

2003
ANNUAL REPORT



TOWN OF PERU, VERMONT
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2003

Cover Picture: Aerial picture of Peru taken
June 26, 2003 with a digital camera.

Cessna Aircraft Pilot: David Bernasconi
Photographer: Ron Bernasconi

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TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU, TOWN MEETING 2004
WARNING

The legal voters of the town of Peru are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday March 2, 2004 at the hour of 10:00 A.M. to act on the following articles; vis:

Article 1. To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 2. To elect Town Officers as the law directs.

Article 3. A) To see if the Town will vote a tax to defray the expenses of the Town and the Town School District for the fiscal year of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2003 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote.

B) To authorize the Selectboard to set the rates on the 2004 Grand List to meet the budgets voted.

C) To establish the date of payment of such taxes. Previous year's dates: July 1 through September 30.

Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer.

Article 5. To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to the following organizations which serve the community:

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of SE VT	\$	362.00
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging		200.00
VNA of VT & NH		1,550.00
Londonderry Rescue Squad		1,000.00
VT League of Cities and Towns		552.00
Mountain Valley Medical Clinic		3,000.00
Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council		200.00
VT Center for Independent Living		140.00
Project Against Violent Encounters		150.00
West River Sports Assn.		325.00
Peru Cemetery Commission		2,000.00
Mountain Valley Community Dinners		800.00
VT Green Up		50.00
Bennington County Conservation District		250.00
Bennington Coalition for the Homeless		500.00
Center for Restorative Justice		300.00
Flood Brook Athletic Association		1,000.00
Springfield Area Hospice		500.00
Total	\$	<u>12,879.00</u>

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

Article 6. To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Dated at Peru, Vermont, January 29, 2004

Selectboard of Peru, Vermont
Charles Black
Susan Bradford
Roberta Baker

MINUTES OF TOWN MEETING

Town of Peru, Vermont
March 4, 2003

Moderator Gary Ameden called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting opened with pledge of allegiance. New people were asked to introduce themselves. We then had a moment of silence for those who had passed away during the year. School meeting is to be held first this year.

Town meeting called to order at 10:20.

Article 1. Motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of the Town Officers as printed. Article passed.

Article 2. Election of officers. The following were sole nominees, except where noted. The Clerk was directed to cast one ballot after "Proposition B" was moved and approved.

Moderator, 1 year	Gary Ameden
Town Clerk, 1 year	Tracy Black
Town Treasurer, 1 year	Karen Utiger
Selectboard, 3 years	Chuck Black
Lister, 3 years	Jan Georgette
Auditor, 3 years	Paul Martin, expires 2004
	Welthy Myers, expires 2006
Cemetery Commission, 5 years	Dave Farnum
First Constable, 1 year	Stewart Beattie
Second Constable, 1 year	Thomas Cronin
Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year	Richard Savage
Grand Juror, 1 year	Richard Savage
Town Agent, 1 year	Lawrence Daley
Trustee of Public Funds, 1 year	Richard Ardell

Article 3. A) Motion was made and seconded to vote a tax to defray the expenses of the Town and the Town School District for the fiscal year of July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2002 Town report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote. Article moved and seconded.

Discussion: Question on the increase in the highway budget. Increase is in the bridge section. Jim explained "The culverts in front of Nancy Shuell's house and the culvert in front of Edna Meyer's need to be replaced for safety. The state now requires a flat bottom fish friendly culvert. To meet state standards, the total cost is about \$171,000. The state will pay all but \$41,000 in matching grants."

Article approved as printed.

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

B) Motion made and seconded to authorize the Selectboard to set the rate of the 2003 Grand List to meet the budgets voted. Motion moved and seconded. Article approved as printed.

C) Motion made and seconded to establish the date of payment of such taxes to be July 1 through September 30, 2003. Moved and seconded. Article approved.

Article 4. Motion was made and seconded to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer. Moved and seconded. Discussion followed. Article approved.

Article 5. Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote a sum of money to the following organizations, which serve the community:

Mental Health Services of Southern Vermont	\$ 362.00
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	200.00
VNA of VT & NH	940.00
Londonderry Rescue Squad	1000.00
VT League of Cities and Towns	529.00
Mountain Valley Medical Clinic	3000.00
Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council	200.00
VT Center for Independent Living	140.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	150.00
West River Sports Assoc.	300.00
Peru Cemetery Commission	2000.00
Mountain Valley Community Dinners	800.00
VT Green Up Day	50.00
Bennington County Conservation District	250.00
Bennington Coalition for the Homeless	500.00
Center for Restorative Justice	300.00
Flood Brook Athletic Association	1000.00
Springfield Area Hospice	500.00
Total	<u>\$12,221.00</u>

The total printed in the warning was incorrect. The above total is correct with the monies added in the following amendment:

Susan Bradford made a motion to increase the total of money given to Mountain Valley Medical Center to \$3,000.00, seconded. Motion voted on separately, passed unanimously. The new total is \$12,221.00. Motion moved and seconded. Article called and passed as amended.

Break taken to hear Mark Shepard. He spoke about which committees he was on. Any questions? Mr. Shepard was asked if there was anything pending to change Act 60. There is a bill changing Act 60 and Mr. Shepard is not in favor of it. Mr. Shepard was also asked about taking some of the things out of Act 60 that were not educational. Questions asked about insurance costs and getting a handle on it.

Mr. Walt Freed arrived at this time and was asked to speak also. Mr. Freed explained the change in the newly revised Act 60. They are trying to take the burden off the property tax. To reach him at home please call 362-2275.

Coffee break at 10:55 am. Meeting called back to order at 11:14 am.

Article 6.

Motion made and seconded to see if the voters of Peru will support the following resolution to protect our farms, food and environment. Whereas genetically engineered (GE) foods and crops are likely to cause long-term damage to the environment, threaten the integrity of rural, family farm economies, and can have serious impacts on human health: whereas GE crops have been found to contaminate other crops through cross-pollination, and are stringently regulated on more than 30 countries; and whereas citizens throughout the United States are taking steps to address concerns about GE foods at the state and local levels; and whereas Congress and federal regulatory agencies have failed to adequately address this issue, therefore, be it resolved that the voters of Peru:

1. Call upon our elected officials, including Vermont legislators, Congressional representative, and U.S. Senators to support the mandatory labeling by manufacturers and processors of all genetically engineered foods and seeds, as well as a moratorium on the further growing of GE crops until there is credible and independent scientific evidence that these products are not harmful to our health, the environment, and the survival of family farms, and
2. Declare our support for legislation at the state and federal levels that will shift all liability from farmers to the commercial developers of GE technology for any damages resulting from the growing of GE crops, and
3. Declare a moratorium on the planting of genetically engineered seeds in the Town, as a step toward making Vermont a GE-free planting zone by the 2004-growing season.

Discussion followed.

Edna Meyer made a motion; it was seconded, to amend number 3 to read, "Declare our opposition" instead of "Declare a moratorium". Discussion followed. Vote on the amendment passed unanimously.

Discussion followed.

Article 6 as amended: Ayes: 32 Nays: 22

Article 7.

Motion was made and seconded to see if the town would support the following initiative. "Be it resolved that the citizens of the town of Peru urgently call upon our municipal leaders, state legislators, governor, and the Congressional delegation to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically, we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives, designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont's homes, businesses, public buildings, and transportation systems, and to encourage expansion of the renewable energy industry by the state of Vermont."

Discussion:

Motion made to amend the article, and seconded, to "With due consideration for protection of Vermont's natural areas and preservation of its aesthetic resources."

Discussion followed. "Is this in response to windmills?" "Is this necessary?" "We are already a state at the fore-front of renewable energy." "This article is looking at the whole world and where are we going." "The amendment would prohibit the use of hydropower." "Power without pollution has to be spread out, and to go to renewable energy it has to be in everyone's backyard."

Question called. Vote on the amendment: Nays win, amendment fails.

Discussion:

Question called. Ayes win.

Roger Fox came to speak to the town for the 27th year explaining the money asked for from the town was half of the amount of free or reduced cost of care-giving to people from the Town of Peru. The town gave thanks to Mountain Valley Medical Clinic.

Article 8.

Other business, The Historical Society thanks the town for their support in the fixing up of the upstairs of the Cheese House. Cindy Jenkins then spoke thanking Jim and Carl for doing a wonderful job taking care of the roads this winter. Not an easy year. And then talked about an Old Home Day this summer. The event will take place on the Town Green with dinner and a square dance, old-fashioned games, and fun for all, if you want to help, let her know. Helen Halstead wanted to let everyone know about her daughter, Welthi, and her husband Paul Meyers moving to town and building a wind/solar powered home. Virginia LaPrade asked about Hapgood Pond being paved to the Landgrove border. Chuck Black explained the Selectboard has been paving the class 2 roads as monies are available. Jim explained if the class 2 road is dirt there is no help from the state, but if it is paved the state helps with maintenance of that road. "How does someone keep his or her road from being paved?" "Can we lower the speed limit on Hapgood Pond Rd. to the town garage?" Floyd said years ago he was totally against North Road in front of his house being paved. It was paved anyway and he loves it being paved. It is better all the way around.

Susan Bradford brought up the two feasibility studies, one on the bike path from the village to Hapgood Pond and one study on municipal planning. Both projects have public meetings coming and all are encouraged to attend. Transportation path planning meeting is March 25th, Tuesday at 6:30 pm. And the Peru Village Municipal study meeting is Tuesday April 8th at 6:30 pm.

Vicki Beattie says the State Police telephone number in the town report is wrong. The correct number is 824-3915.

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

Richard Ragone asked about people getting tickets for rolling through the stop sign and has anyone else complained about the sheriff? Sheila made a motion to change the stop sign in front of the church and at the west entrance of town to Rt. 11 to yield signs. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. "The State controls the entrance to Rt. 11." Question called. Nays won overwhelmingly.

Motion made and seconded to adjourned meeting at 12:14 pm.

Dated at Peru, Vermont on March 4, 2003

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Black
Clerk, Town of Peru

Selectboard of Peru, VT
Charles A. Black
Susan Bradford
Roberta Baker

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

June 30 - July 1

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR	Gary Ameden
TOWN CLERK	Tracy Black
TOWN TREASURER	Karen Utiger
SELECTBOARD	TERM EXPIRES
Susan Bradford	2005
Roberta Baker	2004
Chuck Black (Chair)	2006
LISTERS	
Ray Carlson	2005
Margaret Powell	2004
Janice Georgett (Chair)	2006
AUDITORS	
Lou Petra	2005
Paul Martin	2004
Welthy Myers	2006
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS	
Floyd Davis	2004
David Farnum	2007
William Crandall	2005
Carl Holcomb	2006
Stewart Beattie	2005
SCHOOL DIRECTORS	
Margaret Cobb	2006
Jill Braddish	2005
Barbara Petra	2004
FLOOD BROOK SCHOOL DIRECTOR	
Margaret Cobb	2005
FIRST TOWN CONSTABLE	Stewart Beattie
SECOND TOWN CONSTABLE	Tom Cronin
TAX COLLECTOR	Richard Savage
GRAND JUROR	Richard Savage
TOWN AGENT	Lawrence Daley
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS	Richard Ardell
JUSTICES OF THE PEACE	Gary Ameden
	Greta Crandall
	Lawrence Daley
	Vicki Beattie
	Walter "Tink" Williams

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICERS

PLANNING COMMISSION	TERM EXPIRES
Stewart Beattie	2006
David Farnum	2006
Emile Georgett	2006
Paul Martin	2005
Andrew Reed	2005
Cindi Jenkins (Chair/Clerk)	2004
Peter Robertson	2004
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	
James Daley	2005
Richard Savage	2004
Lori Gayda	2004
Peter Bradford	2004
David Utiger	2006
FENCE VIEWERS	
David Farnum	
Ken Batchelder	
SEXTON	Carl Holcomb
TOWN SERVICE OFFICER	Claire Knowlton
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER	Ron Bernasconi
ASSISTANT TOWN TREASURER	Karen Utiger
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK	Margaret Cobb
ROAD COMMISSIONER	James Daley
TOWNSCAPE PRESERVATION BOARD	
Joyce Phillips	
Nancy Shuell	
Adele Martin	
Margaret Powell	
Claire Knowlton	
Susan Bradford	
Richard Savage	

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

SELECTBOARD REPORT

In fulfilling the Municipal Planning Grant received last year, Bannon Engineering prepared a *municipal study of Peru Village* needs, including traffic safety, water/wastewater issues and town buildings. Public meetings were held for local input. The final report is available for your perusal in the Town office.

The Town of Peru also received a 2002 *Bicycle & Pedestrian Technical Assistance Grant* from the Vermont Agency of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study of a shared path from Peru Village to Hapgood Pond Recreation Area. After several public meetings to discuss various possibilities, Bannon Engineering prepared its final report which is available for reading in the Town office.

The *cottage on the Town Green* was sold and moved to Edna Meyer's property on Main Street in early December.

Verizon planned on removing the *public pay phone* next to the Community House. After discussions with them as to the "public need", they agreed to leave it in place.

The *Stark monument steps* were finished in May.

Some *street names in Bromley Village* were changed to make the roads easier to follow.

The sump pump in the *Community House* was replaced to stop basement flooding. The bulkhead doors at the *Town Office* were replaced.

In late July, *severe flooding* on Pierce Road and Moss Brook Road caused major washouts and erosion. FEMA covered 78% of the repair costs with most of the remainder paid by the State. Additional work on the rebuilt ditching is slated for the spring.

A successful Peru "*Old Home Day*" was held on July 26, 2003.

Complaints regarding junk cars and private abuse of town right of ways were addressed.

Note on the Budget: \$17,000 of the Landfill line item is our share for the reconstruction of the compactor station.

Please let the Selectboard know before Town Meeting if you are interested in *servng on a Town board*. Your participation is needed.

Charles Black, Susan Bradford, Roberta Baker - Peru Selectboard

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

BOARD OF LISTERS' REPORT

Again this year, the Listers attended a number of State sponsored meetings and classes about the new Act 68 changes. We also worked with the State on new software programs and a new appraisal system for the condominiums for our much needed new computer and printer. In the Spring and Fall, we visited both new homes and those with renovations and additions in order to keep our Grand List up-to-date.

All residents are urged to file their Homestead form with the State as soon as possible so records can be updated in a timely fashion.

Following is the Grand List for 2003. Residential I and Vacation I are buildings with under 6 acres of land. Residential II and Vacation II are buildings with 6 acres or more.

Type	No. of Parcels	Municipal	Education
Residential I	83	11,819,300	11,819,300
Residential II	51	14,783,300	14,783,300
Mobile Homes -U	1	7,900	7,900
Mobile Homes -L	5	277,500	277,500
Vacation I	427	73,789,900	73,789,900
Vacation II	71	22,554,800	22,554,800
Commercial	26	10,233,100	10,233,100
Utilities - E	1	796,445	796,445
Utilities - O	1	28,700	28,700
Farms	1	206,100	206,100
Woodland	30	2,766,000	2,766,000
Miscellaneous	<u>59</u>	<u>1,900,000</u>	<u>1,900,000</u>
Totals	<u>756</u>	139,163,045	139,163,045

Total Non-Taxable Properties 14

Personal Property

Cable	6,700	16,700
Machinery and Equipment	<u>2,956,598</u>	N/A

Total Listed Value of Taxable Property 142,126,343 139,179,745

Board of Listers
 Janice Georgett, Chairman
 Margaret Powell
 Raymond Carlson

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

During the year July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 there were 21 zoning permits issued by the Zoning Administrator. The issued permits are as follows:

Additions	3
Alterations	0
Barn	0
Decks	0
Garage	3
Houses	7
Parking Lot	1
Porches	0
Ponds	2
Pool	0
Portable Attractions	3
Sheds	1
Sub Division Permits	0
Chair Lift Park Device	1
Sign	0
<hr/>	
Total	21

The fees collected for the above permits totaled \$2,096.00

Ron Bernasconi
Zoning Administrator

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The following applications were received and acted on:

02-02	Robert J. Williams	Front setback for porch	Approved
02-03	Edward Johnson	Appeal of violation notice, sign	Withdrawn
02-04	Edward Johnson	Appeal of violation notice, stonewall	Granted
02-05	Paul C. Boesgaard	Side setback for a shed	Approved
02-06	Bromley Mt. Equity L.P.	Conditional use permit for parking lot	Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Savage, Chair
Laurie Gayda
Peter Bradford
James Daley
David Utiger

FIRST CONSTABLE'S REPORT

In the reporting year July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003, there were ten calls, requiring over 10 hours and 53 miles of travel.

In addition, I responded to several calls as Fire Police with the Fire Department.

If you see something suspicious around you, or you need assistance please call me at **824-3494**, or if I cannot be reached, you can contact the State Police at **824-3915**. They will be happy to assist you.

Respectfully submitted,
Stewart N. Beattie, First Constable

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

The following is the report for BCSD from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003. During this time frame, the BCSD issued 294 traffic tickets in the Town of Peru. Five of those tickets received an additional seatbelt violation.

During this time, we also investigated the following different incidents or assisted another agency making the total 17.

Accident w/damage - DMV Report	1
Agency Assists	4
Basic Rule	1
Citizen Assist	1
DLS - Civil	1
DUI	2
Motor Vehicle Disturbance	1
No Insurance	1
Registration Required	1
Suspicious Person/Circumstances	2
Vehicle Identification Number Checks	2

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office. Thank you.

Sincerely
Gary J. Forrest, Sheriff

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002

FOREST FIRE WARDEN'S REPORT

The 2003 fire season saw a lot of rainfall keeping fire occurrence low. Once started, fires did little expanding leading to the lowest average size in over ten years. 125 burning permits were issued in Peru in 2003. There were no wild fires in Peru.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Savage
Forest Fire Warden

James Daley
Assistant Warden

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Peru Fire Dept. responded to 29 calls last fiscal year. The calls break down as follows: 6 reports of smoke in the building, 5 motor vehicle accidents, 4 responses to uncontrolled burns, 2 downed power lines, 3 requests for mutual aid, 6 false alarms, and 3 car fires.

During the past year the Fire Co. has purchased \$5,601 worth of equipment, and donated it to the town. This money comes from our fundraising efforts, donations, and grants. The Fire Dept. meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. We encourage anyone with an interest to join us.

Charles Black, Chief

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

The Planning Commission continues to be actively involved in planning issues in the town. In addition to conducting site plan reviews as needed, we have been busy working on the revision of the Town of Peru Bylaws. The Commission forwarded a draft to Bannon Engineering for review and we hope to complete the revision process in 2004. It has continued to be productive working closely with the Zoning Administrator to keep the permitting process efficient.

Respectfully submitted,
Peru Planning Commission

Cindy Jenkins, Chair and Secretary
Stewart Beattie
David Farnum
Paul Martin
Edna Meyer
Andrew Read
Peter Robertson

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Last summer was a very wet summer and with the ground already saturated we continued to get more rain, until one torrential down pour finally washed out almost the entire Pierce Road and a short section of Savage Road. I immediately reported this to the Vermont Emergency management office and also contacted F.E.M.A.,. These sections of road had to be totally rebuilt, starting with culverts, base gravel, and surface gravel. New ditches had to be established, which will be stoned lined in the spring. The purpose of this is to slow the flow of water and to protect the base of the road from erosion.

Class Three Projects were done on the Little Michigan Road, Moss Brook Road, and Lover's Lane. This included cutting back banks, ditches, culvert installations and surface restoration.

Class Two Projects were continued on the Hapgood Pond Road.

Resurfacing of Class Three Roads was done on sections of the North Road, Little Michigan Road, Halsteads Lane, Moss Brook Road, Lover's Lane, Russel Road, and Anderson Road.

Resurfacing of Class Two Roads was done on sections of the Hapgood Pond Road and the South Road.

The Town of Peru was awarded two grants for the Main Street Projects. One grant was for the waterway structures/culverts which was ordered and built. The other grant was for resurfacing and thermal line striping Main Street as well as the short section of the South Road from the post office to Rte. 11. These projects are scheduled for the spring.

General maintenance included clearing trees and brush, cleaning and relaying culverts, as well as installing new ones, clearing drainage ditches, mowing roadsides, scraping and dirt laying, yard work at the Town Center, Community House, Town Green, Stark Monument, Town Park and the highway garages as well as numerous other town projects.

Respectfully submitted,
James Daley
Road Commissioner

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

This year, only the usual maintenance consisting of mowing, cleaning, and pruning of limbs was completed. We are planning to do further improvements to the roadway and turn around areas in the new section of the Village Cemetery next summer. With this in mind, the Cemetery Commission is requesting that the appropriation from the Town remain the same as last year.

To purchase a plot or for other Cemetery information, the Cemetery Commission meets the first Thursday of each month from May thru November at the Town Office. The costs of graves are \$50.00 per grave, and a mandatory fee of \$150.00 for perpetual care.

Anyone wishing to make burial arrangements may contact Carl Holcomb at 802-824-3932.

Respectfully submitted,
Peru Cemetery Commission

Stewart Beattie, Chairman
William Crandall, Clerk
Carl Holcomb, Sexton
Floyd Davis
David Farnum

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

CEMETERY COMMISSION
FINANCIAL REPORT

Checkbook Balance, 7/01/02: \$5,584.43

RECEIPTS:

Sales of Lots	250.00
Lot Maintenance Fees	750.00
Interest on Savings	68.87
Interest on CDs	521.49
Interest on Checking	18.24
Dividends	323.42
Town Appropriation	<u>2,000.00</u>

Total Receipts: 3,932.02

DISBURSEMENTS:

Holcomb/Davis (maintenance)	1,804.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	5.37
Perpetual Care left in savings	750.00
Interest left in Savings	<u>68.87</u>

Total Disbursements: 2,628.24

Checkbook Balance, 6/30/03: \$6,888.21

Cemetery Accounts/Assets accounted for as follows:

FPNB Checking Account	\$ 6,888.21
FPNB Savings Account*	10,505.04
FPNB CDs	20,000.00
Mutual Fund Shares/Stock Shares at NAV	<u>31,544.56</u>

Total: \$68,937.81

*The balance in the Cemetery savings account includes \$3,275.63 of interest income, which is available to cover current expenses for managing the cemetery.

Note: With the exception of the balance of \$6,888.21 in the checking account and interest of \$3,275.63 in the savings account, all monies and investments of the cemetery are dedicated to its perpetual care.

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the financial records of the Town of Peru and the Town of Peru School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003. Such records include cancelled checks, bank statements, journal and ledger entries, money market records and other reports by banks and funds.

It is our opinion that the Town Treasurer has maintained complete and accurate records of all transactions and that the statements submitted herewith (pages 20-23 and 31-32) represent a true picture of the financial activity during the period and the financial condition of the Town of Peru at the close of the fiscal year.

We would like to thank the Town Treasurer, Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk for their assistance in helping us reach our goal of putting together a complete and accurate report.

Respectfully submitted,
Town of Peru Auditors

Paul Martin
Welthy Myers
Lou Petra

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU, GENERAL FUND
 STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, APPROPRIATIONS
 AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
 Year Ended June 30, 2003

REVENUE		AUTHORIZED 6/02-6/03	ACTUAL 6/02-6/03
300	Taxes	\$320,946.00	\$335,184.85
	Surplus applied to Tax Rate	35,000.00	
303	State of VT Current Use	5,000.00	5,042.00
305	Penalties Delinquent Taxes	9,000.00	7,766.03
309,310, 311, 315, 330	Licenses/Traffic Fines	3,900.00	7,720.95
312	Zoning Permits	2,500.00	2,532.00
321	Town Clerk Fees	9,500.00	17,623.00
323	Rental of Facilities	3,800.00	1,475.00
324	State Aid Highways	45,000.00	46,175.24
327	Interest Income	10,000.00	11,968.67
328	Miscellaneous Income	100.00	63.45
329	Green Mountain National Forest	12,000.00	23,390.00
332	Municipal Planninbg Grant Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,200.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE		<u>456,746.00</u>	<u>464,141.19</u>
EXPENDITURES	(See Itemized Accounts)		
400-419	Administration/Sheriff Expend.	98,140.00	104,247.34
420-433	Office/Equipment	9,550.00	9,097.36
440-487	Total Buildings	35,910.00	24,720.27
512-518	Taxes and Assessments	19,100.00	16,070.75
626-634	General Services	22,650.00	22,524.84
700-796	Highway & Roads	152,666.00	155,811.30
901-910	Fire Department	22,310.00	17,713.60
	Municipal Planning Grant	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,489.49</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>358,326.00</u>	<u>352,674.95</u>
APPROPRIATIONS			
802	Discretionary Fund	4,000.00	4,120.25
804	Reappraisal	0.00	0.00
805	New Pavement Reserve	20,000.00	20,000.00
806	Highway Resurface Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00
807	Fire Engine Fund	17,500.00	17,500.00
808	Highway Equipment Fund	31,300.00	31,300.00
811	Debt Reduction	0.00	0.00
812	Interest on Debt	0.00	0.00
815	Vt. Coalition of Towns	650.00	1,332.00
817	Digitize Maps	<u>4,970.00</u>	<u>4,970.00</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		<u>98,420.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
800	Approp. Community Services	<u>12,221.00</u>	<u>10,092.00</u>
TOTAL WARNING ARTICLES		<u>12,221.00</u>	<u>10,092.00</u>
TOTAL		<u>468,967.00</u>	<u>457,019.20</u>
SURPLUS(DEFICIT)		<u>(12,221.00)</u>	<u>7,121.99</u>
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE			
Opening Fund Balance, 7/1/02			<u>131,113.95</u>
Ending Fund Balance, 6/30/03			<u>138,235.94</u>

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU, SPECIAL FUNDS
 STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
 Year Ended June 30, 2003

	EQUIPMENT	HIGHWAY RESURFACE	FIRE EQUIP.	SEWER LAND	RE- APPRAISAL	NEW PAVEMENT	TOTAL
REVENUE							
From General Fund	\$31,300.00	\$20,000.00	\$17,500.00			\$20,000.00	\$57,600.00
From State of VT	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$5,383.00	0.00	5,383.00
Interest Income	<u>1,860.69</u>	<u>449.16</u>	<u>3,167.06</u>	<u>360.30</u>	<u>331.09</u>	<u>235.98</u>	<u>6,404.28</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>33,160.69</u>	<u>20,449.16</u>	<u>20,667.06</u>	<u>360.30</u>	<u>5,714.09</u>	<u>20,235.98</u>	<u>100,587.28</u>
EXPENDITURES							
Install Foam System	_____	_____	<u>9,575.00</u>	_____	_____	_____	<u>9,575.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,575.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>9,575.00</u>
REVENUE IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES							
	33,160.69	20,449.16	11,092.06	360.30	5,714.09	20,235.98	91,012.28
BALANCE 7/01/02	<u>123,211.78</u>	<u>37,052.66</u>	<u>210,936.22</u>	<u>15,976.36</u>	<u>27,233.37</u>	<u>21,895.77</u>	<u>436,306.16</u>
BALANCE 6/30/03	<u>\$156,372.47</u>	<u>\$57,501.82</u>	<u>\$222,028.28</u>	<u>\$16,336.66</u>	<u>\$32,947.46</u>	<u>\$42,131.75</u>	<u>\$527,318.44</u>

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU, BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 2003

	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL FUNDS	TRUST & AGENCY	TOTAL
ASSETS				
Cash (checking)	\$49,206.65		\$ 6,888.21	\$56,094.86
Petty Cash	100.00			100.00
Prepaid Expenses	13,689.66			13,689.66
Money Mkt/CDs	70,406.29	\$527,318.44	30,505.04	628,229.77
Stocks & Mutual Funds			31,544.56	31,544.56
Delinquent Taxes Receivable	<u>9,397.17</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>9,397.17</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>\$142,799.77</u>	<u>\$527,318.44</u>	<u>\$68,937.81</u>	<u>\$739,056.02</u>
LIABILITIES				
Payroll Taxes Payable	\$4,563.83	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$4,563.83
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>4,563.83</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,563.83</u>
FUND BALANCE				
Appropriated	50,000.00	527,318.44	68,937.81	646,256.25
Unappropriated	<u>88,235.94</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>88,235.94</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u>138,235.94</u>	<u>527,318.44</u>	<u>68,937.81</u>	<u>734,492.19</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$142,799.77</u>	<u>\$527,318.44</u>	<u>\$68,937.81</u>	<u>\$739,056.02</u>

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED AND DISTRIBUTED
Year ended June 30, 2003

Grand Lists:		
Municipal Grand List	\$ 1,293,896.21	
Billed @	<u>0.2566</u>	\$ 333,314.85 *
Education Grand List	\$ 1,267,166.00	
Billed @	<u>1.0999</u>	1,393,843.00
Dept. of Forests & Parks		<u>1,870.00</u>
Total		<u>\$1,729,027.85</u>
Received by Treasurer		\$1,719,630.68
Delinquent, 2003		<u>9,397.17</u>
Total		<u>\$1,729,027.85</u>
Distribution of Taxes		
State Education Fund - Peru School District		\$1,393,843.00
General Fund		325,787.68
General Fund, Del. Taxes Receivable		<u>9,397.17</u>
Total		<u>\$1,729,027.85</u>

TOWN OF PERU, STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES
Year ended June 30, 2003

Balance, 7/01/02	\$	0.00
Collected		<u>0.00</u>
Sub Total		0.00
Delinquent, 6/30/03		<u>9,397.17</u>
Balance, 6/30/03	\$	<u>9,397.17</u>

* Calculation reflects lister adjustments to Municipal Grand List which increased taxes billed by \$1,300.95.

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003
TOWN OF PERU, GENERAL FUND: PROPOSED BUDGET 2004-2005

Account#	Description	Actual 2002/2003	Authorized 2003/2004	Proposed 2004/2005
REVENUE				
303	State of VT Current Use	\$ 5,042.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
305	Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	7,766.03	9,000.00	9,000.00
309	Copy Machine	84.50	100.00	100.00
310	Liquor License	600.00	700.00	700.00
311	Dog License	367.00	400.00	400.00
312	Zoning Permits	2,532.00	3,000.00	2,500.00
315	Hunting/Fishing Licenses	0.00	50.00	50.00
321	Town Clerk Fees	17,623.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
323	Rental of Facilities	1,475.00	1,000.00	250.00
324	State Highway Funds	46,175.24	44,000.00	44,000.00
327	Interest Earned	11,968.67	10,000.00	10,000.00
328	Misc. Income	5,263.45	100.00	100.00
329	Green Mountain Forest	23,390.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
330	Traffic Fines	6,669.45	4,000.00	0.00
331	Peru Town Forest	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUB TOTAL		\$128,956.34	\$ 99,350.00	\$ 94,100.00
SURPLUS APPLIED TO TAX RATE			\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00
TO BE RAISED BY TAXES		\$335,184.85	\$ 367,745.00	\$ 433,287.00
TOTAL REVENUE		\$464,141.19	\$ 517,095.00	\$ 527,387.00
ADMINISTRATION				
400	Town Clerk	\$ 13,070.88	\$ 13,990.00	\$ 13,990.00
401	Treasurer	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
402	Assistant Town Clerk	7,161.85	8,035.00	8,035.00
403	Assistant Treasurer	2,014.08	2,482.00	2,482.00
404	Selectmen	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
405	Auditors	574.37	1,000.00	1,000.00
406	Listers	10,937.15	10,700.00	10,700.00
407	Planning commission	2,054.00	2,750.00	2,750.00
408	Officers training	540.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
409	Legal Services	100.80	2,500.00	2,500.00
410	Town Report & Delivery	2,303.60	2,700.00	2,700.00
411	Town Meeting	23.04	150.00	150.00
412	General Elections	357.83	500.00	500.00
413	Comp. & Liability Insurance	24,466.53	17,850.00	25,000.00
414	Misc/Travel	0.00	500.00	500.00
415	Z.B.A.	322.27	1,000.00	1,000.00
416	Zoning Administrator	4,211.80	3,500.00	4,000.00
417	Z.B.A./Administrator Misc.	499.50	300.00	500.00
418	Delinquent Tax Collector	7,766.03	10,000.00	10,000.00
419	Sheriff Expense	15,343.61	6,000.00	0.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION		\$ 104,247.34	\$ 97,457.00	\$ 99,307.00
BUILDINGS				
OFFICE				
420	Tax bills	\$ 296.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
421	Land record books	621.60	2,000.00	1,000.00
422	Dog licenses	145.97	150.00	150.00
423	Paper, Envelopes & Supplies	839.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
424	Postage	752.60	900.00	900.00
425	Office Misc.	220.53	300.00	300.00
426	Town Advertising	0.00	300.00	300.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
430	Copier Expense	1,625.14	1,500.00	1,500.00
431	Computer Expense	4,475.71	1,500.00	1,500.00

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

Account#	Description	Actual 2002/2003	Authorized 2003/2004	Proposed 2004/2005
432	Office Equipment	120.81	1,150.00	1,150.00
433	Misc.	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL OFFICE		\$ <u>9,097.36</u>	\$ <u>9,400.00</u>	\$ <u>8,300.00</u>
TOWN CENTER UTILITIES				
440	Electricity	\$1,720.96	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
441	Telephone	1,443.00	1,750.00	1,750.00
442	Heating Fuel	3,180.51	2,750.00	3,000.00
443	Furnace Maintenance	0.00	250.00	250.00
444	Propane	494.90	500.00	500.00
TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL				
450	Janitor Services	\$ 1,245.23	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
451	Supplies	88.49	150.00	150.00
TOWN CENTER MAINTENANCE				
460	Labor	\$ 1,863.77	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
461	Supplies	731.92	5,000.00	5,000.00
TOWN CENTER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT				
465	Capital Improvement	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINTENANCE				
470	Labor	\$6,947.25	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
471	Supplies	2,484.23	5,000.00	5,000.00
COMMUNITY HOUSE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT				
475	Capital Improvement	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOWN GARAGE				
480	Electricity	\$ 1,232.14	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
481	Heating Oil	744.85	2,000.00	2,250.00
482	Maintenance	1,358.47	2,000.00	2,000.00
483	Labor	83..20	600.00	600.00
484	Misc.	0.00	50.00	50.00
485	Capital	0.00	0.00	0.00
486	Telephone	531.35	800.00	800.00
487	Toilet Rental	<u>570.00</u>	<u>510.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
TOTAL BUILDINGS		<u>\$24,720.27</u>	<u>\$ 36,360.00</u>	<u>\$ 36,950.00</u>
TAXES/ BENEFITS/ASSESSMENTS				
512	Soc Security/Medicare	\$ 3,949.81	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
517	Vt. Dept E & T	145.16	500.00	500.00
518	County Taxes	<u>11,975.78</u>	<u>13,000.00</u>	<u>13,000.00</u>
TOTAL TAXES/BENEFITS/ASSESSMENTS		<u>\$16,070.75</u>	<u>\$ 19,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 19,500.00</u>
GENERAL SERVICES				
626	Landfill	\$ 15,198.41	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 34,500.00
627	Street Lights	3,033.78	3,200.00	3,200.00
628	Town Common Maint.	856.76	2,000.00	2,000.00
629	Town Common Labor	1,316.14	500.00	500.00
630	Constable's Expense	194.75	500.00	500.00
631	Animal Warden	1,925.00	1,800.00	2,000.00
634	Town Land	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
TOTAL GENERAL SERVICES		<u>\$22,524.84</u>	<u>\$ 25,200.00</u>	<u>\$ 42,900.00</u>

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

Account#	Description	Actual 2002/2003	Authorized 2003/2004	Proposed 2004/2005
HIGHWAYS				
HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT				
700	Gasoline	\$ 82.44	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
701	Oil	881.67	650.00	800.00
702	Diesel	6,528.49	7,500.00	8,000.00
703	Small Tools & Hardware	3,478.89	1,500.00	1,500.00
704	Radios/Pagers	412.55	600.00	600.00
705	Street Signs	56.67	500.00	500.00
706	Truck #1 Maint/Repair	1,106.66	1,500.00	1,500.00
707	Truck #1 Labor	633.49	1,000.00	1,000.00
708	Truck #2 Maint/Repair	1,100.87	1,500.00	1,500.00
709	Truck #2 Labor	619.27	1,000.00	1,000.00
712	Grader Maint/Repair	7,583.69	6,750.00	1,500.00
713	Grader Labor	338.55	400.00	750.00
714	Sander Maint/Repair	245.27	500.00	500.00
715	Sander Labor	100.80	250.00	250.00
716	Small Equip Maint/Repair	991.41	500.00	600.00
717	Small Equip Maint/Labor	76.27	250.00	250.00
718	Backhoe Maint/Repair	965.20	750.00	1,500.00
719	Backhoe Labor	<u>189.71</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>350.00</u>
SUBTOTAL EQUIPMENT		<u>\$25,391.90</u>	<u>\$ 25,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 22,250.00</u>
SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2)				
720	Grader Edges	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
721	Culverts	0.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
722	Cal Chloride	0.00	1,750.00	2,000.00
723	Resurfacing Blacktop	0.00	0.00	0.00
724	Resurfacing crushed gravel	5,425.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
725	Contract services	2,596.61	2,500.00	3,000.00
726	General Maintenance	112.27	250.00	250.00
727	Labor 1st Employee	4,882.49	6,754.00	7,092.00
728	Labor 2nd Employee	3,449.25	5,541.00	5,819.00
729	Chipper rental	0.00	1,500.00	1,750.00
SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 3)				
730	Grader edges	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
732	Culverts	0.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
733	Cal Chloride	0.00	1,750.00	2,000.00
734	Resurfacing blacktop	0.00	0.00	0.00
735	Resurfacing Crushed gravel	8,162.67	8,550.00	8,550.00
736	Contract Services	2,166.60	2,500.00	3,000.00
737	General Maintenance	42.27	250.00	250.00
738	Labor 1st Employee	6,972.51	6,754.00	7,092.00
739	Labor 2nd Employee	4,290.93	5,541.00	5,819.00
740	Chipper rental	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>
SUBTOTAL SUMMER ROADS		<u>\$38,100.60</u>	<u>\$ 53,040.00</u>	<u>\$ 57,272.00</u>
WINTER ROADS (CLASS 2)				
741	Plow and Chains	\$ 389.60	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
742	Grader Cutting Edge	0.00	100.00	100.00
743	Contract Services	110.00	250.00	250.00

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

Account#	Description	Actual 2002/2003	Authorized 2003/2004	Proposed 2004/2005
744	Sand	6,867.25	6,550.00	7,000.00
745	Salt	769.32	1,750.00	2,000.00
746	Labor 1st Employee	7,522.31	6,754.00	7,092.00
747	Labor 2nd Employee	6,703.20	5,541.00	5,819.00
748	Overtime 1st Employee	3,903.13	3,143.00	3,300.00
749	Overtime 2nd Employee	1,719.90	1,544.00	1,621.00
WINTER ROADS (CLASS 3)				
761	Plow and Chains	\$ 389.62	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
762	Grader Cutting Edge	0.00	100.00	100.00
763	Contract Services	0.00	250.00	250.00
764	Sand	6,867.26	6,550.00	7,000.00
765	Salt	769.31	1,750.00	2,000.00
766	Labor 1st Employee	7,411.91	6,754.00	7,092.00
767	Labor 2nd Employee	6,804.00	5,541.00	5,819.00
768	Overtime 1st Employee	3,465.51	3,143.00	3,300.00
769	Overtime 2nd Employee	<u>2,145.15</u>	<u>1,544.00</u>	<u>1,621.00</u>
SUBTOTAL WINTER ROADS \$		<u>55,837.47</u>	<u>\$ 53,264.00</u>	<u>\$ 56,364.00</u>
BRIDGES				
775	Materials	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
776	Construction	0.00	20,000.00	5,000.00
777	Labor 1st Employee	0.00	500.00	500.00
778	Labor 2nd Employee	<u>100.80</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
SUBTOTAL BRIDGES \$		<u>100.80</u>	<u>\$ 41,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 11,000.00</u>
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION				
790	Fica/Medicare	\$ 5,347.88	\$ 5,208.00	\$ 5,500.00
792	BC/BS	20,265.87	22,000.00	25,000.00
793	Retirement	2,773.01	2,756.00	2,894.00
794	Vacation and Holidays	6,936.74	7,000.00	7,350.00
795	Highway Administration	958.63	1,000.00	1,000.00
796	Employee Life Insurance	<u>98.40</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
SUBTOTAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION		<u>\$ 36,380.53</u>	<u>\$ 38,114.00</u>	<u>\$ 41,894.00</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY EXPENSES \$		<u>155,811.30</u>	<u>\$210,918.00</u>	<u>\$188,780.00</u>
MISCELLANEOUS				
800	Approp. Comm. Serv.	\$ 10,092.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
802	Selectmen Discretionary Fund	4,120.25	4,000.00	5,000.00
804	Reappraisal	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
805	New Pavement Reserve	20,000.00	20,000.00	22,500.00
806	Pavement Resurf. Reserve	20,000.00	20,000.00	22,500.00
807	Fire Engine Fund	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00
808	Highway Equip. Fund	31,300.00	31,300.00	34,000.00
812	Interest Expense on Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00
815	VT Coalition of Towns	1,332.00	650.00	1,000.00

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

Account#	Description	Actual 2002/2003	Authorized 2003/2004	Proposed 2004/2005
	Planning Grant	2,489.49	0.00	0.00
	Tree maintenance	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL MISC		\$ <u>106,833.74</u>	\$ <u>93,950.00</u>	\$ <u>106,000.00</u>
FIRE DEPT.				
901	Insurance	\$ 6,582.33	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,750.00
902	Radios and Dispatch	359.81	6,500.00	7,500.00
903	Dues and School Fees	5,436.87	1,500.00	1,500.00
904	Engine & Equip. Maint.	534.23	1,000.00	1,000.00
905	Gas and Oil	148.95	800.00	800.00
907	Supplies	439.40	1,500.00	1,500.00
908	Capital Expense	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
909	Payroll	3,642.01	5,000.00	5,000.00
910	Toilet Rental	<u>570.00</u>	<u>510.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
TOTAL FIRE DEPT.		\$ <u>17,713.60</u>	\$ <u>24,310.00</u>	\$ <u>25,650.00</u>
GRAND TOTAL		\$ <u>457,019.20</u>	\$ <u>517,095.00</u>	\$ <u>527,387.00</u>

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING 2004
WARNING

The inhabitants of the Town of Peru, Vermont who are legal voters in the Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 to act on the following business:

- Article 1: To hear and act on the reports of the School District Officers.
- Article 2: To elect all Town School District Officers, as law directs.
- Article 3: To see if the Town School District will authorize the Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's indebtedness.
- Article 4: To set the annual 2004-2005 tuition paid for a private school student in grade 9 through 12 to equal the regular tuition and transportation paid for a Burr and Burton Academy student.
- Article 5: To see if the Town School District will vote to raise money to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's indebtedness.
- Article 6: To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

Dated at Peru, Vermont, January 30, 2004

Margaret Cobb
Barbara Petra
Jill Braddish

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES

March 4, 2003

Moderator Gary Ameden called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Article 1: Motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of the School District Officers as printed. Discussion followed with question about why the Green Mountain Nat. Forest payment to the school district had decreased by so much. Margaret Cobb explained, the payment method changed and we did not. We are now changing how they pay us and expect the amount to go back up. It was pointed out also that until the Forest was allowed to log, stumpage fees were down and there was not as much money. Accepted as printed.

Article 2: Election of Officers. The following were sole nominees, Proposition B was moved and seconded. The clerk was directed to cast one ballot for each:

Moderator	Gary Ameden
Peru School Director	Barbara Petra 2004
	Jill Braddish 2005
	Margaret Cobb 2006
Flood Brook School Director	Margaret Cobb 2006

Article 3: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's indebtedness. Approved.

Article 4: Motion made and seconded to set the annual 2003-2004 tuition paid for a private school student in Grades 9 - 12 to equal the regular tuition and transportation paid for a Burr and Burton Academy student. Small discussion. Approved as printed.

Article 5: Motion was made and seconded to vote to raise money to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's indebtedness. Comment made regarding the low percentage increase with thanks to the School Board for their hard work. Motion called and approved.

Article 6: Other business: Joe O'Donnell spoke about the Peru Education Foundation, how much was raised and how much was saved by paying into the Foundation. Anyone with questions should contact a member of the Foundation.

Will Powell spoke about the Peru Scholarship Fund, discontinuing the Peru Fair and going forth with the scholarship. Will wanted to thank Louise Savage for all her work with the scholarship committee and the \$50,000 she helped the students of Peru receive. He asked for the town to give her a standing ovation. All stood and clapped loudly.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the 2003 Peru School District Meeting at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Black, Town Clerk, Peru

Dated at Peru, Vermont March 4, 2003

Charles Black, Susan Bradford, Roberta Baker

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE

Year ended June 30, 2003

Revenues

4000 - Green Mtn National Forest	\$ 5,849.07
4005 - State Block Grant	34,686.00
4010 - Interest	725.19
4015 - Special Education	52,116.00
4018 - Preschool EEE	1,718.00
4020 - Transportation	29,042.00
4025 - Property Taxes	1,393,843.00
4030 - Peru Ed Foundation Contribution	140,761.84
4200 - Miscellaneous Income	<u>20,631.60</u>

Total Revenues 1,679,372.70

Expenditures

6000 - Tuition K-8	306,615.19
Block Grant	<u>17,220.00</u>
	323,835.19
6005 - Spec. Ed Expense - K-8	36,514.76
6008 - Preschool EEE expense	14,501.20
6030 - Tuition 9-12	
6030 -1 - Tuition 9-12 Burr & Burton	68,800.00
6030 -2 - Tuition 9-12 Grm Mtn Un HS	25,620.00
6030 -3 - Tuition 9-12 Private Schools	<u>25,800.00</u>
Total 6030 - Tuition 9-12	120,220.00
6035 - Special Ed Exp 9-12	108,258.20
6040 - Transp. Exp 9-12	13,750.00
6045 - Superv. Union Assess. Fee	12,438.13
6050 - Audit	1,450.00
6055 - Directors' Fees	1,076.51
6060 - School Board Expense	330.75
6065 - Gen Ed Fund	1,022,130.66
6070 - Legal Fees	<u>47.78</u>

Total Expenditures 1,654,553.18

Revenue in Excess of Expenditures 24,819.52

Fund Balance, 7/1/02 121,627.37

Fund Balance, 6/30/03 \$ 146,446.89

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET - June 30, 2003

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1000 - Checking \$ 40,115.89

1005 - M/M Savings 106,331.00

Total Current Assets

146,446.89

TOTAL ASSETS

\$146,446.89

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

3000 - Opening Bal Equity \$ 121,627.37

Net Income 24,819.52

Total Equity

146,446.89*

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

\$146,446.89

* Appropriated: \$50,000 as per 2003-2004 budget.

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To the Voters of Peru:

SIZE OF THE WINDSOR SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION:

As of July 1, 2003, the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union consisted of the following 11 school boards:

SCHOOL BOARDS	DIRECTORS	VOTES
Andover	3	1
Baltimore	3	1
Cavendish	5	3
Chester	3	1
Landgrove	3	1
Londonderry	3	1
Peru	3	1
Weston	3	1
Chester-Andover Elementary School	5	3
Flood Brook Union School	8	3
Green Mountain Union High School	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	46	19

The Peru Board has representation on the Supervisory Union Board in accordance with Vermont Statutes.

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS AND PROGRAMS:

Please see Flood Brook Annual Report.

ENROLLMENT:

The following is the grade enrollment for your town school district of students attending Flood Brook Union School as of October 12, 2002:

GRADE	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
	5	4	3	2	4	6	6	3	5	38

Peru pupils transported: 38

Peru students tuitioned to grades 9-12 schools: 18

CONTINUED COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC:

During the past year, agendas of the school board meetings have been sent to the local papers prior to the meetings. The Flood Brook Union School Board meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. The public is invited to all meetings.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Please see Flood Brook Annual Report

For further specific information related to curriculum programs, school finance, and other school items, please see the Flood Brook Annual Report.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Peru for their continued support and understanding of education.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Brown, Superintendent

SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILD FIND (SECTION 504) NOTICE
WINDSOR SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION

The Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union is required by Federal laws 94-142 and Section 504 and State regulations to identify and locate all persons with disabilities between the ages of birth and 21 who may be in need of regular education, special education services or accommodations in accessing public education. If you know of any individual residing in the towns of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru and Weston whom you suspect of having such needs but who is not currently receiving them, please contact the Director of Special Services/504 Coordinator, Madelyn Crudo Burke at 875-3365 x 23 or Nancy Malette at 875-3365 x 21 or the school principals at Cavendish, Chester-Andover, Flood Brook or Green Mountain.

NON-DISCRIMINATION DISCLAIMER

The School Board recognizes its obligation to respect the legal rights of all students, parents, employees, applicants for admission or employment and those conducting business with the district. The Board will comply with all applicable federal and state non-discrimination laws, including Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, handicapping condition and/or disability or sexual orientation. A process of referral, evaluation and placement of handicapped students exists in accordance with Section 504.

The Superintendent shall notify appropriate persons of this policy and of the grievance procedure whereby claims of discrimination may be processed including the right to contact the Human Rights Commission in Montpelier and the Regional Office of Civil Rights in Boston. Information on these and other sources of assistance is contained in the grievance procedure.

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003

TOWN OF PERU SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET 2004-2005

	ACTUAL 2002-2003	AUTHORIZED 2002-2003	AUTHORIZED 2003-2004	PROPOSED 2004-2005
REVENUES				
Green Mnt. Nat. Forest	\$ 5,849.07	\$ 12,881.04	\$ 5,849.07	\$ 5,849.00
State Block Grant	34,686.00	366,576.00	359,121.00	0.00
Mainstream Block Grant	0.00	0.00	16,652.00	14,726.00
EEE Grant	1,718.00	0.00	2,197.00	2,277.00
Special Education Reimb.	52,116.00	82,224.00	54,137.00	64,197.00
Transportation	29,042.00	20,359.00	13,971.00	15,685.00
Interest	725.19	0.00	0.00	660.00
Capital Debt Hold Harmless	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,096.00
Basic Ed. for Tech.	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,007.00
Education Spending Payment	0.00	0.00	0.00	616,502.00
Property Taxes	371,712.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc. Income	<u>20,631.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
SUBTOTAL	516,480.20	482,040.04	451,927.07	726,999.00
Peru Ed. Found. Contr.	140,761.84	140,761.84	104,369.93	0.00
Amount appl. from Surplus	<u>0.00</u>	<u>79,297.12</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ <u>657,242.04</u>	\$ <u>702,099.00</u>	\$ <u>606,297.00</u>	\$ <u>726,999.00</u>
EXPENDITURES				
ELEMENTARY				
Tuition K-8	\$ 292,279.28	\$ 328,185.00	\$ 280,912.00	\$ 314,512.00
Bond Principal/Interest	10,451.39	12,470.00	9,963.00	7,852.00
School Bus Assess.	7,291.67	15,000.00	7,290.00	0.00
Transportation Assess.	13,812.85	16,480.00	15,186.00	18,372.00
SECONDARY				
Tuition 9-12	120,220.00	154,680.00	150,700.00	210,300.00
Transportation	13,750.00	16,480.00	12,750.00	15,750.00
Tech. Center Tuition	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,033.00
SPECIAL EDUCATION				
Early Essential Ed.	14,501.20	0.00	16,683.00	18,000.00
Elementary - Billbacks	36,514.76	40,877.00	32,951.00	31,385.00
Secondary - Billbacks	108,258.20	101,093.00	64,830.00	89,276.00
GENERAL EDUCATION				
Superv. Union Asses. Fee	12,438.13	11,434.00	12,832.00	16,319.00
Audit	1,450.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00
Directors' Fees	1,076.51	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
School Board Expense	330.75	200.00	200.00	200.00
Legal Fees	<u>47.78</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ <u>632,422.52</u>	\$ <u>702,099.00</u>	\$ <u>606,297.00</u>	\$ <u>726,999.00</u>

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Vital Statistics July 1, 2002 - June 30,2003

Marriages:	8
Civil Unions:	2
Births:	3
Burials:	2
Deaths:	4

LIQUOR LICENSES July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

2 First Class Restaurant	@	\$100.00	\$200.00
2 First Class Cabaret	@	\$100.00	\$200.00
3 Second Class	@	\$ 50.00	\$150.00
3 First Class Hotel	@	\$100.00	\$300.00
<hr/>			
TOTAL 10 Licenses			\$850.00

DOG LICENSES July 1, 2002- June 30, 2003

115 dog licenses were issued for a total of \$367.00.

ATTENTION ALL DOG OWNERS!!!!

All dogs must be licensed on or before April 1st of each year to avoid a late fee. If needed, bring a copy of a new rabies certificate and come see us at the town offices on Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Fees are as follows:	Before April 1st	April 2nd
Neutered/Spayed	\$5.00	\$7.00
Male/Female	\$9.00	\$13.00

After June 1st add \$10.00 to all licenses.

New dogs may be registered at any time with no late fee. Puppies must be registered by 6 months.

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

The phrase "CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE", captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality public land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. Some of the highlights of this past year's programs include:

We are feverishly trying to finish the Green Mountain National Forest *Land and Resource Management Plan* (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan is an extremely important document, and directs how we will manage the Green Mountain National Forest (Forest), including what types and amounts of goods and services will be provided. Here is a listing of the meetings we held:

- Public meetings in Arlington, Londonderry on Notice of Intent comments and Desired Future conditions, January and February, 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on draft goals, March 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on recreation and lands acquisition, April 2003;
- Species Viability Evaluation Panels for plants and animals, April-August 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on newly acquired lands (9.2 lands), May 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on Class I and II roads, June 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on trails, July 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on biodiversity and ecosystem management, August 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on Wilderness, September 2003;
- Public meetings in Arlington and Londonderry on vegetation and timber management, October 2003; and

We are now holding public planning group meetings on the final details of the plan, (setting up the zoning or management areas, setting goals and objectives, etc.). I cannot encourage you enough to become involved in this effort! Watch the newspaper for upcoming meetings or contact the Forest to get on the mailing list. Your opinion is important, and we want to hear from you!

In the field, our wildlife program continues to focus on federally listed threatened and endangered species. Working with State (Vermont and New York) and Federal agencies, we continue to monitor the Indiana bat population in Vermont. We also continued Canada lynx surveys using hair snares for a fourth year. As in the past, no lynx were detected. Surveys for both species are likely to take place in 2004. The Forest continued its apple tree release program on the Manchester District using both Forest staff and volunteers to complete approximately 15 acres of release work.

In fisheries management, we continue to work with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and southern watershed groups on a variety of inventory and habitat surveys of the Batten Kill, as well as riverbank restoration projects.

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

In vegetation management, we have four timber sale projects on the entire Forest. Timber stand improvement happened on 112 acres and site preparation for natural regeneration on 94 acres. Environmental Analysis continued for the Greendale Project in Weston; and the Nordic Project in Winhall, Peru and Landgrove.

In recreation management, construction was completed on the Hapgood Pond dam. The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps rebuilt trails and bridges in several areas. Numerous volunteer groups, including VAST and the Green Mountain Club, as well as campground hosts and other individuals donated their time and energy to improving recreation opportunities on the Forest.

The Forest grew by 2,844 acres through the acquisition of 4 parcels of land, and is now approximately 387,000 acres. The largest parcel was 2,720 acres in the Town of Wardsboro. Smaller parcels were acquired in Woodford, Warren, and Rochester.

U.S. Forest Service personnel were on site of the Challenger spacecraft disintegration in February. They helped NASA find pieces in a small area of Texas and were instrumental in finding several pieces that became part of the overall puzzle of that incident. We also sent 15 interagency crews (20 people crews) to help in fighting wildfire in the west.

We wish to thank our many partners and cooperators who have helped us make 2004 a very successful year! We look forward to serving you in the new year and in working closely with you on the stewardship of YOUR Green Mountain National Forest.

Sincerely,

Gina Owens, District Ranger, South Half

Steven Kimball, District Ranger, North Half

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

FLOOD BROOK UNION SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 10, 2004 WARNING

Annual meeting of the Flood Brook Union School District, a corporation composed of the Town School Districts of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru and Weston, Vermont.

The legal voters of the Flood Brook Union School District consisting of the Town School Districts of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru and Weston, Vermont are hereby warned to meet at the Flood Brook Union School on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following articles:

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator - term to begin February 10, 2004.
- ARTICLE 2: To elect a School District Clerk - term to begin July 1, 2004 (Current School District Clerk is Dianne Yelton. Her term will expire June 30, 2004.)
- ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer - term to begin July 1, 2004. (Current Treasurer is Ronald Spiers. His term will expire June 30, 2004).
- ARTICLE 4: To elect one Auditor, to serve for a three year term beginning July 1, 2004. (Current Auditor is Clare Munat. Her term will expire on June 30, 2004).
- ARTICLE 5: To hear and act upon the reports of the Flood Brook Union School District Officers for the year ending June 30, 2003.
- ARTICLE 6: To fix the salaries of the School District Officers for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 7: To see if the voters of said Flood Brook Union School District will authorize the Flood Brook School Board to borrow money pending the receipt of payments from member districts, as provided in Title 16, sub-chapter 4, §706j (8).
- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Flood Brook Union School District will vote to appropriate a sum of money to pay current expenses of said district for the 2004-2005 school year.
- ARTICLE 9: To authorize any fiscal 2003-2004 budget surplus, up to \$15,000, be placed in the school's reserve fund for unexpected extraordinary expenses for plant and equipment. Should the fiscal 2003-2004 budget surplus be greater than \$15,000, then the excess shall reduce assessment for the 2004-2005 budget.
- ARTICLE 10: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not involving the expenditure of school district funds, or any other business acted upon in the preceding articles.
- ARTICLE 11: To adjourn.

Dated at Londonderry, VT in the County of Windham and State of Vermont this 2nd day of January, 2004.

Patricia Davis; David Spero; John L. Barry III; Andrew Esser; James Lind; Maragret Cobb; Robert N. Jordan; Karen Quinn; Flood Brook Union School Board

Dianne Yelton, Clerk Flood Brook Union School District

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

THE PERU EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC.

The Peru Education Foundation was established five years ago to help maintain a quality education for Peru children at an affordable cost to the town's tax payers in the face of the onerous tax consequences of Vermont's education funding legislation – Act 60. Since then, the Foundation has saved Peru property tax payers roughly \$3,500,000 thanks to the broad based support of the Community.

Notably, this past year saw the implementation of new State educational funding legislation replacing ACT 60, obviating the need for the Foundation after this year. Fortunately, the Foundation had sufficient funds – over \$120,000 from a Freeman Foundation grant – to meet the \$104,000 school budget requirement this year.

Upon making this payment, to the Town, the Foundation intends to dissolve and distribute remaining funds (estimated to around \$15,000 to \$20,000) to area schools and scholarship funds that benefit Peru children. (Federal laws that govern “not-for-profit” charitable foundations appear to exclude refunding this money to past contributors.) Obviously, a full accounting will be made to all past contributors to the Foundation upon reaching a final decision.

A few points are in order regarding The Peru Education Foundation.

Throughout its existence, our Foundation was the most successful of any of the numerous efforts initiated throughout the State on several fronts.

- Participation - over 90% of Peru property owners contributed their fair share each year; well above any other town's rate.
- Volunteerism - Peru's effort was implemented by the Trustee's with no professional staff costs as was the case in many other Foundations.
- Generosity - A sizeable number of contributors gave additional sums to defray foundation mailing and solicitation costs.
- Effectiveness - As a result of the above, \$.98 of every dollar raised was spent for its intended purpose, the educational betterment of our town's children.

It is with these facts in mind, that I want to thank the Trustees for allowing me to serve with them in this effort. On behalf of the Trustees, we want to thank all of you in the Town for so willingly supporting this initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph W. O'Donnell
President

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

PERU FAIR REPORT

September 27, 2003 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Peru Fair. The weather this year was threatening and yet we had another successful Fair in regards to attendance and revenue. The other threat that the 25th year for the Peru Fair would be the last is still with us. This means that if there is to be a Peru Fair in 2004, we would need volunteers to fill the Chairperson position and at least seven new committee members. If we do not have the necessary volunteers by the end of March, we will send out a letter to all the past vendors announcing the cancellation of the Fair.

We thank all the members of the current and past Peru Fair Committees whose continued efforts over the years resulted in an event the town could be proud of. Again, we thank Stratton Mountain for donating the shuttle busses and drivers, and Bromley Mountain for the use of their parking area.

Monies raised by the Fair through the gate donations, souvenirs and general donations are now disbursed to the Peru Fair Scholarship Fund and used to help promote Peru community projects. This year the Peru Fair donated money to the Town of Peru Town Park for a storage shed and the Mountain Valley Clinic.

Anyone wishing to join the committee is most welcome. Information can be obtained from Ron, before March 31st..

PERU FAIR FINANCIAL REPORT

Receipts	
Exhibitor Fees	\$ 6,927.50
Gate	10,205.00
Wagon	695.00
T-Shirt Sales	250.00
Peru Scholarship Fund	<u>22,118.67</u>
Total Receipts	\$ <u>40,196.17</u>
Disbursements	
Peru Operating Expenses	\$ 6,644.75
Peru Fair Scholarship Fund	16,450.00
Charitable Contributions	924.00
Scholarships	<u>13,500.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ <u>37,518.75</u>
Cash Reserved for Peru Fair Scholarship Fund	\$ <u>25,339.42</u>
Unappropriated Cash on Hand	\$ <u>10,594.93</u>

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PERU

The Historical Society again had a very active year. Our summer programs began with Mary Robertson's collection and talk on antique sewing items; Ivanna Reed spoke on her experiences in the Ukraine and Peter Bradford talked about his work on world-wide energy programs. To celebrate Independence Day, we hosted a red, white and blue open house featuring a rare American flag with 46 stars, and on Peru Fair day we exhibited quilts from the area. At our November annual meeting, we were presented with a grant from the Stratton Foundation for the purchase and installation of much needed window shades to protect our artifacts and photos from dangerous UV rays. Our new exhibit "Faces of Peru" was on display for Old Home Day on July 19, and we also contributed financially to help make the event possible.

The highlight of the year was our Christmas party on December 14. Along with good cheer and lively conversations, several of our local musicians played songs on the newly refurbished antique pump organ, and our voices rang out singing the songs of the holidays. Even old St. Nick appeared to add to the festivities. Everyone enjoyed it so much that we plan to make it an annual event.

During the year, we received donations from Mona Jarvis of children's clothes; Wes Johnson of school pictures; Larry Bryant a quilt from the Wyman family, and an Our Town sign from the Martins. Thank you. Anyone who has anything of Peru interest please contact Claire Knowlton or Jan Georgett. Our museum exhibits have expanded and change often and have been enjoyed by all. We also change the exhibits at the Town Center display case. Presently the focus is on Joe Lombardi's many restorations. Take time to view them as you walk into the Town Center. Our books continue to sell well. They can be bought at the Hapgood Store or the Northshire Bookstore or from any of our officers.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time and effort to make our Society a success.

Our officers are: President; Jan Georgett; Vice President: Claire Knowlton; Secretary: Karen Utiger; Treasurer: Margaret Powell; Corresponding Secretary: Margo Cosmedy; Publicity and Northshire Museum Liaison: Natalee Everett; Hospitality: Mary Robertson.

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY DINNERS

On the second Wednesday of the month, May through November, the great chefs of Peru cooked up great meals again this year. Most months this year we served 45 people with 7 take outs. The cooks this year again donated their time and we purchased new cooking equipment. The checkbook balance as of June 30, 2003 was \$610.13.

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

PERU TOWN PARK

This year new equipment was ordered: a climbing structure, a portable soccer goal, a rebounder net, a new volleyball net and new softer volleyballs. A new net was donated for the soccer goal. We also purchased 2 new charcoal grills (non-removable) and a bike rack. The day this equipment was installed, approximately 20 volunteers showed up and cleared brush, dug holes and put pieces of equipment together. Jim Daley donated his time and the Town used its backhoe to speed the process. The final and grandest gift was the discounted price of a wonderful, 8' x 10' shed to store all the equipment in. Thanks to Jamaica Cottage Shop! They made and delivered the shed in December just before the snow. The equipment fit right in. A very big thank you to the Jamaica Cottage Shop.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEDICAL CLINIC

Mountain Valley has been quite busy during this past year. We have undertaken several "behind-the-scenes" upgrades with the goal of providing a more efficient facility and better delivery of medical services. We finished installation of a new roof and completely reworked the heating system, as well as acquiring a new piece of laboratory equipment that greatly decreases waiting time for vital test results.

The Clinic continues its mission to serve all who seek care without regard to their ability to pay and continues to provide very large amounts of unreimbursed care. We are assisted in making up this deficit by your generous Town appropriation, by proceeds from the Mountain Valley Open Golf Tournament, by donations to our Annual Campaign, and by grants from local organizations including Wantastiquet Rotary, the Thrifty Attic, and the Stratton Foundation.

We are grateful for your monetary contributions and we thank you for your ongoing support of our mission. If you are not a current patient, we would be pleased to introduce you to our Clinic and to become your family doctor. Please contact any of the directors listed below or stop in at any time to visit the Clinic and meet our caring and competent staff.

Jean G. Cavanagh
President

Londonderry:

Ann Fujii
Jean Cavanagh
John L. Barry III
Rollin Rowley
Robert McCabe, M.D.
Peter Stock

Peru:

Barbara O'Donnell
Adele Martin

Weston:
Carole Lechthaler

Landgrove:

Warren D. Fuller
D. Jay Snyder
Michael Jeffrey

Winhall:

Barbara Little

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

LONDONDERRY VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, INC

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad responded to 474 calls in 2003. This is up from 416 calls last year. The locations of these calls are as follows: 1 in Andover, 11 in Jamaica, 7 in Landgrove, 117 in Londonderry, 90 in South Londonderry, 29 in Peru, 15 in Stratton, 48 in Weston, 26 in Windham, 68 in Winhall, and 2 in Manchester. There were 60 calls at the following ski areas: 30 at Bromley, 22 at Stratton Mountain, 7 at Magic Mountain, and 1 at Viking.

Of these calls: 214 were illnesses, 130 injuries, 71 motor vehicle accidents, 11 stand-by calls, 9 canceled or dry runs, 7 transports, and 32 public assists. We responded to 14 mutual aid calls, while 19 calls resulted in other services coming to our aid. Our members started 114 pre-hospital IV's, and we used the Paramedic Intercept service 9 times.

We are excited with the many changes and upgrades that took place in 2003 and will continue into 2004. The State of Vermont has finally passed the advanced life support protocols that we first proposed over four years ago. A 34-hour course this Spring will enable our EMT-Intermediates to do many of the procedures that we now call for a Paramedic to do. We are fortunate to have 34 members on our squad with 15 of them being EMT-Intermediates.

We have a new "Road Rescue" ambulance on order that should arrive sometime in February. This ambulance is slightly larger than our current ambulances, mounted on a Ford E450 chassis. With the trade in of our 1994 ambulance, the new ambulance will cost \$106,520. We have been awarded a total of \$66,555 in Homeland Security Grants. This has enabled us to purchase radios, a portable power unit for our extrication unit, air bags, Thermal Imaging Camera, AED's and medical supplies. We will also be purchasing a bi-phasic heart monitor, generator, portable lights, electric saw, air chisel, impact wrench, and other tools and medical supplies. We received \$2,300 from the Thrifty Attic to purchase a new stair chair. The State of Vt. EMS gave us an Automatic External Defibrillator, which is now located at Mountain Valley Medical Center and will cover Flood Brook School as well.

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad thanks you for your continued generosity and support. New members are desperately needed. If you have the time, desire, and the dedication it takes, please contact one of our members or go to the Town of Londonderry's website for information about joining.
William "Pete" Cobb Jr., President, LVRS

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year 2003 Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad had expenses totaling \$105,855.27. There were 474 calls at an average expense of \$223.32 per call.

Claudia Harris, Treasurer, LVRS

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

PROJECT AGAINST VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS

In 2003 PAVE continued to offer comprehensive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. Those services include: 24-hour emergency hotline, court and social service advocacy, support groups, transitional housing, emergency financial assistance, information and referrals, community education, healthy relationship curriculum for schools and access to several different types of emergency, safe housing. Services are free and confidential.

All volunteer advocates are trained and supervised by staff. These dedicated citizens helped us provide safety, support and options to more than 1,000 individuals in the past year. The volunteer coordinator continues a vigorous recruitment process and tailors the training schedule to the needs of potential volunteers.

Our supervised visitation program, Family Time, provides children with safe access to their non-custodial parent. The size of this program has doubled in the past year. The nine trained monitors supervise visits for families with issues related to violence, separation or divorce. Visits take place in neutral locations throughout the community.

We continue to offer violence prevention programming to young people throughout Bennington County. Our focus this year is on: healthy relationships – high school, community service – middle school, and management of anger – “Hands are not for hitting” – elementary grades. In addition, in collaboration with CAT-TV, we are developing a teen video project that will enable high school students to raise and address issues of importance to local teenagers.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff I thank you for your ongoing commitment to PAVE. Our staff and volunteers promise to continue to offer quality services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and respond to each town's desire for healthy and violence free communities.

Joan M. Sakalas
Executive Director

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

VISITING NURSE ALLIANCE OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC HOME CARE, HOSPICE AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

Your Visiting Nurse Alliance services are like your police and fire departments – a strategic part of the community's safety net – with services that must be continuously available for you or anyone else who might need them. The need varies dramatically from month to month and year to year. The VNA provides a comprehensive range of care, requisitioned by hospital staff and physicians, for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

We value the continued partnership with the Town of Peru to help us meet your residents' home care, hospice and family health needs. Town funding accomplishes the following:

- Enables your family, friends and neighbors to remain independent and at home as they receive skilled clinical care during times of injury, recovery from surgery or accidents, disability, whether for short-term or chronic illness. For many such patients, many are addressing multiple medical, emotional and social issues at the same time.
- Provides emotional support plus pain and symptom management during terminal illness. Hospice care extends to family members as well. More and more patients want to be at home during their end of life, and through hospice they have that control.
- Provides community-wellness programs and assistance to young families at risk. Clients range from fathers and/or mothers who want to be more effective parents through learning parenting skills or providing a balanced diet; infants who require hi-tech health care; and children who grow and learn through play groups that offer interaction with other children.

The VNA provided the following services this past year:
(July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003)

Skilled Nursing	35
Physical Therapy	16
Occupational Therapy	4
Home Health Aide	5
Homemaker	2
Total Visits	62

On behalf of the people we serve in your community, thank you for your continued confidence.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan H. Larman, BSN, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

THE VERMONT 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 not-for-profit corporation, 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, 2002 through September 30, 2003, VCIL responded to 2,713 requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information and referrals on a broad range of subjects related to living with a disability. We provided one-on-one peer counseling to 342 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and life opportunities; provided 405 households with financial and technical assistance for making their bathrooms and entrances accessible to a disabled family member; provided over 340 individuals with personal assistance and/or assistive technology; provided communications equipment to 67 deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired individuals through our Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program, and served home-delivered meals to almost 533 Vermonters through VCIL's Meals On Wheels program for Individuals Under 60 with Disabilities.

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

During FY 2003, VCIL provided direct services to 2,580 Vermonters, utilizing the following services/programs:

1. Information & Referral
2. Home and Community Access Program
3. Meals on Wheels (people with disabilities under the age of 60)
4. Peer Advocacy Counseling
5. Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program
6. Sue Williams Freedom Fund

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

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

BENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The following is our summary of activities supported by citizens of your town in the last fiscal year. We thank you for your ongoing support.

BCCD is a public, non-profit organization which works with private landowners, other conservation organizations, local governments, and state and federal agencies to promote rural livelihoods and protect natural resources in the county. Major activities in fiscal year 2003 included:

- *Yarns from Farms and Forests*, 3 evenings of storytelling by area farmers and foresters. Six story tellers participated. A total of approximately 150 people attended the evenings and heard what it was like to make a living on the land in earlier years.
- *Walloomsac River clean-up/trash to treasures art event*. 50 volunteers participated in the clean-up filling five dump trucks with trash. Bennington county 4-Wheeler club members transported the trash from the river to the stockpiling area. Photographs taken by volunteers, and trash art created by volunteers, were displayed by Vermont Arts Exchange at its Stark Hose Gallery in Bennington in October and November.
- *Working for Wildlife day*. Seventeen volunteers participated in this planting project on more than one mile of streambank on the Batten Kill.
- *Walloomsac Watershed Assessment*. This survey concluded a study of Roaring Branch, South Stream, and the Walloomsac begun in 2001. Thirty-four volunteers participated in the project over the years.
- *Serving as fiscal agent and advisor to new bi-state Batten Kill Watershed Alliance*.
- *Mettawee Community School Water Quality Monitoring Project*. This project provided supplies for a monitoring program and some instruction for teachers. It also built a deck and created interpretive signs at the monitoring site. About twenty students and two teachers participated.

Submitted by
Shelly Stiles, District Manager

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION SERVICES OF SOUTHEASTERN VERMONT

Request for support from the Town of Peru.

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont requests an appropriation of \$362.00 from the Town of Peru at the 2004 Town Meeting to help defray the cost of services to its residents for the Mental Health Walk-In-Clinic. In the year ended June 30, 2003, our agency provided a comprehensive range of community based services to 4,424 residents of Windsor and Windham counties. The services that are available to the residents of your community are as follows:

Outpatient Mental Health Services: The mission is to provide caring, high quality, cost-effective mental health care for our community at every level of need. Our highly trained staff of professional therapists, social workers, and psychiatrists help individuals and families cope with stress and anxiety, develop their full potential and maximize control of their lives. We make it our paramount goal to ensure that children, adolescents, and adults who come to us receive appropriate, timely care. We are now offering walk-in clinics to any resident who has an urgent need to see a mental health counselor for support and more effective coordination of services.

Alcohol & Drug Treatment Services: For adults and family members who are adversely affected by the use of alcohol or drugs, we offer a comprehensive program of assessment, inpatient referral, outreach, outpatient treatment and aftercare dedicated to aiding the recovery from chemical dependency and its effects.

Community Rehabilitation & Treatment Program: The CRT program provides comprehensive services to adults over the age of 18 who are suffering from a mental illness so serious that it interferes with that person's capacity to function in the community. We provide help and information to concerned family members and help clients regain stability and learn how to manage their mental illnesses, either in a hospital setting or as outpatients.

Community Services Division: The CSD provides services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Services are available to people of all ages who have been found eligible, and each person being served receives an individually written program to meet his or her needs.

The Alternatives Program: A short-term alternative to hospitalization, the Alternatives Program provides crisis stabilization, respite and support to clients with psychiatric disabilities or to any adult experiencing an acute mental health crisis. We also provide a transitional residence for those stepping down from an inpatient setting. Our program provides a very desirable alternative to hospitalization in being less costly and less structured, while at the same time providing individualized attention in a more homelike, community based setting.

Emergency Services: The Emergency Services Team has a very specific mission to act quickly in critical situations. Specially trained mental health professionals are available 24

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

hours a day for emergencies. Anyone may use this service when an emergency arises, including individuals of any age, and family or friends of an individual in crisis; hospitals and nursing homes; police; schools; clergy; businesses and other community agencies.

We thank the Board and the citizens of Peru for your past support and for your continued interest in Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont.

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

BENNINGTON COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

The Bennington Coalition for the Homeless gratefully acknowledges the town's appropriation in support of the 6 Bank Street Shelter for Families in Transition.

The 6 Bank Street Shelter is the only shelter in Bennington County and provides transitional shelter for families that are homeless. A family's average stay is 3 months and during that time they participate in programs designed to move them toward self-sufficiency. Last year we served 17 families consisting of 61 individuals. Families participated in parent education groups, smoking cessation classes, budget counseling, work search and/or education programs, domestic violence support groups and cooking and nutrition education classes. The children also participated in a program introducing them to arts and entertainment, building self esteem, skill building and establishing healthy relationships. We experienced a 70% success rate for placing families in permanent housing, and we continue to visit them through an aftercare program to help them maintain their housing.

The Bennington Coalition for the Homeless is embarking on a new project, a 4 unit apartment building that will be used for long-term transitional housing for families completing the program at 6 Bank Street who cannot find affordable housing and still need continued support. In addition, we continue to research possibilities for sheltering homeless individuals.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendy Skidmore
Executive Director

REPORTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

GREEN UP VERMONT

Thank you for considering Green Up Vermont's request for your community's funding support. Your contribution will help keep Green Up operating not only for your benefit, but for our entire community of Vermont.

We respectfully ask you to include the appropriate amount from the guide below in your budget for next year. The guide remains the same as in previous years.

For towns under 1,000 population	\$ 50
For towns over 1,000 and under 2,000	\$100
For towns over 2,000 and under 3,000	\$150
For towns over 3,000 and under 4,000	\$200
For towns over 4,000 population	\$300

Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Sincerely, F. Sheldon Prentice, President

“Green Up Vermont”
Green Up Day, May 1, 2004

Thirty-three years strong, “Green Up Day” is a special day when Vermonters clean and spruce up their communities. We were the first state in our nation to designate a day for such cleaning of the entire state. Working together, we can keep our unique Green Up spirit growing for Vermont.

Green Up Vermont is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that promotes litter-free communities by supporting Green Up Day, civic pride and education.

Over 13,000 Vermonters participated in Green Up Day 2003, using over 33,000 Green Up bags, collecting over 200 tons of trash, piles of mixed metals and tires. Green Up Vermont arranged widespread promotional support in excess of \$25,000.

The success of Green Up Vermont depends upon two essential ingredients. One is the combined efforts of individuals and civic groups who volunteer to make it all possible; and two, the financial support given by the public and private sectors throughout Vermont.

With your town's help, we can continue our unique annual Vermont tradition of taking care of our beautiful landscape and promoting civic pride so our children grow up with Green Up.

Careful use of resources minimizes Green Up's costs. The State appropriates funds that cover about 15 percent of our budget. The rest comes from gifts from towns, individuals and businesses. These funds pay for supplies, promotion and services of two part-time employees. We ask your community to contribute, according to population, to keep Green Up growing for Vermont.

TOWN OF PERU, FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000

TOWN OF PERU CHARTERED 1761

PERU TOWN OFFICE
Tuesday, Thursday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm 824-3065

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire 911
Rescue 911
First Town Constable 824-3494
State Police 802-875-2112
State Police 911
Mountain Valley Medical Center 911

SCHOOLS

Flood Brook School 824-6811
Flood Brook School Nurse's Office 824-6979
Burr and Burton Academy 362-1775
Green Mountain Union High School 1-802-875-2146

POST OFFICE

Peru 824-5472

STATE OFFICIALS

Governor's Action Line 1-800-642-3131

SENATORS:

Gerald Morrissey 1-802-442-2092
Richard Sears 1-802-442-9139

REPRESENTATIVE:

Walter Freed 362-4166

VERMONT STATE LEGISLATURE TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-800-322-5616

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

SENATORS:

James M. Jeffords 1-800-835-5500
Patrick J. Leahy - Burlington Office 1-800-641-3193

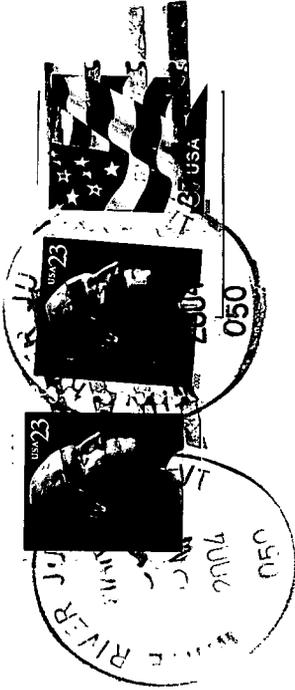
CONGRESSMAN:

Bernie Sanders 1-802-862-0697
1-202-225-4115

LONDONDERRY TRANSFER STATION AND RECYCLING CENTER

Hours: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, closed Wednesday and Sunday

Town of Peru
Peru, Vermont 05152



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Please bring this Report
to Town Meeting
March 2, 2004 at 10:00 am