts, transfers between family members, or abutters sales and foreclosures.

Dorset's new 2018 CLA (common level of appraisal) – a three year average of total town sales divided by the total assessment, is now established by the State at 108.00%. The State rate for the education tax is factored by the CLA for each Vermont Town in order to arrive at the "equalized tax rate" for that Town. Further our new COD (coefficient of dispersal) -- that measured equity across types of property is now at 18.12%.

Reappraisal 2018-2019: The Town will begin a town-wide reappraisal this year. Our last full reappraisal was in 2003, with a statistical reappraisal in 2006. The COD of 18% is another indicator that a full reappraisal makes sense. This indicates that portions of real estate are overvalued while other portions are undervalued; in essence, there is an issue of equity in the grand list. This data comes from recent sales of real estate. For more information visit the Reappraisal Letter included in the Town Report or www.dorsetvt.org/reappraisal.

2006-2017	Education Equalized Value		% Change	CLA
2006	\$669,687,611		0.00%	105.6
2007	\$722,342,055		7.68%	98.98
2008	\$759,750,195		5.18%	95.52
2009	\$765,831,350		0.80%	95.16
2010	\$718,324,319		-6.20%	101.32
2011	\$671,881,913		-6.40%	108.22
2012	\$659,263,558		-1.88%	109.73
2013	\$674,451,706		2.30%	106.91
2014	\$680,229,852		0.86%	105.64
2015	\$663,489,000		-2.46%	107.50
2016	\$665,605,197		0.30%	105.94
2017	\$651,285,470		-2.2%	108.00

We are concerned with the fairness of your assessed value. Every year a property owner has the right to appeal their property value. This should be done before the start of the Town's spring grievance period. We encourage you to contact us with any questions or comments on your property assessment. Office hours Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone 802-362-4571 x 6 or E-Mail: dorsetlister@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted
Margot Schoffstall, Assessor

Town Wide Reappraisal 2018-2019

Dear Property Owner,

A complete reappraisal of all Dorset properties will begin over the next month. Based on state sales statistics there is an issue with the level of equity in the Dorset Grand List. Complete Reappraisals are common in Vermont every 8-10 years. Dorset's last Complete Reappraisal was in 2003.

A data collector will come to your home for the purpose of conducting an interior AND exterior inspection. The outside (ground level) of your house will be measured, as well as any interior areas which cannot be measured from outside (typically upper level areas which may include knee walls, cathedral ceilings, etc., and finished areas in the basement), to determine living area of the home. A photo will be taken of the front and rear of your house. If you have outbuildings, the data collector will have to see the interior of these as well. In most cases, time spent inside the house will be about ½ hour.

In the event that you are not home when we come for the inspection, a notice will be left on your door requesting that you call the assessor's office to schedule a convenient time for the inspection. We will NEVER enter your house if you or someone else you have authorized (must be over 18) is not present. Data collectors will carry identification and will have a "Town of Dorset" sign on their vehicle. Data collectors for this project are: Theda Farrell, Kristian Mayer, Marilyn Kinney, Melissa Zecher or Peter Trifari.

We will begin our data collection on Danby Mountain Road, Kirby Hollow Road, Lower and Upper Hollow Roads (and all roads accessed by these roads). If your home is in these locations, you can expect a visit this winter.

If you have a caretaker or property manager, you may authorize them to allow access for data collection. Please let us know if this is the case; call the assessor's office at 362-4571 x6 and give us the contact information for your caretaker, and we will set it up with him/her.

We are very appreciative of your cooperation and support of this endeavor. Having access to every property in Dorset will result in the best possible reappraisal outcome, and we are committed to making it the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Dorset Assessor's Dept.

Visit the Dorset Reappraisal web page for more info: www.dorsetvt.org/reappraisal

Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, and Design Review Board

A summary of permit applications and board referrals is shown in the table below.

Permit Type	# of Applications		Referred to Planning Commission		Referred to Zoning Board of Adjustment		Referred to Design Review Board	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Building	34	47	2	2	3	3	2	6
Demolition	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Change of Use	2	0	1	0	0	0	---	---
Boundary Line Adjustment	2	4	0	0	0	0	---	---
Sign	4	9	1	0	0	0	1	1
Subdivision	1	0	1	0	0	0	---	---
Totals	49	61	5	2	3	3	3	8

In 2017 the Planning Commission began addressing two issues which could result in changes to the town zoning bylaw, formula based businesses and refinement of the Commercial Industrial (CI) zone maps. Regarding formula based businesses, the commission expressed concern about potential strip development on Route 7 north of Mad Tom Road. While not wanting to create roadblocks to economic development in Dorset, the board is exploring what type of regulations would prevent unsightly strip development. Work on the Commercial Industrial maps focused on refining the maps so they accurately depict developable land. The commission is grateful for the maps provided by the Bennington County Regional Commission which made this discussion productive.

Through the efforts of the Planning Commission the town received a municipal planning grant to begin studying pedestrian safety in Dorset Village. The initial focus of this work will be on the need for upgraded and additional sidewalks, and crosswalks. Currently there are no designated crosswalks anywhere within the town. The Planning Commission is working with the Bennington County Regional Commission on this project and appreciates their contributions to date.

A significant accomplishment in 2017 was the creation of two state Designated Village Centers, one on each side of the town. The Planning Commission worked with the state Agency of Commerce and Economic Development, the Bennington County Regional Commission, and the Zoning Administrator to complete this task. Commercial property owners within the designated Centers are eligible for significant tax credits for work done on their properties, helping to ensure the longevity of new and historic structures in these areas which make Dorset stand out as a unique place in Vermont. The creation of Designated Village Centers also gives the town priority consideration for various state funded grants. The municipal planning grant noted above was received in large part because of these designations, and will benefit areas of town both within and outside of the Village Centers.

The Design Review Board has begun the complex task of reviewing zoning criteria for the town's Design District. This will be a lengthy exercise which the board hopes will result in a more user-friendly document while at the same time protecting the town's historic assets.

It should be noted that members of both the Planning Commission and Design Review Board volunteer their time for the well being of the entire town. Their efforts deserve recognition.

Respectfully Submitted For the Dorset Planning Commission & Design Review Board
Tyler W. Yandow A.I.A., Zoning Administrator

Zoning Board of Adjustment

The Zoning Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body comprised of nine Dorset residents appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The current Board includes Vice-Chair David Wilson and members-at large Bill Bridges, Tuck Rawls, Steve Jones, Ruth Stewart, Kevin O'Toole and Ed Tanenhaus. The Chair wishes to thank everyone for their continued commitment to volunteer their time and talents during the past year.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment meets on an as-needed basis on the third Monday of the month, and hears applications for conditional use permits and variances, as well as appeals from decisions of the Zoning Administrator.

During 2017, the Board heard four applications. One variance application was heard and denied. One conditional use application was granted for improvements to the Mettowee River in Dorset Hollow. One application for a minor addition to a pre-existing, non-complying building was granted.

The application of H. N. Williams Store/Cephas Kent to allow an addition to a pre-existing, non-complying building and a change to a pre-existing, non-conforming use was granted.

Respectfully submitted,
John B. LaVecchia, Chairman

Design Review Board

The Design Review Board (DRB) meets the third Monday of every month (as needed) at 5:30 PM in the Dorset Town offices. Applications requiring review by the DRB are submitted to the Zoning Administrator, who forwards them to the DRB.

During 2017 the DRB considered the following matters (approximately chronologically):

- Approval of a fence at 3458 Route 30 (Gottlieb residence)
- Approval of a temporary sculpture at 3 Pears Gallery on Church Street
- Approval of installation of shutters and a landscaping plan at 330 Church Street (residence of Robert Miller and Susan Watkins)
- In June and July, the DRB had extensive discussions about the Library's proposal to replace all windows. Given the importance of the historic library to the fabric of the Historic District and with concern about the diminished proportion of the overall windows and the individual panes as a result of the frame in frame replacement, the DRB turned down the request for replacement windows. The Planning Commission overturned this decision at their next meeting, so the replacement windows will be installed.
- Approval of installation of a storm door, replacement porch decking, and minor roof and trim replacements at 175 Church Street/Colony House (residence of Adele and Herman Raspe)
- Approval of addition of a shed roof with a concrete slab on the west side of the Dorset Union Store
- Approval of the replacement of an existing exterior staircase with a code compliant staircase at the Barrows House.
- Approval of the rebuilding of an entry porch and rear wing of a guest house at 86/102 Parsons Lane (residence of Edward and Maribeth Smith)
- Approval of the demolition of deteriorated cottage at 262 Church Street (owned by David Lynch)

Within the next 3 months, the DRB will have a final draft of revised criteria for the Design Review District.

With thanks to Tyler Yandow for administrative support and zoning advice and to the Design Review Board members for their hard work, commitment and caring: Jim Clubb, Lindy Bowden, Arnie Gottlieb, Peter Palmer, and Ruth Tanenhaus.

Kit Wallace, Chairman

Dorset Energy Coordinator and Committee (2017)

The Dorset Energy Committee (DEC) is a Committee set up by the Dorset Select Board to help our Town and Townspeople work toward a sustainable energy future. The Committee is all volunteer – made up of Dorset residents interested in energy related issues, and with an interest in helping neighbors understand how they can improve energy efficiency and conservation - thereby saving money and energy, while reducing environmental impact and better supporting our local economy. Activities of the Energy Committee in 2017 included:

Town Energy Planning: This was the primary focus for DEC in 2017. In 2016 the Vermont Legislature enacted Act 174 – “An act relating to improving the siting of energy projects”. The DEC has been working with the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC), the Select Board and the Planning Commission to develop an energy plan that will be certified by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) so that it can have greater weight in any regulatory proceedings before the Public Service Board. The BCRC was the first Regional Commission in the State to have its Regional Energy Plan approved by the PUC. The BCRC has provided Dorset with statistics, maps and other important information needed for the Dorset Energy Plan. The approved BCRC Plan can be found at: www.bcrcvt.org/documents/BCRCRegionalEnergyPlanMarch2017.pdf

Community Energy Dashboard: At last year’s Town Meeting, the DEC introduced Dorset residents to this new information tool developed by Energy Action Network. A number of residents signed up to be added to the Dashboard – and accounts were set up for these residents. The Dashboard is a great tool to keep track of energy efficiency actions taken in our community (and around the State). Take a look at the Dashboard at www.vtenergydashboard.org. You will find a map of existing solar installations in our Town, and you may be surprised to see how many of your neighbors are already producing their own energy. You will also find information on energy saving steps neighbors have taken – and may get good ideas for steps you may want to take. The more information residents add, the more valuable the Dashboard becomes. So, sign on, sign up, get some new ideas and let your community know how you are saving energy and reducing your energy bills.

Energy Efficiency Education & Help for Homeowners to get Energy Audits: The DEC has continued to work with NeighborWorks and their HEAT Squad to educate Dorset residents on the benefits of weatherization; and to make it easier and less expensive for residents to get Energy Audits. HEAT Squad is a great resource – having provided many Dorset residents with free & low-cost Energy Audits. NeighborWorks has other programs of great value to homeowners as well.

Dorset Businesses working in the Energy Field: Dorset residents should be aware that we have a number of Dorset businesses working to support our ability to move into a more efficient and sustainable “energy future”, like:



Grassroots Solar is based in Dorset, and is run by Bill and Lisa Laberge. Grassroots Solar has helped many in Dorset, and our region, make a move to using the sun to generate, and store, their own electricity. Find them at: grassrootssolar.com.



Star Wind Turbines is based in East Dorset, and is run by Jason Day. Star Wind Turbines has developed its own highly efficient wind turbine design and is working to bring smaller-scale wind energy to residents in Vermont and elsewhere.



GSK Climate Control is based in East Dorset, and is run by Greg Kristiansen. GSK can be a good choice if you are interested in exploring using heat pumps or geothermal at your home or business.

As noted above, The Dorset Energy Committee is an all-volunteer group of interested residents. If you are interested in joining us, or just keeping up to speed with our activities, please feel free to contact us or ask the Town Manager to let you know about the next DEC Meeting.

Respectfully,
Jim Hand, Town Energy Coordinator

Committee Members: Jim Hand, Ellen Maloney, Jim Salsgiver, Nancy Faesy, Bill Laberge, Lisa Laberge
Advisors: Rob Gaiotti, Town Manager and Tyler Yandow, Zoning Administrator

Conservation Commission

This past year the Conservation Commission continued to focus on the recently expanded Owls Head Town Forest. Projects focused on long term planning, improvement and expansion of the recreational trail network and the establishment of interpretive signage for visitors.

In April the Conservation Commission hosted a public meeting to present the Community Forest Management Plan for the property to anyone that was interested and discuss the historical, ecological, recreational and forest values and long term plans. Following the presentation participants were invited to provide input and feedback on the plan.



Thanks to the generous support of some local residents we were able to partner for a second season with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) on completing needed trail work. The crews are 8-10 high school aged crew members and 2 adult crew leaders. We were fortunate to have the support for four, two week sessions during which impressive work was accomplished on the trail system.

VYCC also hosted in-service days on the Owls Head Town Forest with students from Long Trail School and Burr and Burton Academy. Dorset Historical Society curator Jon Mathewson also led or participated in several historical talks at the Gettysburg Quarry including their annual Quarry Hike series.

The Commission also partnered with the Dorset Historical Society and others to develop attractive and instructive signage to help visitors to the Town Forest understand its history and ecology. With thanks to the Dorset Road crew for their help in erecting the signs along the main trail to the quarry, up on the mountain side! Go take a visit and tell us what you think!

We were honored by a visit from Governor Scott as well, while the last VYCC crew was still on site. They did a great job discussing the value of their conservation work and how they learned to work in remote locations as a team, with hand tools to get important work done on the Town Forest. The Governor and others had a chance to ask them questions and discuss their efforts towards the development of the Town Forest over a delightful lunch at the Dorset Historical Society.

A registration log book was placed in the Gettysburg Quarry by the Commission and the pages are filled with the comments from grateful hikers and visitors from the local area and all over the country who have enjoyed visiting the beautiful trails and access to the historic quarries and viewpoints.

Cutler Memorial Forest and The Pinnacle continue to serve the community as well as visitors with an easy way to get out and enjoy a moment in the forest.

The Commission would like to thank the endless efforts and energy of Rob Gaiotti our Town Manager and the continued support of the Selectboard and community for all of our Town's Forests.

Dorset Conservation Commission Members: Malcolm Cooper, Co-Chair, Alan Calfee Co-Chair,

Delinquent Tax Report ~ December 31, 2017

Adaptive Adventure	\$8,236.55
API Properties	\$10,559.60
Brownell, David	\$6,569.76
Casey, David	\$1,595.79*
Coghlan, Alban	\$276.25*
Connors, Patrick.....	\$2,786.72*
Fei, Jean	\$209.87*
3557 Route 7.....	\$4,817.08
Kelly, Peter	\$700.37*
Labranche, George.....	\$2,469.41
Labranche, George.....	\$6,771.79
McGinnis, Linda	\$1,854.37*
Miller, Walter J	\$3,523.32
Shavell, Stephen.....	\$4,608.85
Sheldon, Patricia	\$455.51
Sheldon, Shelly.....	\$2,071.41*
Staunton, Sidney Jr.....	\$2,055.39*
Stimson, Ellen	\$15,232.24
Stone, Sharon.....	\$5,530.47
Strifler, Evelyn.....	\$1,435.79*
Weber, Kenneth.....	\$2,077.73
 Total.....	 \$84,178.27

**** Paid or partially paid after December 31, 2017***

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Gaiotti - Town Manager/ Delinquent Tax Collector

Bennington County Regional Commission

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



In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials and volunteer boards and commissions, the BCRC serves as a regional center for work in community development, transportation, healthy community design, energy, environmental conservation and protection of water quality, solid waste management, and emergency management. The BCRC regularly conducts and sponsors public meetings and workshops on these topics throughout the region (www.bcrcvt.org for more information).

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan and has supplemented that document with a new regional energy plan which supports efforts to conserve energy and plan for renewable energy development. Economic development planning in the region is now being coordinated through a collaboration between the BCRC and the Bennington County Industrial Corporation (BCIC). The BCRC is providing staff support to help BCIC conduct economic development planning and to support business retention, growth, and recruitment. An outgrowth of this economic development work involves cooperation within the region and with Windham County to advance the goals of the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone. The BCRC also is providing staff support for a major downtown redevelopment project in Bennington that grew from brownfields and community development work overseen by the Commission. Other important accomplishments have included: assistance with updates to several municipal comprehensive plans and bylaws, new village center designations, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan in cooperation with the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, management of several bicycle and pedestrian projects, and planning and project management to assist municipalities with water quality improvement projects.

Special initiatives to be undertaken in the coming year include: work on a Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, development of a regional cultural resources plan, assistance with enhanced municipal energy plans, workforce and business development initiatives, support for local water quality management plans and improvement projects, further expansion of bike-ped facilities, and assessment and support for redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the region.

The BCRC is governed by locally appointed commissioners from seventeen area municipalities and several elected commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. Our office, located at 111 South Street in Bennington, is open Monday through Friday. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: www.bcrcvt.org).

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sullivan, Director

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

Solid Waste Implementation Plan and the Universal Recycling Law: In December of 2015, the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance adopted a solid waste implementation plan or “SWIP” to comply with both the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) and the materials management plan developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The SWIP describes how the member towns will increase recycling, reduce the amount of materials sent to landfills, and provide outreach program for residents, schools, businesses and institutions to assist them in recycling. The Alliance provides information on their website (www.bcswavt.org) and Facebook page as well as in local newspapers.

School and Business Outreach: This past year, the Alliance provided outreach to Burr and Burton, Pownal Elementary and Stamford Elementary schools including assisting Pownal Elementary with on-site composting. The Alliance provided outreach to over 40 businesses on ways to increase recycling, manage food scraps, and properly dispose of hazardous materials.

Funding and Grants: The member towns provide most of the funding for programs. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 the Alliance received over \$25,000 in grants from the Agency of Natural Resources and from the Agency for Agriculture and Markets for sales of compost bins and for household hazardous waste events. The Alliance also received \$4,000.00 from the High Meadows Fund to assist the towns of Pownal, Searsburg, Shaftsbury and Stamford in starting food scrap collection at their transfer stations.

Programs and Events: The Alliance sponsors and supports many programs to assist residents, businesses, schools and institutions to properly dispose of materials. The following are some of our major programs.

Household Hazardous Waste Events: The Alliance held two household hazardous waste (HHW) events in the spring and fall of 2017. The spring event was sponsored by the Town of Bennington and held at the Bennington Transfer Station. The fall event was managed by the Bennington County Regional Commission and held at the Dorset School. Over 400 households participated in the two events. In 2018, the Alliance will again hold two events for the 13 Alliance towns. One will be held in Bennington on May 12, 2018 and the second at the Dorset School on September 15, 2018.

Electronics Collections: The Vermont E-Cycles program provides for free disposal of electronic devices including computers, monitors, printers, computer peripherals, and televisions, regardless of brand, age, or condition, for consumers, charities, school districts, and small businesses. Free collection locations in Bennington County include the Bennington, Northshire (Dorset), Pownal, Searsburg, and Sunderland Transfer Stations and other sites listed at <http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/product-stewardship/electronics>. The Dorset School also holds annual E-Waste Collection events.

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (continued)

Fluorescent Bulbs: Vermont has also implemented a plan to accept used fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) at various retail. These bulbs contain mercury, which is a hazardous substance. Residents can dispose of bulbs at several hardware stores and other retail establishments and at several of the transfer stations. More information is available at <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/fluorescent-bulbs/>.

Paint Collections: PaintCare Inc. is a non-profit organization established to assist paint manufacturers to plan and operate paint stewardship programs in the United States, including Vermont. Both latex and oil-based paint have been collected at HHW events and at special PaintCare events, and several local hardware stores accept paint. To find a location, residents may visit <http://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-locations/>.

Battery Recycling: Primary (alkaline) batteries and rechargeable batteries are now accepted at many retailers and at the Bennington, Northshire, Sunderland and Pownal Transfer Stations. You can find locations at: <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/battery-recycling/>. For more information, visit Call2Recycle at <http://www.call2recycle.org/what-can-i-recycle/>.

Textiles: The Bennington, Northshire, Sunderland, Shaftsbury and Pownal transfer stations have textile boxes where residents can donate clothing and shoes. Boxes are also located throughout the Alliance area. Visit www.bcswavt.org for locations. Goodwill in Bennington also accepts clothing donations as well as other household items, books and used electronic devices. Visit them at <http://www.goodwill-berkshires.com/>.

Leaf and Yard Waste, Food Scraps and Other Organics: All transfer stations accept leaf and yard waste, clean wood and food scraps. Visit <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/transfer-stations/> for information on your transfer station.

Construction and Demolition Debris: All transfer stations accept construction and demolition debris from builders and do-it-yourself homeowners. The TAM Pownal facility also accepts construction and demolition debris from residents and businesses.

Prescription Drugs: Prescription drugs should be properly disposed when they are no longer needed as they can make their way into water sources and can pose a hazard in the home. The Bennington Police Department, the Manchester Police Department, the Bennington County Sheriff and Southwestern Vermont Medical Center accept prescription drugs. Go to <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/disposing-of-prescription-drug/> for more information.

Green Mountain National Forest

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners and contractors. The support the Forest receives helps to accomplish an extremely robust program of work. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000 acre GMNF. Receiving several million outdoor recreation enthusiast visits annually, these visitors seek enjoyment in a natural setting while providing critical benefit to the local economies. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. Below is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

Land Acquisition

The Forest grew by 378.84 acres through the acquisition of lands in the Towns of Stamford and Pownal. Through this acquisition an additional mile of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) and Long National Recreational Trail (LT) was protected. The property is also significant to hikers because it contains a portion of Broad Brook, the water source used by those staying at an adjoining shelter called the Seth Warner shelter.

(The full GMNF report is 13 pages. A copy can be found on the Town web page at www.dorsetvt.org or requested by emailing dorsetadmin@comcast.net)

Below are some mentions of Dorset in the report:

Forest Road Cooperative Aid to Towns: Completed important road improvement and maintenance projects in the Towns of Goshen, Granville, Hancock, Rochester, and Dorset.

Peru: Northshire Area Trails (NATS), a chapter of VMBA, worked along with a VYCC crew to maintain and harden sections of the Uteley Brook trail in order to provide additional biking opportunities in the area. In cooperation with GMC and VYCC, the East Dorset trail was completed providing another hiking opportunity from the Appalachian / Long trail and providing connectivity to East Dorset along the scenic Mad Tom Brook.

Dorset: The East Dorset trail was completed in partnership with GMC and VYCC and a National Trails Day Celebration was held in June in order to provide visitors an opportunity to experience the trail. This 3 mile trail provides connectivity from East Dorset to the Appalachian / Long Trail via a short walk on Forest Road 21. A total of 2.4 miles of trail has been constructed on the new Dorset Hollow trail off from Grouse Lane. NATS and VYCC worked hard to construct over a mile of trail using only hand tools in 2017. NATS volunteered nearly 300 hours on this ongoing project this past year alone.

The Forest Service and partners completed four Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) projects in 2017. On the southern half of the Forest, utilizing Joint Chiefs Project funds, two AOP structures were constructed on the Mettawee River in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Trout Unlimited (TU), Poultney-Mettawee Conservation District, town of Dorset, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and private landowners. The first of these projects occurred at the Tower Road crossing on the Mettawee River, and provided access to 4.1 miles of high quality upstream habitat. The second project occurred at the Pastures Lane crossing on the Mettawee River. This project provided 9.4 km of valuable upstream habitat. On the North Half of the Forest in the town of Pittsfield the 4th of 5 AOP projects in the Michigan Brook watershed was completed bringing this water shed closer to 100% aquatic habitat connectivity in this wild trout headwater stream. The final project was the 2nd of 3 culvert replacements on Wing Farm Brook in Rochester and was completed with the help of the White River Partnership. This project will help to enhance the restoration work already completed on the West Branch of the White River in Rochester.

Vermont League of Cities & Towns 2017 Overview

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

VLCT's mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 138 other municipal entities, including villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts.

Local governments in Vermont provide essential services to residents and visitors alike. From maintaining roads to providing safety services, recreational programs, water and sewer infrastructure, street lighting, and libraries, the work carried out by appointed and elected officials and community volunteers is both critical and challenging. The demands on local government are complex and require resources that are not always available in every city, town or village in the state.

VLCT is the only statewide organization devoted solely to delivering a wide range of services to local officials who serve municipalities of varying populations and geographic regions but face similar requirements with disparate resources. The organization provides legal, consulting, and education services to its members, offering important advice and responses to direct inquiries, as well as training programs on specific topics of concern to officials as they carry out the duties required by statute or directed by town meeting voters. VLCT represents cities and towns before the state legislature and state agencies, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and loudly, and also advocates at the federal level, primarily through its partner, the National League of Cities.

VLCT offers opportunities to purchase risk management products and services that directly meet the specific and specialized needs of local government through the VLCT Employee Resource and Benefit (VERB) Trust and the VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF).

During the 2017 calendar year, in addition to providing responses to more than 3,700 telephone inquiries, holding 16 training sessions, and following approximately 300 separate pieces of legislation, 13 summer study committees, and developing VLCT's legislative platform with five municipal policy committees, VLCT celebrated its 50th anniversary. Throughout the year, VLCT recognized local officials and employees who have served a number of communities for 50 years, and highlighted some of the many successes of the organization and local government during the last 50 years. It was also an important year to look ahead, to consider new ideas, and to think about new programs and ways of delivering services to members that will address their changing needs in the coming years. VLCT launched a new website in June 2017 that, despite a few initial glitches, has functioned well and serves as a better connection point for members, thanks to consistent updates, new information, and easier navigation tools. VLCT has also moved the majority of its mission-critical IT systems to the "cloud" in an effort to provide more security for member information, greater protection against hacking attempts, and greater redundancy of access that will help the organization remain operational following a disaster scenario. The move to the cloud also reduces the need to acquire, maintain, and replace costly capital equipment.

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 continued progress being made 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, including its audited financial statements, visit the VLCT website at www.vlct.org



Bennington County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Chad D. Schmid

(04/03/2017-12/31/2017)

Currently the Bennington County Sheriff's Department provides Law Enforcement services to 8 towns in Bennington County. Dorset recently acquired these services in April of 2017. Sgt. Jesse D Bravata is assigned to handle this patrol area.

In summary for the Town of Dorset, the Bennington County Sheriff's Department investigated 549 incidents in 2017. These incidents included but are not limited to:

9	911 calls	10	Accident Investigations
21	Alarms	1	Larceny
2	DUI's	4	Noise Complaints
3	Arrests for Driving With a Suspended License		
3	Arrests for Alcohol Violations		
5	Marijuana Violations		
284	Traffic Tickets		



Sgt. Bravata has also participated in numerous events with the Town of Dorset, Dorset School, Long Trail School and The United Church of Dorset. Sgt. Bravata helped to organize a Secret Santa Program in which Christmas gifts were purchased for needy kids in Dorset and neighboring communities. These funds were raised by donations from the Sheriff's Deputies and local businesses.

The Sheriff's Office continues to provide a number of services. We continue to accept unused prescription drugs for destruction. We offer TSA Pre-Check, Haz-Mat and fingerprinting for employment and background checks.

We also continue to offer the New Years Eve safe ride program, for folks who need a safe ride home that evening.

Chad D. Schmidt
Sheriff
Bennington County Sheriff's Department
www.benningtonsheriff.org

P.O. Box 4207 ■ Bennington, VT 05201 ■ 802.442.4900

VOTER APPROVED APPROPRIATIONS



Neighbor to Neighbor
An Interfaith Community Project



Project Against Violent Encounters
services for survivors of domestic & sexual violence



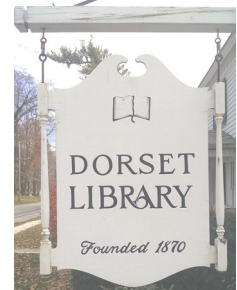
Dorset Marble Preservation Association, Inc. (DMPA)

DORSET Players



**SOUTHWESTERN
VERMONT
COUNCIL ON AGING**

gnat
greater northshire
access television



BROC COMMUNITY ACTION
In Southwestern Vermont

**East Dorset Cemetery
Association**



The Collaborative
Supporting Substance Free Youth

**BENNINGTON COUNTY
COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS**
"WORKING TOGETHER  MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

In Southwestern Vermont



Neighbor to Neighbor's mission is to assist our neighbors to live independently by providing no-cost volunteer services that help to cultivate relationships.

Since 2004, Neighbor to Neighbor and our group of volunteers have provided vital services to older and disabled residents in the Northshire. In 2017, 84 care recipients received friendly visits, transportation to appointment, and assistance with chores around the house and yard. In addition, we hold a monthly social event that allows care recipients to enjoy a delicious lunch and some form of entertainment.

Twenty-nine Dorset residents are either volunteers or Neighbor to Neighbor care recipients. Our volunteers provide all of our services free of charge. We received funding through local towns as well as through private, corporate, and foundation donations. We continue to receive request for our help and add new care recipients each month. In the past year, our care recipient base has increased by 10%. We often speak with care recipients who praise our work and who count on us to help them remain engaged in the larger Northshire community.

On behalf of the steering committee, our dedicated volunteers, and, most importantly, those we serve, Neighbor to Neighbor is most grateful for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Galguera
Program Director

Expenses

Grants and Foundations	\$10,000
Fundraising Events	\$5000
Individual Contributions	\$14,000
Corporate Contributions	\$13,000
Support from Towns	\$3,000
Support Houses of Worship	\$2, 500
Interest Income	\$100
In-Kind Donations	\$18,000
Total Income	\$65,600

Income

Salaries	\$30,000
Payroll Taxes & Workmen's Comp	\$2,000
Education/Conferences	\$100
Travel Local/Regional	\$200
In Kind Contributions (rent, property maintenance, bookkeeping)	\$18,000
Utilities	\$2,100
Phone & Internet	\$1,000
Office Supplies	\$250
Printing/Publicity/ Advertising/Newsletter	\$2,000
Postage	\$1,000
Petty Cash	\$50
Fundraising Event Expenses	\$2,000
Care Recipient Events	\$2,000
Insurance: Liability	\$1,500
Volunteer Recognition	\$200
Computer Tech Support	\$200
Contingency 3% of Budget	\$1870
Total Expenses	\$65,420



Report to the Citizens of Dorset

This report describes the services that the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA) provided to older adults who reside in Dorset. The service period reported is from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017:

Senior Meals

SVCOA provided 795 home delivered meals in your community, through the Meals on Wheels program. In addition, 23 Dorset older adults came together at a luncheon site located in your area to enjoy a nutritious meal and the company of others. Through this site, 282 meals were served to older adults in your community.

Case Management Assistance

SVCOA case management staff helped 15 older adults in your community. A case manager works with an older adult, privately in the individual's home or at another agreed upon location. The case managers assess each person's specific situation in order to tailor a plan unique to that individual. Case managers will work with the older adult to identify their needs and discuss possible services available to address these areas. If the individual desires, the case manager will link the client to appropriate services, coordinate and monitor services as necessary, and provide information and assistance to caregivers. Case managers also help older adults connect with in-home assistance programs, including a program called Choices for Care. This program is especially helpful to frail older adults facing the possibility of long-term care placement who still wish to remain at home. Options Counseling, which helps older adults create a long term care plan, was used by 3 individuals in your community.

Other Services and Support

SVCOA also provided a host of other services to support older adults in your community. These services included:

- 1) "Senior HelpLine" assistance at 1-800-642-5119. Our Senior HelpLine staff provide telephone support to older adults and others, who need information about available programs and community resources;
- 2) Medicare and health benefit counseling information and assistance through our State Health Insurance Program (SHIP);
- 3) Legal service assistance through the Vermont Senior Citizens Law Project;
- 4) Information about elder issues via the "60Plus" column appearing in the Rutland Herald;
- 5) Nutrition education and counseling services provided by SVCOA's Registered Dietician;
- 6) Senior Companion support for frail, homebound older adults;
- 7) Outreach services to older adults dealing with mental health issues through our Elder Care Clinician. SVCOA cooperates with Rutland County Mental Health to provide this service;
- 8) Transportation assistance; and,
- 9) Caregiver support, information and respite to family members and others who are providing much needed help to older adults in need of assistance.

Financials

2017 Revenue

Older Americans Act	\$973,621
Other Federal	\$1,154,949
State Funds	\$1,029,263
Town Funds	\$99,471
Other Local Funds	\$158,595
In-Kind	\$111,850
Grants and Contracts Match	\$300,431
Total	\$3,828,180

*excludes one-time grant from Vermont Community Development Block Grant to facilitate renovation of 143 Maple Street, Rutland, VT 05701

2017 Expense

Salary and Fringe	\$1,737,776
Contract Services	\$1,192,197
General Operating	\$565,862
Non-Cash	\$296,067
Total	\$3,791,902

Surplus

\$36,278

Grants and 2017 REVENUE



This past year, the Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) experienced a year of growth and success. A total of 1,162 individuals served through CRJ programs, 26 of which were Dorset residents, made positive impacts on their lives, the lives of others and their community. Over \$6,500 was donated back to community organizations and charities and over \$9,000 in restitution was collected and given back to victims of crime.

CRJ programs are integral in helping to strengthen communities. Our programs are guided by the principles of restorative justice, which holds offenders accountable and places emphasis on repairing the harm done to the victim and community. Our wide array of community justice programs help both youth and adults, victims and the community. We invite and encourage people to visit our web site at www.bcrj.org to learn more about our many programs and services.

CRJ is proud to have 46 community volunteers, who are at the heart of restorative justice, serving on one of 8 monthly restorative justice panels. Seven of our volunteers are residents of Dorset. CRJ would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Dorset for your partnership in providing a wide variety of alternative justice programming. Your support has helped individuals to get their lives on the right track, helped empower victims to get their needs met and be a voice in the justice process, and helped restore and strengthen communities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leitha Cipriano, Executive Director

	<i>FY 2017 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT</i>	
Revenue:	State Grants	452,048
	Other Grants	2,440
	School Funding	24,500
	Fees- Diversion/TASP	42,754
	Town Funding	3,740
	Contributions, Fundraising	10,529
Total Revenue		536,011
Expenses	Personnel	447,025
	Facilities	36,000
	Operations	44,955
	Ins	5,111
	Volunteer training	6,331
	Prof Fees	9,615
Total Expenses		549,037



Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) gratefully acknowledges the Town of Dorset's continued support for homeless families and individuals throughout Bennington County. BCCH strives to end homelessness by providing emergency shelter and a wide range of supportive services. Our program provides the building blocks necessary for people to become self-sufficient so that they may sustain permanent housing and remain

independent. Because we strive for sustainable solutions, guests are required to participate in coordinated case management. Other programming includes life skills, employment readiness, nutrition, budgeting/credit repair, as well as peer to peer counseling lead by individuals who have overcome homelessness.

In 2017, BCCH served 233 homeless individuals: 101 men, 76 women, and 54 children. BCCH is the only homeless shelter in Bennington County and currently houses 67 people each night in our three shelter facilities: 966 Main Emergency Shelter, Thatcher House Family Shelter, and the Unlocking Recovery Project. 966 Main also operates as a drop-in center where those in need gain access to clothing, bedding, and personal care products. They are also able to utilize the kitchen and bathroom facilities, meet with a case manager, and use the computers to search and apply for employment opportunities.

A portion of the BCCH annual budget is made up of state and federal aid. The remainder of the budget is made up of town funding appropriations, foundation grants, and donations from our community. On behalf of BCCH, thank you for your support as we continue to facilitate new beginnings for those in need throughout Bennington County.

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless respectfully asks the voters of the Town of Dorset \$1000.00 to support our shelters. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Christopher Oldham
Executive Director

	Proposed 2018 Operating Budget					
	966	Thatcher	McCall	General Fund	G & A	Total 2018
G/L Account	Main	House	House	Donatons		Opr Budget
State of Vermont	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 190,000
HUD- Federal Goc	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,064	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,064
ESFP formerly FEMA	\$ 19,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,000
Town Appropriations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,750	\$ -	\$ 31,750
Donations-Monetary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,495	\$ -	\$ 52,495
Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 65,000
Resident Rent & Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000
Foundation Grants	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 48,684	\$ -	\$ 78,684
Total Income	\$ 129,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 70,064	\$ 197,929	\$ 10,000	\$ 496,993

Project Against Violent Encounters

services for survivors of domestic & sexual violence

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) is committed to providing compassionate support, practical services and the pathway to healing and

safety for countless victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout our communities. Our organization has grown from a domestic violence hotline to the multiple and comprehensive support services we now provide. These services include 24 hour hotline, court and social service advocacy, case management, emergency financial assistance, access to legal services, access to emergency housing, supervised visitation, parenting classes, community awareness, school –based prevention education and more.

The hotline is still where it often begins and our volunteers remain the backbone of the support we offer. In the past year, we provided nine Dorset residents with comprehensive services, all nine initially contacting us through the emergency hotline. These residents received advocacy services including emotional support, safety planning, housing services, civil and legal advocacy, emergency financial assistance and transportation. In addition, four adults and two children received supervised visitation services through our Family Time Center.

Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families. Our emergency shelter program provides families with short-term housing and case management services with the goal of obtaining safe permanent housing. In the past year, with your help, we opened a second emergency shelter, the Mary Kirkpatrick Center, to meet the need in our community for families fleeing domestic violence. We provided 57 adults and 41 children with 3,135 nights of shelter services.

To stop the generational cycle of abuse, we must start early and invest in prevention strategies that provide healthy parent-child relationships, friendships and dating relationships. Through our education and empowerment programs - pre-kindergarten to college; Nurturing Parenting classes; Women's Support Groups; Healthy Mind, Body and Family workshops and Financial Literacy Program, we helped over 4,500 children, teachers and other adults learn new skills and techniques.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and families served, I thank the residents of Dorset for your ongoing support to PAVE. Your support creates greater opportunities for the people impacted by domestic and/or sexual violence who need our services each year.

Respectfully submitted
Linda Campbell, Executive Director

Profit & Loss July 2016 through June 2017 Jul '16 - Jun 17

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4010 • Contributions - D/S	51,525.69
4050 • Contributions - Board	2,831.00
4060 • Contribution - Family Time	2,754.83
4100 • Grant Income	449,577.29
4200 • Contracts - State	3,345.00
4500 • Deferred Grant Income	17,632.89
4550 • Interest Income	485.38
Total Income	528,152.08
Expense	
60001 • Salaries	223,386.85
60002 • Employee Benefits	58,564.23
60009 • Mileage Network Related	766.14
60014 • Operations Expense	21,101.15
60015 • Program Services	97,633.98
60023 • Occupancy Expense	58,526.53
60029 • Equipment Expense	3,400.27
60061 • Staff Fundraising Expense	26.93
60062 • Board Fundraising Expense	1,357.62
Total Expense	464,763.70
Net Ordinary Income	63,388.38

DORSET HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The year 2017 was again one of significant and varied activity for the Dorset Historical Society. Your Historical Society continued to play a major role in the cultural calendar of the Dorset community, and this year we worked in close collaboration with the Dorset Town Office, the Library and the local schools.

Our well attended Third Thursday monthly luncheon lectures by an interesting group of speakers (mostly local residents) covered many topics of local historical interest. Our museum exhibits this year included a depiction of agriculture practiced through the ages in Dorset, a description of historic homes along Route 30 with photos of them through the years, art work by prominent Dorset artists David Humphreys and Bea Jackson in our gallery, and photos from our Hunt Gilbert collection of Dorset scenes from the early twentieth century. Our permanent displays include Jessica Bond's artistry and stencil collections, Fenton Pottery, and the most complete display of the continuing role played by marble in the history of Dorset.

Our community involvement in 2017 included our increased participation in the events at the Dorset and Long Trail schools, our sharing of programs with the Dorset Library, our contributions to the development of the Dorset Forest Project and trails. We also facilitated the mapping of individual grave locations at the Maple Hill Cemetery. We sponsored three Dorset quarry walks during the summer, our Ice Cream Social continued to attract a large crowd to the lawn at Bley House, and we were contributors to Memorial Day and Halloween celebrations in Dorset.

Our annual membership appeal this year attracted 244 families from Dorset. Visitors who signed the guest book at Bley House came from __ states and __ foreign countries.

In 2018 you can look forward to several new exhibits at Bley House.

The Board of Directors of the Dorset Historical Society

	<u>2017 Actual</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>		
Membership Income	\$29,760.00	\$25,525.00
Museum Proceeds	3,784.65	1,750.00
Special Gifts	1,250.00	1,000.00
Dorset Town Grant	<u>7,500.00</u>	<u>7,500.00</u>
Total Income	\$42,294.65	\$35,775.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Programs and Exhibits	\$ 5,667.86	\$ 6,400.00
Newsletters	2,659.87	3,000.00
Administration	12,109.08	13,725.00
Facilities	2,882.06	7,225.00
Utilities	<u>2,311.54</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$25,630.41	\$32,850.00
 NOTE – Dorset Town Support	 \$ 7,500.00	 \$ 7,500.00
	(provided)	(requested)



Habitat for Humanity International, an organization aimed at eliminating sub-standard housing worldwide, works in approximately 1,400 U.S communities and 70 countries and has helped 9.8 million people achieve strength, stability and independence through safe, decent and affordable shelter. Bennington County Habitat for Humanity (BCHfH), an affiliate of Habitat International, works in

partnership with Bennington County residents who otherwise would not be able to become homeowners or afford needed home repairs. An applicant's need for better housing, income, and willingness to partner with BCHfH are considered when choosing our homebuyer partners. Each adult partner family member must complete 200 hours of sweat equity. Homebuyers' interest free mortgage, property taxes, insurance, and Homeowner Association fees, where applicable, never exceed more than 30% of their income. The monthly mortgage payments help build more homes.

BCHfH is locally run and locally funded. With the exception of some contract services, Habitat homes are built by local volunteers (all are welcome- no experience necessary). Area businesses, service providers, and individuals help build, donate materials, and provide financial support. Town appropriations purchase building supplies and materials for our local projects.

Fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017) was a very productive year for BCHfH. In April 2017 we completed our 22nd and 23rd homes, one in Manchester and one in Bennington. 204 volunteers worked a total of 5,165 hours on these homes. Students in the Building and Trades Division of the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center are building a house in Bennington for a Habitat homebuyer. We started the infrastructure work for our North Branch Street neighborhood. Habitat volunteers worked on the Greater Bennington Interfaith Council Services' building in Bennington. We chose our next homebuyer family, whose home was started in August 2017. We made plans to build a home in Manchester in 2018 and to revive our Home Repair Program, thereby serving more families.

Our Resale Store in Manchester sells, at reasonable prices, new and gently used furniture, building supplies, appliances, housewares, tools, and home improvement products that have been donated to us. The proceeds from the store provide meaningful support for our building program.

Five Dorset residents serve on our Board of Directors and many Dorset residents have helped build our local Habitat homes. We encourage Dorset residents to apply for homes and home repair projects. We are grateful for the Town of Dorset's continued support. None of the projects would be possible without the support we receive from the local community. Together, we do make a difference in the lives of hard-working, lower-income area residents. Our website address is www.benningtoncountyhabitat.org.

Respectfully submitted by Monica Knorr, President, Board of Director

	2017 Actual	2017 Budget
Contributions & Other Income	\$70,666	\$46,200
Restricted Contributions/Grants	241,167	169,989
Fundraising Events	9,915	1,600
Resale Store Fundraising	87,806	110,000
Interest & Other Income	8,384	2,500
Mortgage/Loan Payments Received	<u>73,493</u>	<u>77,176</u>
Total Cash Flow In	<u>\$491,431</u>	<u>\$407,465</u>
Construction, Property Development & Program Operations	\$292,986	\$546,599
Fundraising and Resale Store Operations	68,107	88,699
Administrative & Other	<u>94,806</u>	<u>93,428</u>
Total Cash Flow Out	<u>\$455,899</u>	<u>\$728,726</u>
Net Cash Flow/(Budgeted Use of Surplus)	<u>\$35,532</u>	<u>(\$321,261)</u>

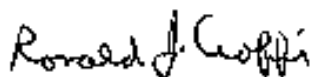
TO THE OFFICERS AND CITIZENS OF DORSET:

In 2016, the Dorset Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice (DAVNAH) provided Bennington County residents with exceptional home care, hospice and community health services. From infants with hi-tech needs to our most senior population facing end-of-life care, we continued to bring medically necessary healthcare wherever it is needed, location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

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

In 2016, VNA's dedicated staff made more than 142,884 visits to 3,459 patients. In the town of Dorset, we provided 850 visits to 58 individuals.

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



Ronald J. Cloffi, Executive Director



Carrie Allen, President of the Board of Directors

Statements of Operations

Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Operating revenue		
Patient service revenue	\$ 17,533,898	\$ 16,658,132
Provision for bad debts	<u>(158,000)</u>	<u>(55,000)</u>
Net patient service revenue	17,375,898	16,603,132
Net assets released from restriction for operations	9,913	8,220
Other operating revenue	<u>1,411,994</u>	<u>1,367,192</u>
Total operating revenue	<u>18,797,805</u>	<u>17,978,544</u>
Operating expenses		
Salaries and benefits	13,869,016	13,613,168
Other operating expenses	5,245,775	4,488,119
Depreciation	<u>171,373</u>	<u>200,183</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>19,286,164</u>	<u>18,311,470</u>
Operating loss	<u>(488,359)</u>	<u>(332,926)</u>
Other revenue and gains (losses)		
United Way and municipal appropriations	246,822	245,341
Contributions, net	442,748	257,056
Investment income	89,905	109,513
Change in fair value of investments	161,239	(12,096)
Loss on disposal of assets	<u>(10,028)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other revenue and gains (losses)	<u>930,686</u>	<u>499,814</u>
Excess of revenues and gains over expenses and losses and increase in unrestricted net assets	\$ <u>442,327</u>	\$ <u>166,888</u>

East Dorset Cemetery Association

The East Dorset Cemetery Association gratefully appreciates the continuous support from the people in the Town of Dorset. Again this year, we would like to thank the many volunteers for their great efforts in keeping our cemetery looking great.

The annual meeting for the East Dorset Cemetery Association is held on the first Thursday of October at the Dorset Town office at 7:00 p.m. All lot owners and family are welcome.

October 2016—September 2017

Beginning Balance \$4,344.54

Income

Lot Sale \$475.00

Town Allotment \$2,500.00

Total Income..... \$2,975.00

Expenses

Mowing..... \$2,500.00

Field Mowing \$90.00

Shed Repair..... \$1,565.35

Road Repair..... \$1,302.29

Miscellaneous \$28.00

Total Expenses \$5,485.64

Ending Balance..... \$1,833.90

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Beebe



2017 has been yet another year of building improvements and innovation at the Dorset Library. Completing our major building improvements from 2016, the landscaping has been completely redone and a new lawn is ready for all of our upcoming library activities. This year we received a grant that allows us to replace all the windows for more efficient windows. The replacement has started and will continue into 2018. Also, the young adult and children spaces have been updated with new paint and furniture creating comfortable and stylish seating and study areas. A new computer for public use (featuring our updated catalog) and organization of the library materials allow for ease of access.

The library has increased their patrons by over 100, we participated in the first ever Vermont Fairy Tale Festival and we hosted an array of programming and events for all ages; Dog Days of July cook-out, origami, knitting, poetry, dinosaurs, dance parties and of course our hugely popular Halloween Haunted Library! Our new popcorn machine makes for fun “Pop Up Popcorn Days” as well as creating tasty snacks for our programs and events. Ask one of our staff to show you the new public computer with access to our online catalog. The instruction will also cover how to use the catalog and request holds from the comfort of your home! We are also continuing to clean up the catalog, an ongoing project that may be reaching its end soon... making searching and the ability to locate everything much easier.

4000 Revenue	Jan-Dec 17	Budget 2018
4010 Fundraising Event	681	100
4020 Art Sale Income	990	2,500
4030 Book Sales	1,936	1,250
4040 Conscience Fund	203	250
4050 Donations & Annual Fund	24,670	21,000
4080 Town Appropriations & Grants	20,000	20,000
4060 Bequests/Gifts	56,300	50,000
Total 4000 Revenue	104,780	95,100
6000 Expenses		
6000 Administration	22,598	24,750
6500 Personnel	104,552	106,700
6600 Library Materials	23,156	21,750
6700 Building & Grounds	56,575	53,450
Total 6000 Expenses	206,881	206,650
Surplus/Deficit	(-102,101)	(-111,550)

Note:

- 1. All of town appropriations are restricted to library programs and materials, which directly benefit community citizens.**
- 2. Budget deficit is made up by investment income, endowment transfer, and gifts/bequests.**



Your Community Media & Training Center

www.gnat-tv.org

(Arlington, Dorset, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Rupert, Sandgate, Stratton, Sunderland, Weston, Winhall)

Dear Residents,

Thank you for your past support of GNAT. Your financial support enables us to provide video coverage of your local government meetings.

GNAT is a 501c3 Not for Profit Organization created by community members in 1995. GNAT employs local citizens to videotape the meetings and makes these meetings (and other educational, civic and community events) available to all citizens on our cable channels and on our website: www.gnat-tv.org.

In addition to our meeting coverage, GNAT offers free and low cost media services and provides a platform for local voices to be heard. Residents, government entities, community organizations and schools within our eleven-town service territory may produce and broadcast non-commercial television programs. GNAT maintains community television studio facilities, lends high quality video equipment and provides technical training. GNAT maintains a vibrant **youth program** including internships, media production camps and in-classroom training. In 2016 GNAT launched **The News Project** to provide local news and information for our communities (in 2017 GNAT Produced 204 local News Project programs).

Local media coverage is vital to our Democracy. We ask for your financial contribution to help support the work we do. Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Tammie M. Reilly
Executive Director

Service Area / Comcast Cable Channels

Channels 15, 16 & 17: Arlington, Dorset, Manchester, Peru, Rupert, Sandgate, Sunderland & Winhall
Channels 8, 10 & 18: Stratton
Channel 8, 10: Weston & Londonderry

Mission

To provide public access to media technologies, equipment, training, and local information for our regional community.

Vision

To facilitate and foster free speech, to promote and facilitate civic and cultural engagement and to be the community resource for new media technology and training.

2017 Usage Data

678	Equipment & Facility Reservations
136	Training Sessions
480	People Trained
56	Community Video Announcements
491	Community Bulletin Board Announcements
606	Local Public Programs Produced (Non Government)
233	Government Meetings

Watch Online: www.gnat-tv.org

GNAT Statement of Financial Activities Summary Year Ending September 30, 2017

INCOME

PEG Access Operating Revenue	\$434,846
PEG Access Capital Revenue	\$43,485
Program Service	\$7,176
Fundraising / Other Income	\$19,046
Total Income	\$504,553

EXPENSE

Payroll Fees, Taxes and Salaries	\$289,862
Rent / Utilities / Insurance	\$67,165
Production/Program Supplies	\$15,978
Equipment / Depreciation	\$42,112
Small Equipment	\$19,873
Other Operating Expense	\$46,994
Total Expense	\$481,984
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$22,569
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$480,680
Net Assets, End of Year	\$503,249



The Collaborative appreciates your vote of confidence as you vote for the 2017 budget. In 2018, The Collaborative marks **twenty** years of providing quality alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention education and substance free events and programs for area youth. Since 1998, we have grown from a small after school program to provide a wide range of individual, youth, and family programs focused on preventing youth substance use, supporting families and creating a healthy community.

In the town budget we are requesting funds for The Collaborative mission to support substance free middle and high school youth. Over 400 middle and high school students participate in programs and events that include student empowerment groups, broomball games, movie nights, Refuse to Use, and pick up game nights at the Manchester Recreation Facility and activities during out of school time. The Collaborative is committed to healthy, happy, and resilient children and teens; children and teens who can grow up to be healthy, happy, and resilient adults. Combining education with activity alternatives encourages positive lifelong habits.

We are requesting your approval of \$750 in your town's budget to continue to provide substance free events and substance use education. We appreciate your involvement. Please contact us to find out about others ways to Get Involved!

Maryann Morris
Executive Director

	RTU 16-17	Towns 16-17	TOTAL
Income			
Indiv/business contribution	60.00	0.00	60.00
Foundation/trust grants	2,150.00	0.00	2,150.00
Local government grants	0.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Program Fees - RTU	17,350.00	0.00	17,350.00
Total Income	19,560.00	5,500.00	25,060.00
Expense			
Salaries & wages	2,161.09	3,326.49	5,487.58
Payroll taxes & Other Fringe	427.09	664.78	1,091.87
RTU Fees	14,100.00	0.00	14,100.00
Supplies	44.90	416.73	461.63
Telephone & telecommunications	504.72	130.00	634.72
Printing & copying	132.00	162.00	294.00
Curriculums	23.93	0.00	23.93
Marketing Materials	383.40	0.00	383.40
Travel & meetings expenses	279.07	250.00	529.07
Events	205.61	250.00	455.61
Food	0.00	100.00	100.00
Bank Charges	360.20	0.00	360.20
Insurance - non-employee	0.00	200.00	200.00
Outside computer services	831.99	0.00	831.99
Advertising expenses	106.00	0.00	106.00
Total Expense	19,560.00	5,500.00	25,060.00
			0.00
Net Income	0.00	0.00	0.00



Dorset Marble Preservation Association, Inc. (DMPA)

Dorset Marble Preservation Association

DMPA is very grateful to Dorset voters, who have approved appropriations since 2014 to help restore sidewalks and make them safe for pedestrians. In each of our projects, the town has provided significant help with excavation equipment, labor and administration. This has brought about substantial savings.

In 2017, we undertook a project in East Dorset in partnership with The Wilson House. Approximately 80 feet of sidewalk on the west side of this historic building was rebuilt. DMPA contributed \$15,000 in funds, and The Wilson House provided the rest. The plan is to restore the sidewalk on the north side of The Wilson House property during the 2018 season, with a similar funding partnership.

We are currently exploring an additional project on Church Street, hoping to complete it by early summer.

Financial Statement

Revenue	(as of 3/6/2017)	(as of 1/12/2018)
Appropriations	\$21,000	\$36,000
Foundation Grants	7,000	16,000
Marble Sales	3,905	3,905
Individual Contributions	<u>16,827</u>	<u>16,928</u>
Total	\$48,732	\$72,833
Expenses		
Sidewalk Construction	\$27,983	\$42,983
Maintenance (plowing)	960	2,245
Administration (checks)	<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>
Total	\$28,969	\$27,579
Bank Balance	\$19,763	\$27,579



The Dorset Players has been an institution in Dorset since it was founded in 1927. The Playhouse was built in 1929. The Dorset Theatre Festival is a professional equity company that continues to rent the Playhouse during the summer months. In 1999, The Dorset Players and The Dorset Theatre Festival undertook a three million dollar restoration of the historic Dorset Playhouse. In June 2001, the newly restored playhouse opened and has been in constant use ever since. The Dorset Players and the Dorset Theatre Festival produce programs and events throughout the year for local citizenry as well as visitors to the area. There have been many challenges over the years and although the Dorset Players have maintained the structure with grants and donations as best they can, there comes a time when that is not enough. Some of the issues before us are the roof, the exterior of the building, energy efficiency inside the building, the parking lots and grounds as well as other internal systems. We ask the town for help with our parking lots and grounds, which have to be graded every year and keep plowed and sanded during the winter season. This insures the safety of, not only users of the Playhouse but for any local citizen who uses them as well.

DORSET PLAYERS BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 8/1/17 TO 7/31/18

INCOME:

Production	71,806
Fundraising/Donations	17,750
Membership	8,000
Playbill Advertising	11,900
Theater Rental	12,000
Other	125
TOTAL INCOME	121,581

EXPENSES:

Production	27,346
Administrative	32,895
Building	52,740
General Theater	3,100
Playbill	5,500
TOTAL EXPENSES	121,581

DORSET PLAYERS INCOME AND EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR ENDING 7/31/17

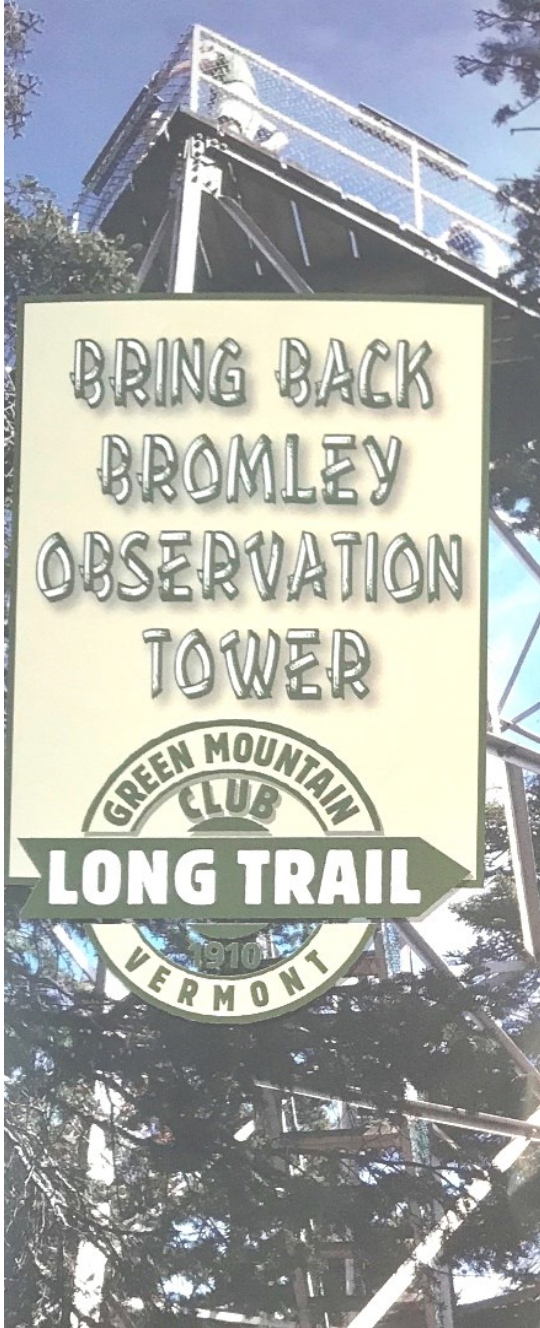
INCOME:

Production	71,542
Fundraising/Donations	31,030
Membership	6,895
Playbill Advertising	14,150
Theater Rental	11,878
Other	4,580
TOTAL INCOME	140,075

EXPENSES:

Production	26,124
Administrative	31,858
Building	50,683
General Theater	2,906
Playbill	6,973
Depreciation	6,993
TOTAL EXPENSE	125,537

Reconstruction of the Bromley Observation Tower



The observation tower at the top of Bromley Mountain was taken down in June 2012, due to structural and safety concerns. The Green Mountain Club, Manchester Section, is spearheading the fundraising effort to rebuild the tower. As the previous tower was an asset in attracting tourists to this area, outdoor recreation is becoming an increasing draw for tourists to this area during all four seasons, and tourists are a major part of our economy, we request that the Town provide a one-time donation of \$2500 to the fund for reconstruction of the tower.

In 1959, Fred Pabst had a chairlift built to the top of Bromley Mountain to both serve the ski area in winter and bring tourists to the summit in summer. A wooden tower with a large viewing platform was built between 1960 and 1962 to provide a 360 degree unobstructed view of mountains in four states. In the spring of 2012, after 50 years of use by thousands of visitors, the tower was deemed structurally unsound and was removed.

On a clear day, visitors would see:

- South to Stratton Mountain, Glastenbury Mountain, Mt. Snow in Vermont and to Mount Greylock in Massachusetts.
- East to Okemo and Ascutey Mountains in Vermont and Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire
- North to Pico, Killington, Shrewsbury Mountains, Styles Peak, and Green Mountain in Vermont.
- Northeast to Mt. Mousilauke, New Hampshire and on a really clear day to the White Mountains of NH.
- West to Mount Equinox, the Valley of Vermont, the Adirondacks, and Lakes George and Champlain.

The old tower also provided a platform above the tree canopy for bird watching. Some of the best bird watching happens from above tree canopy sites. Replacing the tower will bring back this excellent bird watching platform.

The summit of Bromley Ski Area is part of the Hapgood State Forest, managed by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail cross the summit of Bromley Mountain and are managed by the Green Mountain Club in Vermont. Bromley Resort, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Green Mountain Club have been working over the last few years on a plan to replace the observation

tower. Plans include a new tower of steel construction located about 20 feet north of the site of the previous tower.

The total cost to build the new tower is \$262,000. As of December 31, 2017, we have raised \$116,175. Thank you for considering this one-time request for support of the Bromley Observation Tower reconstruction.

The Green Mountain Club

BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS



Green Up Day
First Saturday in May ~ May 5, 2018 ~ 48 Years





Northshire Rescue Squad
P.O. Box 26

Manchester Center, VT 05255

Phone 802-362-1995 Fax 802-362-8175

Email: NorthshireRescue@gmail.com

In an attempt to better represent the communities we serve, the Manchester Rescue Squad, Inc. will be operating under the name Northshire Rescue Squad (NRS). We are still the same private non-profit organization that provides primary EMS coverage to Manchester, Dorset, Danby, Mt. Tabor and parts of Winhall as well as mutual aid coverage to neighboring EMS services.

We still provide the communities we serve with paramedic level service and strive to keep abreast of the ever changing medical technology available for the pre-hospital setting. NRS prides itself with having the most technologically advanced equipment available.

In addition to providing emergency medical coverage, mutual aid to neighboring EMS services and scheduled medically necessary transfers when available, NRS also provides education to the community in the form of CPR, AED (Automated External Defibrillation) and First Aid courses.

Call per town fiscal year 2016-2017

Arlington	13	Mount Tabor	18
Bennington	8	Pawlet	2
Danby	92	Peru	6
Dorset	108	Rupert	2
East Dorset	45	Bondville	12
Granville	1	Rutland	1
Londonderry	3	Stratton	1
Manchester	784	Winhall	7
		Total	1054

Michael Casey, NRP
Chief Operations Officer

<u>Northshire Rescue Squad - 2016/17 Financial Results</u>		
Income		
	Medical Receipts	\$460,905
	Municipal Support - Appropriations	\$52,466
	Community Support	
	Annual Fund & Subscription Donations	\$97,307
	Subscriptions	\$91,646
	Investment Income	\$9,449
	Miscellaneous Income	\$2,155
	Total Income	\$713,928
Expenses		
	Wages (Medical Staff)	\$456,634
	Payroll Taxes	\$37,386
	Employee Medical Insurance / Benefits	\$50,768
	Ambulance Lease	\$26,156
	Insurance (W/C, Property, etc.)	\$57,736
	Accounting & Bookkeeping	\$10,650
	Legal	\$2,555
	Billing - medical services	\$53,870
	Occupancy Costs	\$14,960
	Vehicles Maintenance/Repairs	\$17,311
	Medical Equipment & Supplies	\$29,873
	Communications/Repairs	\$4,871
	Total Education	\$3,950
	Total Office Supplies/Software	\$3,903
	Uniforms	\$3,089
	PR/Fundraising/Postage & Printing	\$4,914
	Misc Expense	\$2,883
	Total Expense	\$781,509
	Net Income / Loss	-\$67,581

- The above financial results (income and expense) do not reflect Rent and Dispatch Services. The Town of Manchester has historically provided Rescue Squad with these services as an in-kind contribution. The estimated value of Rent is \$43,000; and the estimated value of Dispatch is \$62,000.
- Starting in 2017/18, Rescue Squad will pay Manchester for Rent and Dispatch. The Towns served by Rescue Squad have agreed to increase budgeted appropriations to help cover the increase in cash expense, and to support the sustainability of Rescue Squad operations. Manchester, as the largest user of Rescue services, is providing the largest portion of increased support – helping to offset this new cash cost for the Squad.
- Note: Financial Results in 2016/17 came in well short of Budget. Primary factors were:
 - o Medical Revenues were lower than budgeted/anticipated, and a new Provider Tax payable to the State further reduced Medical Revenues.
 - o Community support - in the form of Donations to Rescue Squad's Annual Fund - were well below budget. Donations in 2016/17 were roughly 35% lower than in 2015/16.



Green Up Day

First Saturday in May ~ May 5, 2018 ~ 48 Years



GREEN UP VERMONT

P.O. Box 1191
Montpelier, Vermont 05601-1191
(802)229-4586, or 1-800-974-3259
greenup@greenupvermont.org
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day marked its 47th Anniversary, with over 22,000 volunteers participating! Green Up Vermont, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, continues to proudly carry on this tradition of Green Up Day. **Green Up Vermont is not a State Agency.** Seventy-five percent of Green Up Vermont's budget comes from corporate and individual donations. People can now choose to donate to Green Up Vermont by entering a gift amount on Line 29 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form. As a result, Green Up Vermont has been able to significantly increase the percentage of individual giving, thus making Green Up Day more stable for the long-term.

With your town's help, we can continue Vermont's unique annual tradition of taking care of our state's lovely landscape and promoting civic pride with our children growing up with Green Up. Our East Montpelier coordinator reports "Green Up Day is an excellent teachable moment for our children." Green Up Day is a day each year when people come together in their communities to give Vermont a spring cleaning! Green Up Vermont also focuses on education for grades K-2 by providing two free activity booklets to schools and hosts its annual student poster design and writing contests for grades K-12. To learn more please visit [**www.greenupvermont.org**](http://www.greenupvermont.org).

Support from cities and towns continues to be an essential part of our operating budget. It enables us to cover sixteen percent of the operating budget. All town residents benefit from clean roadsides! Funds help pay for supplies, including over 50,000 Green Up trash bags, promotion, education, and the services of two part-time employees.

Mark your calendar: May 5, 2018 Green Up Day, 48 years of tradition!

**Join with people in your community to clean up for Green Up Day,
Always the first Saturday in May.**

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)

14 Crab Apple Ridge, Randolph, VT 05060

(802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com | www.vacd.org

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction. During the 19 years of the program, 1054 grants totaling \$2.32 million have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs. Over the past several years, the Rural Fire Protection Program has made a successful transition from the Northern Vermont and George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservation Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

We have made several adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program in recent years, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. In 2017 we increased the maximum grant award amount from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per project. New Rural Fire Protection systems along with repair, replacement, relocation, and upgrades of existing RFP systems are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. In 2015 we began considering applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year. Please be on the lookout for the grant announcement post-card in March 2018.

The annual budget of the Rural Fire Protection Program is \$190,000 per year, \$110,000 of which is awarded in grants to Vermont communities for construction costs. The remaining budget covers site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Vermont Department of Public Safety through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your 2018 town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. Since last year's appropriation request, we have received almost \$10,000 in town appropriations from almost 100 towns, with contributions still coming in. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing support. 214 Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities.

Enclosed please find a summary report of the Rural Water Supply Grant Program, as well as an invoice and W-9 from VACD in case it is required. Please feel free to contact me, Troy Dare, or Jill Arace, Executive Director of VACD, with any questions you may have. Our contact information is provided below. If you would like to receive this appropriation request by mail instead of by email, please contact Troy Dare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Maclay, Chair Rural Fire Protection Task Force

(802) 426-3265 | 83creameryst@fairpoint.net

Troy Dare, Program Manager & contact person Town Appropriation business

Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program (802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com

Jill Arace, Executive Director Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) (802) 496-5162 |

jill.arace@vacd.org

Rural Fire Protection Task Force Members:

Tom Maclay, Chair, Marshfield VFD Bill Sanborn, Vice-Chair, Town of Maidstone

Bill Barry, Berlin VFD

Tess Greaves, Vermont Forest Parks & Recreation

Tyler Hermanson, VT Enhanced 9-1-1

Jenny Nelson, Senator Bernie Sanders' Office

Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety

Christine Kaiser, Kaiser Farm, Stowe VT

**Vermont Association of Conservation Districts
Rural Fire Protection Program Financial Report
Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)**

Income

Town Appropriations	10,030
VT Dept of Public Safety	180,502
VT Dept of Forests Parks and Recreation	26,722
Sale of Dry Hydrant Spare Parts	15,877
Total Income	233,131

Expense

Design Assistance (Personnel)	61,399
Travel	4,855
Office and Services	27,374
Dry Hydrant Spare Parts & Signs	6,379
Rural Fire Protection Grants to Towns	133,125
Total Expense	233,131

Net Income	0
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East Dorset Fire District #1

East Dorset Firefighters responded to the following calls in 2017:

92	Total Calls
21	Calls in East Dorset District
56	Calls in Dorset District
3	Calls in Manchester
10	Calls in Danby
1	Call in Rupert
1	Call in Wallingford

Types of Calls in East Dorset District:

5	Alarms
4	Wood Rescue
1	Wood Stove Malfunction
6	Automobile Accidents
1	Cooking Mishap
2	Good Attend Call
2	Down Wires

Howard Towsley, Jr.
Chief

EAST DORSET FIRE DISTRICT #1-FIRE DIVISION 2016/2017							
ACCT. #	EDFD #1		BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET 17/18		
	COMPARATIVE BUDGET						
	2016/2017						
	FIREHOUSE						
2000	MAINTENANCE/REPAIR		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 20,707.82	\$ 7,500.00		
2100	UTILITIES		\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,751.25	\$ 7,000.00		
2200	SUPPLIES		\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00		
	APPARATUS						
3000	MAINTENANCE/REPAIR		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 13,743.90	\$ 10,000.00		
3001	NEW EQUIPMENT		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 9,559.28	\$ 15,000.00		
3002	FUEL		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,305.00	\$ 5,000.00		
3003	RADIOS		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,628.15	\$ 3,000.00		
3005	TRUCK SINKING FUND		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		
3006	TRUCK PAYMENT		\$ 35,017.00	\$ 35,017.19	\$ 35,017.00		
	PERSONNEL						
4000	PROTECTIVE GEAR		\$ 7,000.00	\$ 9,979.18	\$ 7,000.00		
4001	AIR BOTTLES		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		
4002	DUES/TRAINING		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,653.00	\$ 1,500.00		
4004	MEALS		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 255.88	\$ 1,000.00		
4200	FEC		\$ 8,500.00	\$ 7,729.36	\$ 8,500.00		
	ADMINISTRATION						
5000	PROFESSIONAL FEES		\$ 3,550.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,550.00		
5001	OFFICE SUPPLIES		\$ 900.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 900.00		
5005	ADVERTISEMENTS		\$ 100.00	\$ 45.75	\$ 100.00		
5200	INSURANCE		\$ 19,000.00	\$ 32,268.98	\$ 19,000.00		
5201	ADMINISTRATION/CHIEF		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		
5202	FIRE PREVENTION		\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00		
5203	AUDIT		\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00		
	TOTALS		\$ 144,067.00	\$ 158,264.74	\$ 144,067.00		



Dorset Fire District #1

The Dorset Fire District responded to 96 calls during 2017. Call breakdown as follows:

Accident with Injuries	1	Manchester	2
Brush Fires	1	Pawlet	2
Fire alarm cooking	8	Rupert	4
Chimney Fires	1	Smoke Condition	1
CO2 Alarm	2	Wires down	2
CO2 problem	1	Trees on wires	6
East Dorset	18	Furnace malfunction	1
EMS Assist	5	Structure Fire	5
Fire Alarms false	11	Tree down in road	1
Danby	2	Vehicle Fire	1
Fire alarm fireplace	6	Water Problem	2
Hazmat	3	West Pawlet	1
Fire alarm other reasons	9		

For the year, the firemen had 735.5 hours of in-house training with some firemen taking an additional 120 hours of fire school training. We also have 2 fire fighters taking Fire Fighter 2 class to finish up this year.

The Dorset Fire District serves over 1,000 property owners as well as oversees the water system for Dorset with approximately 180 customers. Our annual meeting is held on the second Monday in May – **May 14, 2018.**

Respectively submitted, Ben Weiss, Prudential Committee Chairman

Dorset Fire District #1 ~ Fire Budget 17-18 ~ FY End: June 30, 2017							
Account	FY 15-16 Budget	Actual	FY 16-17 Budget	Actual	FY 17-18 Budget		
Advertisements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.44	\$100.00		
Fire Prevention	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,150.00		
Insurance	\$15,000.00	\$14,269.25	\$15,000.00	\$14,813.75	\$17,000.00		
Office Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$1,893.23	\$2,000.00	\$1,550.47	\$1,500.00		
Postage & Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$140.00		
Professional Fees	\$15,080.00	\$13,820.00	\$20,000.00	\$7,125.00	\$18,320.00		
Clerk Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,105.00	\$8,325.00		
Dam Fee Prentiss Pond	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00		
Dispatch Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,750.00	\$0.00		
Total Administration	\$32,080.00	\$29,982.48	\$37,000.00	\$30,549.66	\$46,535.00		
Gas/Diesel Fuel Apparatus	\$4,500.00	\$1,963.14	\$4,500.00	\$833.84	\$2,000.00		
Maintenance - Equip FY16	\$7,000.00	\$7,655.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Maintenance-Equipment	\$18,000.00	\$23,724.10	\$25,000.00	\$13,338.93	\$18,500.00		
New Equipment	\$42,000.00	\$17,210.15	\$42,000.00	\$13,295.52	\$11,118.00		
New Truck Payment	\$36,000.00	\$73,279.30	\$36,000.00	\$1,048.20	\$36,000.00		
Truck Sinking Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00		
Total Apparatus	\$107,500.00	\$123,832.27	\$132,500.00	\$28,516.49	\$92,618.00		
Contingency Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Firehouse Maintenance	\$6,000.00	\$11,749.92	\$16,775.00	\$5,510.35	\$11,000.00		
Supplies - Firehouse	\$400.00	\$278.97	\$400.00	\$331.34	\$300.00		
Utilities	\$9,500.00	\$9,468.39	\$9,500.00	\$8,414.95	\$9,135.00		
Total Firehouse	\$15,900.00	\$21,497.28	\$26,675.00	\$14,256.64	\$20,435.00		
FM Training/Dues/Mileage	\$9,050.00	\$5,497.60	\$9,050.00	\$2,931.00	\$6,400.00		
Firemen Education & Reten	\$25,000.00	\$11,580.81	\$15,000.00	\$8,620.00	\$10,400.00		
Firemen Dinner/Meals	\$3,500.00	\$2,433.02	\$3,500.00	\$1,719.39	\$3,500.00		
FEMA Grant Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Grant Matching Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Investment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Misc Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$777.39	\$0.00		
Reconciliation Discrepanc	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Sinking Fund	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Payroll - Taxes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$659.43	\$0.00		
Payroll -Processing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.56	\$0.00		
Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Bank Service Charge	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Total Personnel	\$62,550.00	\$19,511.43	\$27,550.00	\$15,057.77	\$20,300.00		
TOTAL	\$218,030.00	\$194,823.46	\$223,725.00	\$88,380.56	\$179,888.00		



Town Warning & Budget





2018 Town of Dorset, Vermont Warning

Legal voters of the Town of Dorset, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, Vermont on Monday, March 5, 2018 at the hour of 7:00 o'clock in the evening to transact any business not involving a vote by Australian Ballot, and on the 6th day of March at the hour of 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon to transact voting by Australian Ballot as required by law.

(ARTICLES 2 & 4) will be voted by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 6th. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. on March 6th.

Article 1. To hear and accept reports of Town Officers and take proper action on same.

Article 2. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year. To be voted by Australian Ballot. Officers to be elected as follows:

Moderator, Town..... 1 year term
Selectman..... 3 year term
Selectman..... 1 year term
Selectman..... 1 year term
First Constable 1 year term
Town Agent..... 1 year term

Article 3. Shall the voters authorize the collection of property taxes in two (2) installments on September 11, 2018 and March 12, 2019. Payments not received will be subject to 1% interest on September 15, 2018 and 1% interest and 8% penalty on March 16, 2019?

Article 4. Shall the voters approve the recorded Select Board's official budget as submitted with the Town report? To be voted by Australian Ballot.

Article 5. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the programs and services of BROCC (Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council)?

Article 6. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750 to Neighbor to Neighbor, a home based care giving program?

Article 7. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,600 to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for support of its activities with Dorset Elders?

Article 8. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750 for the support of the Center for Restorative Justice Program?

Article 9. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the operations of the Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

Article 10. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$500 for the support of Project Against Violent Encounters for its support of Dorset residents?

Article 11. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to the Dorset Historical Society to support its activities and continued efforts to serve as a cultural resource to our community?

- Article 12.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$850 for the support of the Bennington Area Habitat for Humanity?
- Article 13.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region (formerly known as Dorset Nursing Association) for support of its services provided to Dorset residents?
- Article 14.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to the East Dorset Cemetery Association for the care and maintenance of the cemetery?
- Article 15.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to the Dorset Village Library for support of its services provided to Dorset residents?
- Article 16.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to the Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT-TV) for support and defray of costs related to videotaping and television cable cast of the Select Board, School Board, and other municipal meetings?
- Article 17.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750 to The Collaborative for support of its substance free events and educational programs to middle and high school youth?
- Article 18.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to the Dorset Marble Preservation Association for the purpose of restoring Dorset's marble sidewalks? By Petition.
- Article 19.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to the Dorset Players Inc. to help defray the cost of maintain the Dorset Playhouse at 104 Cheney Road? By Petition.
- Article 20.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the replacement of the observation tower on Bromley Summit. (Located on the Long Trail, in State Forest Land and built with the supervision of the Green Mountain Club; the nonprofit organization whose volunteers are caretakers of the Long Trail)? By Petition.
- Article 21.** Shall the voters adopt the following resolution?

WHEREAS extreme and erratic temperatures, increasingly severe storms, flooding, a rise in tick-borne diseases, and threats to farmers and maple sugar makers clearly demonstrate that climate change is one of the most urgent problems facing our state, nation, and the world, and

WHEREAS the State of Vermont has a goal in the Comprehensive Energy Plan to achieve 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050, yet is making insufficient progress towards achieving that goal;


Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the town urges the State of Vermont to:
 - Firmly commit to at least 90% renewable energy for all people in Vermont, with firm interim deadlines.
2. That the town will do our part to meet these demands by committing to efforts such as:
 - Enlisting state support in weatherizing town buildings and schools and installing alternative energy, such as roof-top solar, to town structures.
 - Other initiatives to improve the quality of life while helping to reduce overall use of energy.

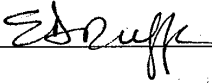
Article 22: To transact any other business, to properly come before this meeting.

So approved on this 16th day of January, 2018. By the Dorset Select Board.

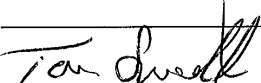
Henry L Chandler



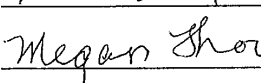
Elizabeth Ruffa



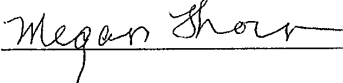
John P Stannard



Thomas Smith



Megan Thorn



2017 Town Meeting Minutes

In accordance with the legally warned notice, the annual meeting of the Town of Dorset was called to order by Moderator, Kevin O'Toole at the Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, Vermont on Monday, March 6, 2017 at the hour of 8:45 o'clock in the evening to transact any business not involving a vote by Australian Ballot, and on the 7th day of March at the hour of 7:00 o'clock in the forenoon to transact voting by Australian Ballot as required by law.

Article 1. To hear and accept reports of Town Officers and take proper action on same.

Motion was made by Ralph Colin and seconded by Ruth Stewart. Henry Chandler then thanked all the volunteers past and present who serve to do the work of Dorset. He also thanked the Road Crew; Duane Sherman, Bill Nichols, Mark Towslee and Road Foreman Jim Hewes along with Nancy Aversano, Margot Schoffstall, Judy Collins, Sandra Pinsonault, and Tyler Yandow. He also recognized our Town Manager Rob Gaiotti.

Henry Chandler then explained the changes in the Listers office and the future of police coverage by Bennington County Sherriff's Department and encouraged the support of those articles. Town Manager Rob Gaiotti then explained the Town Forest purchase that was completed last year.

Article 2. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year. To be voted by Australian Ballot. Officers to be elected as follows:

Moderator, Town.....	1 year term.....	Kevin O'Toole	340
Selectman.....	1 year term.....	Henry Chandler.....	337
		(Remainder of 3 year term)	
Selectman.....	3 year term.....	Thomas T Smith III....	310
Selectman.....	1 year term.....	Elizabeth Ruffa	259
Selectman1	year term	Megan Thörn.....	283
Town Clerk	3 year term.....	Sandra Pinsonault	327
School District Clerk	3 year term.....	Sandra Pinsonault	323
Town Treasurer.....	3 year term.....	Melissa Zecher	318
School District Clerk	3 year term.....	Melissa Zecher	313
First Constable	1 year term.....	Ryan Matteson	309
Town Agent.....	1 year term.....	Kevin O'Toole	332

Article 3. Shall the voters authorize the Select Board to borrow funds, in anticipation of taxes, necessary to pay current expenses?

Motion was made by Henry D Chandler, seconded by Terry Tyler. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 4. Shall the voters authorize the collection of property taxes in two (2) installments on September 12, 2017 and March 13, 2018. Any tax payment made on the due dates, must be sent via certified mail or hand delivered. Payments not received within four days will be subject to 1% interest on September 15, 2017 and 1% interest and 8% penalty on March 16, 2018? Motion was made by Bob Davidson and seconded by Elizabeth Karet. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Article 5. Shall the voters authorize the Select Board to take advantage of any State or Federal monies available, including loan funds available from the Vermont Municipal Equipment Loan Fund to be utilized in purchasing equipment for the Highway Department?

A motion was made by Terry Tyler and seconded by Sheila Childs. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Linda Sullivan our State Representative then spoke about the doings in Montpelier. She currently serves on the Commerce and Economic committee and is currently working on insurance regulations, technical education, and small business insurance. She encouraged the residents to email or call her with concerns, or join her in Montpelier. She also has a list of unclaimed property with the State and will leave the list with the Town Clerk.

- Article 6.** Shall the voters approve the recorded Select Board's official budget as submitted with the Town report? To be voted by Australian Ballot.
- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|----|
| YES | 305 | NO | 36 |
|-----|-----|----|----|

Ruth Stewart asked when the new assessor and law enforcement will begin. Henry Chandler stated that if passed, the positions will start on Wednesday. Kathleen DeRham asked why we need an increase in police coverage. Henry Chandler then explained that the results of the Emergency Safety study showed we could use more coverage in town and the cost of the State Police coverage was a lot higher than that of the Sherriff's Department with a dedicated officer. Ralph Colin asked if the Sherriff is a graduate of the Police Academy, the answer is yes. Terry Tyler asked if the Sherriff will be a Dorset resident, and what number do we call for an emergency? Rob Gaiotti explained that you would call 911 and we couldn't guarantee the Sherriff would be a Dorset resident but depending on the time of day, the dispatch would then send the officer on duty to cover the call.

- Article 7.** Shall the voters authorize the Select Board to eliminate the office of Lister as allowed by state statute? (The Select Board will hire an Assessor/ Administrative Assistant to perform these duties). To be voted by Australian ballot.
- | | | | |
|-----|----|----|----|
| YES | 73 | NO | 59 |
|-----|----|----|----|

- Article 8.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the programs and services of BROCC (Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council)?
- Motion was made by Bob Davidson, seconded by Jordan Dickenson. Elizabeth Eddy spoke on behalf of BROCC and thanked the community for the past support. Last year they served 23 families in Dorset. With no further discussion the motion carried.

- Article 9.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,500 to the Bennington County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for support of its activities?

Motion was made by Lynn Worth, seconded by Ruth Stewart. Lenora Volkmer spoke on behalf of RSVP. RSVP provides rides, tax preparation, bone builder classes and meals to Dorset Residents. With no further discussion the motion carried.

- Article 10.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,600 to the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for support of its activities with Dorset Elders?

Motion was made by John Levecchia and seconded by John Cave. John Levecchia spoke on behalf of Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging. In 2016, 1640 meals were provided, along with case management assistance. With no further discussion the motion carried.

- Article 11.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750 for the support of the Center for Restorative Justice Program?

Motion was made by Jordan Dickenson and seconded by Ellen Maloney. Ellen Maloney spoke on behalf of the program and stated that the organization deals with people who have difficulties with the law, and the board acts on behalf of the community, and the committee works with the victim to be sure that restitution is met. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Article 12. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to support the operations of the Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

Motion was made by Vickie Haskins, seconded by Sheila Childs. Chris Oldham, Executive Director for the coalition the spoke and thanked the Dorset community for its past support. This past year the Coalition has gone through some changes, it now has 16 beds vs. the previous 6 beds. They also work with substance abuse victims. They have instituted a new program for literacy and workplace preparedness. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Article 13. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$500 for the support of Project Against Violent Encounters for its support of Dorset residents?

Motion by Ruth Stewart and seconded by John Levecchia. Lauren Wilcox spoke for PAVE, stating that 7 families from Dorset were served this past year. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Article 14. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750 to support Neighbor to Neighbor, a home based care giving program?

Motion by Elizabeth Karet and seconded by Carol Cooper. Elizabeth Karet spoke and explained they are a volunteer group that supports the elderly of Dorset, providing rides and care support. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Article 15. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$7,500 to the Dorset Historical Society to support its activities and continued efforts to serve as a cultural resource to our community?

Motion by Terry Tyler and seconded by John Cave. John Cave spoke on behalf of the Historical Society. He made note of the activities happening at the Historical Society and encourage those in attendance to attend some of the functions. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Article 16. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$850 for the support of the Bennington Area Habitat for Humanity?

Motion was made by Lynn Worth seconded by Elizabeth Karet. Ruth Stewart spoke for Habitat stating that they build homes for families that are affordable, currently building their 23rd home and are working with students from the Career Development Center program in Bennington. With no further discussion motion carried.

Article 17. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the Dorset Nursing Association for support of its services provided to Dorset residents?

Motion made by Terry Tyler, seconded by John Levecchia. Terry Tyler answered a question asked by Abbott DeRham last year about what Medicaid payments are received. Terry stated the 88% of the budget is funded from Medicaid. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Article 18. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to the East Dorset Cemetery Association for the care and maintenance of the cemetery?

Motion was made by John Cave, seconded by Nancy Rubadeau, motion carried. There was no one present to speak on behalf of the Cemetery. With no discussion, the motion carried.

- Article 19.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to the Dorset Village Library for support of its services provided to Dorset residents?

Motion was made by Rheanna Grip seconded by Nancy Faesy. Chip Ams spoke on behalf of the Library and stated that in 2014 a new librarian was hired and has been getting the youth in the community involved in the library and its programs. A lot of cleanup has taken place around the library property thanks to Dave Lawrence and Joe Blair. Abbott DeRham stated that in most towns, these articles are incorporated in the town budget and these individual articles are important as they are a fabric of our community, and that he supports this article along with the other articles heard. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

- Article 20.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to the Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT-TV) for support and defray of costs related to videotaping and television cable cast of the Select Board, School Board, and other municipal meetings?

Motion by Terry Tyler and seconded by Bob Davidson. Motion carried. Kevin O'Toole made mention of the television station currently present in the room and recording as well. With no discussion, the motion carried.

- Article 21.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750 to The Collaborative for support of its substance free events and educational programs to middle and high school youth?

Motion by Savannah DeRham and seconded by Sheila Childs. Sarah Kittross spoke about the Refuse to Use program that currently serves the students of Dorset. With no further discussion the motion carried.

- Article 22.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$15,000 to the Dorset Marble Preservation Association for the purpose of restoring Dorset's marble sidewalks? By Petition.

Motion made by Malcolm Cooper and seconded by Bill Childs. Malcolm Cooper stated that we are fortunate as one of the very few communities in the country with marble sidewalks. The committee's goal is to have safe and attractive sidewalks in Dorset and they plan to work on the sidewalks over a period of time. East Dorset sidewalks will be on the list for repairing this summer. With no further discussion the motion carried.

- Article 23.** Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to the Dorset Players Inc. to help sustain the property maintenance fund for the ongoing repairs to the Dorset Playhouse? By Petition.

Motion was made by Elizabeth Karet, seconded by Sheila Childs. Lynn Worth spoke on behalf of the Dorset Players. The Players are currently in their 90th year and the building needs some major work and they are asking for support. With no further discussion the motion carried.

- Article 24.** To transact any other business to properly come before this meeting.

There was no other business and a motion was made by Abbott DeRham and seconded by Ruth Stewart at 9:45 p.m. to recess the meeting until the polls open at 7:00 on Tuesday, March 7. The motion carried.

Dorset FY 19 Budget		FY2017 Budget	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Budget	FY2019 Proposed
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:					
SELECTBOARD:					
5200-10.00	Selectboard Salaries	6,300	6,300.00	6,300	6,300
5200-20.00	Misc. Expenses	400	1,066.07	400	400
5200-21.00	Selectboard Legal	7,500	3,601.50	7,500	7,500
5200-20.01	Tax Sale Expenses	1,500	0.00	1,200	1,200
5200-22.02	Recording Clerk	0	138.36	0	0
5200-23.00	VLCT Dues	3,184	3,184.00	3,295	3,366
	Total Selectmen:	\$18,884	14,289.93	\$18,695	\$18,766
TOWN MANAGER:					
5300-10.00	Town Manager Salary	73,500	71,509.35	75,000	79,500
5300-10.01	Administrative Assistant	47,000	51,684.21	50,000	53,000
5300-10.02	TM Clerk Salary	250	252.42	250	250
5300-20.00	TM Off. Exp. & Sftwre Support	3,500	2,576.54	3,500	3,500
5300-20.01	Vehicle Expense Allowance	3,500	3,069.51	3,500	3,500
5300-20.02	TM Phone	1,200	1,100.00	1,200	1,200
5300-26.00	Training/Travel/Dues	2,500	2,105.06	2,500	2,500
5300-27.00	Tax Bill/ Postage	2,000	2,040.09	2,300	2,300
5300-29.00	Town Manager's Fund	1,800	666.01	1,800	1,800
	Total Town Manager:	\$135,250	135,003.19	\$140,050	\$147,550
TOWN CLERK:					
5310-10.00	Town Clerk Salary	52,530	52,600.08	56,000	57,700
5310-10.01	Assistant TC Salary	9,500	10,350.00	9,500	9,500
5310-20.00	Office Expense & Sftwre Support	2,000	2,514.60	2,000	2,000
5310-20.01	Record Preservation	3,000	2,813.74	3,000	3,000
5310-21.00	Postage	700	648.43	700	700
5310-26.02	Training/ Dues	1,500	2,851.18	3,000	3,000
5310-29.00	Vault Preservation Projects	10,000	83.78	8,500	5,500
	Total Town Clerk:	\$79,230	71,861.81	\$82,700	\$81,400
MEETINGS & ELECTIONS:					
5320-10.00	BCA Salaries/ Workers	1,200	495.00	800	1,200
5320-26.00	BCA Mileage/ Expenses	100	0.00	100	100
5320-31.00		1,200	508.48	600	1,200
5320-36.00	Ballot Printing	1,200	1,110.20	600	1,200
5320-38.00	Tabulator Programming	3,000	977.00	2,000	3,000
5320-39.00	BCA -Postage/Ballots	400	131.11	250	250
5320-40.00	BCA/State -Tax Abatements	250	51.01	250	250
	Total Meetings & Elections:	\$7,350	3,272.80	\$4,600	\$7,200
TOWN TREASURER:					
5335-10.00	Salary	2,700	2,700.00	3,000	3,100
5335-39.00	Postage	500	423.54	500	500
	Total Town Treasurer	\$3,200	3,123.54	\$3,500	\$3,600
ASSESSORS:					
5340-10.00	Assessors Salaries	38,000	51,184.00	65,000	66,500
5340-10.01	Reappraisal Expense	0	0.00	0	95,000
5340-20.00	Office Expense	1,500	1,138.07	1,500	1,500
5340-26.00	Mileage	1,000	319.65	1,000	1,000
5340-26.01	Training/Dues	1,000	570.00	1,000	1,000
5340-31.00	Tax Mapping	1,000	0.00	1,000	500
5340-38.00	Computer Services	3,400	3,509.97	3,500	3,500
5340-39.00	Postage	800	151.44	500	300
	Total Assessors:	\$46,700	56,873.13	\$73,500	\$169,300

		FY17	FY17	FY18	FY19
PLANNING & ZONING					
5350-10.00	Zoning Administrator	22,000	16,905.00	23,000	23,000
5350-10.01	ZBA. Clerk	0	235.80	500	500
5350-10.02	Planning Clerk	0	281.59	500	500
5350-10.03	DRB Clerk	1,800	548.40	1,800	1,800
5350-20.00	Office Expense	2,000	3,341.87	2,000	2,000
5350-25.00	Planning Consultant	5,000	2,577.72	5,000	6,000
5350-26.00	Mileage	800	736.01	800	800
5350-26.01	ZA Training and Dues	800	215.00	800	800
5350-39.00	Postage	500	18.80	500	500
5350-41.00	Ads-Printing-Notices	1,500	1,342.93	1,800	1,800
5350-42.00	Regional Planning	3,573	3,578.00	3,667	3,741
5350-43.00	DRB Expense	0	0.00	500	500
5350-45.05	Muni Education Grant Expense	800	0.00	800	800
5350-45.07	Economic Development Grant Exp	0	0.00	0	0
	Total Planning & Zoning	\$38,773	29,781.12	\$41,667	\$42,741
AUDITORS:					
5360-25.00	Outside Audit	11,800	14,500.00	12,500	12,000
5360-42.00	Town Report Printing & Mailing	3,500	4,298.77	3,200	4,000
	Total Auditors:	\$15,300	18,798.77	\$15,700	\$16,000
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING:					
5370-20.00	General Office Expense	3,200	3,412.19	3,200	3,500
5370-24.00	Equipment	1,500	1,174.08	1,500	6,500
5370-30.00	Town Web-Site	250	251.28	250	375
5370-43.00	Heat	2,500	1,912.52	2,500	2,200
5370-44.00	Electric	2,000	1,722.40	2,000	1,800
5370-45.00	Phone	2,300	2,761.12	2,500	2,800
5370-46.00	Water	750	834.00	750	834
5370-47.00	Maintenance	6,500	5,309.98	8,500	6,000
5370-48.00	Town Office Reno/ADA Consulting	5,000	5,007.25	2,000	0
5370-49.00	Town Office Reno Bond Debt	0	0.00	0	0
	Total Town Office Building:	24,000	22,384.82	23,200	24,009
PUBLIC SAFETY:					
5380-10.00	Constable Salaries	200	0.00	200	200
5380-10.01	Animal Control	1,500	70.92	1,500	1,500
5380-10.03	Health Officer	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	1,200
5380-20.00	ACO/ Constable Expense	400	85.83	400	400
5380-25.01	Law Enforcement	68,000	66,469.97	102,000	102,000
5380-26.00	Constable Vehicle/Mileage	200	10.90	200	200
5380-31.00	Defibrillators	0	0.00	0	0
5380-44.00	Street Lighting	10,800	10,661.49	11,000	11,000
5380-48.00	Animal Boarding Fees	600	0.00	600	600
FIRE DISTRICTS:					
5380-49.00	East Dorset Fire District	144,067	144,067.00	144,067	144,067
5380-50.00	Dorset Fire District	223,725	223,725.00	179,888	179,888
	Total Public Safety:	\$450,692	446,291.11	\$441,055	\$441,055
INSURANCE & BONDS:					
5400-49.07	Health Ins.-Present Employees	98,000	101,871.70	103,700	115,000
5400-49.08	Health Ins.-Former Employees	33,500	30,748.06	33,500	32,000
5400-49.09	Dental Insurance	6,700	6,118.03	6,800	6,600
5400-49.10	Vision Insurance	0	0.00	0	0
5400-51.00	PACIF Insurance	50,500	53,189.50	51,000	53,500
5400-51.01	Unemployment Insurance	0	0.00	0	0
	Total Insurance & Bonds:	\$188,700	191,927.29	\$195,000	\$207,100

		FY17	FY17	FY18	FY19
GENERAL SERVICES:					
5410-12.00	FICA/ MEDI	36,000	35,844.79	37,700	38,500
5410-13.00	VMERS FRINGE	20,000	21,215.72	23,200	23,200
5410-13.01	VMERS DEDUCTION	0	0.00	0	0
5410-25.00	Recreation	45,000	32,768.68	50,000	50,000
5410-26.00	VYCC Internship Program	0	0.00	0	25,000
5410-45.00	Wilson House Donation Exp	0	0.00	0	0
5410-46.00	Green Space & Streets	3,500	2,913.40	3,500	3,500
5410-48.00	Mad Tom Garden	0	0.00	0	0
5410-49.00	Marble Sidewalks Expense	0	0.00	0	0
5410.50.00	Old Cemetary Maintenance	600	600.00	600	600
5410-51.00	Solid Waste/ HHW/ BCSWA	22,500	12,888.87	24,000	22,000
5410-52.00	Interest Expense	3,000	0.00	2,500	2,500
5410-53.00	County Tax	48,000	49,743.15	49,000	50,000
5410.54.00	Employee Christmas	700	700.00	700	700
5410-55.00	Contingency	2,000	1,426.26	2,000	2,000
5410-57.00	Bank Service Charge	200	0.00	200	200
5410-58.00	Hazardous Waste Collection	0	0.00	0	0
5410-59.00	Town Events/ Picnic	3,000	0.00	2,500	2,000
5410.62.00	Town Forest Purchase/Expense	0	49,705.00	0	0
Total General Services:		\$184,500	207,805.87	\$195,900	\$220,200
Total Administrative Expenses:		\$1,192,579	1,201,413.38	\$1,235,567	\$1,378,921
BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS:					
5420-98.01	East Dorset Fire Department	2,400	2,400.00	2,400	2,400
5420-98.02	Dorset Fire Department	0	0.00	0	0
5420-98.04	Memorial Day	1,000	1,000.00	500	500
5420-98.05	July 4Th Celebration	0	0.00	0	0
5420-98.09	Northshire Rescue Squad	34,007	34,007.00	38,500	44,382
5420-98.10	East Dorset Fire Dispatch Contract	3,300	3,400.00	3,500	3,800
5420-98.77	Dorset Fire Dipatch Contract	3,300	3,400.00	3,500	3,800
5420-99.02	Green Up Day	150	150.00	150	150
5420-99.03	Northern VT Resource Conservatio	100	100.00	0	0
5420-99.04	Northshire Economic Developmen	6,300	1,485.00	2,500	2,500
5420-99.05	Vermont Association of Conservati	0	0.00	100	100
5420-99.06	Bennington County Industrial Cor	0	0.00	0	2,031
Total Budgeted Appropriations:		\$50,557.00	\$45,942.00	\$51,150	\$59,663
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:					
HIGHWAY LABOR:					
6000-10.00	Road Crew Wages	187,500	191,602.24	194,000	203,000
6000-10.01	Overtime Wage	21,500	19,510.02	21,500	21,500
6000-10.00	Drug/Alcohol Testing	100	0.00	100	100
Total Highway Labor:		\$209,100	211,112.26	\$215,600	\$224,600
EQUIPMENT FUND:					
6001-24.00	Equipment Fund	145,000	145,000.00	145,000	155,000
Total Equipment Fund:		\$145,000	145,000.00	\$145,000	\$155,000
TOWN SHEDS:					
6002-44.00	Electricity	2,500	1,905.54	2,500	2,000
6002-46.00	Water	725	546.00	725	550
6002-47.00	Maintenance	4,000	995.49	3,500	3,000
6002-48.00	Route 30 Shed Re-build	60,000	60,000.00	60,000	50,000
Total Town Sheds:		\$67,225	63,447.03	\$66,725	\$55,550

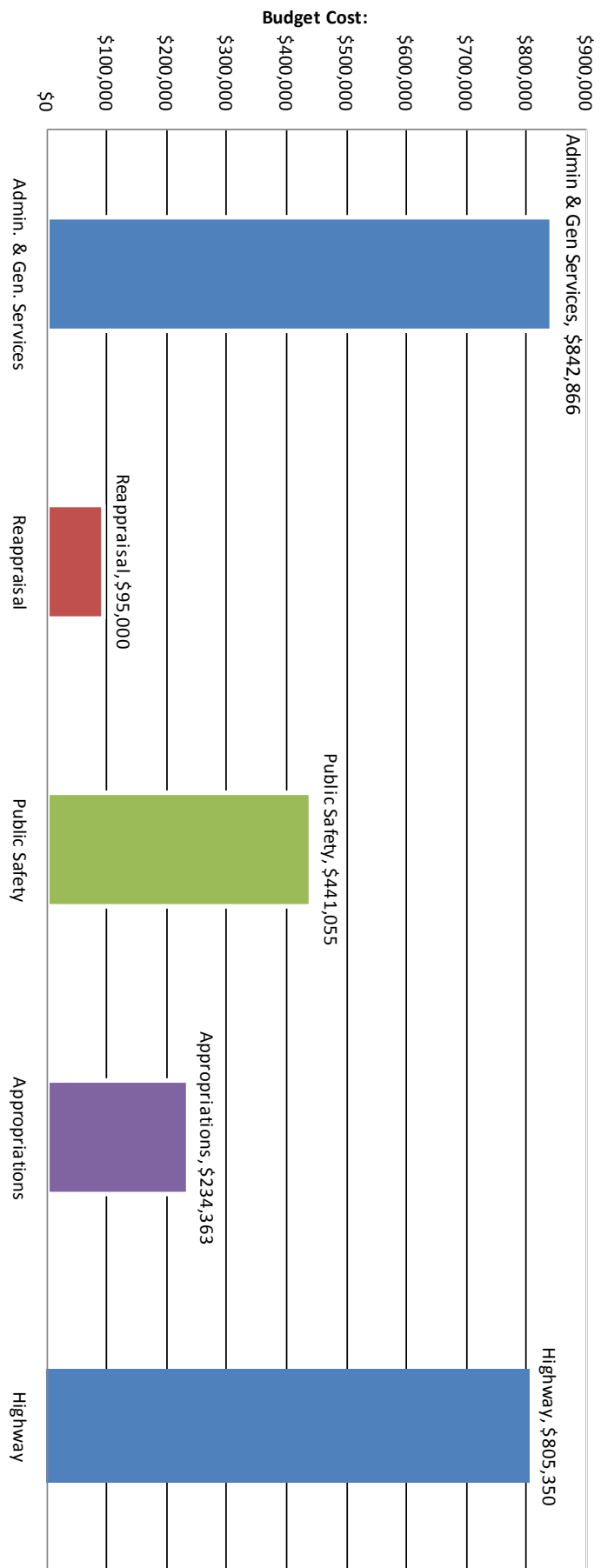
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE:		FY17	FY17	FY18	FY19
6003-00.00	Equip. Repairs, Supplies & Parts	40,000	47,893.74	40,000	40,000
6003-60.00	Fuel- Gas/Diesel/Kerosene/Lubes	50,000	34,323.21	42,000	40,000
6003-60.01	Federal Fuel Tax	0	3,461.07	0	0
6003-60.02	State Fuel Tax	0	348.58	0	0
Total Equipment Maintenance:		\$90,000	86,026.60	\$82,000	\$80,000
HIGHWAYS AND ROADS MAINTENANCE:					
6004-25.00	Trees/ Mowing (Hired)	4,000	2,975.00	4,000	4,000
6004-26.00	Training/ Safety	500	45.00	500	500
6004-27.00	Highway Phones	3,600	3,300.00	3,600	3,600
6004-61.01	Gravel Road Surfaces	26,000	16,023.26	28,000	28,000
6004-61.02	Highway Paving Reserves	105,000	105,000.00	100,000	105,000
6004-61.04	Cold Patch	100	0.00	100	100
6004-61.05	Gravel Roads/Stripe/ Crack	10,000	2,919.51	10,000	10,000
6004-61.06	Storm Emergencies/ Misc.	4,000	1,150.81	4,000	4,000
6004-61.07	Engineering Expense	5,500	1,990.00	5,500	5,500
6004-62.00	Salt	70,000	65,241.09	70,000	70,000
6004-62.01	Winter Sand/ Winter Gravel	38,000	32,864.23	38,000	38,000
6004-62.02	Chloride	15,000	14,620.92	15,000	15,000
6004-63.00	Culverts	1,500	322.60	1,500	1,500
6004-64.00	Equipment Rental	800	0.00	800	800
6004-65.00	Road Signs and Guardrail	1,200	950.42	1,200	1,200
6004-66.00	Bridge Maintenance	2,500	2,500.00	2,000	1,500
6004-67.00	State General Permit - Stormwater	2,000	0.00	1,500	1,500
Total Highway & Roads Maint.:		\$289,700	249,902.84	\$285,700	\$290,200
Total Highway Department:		\$801,025	755,488.73	\$795,025	\$805,350
VOTER APPROVED APPROPRIATIONS					
7000-98.00	B.R.O.C.	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	1,000
7000-98.02	Homeless Coalition	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	1,000
7005-98.01	R.S.V.P.	1,500	1,500.00	1,500	0
7010-98.02	SW VT Council on Aging	1,600	1,600.00	1,600	1,600
7020-98.04	Ctr for Restorative Justice	750	750.00	750	750
7030-98.06	PAVE	500	500.00	500	500
7035-98.07	Neighbor to Neighbor	750	750.00	750	750
7040-98.08	Dorset Historical Society	7,500	7,500.00	7,500	7,500
7045-98.09	Habitat for Humanity	850	850.00	850	850
7045-98.11	School Facility Use Fee	76,000	76,000.00	76,000	76,000
7045-98.12	Community Food Cupboard	0	0.00	0	0
7045-98.13	East Dorset Cemetery	2,500	2,500.00	2,500	2,500
7045-98.16	GNAT-TV	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	2,000
7045-98.17	Dorset Library	20,000	20,000.00	20,000	20,000
7045-98.19	VNA & Hospice	40,000	40,000.00	40,000	40,000
7045-98.21	The Collaborative	750	750.00	750	750
7045-98.23	Dorset Marble Preservation Assoc.	15,000	15,000.00	15,000	15,000
7045-98.24	Dorset Playhouse	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	2,000
7045-98.25	Bromley Fire Tower	0	0	0	2,500
Total Community Services:		\$173,700	173,700.00	\$173,700	\$174,700

		FY17	FY17	FY18	FY19
Total General Fund Expense:		\$2,217,861	2,176,544.11	\$2,255,442	\$2,418,634
Non Property Tax Revenues:					
4155-00.00	Lister's Income	250	265.00	250	250
4160-00.00	Town Clerk Fees	32,500	26,224.00	30,000	30,000
4161-00.00	Vital Records	0	1,560.00	0	0
4163-00.00	Penalty on Taxes	32,500	37,010.73	32,500	33,000
4164-00.00	Town Forest Donations	0	7,500.00	0	0
4164-10.00	Town Forst Grants	0	0.00	0	0
4164-10.05	Town Forest Previous Year	0	0.00	0	0
4165-00.00	State Aid Highways	95,000	94,235.79	95,000	95,000
4169-00.00	Liquor Licenses	850	1,340.00	850	1,000
4170-00.00	Dog Licenses	1,800	2,070.00	1,800	2,000
4170-10.00	Animal Ordinance Finds	0	0.00	0	0
4171-00.00	Interest (Late Taxes)	38,000	43,522.14	35,000	35,000
4172-00.00	Unanticipated Income	0	140.84	0	0
4172-10.00	Mad Tom Garden	0	0.00	0	0
4172-30.00	Playgournd Donations	0	0.00	0	0
4172-31.00	Defibrillator Donations	0	0.00	0	0
4172-32.00	Wilson House Donations	0	100.00	0	0
4172-33.00	DMPA Donations	0	0.00	0	0
4173-00.00	Zoning Income	11,000	8,419.00	9,000	9,000
4175-00.00	State Owned Properties	20,000	25,845.62	22,500	21,500
4176-00.00	Federal Owned Entitlement	12,500	14,954.00	12,500	13,500
4177-00.00	State Land Use Tax	25,000	27,309.00	25,000	25,000
4178-00.00	Current Use Tax	0	0.00	0	0
4180-00.00	DFD No. 1 Agreement	0	0.00	0	12,000
4185-00.00	Interest Revenue	3,800	1,868.87	2,500	2,500
4190-00.00	Weight Permits	400	460.00	400	400
4190-10.00	Solidwast / HHW Revenue	0	100.00	0	0
4195-00.00	Sale of Equipment	0	0.00	0	0
4200-00.00	Traffic Fines	7,500	9,854.37	9,500	9,500
4200-68.00	Muni Education Grant	800	0.00	800	800
4200-80.00	Dorset Quarry Grant Revenue	0	250.00	0	0
4200-81.00	Reappraisal Fund Transfer	0	0.00	0	95,000
4210-00.00	Other Operationsg Transfers	0	0.00	0	0
4210-00.10	Previous Year Surplus	20,887	20,887.00	65,000	53,012
Non Property Tax Revenues Total:		\$302,787	323,916.36	\$342,600	\$438,462
To Be Raised by Taxes		\$1,915,074	\$1,852,628	\$1,912,842	\$1,980,172

Reserve Funds										
Balance 6/30/16	Equipment	Hwy Paving	Hwy Recon.	Buildings	Reappraisal	Record Pres.	Unemployment	Conservation	250th	
	21,602	11,586	5,743	83,564	161,827	4,277	49,095	318		0
Revenues										
FY17 Budget	145,000	110,000	5,000	60,000	14,487	2,900	2,000	0		0
State Loan	30,000									
State Grant		44,000	43,000							
Interest	200	750	10	75	350	75	250	5		0
Equip Sale	25000							0		0
Expenses										
FY17 Budget	-188,000	-125,000	-51,637	0	0	-2,400	0	0		0
Balance 6/30/17	33,802	41,336	2,116	143,639	176,664	4,852	51,345	323		0
Revenues										
FY18 Budget	145,000	105,000	2,000	60,000	14,000	2,900	0	0		0
State Grant										
Interest	200	750	10	75	350	75	250	5		0
Expenses										
FY18 Budget	-145,000	-85,000	0	0	0	-2,400	0	0		0
Projected Balance 6/30/18	34,002	62,086	4,126	203,714	191,014	5,427	51,595	328		0
Revenues										
FY19 Budget	155,000	105,000	2,500	50,000	14,000	2,900	0	0		0
State Grant										
Interest	200	750	10	75	350	75	250	5		0
Expenses										
FY19 Budget	-160,000	-87,000	0	0	-95,000	-2,400	0	0		0
Projected Balance 6/30/19	29,202	80,836	6,636	253,789	110,364	6,002	51,845	333		0
Expense :										
a. Wheel Loader										
b. Single Axle Plow Truck										
c. Tandem Axle Plow Truck										
d. Lower Hollow Road/ Dorset Hollow Pave										
e. Cross Road & School Drive Pave										
f. Pleasant Street & Village Street Pave										
g. Record Preservation Expense										

Admin. & Gen. Services	Reappraisal	Public Safety	Appropriations	Highway	Total Expense
\$842,866	\$95,000	\$441,055	\$234,363	\$805,350	\$2,418,634
36.80%	36.80%	19.20%	9.70%	34.30%	

Town of Dorset FY19 Budget Breakdown
Total Budget Expense: \$2,418,634

[illegible]

SCHOOL WARNING, REPORTS & BUDGET



BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY



LONG TRAIL SCHOOL

VERMONT'S INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL



2017 DORSET TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES

In accordance with the legally warned notice, the annual meeting of the Dorset Town School District, was call to order at the Dorset School, Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to transact any business not involving voting by Australian ballot, and on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Dorset School to transact business involving voting by Australian ballot.

Moderator Kevin O'Toole asked all in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and then gave the rules of the meeting. Henry Chandler then presented Robert & Joan Menson with a plaque recognizing them for the extraordinary amount of time, dedication and love that they give and have for the Town of Dorset.

Article 1: 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, 2017 through June 30, 2018?

Motion made by Ruth Stewart and seconded by Chip Watson. Motion carried without discussion.

Article 2: To discuss the budget to be voted upon by Australian ballot (Article 6).

Motion was made by Henry Chandler and seconded by Tom Smith. Motion carried without discussion.

Article 3: Shall the voters approve payment of the announced tuition rate of Burr and Burton Academy in the amount of \$16,700 for the 2017-2018 school year for those pupils who are residents of the Town of Dorset and attend Burr and Burton Academy?

Motion was made by Terry Tyler and seconded by Elizabeth Karet. Clarissa Lennox asked what the tuition was last year. Jim Salsgiver explained that it was \$16,250. Mark Tashjian thanked everyone for attending the Board of Education meeting recently held at BBA and the support that our community has given for school choice. He also voiced his support for Act 46 and believes that Act 46 will protect school choice. This past year BBA has worked hard to keep costs down and the proposed budget will be a 2% increase and that they strive everyday to live up to our expectations. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 4: Shall the voters approve payment of \$16,700 in tuition support to the Long Trail School for the 2017-2018 school year for pupils in grades 9-12 who are residents of the Town of Dorset and attend the Long Trail School?

Motion was made by Ralph Colin and seconded by Deborah Cave. Headmaster Steven Dear spoke on behalf of the Long Trail School. Current enrollment is now 195 and is at full capacity. He thanked the town for its continued support. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Article 5: To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

The rules were suspended for Article 5.

To be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 7, 2017:

Article 6: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$5,478,215, 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 \$17,179 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 14.31% higher than spending for the current year.

David Chandler, Chairman of the Dorset School Board, explained the school boards budget and how the school board is working to combine classrooms in hopes to help defray the increase costs in the school. Abbott DeRham asked if the budget figures shown are a decrease, or is the per pupil cost increasing and not the budget. Jim Salsgiver explained that the special education costs and higher education tuition were a large part of the increase. Clarissa Lennox asked what the difference between the education spending of \$17,179 and the per pupil cost and the tuition per pupil cost for Long Trail and BBA of \$16,700. Jim Salsgiver explained that the \$16,700 is tuition and the per pupil cost of \$17,179 takes into consideration all school costs and the deficit from last year.

YES	256	NO	90
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Article 7: To elect School District officers and directors for the ensuing year:

Moderator for 1 year	Kevin O'Toole	330
School Director for two (2) years	David Chandler	319
School Director for three (3) years	James Salsgiver	312

Article 8: Shall the voters of the Dorset Town School District vote to form the Taconic and Green Regional School District ("Union School District") on the following terms:

Richard Grip, a Dorset resident who was part of the Dorset Study Committee, spoke and asked that any questions be addressed at this time. Ralph Colin paid due respect to the committee members and congratulated them for putting in so much time. He expressed his concerns that if the town decides to merge with another town, we are then committed for a very long time and can't be changed. He also expressed his concern that if we vote to approve this, we will only have one voice of thirteen and will no longer have control over the budget as it is today. He then stated that if the merger vote is voted down by Dorset, Manchester, Sunderland or the RED district (Londonderry and the mountain towns), the merger will not pass and the State Board of Education will then force us to merge with another town anywhere in Vermont sometime next year. He encouraged us to vote it down, and take another year to see where the Board of Education and Act 46 will be next year and that time could be in our favor.

David Chandler then spoke and stated that he agreed with what Ralph Colin was saying. The merger will pull towns together and even those with different characters. Dorset is small and works well with the small community of students and the other towns. He believes the reason to act now is that Dorset will benefit with a small tax break if we do this now. Act 46 is a law and we have to follow the law and do it voluntarily and not be forced into another merger. Ralph Colin then stated that yes we would get a tax rate but only a small one and we would be assuming debt from Manchester and Sunderland and we would then be responsible for those debts. He asked if it was worth getting a small tax reduction for what it will cost us in the future. Justine Cook stated that she attended the forum at BBA and expressed that we should wait until necessary. Abbott DeRham expressed his concerns with the tax rates given and how this will benefit Dorset.

2017 DORSET TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES

(continued)

Jim Salsgiver expressed that the incentives were not the reason to do this however it's important to know that education quality, costs and education advantages will be better with Act 46. Tom Smith noted that the debt would be less than half a cent on the tax rate and therefore insignificant. Allan Sullivan explained that you can withdraw from the union after one year if we so choose. He also stated that Act 46 is a law and there are consequences if we do not join the merger. He encouraged those present to approve the vote tomorrow. Clarissa Lennox then stated that since northern towns have merged, and the board supports this issue that we should vote to approve this merger. Ralph Colin then stated that everyone would agree that Dorset is a fine school due to our principal, faculty and board. He expressed his concern that we will not get proper consideration from the rest of the board in the merger and that all of our assets currently held by Dorset will no longer be ours and will be long to the merger. Lisa Hadlock would like assurances that Dorset has adequate representation on the new board. Terry Tyler then stated that he has been supportive of the school and its students since the 40's and he feels that we deserve better than this and the idea of the merger doesn't make a whole lot of sense to him. Clarissa Lennox then reminded everyone that Act 46 is the law.

Article 5 was then discussed with a motion by Ruth Stewart and seconded by Chip Watson. David Chandler then spoke and thanked the community for allowing him to serve on the Dorset School Board and expressed his honor for serving, his pride for Dorset and the support and respect given to the Board that they have always strived to obtain.

A motion recess was made at 8:30 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 7, by Abbott DeRham and seconded by Henry Chandler. Motion carried.

FIRST ANNUAL TACONIC AND GREEN TOWN REPORT NOTICE

As you know, on March 7, 2017, voters from Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Mt. Tabor, Peru, Sunderland, and Weston overwhelmingly approved the merger of their school districts. The new entity for these communities, the Taconic and Green Regional School District, becomes officially operational as of July 1, 2018.

Please note that the launch of the Taconic and Green Regional School District will create some changes to the normal flow of information that you receive in advance of the annual town meetings. Let's review the distribution process for this year. Please call 802-362-2452 ext. 1528 if you have any questions.

The Taconic and Green Regional School District has produced an Annual Report that will be available to the public on Thursday, February 15. The Taconic and Green Report will include:

- Annual Meeting Warning (Note that a postcard will be sent to all residents of the towns listed above by the end of January.)
- FY19 Budget for the Taconic and Green Regional School District
- FY19 BRSU General Budget
- FY19 BRSU Special Education Budget
- BRSU Treasurer's Report
- Tax rate historical information for all towns
- Audit Report
- Enrollment Report
- Superintendent Report
- Principal Reports (Currier, Dorset, Flood Brook, Manchester, Sunderland)
- Taconic and Green School Board Report
- Taconic and Green Board Member information
- Taconic and Green Board Goals and Norms
- Minutes from the Taconic and Green District Organization Meeting in June 2017

The Taconic and Green Annual Report will be available at the following:

- Online at <https://goo.gl/xFSLgr>
- Request via info@brsu.org or 362-2452
- Local Town Office
- Manchester Library
- Pick one up at one of the following Taconic and Green schools – Currier, Dorset, Flood Brook, Manchester, Sunderland
- Pick one up at the BRSU Office – 6378 VT Route 7A, Sunderland, VT

The Taconic and Green Annual meeting will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7pm at the Flood Brook School. Bus transportation will be provided for the public from the following schools: Currier, Dorset, Manchester and Sunderland. The buses will leave at 6pm. Light refreshments will also be provided at the annual meeting.

Your 2017 local town report includes the following information:

- Town School District Warning
- FY17 Actual Budget for reference purposes (Note - the FY18 anticipated and FY19 Budget is available in the Taconic and Green Annual Report)
- Superintendent, Audit and Enrollment Report
- Board/Principal Reports for Districts operating a school: Dorset, Manchester and Sunderland

NOTE: Next years budget (2018-2019) will only be discussed at the Taconic and Green meeting on February 27, 2018. Your attendance is very important.

DORSET TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING

The legal voters of the Dorset Town School District, Dorset, Vermont are hereby notified and warned that the District will hold an annual meeting which will commence at the Dorset School on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. to transact any business which may legally come before the voters.

The meeting will then adjourn until Tuesday, March 6, 2018 on which date the polls will open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. at the Dorset School to vote on the following article by Australian ballot:

Article 1: To elect two school directors for a term that will expire on the date the District ceases to exist pursuant to the Merger Study Report and Articles of Agreement approved by the State Board of Education on December 20, 2016.

Absentee voting will be permitted on all matters to be voted upon by Australian ballot. For purposes of Australian balloting, the polls will be open from 7:00AM until 7:00PM on Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

Dated this 11th day of January 2018.

DORSET BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

David Chandler, Chair

Jennifer Allen, Clerk

Vickie Haskins

Jim Mirenda

James Salsgiver

Dorset School District FY17 Year End Summary

Budget to Actual					Anticipated to Actual
FY17		FY17	FY17	Variance	Variance
Budget		Anticipat- ed	Actual	Fav/(Unfav)	Fav/(Unfav)
EXPENDITURES					
Early Education	\$74,208	\$64,932	\$61,486	\$12,722	\$3,446
Regular Education K-8	1,507,594	1,602,743	1,602,497	(94,903)	246
Regular Education 9-12	1,567,237	1,809,227	1,814,728	(247,491)	(5,501)
Health Services	40,131	39,752	38,386	1,745	1,366
Library/Media Services	181,740	180,979	177,088	4,652	3,891
Board	27,830	28,381	26,197	1,633	2,184
Office of the Superintendent	111,810	111,810	111,810	0	0
Fiscal Services	19,162	19,162	19,642	(480)	(480)
School Administration	265,130	265,241	262,840	2,290	2,401
Plant and Grounds Operations	247,726	229,898	237,742	9,984	(7,844)
Vehicle Operation Services	143,276	135,401	136,960	6,316	(1,559)
Special Education	1,357,593	1,434,865	1,427,728	(70,135)	7,137
Extracurricular/Enrichment	58,694	56,665	61,194	(2,500)	(4,529)
Foodservice Program	112,533	89,119	77,286	35,247	11,833
Total Budget to be Voted	\$5,714,664	\$6,068,175	\$6,055,584	(\$340,920)	\$12,591
Warned Article	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0
Total Expenditures	\$5,814,664	\$6,168,175	\$6,155,584	(\$340,920)	\$12,591
REVENUE					
Local/Miscellaneous	\$157,100	\$235,979	\$230,961	\$73,861	(\$5,018)
State/Federal/Subgrants	70,580	67,748	66,135	(4,445)	(1,613)
Special Education	811,993	870,050	877,298	65,305	7,248
Extracurricular/After School Program	24,471	20,205	25,414	943	5,209
Foodservice Program	90,900	82,900	72,047	(18,853)	(10,853)
Revenue Subtotal	\$1,155,044	\$1,276,882	\$1,271,855	\$116,811	(\$5,027)
Education Spending	4,677,170	4,677,170	4,677,170	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE RECEIPTS	\$5,832,214	\$5,954,052	\$5,949,025	\$116,811	(\$5,027)
Surplus Used/(Deficit) Raised Above	(17,550)				
TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,814,664				

Overall Anticipated to Actual Favorable Variance \$7,564

<u>FUND BALANCES</u>	General	Building & Grounds Reserve
Actual Balance June 30, 2016	\$68,757	\$42,360
Actual Revenue FY17	5,949,025	0
Actual Expenditures FY17	(6,055,584)	(46,292)
Warned Article Transfer	<u>(100,000)</u>	<u>100,000</u>
Actual Balance June 30, 2017	<u>(\$137,802)</u>	<u>\$96,068</u>

The district anticipated a deficit of \$145,366 at the end of FY17 and ended the year with a deficit of \$137,802. The anticipated deficit of \$145,366 was raised in the FY18 budget.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Jacquelyne Wilson

January 2018

This year has been a year of transition for the Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union (BRSU). Last March, voters from nine of our communities (Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Mt. Tabor, Peru, Sunderland, Weston) voted overwhelming to merge their school districts and form the Taconic and Green Regional School District. Since July, the Taconic and Green School Board, chaired by Herb Ogden, has worked tirelessly to meet the go live deadline of July 1, 2018. On July 1, 2018, the town school districts will cease to exist and the Taconic and Green will serve as the governing body.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with Taconic and Green Board to create a new school district. They are a dedicated, visionary Board and their actions demonstrate commitment to all our children. I have every expectation that in future years we will be able to offer more program opportunities for our learners, without increasing cost. For example, we have talked about the possibility of creating innovative programs that students across schools could assess via in-district school choice. With year one of transition almost behind us, the Board will turn its attention to educational policy. Next fall, the Board will be seeking engagement from parents and community members to inform their policy development. We hope that many of you will choose to participate in this exciting work.

While the Taconic and Green Regional School District is somewhat sheltered from significant tax increases throughout the merger incentive phase, which expires in FY23, we are planning for the future by taking a close look at our student to staff ratios. Vermont spends a lot to educate its students and over time we have come to accept micro classroom sizes as the norm. The Taconic and Green Board has agreed to use staff attrition to move away from micro class sizes and strive for small classroom sizes of 15-18 in grades K-3 and 18-24 students in grades 4-8. Communities can expect to see more multiage classrooms in the future. For the past five years the BRSU has been focusing on developing a personalized approach to learning, where every child has the opportunity to learn at their level and at their speed. Multiage classrooms foster a personalized approach while enabling the school to better use its resources.

The Pawlet and Rupert communities have also been focused on merger work this year. It has been a very challenging journey for these two communities as they wrestle with moving away from their long-standing practice of designation to New York schools for students in grades 7-12 to offering choice. This past November, the communities of Pawlet and Rupert did vote to merge and offer choice to grades 7-12 students but this was a close vote. In December, some Rupert citizens petitioned for reconsideration of the vote and this vote will occur in February. Given the uncertainty regarding who the governing body will be in FY19, we were not able to produce a budget. After the reconsideration vote, we will begin the budgeting process and bring a budget forth for approval in April.

The Winhall School District continues to be open to merging with other K-12 non-operating districts but this has proven to be a challenge for them. At one point they were part of a merger study committee with Sandgate and Stratton but this committee dissolved. The dissolution was largely due to the fact that Winhall has a high tax rate and this has made merging with them unattractive to other districts. Winhall's tax woes are the result of an unusual number of new students. This year, the Board budgeted for 10 additional students but instead 29 enrolled. In a choice district, every additional student results in an additional tuition payment, hence the dramatic impact on the budget. Winhall's merger future is unknown at this time. They have filed the required Section 9 proposal with the Vermont Agency of Education, which outlines their merger work thus far, and will await a decision from the Agency and State Board of Education regarding their future. If there are no viable partners for them, it is possible that they will be allowed to remain as a stand-alone in the BRSU but there are no guarantees.

In addition to all of the merger work, this year we also negotiated and implemented new health care plans for all our employees in the BRSU. The new health plans are ACA (Affordable Care Act) compliant and have much larger out of pocket deductibles than our previously offered plans. The health care negotiation process was very positive and I believe that all parties are satisfied with the end result and we have been able to reduce costs.

In July, two key positions were filled by educators from within the BRSU. Sarah Reed, previously the Asst. Principal at the Flood Brook School, was hired in July as the Director of Curriculum. Sarah has been working non-stop with principals and teachers to revise curriculum, analyze performance data, and put systems in place to support personalized learning. The BRSU will be moving towards a proficiency-based system of learning and reporting out and much of Sarah's work has been focused on this initiative. Over the next year we will be sharing this work with you as it develops. Randi Kulis stepped into the role of Asst. Superintendent. Randi was previously the Director of Student Services for the BRSU. Randi still oversees special education, but she also provides instructional leadership to all the principals and does some governance work.

My sincere thanks to all the Board members who have served on all our boards. It has been a complicated year and you have been incredibly supportive and flexible.

I look forward to FY19 and hopefully getting on the other side of Act 46 and merger work. While it has been a great learning experience, I'm ready to give more time to educational leadership and less time to governance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ENROLLMENT REPORT DORSET TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT: DECEMBER 1, 2017

The Dorset School

Enrollment	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Resident	-	12	16	5	15	12	29	19	21	23	-	-	-	-	152
Non-Resident	-	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	4	-	-	-	-	9
Total	0	13	16	6	16	12	29	19	23	27	0	0	0	0	161

Dorset Enrollment

School	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Dorset	-	12	16	5	15	12	29	19	21	23	-	-	-	-	152
Burr & Burton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	27	31	24	112
Other	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	3	3	42
Total	27	12	16	5	15	12	29	19	21	23	35	31	34	27	306

DORSET SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDIT

The Dorset Board of School Directors engaged RHR Smith & Company, CPA's, Buxton, Maine, to conduct an audit of its FY17 financial statements. Copies of the audit report will be available upon completion for public inspection at www.brsu.org or by calling the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union at 362-2452.

DORSET BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Greetings Dorset Community,

This is the last Annual Report from The Dorset School Board of Directors (TDS Board). In the future, you will be receiving your annual school report from The Taconic and Green District (T&G). This, as you know, is a result of the legislation of Act 46, the recommendations of the Merger Study Committee, and the successful votes in March of 2017 of Dorset and the eight other Towns taking part in the T&G.

As I stated at our last annual town meeting, TDS Board is an amazing group of people who have put away any personal agendas they may have had in order to work hard for the benefit of both our students, and the overall Dorset community. All of us have enjoyed the honor and privilege of serving our students and you, our community. On June 30, 2018, TDS will cease to be the governing body of The Dorset School. However, you will be pleased to know that each member of the TDS Board is not going “gently into that good night”. Each member has found his or her own way to continue to serve for the benefit of our students and the greater community. If you have a chance, ask each of them how they are contributing. You will be amazed. I could not be more impressed, or more honored for the privilege of serving with these outstanding men and women.

In many ways, this could have been a lame duck year. Instead, TDS Board has continued to work with our principal so that the school learning environment continues to evolve in positive ways. Together we make great efforts to support the academic, intellectual, emotional, and community growth of each of our students. Furthermore, TDS Board has continued to work with our Superintendent to innovate and evolve our approach to education so that our students take full advantage of the uniqueness of the Dorset community, while maximizing their own academic potential.

As we transition from TDS Board to the T&G District and Board, we strive to apply those same energies and efforts to the benefit of all of our students residing in our newly defined “larger community.” Along with the progress we are making, there continue to be challenges and concerns. Costs are always at the forefront – locally and at the State level. At the same time, we are honing our school curriculum so that it is even more effective and becomes far more efficient. Whether our student population is shrinking or expanding, we want a school system that can adapt and provide an outstanding education at a very acceptable per-student-cost. We believe we can create a school model within our Supervisory Union that has built-in flexibility, while still providing a very high quality learning experience.

We are setting plans in place for the Dorset School so that our aging physical plant can be properly maintained and continue to be a very good learning environment. This includes putting in place a back-up septic system as per state requirements, implementing a plan for regular maintenance (including installing a new gym floor, and moving forward with our schedule for roof replacement) as well as adding greater capacity for electronics and other upgrades that may be required in the coming years.

We still face challenges. Over the past 2 years, our secondary student population has jumped more than 25%. Since we tuition our secondary students mostly to Burr and Burton Academy (BBA), there are no economy-of-scale opportunities available to us. We are charged a flat rate for every student we educate beyond the eighth grade. Consequently, this increase in students, which is positive in many ways and is happening to a lesser extent throughout our Supervisory Union, is causing our deficit. It is our good fortune, that the increase is, starting this new fiscal year, being shared by the entire T&G District.

One final piece of the transition puzzle is the development of an effective mechanism for engagement with the school, our local community, and with the wider T&G community. In order to keep the lines of communication open and operating smoothly, the Dorset Parent Volunteers (DPV) is undergoing a strategic shift, thanks to the leadership of two of our TDS Board members. It has added teachers to its ranks, in addition to parents. The DPV is in the process of re-defining its role. It seeks to become an important voice in the school and for the school.

As you can see, the TDS Board continues to serve the school and the community to the best of its ability. We are not going “gentle into that good night.” We are getting “our house in order”. Now, instead of focusing solely on Dorset, we are focusing on our entire valley. We are striving to lay the groundwork for a transition that guides not only our students at The Dorset School, but also guides the learning experience of all our students attending the schools of the T&G District. The goal of preparing our students for the challenges and expectations of our dynamic and ever-evolving future, MUST continue to be our number one priority. Our “larger” community deserves nothing less than our best collective efforts. Thank you for supporting us and joining us when you can in these efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,
David A. Chandler
The Dorset School Board of Directors

DORSET SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The Dorset School has approximately 165 students for this school year. We have two classes per grade level in grades 5-8, and one each K-4. Several of our teachers are team teaching this year, and we have many opportunities for students to work with other grade levels through collaborative projects and middle school electives.

School Climate

The Dorset School has continued with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) this year, and we have implemented the Targeted Level. We were recognized last January as a School of Distinction, and this past October as a Merit School! Through PBIS, we continue to fine tune our expectations for positive behavior, and to celebrate as a community when we meet them! If you would like more information, please see the fliers in the school's main lobby, or speak to Mrs. Moran.

Professional Development

Our Middle School teachers are working with the Tarrant Foundation on Proficiency Based Learning. Our teachers K-8 work with other teachers in the BRSU to revise our curriculum to meet the needs of our students. Teachers at each grade level are working with our Curriculum Director, Sarah Reed to identify priority standards within each subject area. Teachers work in teams within the school to analyze student performance and utilize the PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) model to design interventions and track their progress. Teachers at The Dorset School have identified Formative Assessment as a focus for their work this year. Formative assessment is the daily or weekly progress monitoring that allows teachers to adjust their instruction according to how well students are progressing.

Personal Learning Plans and Report Cards

Students continue to self assess their goals and progress through Personal Learning Plans (PLP). We are moving toward a more standards/proficiency based system of reporting out student progress. Our report card looks different this year, and we will continue to work toward the best way to report out student progress within each subject area, as well as in transferable skills, such as collaboration, persistence and problem solving. A component of the PLP is student reflection on their personal goals as well as their progress toward proficiency in each standard. Our students continue to take The Measures of Academic Progress (MAPs) created by the NorthWest Evaluation Association (NWEA), which gives us specific information regarding the strengths and challenges of each student, and allows us to set instructional goals as well as individual student goals in an effort to further personalize their learning. The BRSU has set a goal of 60% of all students meeting their projected growth as evidenced by the NWEA for this year. Last year, 78% of our students made their projected growth!

Outreach for Students

We strive to give our students opportunities to enjoy the rich cultural events here in the Northshire, as well as to see the world beyond Dorset. Many of our classes work with the Farm and Forest Program at Merck Forest, our fifth graders spend a night in the Boston Museum of Science, and sixth through eighth graders attend a team building program at Camp Chingachgook this past fall. The Taconic String Quartet performs here each year, and students attend local theater and musical events. We are once again grateful to the Dorset Playhouse and the Southern Vermont Arts Center for allowing us to use their facilities for our winter and spring concerts!

The Adopt a Classroom program, where community members and businesses sponsor a classroom or program, allows staff to purchase supplies and/or programs that would not be possible within the budget. Parent Volunteers are an integral part of The Dorset School through the Dorset Parent Volunteers (DPV) and the Four Winds Science Program as well as the Trout in the Classroom project.

We are extremely grateful to the Town of Dorset for their generous contributions in terms of maintenance and weather related issues. Thank you, it is a pleasure to work with you for the good of our children!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my utmost appreciation to the members of The Dorset School Board that I have worked with, David Chandler, Jim Salsgiver, Bob Allen, Vickie Haskins, Jenn Allen and Jim Mirenda. They have been a tremendous source of support and truly exemplify a governing body with the best interest of the students at their core! It has been an honor to work with them for the past seven years!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosanna Moran, Principal

BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER



March 2018

Dear Sending Town Communities:

We are pleased to submit our tuition for the 2018-2019 school year. BBA continues to be a driver of economic and population growth for our region, and as our enrollment has grown, we are able to offer broader programming while keeping tuition increases to a minimum. Our tuition for the upcoming school year will be \$17,065, a 2.2% increase from its current level.

As we all know, we have faced various challenges in the political arena, most recently from the State Board of Education, which sought to implement rules that would have been detrimental to our role within our sending communities. Thanks in no small part to the tremendous showing of support from residents throughout BBA's sending towns, the proposed rules were rescinded and a study committee was formed to ensure that any changes protect the unique relationship of BBA and other independent schools serving our surrounding communities.

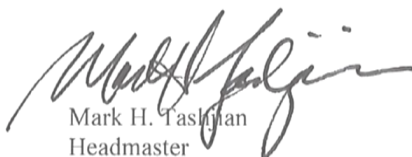
As a school, we continue to reflect on the rapidly changing nature of education in the 21st century. Our faculty is deeply engaged in addressing the question, "How great does/can learning get at BBA?" and we are thinking forward about the people, programs, facilities and technology that we need not only to serve our students today, but to constantly improve and adapt so our students are prepared to face the uncertainties and opportunities of the future. Through it all, our overarching objectives are to be a school that brings out the best in each and every student and to be a source of strength to all our sending towns.


We recognize the long-term financial challenges faced throughout the state as our education system grapples with declining student enrollment, increasing education costs, and tax rates that many find challenging. The creation of the Taconic and Green Consolidated School District is a major step forward in ensuring access to a BBA education while creating opportunities to manage educational costs. In addition, we will continue to fundraise, draw funds from our endowment, and attract international students creating over \$3.5 million in additional revenue above and beyond town tuition. Thus, in a very meaningful way, you get much more than you pay for at BBA.

In presenting a modest tuition increase, we are working to maintain educational affordability while upholding the very high-quality standards that this community needs and deserves.

We thank you for your support and partnership.

Respectfully submitted,


Mark H. Tashjian
Headmaster


Seth Bongartz
Chair of the Board of Trustees

BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY



Burr and Burton Academy Budget

	Actual 2016-2017	Budget 2017-2018	Budget 2018-2019
OPERATING REVENUES AND GAINS			
Domestic tuition and fees	\$ 11,411,710	\$ 11,679,205	\$ 11,936,148
International tuition and fees	2,632,970	2,933,400	3,040,176
Food service	376,908	415,000	415,000
Contributions and grants	992,975	900,000	900,000
Endowment draw	805,267	759,590	760,000
Other	101,847	137,200	75,000
Total revenue	16,321,677	16,824,395	17,126,323
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries and wages	8,589,994	8,939,352	9,254,017
Employee benefits	<u>3,134,754</u>	<u>3,256,645</u>	<u>3,375,838</u>
Total personnel	11,724,748	12,195,997	12,629,856
Advertising	21,635	23,250	25,000
Commissions, fees and subscriptions	352,000	326,085	350,000
Depreciation of buildings, technology equip and software, f&f, equipment & vehicles	1,337,296	1,391,736	1,379,783
Equipment and leases	127,607	145,857	150,000
Insurance	198,019	214,959	210,000
Interest	54,922	55,000	55,000
Professional development	94,191	127,985	100,000
Professional fees	143,999	61,200	100,000
Purchased services and service contracts	811,810	793,060	800,000
Repairs and maintenance	185,945	250,000	250,000
Room and board	205,325	249,400	265,000
Scholarships and awards	31,475	58,531	59,000
Supplies	776,975	821,330	800,000
Telephone and postage	78,687	82,317	80,000
Transportation and travel	362,400	492,973	475,000
Utilities	281,364	351,560	310,000
Total operating expenses	16,788,398	17,641,240	18,038,639
TOTAL SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$ <u>(466,721)</u>	\$ <u>(816,845)</u>	\$ <u>(912,315)</u>

Burr and Burton Academy
PO Box 498
Manchester, VT 05254
802-362-1775



We raise heroes. We expect our students to shape the arts, sciences and commerce of tomorrow, to build families and communities, and to make a difference. We here at Long Trail School, as students, faculty, staff, families and volunteers, look at ourselves not only as members of a school family but as stewards of the future.

For more than four decades, we have offered our students opportunities to self-challenge, learn and grow. Today we educate nearly 200 students from over 43 towns and 5 countries. Families seek us out for our unparalleled creative and intellectual challenges and embrace our respectful learning environment. A plurality of our students will be the first in the family to attend college.

As Vermont's first IB World School, we work to help all students embrace the world as learners who are:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

These qualities and skills will serve our students – and our communities - as they move beyond our campus. We strive every day to imbue students with a sense of purpose and place. In this regard, student organizations work with local agencies and faith groups to assist others. Fundraising for particular causes supplements volunteer hours to clean roadsides, spread holiday cheer and connect with town members. Our students team with community leaders to make a difference. They are becoming meaningful world citizens.

Thank you for caring about our students and school. We invite you to visit our campus. Please email Irene Goyette (igoyette@longtrailschool.org) to set up a convenient time for you. You are welcome to reach me directly at slinfield@longtrailschool.org or 802.867.5717.

Grateful for the commitment of tuition funding from area towns, we remain committed to the children of this region who benefit greatly from the compelling educational experiences we offer. Your investment in a Long Trail education is an investment in the future of our communities and in the children of our neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Seth Linfield, Head of School

Tami Blanchard, Board of Trustees, Chair

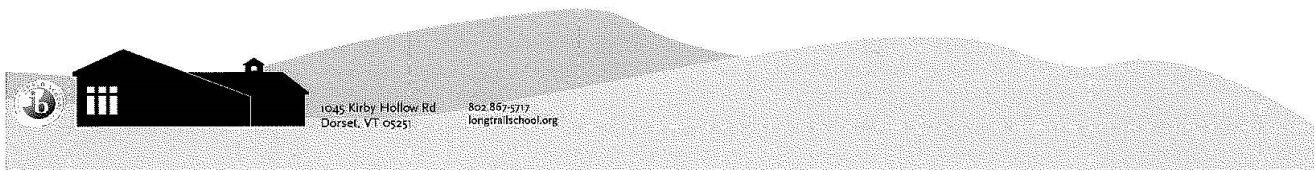




LONG TRAIL
SCHOOL

Long Trail School
Statement of Operations
Years Ended June 30

	AUDITED 2015-2016	AUDITED 2016-2017
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Total Tuition and Fees	\$3,377,091	\$3,687,705
Program Support Revenue	573,309	509,202
Financial Aid	(656,140)	(731,621)
Auxiliary Programs	54,803	48,818
Contributions	527,090	377,770
Investment income for operations	150,878	147,928
Total Support & Revenue	<u>\$4,027,031</u>	<u>\$4,039,802</u>
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Educational and Supporting programs	2,939,963	3,058,403
Auxiliary Services	12,833	34,199
Total Program Support	<u>2,952,796</u>	<u>3,092,602</u>
Supporting Services		
General Administration	917,946	958,861
Fundraising	196,678	154,803
Total Supporting Services	<u>1,114,624</u>	<u>1,113,664</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$4,067,420</u>	<u>\$4,206,266</u>
OTHER REVENUE AND GAINS	\$ (113,476)	\$ 428,916
NET OPERATING RESULTS	\$ (153,865)	\$ 262,452



TOWN OF DORSET
112 MAD TOM ROAD
P. O. BOX 715
EAST DORSET, VT
05253

