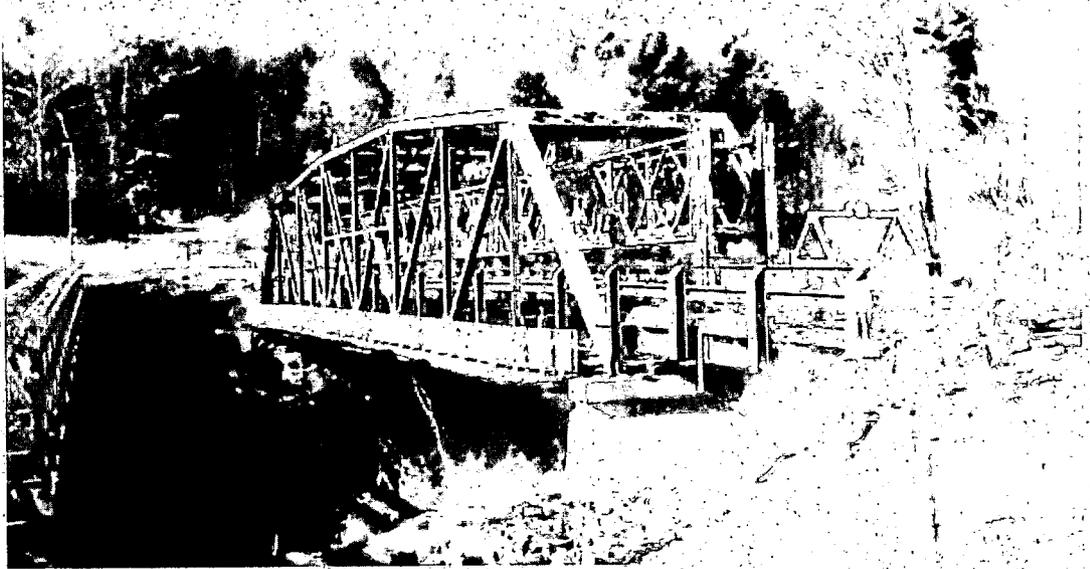


January 1 - December 31,

2004

Brookline

ANNUAL REPORT



Dedicated to the NewBrook Fire and Rescue Volunteers

GENERAL TOWN INFORMATION

Town Office:

Hours: Wednesday 9:00-2:00pm
1st Saturday of each month 9:00am-Noon
Or by appointment
Telephone: (802) 365-4648

Meetings:

Selectmen's Meeting: 1st & 3rd Wednesday
Town Office - 7:00 pm
Planning Commission: 1st & 3rd Thursday
Town Office 7:30pm
Schoolboard: 3rd Tuesday of each month

School:

Telephone: (802) 365-7552
School Board:

Riverside Cemetery:

Current cost is \$200.00 per space. Contact the Cemetery Commission for more information.

Health and Sewage Disposal Ordinance:

Details are on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog Ownership:

Dogs and wolf-hybrids six (6) months or older must be licensed by April 1, 2005. A Rabies Clinic will be held on March 12, 2005 10:00am-1:00pm at the NewBrook Fire House. Town Clerk will be there to issue licenses.

Neutered dog or wolf-hybrid \$ 7.00

Unneutered dog or wolf-hybrid \$11.00

(\$1.00 goes to the State Rabies Control)

(\$2.00 goes to the new spay/neuter program)

Highway Regulations:

Details are on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

LandFill:

Access permits available at the District scale house for \$15.00.

Fire/Rescue:

Telephone: 911

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Warnings:

Warning for Annual Town Meeting	2
Warning for Annual Brookline School District	3

Town Information:

Town Officers - Elected	4
Town Officers - Appointed	5
Town Meeting Minutes - 2004	6-8
Town & Highway Proposed Budget for 2005	9
2004 Town Account	10
2004 Town Account Expenditures	11
2004 Highway Account	12
Bridge 19 Account	12
Reappraisal Account	13
Historical Account	13
Cemetery Account	13
Treasurer's & Delinquent Tax Report	14
Town Employees	15
Town Clerk's Report	15
Selectboard's Report	16
Auditor's Report	16
Lister's Report	17
Historical Society	17
Brookline Planning Commission	17
Brookline Community Group	18
Vital Records	19
Regulations Governing Dog Ownership	19

School Information:

Brookline School Board	20
Principal's Report	21
Brookline School District Proposed Budget	22-24
Brookline School District Balance Sheet	25
Brookline Elementary Employees	26
WCSU Comparative Budget	26-27
WCSU Superintendent's Report	28

Miscellaneous:

VT Center for Living	29
NewBrook Fire and Rescue	29
VT Department of Health	30
Brattleboro Area Drop In	31
Valley Health, Inc.	31
Windham Solid Waste Management Dist.	32
Windham County Reads	32
Moore Free Library	33
Connecticut River Transit	33
COASEV, Inc	34
RSVP	35
Windham Regional Commission	36

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Brookline are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Multipurpose Room of the Brookline School in the said town of Brookline on Tuesday, the first of March 2005 at 10:00 in the forenoon to transact the following business:

Article 1: *To elect a Moderator.*

Article 2: *To elect a Town Clerk.*

Article 3: *To elect a Town Treasurer.*

Article 4: *To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector.*

Article 5: *To elect all other officers required by law.*

Article 6: *Shall the Town accept the Auditor's Report?*

Article 7: *To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise by taxation to defray Town Expenses ? (see Town Operating Funds)*

Article 8: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$7,500.00 for ambulance services in Brookline?*

Article 9: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$3,317.00 for installation and monitoring of a Fire Alarm System at the Town Office?*

Article 10: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$5,000.00 to be placed in the existing Reappraisal Fund?*

Article 11: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$4,998.00 in continuing support of the following organizations?*

Organization	2004 Approved	2005 Requested	2005 Proposed
Morningside Emergency Shelter	\$100	\$100	\$100
Women's Crisis Center	600	600	600
Visiting Nurse Alliance	760	934	934
Vt. Center for Independent Living	80	80	80
R.S.V.P.	150	150	150
Youth Services	255	255	255
Valley Health Council	724	724	724
George D. Aiken RC+D	50	100	100
Windham Historical Society	250	250	250
United Way Get Info	175	175	175
Grace Cottage Foundation	300	300	300
Brattleboro Area Drop-in Center	100	100	100
Council on Aging	265	265	265
SEVCA	465	465	465
Connecticut River Transit, Inc	100	250	250
Windham County Reads	200	200	200
Green Up Vermont	50	50	50

Article 12: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$6,000.00 for the support of the NewBrook Fire Assoc.?*

Article 13: *To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.*

Dated this 19th day of January 2005.

Nelson Fontaine

Archie Clark

Joyce Meehl

WARNING FOR ANNUAL BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The legal voters of the Town of Brookline, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the School Multipurpose room in said Town on Tuesday, the 1st day of March 2004 at 11 o'clock am to consider and act upon the following articles:

Article 1: *To elect a Moderator and Treasurer, as required by law.*

Article 2: *To elect a Leland and Gray Union High School Director for a term of three years, as required by law.*

Article 3: *To elect a Town School District Director for a term of three years, as required by law.*

Article 4: *To elect a Town School District Director for a term of two years, as required by law.*

Article 5: *To elect a Town School District Director for a term of one year, as required by law.*

Article 6: *Shall the town vote to exempt the Brookline School District from the state requirements to operate either the school lunch program or the school breakfast program, or both, for a year.*

Article 7: *To see what sum of money the School District will vote for the Elementary School Board business.*

Article 8: *To authorize the School Directors to accept any donations of lands, gifts or monies for school use.*

Article 9: *To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.*

Dated this 23rd of January 2005

Thomas Staats

Gabriel Smith

Judy Ragnarsson

TOWN OFFICERS-ELECTED

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator	David Parker Jr.	2005
Town Clerk	Penny Harrington	2005
Treasurer	Penny Harrington	2005
Delinquent Tax Collector	Penny Harrington	2005
Selectboard	Joyce Meehl	2005
	Nelson Fontaine	2006
	Archie Clark	2007
Listers	Marsha Omand	2005
	Penny Harrington (resigned)	2006
	Stan Noga (appointed)	2005
	Sandra Sherman	2007
Auditors	Lisa Chabot (resigned)	2005
	Marie Tattersall (appointed)	2005
	Daniel Meehl	2006
	Sheila Davis	2007
School Directors	Tom Staats	2005
	Gabriel Smith	2006
	Kim Ellison (resigned)	2007
	Judi Ragnarsson (appointed)	2005
LGUHS School Director	John Reinhardt	2005
Cemetery Commissioners	Cynthia Nau	2005
	Howard Osgood	2006
	Wayne Winot	2007
	John Morrison	2008
	Eloise Winot	2009
First Constable		
Second Constable		
Trustee of Public Funds	Penny Harrington	2005
Town Agent	Lester D Rink	2005
Town Grand Juror	Lester D Rink	2005
Town Representatives	Mike Obuchowski	2006
	Carolyn Partridge	2006
Justice of the Peace	Kim Ellison	2006
	Cynthia Nau	2006
	Pamela Swing	2006
	James Walsh	2006
	Arthur Wellman	2006

TOWN OFFICERS-APPOINTED

TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Assistant Town Clerk	Kendra Brooks	2005
	Sandra Sherman	2005
Assistant Treasurer	Kendra Brooks	2005
Road Commissioners	Selectboard	
Health Officer	John Morrison	
Assistant Health Officer	James Walsh	
Fire Warden	Lester D Rink	
Town Service Officer	Betty Wellman	
Fence Viewers	Lester D Rink	
	Lester Allbee	
	Maynard Bush	
Surveyor Of Wood & Lumber	Lester D Rink	
Tree Warden	Lester D Rink	
Windham Regional Commissioners	Christopher Ballou	
	Johnny Swing	
Civil Defense Chairman		
Pound Keeper	VT/NH Vet Clinic	
Historical Society	Cynthia Nau	
	Arthur Wellman	
	Lester Allbee	
	Jim Walsh	
SEVCA		
WCSWMD (landfill)	Christopher Ballou	
Planning Commission	Gene Horton	2005
	Cynthia Nau	2005
	Pamela Swing	2006
	Sharon Tierra	2006
	Vacant	2007

TOWN MEETING MINUTES - 2004

The meeting was called to order at 10:06a.m. by moderator David Parker. The rules were suspended for the Representatives to speak. Carolyn Partridge spoke on health care and Michael Obuchowski spoke on transportation issues and controlling the deer herd. The meeting continued at 10:15 a.m. David Parker invited everyone to Chris Ballou's retirement party to be held at the NewBrook Fire house.

Article 1: *To elect a Moderator.*

David Parker Jr. was nominated. Motion made and seconded to have the Town clerk cast one ballot.

Article 2: *To elect a Town Clerk.*

Penny Harrington nominated. Passed by voice vote.

Article 3: *To elect a Town Treasurer.*

Penny Harrington nominated. Passed by voice vote.

Article 4: *To elect a Delinquent Tax Collector.*

Penny Harrington nominated. Passed by voice vote.

Article 5: *To elect all other officers required by law.*

Selectboard: Archie Clark nominated for 3 year term. Passed by voice vote.

Listers: Sandy Sherman nominated for a 3-year term.

Passed by voice vote.

Auditor: Sheila Davis nominated for a 3-year term.

Passed by voice vote.

Cemetery Commissioner: Eloise Winot nominated.

Passed by voice vote.

1st Constable: Wayne Winot made a motion to allow

the Selectboard to appoint a constable. Passed by voice vote.

Trustee of Public Funds: Penny Harrington nominated.

Passed by voice vote.

Town Agent: Lester D. Rink nominated. Passed by

voice vote.

Town Grand Juror: Lester D. Rink nominated. Passed

by voice vote.

Article 6: *To see if the Town will accept the Auditors Report.*

Pat Ballou made a motion to accept the Auditors Report. Seconded and passed by voice vote.

Article 7: *To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise by taxation to defray Town expenses? (see Town Operating Funds)*

Motion made to raise the sum of \$41,751.00 No discussion. Passed by voice vote.

Article 8: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$13,600.00 to pay the Town's share of the West River Erosion Project?*

Motion made and seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Article 9: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$4,274.00 in continuing support of the following organizations?*

Jim Walsh made a motion to vote on as a block. Seconded. Passed. Motion made and seconded to spend \$4274.00. Passed.

Article 10: *Shall the Town vote the sum for \$200.00 Windham County Reads programs?*

Cynthia Nau made a motion. Marie Tattersall seconded. Passed by voice.

Article 11: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$50.00 for the support of Green Up Vermont?*

Pat Ballou made a motion. Cynthia Nau seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Article 12: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$100.00 for the support of the Connecticut River Transit, Inc.?*

Penny described the Company and what benefits it provides. Motion made and seconded. Passed by voice vote.

Article 13: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$5000.00 for support of the NewBrook Fire Association?*

Amendment made and seconded to increase the amount to \$6,500.00. Richard Lamprey made a motion to amend to \$7,000.00. Motion seconded. First amendment withdrawn. Amendment passed. Motion made and seconded to vote the sum of \$7,000.00. Passed by voice vote.

Article 14: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$6000.00 for the Brookline Historical Society for the restoration of the Brookline Round School House?*

Motion made and seconded. Margaret Carasona asked what are the plans. Cynthia Nau responded with repairing the roof and rotting floor. Work has been done on the foundation. Passed by voice vote.

Article 15: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$2500.00 for the Planning Commission expenses?*

Motion made and seconded. Cynthia Nau explained. Motion passed.

Article 16: *Shall the Town vote the sum of \$5000.00 to be placed in the existing Reappraisal Fund?*

Motion moved and seconded. Marsha Omand gave estimates she had received and time frames for appraisers. Penny explained what was already in the account and what the state gives to the Listers. Kim Ellison spoke on Act 68 and the Education Grand Lists and the reappraisal process. Passed by voice vote.

Marie Tattersall made a motion to finish Town Meeting before going to the School business. Motion seconded. Passed by vote.

Article 17: *Shall the Town support the following resolution?*

“Whereas the rising cost of health insurance is placing an increasingly unsupportable burden on

town and school budgets, the voters of the Town of Brookline call upon the Selectboard, the Governor and our State Legislators to support and actively work for the creation of a universal and comprehensive health insurance system which is publicly financed and accountable to the citizens of Vermont, and which will reduce costs by eliminating most current administrative expenses”?

Motion made and seconded. Call for paper ballot. Lori Greenburg spoke on the resolution. Marsha Omand, Doug Wellman and David Parker Sr spoke in opposition of the resolution.

73 votes

36 yes, 37 no

Motion defeated

Article 18: *To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.*

Archie Clark thanked Chris Ballou before his years of service. Marie Tattersall commented on the Auditor’s Report. Dan Meehl and Sheila Davis put the book together. Gary Lavorgna thanked the Road crews for their work.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Town Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

The Town Clerk made a motion to recess for lunch.

Meeting to resume at 12:00.

Motion seconded. Passed by voice vote.

The meeting resume at 12:05 with the school portion.

Reminder of an email list in the back of the room for notifying you of Town events.

Gary Lavorgna thanked David Parker Jr. as moderator.

TOWN MEETING MINUTES - 2004 (cont.)

The School Meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

Article 1: *To elect a Moderator and Treasurer, as required by law.*

David Parker Jr. nominated. Passed by voice vote. Lisa Rucker nominated for School Treasurer. Passed by voice vote.

Article 2: *To elect a Town District School Director for a term of 3 years, as required by law.*

Kim Ellison nominated. Passed by voice vote.

Article 3: *Shall the town vote to exempt the Brookline School District from the state requirement to operate either the school lunch or the school breakfast program or both for a year?*

Kim Ellison moved the article.

Tom Staats – The article needs to be an article every year.

Deborah Leggott – There are approximately 6 children signed up for brown bag breakfast. It is prepared the day before in Townshend. 4 children qualify for the free and reduced meal. It was explained to vote yes would exempt us from the program for this year. The question called. Voted to be exempt from the program.

Article 4: *To see what sum of money the School District will vote for the Elementary School Board business.*

Kim Ellison noted that the motion is \$900.00 more than the amount presented in the Town Report. There was an error in the custodial budget. Listed is \$100.00 and should be \$1000.00. Kim Ellison made a motion to raise \$677993.00 for Elementary School Business. Kim Ellison explained the Townshend Education Collaborative. We buy from Townshend School the additional time the principal spends in Brookline. Motion passed by voice vote. Kim Ellison reminded everyone to file their Homestead Declaration by April 15.

Article 6: *To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.*

Kim spoke on the West River Collaborative. There is a sheet in the back room. Spoke on the different groups that have formed checking into different possibilities to be explored. Tom Staats shared some articles that he has gotten out of some educational papers he has received.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Harrington

TOWN & HIGHWAY PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2005

Total requested to be raised by taxation	
Expenditures	\$143,236.00
Anticipated Revenue	(52,968.00)
Prior Year Surplus	<u>(35,000.00)</u>
	\$55,268.00
Expenditures (see right for details*)	
Town	41,335.00
Highway	<u>101,901.00</u>
	\$143,236.00
Anticipated Revenue	
Town	15,000.00
Highway	<u>37,968.00</u>
	\$52,968.00
Prior Year Surplus	
Applied	\$35,000.00

*Town Operating Funds	Proposed 2005
Town Officers	
Payroll	\$12,450.00
Payroll taxes	953.00
Supplies/Postage	5,500.00
NEMCR/Support	2,755.00
Dues	
VLCT	600.00
WRC	677.00
Insurance/Bonds	3,024.00
Seminars	650.00
County Tax	3,000.00
Lawn Care	
Town Property	300.00
Old Cemeteries	210.00
Grader	
Landfill Fees	3,457.00
Town Office	
Electric	340.00
Telephone	630.00
Fuel	900.00
Internet/Services	500.00
Sheriffs Patrol	2,000.00
Legal Services	500.00
Legal Notices	300.00
Copier	
Copies	625.00
Contract	1,464.00
Misc.	500.00
Total Operating Funds	\$41,335.00
Highway Fund	
Summer Maintenance	
Payroll	\$5,500.00
Payroll taxes	421.00
Services/Labor	9,500.00
Materials	9,000.00
Winter Maintenance	
Contracted Services/Labor	24,500.00
Materials	11,000.00
General Road	
Culverts	1,200.00
Road Signs/Misc.	200.00
Labor	4,500.00
Mowing	1,000.00
Grader	
Labor	500.00
Diesel/Parts	1,300.00
Town Shed	
Electric	280.00
Retreatment	
Pavement/Lines Contract	33,000.00
Total Highway	\$101,901.00

2004 TOWN ACCOUNT

Balance as of January 1, 2004	\$84,597.53
-------------------------------	-------------

Petty Cash	20.00
------------	-------

Receipts In 2004

2004 Taxes	640,394.73
Delinquent Taxes	34,805.36
Penalties	4,299.28
Interest-Taxes	6,262.97
Civil Fines	122.00
Current Use	4,061.00
Copies	490.91
Dog License Fees	688.00
USA-Deconte	214.00
Fishing/Hunting Fees	146.50
Marriage/Civil Union License	16.00
Town Clerk Fees	3,494.00
Records Restoration	683.00
Interest General	44.77
Interest Money Market	308.57
Sale of Grader	2,000.00

Total Receipts	\$698,061.09
----------------	--------------

Less Disbursements	703,189.13
--------------------	------------

West River Erosion Project	13,600.00
----------------------------	-----------

Planning Commission	2,500.00
---------------------	----------

Balance as of December 31, 2004	\$95,539.49
---------------------------------	-------------

Petty Cash as of December 31, 2004	20.00
------------------------------------	-------

2004 TOWN ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES

School District	\$581,269.00
Highway Account-2004	42,247.92
Sheriff Patrol	1,849.20
County Tax	3,386.85
Contributions	11,624.00
Round School House	6,000.00
Reappraisal	5,000.00
Dues & Subscriptions	1,245.00
Insurances/Bonds	3,165.59
Landfill Fees	3,503.00
Overpayment of Taxes	17,009.15
Planning Commission	1,024.24
Reappraisal expenses	1,424.96
Payroll Expenses	901.94
Fire Warden Fees	24.25
Auditors	424.00
Listers	2,370.00
Health Officer	384.00
Select Board	650.00
Town Clerk	4,824.00
Town Treasurer	1,962.00
Del. Tax Collector	498.00
Asst Town Clerk	678.00
Legal Notices	299.40
Seminars	710.00
Postage/supplies	3,562.93
Support/Training Service	3,061.05
Copier Contract	1,342.00
Copies	586.51
Repairs	141.24
Lawn Care	137.50
Heating	1,005.75
Electric	291.97
Telephone	585.68

Total Disbursements

\$703,189.13

HIGHWAY ACCOUNT

Balance January 1, 2004		
Highway Fund		\$4,720.66
Receipts		
State Funds	36,922.24	
Road Weight Permits	70.00	
Interest-Highway	17.53	
Received from Town	42,247.92	
Subtotal		83,978.35
Less Disbursements		83,880.31
Balance December 31, 2004		\$98.04

Highway Expenses

Winter Maintenance

Contracted Labor	23,772.50
Material	7,236.34

Summer Maintenance

Salaries	5,271.00
Payroll Taxes	403.25
Contracted Labor	9,130.00
Materials	5,746.55
Mowing	1,000.00
Culverts	1,244.94
Road Signs/Misc.	669.08

Grader

Parts/Diesel	1,719.57
Labor	717.45

Town Shed

Electric	276.46
Retreatment/Lines	20,156.67
Svc/Labor Flood	2,025.00
Flood Materials	4,511.50

Balance December 31, 2004		\$83,880.31
----------------------------------	--	--------------------

BRIDGE 19 ACCOUNT

Balance January 1, 2004		\$31,050.23
Interest 2004	180.62	
Balance December 31, 2004		\$31,230.85

REAPPRAISAL ACCOUNT

Balance January 1, 2004		\$17,885.80
Receipts		
Interest 2004	117.30	
State Payment	2,436.00	
Taxes	5,000.00	
Total Receipts		7,553.30
Expenses	2,295.96	
Balance December 31, 2004		\$23,143.14

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

Balance January 1, 2004		\$1,158.65
Receipts		
Interest 2004	5.85	
Taxes	6,000.00	
Donations	2,045.00	
Total Receipts		8,050.85
Expenses	1,408.00	
Total Expenses		1,408.00
Balance December 31, 2004		\$7,801.50

CEMETARY ACCOUNTS

Lord Howe Account		\$1,405.92
Interest	5.68	
Total Lord Howe		1,411.60
Riverside Cemetery		1,466.99
Sale of Lots	200.00	
Interest	4.05	
Expenses		
Mowing	225.00	
Flags	213.50	
Total Riverside Cemetery		1,232.54
Riverside Capitol Improvement Acct		1,788.97
Interest	5.88	
Total Riverside Capitol Improvement		\$1,794.85

TREASURER'S & DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

This year the Federal Government has implemented a program that is requiring all towns in the Country to become GASB 34 compliant. The Town has started the process of becoming compliant. In the future all roads, culverts, bridges, tables, chairs and buildings will be listed as the assets of the Town and will be given in report form for the Town. I have been working on this project so the Town will be compliant with GASB 34. With interest rates low I tried to keep a bulk of the tax money in a money market account to earn the most interest possible. Under the new program some accounts will be listed

under one account, this will also provide a chance for more interest, but still showing the individual accounts.

This year I placed 3 properties up for tax sale. One piece went all the way to the sale and the other homeowners paid off their balances. I want to remind everyone that if you have a problem with your taxes to please contact me and work out payment arrangements. I would rather work with you rather than have to bring a tax sale against you.

Penny Harrington

	2002	2003	2004	Total
Arbuckle, W. Bernard			\$355.04	\$355.04
Bovat, Scott & Samantha			\$92.73	\$92.73
Butterfield, Jason			\$917.15	\$917.15
Carey, Terry		\$759.87		\$759.87
*Cole, Gregory & Elizabeth		\$918.74	\$1,347.03	\$2,265.77
Davidson, M		\$1,698.80	\$1,487.96	\$3,186.76
E W Brookline Assoc.			\$235.03	\$235.03
Fernette, Tracy B.			\$1,183.37	\$1,183.37
Malloy, Richard H.			\$1,272.92	\$1,272.92
Martocci, Paul & Roselee	\$548.05	\$1,202.80	\$1,086.26	\$2,837.11
Mercede, Frank Jr. Trust			\$1,285.94	\$1,285.94
Moore, John			\$1,253.36	\$1,253.36
Newell, Timothy			\$1,265.44	\$1,265.44
NJM Realty LTD			\$58.66	\$58.66
Nutting, Walter & Brenda			\$1,235.98	\$1,235.98
Szappanos, Janos Jr		\$279.73	\$361.77	\$641.50
Szappanos, Janos Jr		\$627.29	\$773.06	\$1,400.35
Townshend Associates			\$2,502.38	\$2,502.38
Tracy, Parish			\$975.32	\$975.32
Wellman, April			\$1,523.00	\$1,523.00
Totals	\$548.05	\$5,487.23	\$19,212.40	\$25,247.68

* Payment made after 12/31/04

TOWN EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEES	WAGES
Kendra Brooks	376.00
Archie Clark	200.00
Sheila Davis	160.00
Nelson Fontaine	5471.00
Penny Harrington	7980.00
Daniel Meehl	264.00
Joyce Meehl	250.00
John Morrison	192.00
Marsha Omand	1032.00
Sandra Sherman	944.00

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

It has been a very busy year in Brookline this year. From the Elections, with a record 288 voters at the November election, to the lower interest rates and all the refinancing and transfers I recorded 29 transfers. Would like to welcome all the new homeowners to Brookline.

I licensed 133 dogs in 2004. This year the state has added another \$2.00 to license your dog, this will go into a spay and neuter program. I want to remind everyone that there is a Dog Ordinance in Town. If your dog is not licensed by the end of May there will be a \$50.00 per dog fine. I am in the office on Wednesdays and the first Saturday of the month. You

may also call me at home to make arrangements to license your dog. I will also have the tags with me at Town Meeting so you can do it then.

We survived the flood in August with some damage. The paperwork is all done and we are waiting for the money from FEMA and the State to cover the expense we had for repairs to the roads.

I am looking forward to working for you in 2005 another very good year in Brookline.

Penny Harrington
Town Clerk

SELECTBOARD'S REPORT

Being overseers of the local government, our job as Brookline Selectboard members is to ensure a safe, healthy and stable environment for the Brookline community. We continue to actively address existing town issues along with the many "suggestions" Brookline residents have given us on road repair. In addition, 2004 presented new state regulations, additional requirements for budget reports, changes to appraisal calculations and a revamping of election reporting.

The following are updates of the issues that are being or have been addressed:

- Bridge 19 is now open to vehicles. The final work stage will be completed in the spring of 2005. Remember: The bridge is now open to two lanes of traffic.
- The erosion control project is on schedule to be completed before October 2005 by Renaud Bros, Inc of Vernon, who will be working directly with Engineers and State Organizations. This project is projected to stay within budget.
- Extensive 2004 flood damage to the north end of Brookline is scheduled to have repairs done in the spring of 2005.
- Future potential flood areas are being examined with the help of the state.
- Upgrades to roads, culverts and roadside brush removal have been initiated and are planned to continue through 2005.
- After reviewing State recommendations, an application has been resubmitted to join the National Flood Hazard Insurance Programs to allow Brookline residents to purchase home flood insurance.

Our town plans to be in compliance with the new state regulation, GASB 34 in 2005. The town has purchased NEMRC software and is working with state officials in documenting our town culverts.

In November, Executives of Grace Cottage Hospital notified the Selectboard that existing ambulance services would be changing. Our initial review of these service changes projected a substantial increase to the Town Budget. We took the step to search for alternatives for this service through collaboration with NewBrook, GCH and neighboring towns. The board also met with Rescue Inc.'s Executive Director, David Dunn and learned about the quality services that they could offer Brookline. Rescue Inc. has submitted a proposal to service Brookline at \$15.00 per capita per year. At the time of this report, no action has been taken by the Selectboard. This service will be resolved in a warning issue during Town Meeting. Please review the informational papers regarding this matter that are available at the Town Office.

The members of the Selectboard thank all of those who serve as Town Officers and who are on the many town committees. We recognize the time and effort it takes to devote to these positions and consider Brookline very fortunate to have dedicated neighbors who serve their Town with exceptional commitment. Thank you.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the best of our knowledge, the books, supporting vouchers and orders of the Town for the year ending December 31, 2004 that we have examined are accurate.

In conjunction with the guidelines of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, we have begun the process of documenting the Town's procedures and in-

ternal controls. In 2005 we look forward to continuing this work and following the additional reporting required under GASB 34.

Daniel C. Meehl
Sheila Davis
Marie Tattersall

LISTER'S REPORT

This year continued to be a learning year as the State of Vermont Legislature changed the categories and procedures for property tax assessment. We continue to get ready for our town wide reappraisal to start the summer of 2006 to be completed for 2007 taxes. For this reappraisal we have purchased a new computer program and system, which feeds automatically into the state system. This has caused much time used on changing over to the new system parcel by parcel.

Our last reappraisal was in 1988, so it is time for a new one. Our State Aid to education has been trimmed a bit due to our appraisals being less than 80% of fair market. We did visit properties for upgrades and had only one grievance. We continue to work for equal evaluation.

The Listers:

Penny Harrington, Sandy Sherman, Marsha Omand

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Society has had a very successful year: The Round Schoolhouse was open during the four summer holiday weekends, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Columbus Day, for a total of 8 days. During that time over 100 visitors signed our guest book. Fund raising continues at a steady pace and our Round School House T's and Sweat Shirts continue to be a popular item. (They will be available at Town Meeting.) The Brattleboro Reformer has been more than kind to us with the full page Photo Journal spread on September 25, 2004 and earlier smaller items. These news releases resulted in many fine contributions and a nice donation from the Crosby Foundation. Most recently (January 21st) we learn,

thanks to the co-sponsorship of Representatives Michael Obuchowski and Richard Marek of Newfane, a bill (H18) has been introduced for the appropriation of \$30,000.00 for the restoration of the Round School House. If approved the roof and foundation repairs will be completed during the summer months.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Nau, Co- Chair

Art Wellman, Co-Chair

Lester Albee, Jim Walsh

Lisa Chabot, Roger Poitras

BROOKLINE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission conducted a town survey during February and March of 2004, to measure how opinions vary on issues of importance to town planning. 400 surveys were mailed to persons on the property owner and registered voter lists. Copies of the survey were also made available at the Town Office and at Town meeting on March 2, 2004. The rate of response was encouraging - 31% - with 125 people completing the survey. The Planning Commission gave a Power Point presentation of the results at a poorly attended public information meeting on June 24th at the Brookline School. The final draft of the up-dated

Town Plan is being completed and will be available at this Town Meeting in March. Shortly after the PC will be holding a Public Hearing in preparation for presentation of the plan to the Selectboard for their approval.

We are actively looking for new members to serve on the planning commission. We meet the first and third Thursday of the month - once monthly during July and August - at the Town Office at 7:30pm. All meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Nau-Chair

BROOKLINE COMMUNITY GROUP

In April, the Easter Egg Hunt, held at the Town Office, drew a record crowd of egg gatherers. In May, the BCG hosted the annual Green-Up Day, during which volunteers scoured the town from the Athens line to the green iron bridge to pick up trash. The kids happily joined in to take part in the scavenger hunt. Afterwards all reunited at the School for grilled hotdogs.

On the last day of July, more than 100 folks, including many new neighbors, gathered for the Town Picnic, held at the Brookline School. Along with abundant and delicious food, the fun included a moonwalk, horseshoes, the infamous dunkin' booth, and a raffle of local crafts and other appealing items, all donated by our community.

The Thanksgiving Feast in November attracted another record group of more than 140 Brookline residents. Again, we thank NewBrook Fire & Rescue for the use of their space. Turkey with all the fixings and delicious desserts were in abundance, and the Brookline schoolchildren baked bread and apple crisp for the occasion. The turkey-pluck raffle was a big hit, with prizes again donated by our community.

Last year the BCG was pleased and proud to announce the creation of a Lifelong Learning Scholarship fund to provide modest assistance to Brookline residents of any age to attend classes, camps, or other educational/athletic activities. In June we made the following awards: to Colin, Corey, and Chelby Nystrom, who attended summer sports camps at Leland & Gray; to Elise Huston, who is attending Ithaca College; and to Jamie Meehl, who is attending Pratt Institute of Art. The deadline for this year's awards is April 30, 2005, and application materials

are available at Town Meeting or by contacting any of us listed below.

In July the BCG was offered an opportunity to replenish our activities and scholarship funds. Every six weeks we run the food concession booth at Saturday NewBrook Bingo. Volunteers either work at the booth or provide food for the evening. This has proved to be a consistent and effective fundraiser, and we urge anyone willing to join in the effort to contact one of us.

Lastly, we are happy to report that the Brookline E-mail list now includes 111 people. This is one of the ways in which we communicate news and announcements of local interest to our community. If you would like to be added to the list, please e-mail Julie Lavorgna at julielav@sover.net.

The Brookline Community Group is dedicated to providing our town with recreational, social, and educational opportunities. There are no fees for attending the events; instead we rely on donations to offset costs. We are indebted to the many people who continue to volunteer time to make these activities possible and our town such a wonderful place to live.

Archie and Lorrie Clark	(365-7606)
Gary and Julie Lavorgna	(365-7278)
Bruce and Joyce Meehl	(365-4505)
John and Lynn Reinhardt	(365-4710)

For information about the scholarships, events, town information, and more, see our web site: www.brookline-vermont.com.

VITAL RECORDS

Births recorded in 2004

Date	Name of Child	Sex	Parents
February 28, 2004	Spencer William Butynski	Male	Jeremy & Kristy Butynski
April 28, 2004	Ansley Catherine Henderson	Female	James & Kristie Henderson
April 26, 2004	Hazel Sirois Seiden	Female	Stacia Sirois & Daniel Seiden
August 12, 2004	Noa' Danilo Dos Santos	Male	Noa' Miranda & Noa' Wakan Dos Santos
August 25, 2004	Aubrey Margaret Bourne	Female	Barbara & Kerry Bourne
September 22, 2004	Weston Lee Cutts	Male	Alisia & Bradford Cutts
December 12, 2004	Kyle William Waters	Male	Beverly & Anthony Waters

Marriages recorded in 2004

	Bride	Groom	Place
July 31, 2004	Sarah Downing	Jason Dagg	Brattleboro
October 3, 2004	Anna Sommer	Gary Cutts	Brookline

Deaths recorded in 2004

Date	Name	Age	Place
January 18, 2004	Rodolph Touchette	92	Townshend
July 4, 2004	Jean Touchette	91	Townshend

REGULATIONS GOVERNING DOG OWNERSHIP

All dogs or wolf-hybrids six (6) months or older must be licensed by April 1, 2005.

License Fees:

Neutered dog or wolf hybrid	7.00
Unneutered dog or wolf-hybrid	11.00

The state passed H.722 this past year. Included in this Act Dealing with the licensing. The first being a \$2.00 surcharge for the new Dog, Cat & Wolf-Hybrid Spaying & Neutering Program. This surcharge will be forwarded to the State Treasurer along with the \$1.00 for the Rabies Control Program.

The second part has changed the time required between rabies boosters from 2 years to 3 years.

1. Dogs or wolf-hybrids over three months of age shall be vaccinated against rabies. The initial vaccination shall be valid for 12 months. Within 9-12 months of the initial vaccination the animal must receive a booster vaccination.

2. All subsequent vaccinations following the initial vaccination shall be valid for 36 months.

After April 1st, the fee is 50% more than prior to April 1st. Spay or neuter certificates from a veterinarian must be exhibited when the license is obtained. All dogs and wolf-hybrids six (6) months or older must have been vaccinated against rabies according to the following schedule. A copy of the vaccination certificate must be presented to the Town Clerk for filing.

After May 30th of any year any dog that does not have a current license shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00.

For more information on the Brookline Dog Ordinance please contact the Town Clerk.

A Rabies Dog Clinic will be held at NewBrook Fire Dept on March 12, 2005 from 10:00-1:00. The Town Clerk will be there for licensing dogs.

BROOKLINE SCHOOL BOARD

The School year has been a very busy year for us with quite a number of changes.

In the Windham Central Office, we have a new Assistant Superintendent, Jim Peters. Jim seems up to the challenges that we face in the district and we all look forward to working with him.

Pat Branley is our new 2-3 classroom teacher. After a hiring committee was assembled and all the applicants were presented to the committee, Pat seemed to be the person best qualified. The Board would like to thank John Swing, Pat Balou and Sue Biolsi for their contribution in this process.

Michele Bostrom is our new teacher in the K-1 classroom. Though Michelle is new to the K-1 position, she is not new to the Brookline school. Michelle has worked in the school as our kindergarten teacher for 2 years and then as an aide for one year. We feel very fortunate in having Michelle's fresh energy in this position.

Sue Biolsi returned this year to teach the 4,5,6th grade. Sue is doing an admirable job with her multi grade classroom.

Our principal Deborah Leggott is now in her third year with Brookline Elementary School and we feel Deborah has done a wonderful job of transforming our school into something we can all be very proud of.

Judy Hawkins, our administrative assistant, is the person that helps this great team do their job so effectively. We are glad to have her with us for another school year.

The West River School Collaborative committee has spent many hours working with Townshend Elementary School. Unfortunately, the Townshend School Board decided not to pursue the collaborative at this time. Although we were all a little disappointed, we felt a lot of useful information was gained through the process and hope to continue the discussion of

cost containment. Again we would like to thank all those who worked so hard on this committee.

In September, we reluctantly accepted Kim Ellison's resignation as school director. We would like to publicly thank Kim for all she has done for our school.

Working hard with our principal without sacrificing services, we have managed to keep our budget down with only a 3% increase over last years budget.

We would like to thank the School Club for all their fundraising efforts that have helped enrich all the students learning experiences. We would also like to thank all the volunteers that have donated so much of their time. A special thanks goes to Gary Lavorgna for the countless hours he has spent around the school keeping everything in top shape.

And finally, we would like to thank the Brookline taxpayers for their continued support.

Sincerely,

Brookline School Board

BROOKLINE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This is the third year of the part-time principal model for the Brookline School. There have been some staff changes and the ever-challenging grade configuration changes of a small school. Sue Biolsi has added fourth grade to her fifth and sixth grade with a total of twenty-one students. New staff member, Patricia Branley teaches nineteen second and third graders and Michelle Bostrom, who previously taught kindergarten, now teaches combined kindergarten and grade one class of nine. Also, pre-school students attend her class one afternoon a week. We have a total of 47 students. Two special education instructors, Tammy Mace and Robin White, work with students on individual education plans. We also have a new physical education teacher, Rebecca Sweeney and a new instrumental music teacher, Michael McKinney. Cynthia Nau, Library/Media Specialist, Ann Lauterbach, Art teacher and Melanie Zwolinski, Guidance Counselor complete the teaching staff. We shared Newfane School's custodian Patrick Mace for part of the year and now have Nancy Turcek as our own custodian. Judy Hawkins represents the "anchor" of our small school as Administrative Assistant and everyone's "point person"! This excellent staff is the reason for our growing school success and healthy school climate. Their commitment to the individual needs of our students and to the success of each child at their level of achievement is the spirit of the federal No Child Left Behind law. Now in its third year, this law mandates testing and achievement standards that are uncompromised. It takes excellent teachers to provide the implementation of the Vermont Grade Level Expectations, so that our school fulfills the necessary yearly progress that is calculated in our test results and mandated by the federal law.

We have a new math program which guarantees the coverage of the curriculum, making possible the necessary performance on state tests. Testing is driving the accountability standards these days. As a way of balancing the "high stakes testing" with the maintenance of each child's love of learning,

we offer as much diversity with arts programs as our school budget and school club subsidy allow. Residencies in music, dance, drama and story telling, as well as sharing the Brattleboro Music Center concert series with the Townshend and Windham schools, engage students in special ways that often kindle the creative connections with the core curricula.

Last winter and spring brought some challenges to our building. A malfunctioning circulation fan caused a ceiling pipe to freeze and burst, resulting in extensive damage to the carpeting, walls and fire alarm panel in the new wing of the school. Through insurance we were able to replace most of the carpeting in the building, the tile floor in our multipurpose room and upgrade our alarm system to a digital one. This challenging situation proved to be a "windfall" in the end and with a new roof and the rest of the carpet replaced, our school building seems to be in great shape. My thanks to the staff for maintaining their classes, often housed in the library and hall while repairs were underway. This allowed very few missed days of school.

Special thanks and recognition to Kim Ellison, whose resignation from the school board in the fall was much regretted. Kim's tenure of service was particularly helpful in the transition to the part-time principal model. Her creative problem solving ability and support won't be forgotten. We are very fortunate to have Judy Ragnarsson's service on the board in Kim's absence.

I continue to be delighted and eager to work with the Brookline students, staff and community. I would characterize this community as a very generous one and see evidence of this in the action of our students, who raised over \$1,000. for UNICEF this fall. The kind, "family-oriented" atmosphere of our school makes it a great place to work and learn. Thanks to everyone for your support.

Deborah M. Leggott, Principal

BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED BUDGET

FY 2006 Budget Proposal

1/21/04 Board Approved

	FY2004 ACTUAL	FY2004 Adopted Budget	FY2005 Adopted BUDGET	FY2006 Proposed BUDGET
REVENUE				
Taxes	275,388	275,046	0	0
Interest Income	689	7,000	2,500	750
E-rate Grant	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Local Revenue	276,077	283,546	4,000	2,250
State Aid - Education Spending Revenue	502,332	502,332	864,791	883,092
State Aid - Ed Fund/Career ctr. on behalf	14,197	14,539	13,438	16,748
State Aid - Small Schools Grant	48,020	46,706	48,896	48,896
State Aid - Transportation	12,593	11,361	9,178	9,671
State Aid - Special Ed Block Grant	25,897	25,897	24,305	25,936
State Aid - Special Ed Intensive	112,214	77,499	106,969	138,745
State Aid - Special Ed Extraordinary	5,935	104,400	36,450	9,900
State Aid - Special Ed EEE	3,603	3,596	4,208	5,083
State Aid - Milk Program	0	500	500	500
Total Other Revenue	724,791	786,830	1,108,735	1,138,571
TOTAL REVENUE	1,000,868	1,070,376	1,112,735	1,140,821
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries - Teachers	117,492	119,873	128,210	95,637
Salaries - Aides	0	1,932	0	0
Substitute	1,830	1,800	1,800	1,800
Reserve Negot. Salary & Benefits				5,738
Health & Dental Benefits	28,176	22,939	25,699	13,263
Fica Expense	8,851	9,456	9,946	7,454
Disability & Life Insurance	417	1,300	1,600	1,600
Workers Comp Insurance	1,204			
Tuition Reimb./Prof. Development	1,064	2,925	2,925	3,500
Phys. ed Instruction-WCSU	4,439	4,439	5,150	5,235
Early Ed Services	10,000	10,000	5,000	10,000
Art Instruction-WCSU	5,336	5,336	5,878	6,100
Music Instrumental -WCSU	5,612	5,077	5,606	6,169
Music Instruction	5,333	5,612	6,000	6,000
Enrichment Activities	825	1,000	1,000	1,000
Professional/Technical Services	100	1,000	1,000	2,000
Equipment Repairs	1,191	1,000	1,000	1,000
Travel Reimbursement	150			
Educational Supplies	4,471	4,500	4,500	4,500
Text Books	796	1,300	1,300	2,000
Audio Visual/Internet Connection	2,000	1,000	3,000	3,000
Instructional Equipment	2,675	3,000	3,600	3,600
Computers	1,346	2,500	2,500	1,500
Total Instruction	203,307	205,989	215,713	181,096

	FY2004 ACTUAL	FY2004 Adopted ACTUAL	FY2005 Adopted BUDGET	FY2006 Proposed BUDGET
Spec. Ed Instruction	0	0	0	20,791
Spec. Ed Aide	43,598	24,460	39,967	21,124
Spec. Ed FICA expense	3,047	1,871	3,057	3,206
Spec. Ed Health Benefits			4,000	8,632
WCSU Spec. Ed Services	15,650	17,849	17,781	23,536
Spec. Ed Testing & Services	22,437	10,429	20,000	14,556
Spec. Ed Tuition	17,651	16,200	38,000	25,000
Spec. Ed Travel	5,520		5,000	0
Spec. Ed Supplies	602	200	200	200
Total Special Education	108,505	71,009	128,006	117,045
Essential Early Ed	2,803	2,759	3,198	3,557
TOTAL DIRECT EDUCATION	314,615	279,757	346,917	301,698
SUPPORT SERVICES				
Guidance Services-contracted	5,160	5,160	5,393	5,908
Nurse Services	6,924	6,924	7,458	7,783
Library Salary	5,992	5,994	6,376	6,376
Library FICA	459	459	488	488
Library Books	263	400	400	500
Board & Treasurer Salary	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Board Fica Expense	84			
Board - Professional Audit		0	2,200	0
Board - Financial Services	2,050	2,050	2,132	3,200
Negotiations/Services	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
Board - Bond Insurance	40			
Board - Advertising/ Supplies	322	1,000	1,000	1,000
Board - Dues	600	600	600	850
Total Board Services	4,196	5,750	8,032	6,050
WCSU Office Assessment	15,676	15,675	17,849	22,136
Principal Salary	15,000	15,000	15,600	16,244
Secretary	27,200	18,200	28,288	29,420
Principal Office Health Ins.	0	4,754	5,348	6,276
Principal Office FICA	3,228	2,540	3,357	3,492
Principal Professional Dev.	333	750	750	750
Townshend Education Collab.	13,600	13,471	14,358	15,219
Supplies	198	500	200	200
Dues	100	100	0	100
Total Principal's Office	59,660	55,315	67,902	71,681

BROOKLINE SCHOOL PROPOSED BUDGET (cont.)

	FY2004 ACTUAL	FY2004 Adopted ACTUAL	FY2005 Adopted BUDGET	FY2006 Proposed BUDGET
Custodian Services	2,374	6,861	8,000	6,552
Custodian FICA Expense	182	525	0	501
Maintenance Contracted Services	19,335	4,000	4,000	5,000
Water Testing & System Upgrade	1,594			1,500
Roof Repairs	29,880			0
Property & Liability Insurance	1,548	950	1,500	1,700
Telephone	1,332	2,000	1,200	1,500
Custodial Supplies	1,760	1,900	1,000	1,800
Electricity	3,794	3,300	3,800	3,900
Fuel	7,888	6,000	6,500	8,000
Building Equipment	1,568	1,600	1,600	1,600
Total Custodial Services	71,254	27,136	27,600	32,053
Transport - contracted	13,200	13,200	13,728	14,277
Field Trips	1,247	1,000	1,000	1,500
Transportation Fuel	3,441	3,300	4,800	4,800
Total Transportation Services	17,888	17,500	19,528	20,577
Capital Improvements	6,363	5,000	5,000	5,000
Debt Interest	15,000	6,570	5,565	4,556
Debt Principal	13,200	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Debt Service	28,200	21,570	20,565	19,556
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	222,035	166,882	186,590	198,108
SUB TOTAL EEE & K-6 Expenses	536,651	446,639	533,507	499,806
LELAND & GRAY ASSESSMENT	441,320	441,320	434,742	441,125
Transportation - High School	6,570	13,200	13,728	14,277
Career Ed Tuition	6,124	3,650	24,758	30,613
Transportation - Career Ed	3,137	900	1,500	3,000
Special Ed Secondary Services	14,314	8,667	14,000	11,000
Special Ed Secondary Tuition	65,579	166,000	90,500	141,000
Sub Total Secondary Expenses	537,044	633,737	579,228	641,015
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,073,695	1,080,376	1,112,735	1,140,821
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(72,827)	(10,000)	0	0
PRIOR YEAR SURPLUS APPLIED	35,000	10,000	0	0
Net	(37,827)	0	0	0
Undesignated General Fund Balance	0	31,333	0	0
Reserved for Roof Repairs		30,000	0	0
Reserved for unemployment claims	3,503	5,000	3,506	3,506
Total Fund Balance @ year end	3,503	66,333	3,506	3,506
Brookline Elementary School Enrollment	53	45	47	45
Total Elementary Cost/Student	10,125	9,925	11,351	11,107
Brookline LGUHS enrollment	37	37	36	40
Total LGUHS cost per student	9,750	10,092	10,367	11,603
Education spending/equalized student (act68)		9,096	10,327	10,836
Estimated Homestead Tax Rate (act 68)		\$1.900	\$1.595	\$1.585
Total Expenditures to be presented to voters at Town Meeting	632,375	639,056	677,993	699,696

BROOKLINE SCHOOL DISTRICT BALANCE SHEET

	General Fund Year ending June 30, 2004
ASSETS	
Cash	103
Accounts Receivable-State of Vermont	9,688
Interfund Receivable/Liability	0
Reserve for Bond Debt 1995-09	90,000
Total Assets	99,791
LIABILITIES	
Bond Debt 1995-09	90,000
Accrued Salaries	4,485
Accrued Fica	344
Accrued Expenses	1,456
Total Liabilities	96,285
FUND BALANCE	
Total Fund Balance	3,506
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	99,791

The annual debt service requirements for the 1989 school addition are scheduled through the year 2010. The current principal amount due on the bond equals \$90,000 as of 6/30/04.

Changes in Fund Balance:

Beginning Fund Balance 7/1/03	76,333
Roof Improvement Reserve	0
Fy 2004 Surplus/(Deficit) as of 6/30/04	(72,827)
Ending Fund Balance as of 6/30/04	3,506

A copy of the audited financial statements of Brookline Town School District prepared by our independent auditors, Pieciak & Company, P.C., is available at the Brookline Town Clerk's office during normal office hours.

BROOKLINE ELEMENTARY EMPLOYEES

Fiscal Year 7-01-03 – 6-30-04

	Salary
Ann Lauterbach	\$5,335
Dave Dominick	5,612
Kathy Harvey	5,333
Jamie Douglass	4,439
Melanie Zwolinski	5,160
Ruth Davies	6,924
Cynthia Nau	5,992
Deborah Leggott	15,000
Judy Hawkins	18,200
Custodian	2,374
Laura Robertson	23,158
Chris Parkins	18,900
Susan Biolsi	35,417
Frances WitteHolland	43,590

WCSU COMPARATIVE BUDGETS

Office of the Superintendent	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Adopted Budget	FY 2006 Proposed Budget
REVENUES			
Interest Income	255	250	250
Brookline Assessment	15,675	17,849	22,136
Dover Assessment	34,336	37,107	40,034
Jamaica Assessment	34,710	37,656	43,331
Marlboro Assessment	29,858	31,817	33,440
Newfane Assessment	44,040	48,087	55,106
Stratton Assessment	3,732	5,680	7,065
Townshend Assessment	35,083	32,661	39,092
Wardsboro Assessment	24,259	24,611	32,498
Windham Assessment	10,450	11,511	14,601
Winhall Assessment	21,274	22,453	25,433
Leland & Gray UHS Assessment	161,979	152,553	185,098
Total General Fund Assessment	415,651	422,235	498,084
Total General Fund Revenues	459,070	415,645	422,235

WCSU COMPARATIVE BUDGETS

EXPENDITURES

Audit Services	10,941	5,000	8,000
Professional Salaries	89,179	163,950	163,950
Professional Salaries-Coordinators	45,154	20,283	13,283
Clerical Salaries	28,506	29,931	29,931
Reserve for Salaries & Benefits	0	0	17,010
Health & Dental Benefits	31,139	30,146	21,399
Fica Benefits	17,952	16,384	17,149
Disability & Life Ins. & Retirement Benefits	1,448	2,669	2,667
Workmens Comp insurance	448	750	750
Unemployment insurance	5,269	500	500
Professional Services	15,209	10,000	10,000
Information System Services	12,716	12,000	18,800
Curriculum	4,824	3,000	3,000
Inservice	3,506	3,500	6,000
Bond Insurance & Prof. Liability	9,832	9,000	9,900
Travel	9,457	9,000	11,000
Conferences	7,469	2,400	5,000
Supplies	3,763	2,500	2,500
Equipment	3,014	2,500	1,500
Dues	3,356	3,500	3,500
Misc Expenses	126	100	100
Salaries-Business Services	32,674	56,290	56,290
Health Insurance & Retirement Benefits	1,866	8,026	16,093
Fica Insurance	2,838	4,306	4,306
Equipment Repair	427	1,250	1,250
Telephone	8,751	8,500	8,900
Postage	2,918	3,000	3,000
Advertising	16,347	1,000	3,000
Supplies	4,491	3,500	3,500
Equipment	7,292	4,500	1,500
Property Services - Custodial	3,956	4,000	4,150
Equipment Repair	1,217	1,250	1,250
Rent	13,165	15,000	15,405
Renovation/Relocation			24,500
Electric/Fuel	2,435	3,500	3,500
Equipment	1,784	2,000	5,500
TOTAL GENERAL FUND ADMIN. EXPENSES	403,469	443,235	498,084
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	12,182	(21,000)	0
FUND BALANCE APPLIED	0	21,000	0
NET	12,182	0	0

WCSU SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERVISORY UNION STAFF

Superintendent	Cheryl W. Ruth
Assistant Superintendent	James Peters
Director of Special Education	Abigail Dillon
Language Arts Coordinator	Tina Shakespeare
Math Coordinator	Laura Reed
Technology Coordinator	Neil Manders
Business Manager	Frank Rucker

This year has been a busy one in the Windham Central Supervisory Union. The Windham Central SU professional development committee has chosen to continue to organize our professional development days into topical study strands. Teachers choose their topic and participate in a study group for the year. These groups provide a forum for us to collaborate and increase our knowledge collectively. This year the elementary teachers are working to understand and incorporate the recently developed Vermont Grade Level Expectations. Study strands include Writing and Math Portfolio work, Media Literacy, Integrated Unit Development, and Behavior Planning. We remain committed to maintaining a portfolio system in both writing and math as part of our local assessment program and offer practice sessions as well as scorer calibration sessions within our district as part of our professional development work. One of our professional development days in May is dedicated to all teachers coming together to score portfolio pieces done over the year by students and to collaborate about student work.

In order to address increasing requirements for data collection as well as technology use and integration, we have continued with major changes throughout the Supervisory Union. The use of our student data management system has increased dramatically. For the first time this year all staff have access to the First Class communication system. This facilitates better communication among us all on a variety of levels. All schools are currently working on updating and reformatting their school web site to help facilitate better communication with the public.

The Leland & Gray Board, administration, staff, and community are involved in several major initiatives. One of these is continuing to actively search for solutions to space issues. During the last year and a half, a broad based ad hoc committee of the Board did an in depth study of the facilities needs at Leland & Gray. The committee identified and described several areas of need based on their examination and study. This year the Board has followed up on these space concerns by engaging the services of a consultant to

help develop a long term facilities plan with the goal of addressing community needs and concerns.

Leland & Gray is in the last year of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation process. This has been a comprehensive, multi-year study process involving a self-study of many different areas of the school operation. This year the staff has devoted all of their professional development time to this effort. There will be a site visit and evaluation by a visiting team of professionals this spring, and we are looking forward to being accredited once again by NEASC.

With the announced retirement of High School Principal Bill Lincoln effective at the end of the '05 school year, the Leland & Gray Board took the opportunity to engage a consultant to help examine the administrative structure at Leland & Gray. This study identified where time is being spent as well some duplication of efforts. The Board is in the process of reviewing options for future staffing.

While the administration and staff are always looking for innovative programs, we are proud to say that we have once again been awarded a major grant through the Freeman Foundation to continue our work with Asian Studies. This will once again include the Asian Studies Academy, with travel to China for our middle and high school students. We have already benefited from the opportunity to host performers from Inner Mongolia last October. Along with these components, we will have the opportunity to once again offer the study of the Chinese language both at the elementary and high school levels. We are grateful to the Freeman Foundation for their continued generosity and to the committed staff in the Asian Studies Program both at the University of Vermont and here at Leland & Gray.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss educational issues with the community at any time. If you would like to speak with us please feel free to call at 348-6801.

Cheryl Ruth, Superintendent

V T CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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

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

Statewide, from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004, VCIL responded to over 2,000 requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information and referrals on a broad range of subjects related to living with a disability. We provided on one peer counseling to 355 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and life opportunities; provided 401 households with financial and technical assistance for making their bathrooms and entrances accessible to a disabled family member; provided over 345 with personal assistance and / or assistive technology; provided communications equipment to 76 deaf, hard of hearing or speech

impaired individuals through the Vermont Equipment Distribution program, and delivered meals to almost 555 Vermonters through VCIL's Meals on Wheels program for Individuals Under 60 with Disabilities. VCIL's central office is located in Montpelier with three regional offices in Bennington, Brattleboro and Burlington. The Montpelier office houses a disability resource library and the toll-free information line, through which answers to disability-related questions are provided to callers from every Vermont community. Our locally based Peer Advocacy Counselors are available to people with disabilities in every municipality in Vermont.

During FY 2004, VCIL's direct services were available to residents of the Town of Brookline and other Vermont residents statewide utilizing the following services/programs:

- Information & Referral
- Home and Community Access Program
- Meals on Wheels
- Peer Advocacy Counseling
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund

NEWBROOK FIRE AND RESCUE

NewBrook Fire and Rescue responded to over 200 calls from September 2003 to September 2004, 148 Rescue calls and 61 fires. The officers continued unselfish commitment results in success.

Major expenses during the year include: \$19,000+ in dues, \$15,600+ for insurance, \$17,600 in maintenance and \$8,200+ for utilities and fuel, a new portable pump, 400' of 4" hose, 4 new radios for the vehicles and a new engine for S-1 were some of the costly replacements. We did receive \$26,300 + in Homeland Security Grant funds which helped to buy 5 portable radios, 5 pagers, 6 complete Scott air pacs and an automated external defibrillator (AED). A new carbon monoxide meter was purchased with donations in memory of Oscar Robinson, a long time volunteer. The NewBrook "bingo hall" was used and/or rented out more than 50 times to citizens or organizations in

the area. Eight new members joined the Department and NewBrook's SOP & handbook were updated by the captains. Thanks to Norm Lamoria, an alarm/smoke detector system has been installed at the firehouse and Merle Tessier established a website for us (www.newbrookfire.org).

We ask for level funding this year of \$6,000. An enormous thank you to Brookline for the generosity and support which continues to allow NewBrook to be the best.

Respectfully submitted
Gregory L. Record
President NewBrook Fire & Rescue

V T DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Vermont Department of Health works to protect, improve and promote the health of Vermonters. The following are some of the Department's services that are available to residents of Brookline.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Education Program for Women, Infants and Children ('WIC'): One of the most effective ways to improve the health of the overall population is to improve nutrition and physical activity. WIC improves the health of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children by assuring access to health care, teaching families about good nutritional practices, and providing an individually designed package of nutritious food to eligible individuals. During 2003, 2 women, infants and children living in Brookline received foods as well as health screenings and individualized nutrition education through this program. The average value of foods provided is \$40.00 per person per month.

Town Health Officer Program: Every town in Vermont has a town health officer who is nominated by the select board and appointed by the commissioner of health. Town health officers work on a variety of environmental and health issues, and respond to calls on public health concerns as varied as animal bites, West Nile virus, rental code complaints, and septic systems. The Health Department supports health officers with training, information and technical assistance. From July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004, the Health Department assisted health officers in Windham County on 60 different occasions.

Reportable Disease Case Investigations: Infectious diseases continue to be a major source of illness, disability and death in the U.S. and Vermont, accounting for 25% of all doctor visits each year. The Health Department investigates all cases of disease such as meningitis, hepatitis, West Nile virus, pertussis (whooping cough), and infectious diarrhea to determine their source, to recommend control measures (including current treatment standards) and to prevent further spread of the disease. In 2003, the department investigated 141 cases of disease in Windham County. No human cases of West Nile virus were reported in this last year and only one positive bird report occurred in the county of the 114 reported. As needed, local offices will also operate vaccination clinics to distribute medication to prevent infection. Eight hundred seventy people were vaccinated at a community flu clinic in November 2004.

Food & Lodging Inspections: National surveys show that more people are eating out more often. Public health sanitarians inspect eating establishments (restaurants, schools, fairs) to decrease the risk of food borne disease outbreaks. The five greatest risks for food borne outbreaks are: keeping food too long at improper temperatures, inadequate cooking, contaminated equipment, food from an unsafe source, and poor personal hygiene among food handlers. Inspections include review of a 44-item check list to evaluate food storage, preparation and handling as well as to identify where there is a high likelihood of practices contributing to illness if left uncorrected. One inspection in Brookline was completed by a sanitarian during 2003. For the most recent inspection scores and results in your area, please go to www.healthyvermonters.info and select "Program List" then scroll down to "Division of Health Protection" and select "Restaurant Inspection Scores."

Recent challenges addressed by the Health Department include public health emergency preparedness, development of additional substance abuse treatment opportunities, and the reorganization of the Agency of Human Services, which shifted Vermont's mental health efforts to the Department of Health. This past year, the Department also increased its services to women age 40 and older to help them access screening for conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular disease in addition to screening for breast and cervical cancer. If you would like more information about these and other Health Department activities or if you have a public health concern, please call the Brattleboro District Office (802) 257-2880. For information about public health, Department initiatives, publications, and news releases go to the Department's website at www.healthyvermonters.info.

BRATTLEBORO AREA DROP IN CENTER INC.

The Brattleboro Area Drop in Center provided emergency food assistance to households from Brookline in 2003-2004. Overall in 2003-2004, the Center provided food to 1657 unduplicated households in Brattleboro and 49 surrounding towns, as well as outreach and case management services to 274 homeless individuals.

We have been serving an increasing number of working families and elders who are unable to make ends meet in times of high costs for fuel, medicine,

and transportation. We do not anticipate this trend reversing itself in the upcoming year.

We are very appreciative of any support Brookline can provide to our agency.

Thank You
Melinda Bussino
Executive Director

VALLEY HEALTH COUNCIL, INC.

For over three decades the Valley Health Council has been providing homemaker services in the West River Valley Towns, allowing our Clients to remain in their own homes or to return home from hospitals or nursing homes. We also provide respite care to relieve a care giver who requires a break from the constant care of a dependent person.

While homemaker service is our primary service, we also provide free transportation to medical appointments, loan of medical equipment, such as walker, commodes, wheelchairs etc. We have a Telephone Reassurance program, a monthly Blood Pressure and Toe Nail Trimming Clinic and we provide a bus for four monthly shopping trips for citizens of the Valley. Our Thrift shop, located one mile north of Townshend on Rte 30, provides good clean clothing at very reasonable prices or for free, if necessary. The staff provides information and referrals to our neighbors. We utilize Public Service Announcements and also print our news in the Cottage Door to help cut down on expenses.

We enjoy our clients in your town and look forward to serving them and others in the future. During the past year the homemakers have spent nearly 1,500 hours providing services to residents so that these people may remain at home. To do this, in our rural area, they have had to drive close to 5,000 miles. Likewise the bus has traveled over 5,000 miles taking folks shopping this past year. 125 people have borrowed, free of charge, over 200 pieces of durable medical equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, shower benches, etc.) Many people have availed themselves of the free toenail cutting service and many others have been given rides to medical appointments by our dedicated volunteer drivers.

We are requesting \$724, which is \$1.55 per capita, for the year 2005. We enjoy serving you community and we do appreciate you assisting us financially, which helps enable us to continue providing these services to you residents.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Elaine Scott
Director

WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Windham Solid Waste Management District Board of Supervisors and Staff are pleased to report another successful year of operations with the convenience center, paint program, household hazardous waste and the recycling program throughout the District. We also thank the District residents and businesses for your continued support over the past year. The rural drop-off recycling program continues to experience increased quantities over the previous year due to the conscientious recycling habits of the residents and area businesses. The District received slightly more than 7,000 tons of recyclables for the year. However, the recycling sites continue to experience trash and other non-recyclables being deposited in the containers. Everyone's cooperation is needed to help keep these sites clean and used properly for recyclable materials.

As an example of the value of the recycling program operated within the District, the net cost of collecting and processing the 7,000 tons of recyclables was \$126,252 or \$18.04 per ton in Fiscal Year 2004. If the 7,000 tons were disposed of as waste, the cost would be \$637,000 for a net savings to district residents of \$510,748.

The District budget was approved by the Supervisors at the December, 2004 meeting and for the fourth year in a row the District-wide assessment is set at \$250,000 for the 34,400 District residents. This is equivalent to 60 cents per month per resident.

The permanent paint drop-off program at the District facility in Brattleboro continues to be available to residents to recycle paints year round rather than waiting for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHW) day each year. We have eliminated one of the HHW days due to the new paint program but have added a "rover" site that will be located in different towns during the HHW event each year.

As always, the District Convenience Center in Brattleboro is available for use by residents and accepts used crankcase oil, fluorescent tubes, batteries, ballasts and other materials on a daily basis. Call ahead for questions related to costs and a list of items that can be disposed of, or recycled through this program.

Please call the District at 257-0272 with any questions or to arrange a tour of the facility. Everyone is always welcome to watch the recyclables being processed once they arrive at the Materials Recycling Facility for processing.

WINDHAM COUNTY READS

Windham County Reads is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing families and books together, with a particular focus on children's school readiness and reading success. The entire student body at Brookline Elementary School takes part in our annual March Reading Challenge and receives annotated Summer Reading Lists at the end of each school year. In addition, K-4 students join 25,000 annual state-wide participants in the Red Clover Book Award program, and Brookline families with newborns receive the board books we provide for EES Welcome Baby visits.

All of these programs have been replicated in

other parts of Vermont and New England, and recognition for Windham County Reads includes the prestigious S. Whitney Landon Memorial Award "for exceptional service to Vermont children." We appreciate the opportunity to bring our programs to Brookline, and we are grateful for the \$200 that was allocated for FY 2004.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Allard, Director
Windham County Reads

MOORE FREE LIBRARY

The Moore Free Library has had a very good year and thanks the Brookline community for its support and patronage. Monthly, we have averaged over 600 visits and over 1,300 items circulated, which includes books, magazines, books on tape, and movies. If we don't have the book you want, we will get it for you through the interlibrary loan system.

We look forward to another exciting season of exhibitions in our Crowell Art Gallery. Upcoming shows: Hoffman Challenge quilts, including one by Marjorie Ray of Brookline (February), art by Newfane schoolchildren (March), paintings and sculpture by Simi Berman (April), paintings by Caryn King (May), toys, geometric sculpture, and puzzles by Tom Longten (June), photography by Amanda Blum (July), paintings by Nancy McLean (August), paintings by David Rohn (September), photographs and paintings by Myles Danaher (October), and watercolors by Maisie Crowther (November). During

December and January, we rehang the permanent collection of Vermont artists.

This is your local library; so come on in and see us. It's free and it's fun! We are open Tuesday through Friday, 1:00 to 5:00 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm; pre-school story hour is at 10:30 Thursday mornings

Board of Trustees, Moore Free Library:

Bob Doyle
Myra Fassler
Jonathan Field
Julie Lavorgna
Dick Marek.

CONNECTICUT RIVER TRANSIT, INC

Connecticut River Transit, Inc. (CRT) is a private, non-profit personal mobility specialist servicing the Windham and southern Windsor county areas. We currently provide about 50,000 trips on our public bus service and 50,000 scheduled trips for individuals.

Earlier in 2004, VTrans selected Connecticut River Transit and one other transportation provider in the State to develop innovative and collaborative policies and procedures to ensure that all services – buses, vans, volunteers, and rideshare services – are open to the general public and carefully designed to meet the mobility needs of employees, job seekers, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and visitors, in the most flexible and cost-effective manner. CRT is the first agency to actively implement coordinated transit initiatives under the VTrans program.

We are asking the Town of Brookline to consider a \$250 donation for Connecticut River Transit, Inc. This contribution helps secure committed government awards from the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Federal Transit Administration, Medicaid, and area human service agencies totaling over \$1.8 million.

Connecticut River Transit, Inc. is currently leasing space in the Nortrax building at 300 Clinton Street in Springfield, VT. If you would like more information on our transit services, please call 885-5162 or visit our website – www.crtransit.org.

COASEV, Inc

The Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. (COASEV, Inc.) fosters and supports successful aging of seniors in the Brookline community and throughout Windham and Windsor Counties. COASEV staff, along with seniors and other community members, develop, advocate, coordinate and assure access to services which enhance the quality of their lives in Brookline. To accomplish this mission in Brookline we provide direct services as those listed below, as well as work collaboratively with other organizations in Brookline.

◆ **Information and Assistance** – Through the Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 – Providing resources, tips, applications for benefits, and assistance with health insurance information.

◆ **Senior Nutrition** – Home delivered meals are arranged and congregate meals are available in Townshend, Westminster, Putney, Dummerston and Newfane.

◆ **Transportation** – Special arrangements are made for non-Medicaid seniors requiring medical transportation.

◆ **Case Management** – Providing one on one case management to those wishing to stay in their community and by managing the Medicaid Waiver program which provides nursinghome like care. With self-neglect referrals we assist the individual to become aware of and access services thus regaining control of their lives. Three clients are currently receiving these services at an annual cost of \$2,535.

◆ **Advocacy** – Assisting with accessing a wide array of benefits such as VHAP pharmacy, fuel assistance, food stamps, telephone lifeline, tax rebates, and Supplemental Security Income. These services are provided through home visits.

◆ **Care Giver Respite** – Through grants we are able to provide respite assistance for caregivers of those diagnosed with dementia and other chronic diseases.

◆ **Senior Companion Program** – Providing friendly visiting as well as a stipend employment opportunity for older, limited income workers.

◆ **Planning** – for seniors is accomplished by working with legislators, other agencies, and the communities we serve.

◆ **Successful Aging Initiatives** – Providing a series of small community grants for groups and organizations to create and expand their programs.

Your town contribution of \$265 generates \$1,502 in Federal matching funds to support all of these activities. Services are provided at no cost but participants are encouraged to make anonymous, voluntary contributions. The support of Brookline citizens as well as that of the hundreds of volunteers and dedicated staff make these services possible.

Submitted by Marie Saunders, Executive Director

RSVP

RSVP of Windham County recruits people 55 and older and matches them with volunteer jobs that address local needs, support existing programs, and further each volunteer's life goals. Our elders offer a wealth of knowledge and experience. In sharing it, they improve the quality of life for all of us, while they gain personal satisfaction both from the work they do and from knowing that the community values their wisdom.

RSVP is part of the National Senior Service Corps, a United Way member agency, and sponsored locally by Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont Inc. We provide volunteers with training, assessment, supplemental insurance coverage, and recognition for their contributions.

Last year 466 RSVP volunteers contributed 73,781 hours of service in Windham County through 126 not-for-profit community agencies, 68 of which serve Brookline residents. Brookline residents received an estimated 812 hours of service through the work of those volunteers, which in dollars equates to approximately \$12,523. We are asking Brookline voters to consider providing \$150 in funding (the same amount appropriated last year) to RSVP for FY 2006.

Examples of how RSVP volunteers make a difference for Brookline residents include:

- Support local health care by volunteering for Grace Cottage Hospital and the Valley Health Council.
- Help children increase their love for reading, build self-confidence and improve their skills, as RSVP America Reads Literacy Volunteers at Brookline Elementary School; support literacy for all ages by assisting at Moore Free Library.
- Ensure that people who lack transportation are able to get to medical appointments, by serving as drivers for Connecticut River Transit and Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- Support independent living and help to alleviate loneliness and isolation, by delivering meals-on-wheels, helping elderly citizens with tax forms through AARP's Tax Aide Program, and visiting or entertaining local nursing home residents.
- Foster environmental awareness by volunteering for Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center.
- Help people with limited resources maintain better nutrition by serving at area soup kitchens, food shelves and other food distribution sites.
- Provide affordable clothing by knitting or crocheting sweaters, mittens and baby sets for local children through the Reformer Christmas Stocking, and by assisting at area thrift shops.

We would like to thank Brookline voters for your 22 years of investment in RSVP. With your renewed support, we will continue to make a difference for school children, frail elders, struggling families, and those who need a helping hand to get back on their feet.

Virginia A. Milkey, Director

WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSION

Since being established in June of 1965, the Windham Regional Commission has been working with its 27 towns to help them address regional issues and provide effective local government. We are pleased and proud to have been able to provide that service for forty years, as we look ahead to another year of change and challenges.

Each town annually appoints two representatives to the commission. Brookline's current representatives are Johnny Swing and Chris Ballou. Commissioners serve on a number of committees that mirror the concerns of the region and that form the core of the WRC. Current active committees include:

- Community Development, which focuses on issues relating to economic development, housing, downtowns and village centers, etc.
- Natural Resources, which reviews a wide variety of issues and projects that would impact—positively or negatively—the region's wealth of natural resources.
- Public Policy & Legislation, which meets weekly during the legislative session to discuss issues and policies with an invited legislator.
- Transportation, which oversees a variety of regional transportation planning efforts and helps to coordinate statewide transportation issues with Vermont's ten other regional commissions.
- Plan Review & Coordination, which reviews town plans (upon request by a town) and conducts an annual series of varied and interesting education programs.
- Project Review, which meets to review and assess specific projects—usually projects that are before the District Environmental Commission or the Public Service Board—as they relate to the Windham Regional Plan and to guide staff participation in related hearings.

The WRC also provides staff and administrative support to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. LEPC's are regional bodies made up primarily of emergency response officials, with a task to develop emergency plans to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies. In practice, the LEPC in this region has evolved into an "all hazards" planning group that assists emergency planning, response and recovery of all types.

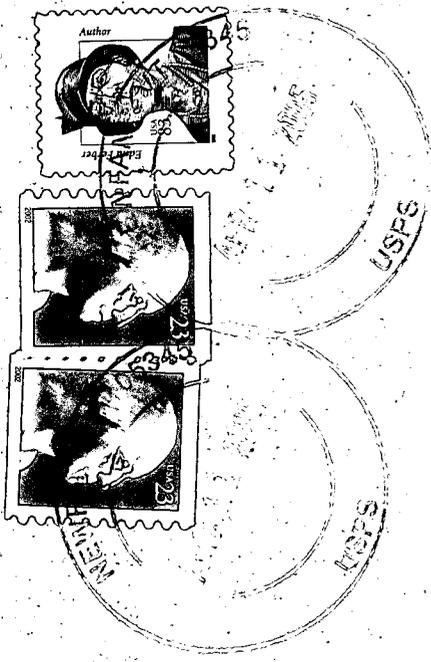
The WRC assists member towns with a variety of projects, some very local and others serving more than one town. These include helping with town plans and land use regulations and specific town projects, and in 2005 it also will include an extensive educational and assistance effort relating to the major changes that were made to Vermont's municipal planning and land use laws in 2004. Regional efforts include the Brownfields Reuse Initiative, the regional transportation planning project and its many components, assistance with special projects such as supporting the creation of a new regional public transit agency last year, and an increased level of activity in energy-related issues, such as two anticipated wind energy developments and several Vermont Yankee proceedings.

The WRC's Geographic Information System (GIS) Service Center also responds to a variety of municipal needs by creating data bases and maps for town plans and related projects, including maps of protected lands, land cover and natural resources, past and current development patterns, and others. Working with Planning Commissions, Conservation Commissions, schools and non-profit groups, the WRC has assisted with mapping to support recreation development along rivers and ridgelines and land conservation of special areas.

The WRC's core budget is partially funded by member town assessments. The \$1.46 per resident rate and population of 464 will result in a total assessment of \$677.00 from Brookline for the new fiscal year. Brookline may wish to budget additional amounts for town-specific work needed from the WRC. For information on the WRC and its programs, contact your Town Representative or the WRC office at 139 Main Street, Suite 505, Brattleboro, (802) 257-4547; our e-mail address is: wrc@sover.net. Visit our website at www.rpc.windham.vt.us.

NOTES

TOWN OF BROOKLINE
P.O. BOX 403
NEWFANE, VT 05345



VT DEPT of Libraries
109 State ST
Montpelier, VT
05609

ATT: Diane