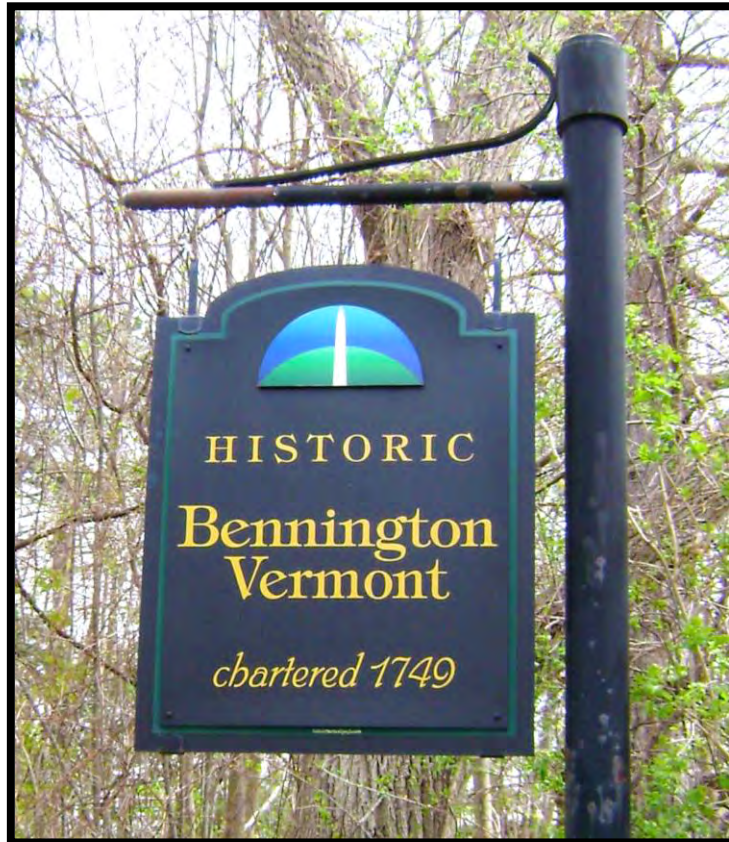


Town
of
Bennington, Vermont
ANNUAL REPORT



2013

The Annual Report for the Town of Bennington does not include the Annual Report for the Bennington School District, an incorporated school district. It also does not include the Villages of Old Bennington and North Bennington. Each of these governing bodies publishes a separate Annual Report.

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DEDICATION



Photo courtesy of The Bennington Banner

Norman Howard Greenberg
September 23, 1917 – September 19, 2013

Mr. Greenberg graduated from Bennington High School in 1935. In 1949, he and his father opened a hardware store on Main Street in Bennington. H. Greenberg & son became one of the first home centers in the state. Mr. Greenberg served as a board member of County National Bank in Bennington, the Chittenden Trust Company's executive board, the Board of the Bennington Museum, Bennington College, Southern Vermont College, and the Bennington County Industrial Corporation. He and his wife provided land in Bennington to the New England Tropical Conservatory for the creation of the Norman and Selma Greenberg Conservation Reserve.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

FIRE DEPARTMENTS (VOLUNTEER)

Emergency – Bennington: Steve Crawford, Chief 9-1-1
Emergency – Rural Fire: Wayne Davis, Jr., Chief 9-1-1

POLICE DEPARTMENT, 118 South Street

Police Chief: Paul Doucette

Animal Control 442-1030
Emergency 9-1-1
Information 442-1030

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 205 South Street, P.O. Box 469

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 7:00 am – 3:30 pm

Highway Superintendent: R.J. Joly 442-1037

Water Resources Superintendent: Terrance A. Morse 442-1037

RECREATION CENTER, 655 Gage Street, P.O. Box 469

Recreation Director: Tracy Knights 442-1053

Hours of Operation:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday (Nov. 1 – April 1) 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

RESCUE SQUAD 9-1-1

SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, P.O. Box 469, 124 Pleasant Street

Senior Center Program Director: Susan Hoag 442-1052

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

TOWN OFFICES, 205 South Street, P.O. Box 469

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Town Offices Building Switchboard 442-1037

Town Manager, Stuart Hurd

Assistant Town Manager & Permitting, Planning & Code Enforcement Director, Dan Monks

Finance Director, Melissa Currier

Economic & Community Development Director, Michael Harrington

Human Resources & Contracts Administrator, Michele Johnson

Building Inspector, Kevin Goodhue

Facilities Manager, Larry McLeod

Chief Assessor, John Antognioni 442-1042

Town Clerk, Timothy Corcoran 442-1043

Director of Collections & Treasurer, Joan Pinsonneault 442-1046

TRANSFER STATION SCALE HOUSE, Houghton Lane 447-8737

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

EMPLOYEE MISSION STATEMENT PREAMBLE

The role of government is to serve and protect its people; to provide a quality of life which is environmentally safe, community oriented, and visionary. Furthermore government can help to make its citizens' lives rich in educational, cultural and social opportunities. In the Town of Bennington that role extends to administrative and fiscal services, police, fire, water, sewer and highway maintenance and construction, recreation, health, housing, planning and community development.

Our mission is to provide the necessary municipal services in an atmosphere that is helpful and caring, yet professional and efficient.

We must have a commitment to excellence, take pride in our work, have a desire to succeed, have a sense of community, and a belief that a responsive government is the foundation for success.

SELECT BOARD

The Select Board meets at 6:00 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at the Bennington Fire Station on River Street. The meetings are televised, and are open to the public. The Board met approximately thirty times: twenty-four as required by Charter, the others for budget work or special secessions. During this past year we have seen an increase in citizen participation at the Select Board Meetings. Two new members were elected to the Select Board in 2013. Tom Jacobs and John McFadden filling the seats vacated by Jason Morrissey and Chris Oldham who chose not to seek re-election. Vice-Chair, Sharyn Brush was re-elected to her seat on the board. A special thanks goes out to Jason and Chris for their service and the perspective they brought to the Board. At the re-organization of the Board, I was re-elected as the Chair and Sharyn Brush as its Vice-Chair.

Charged with the responsibility of managing taxpayer dollars, the Select Board and its Town Manager, Stuart Hurd, once again demonstrated conscientious budget management, keeping Bennington in good fiscal health and our citizens safe and secure. There were three budget work sessions conducted in January 2013 to prepare the Fiscal 2014 budget for voter approval. The final Select Board vote approving the budget to be presented to the voters was conducted on January 28, 2013.

Some key policy decisions were made during the past Fiscal Year. The Putnam Deed of Gift for the Southwestern Vermont Medical Center was amended to allow the hospital greater flexibility in its operations. The Board reviewed and updated the Land Use Policy. The Board approved the Bennington Strategic Economic Development Plan. It approved the revised Animal Control Ordinance and the revised Flood Mitigation Regulations. The Board's request for a Municipal Planning Grant to assist in the upcoming revision and review of the Bennington Town Plan was approved. The Board reauthorized the position of Assistant Town Manager to be filled within current staffing, and entered into a Net Metering agreement with Hydro and Solar producers of renewable energy.

There was also a number of briefing and updates presented to the Select Board and the citizens of Bennington during the past year. They include: Prescription Drug Task Force, Rail Study progress, Pleasant Street Enhancement project, Better Bennington Corporation Budget and Work Plan, Morgan Street Wetlands Proposal, Ninja Trail presentation, Home Energy Challenge, TAM Composting Facility, the William H. Morse State Airport, FEMA, the Enhancement Project for Franklin Lane, the Bennington Community Youth Fund proposal, the Northside Drive Conceptual Design, and the SVSU and BSD School Boards presentation.

Bennington received a number of Special Recognitions during the past year. The Bennington Water Department was named the "Utility of the Year" by the New England Waterworks Association for its work following Hurricane Irene. Bennington was named "Best in Show" by the New England Developers Association for the development of the Town's municipal website. Bennington was awarded the "Vermont Energy Challenge Award" by Efficiency Vermont for the reduction of more than 13% of the Town's overall energy use. Bennington Fire Chief, Steven Crawford was named "Vermont Fire Chief of the Year" by the Vermont State Firefighters Association. Bennington's Economic & Community Development Director, Michael Harrington received the "Vermont Rising Star" award by the Vermont Business Magazine. Additionally, Bennington's Designated Downtown received accreditation by the National Main Street Program.

I encourage every citizen of Bennington to take the time to read the Town of Bennington's Annual Report. It is prepared in order for us to be better informed about the accomplishments and happenings in our Town. We recognize the privilege it is to serve on the Bennington Select Board, and we remain committed to serve the people of Bennington to the best of our ability.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph L. Krawczyk Jr., Chairman

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The following list of the Town of Bennington Boards and Commissions includes a brief description of the duties of each office and those positions that will be available in March and May, 2014.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS - An elected position with a salary currently set at \$1,400. per year with terms of three years. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month plus the Annual Town meeting each year, and any special meetings which may be required. Select Board Members are empowered by statute and charter to determine policy, finances, ordinances and general direction of Town business, appoint the Town Manager and members of Boards and Commissions.

(elected 3 year term)

Justin J. Corcoran	3/14
Joseph Krawczyk, Jr.	3/14
Greg Van Houten	3/15
James Carroll	3/15
Sharyn L. Brush	3/16
Thomas H. Jacobs	3/16
John C. McFadden	3/16

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD - The Development Review Board hears and decides upon permit applications regarding development in the Town of Bennington including, Variance Requests, Conditional Use Requests, Site Plans, Design Plans, Planned Unit Developments, Planned Residential Developments, Subdivisions, and Appeals of the Zoning Administrator's decisions. Board members will be expected to attend at least one training session annually to develop and maintain the skills and knowledge necessary to perform their powers and duties on the Board.

(appointed to 3 year term)

Charles N. Kokoras	5/14
Ron Alderman	5/14
William Barney	5/14
Charles W. Copp	5/15
Barry Horst	5/15
Daniel Malmborg	5/16
Milt Surdam	5/16

Alternates

Position Open	5/12
Position Open	5/13

FOREST FIRE WARDEN - An appointed position by the State of Vermont with Town Approval with a term of 5 years.

(appointed to 5 year term)

VERMONT TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN – Matthew G. Hathaway	06/30/14
VERMONT DEPUTY TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN – Henry Higgins	06/30/14
VERMONT DEPUTY TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN – Roger Hughs	06/30/14

HEALTH OFFICER - An appointed position by the State of Vermont with Town Approval with a term of 3 years.
(appointed to 3 year term)

HEALTH OFFICER - Larry D. McLeod
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER - Kevin J. Goodhue

03/31/16
07/31/16

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - An appointed position with a term of three years and requires expertise or qualifications in the fields of architecture, historic preservation, etc. Meetings are held twice per month. The Historic Preservation Commission is empowered by ordinance to act in the preservation and identification of Bennington's historic sites and structures; oversee the survey and review of historic sites eligible for the National Register, educate and advise other boards and commissions as well as the general public with regard to historic preservation matters.
(appointed to 3 year term)

Jeffrey Goldstone	3/14
Joseph H. Hall	3/14
Anne G. Bugbee	3/15
Joann Erenhouse, Esq.	3/15

HOUSING AUTHORITY - An autonomous body appointed for terms of five years by the Select Board which acts as the Board of Directors for Housing Authority properties (Willowbrook, Brookside Apartments, Beech Court, and Walloomsac Apartments) and oversees the staff and sets policies for operation.
(appointed to 5 year term)

Kathy L. Carrier	3/14
Jonathan Ryan	3/15
Kim M. Livingston	3/16
John P. Griffin	3/17
Kristi Pepoon	3/18

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
(elected 2 year term)

Gay Baker	1/31/15
Susan Beal	1/31/15
John F. Behan	1/31/15
Barbara Bluto	1/31/15
Linda A. Corcoran	1/31/15
Deborah Giroux	1/31/15
James Gulley, Sr.	1/31/15
Michele Hogan	1/31/15
Albert Krawczyk	1/31/15
Brian Maroney	1/31/15
James Marsden	1/31/15
Anne Mook	1/31/15
Mary A. Morrissey	1/31/15
Marjorie Robinson	1/31/15
John Santarcangelo	1/31/15
David B. Shaffe	1/31/15

BOARD OF LISTERS - An appointed position with a term of two years. Meetings are held once or twice per month or as needed. The Listers inspect properties, approve assessments developed by the Assessor's Office and hear and act upon appeals by property owners.

(appointed to 2 year term)

Shirley Archibald	3/14
Carol L. Holm	3/14
Michael A. Keane	3/15

TOWN MODERATOR

(elected to 3 year term)

Jason P. Morrissey	3/16
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PLANNING COMMISSION - An appointed position with a term of four years. Meetings will be established when the Commission meets. This is a five member board. The Planning Commission drafts, revises, updates and upholds the provisions of the Town Plan; makes recommendations to the Select Board regarding amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, sign ordinance, and subdivision regulations; actively participates in the preservation of historic sites and agricultural lands; and is charged with the overall planning of Bennington.

(appointed to 4 year term)

Donald A. Campbell	5/14
Kenneth Swierad	5/15
Barry Horst	5/16
Charles W. Copp	5/17
Michael P. McDonough	5/17

REGIONAL COMMISSION - An appointed position with a term of two years. The Regional Commission, part of a county-wide planning commission charged with development of the overall regional planning policies, is empowered to develop budgets, employ staff and assist in development of a regional plan.

(appointed to 2 year term)

Daniel Monks	3/14
William C. Deveneau	3/15

TOWN SERVICE OFFICER - An appointed position with a term of one year. The Town Service Officer acts as an agent for the Town and operates a voucher system to provide housing and meals to transients in emergency situations.

(appointed to 1 year term)

Position Open	4/14/14
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MANAGER'S MESSAGE

We, in Bennington's government, work hard to provide the services our residents deem necessary, police and fire protection, highway maintenance, recreation opportunities, and municipal water and sewer services, where feasible. We also work to improve opportunities for jobs, housing, and viable and sustainable economic development through responsible land use and planning principles.

I would like to outline the proposed FY2015 fiscal year budget, to be voted on March 4, 2014. The Town budget presented to the voters this year is increasing \$480,020.00, or 4.35%. Considering other revenues, the amount to be raised by taxes is 3.01% in the General and Fire Funds combined and 7.64% in the Highway Fund. Projecting the impact on the tax rate is risky this early, but we believe that after all Grand List work is completed and all revenue sources finalized, the combined tax rates in 2014 for Town General, Highway, and Fire Fund services will increase no more than \$0.04. The principal reason for the higher than usual increase in the Highway Fund is the imminent threat to the Coleville Road bridge which will require a total replacement at a cost of more than \$500,000.00. A State Bridge and Culvert grant should reduce the total impact on taxes, but it still is a very costly, but necessary project. The additional articles explained below will also have an impact should they be approved. The Town staff and Select Board worked very hard to present a budget that was balanced with the projected revenues so that taxes would not increase substantially.

There are eleven (11) additional ballot initiatives included this year. Article 2 is a request for bond approval to construct a water tank, pump station and water lines on the lands of Southern Vermont College to address water pressure inadequacies in the municipal water system. This will affect water rates when completed, but not until 2017. After the bond article, the ten articles seek funding for Agencies, not part of the Town. This year the articles are listed by the total amount requested, the agency requesting the lowest amount first. The total requested is \$84,650.00. Three petitions were received and validated; the Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless seeking to increase its funding from \$7,500.00 to \$25,000.00; VNA-Hospice seeking \$21,600.00; and Bennington Project Independence seeking \$11,000.00. Each article approved will add the listed sum to the General Fund thereby increasing the amount to be raised by taxes and the tax rate.

I note that the Town is still awaiting appeals on T.S. Irene expenditures totaling approximately \$2.1 million. We hope to resolve this issue in our favor this year.

I have been very fortunate to work with many talented people, staff and Board members. We do not always agree, but we all work hard to find a solution that is in the best interest of the residents of Bennington. Thank you one and all. And finally, a special thank you to the community for your support and patience throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Members of the Bennington Police Department worked diligently at combating the drug issues in and around our community and throughout the State of Vermont during 2013. We worked with other municipal, county, state and federal agencies in an effort to reduce sale and possession of controlled substances as well as reduce the types of offenses associated with drug related crimes. We made sure our residents were aware of our efforts using media outlets and public meetings. Two large sweeps took place within and around our community as well as several small roundups. Our efforts will not stop and we will continue working toward a safer community.

We continued with our highway safety efforts working closely with the Vermont Governor's Highway Safety Program again in 2013. Our efforts were recognized during the Vermont Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Luncheon where we were recognized for finishing first place in Division III. This marks the ninth year in a row where we have been recognized for our efforts in highway safety. The Bennington Police Department received a portable speed

monitoring device from All Traffic Solutions in recognition of our placement in the Law Enforcement Challenge. The device was just received and we will utilize it beginning in the spring of 2014.

During 2013, Officers from the Department responded to 9,124 calls for service, made 770 arrests for a total of 1066 criminal offenses and issued 2,342 Vermont Civil Violation Complaints. Officers investigated 545 motor vehicle crashes within the Town of Bennington, of which 134 were in parking lots. Of the 545 motor vehicle crashes, 2 involved fatalities, 91 involved personal injury and 452 involved property damage.

Bennington Police Officers and civilian staff documented over 2,200 hours of in-service training in 2013. This training included crash investigation, Special Response Team training, domestic violence, defensive tactics, tire deflation, hazardous materials, active shooter response, firearms training, statement analysis, automated license plate reader, training for catastrophic incidents, control and restraint, management and leadership, death scene investigations, alcohol and drug enforcement and fire and arson investigation. All employees received first-aid and AED-CPR training, blood borne pathogens and fire extinguisher training.

Over the course of 2013, the Department received grant funding enhancing highway safety related projects allowing for increased patrols and checkpoints. Grant funding was also received allowing for increased drug investigations, sexual assault investigations, child abuse investigations and the purchase of additional law enforcement equipment.

Officer Keith Diotte was hired as a part-time officer in 2013 after participating in a one year internship program. In August, Officer Diotte attended the Vermont Police Academy to train and become a full-time officer. Officer Diotte graduated from the police academy in November 2013 and is currently in the field training officer program within our agency. Officer Diotte is a graduate of Southern Vermont College and is looking forward to a long and successful career.

As always, I welcome questions, comments or suggestions and am always looking for feedback on how members of the Bennington Police Department can improve the quality of life for the residents of Bennington.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul J. Doucette, Chief of Police and Public Safety Director

BENNINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to submit the following annual report on behalf of the Bennington Fire Department. Despite the challenges of 2013, the volunteers of the Fire Department found the time to respond to 220 calls and partake in 2,260 hours of training! I am also pleased to say that we now have 15 Firefighters that are certified at the national level through Pro Board as Firefighter I and Firefighter II!

The Town of Bennington has signed a purchase agreement with Toyne Fire Equipment to take delivery around August 2014 for a new custom built Rescue Pumper. This truck will replace two trucks and will be the primary response vehicle to all calls and carry a wide variety of equipment.

Bennington hosted the Vermont State Firefighters Association annual convention along with the 49th parade and celebration of the Battle of Bennington. This was another successful weekend of events! The volunteers of the fire department delivered 1,568 hours of service to make this event happen. In 2014 Bennington will celebrate its 50th year and it promises to be a great weekend.

In closing, one of the most important services that we provide is Fire Prevention. The Fire Prevention Team delivers outstanding education about fire safety to all ages. In 2013 the Bennington Fire Department educated 742 students and 142 senior adults totaling 175 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Crawford, Chief

PUBLIC WORKS

Highway Division

EXCAVATION PROJECTS:

The Highway Department had a very challenging and productive year that included some of the following projects: The lower Willow Park parking lot was expanded; road construction was done to prepare for new pavement on Meadow Brook Drive (new base gravel, fabric, and drainage swales); Safford Street storm drainage was replaced; drainage was improved on North Branch; an undersized culver was replaced on Evergreen Drive; and Gore Road and Shady Lane received additional drainage. We excavated School Street, Jefferson Avenue, and a portion of Washington Avenue to install new curb and sidewalks. Ground water on South Street has been a winter maintenance problem for years; therefore, we excavated a new swale so the water now runs directly into a catch basin. Hamilton Street was excavated to install new gravel, fabric, and new pavement. The Highway Department demolished the broken pavement, and installed new drainage in the Police Department parking lot. The most challenging projects this season were the Henry Dam removal, and the Vail Road box culvert installation.

CONTRACT PAVING PROJECTS:

The Town contracted with one paving contractor this season, Peckham Road Corporation. They paved Middle Pownal Road, Niles Road, Gore Road, Evergreen Drive, Dewey Street, Pageant Street, Southshire, North Terrace, Pleasant Valley Road, Mount Anthony Road, and Mountain View Road. The Highway Department paved the Vail Road box culvert project, Hamilton Avenue, Hinsdillville Park, some of Lower Willow parking lot, and Shady Lane.

SIDEWALK PROJECTS:

The Town hired a contractor to reset bricks along Main Street in order to prevent trip hazards.

ADDITIONAL WORK AND PROJECTS:

The Highway Department now has liquid ice melting equipment in order to treat snow and ice in cold conditions when salt alone is not effective. This liquid is not as corrosive as material used in the past. Over 300 high reflective stop signs were replaced along with numerous other signs that were replaced or repaired throughout the year. The flood wall flapper gate #2 repair project was completed early in the year. Tree trimming and brush cutting are an ongoing task in the Highway Department. The department also performs downtown sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and enclosed stream channel maintenance. Gravel road grading and dust control is done to each gravel road at least three times in the spring and summer months. The Town now seals cracks in good blacktop roads to prevent total pavement failures. The new crosswalk material is working very well. It takes a while to install in perfect weather; however, it lasts much longer than most treatments have in the past. A private contractor crushed 7,000 tons of material from the Town's concrete and asphalt waste pile. Orebed and River Roads experienced massive failures this year. Orebed Road is complete and River Road will need additional excavation work in the spring.

GRANTS:

The Highway Department received one Structures Grant used to replace a 3' diameter steel culvert with a 6' x12' concrete precast box. The old structure was hydraulically inadequate in size, and would flood the neighboring house and property.

EQUIPMENT:

The Highway Department replaced 2 - 2004 single axle dump trucks with 2 - 2014 single axle dump trucks. The Town traded a 2002 trackless sidewalk machine for a 2013 Wacker Neuson loader sidewalk machine and purchased a jumping jack compactor and a concrete power screed for sidewalk work.

EMPLOYEES:

The Depot Street Highway Working Foreman, Paul H. Becker, Jr., retired in 2013, and has been replaced by Richard P. Morgan. No highway laborers were hired in 2013.

WINTER MAINTENANCE:

The 2013 Winter Season has been busy in the first half with numerous 1" storms and larger storms and colder

weather in the second half. The Highway Department works nights, weekends, and holidays in order to keep the roads as safe as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
RJ Joly, Highway Superintendent

PUBLIC WORKS

Water Resources/Water & Sewer Divisions

The Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department again made significant strides towards improving Bennington's Water and Wastewater system infrastructure during 2013. One major late summer project was postponed until spring 2014 at the request of some business along Northside Drive. However, there was plenty of construction going on in other portions of the town. Jefferson Avenue and School Street saw complete renovations of roadways and sidewalks, the removal of all lead water service lines and sewer manholes were rebuilt in both locations. A new steel sleeve was installed under Route 7A in anticipation of a new water main being installed during the final phase of Northside Drive water project.

On the Water Department side, planning and design work was completed for the fifth and final phase of the water main replacement along Northside Drive in hopes of completing the two remaining portions of the project this calendar year. We revisited our South End Water Pressure Project that had been on hold since 2009 waiting for the opportune time to seek funding for the project. This came in the way of a renewed interest from Southern Vermont College to participate in the capital funding of the project enabling the SVC campus now serviced by private wells to tie into the municipal water supply. Partnering with SVC to complete this project will move the Town of Bennington high enough on the state funding priority list to qualify us for a low interest loan through the State of Vermont Revolving Loan Fund. This would also allow us to construct the first phase of a water system upgrade at a lower overall cost to the town's water customers. The State of Vermont has mandated completion of Phase I of this project by 2018 through Bennington's Permit to Operate. Completion of this project will also bring Bennington's water system much closer to compliance with the current Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Standards.

We were also informed that the Hunt Street Bridge Project between Benmont Avenue and Northside Drive could be funded through the State of Vermont's Bridge Program during the coming year. In an effort to be pro-active, we have completed preliminary design for a new water main to be attached to the bridge giving us a new connection between two segments of the water system separated by the Walloomsac River. The new connection will give us redundancy to the only connection that now lies under the river near the new footbridge connecting Hunt Street and Hicks Avenue. The protective stone layer for this line was seriously compromised during Tropical Storm Irene and the potential long-term effects to this line are unknown.

On the Wastewater Department side, we continued to look at ways to increase efficiencies in all aspects of our process without compromising the level of treatment. We performed an Energy Audit at our Wastewater Treatment Plant and pump stations with the assistance of Efficiency Vermont. Fifty percent of the total costs of the audit were covered by grant monies through Efficiency Vermont. Once recommendations were received from the energy consultant, Efficiency Vermont again provided funding for any improvements made up to the limit of the original audit costs. This way the updates are made at essentially no additional cost to the town and we reap the benefits of the energy cost savings from this point forward.

We also continued research and discussion on ways to cut costs from our preliminary engineering study done in 2012, to address our future needs as they relate to the upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Although our plant is 30 years old we continue to provide a very high level of treatment. I attribute this to the staff's commitment to preventative maintenance and budgeting for small upgrades annually. We are currently incorporating small portions of the 2012 recommended upgrades and building them into our annual budgets. By utilizing local contractors and our own labor to oversee these upgrades we anticipate a substantial savings, allowing us to make some improvements until such time that more major upgrades can be funded.

New EPA rules and testing requirements also consumed additional time and monies from the staff and budgets during the past year. New testing protocols for currently unregulated contaminants in both the water supply and the wastewater discharge areas are being mandated to determine if current regulations need to be updated or new

ones proposed. New standards concerning Hazardous Materials Communications, take effect this year. Requirements include new labeling standards for all chemical materials requiring Safety Data Sheets and formal operator training. These un-funded federal mandates will cost local water and sewer ratepayers over \$10,000.00 during the current fiscal year.

During the New England Water Works Association Fall Meeting at the Equinox Hotel and Resort in Manchester Vermont, the Town of Bennington Water Department was recognized as one of New England's top medium sized water systems with the NEWWA Utility of the Year Award. This prestigious award is given to systems in New England for recognition of their continued water quality excellence, operator education and training; employee's safety records and in Bennington's cases the department's handling of the catastrophic water system failures caused by Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011.

In closing, I would like to offer the following statistical information provided by our instrumentation at the Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

Total Drinking Water Processed for 2013	513 Million Gallons
Average Daily Water Used	1.4 Million Gallons
Total Wastewater Processed for 2013	1.4 Billion Gallons
Average Daily Wastewater Processed	4.0 Million Gallons
Average BOD and TSS Removals for 2013	94% BOD, 95% TSS

Respectfully Submitted,
Terrance A. Morse, Bennington Water Resources Superintendent

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Department Summary:

By definition the term economic development refers to the sustained, concerted actions of policymakers and communities that promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific region. Likewise, community development focuses on the quality of life the people are able experience in a specific region and the actions that support the various social and economic structures that exist within a community.

Mission:

The Economic and Community Development Department exists for the sole purpose of advancing the community. Programs, services and a belief in strategic partnerships are the foundational components of this department. A healthy community leads to a healthy economic environment where business can occur.

Vision:

The Economic and Community Development office is seen as a centralized hub for communication, resources, services and advocacy.

Values:

- Involvement
- Partnerships
- Quality

Loan Portfolio:

In 2013 the Town gave out three (3) Town-wide Housing Loans and five (8) Business Loans for a total of \$211,800. These loans allowed for the creation of one new business, the expansion of three businesses, and the repair/upgrade of three leasable locations. In addition three homeowners were able to make the necessary upgrades to their homes so that they could continue to inhabit them.

	Business Loan (BRLP)	Housing Loan (TWHL)	Micro Loan (inactive)
Current Total Active Loans	23	33	8
Total Amount Loaned	\$753,879	\$675,464	\$54,867
Current Outstanding Balance	\$542,835	\$414,376	\$31,927
Current Long-term Delinquency (>3 mon)	2	0	2
Current Available Balance		\$438,982	\$127,952

Grant Portfolio:

Grant	Status (Deadline)
• Pleasant Street Enhancement Grant	In Progress (Sept 2016)
• Municipal Planning Grant (Housing Study)	In Progress (Apr 2014)
• AOT Grant (Scoping Study of Franklin Lane Project)	In Progress (Jun 2014)
• USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant (Marketing)	In Progress (Sept 2014)
• VCRD Downtown WiFi Grant	In Progress (March 2014)
• VTrans Bike/Ped Grant (Ninja Bike Path)	In Progress (Nov 2014)
• VTA WiFi Grant	Awarded
• CLG Historic Preservation (Walking Tour Brochure)	Awarded
• VTrans Vehicle Charging Station Grant	Application Submitted

Projects/Programs/Initiatives:

- **Economic Strategic Plan:** Implemented in May of 2013, the Bennington Strategic Economic Development Plan (BSEDP) was assigned to the Office of Economic and Community Development to oversee the administrative function of the plan, while the Bennington Economic Development Partners (BEDP) group focused on the implementation of the specific strategies. In all, the Plan contains three (3) goals, 15 objectives, and 40 strategies, and includes an additional ten (10) ninety day action items. Over the past seven months, the BEDP has met monthly to discuss progress on the top ten initiatives and action items that have been made based on the efforts of a number of sub-committees, organizations and individuals.

<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Expected Completion</u>
Attract college students downtown*	Complete – Ongoing	
Support MAU Math Pilot program*	Complete – Ongoing	
Conduct joint Select Board and School Board meetings*	Complete – Ongoing	
Downtown Wifi*	The WiFi project is being coordinated by the Town's Economic and Community Development Office. At this time work continues to identify locations for all of the access points (5) within an appropriate range. In addition, agreements must be negotiated with property owners to either house and/or provide internet service to the device. Once the locations are identified, an engineer, contracted by the VT Council on Rural Development will begin the installation process.	Q2 - 2014

Ninja Bike Path	The Ninja Pathway Project is being coordinated by Joann Erenhouse in conjunction with members of the Town and BCRC, along with other community members. Phase one of the project was completed during the Fall of 2013 with a section of pathway running from Northside Dr. to the west end of the Morse Industrial Park. Simultaneously the Town has received a 'Bike/Ped' Grant through the State of Vermont to conduct a scoping/logistics study to assist with the effective crossing of a stream that connects to the Walloomsac River and Rt 67A.	Q3 - 2015
Marketing/Recruitment Plan*	A preliminary draft of the plan was presented to the Select Board in June of 2013. Since that time only minor adjustments have been made to the document. Additional information and considerations will be addressed as specific recruitment policies and procedures are developed.	Q2 - 2014
Workforce Development and Training at the primary education level	A number of curriculum changes have occurred at the primary education level. These have included a core curriculum change at the State level and local efforts by the BEDP to implement various programs to encourage increased collaboration among schools, students and local business. Recent efforts have included plant visits by a number of classes and the implementation of the South Shire Challenge where students work with a local business/organization to solve a particular problem.	Ongoing
Local Internship Program	Background research on current local programs has been underway and is almost complete regarding internship availability and offerings. Additionally, research to identify best practices in the internship field continues and a draft plan, with recommendations and next steps, is being developed.	Q2 - 2014
Survey existing, emerging and departed businesses regarding employee recruitment	A small group focused on employee recruitment and retention has been conducting interviews with different organizations, in a number of industries, to identify challenges and explore opportunities. Recent conversations have occurred at the higher education level and are now involving the manufacturing sector.	Ongoing
Research growth industries	Collaborating with Windham Co. in an effort to share ideas and expertise, research of hiring and growth trends has been started by the BEDP. Additionally, Workforce Investment Board funding may be available to assist with this project.	Q4 - 2014
Cultural Plan	With the last of three summits having been concluded in October of 2013, the individuals involved in this effort have divided into working teams. As part of the process, a master plan will be developed to formalize any proposed actions and/or recommendations.	Q4 - 2014

Housing Plan	With all data collected and focus group sessions being conducted for realtors, developers, HR professionals and landlords, a final plan with recommendations will highlight current needs in the community and actions to be completed to develop housing for the future. This will hopefully redirect the housing efforts in the area and focus attentions on a more professional/working class housing base.	Q2 - 2014
Identify and develop options for underutilized and vacant properties	Using the Brownfields Opportunity Program, properties are being identified in and around Bennington that are underutilized and/or vacant, and that have mitigating circumstances that inhibit their redevelopment. Interviews and data collection are ongoing.	Q2 - 2014
Full-service Marketing	The support of a USDA grant received by the Town has propelled efforts to produce marketing material to promote Bennington, encourage business growth, and increase visitor traffic to the area. In addition, the items being developed will be used by organizations who regularly market the area so that the message being presented is clear and consistent.	Q3 - 2014

- **Economic Development Partners:** Meeting monthly, this community group regularly shares development efforts from a number of different organizations including: the Town, BBC, Chamber, BCIC, local schools, legislators, Select Board, State economic development, and local business owners. This team is also subdivided into the following workgroups: Legislative/Government, Marketing, Special Initiatives, Workforce & Education, Housing, and Employer Retention & Recruitment.
- **Town of Bennington Website:** The Town's website was redeveloped over the past year and was the recipient of two awards from the New England Economic Developers Association. The new web address is www.benningtonvt.org.
- **Downtown Designation Program:** The Town's Downtown Designation was renewed in April 2013 by the Vermont Downtown Program. The next renewal will occur in 2018.
- **VCRD Community Group Process:** Continuing from the previous year, the VCRD Community Group Process identified four themes, through a community process, that were taken on as action items. They included Downtown Destination, Vision-Image-Communication, Poverty and Community Center.
- **VT Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:** During 2013 the ECD Director was selected to participate on the State-wide Economic Development Strategy team. This group continues to meet monthly to develop a strategic plan for development across the state.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Harrington, Director, Office of Economic and Community Development

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) members serve the Development Review Board, Select Board and Planning Commission in an advisory capacity, and in so doing, help to coordinate activities that are important to Bennington's preservation goals. As a participant in Vermont's Certified Local Government (CLG) Program, the HPC has the ability

to promote the value of historic resources in local community development efforts. Through partnerships at the local, state, and federal level, this program allows the Commission to provide grants and technical assistance to the Town for a range of activities that encourage preservation of our historic and archaeological resources. The Commission works with Bennington's Director of Economic & Community Development, Michael Harrington, who serves as its Secretary.

The Bennington HPC continues to maintain the Historic Preservation Commission area of the Town of Bennington website. The Commission's website provides home-owners, residents and developers with information and guidance for Bennington's historic downtown architecture, streetscapes, and historic resources. The resources on the website enable property owners to better understand their historic buildings, make informed choices in planning changes to their building, and inspire the preservation of Bennington's architectural history.

The site explains the role of the Historic Preservation Commission in the community, and provides all the explanation and forms property owners in the Downtown Historic District need in order to apply for changes to their property. The site includes chapter breakdowns of Bennington's preservation manual, *Time and Place in Bennington: A Handbook for the Central Bennington Historic District*. In addition, visitors to the site can find Downtown Historic District maps, survey information, a map of the National Register Historic District, historic photographs of Bennington, information about Bennington's commitment to preservation in the Town Plan and Town Ordinance, and Historic Preservation Commission meeting schedules and minutes. Additional links to other preservation education and advocacy resources and organizations are provided.

The site can be viewed at: www.benningtonvt.org

BETTER BENNINGTON CORPORATION

Each year provides new opportunities and new challenges, not just for Downtown Bennington, but for downtowns throughout the entire country, as well. 2013 proved to be a milestone year in that the most overwhelming challenge to downtowns is no longer the strip plaza, mega-mall, or big box store, but instead, it's the convenience and low prices the internet provides.

While this type of competition may seem incredibly daunting, the Better Bennington Corporation (BBC) has been taking steps over the past few years to address each challenge the internet poses. This year the BBC underwrote half the expense of a setting up our members on Google Business Profile. We created an interactive, 360 degree film of each participating business location and linked it to their website. This technology literally opens the front doors of downtown Bennington businesses to billions of people around the world. In addition, the BBC website offers our members an internet presence to increase visibility and traffic. We are also working to ensure fairness in business practices by supporting efforts to tax all transactions completed on the internet.

The BBC, along with the assistance of Phoenix Wing House of Design and the financial support of Bennington businesses, was able to bring the Summer Music Series back to downtown. This year we also added First Fridays, highlighting our downtown galleries, area performers, and the artistic talents of our local college students.

2013 also demonstrated the continued interest in downtown Bennington with multiple property transfers, building improvements, and new construction. With these additions to the downtown district the BBC has been able to offer the benefits to downtown Bennington property owners at an individual cost that has been decreasing for 5 years in a row. We are the only Vermont Downtown program that can make that claim.

Here are some additional, indisputable facts: in 2013 downtown Bennington enjoyed a net gain of 7 businesses bringing the four year total to a net gain of 31 businesses and over 100 jobs.

Downtown's vacancy rate of 18% fared well compared to spots along Northside Drive that saw similar rates climb over 60%. While there are still plenty of opportunities in downtown, the overall economic strength is solid.

As downtown Bennington continues to move forward in creating an experience that can't be found on the internet, in

malls, or in big cities, our greatest strength continues to be the strong support from our community and the commitment from our local merchants.

Respectfully submitted,
John Shannahan, Executive Director, Better Bennington Corporation

BENNINGTON SENIOR CENTER

It is the mission of the Bennington Senior Center to engage persons 50+ in the lifelong learning process, promoting their physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing by providing social, recreational, creative and cultural programs. This enables active participation in the center and community. Program costs are based on a non-profit basis. There are no fees or dues. We continue to meet our goals through increasing participation, passionate instruction and a variety of programming.

The center is town-owned, taxpayer-funded and currently on the second floor of the Senior Citizens' Service Center at 124 Pleasant Street. The regular activities provided by us are: quilting and sewing; exercise and dance; painting, ceramics and sculpture; card and board games; BINGO, movies and potluck. We schedule shopping and dining trips, as well as artistic displays and cultural performances. We also provide opportunities for local and world travel at economical prices.

The current wellness agenda includes classes for RSVP Bone Builders, belly dance, a walking program, Zumba Gold and education programs supported by the Council on Aging. Plans for enriching the cultural lives of our members included trips to The Beacon Resort and to Asheville, NC. In addition to our customary trips to Hampton Beach, Mac-Haydn Theatre, Capital Repertory Theatre and Proctor's Theatre, we have hosted Vermont Humanities Teas, AARP Driving Courses, Don Bettis and free legal clinics. To foster the social wellbeing of our members, we have offered many Potluck Luncheons, partnered with Bennington County Meals on Wheels for special events, encouraged involvement and volunteerism, matched up single travelers with one another to decrease cost and increase fulfillment and are acquiring growing numbers of diverse members every year. We had over 70 people attend our Senior Picnic at Lake Shaftsbury this year, and would like to thank Moe Harrington and the White Chapel Band for donating their time for entertainment.

The staff of the center is comprised of 1½ equivalent full time positions. We have over 15 volunteers for various programs and activities. We must not fail to show our appreciation for over 1,100 hours of unpaid time provided by our volunteers, and more importantly for their talent, humor and patience. Our jobs could never be done without each individual. We earnestly thank them again for another year.

The goals of any director are increased worth, continued improvement and forward progression for her facility. Each citizen of Bennington is welcome into our organization to find out how we enhance the lives of our seniors. They are also encouraged to scan our newsletter, *Senior Community News*, for information about our programs. The bulletin can be found at various locations about town, by subscription and right at the center. You may call for a free first copy at 802-442-1052 or you may stop by Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan L. Hoag, Program Director

BENNINGTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Bennington Recreation Center is located on 655 Gage Street and is the administrative office for the Parks & Recreation Department. The Center is a municipal facility and is supported the Town of Bennington taxpayers.

The Recreation Center offers Youth, Adult, Family and Sr. Citizen memberships. A membership or daily fee entitles

the user to the six lane, 25 yard heated pool, sauna, showers and weight room. There were 739 memberships purchased and had a total of 1,863 members in 2013. The revenue of memberships totaled \$64,435.

The Rec Trac computer system recorded 39,869 visits from members and non-members who paid the daily fee. An adult day pass is \$5.00 and the youth day pass is \$3.00. The total daily fees paid in 2013 was \$11,865. There were 1,509 adults and 1,440 youth who paid the daily fee. This visit count does not include free swim, day cares, school groups and swim teams.

The swimming pool is used by member and non-members for many programs, therapeutic and recreational as well. The pool is maintained at a comfortable temperature to suit the variety of ages who use it. Adaptive physical education classes, day cares, school groups and Home School Association are a few examples of groups who pay a fee for private swimming time. The approximate monthly average pool usage was 3,322 visits. Approximate pool visits totaled 39,873.

The Recreation Center offers the swimming pool and the multi-purpose room for children's birthday parties. The private swimming time is on Saturday from 12 - 1:00 p.m. with use of the room to follow. The fee of \$50.00 includes the one hour reserved pool time, certified lifeguard and the room which can be used for cake, ice cream, pizza, games, etc. If the private time is booked but the room is available one can book the room for \$20.00. There were 52 birthday parties and/or room rentals totaling \$2,015. The multi-purpose room is also used for meetings, concession stands, classes and programs.

Aqua Zumba, Adventure and Chill-Out camps, Hiking Days, swim lessons, sport camps, t-ball, mommy and me and water exercise classes are some examples of programs offered or sponsored by the recreation department for a minimal fee. Revenue for all programs and sales totaled \$19,446.

Outside the Recreation Center facility there are four tennis courts which were repaired and painted, two racquet/handball courts, 3 full size basketball courts all open to the public free of charge. The softball is open to the public free of charge unless reserved for a tournament or league. The fencing along the playing field and parking lot is a new addition to the Recreation Center property. This will keep the children safe as well as deter cars from driving through the field.

Willow Park located off East Road, contains two pavilions, cooking grills, horseshoe pits, play equipment, two softball fields, soccer/lacrosse/football fields, walking/bike path, bmx track, theater stage and volleyball courts. The Jim Ross and the East Road/upper pavilion is rented out for group picnics, weddings, reunions, etc. for a minimal fee. They can be rented out April 1 through mid-October. The Jim Ross Pavilion had 31 reservations and the East Road Pavilion had 43 reservations. The upper pavilion's restrooms were completely gutted and remodeled with tile flooring, new fixtures and lighting. A new roof was put on as well.

During the annual shutdown of the Recreation Center work was performed in the main offices and throughout the weight room. Installation of high quality ceiling tiles and LED lighting throughout and a new paint job in the weight room.

The Recreation Department continues to work with the variety of non-profit organizations, local organizations and athletic leagues helping coordinate, schedule, run or participate in local events. Bennington Car Show, Boy Scouts, softball tournaments, Cycle-Cross bike races, sports camps, and holiday celebrations are to name a few.

The Recreation Department and staff will continue to improve its facilities, programs and customer service. Thank you for the continued support of the Parks and Recreation Department.

If there are any questions, comments or suggestions pertaining to the above information you may contact me at (802) 442-1053.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy E. Knights, Parks & Recreation Director

BENNINGTON COMMUNITY BUILT PARK RESERVE FUND

This Fund was created in April, 2003, in concert with the Friends of the Bennington Community Built Park from funds collected to maintain the playground equipment, lower bathrooms and stage. As custodian of the funds, the Friends preserved them and helped establish this Fund to assist the Town with long term care issues at the Bennington Community Built Park (Willow Park on East Road). The Fund guidelines follow below.

- 1. This fund is for the exclusive use of the Bennington Community Built Park located on East Road in Bennington, Vermont.*
- 2. Special consideration will be given to annual sealing of all wooden structures at Willow Park with environmentally safe sealant. The Fund will be used to replenish the wood carpeting under playground equipment, for signs and other equipment as needed.*
- 3. This Fund will be expended on a fifteen (15) year basis to address maintenance issues at the Bennington Community Built Park.*
- 4. One thousand dollars is restricted to purchase skateboard ramps. This money was given to the Friends by Phoenix Inc.*

Donations to this restricted fund and Memorial plantings are encouraged and are to be handled by the Town of Bennington. The original balance contained \$17,700. As of June 30th, the balance was \$1,633.37 including interest earned. During this year, \$5,197.87 was expended on repairs and maintenance of the Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

SOLLWAN AND MARY ALEXANDER SLEEMAN MEMORIAL FUND

This Fund was created in September, 1998, in concert with the Richard A. Sleeman family from funds historically collected to complete the Recreation Center (formerly owned by the YMCA). As custodian of the funds, Richard A. Sleeman preserved them and helped established this Fund to assist the Town with accessibility issues at the Recreation Center. The Fund guidelines follow below.

- 1. This memorial fund is for the exclusive use of the Bennington Community Recreation Center located on Gage Street in Bennington, Vermont.*
- 2. Special consideration will be given to benefit the handicapped through capital improvements, equipment, or tuition for those in need as it relates to the Recreation Center.*
- 3. The Fund will be expended on a ten (10) year annuitized basis for the uses noted above.*
- 4. Dr. Richard Alexander Sleeman, Professor, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams, Massachusetts, represents the Sleeman Family.*

The original fund contained \$52,156.27. During this year, \$0.00 was expended at the Recreation Center. Interest earned was added to the Fund leaving a reserve fund balance of \$25,078.91.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

PERMITTING, PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Town of Bennington's Permitting, Planning and Code Enforcement Department administers many Town issued permits (including Building Permits, Zoning Permits, Sign Permits, Taxi Licenses, Vendor's Licenses and others), provides staff support for the Town of Bennington Development Review Board and Planning Commission and enforces the Town of Bennington Land Use and Development Regulations, Sign Ordinance, Building Code and other local ordinances (The Town's Fire Marshals' also enforce the Vermont Fire Prevention and Building Code on behalf of the State for public buildings).

The large new construction or renovation projects completed or started this year included: Bennington Rescue Squad, Beth El Congregation, Garden Homes, Autumn Inn Apartments, Regional Affordable Housing, Green Mountain Transit Facility and NSK.

The Town has completed its 16th year under the Fire and Building Code Agreement with the Vermont Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety. Applicants have saved significant money in fees they didn't have to submit to the state over the past 16 years. The agreement includes all occupancy types except for State owned buildings and nursing home facilities. The agreement assigns to Bennington the responsibility for Plan Review, Fire Inspections and Enforcement of the Vermont Fire Prevention and Building Code.

The Town issued 154 Certificates of Building and Zoning Compliance which generated \$7,700. The Town issued 235 Zoning and Building Permits with fees that generated \$26,993.05. The Town issued 27 Sign Permits with fees that netted \$1,452.51. The Town issued 7 Vendor Permits with fees that netted \$1,000. and 578 Brush/Camp Fire permits that netted \$4,540. The Department also collected \$4,000.00 in fines.

We would like to remind all residents that almost all types of renovations and construction requires building permits.

If you replace any existing structure, such as a deck, porch, shed stairs, garage etc., you need a permit. If you perform any renovation work inside your home such as adding a room in your basement, any plumbing, electrical or furnace replacement, removing/adding walls or rooms, a permit is required. If you install a septic system, propane tank, fabric building or a swimming pool a permit is required. Please contact the Code Enforcement Office 442-1037 before you start any work to determine if a permit is needed.

Don't forget... all rental properties now require wired in Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors with battery back-up!

Respectfully submitted,

Larry McLeod, Chief Building Inspector and Fire Marshal

Kevin J. Goodhue, Building Inspector/Fire Marshal and Code Enforcement Officer

Permit Type				
	2012 Dollar Volume		2013 Dollar Value	
	Permits		Permits	
Single Family Dwelling	4	\$482,000.00	10	\$1,577,000.00
Duplex	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Mobile Homes	11	\$362,000.00	9	\$364,000.00
Apartments	0	\$0.00	1	\$8,000.00
Apartment Renovations	6	\$229,500.00	8	\$69,250.00
Condominiums	0	\$0.00	6	\$1,008,000.00
Residential Renovations	51	\$554,200.00	36	\$437,550.00
Residential Additions	20	\$351,100.00	9	\$406,500.00
Commercial Construction	3	\$345,000.00	7	\$1,767,500.00
Commercial Renovation	21	\$2,539,900.00	7	\$631,650.00
Industrial Construction	1	\$900,000.00	0	\$0.00
Industrial Renovation	2	\$376,900.00	2	\$174,000.00
Garages	8	\$97,000.00	8	\$190,000.00
Sheds	36	\$66,050.00	30	\$144,700.00
Decks	28	\$91,800.00	21	\$83,400.00
Pools	2	\$27,000.00	0	\$0.00
Institutions	12	\$1,741,000.00	12	\$481,200.00
Signs	50	\$109,350.00	24	\$36,160.00
Use & Zoning	13	\$32,000.00	9	\$30,000.00
Subdivisions	1	\$0.00	11	\$0.00

Home Occupations	5	\$1,900.00	0	\$0.00
Propane Tank/Storage Tank	1	\$1,000.00	0	\$0.00
Boilers/Furnaces, A/C, RTU's	17	\$85,800.00	17	\$252,200.00
Tents	2	\$8,500.00	2	\$5,000.00
Handicap Access Ramps	10	\$30,550.00	6	\$16,500.00
Concrete Slabs	0	\$0.00	2	\$10,000.00
Cell Towers	0	\$0.00	1	\$15,000.00
Miscellaneous	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Totals	304	\$8,432,550.00	238	\$7,708,110.00

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

The Health Officer is the Town Official who is responsible for Public Health Problems in their Town. Health Officers have the power of the Vermont Commissioner of Health and are agents of the State Health Department.

Health Officers have the authority to enforce any of the Vermont Health regulations in their Town. The Select Board is the local Board of Health with the Health Officer serving as the Secretary and Executive Officer for Bennington, North Bennington and Old Bennington. The responsibilities of the Health Officer can be wide ranging, however, most of the time is spent in the following categories:

Rabies Management

We received and investigated 33 reported animal bites to humans in 2013. 22 from dogs and 11 from cats. This compares to 46 in 2012, 41 in 2011, 36 in 2010, 32 in 2009, 44 in 2008, 52 in 2007, 56 in 2006, 40 in 2005. Many thanks to the Southwestern Vermont Medical Center Emergency Department for their prompt and accurate bite reports.

Rental Housing

We investigated numerous complaints pertaining to Rental Housing Health Code issues. The Vermont Rental Housing Health Code is a Statewide uniform code that specifies the minimum standards for all rental housing. As the Building Inspectors and Fire Marshals for the Town, we can now include the Health Code Requirements in all of those type inspections.

Other Public Health Issues

The balance of time was spent investigating such matters as garbage complaints, inadequate water supplies, rodent/roach complaints, failed septic systems especially in mobile home parks, lead, mold and asbestos concerns from tenants in rental housing and complaints about excessive smoke from wood burning appliances in private dwellings.

Another persistent health concern is dry scraping of exterior paint containing lead. We remind all residents that this practice is illegal in the State of Vermont. We were successful in obtaining voluntary compliance with almost all public health problems this year and appreciate the cooperation from all involved. Please feel free to contact us regarding any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
 Larry McLeod, Health Officer
 Kevin Goodhue, Deputy Health Officer

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Planning Commission, along with the Planning Department, performs municipal planning functions for Bennington, including the development of the Town Plan and Land Use and Development Regulations.

In 2013, the Planning Commission worked with the Bennington Economic Development Partners to complete the Bennington Strategic Economic Development Plan, completed a Sidewalk Plan, adopted floodplain regulations, and began preparing plans for bike/pedestrian improvements for Benmont Avenue.

The Development Review Board is responsible for reviewing and issuing land use permits for all significant development within the Town. Among the projects reviewed in 2013 by the Development Review Board were: a commercial composting facility adjacent to the Town's Transfer Station, a new Dollar General and a new Merchants Bank.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel W. Monks, Permitting Director

DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENT

BOARD OF LISTERS

With no reassessment activity in 2013, this office sent 162 Change of Appraised Value notices to property owners on May 16, 2013. These notices were sent to owners of property in which a material change had occurred from April 1, 2012 to April 1, 2013. The Board of Lister's had 49 grievances, two of which were forwarded to the Bennington Board of Civil Authority. No appeals from 2013 or prior years are outstanding.

The Town of Bennington's grand list for all properties as of October 2013 was \$1,001,279,325. The State's Equalization Study for 2013 (effective January 1, 2014) shows Bennington's common level of appraisal at 89.08 percent and our coefficient of dispersion at 14.67 percent. The common level of appraisal is essentially a measure of how close local assessments are to sale prices. The coefficient of dispersion measures uniformity of assessments for all grand list properties, and is the average deviation of a group of ratios from the town-wide median expressed as a percentage of the median. The 2013 Equalization Study used sales data from April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013.

Michael Keane was re-appointed to the Board of Listers by the Select Board in 2013, joining Shirley Archibald and Carol Holm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John M. Antognioni, Assessor

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

2013 BIRTHS

<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Town of Residence</u>
1/1/2013	Brady Douglas Hill	Bennington, VT
1/2/2013	John Thomas Ryan	Arlington, VT
1/3/2013	Payzley Charlene Oldham	Bennington, VT
1/3/2013	Leila May Vazquez	Pownal, VT
1/3/2013	Ethan John Yerdon	Bennington, VT
1/3/2013	Mason Maverick Yerdon	Bennington, VT

1/4/2013	Cayden John Bushey	Bennington, VT
1/4/2013	Rylee Alexis Corcoran	Bennington, VT
1/4/2013	Lincoln Joseph Hatfield	Sunderland, VT
1/4/2013	Elizabeth Rose Loomis	Shaftsbury, VT
1/4/2013	Nathan David-Alden Martin	Bennington, VT
1/4/2013	Carter Alan Ransom	Shaftsbury, VT
1/5/2013	Zayden Wayne Montanye	Bennington, VT
1/5/2013	Sydney Grace Purzycki	Bennington, VT
1/7/2013	Kieran Kevin Cannistraci	Cambridge, NY
1/9/2013	Lucas Michael Bachiochi	Sunderland, VT
1/9/2013	Isaac Wesley Boelman	Dorset, VT
1/9/2013	Kayla Brooke Hester	Bennington, VT
1/11/2013	Kristiana Barbara-Eve Hoyt	Arlington, VT
1/12/2013	Penelope Grace Green	Bennington, VT
1/14/2013	Grace Elizabeth Russo	Granville, NY
1/17/2013	Willamina Arlece Woodcock	Berlin, NY
1/19/2013	Grace Jemma-Nicole Simmons	Bennington, VT
1/21/2013	Elysha Raymond Gates	Hoosick Falls, NY
1/23/2013	Omario Michael Bromfield	Manchester Center, VT
1/23/2013	Wesley Charles Brownell	Buskirk, NY
1/24/2013	Braedon James Burdick	Shaftsbury, VT
1/24/2013	Logan Donald Smith	Bennington, VT
1/25/2013	Elias Matthew Ragland	Bennington, VT
1/26/2013	Ryan Philip Myer	North Bennington, VT
1/27/2013	Beatrice Pearl Dykstra	Manchester Center, VT
1/27/2013	Sophia Rose Fisher	Cambridge, NY
1/27/2013	Joseph Collins LaFlamme	Bennington, VT
1/28/2013	Marxus Alan Shephard	Shaftsbury, VT
1/29/2013	Ryan Timothy Almy Jr.	Bennington, VT
1/29/2013	Tucker O'Malley Mattison	Bennington, VT
1/31/2013	Penelope Rose Bruno	Cambridge, NY
1/31/2013	Alexa Lee Kojak	Manchester Center, VT
2/1/2013	Gabriel Michael Negus	East Nassau, NY
2/2/2013	Valen Orias Thomas	Bennington, VT
2/4/2013	Maeve Montana Nowakowski	Greenwich, NY
2/5/2013	Kayleigh May Susenbach	Hoosick Falls, NY
2/8/2013	Miki Rockyanderson Adams-Silva	Fair Haven, VT
2/9/2013	Dee Ann-Margaret Bultman	Troy, NY
2/9/2013	Erin Marie Harrison	Bennington, VT
2/12/2013	Michael James Greene	Wilmington, VT
2/13/2013	D'Andre Alexander Hampton	Manchester, VT
2/13/2013	Taylor Jean Marcoux	Hoosick Falls, NY
2/13/2013	Sianna Lin Patrick	Salem, NY
2/13/2013	Keira Marie Thane	North Bennington, VT
2/14/2013	Quinn Marie Bartholomew	West Dover, VT
2/17/2013	Owen Michael Wood	Danby, VT
2/19/2013	Blake Adam Kaufman	White Creek, NY
2/19/2013	Tyreke Anthony Silva Scheuer	Cambridge, NY
2/20/2013	Carson Carter Joseph Miller	West Rupert, VT
2/20/2013	Jordan Scott O'Dell	Cohoes, NY
2/21/2013	Alana Sophia Rich	North Bennington, VT
2/22/2013	Arianna Elizabeth-Nicol Sparks	Pownal, VT
2/23/2013	Talia Rae McLaughlin	Bennington, VT
2/24/2013	Ashton Joseph Dumas	Bennington, VT
2/24/2013	Jaxson Christopher Touponce	Bennington, VT

2/25/2013	Wyatt Robert Walker	Bennington, VT
2/27/2013	Steele Jason Tyler	Manchester, VT
2/28/2013	Calvin Joseph Contois Barker	Bennington, VT
3/1/2013	Callen John Boudreau	Shaftsbury, VT
3/1/2013	Willow Marie Gulley	Bennington, VT
3/1/2013	Elianna Marie Miller	Pownal, VT
3/1/2013	Nevaeh Rose O'Dell	Bennington, VT
3/2/2013	Connor Michael Marcoux	North Bennington, VT
3/3/2013	Talia Gittel Michelsen	Rupert, VT
3/3/2013	J'Dah Nazario	Hoosick Falls, NY
3/3/2013	Jonah Daniel Seide	Berlin, NY
3/4/2013	Phoebe Marie Greene	Arlington, VT
3/4/2013	Eli Kenneth Harris	Cambridge, NY
3/4/2013	Carson David Jones	Manchester, VT
3/4/2013	Zayden Joshua Perkins	Pawlet, VT
3/5/2013	Isaiah Richard Olin	Pownal, VT
3/6/2013	Devin Edward Boynton	Johnsonville, NY
3/7/2013	Taylor Anne Jongewaard	Wilmington, VT
3/7/2013	Blake Ryder Vincent	Winhall, VT
3/10/2013	Ethan Alexander Bacon	Arlington, VT
3/12/2013	Morgan Elaine Boyd	Whitingham, VT
3/12/2013	Piper Grace McMillan	Cambridge, NY
3/13/2013	Mathilda Marie Winters	Berlin, NY
3/14/2013	James Scott Butler	Sunderland, VT
3/13/2013	Sophia Maddison Joslin	Bennington, VT
3/15/2013	Lorana Faith Austin	Shaftsbury, VT
3/16/2013	Owen Michael Andrews	North Bennington, VT
3/16/2013	James Gregory Doin II	Hoosick Falls, NY
3/16/2013	MaKenna Grace Murray	Bennington, VT
3/19/2013	Joseph Michael Brandmeyer Jr.	Cambridge, NY
3/19/2013	Anika Grace-Ann Chaney	Granville, NY
3/19/2013	Liam Jameson Saltmarsh	Greenwich, NY
3/19/2013	Emmett Gabriel Susee	Bennington, VT
3/21/2013	Jacob James Taylor	Wilmington, VT
3/22/2013	Mahveen Hasna Bhuiyan	Manchester, VT
3/22/2013	Wesley Reed Post	Bennington, VT
3/25/2013	Lindyn Jeanne Koelker	North Bennington, VT
3/26/2013	Taz Michael Crandall	Shaftsbury, VT
3/26/2013	Brayden Preston Hayes	North Pownal, VT
3/29/2013	Channing Michael Wayne Stephens	Shaftsbury, VT
3/30/2013	Ashton Avolyn Bentley	Bennington, VT
3/31/2013	Riley Marie Baker	Hoosick Falls, NY
3/31/2013	Oliver River Hurley	Wilmington, VT
4/1/2013	Jurnee Precious Ferris	Pownal, VT
4/2/2013	Ohlin Scout Burnell	Shaftsbury, VT
4/2/2013	Carson David Currie	Cambridge, NY
4/3/2013	Kendall Marie Foucher	Bennington, VT
4/3/2013	Ella James Hayden	Shaftsbury, VT
4/4/2013	Allison June Bushey	Hoosick Falls, NY
4/4/2013	Landon Jay Granger	Bennington, VT
4/5/2013	Oliver James Babson	Bennington, VT
4/5/2013	Zoey Ellyn Hammond	Bennington, VT
4/5/2013	Ryan Matthew Trimble	Shaftsbury, VT
4/6/2013	Elliott Krisstopher Wolf-Calef	Buskirk, NY
4/7/2013	Lillian Marie Kleinhans	Bennington, VT

4/7/2013	Chase Robert Langevin	South Londonderry, VT
4/7/2013	Alexander Jonathon Wallner	Bennington, VT
4/8/2013	Mason Allen Fitch	Cambridge, NY
4/9/2013	Jennah Elanie Taft	Whitehall, NY
4/11/2013	Haley Marie Cadoret	Bennington, VT
4/11/2013	Gabrielle Marie Robinson	Bennington, VT
4/11/2013	Liam Christopher Van Bers	Eagle Bridge, NY
4/12/2013	Claire-Jane Jowett	Bennington, VT
4/12/2013	Mason James Nadworniak	Bennington, VT
4/13/2013	Michael Mathew Hunter	Bennington, VT
4/13/2013	Zuri Lynn Kramer	Bennington, VT
4/13/2013	Evangeline Joy Mumford	Bennington, VT
4/13/2013	Paul Robert White	Grafton, NY
4/14/2013	Brielle Somers D'Agata	Berlin, NY
4/15/2013	Hayden Emilee Baker	Pownal, VT
4/15/2013	Matthew Edward Ratelle	Petersburg, NY
4/16/2013	Elijah Flynn Brown	Bennington, VT
4/17/2013	Brayden Noah Gardner	Bennington, VT
4/17/2013	Stella Kathleen Isherwood	North Bennington, VT
4/17/2013	August West Amedeo Ubaldo	Cambridge, NY
4/18/2013	Karlee Jean Coon	Cambridge, NY
4/18/2013	Dusty Robert Oliver III	Bennington, VT
4/19/2013	Chloe Elaine Devlin-Scherer	Manchester Center, VT
4/19/2013	Charlotte Marlena Hastings	Shaftsbury, VT
4/19/2013	Boss Wayne Honyoust	Argyle, NY
4/19/2013	Luke Paul Monick	Pownal, VT
4/22/2013	Kinlee Ann Pearson	Bennington, VT
4/24/2013	Gabriel Michael Persad	Salem, NY
4/24/2013	Shea David Remington	Bennington, VT
4/26/2013	Bailey David Hunter	Cambridge, NY
4/27/2013	Nolan David Snyder	Peru, VT
4/28/2013	Piper Marie Webber	Pownal, VT
4/29/2013	Revere Marie Aiken	Bennington, VT
4/29/2013	Layla Vivian Davis	Bennington, VT
4/29/2013	Reily Lynn Davis	Bennington, VT
4/30/2013	Eli Scott Guy-Crosslin	Arlington, VT
5/2/2013	Meara J. Camp	Pownal, VT
5/2/2013	Bentley Jakob Felt	Pownal, VT
5/2/2013	Conner Nathan McConnell-Secoy	North Bennington, VT
5/2/2013	Landon Nathan Staples	Salem, NY
5/3/2013	Alaina Elizabeth Aubrey	Cambridge, NY
5/4/2013	Dominic Oliver Scully	Buskirk, NY
5/4/2013	Jackson Dale Robert Steller	Hoosick Falls, NY
5/6/2013	Amelia Grace Albright	Arlington, VT
5/6/2013	Jocelyn Leanne Webster	Petersburg, NY
5/7/2013	Acadia Navaeh Welch	Bennington, VT
5/7/2013	Jameson Joseph West	Bennington, VT
5/9/2013	Rowan Ryder Kehoe	Bennington, VT
5/9/2013	Levi LoPresti Meckes	Jamaica, VT
5/9/2013	Ryker Wolfe Watkins	Hoosick Falls, NY
5/10/2013	Avery Lauren Brushett	Greenwich, NY
5/10/2013	Judah Ian Filson	Williamstown, MA
5/10/2013	Allie May Himes	Pownal, VT
5/13/2013	Riley Nicole Estey	Pownal, VT
5/13/2013	Carleigh Olivia Scott	North Pownal, VT

5/14/2013	Maysie Thor Freeman	Shaftsbury, VT
5/16/2013	Lillian Grace LeBarron	Cambridge, NY
5/16/2013	Andyn Kadynce Vallone	Cambridge, NY
5/17/2013	Willow Brooke Nugent	Manchester Center, VT
5/18/2013	Gabrielle Margarita Oyola	Bennington, VT
5/19/2013	Oliver Miles Kane	Bennington, VT
5/20/2013	Chase Michael Crawford	Arlington, VT
5/20/2013	Chelsea Mae Crawford	Arlington, VT
5/20/2013	Daphne Luna Meerwarth	Bennington, VT
5/20/2013	Mireille Sophia Watson	Bennington, VT
5/21/2013	Jordyn Elyzabeth Marcoux	Bennington, VT
5/22/2013	Nikolena Lee Eaton	Cambridge, NY
5/23/2013	Stefin Andrew Anthony Meyers	Hoosick Falls, NY
5/23/2013	Frances Bowen Plunkett	Bennington, VT
5/24/2013	Miguel Emilio Maisonet Jr.	Bennington, VT
5/26/2013	Karlee Alexys Hunt	Bennington, VT
5/26/2013	Mark David McConnell Jr.	North Bennington, VT
5/27/2013	Carson Presley-James Hudson	Valley Falls, NY
5/29/2013	Adriana Caprise LaPietra	North Bennington, VT
5/29/2013	Annalise May Verge	Eagle Bridge, NY
5/30/2013	Carter Brook-Louise Harrington	Cambridge, NY
5/30/2013	Riley Michael Ketcham	Bennington, VT
5/30/2013	Genevieve Elizabeth Monforte	Manchester, VT
5/30/2013	Holton Atwood Perry	Bennington, VT
5/30/2013	Landon James Perry	Bennington, VT
5/31/2013	Petra Edith Lanier	Bennington, VT
6/1/2013	Adalyn Marie Martin	Bennington, VT
6/2/2013	Isabel Michele-Rose Perry	Cambridge, NY
6/3/2013	Leif Henry Comar	Pawlet, VT
6/3/2013	Andie Rose Green	Bennington, VT
6/3/2013	Chase Mitchell Loveland	Bennington, VT
6/5/2013	Aben Josiah Collins	Clarksburg, MA
6/5/2013	Lilabelle Leilani Heller	Cambridge, NY
6/9/2013	Kennedy Mae Morse	South Londonderry, VT
6/10/2013	Zachary Robert Mitchell	Bennington, VT
6/10/2013	Payton Lynn Russell-Harris	Pownal, VT
6/12/2013	Isla Claire Higley	Keene, NH
6/12/2013	Talulah Belle Hon	Bennington, VT
6/12/2013	Noah Jeffrey Saunders	Bennington, VT
6/13/2013	Kamden Rocco Coon	North Bennington, VT
6/15/2013	Ryder Landon Tschorn	Sandgate, VT
6/16/2013	Harmony Lynn Harris	Cambridge, NY
6/16/2013	Nakita Nealla Southard	Cambridge, NY
6/16/2013	Braxstyn Timothy Wierchert	Shaftsbury, VT
6/17/2013	Brantley Forrest Stone	Whitingham, VT
6/19/2013	David Keith Dern	Bennington, VT
6/20/2013	Alice Sage Yarnal	Pownal, VT
6/23/2013	John Maynard Trafton II	Bennington, VT
6/23/2013	Jase Michael Watkins	Eagle Bridge, NY
6/24/2013	Franchesca Sage Milianta	Petersburg, NY
6/25/2013	Lisa Kimberly Snow	Salem, NY
6/26/2013	Oliver Ryker Alicki	Hoosick Falls, NY
6/26/2013	Lily Jeanette Benoit	Hoosick Falls, NY
6/26/2013	Cameryn Leigh Thibodeau	Shaftsbury, VT
6/27/2013	Lexia Christine Redden	Bennington, VT

6/28/2013	Quinn Elizabeth Miller	Petersburg, NY
6/29/2013	Avery Marie Gillis	Salem, NY
6/29/2013	Sabian Alexander Harrington	Bennington, VT
7/01/2013	Lukas Ridpath Nunemaker	Arlington, VT
7/2/2013	Chandler Lincoln Morris	Cambridge, NY
7/2/2013	Mariah Elizabeth Vollinger	Bennington, VT
7/3/2013	Finleigh Morgan Burdick	Bennington, VT
7/6/2013	Jackson David Mailhiot	Belmont, VT
7/7/2013	Eloise Sadie Warren	Sunderland, VT
7/7/2013	Eleanor Yanling Ethelind Wells Radocchia	Bennington, VT
7/8/2013	Caih Anne Muir	Bennington, VT
7/8/2013	Maxx Joseph Coulter	Bennington, VT
7/9/2013	Easton Paul Nelson	Bennington, VT
7/9/2013	Luca Eugene Neulander	Saratoga Springs, NY
7/9/2013	Evan Michael Barnes	Bennington, VT
7/9/2013	Liam Brennan McGuire	Hoosick Falls, NY
7/9/2013	Nevaeh Star Goddard	Arlington, VT
7/10/2013	Sadie Mara Hoag	Pownal, VT
7/10/2013	Tommy Douglas Gauthier	Bennington, VT
7/11/2013	Amelia Marie Fawcett	North Bennington, VT
7/11/2013	Elizah Anne Harrison	Petersburg, NY
7/12/2013	Elliot Michael Hempstead	Bennington, VT
7/12/2013	Emma Mahreigh Wilson	Pownal, VT
7/12/2013	Mackenzie Taylor Rupprecht	Bennington, VT
7/12/2013	Peter Terrence Prylo	Hoosick Falls, NY
7/13/2013	Landon Patrick Whitman	Bennington, VT
7/15/2013	Finley Drew Whalen	Hoosick Falls, NY
7/15/2013	Courtney Marie Stone	Sunderland, VT
7/15/2013	Zachary Benjamin Rice	Readsboro, VT
7/17/2013	Raelynn Olivia Knight	Manchester, VT
7/18/2013	Brady Alan Carney	Cambridge, NY
7/20/2013	Amelia Gwyn Bollinger	Bennington, VT
7/21/2013	Cullen Robert Cavagnino	Londonderry, VT
7/22/2013	Brixon Luca Golitko	Manchester Center, VT
7/22/2013	Emmanuel Timothy Lucas Morey	Bennington, VT
7/23/2013	Ashley MaryAnne Burdick	Johnsonville, NY
7/23/2013	Alianah Marie LeBarron	Cambridge, NY
7/23/2013	Zachary Harvey Nicholas	Hoosick Falls, NY
7/24/2013	Willa Else Bushee	Bennington, VT
7/24/2013	Camdyn Allan Doucette	Bennington, VT
7/26/2013	Henry William Briggs	Hoosick Falls, NY
7/29/2013	Isabella Skye McConnell	Bennington, VT
7/29/2013	Blake David Onorato	Shaftsbury, VT
7/29/2013	Easton Matthew Smith	Bennington, VT
7/30/2013	Severi Joseph Davendonis	Hoosick Falls, NY
7/30/2013	Donavan Mathew Nicoll	Bennington, VT
7/30/2013	Landyn Earl Boyer	Bennington, VT
7/31/2013	Skyler Kenneth Jalalian-Hurley	Bennington, VT
8/1/2013	Derek Robert Abbott	Eagle Bridge, NY
8/5/2013	Blake Charles Weber	Johnsonville, NY
8/6/2013	Edith Elizabeth Gardner	Shaftsbury, VT
8/6/2013	Angelique Ellawishes Wilkins	Bennington, VT
8/7/2013	Alexzander Shawn Myers	Eagle Bridge, NY
8/8/2013	Xaidan Abrey Barrett	Bennington, VT
8/8/2013	Abel Kenneth Palmateer	Bennington, VT

8/11/2013	Parker Thomas Betit	Bennington, VT
8/12/2013	Amber Jade Burnham	North Bennington, VT
8/12/2013	Aaliyah Mabel Gates	Pownal, VT
8/12/2013	Jack Ronald Zwynenburg	Pownal, VT
8/13/2013	Daniel Curtis Richland Jr.	Shaftsbury, VT
8/13/2013	Isaiah Thomas Vadala	Bennington, VT
8/15/2013	Kade Chase Brust-Carreau	Cherryplain, NY
8/15/2013	Deklen Michael Tifft	Bennington, VT
8/15/2013	Mason James Woods	Cambridge, NY
8/16/2013	Molly Irina Peacock	Sunderland, VT
8/17/2013	Perrin William Wheeler	West Dover, VT
8/19/2013	Ian Cooper Hatch	Hoosick Falls, NY
8/20/2013	Joseph James Young III	Hoosick Falls, NY
8/22/2013	Piper Ruth Benson	Salem, NY
8/22/2013	River Alexander Ramsvig	Dorset, VT
8/22/2013	Danielle Lynn Hodgins	Danby, VT
8/23/2013	Emerson Elliot Cummings	Arlington, VT
8/24/2013	Jeffrey Arnold Sargood Jr.	Arlington, VT
8/24/2013	Avery Claire Gerdes	Salem, NY
8/26/2013	Bryce Lee Sullivan	Pownal, VT
8/27/2013	Zaevri Antonio Jackson	Bennington, VT
8/27/2013	Sloane Elizabeth McKenna	North Bennington, VT
8/28/2013	Emmit Michael Mayo	Cambridge, NY
8/30/2013	Jackson Tyler Weinburg	Readsboro, VT
8/30/2013	Uriah Jay Taylor	Pownal, VT
8/30/2013	Allison Grace Hutton	Bennington, VT
9/2/2013	Hannah Grace Newton	Bennington, VT
9/3/2013	Patrick Seth Oldham	Bennington, VT
9/3/2013	Dean Westley Guile Jr.	Buskirk, VT
9/4/2013	Bentley Robert Mattison	Arlington, VT
9/5/2013	Gavin William Alexander	Cambridge, NY
9/7/2013	Gavin Jase Harding	Williamstown, MA
9/8/2013	Kyle Karas Adams	Jacksonville, VT
9/8/2013	Shiloh John Woodcock	Cambridge, NY
9/9/2013	Jana Zlata Kendrick	West Rupert, VT
9/9/2013	Sawyer Layne Sprague	Readsboro, VT
9/10/2013	Brinley Jude Williams	Bennington, VT
9/10/2013	Fiera Raven Skye Lucarelli	Eagle Bridge, VT
9/10/2013	Aailiyah Hope Ouellette	Manchester Center, VT
9/10/2013	Claire Amelia Stevens	Shaftsbury, VT
9/11/2013	Lucas Milo Brock	Hoosick Falls, NY
9/11/2013	Aya Mary Loubet	Bennington, VT
9/12/2013	Emma Elizabeth Briggs	Bennington, VT
9/12/2013	Halle Henning Ward	East Dorset, VT
9/13/2013	Harper Madison McCaskill	Hoosick Falls, NY
9/14/2013	Alexa Jean Crandall	Bennington, VT
9/16/2013	Garrett Wilfred Dukette	Hoosick Falls, NY
9/16/2013	Joel Johnathan Haskell	Bennington, VT
9/17/2013	Addisen Lynn Greene	Petersburg, NY
9/17/2013	Greyson William Hughes-Stone	Bennington, VT
9/20/2013	Benjamin Barry Wood	Eagle Bridge, NY
9/21/2013	Rayben Helena Rosas	Bennington, VT
9/21/2013	Noah Michael Zangel	Shushan, NY
9/23/2013	Grady Edward Pinsonneault-Rice	Bennington, VT
9/24/2013	Adelyn Grace Harrington	Greenwich, NY

9/24/2013	Carrin Camry Fetcho	Dorset, VT
9/24/2013	Rylee Ann LaCroix	Bennington, VT
9/24/2013	Gavin Lee LaCross	Bennington, VT
9/25/2013	Allie Anna-Mae Andrew	Berlin, NY
9/25/2013	Ryleigh Elizabeth Harrington	Shaftsbury, VT
9/25/2013	Easton Michael Mason	Petersburg, NY
9/25/2013	Quinnrose Ayres Hastings	Petersburg, NY
9/27/2013	Avalee Rose O'Brien	Bennington, VT
9/28/2013	Lillie Mae Watson	Bennington, VT
10/3/2013	Wyatt Montgomery Sweet	Bennington, VT
10/4/2013	Tyler Joseph McBee Bean	Manchester Center, VT
10/4/2013	Robert Vihn Oakley Frost	Bennington, VT
10/7/2013	Blake Warren Wtherell	Shaftsbury, VT
10/7/2013	Aurora Lynn Lundberg	Morrisville, PN
10/9/2013	Calum Joseph Doran	Arlington, VT
10/10/2013	Adalynn Mae Morse	Manchester, VT
10/12/2013	Robert Dawson Colby	Pownal, VT
10/12/2013	Annabelle Willow Kuzawski	Bennington, VT
10/13/2013	Nickole Tay Gillotti	Bennington, VT
10/14/2013	Karma Renee O'Connor	Wilmington, VT
10/15/2013	Azaria Eleise Funk	Hoosick Falls, NY
10/16/2013	Ashley Lynn Weller	Sunderland, VT
10/18/2013	Talia Bridget Surdam	Bennington, VT
10/18/2013	Addison Sheila Willbrant	Buskirk, NY
10/19/2013	Julius Joseph Alfano	Readsboro, VT
10/21/2013	Leah Judith Dame	Bennington, VT
10/21/2013	Adrianna Marie Brown	Hoosick Falls, NY
10/21/2013	Nicholas John Brown	Hoosick Falls, NY
10/22/2013	Elestra Selah Wargo	Buskirk, NY
10/24/2013	Natalie Amoya Burrell	Bennington, VT
10/24/2013	Lilian Mae Cook	Granville, NY
10/24/2013	Estella Patricia Myers	Bennington, VT
10/27/2013	Mason William Gregory Tudor	Hoosick Falls, NY
10/29/2013	Noah Thomas Lyons	Bennington, VT
10/31/2013	Jacob Forino Truoiolo-Peckham	Bennington, VT
11/4/2013	Bodrie Tyler Kurtz	Shaftsbury, VT
11/4/2013	Joy Guilianna Adrina Adriana Olvera	Shushan, NY
11/5/2013	Daniel Michael Coonradt Jr.	Hoosick Falls, NY
11/5/2013	Addison Lynne Myers	Shaftsbury, VT
11/5/2013	Kyler Charles Ely	Bennington, VT
11/5/2013	Caidynce Emily Burdick	Hoosick Falls, NY
11/6/2013	Chloe Anne Collins	Whitingham, VT
11/6/2013	Sojourner Thorne	Pownal, VT
11/6/2013	Marshall Jacob Mulligan	Hoosick Falls, NY
11/7/2013	Declan Ryan Thomayer	Bennington, VT
11/7/2013	Aria May Herrmann	Bennington, VT
11/8/2013	Tegan Dawn Borton	Poestenkill, NY
11/9/2013	Anthony Richard deLeon	Berlin, NY
11/12/2013	Fiona August Healy	Sunderland, VT
11/13/2013	Joel Alexander Marko	Arlington, VT
11/13/2013	Christopher David Lyttle Jr.	Bennington, VT
11/13/2013	Kendall Mae Bettis	Eagle Bridge, NY
11/14/2013	Olivia Diane Gates	Hoosick Falls, NY
11/15/2013	Brandon Mitchell Sherman	Bennington, VT
11/15/2013	Matteus Lennon Davie	Manchester, VT

11/15/2013	Madeline Nichole Brady	Bennington, VT
11/16/2013	Lucas Tanner Duffany	Arlington, VT
11/18/2013	Tatem Rockwell Einsig	Arlington, VT
11/18/2013	Cecilia Margaret Bolio	Bennington, VT
11/20/2013	Kadence Marie Neilson	White Creek, NY
11/21/2013	Ellery Idell Rollend	Cambridge, NY
11/22/2013	Jayceon Kyrie Woodson	Bennington, VT
11/22/2013	Lucy Ann Miner	Pownal, VT
11/26/2013	Kaydnn Quinn Stifter	Petersburg, NY
11/26/2013	Alexis Joyce Gates	Bennington, VT
11/27/2013	Logan James Gulley	Bennington, VT
11/27/2013	Drayden James Whalen	Albany, NY
11/27/2013	Jordyn Jaelyn Stratton	Shaftsbury, VT
11/28/2013	Ashton Charles Boyer	Bennington, VT
11/28/2013	Duncan Bruce Thompson III	Stephentown, NY
11/29/2013	Justin Quinn Jr.	Pownal, VT
11/30/2013	Maxim Everett Burrell	Bennington, VT
11/30/2013	Thomas James Foucher	Hoosick Falls, NY
12/1/2013	Owen Raymond Spencer	Cambridge, NY
12/1/2013	Cora Dorothy Stewart	Salem, NY
12/2/2013	Izaic James Crandall	Bennington, VT
12/2/2013	Noah Edwin Appelman	Sunderland, VT
12/3/2013	Emmett Scott Clark	Buskirk, NY
12/3/2013	Ethan Gregory Dolph	Cambridge
12/4/2013	Omar Christopher Long	Bennington, VT
12/6/2013	Gaspar Emiliano Stappung	Readsboro, VT
12/6/2013	Milo Allyn Eames	Shaftsbury, VT
12/8/2013	Bryce Aiden Jones	Arlington, VT
12/9/2013	Brayden Joseph Hughes	Bennington, VT
12/9/2013	Lucas Wayne Young	Eagle Bridge, NY
12/12/2013	Maurice Allen Burgess	Dorset, VT
12/12/2013	James Gordon Hyland	North Bennington, VT
12/12/2013	Karrianna Sophia Rose Reynolds	Bennington, VT
12/13/2013	Aubree Belinda Harrington	Hoosick Falls, NY
12/13/2013	Emma Mary Rose Jacobsen	Hoosick Falls, NY
12/15/2013	Annastyn Eva Bentley	Eagle Bridge, NY
12/15/2013	Silvia Elizabeth Bratianu	West Pawlet, VT
12/16/2013	Avery Isabella Beagle	Bennington, VT
12/17/2013	Paisly Allison O'Donovan	Shaftsbury, VT
12/17/2013	Jacob Roy Lundy Jr.	Cambridge, NY
12/18/2013	Zooey Marie Jeandell	Bennington, VT
12/18/2013	Angus Stevenson McDougall	Shaftsbury, VT
12/19/2013	Marquis Mathew Herbert	Bennington, VT
12/19/2013	Baylen Scott Morse	Bennington, VT
12/20/2013	Kody Blake Bessette	Bennington, VT
12/21/2013	Angelina Ann Hayden	Cambridge, NY
12/24/2013	Jayden Xavier Reed	Bennington, VT
12/25/2013	Charles Samuel Duffy	Landgrove, VT
12/26/2013	Isabella Elizabeth Hurlburt	Hoosick Falls, NY
12/27/2013	Sierra Lillian Tobin	Pawlet, VT
12/30/2013	Leela Ann Begiebing	North Pownal, VT
12/30/2013	Sylvia Ann McKenna	Williamstown, MA
12/30/2013	Trinity Elizabeth Salmon	Manchester Center, VT
12/31/2013	Jackson Curtis Drew	Bennington, VT
12/31/2013	Logan Emmett Peles	Bennington, VT

2013 Land Postings

Date Filed	Property Owner	Location	Acreage
10/21/2013	Bates, Randall E.	210 Michaels Drive/825 Houghton Ln	14
10/11/2013	Beal, Elizabeth	1819 Monument Avenue	220
10/11/2013	Beal, Susan	1601 Monument Avenue	43
3/13/2013	Denio, Christopher E.	Chapel Road/Nathan Drive	90
1/18/2013	Fund for North Bennington	Park St, West St, McCullough Rd	44.7
10/29/2013	Hall-Fleming, Patricia	River Road/Orebed Road	215
11/4/2013	Heys, Edward	268 Pippen Knoll	2
4/4/2013	Holland Company	Gore Road	66
10/7/2013	Irish, Robert	85 Red Pine Road	72
10/21/2013	Jaffe, Edward	334 Eaton Road	13
11/15/2013	Kachmar, Wayne M.	514 Orebed Road	50
11/14/2013	Leone, Ronald	593 US Rt 7 South	4
1/11/2013	Lettre, Michael	150 Gore Road	5
9/6/2013	Pence, Suzanne	Pippen Knoll, west side	11
11/4/2013	Pilachowski, Marsha & David	324 Pippin Knoll,	3

2013 First Class Liquor Licenses

150 Depot LLC
 Allegro Ristorante
 American Legion Post 13
 Aramark Dining Hall
 Aramark Student Center
 Bennington College Commons
 Bennington College Student Center
 Bennington Lanes
 Bennington Pizza House
 Bennington Pizza Plaza
 Bennington Sports Center
 Brown Cow Café
 Chili's Grill & Bar
 Dreaming Tree Inc.
 Eagles, Frat. Order of, aerie 1861
 Elks, BPO Benn. Lodge 567
 Four Chimneys Inn

2013 Second Class Liquor Licenses

1 Aldi
 2 Apple Barn
 3 AUM Inc.
 4 Bennington Beverage Outlet
 Beshara's Discount Beverage &
 Groceries
 5
 6 Beverage Den & Smoke Shop
 7 Beverage Den Inc.
 8 Cumberland Farms #8006
 9 CVS Pharmacy 337
 10 D's Market & Deli Inc.
 11 Elm Street Market
 12 Fleming Oil Company
 13 Hannaford Food & Drug Store
 14 Henry's Market
 15 Kmart
 16 Madison Brewing Company
 17 Martin's Mini Mart & Beverage

	Discount
Harredd LLC	18 Maruti Inc.
JC's Tavern ©	19 Mincer's Mini Mart
Jensens Restaurant	20 North Bennington Variety
Kevin's Sports Pub & Restaurant	21 Northshire Brewery
Madison Brewing Company, Pub & Restaurant	22 Powers Market
Moose, Loyal Order of Lodge 1233	23 Price Chopper #171
Mt. Anthony Golf & Tennis Club	24 Rite Aid #10314
Oldcastle Theatre	25 River Street Variety
Pangaea	26 Short Stop #117
Papa Pete's	27 Short Stop #145
Peppermill's of Bennington	28 Stewarts Shop #195
Pizza Hut	29 Tennybrook
Publyk House	30 Walmart
Ramuntos Pizza	31 Willy's Variety
RT Ryan's ©	
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1332	
Your Belly's Deli	

2013 Tobacco Only Licenses

Family Dollar
Paulin, Inc.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER**

205 SOUTH STREET
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201
802-442-1046
July 29, 2013

Cash Flow and Account Balances as of June 30, 2013

CASH FLOW:	<u>06/01/2013 – 06/30/2013</u>	<u>07/01/2012 – 06/30/2013</u>
Beginning Balance	\$605,448.89	\$443,887.15
ADD:		
Interest	\$91.25	\$8,600.99
Various Town Receipts	\$737,623.92	\$28,309,152.94
Tax Anticipation Line of Credit	\$0.00	\$1,707,207.60
Special Line of Credit Draw (Irene)	\$760.00	\$884,079.93
Line of Credit – Rec Center	\$0.00	\$564,365.95
Capital Equipment Note (Truck)	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$309,707.00</u>
Total Available Cash	\$1,343,924.06	\$32,227,001.56
 SUBTRACT:		
Disbursements:		
Payroll Warrants	\$398,163.74	\$5,274,633.27
Vendor Warrants	\$375,560.87	\$24,363,041.34
Vendor Warrants – Irene	\$760.00	\$1,015,291.64
Vendor Warrant – Rec Center	\$0.00	\$569,616.82
Prepaid Checks	\$864.85	\$219,237.39
Prepaid Checks – Irene		\$0.00
Vendor Payments	\$37,829.01	\$254,306.30
Check Order	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$129.21</u>
Total Disbursements	\$813,178.47	\$31,696,255.97
 Cash Balance on June 30, 2013	<u><u>\$530,745.59</u></u>	<u><u>\$530,745.59</u></u>

Respectfully submitted,
Joan E. Pinsoneault, Town Treasurer

Operating Accounts

	<u>INTEREST</u>		<u>BALANCE</u>
	06/01/2013- 06/30/2013	07/01/2012- 06/30/2013	06/30/2013
<u>Chittenden Bank:</u>			
MBA Affiliate Dep. *9633	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$190,000.00
MBA Depository *7505	\$91.25	\$8,600.99	\$295,745.59
General Fund Checking Acct. *0543	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Payroll Checking Acct. *0551	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
Flexible Spending Acct. *8912	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
TOTALS	\$91.25	\$8,600.99	\$530,745.59

NOTES

AGENCIES

The following agencies received monies in the amount shown from the Town of Bennington's General Fund in 2013:

Bennington Coalition for the Homeless Incorporated - \$7,500.00
Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) - \$13,980.00
Bennington Free Clinic - \$7,500.00
Bennington Free Library - \$369,150.00
Bennington Project Independence, Inc. (BPI) - \$11,000.00
BROC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont - \$7,500.00
Green Mountain Retired Senior Volunteer Program - \$7,200.00
John G. McCullough Free Library - \$13,400.00
North Bennington Recreation - \$5,000.00
Paran Recreations, Inc - \$2,700.00
Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) - \$3,150.00
Southwestern Vermont Council On Aging - \$7,500.00
The Tutorial Center - \$7,200.00
The Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Southwestern Vermont Health Care- \$21,600.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living - \$4,500.00

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY
130 RIVER STREET – 3RD Floor
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

MONDAY, MARCH 04, 2013

MINUTES

MODERATOR: Jim Colvin (*Absent*)

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Krawczyk – Chair; Sharyn Brush – Vice Chair; Jim Carroll; Greg Van Houten; Jason Morrissey; Justin Corcoran; Chris Oldham; Tim Corcoran – Town Clerk; Stuart Hurd-Town Manager; Joan Pinsonneault-Treasurer; Dan Monks-Zoning Administrator; Michele Johnson-Human Resources & Contracts Administrator; Michael Harrington-Economic & Community Development Director; Terry Morse-Water Resources Superintendent; John Shannahan-Better Bennington Corp (BBC); Neal Goswami, Bennington Banner; Patrick McArdle, Rutland Herald; (77) Citizens; Linda E. Bermudez - Secretary

At 7:00 P.M., **Joe Krawczyk** called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Krawczyk, recited by all. Mr. Krawczyk announced the moderator was not present this evening. He asked for a motion from the floor to elect an interim moderator for this evening.

Motion: **Jason Morrissey** motioned and **Jim Carroll** seconded to nominate **Tim Corcoran** for interim moderator. **Motion passed unanimously (verbally).**

Tim Corcoran accepted and read the Town warning:

“The residents of the Town of Bennington qualified by law to vote in Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance) in said Town on Monday, March 4, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., or immediately following the Bennington School District’s Annual meeting should that run over, to transact the business specified to be done from the floor.

If you are a resident of the Town of Bennington, intend to be present at the meeting and are hearing impaired, arrangements will be made for a sign interpreter to be present at this meeting. For necessary arrangements, please contact Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager at the Bennington Town Offices, 205 South Street, P.O. Box 469, Bennington, VT - (802) 442-1037 no later than Friday, February 22, 2013.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at The Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance). The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the election of officers and voting on all ballot articles specified. However, those on the checklist to vote in the Village of North Bennington shall vote for the election of officers and on all ballot articles at the North Bennington Village Office on Main Street in North Bennington. The Bennington Fire Facility above mentioned, is hereby established as the central polling place for those on the checklist to vote in said Bennington. The deadline for registering to vote is February 27, 2013 at 5:00 P.M. at the Bennington Town Clerk’s Office.”

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR

Monday, March 4, 2013 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 1: TOWN REPORT: To hear the report of Town Officers and to take appropriate action thereon.

Motion: Motion to accept the Town Report as submitted was made by the floor and seconded (verbally). Motion passed unanimously (verbally).

ARTICLE 2: SELECT BOARD MEMBERS COMPENSATION: To determine what compensation shall be paid to the Town Select Board Members.

Motion: Motion to keep compensation for Town Select Board Members the same as last fiscal year (no change in compensation) was made by the floor and seconded (verbally). Motion passed unanimously (verbally).

ARTICLE 3: OTHER BUSINESS: To transact such other proper business when met.

Joe Krawczyk asked to have the floor to recognize the Mount Anthony Wrestling Team and their accomplishments. Mr. Krawczyk asked the Team and their coaches to come before those present. Mr. Krawczyk announced that the Mount Anthony Wrestling team, guided by their coaches had broken a national record by winning 25 consecutive State Championships. They have also broken the national record for most individual championships in the High School division. Mr. Krawczyk read each of the coach's names (present and not present) to acknowledge their dedication and hard work including Scott Legacy. He addressed the Wrestling team adding that the things that these coaches have taught you, dedication, hard work and discipline, will take them far in life. Mr. Krawczyk announced that a new sign would be posted in town noting this team's accomplishment and adding that they have also won 7 New England Championships.

Coach Legacy spoke at this time and thanked the parents, the High School, the Town of Bennington and all the families for their support over the years.

Mr. Corcoran resumed as moderator, asking if there was any additional other business to be discussed. He reminded those present that once the "other business" article closes for discussion, the ballot items would be read.

Mary Garesh stepped up to speak. She announced she was present tonight to propose a resolution against transporting tar sands oil through Vermont. Ms. Garesh went on to explain that this oil is very toxic. The pipelines themselves proposed are ceramic and are leaky. These lines run underneath Vermont's water tables and would be hazardous to drinking water and farm land. She also noted that Canada is opposed to this as well. Ms. Garesh read the resolution as such:

Now, therefore be it resolved: That the Town expresses its opposition to the transport of tar sands oil through Vermont, and its deep concern about the risks of such transport for public health and safety, property values, and our natural resources and will therefore:

- 1) Encourage the State of Vermont to phase out fuel purchases from vendors whose refinery sources of origin use any form of tar sands; and*
- 2) call upon the Vermont State Legislature to ensure thorough environmental impact reviews of any tar sands related pipeline proposals, including the health and safety impacts of potential tar sands oil spills, along with clear guidelines for tracking the origins and chemical composition of pipeline contents and feedstock.*

Mr. Corcoran asked for any additional comments. There were none.

Vote was to approval of the resolution submitted and read.

Mr. Corcoran then reminded the public that a resolution is not binding. It is simply a clear statement regarding an issue.

Al Ray stepped forward to ask a question regarding the value stated in the financial section of the Town Report. He noted there had been a significant jump in the value of the Town's parking lots. Stuart Hurd, Town Manager stated that it was a change in the net assets as determined by both the Town's Auditors and Financial Director. Mr. Ray asked if the Select Board had any input or influence on this change. Mr. Hurd explained the Select Board had nothing to do with the asset evaluations. The Town is now required to have a value in place for every asset; this was a refinement of that value.

Mr. Ray then asked if the present Federal Sequester that was recently put in place would have any effect on the anticipated FEMA money the Town is hoping to receive. The Manager explained that it should not have any effect. The FEMA money the Town has been waiting for was appropriated two years ago. The Town is only waiting for eligibility verification.

At this time, the Treasurer Joan Pinsonneault spoke to remind all property owners to file their Declaration of Homestead. New rules have been put in place. All properties have been set by the state as NON-residential and it is up to the property owner to file the Declaration of Homestead if they owned and lived in their home as a primary residence in 2012. There was further discussion on the additional forms to be filed and their identification numbers. Ms. Pinsonneault noted that the elderly are particularly of concern because many do not file income taxes. However they still must file the Declaration of Homestead to receive the lower school rate in the Town of Bennington.

Joe Krawczyk noted that two of the Select Board members were not running for re-election. He acknowledged and thanked both Chris Oldham and Jason Morrissey for their many years of service. Mr. Krawczyk stated how difficult it could be to balance a career and the duties of being a Select Board member. Both have done very well and given great amount of diversity over their time.

Tim Corcoran at this time acknowledged the retirement of Jim Colvin as Moderator and thanked him as well for his many years of service.

There were no "other business" topics discussed. Therefore, Mr. Corcoran went on to read the ballot for March 5, 2013:

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013
THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE**

TOWN CLERK ELECTION. A Town Clerk residing in the Town shall be elected for a term of three (3) years.

TOWN TREASURER ELECTION. A Town Treasurer residing in the Town shall be elected for term of three (3) years.

TOWN MODERATOR ELECTION. A Town Moderator residing in the Town shall be elected for terms of three (3) years.

SELECT BOARD ELECTION. Three Select Board Members residing in the Town shall be elected for terms of three (3) years.

ARTICLE 1: *Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, the total sum of \$10,964,750.00 consisting of the following: \$3,621,210.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$7,343,540.00 for the payment of the following: Any indebtedness not otherwise specifically provided for, interest on indebtedness, legally authorized State and County taxes, the prosecution and defense of the common rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Town, and for other necessary incidental expenses?*

The proposed budget includes \$30,000.00 for fire equipment, \$10,000.00 for fire communication equipment, \$10,000.00 for parking improvements, \$50,000.00 for highway bridge repair and \$214,780.00 for healthcare reserve and workers compensation insurance, any unexpended portion of which will be reserved to subsequent years for that purpose.

Comments: *None*

ARTICLE 2: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$2,700.00 for Paran Recreation, Inc.?*

Comments: Scott Malinowski stepped forward to comment that all the requests for additional funding are written as “shall the voters increase”. He feels that the whole dollar amount should be noted, not just the increase for each item.

Greg Van Houten further explained that this was not an increase for each organization over their amount last year it is an increase to the town budget. Sharyn Brush noted that previously all the organization amounts were lumped together as an all or nothing. Now the voters may individually choose which organizations will receive the funds from taxpayer money.

ARTICLE 3: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$3,150.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?*

Comment: *None*

ARTICLE 4: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$4,500.00 for Vermont Center for Independent Living?*

Comment: *None*

ARTICLE 5: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$7,200.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?*

Comment: *None*

ARTICLE 6: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$7,200.00 for The Tutorial Center?*

Comment: *None*

ARTICLE 7: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Coalition For The Homeless, Inc.?*

Comment: Joe Krawczyk noted that at the last Select Board meeting, the acting manager of the Coalition for the Homeless stated if voter approved, they could not accept this money at this time. The Coalition’s manager explained they are currently working under a strict financial

crisis. Once their financials have been audited and put into place they would then be able to accept funding again. Mr. Krawczyk furthered by stating the Select Board advised the Coalition for the Homeless that in order to receive any voter approved monies, their correct financials must be submitted to the Select Board before the tax rate was set in June 2013

Chris Oldham identified himself as a Select Board member and a member of the board for the Coalition for the Homeless. He furthered by stating that all the financials will be in place and urged the residents to vote yes.

ARTICLE 8: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?*

Comment: Bruce Lee Clark stepped forward and identified himself as the President of the Interfaith Council. He stated that 80% of the people who utilize the Bennington Free Clinic are from Bennington. Mr. Clark advised the voters that the council does also request monies from surrounding areas as well. The clinic not only serves those who come in but also helps them attain state insurance for the future. Mr. Clark thanked the 80+ volunteers that help run this clinic and noted that without their time and assistance the clinic would not be possible.

Dr. Dundas stepped forward to continue by thanking all those that participated in the fundraiser for the clinic at Prospect Mountain. He also wanted to recognize the generosity and hard work of the Mount Anthony Nordic Ski Team who sponsored the fundraiser. They also raised \$2,000 themselves for this cause. They are good students, athletes and citizens.

ARTICLE 9: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for BROCC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?*

Comment: Maryanne St. John stepped forward to thank the community. This past year BROCC was able to assist 3,500 households. She furthered by stating these households are made up of elderly, singles, and families. They are able to assist them with things like food, housing, tax preparations, fuel, micro-business development and budget management services. The taxpayer's assistance and support is not taken for granted and greatly appreciated.

ARTICLE 10: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?*

Comment: None

ARTICLE 11: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?*

Comment: None

ARTICLE 12: *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2014 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (Southwestern Vermont Health Care)?*

Comment: None

Tim Corcoran, interim Moderator asked to close the meeting.

Motion: **Motion to close the meeting was made from the floor (verbally). Motion was seconded from the floor (verbally). Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda E. Bermudez, Secretary

TOWN MEETING ELECTION RESULTS
MARCH 5, 2013
TALLY SHEET

Benn N. Benn Total

TOWN CLERK

Timothy R. Corcoran	1874	192	2066
And the said CORCORAN was declared elected.			

TOWN TREASURER

Joan E. Pinsonneault	1749	175	1924
And the said PINSONNEAULT was declared elected.			

TOWN MODERATOR

Jason P. Morrissey	1648	157	1805
And the said MORRISSEY was declared elected.			

SELECT BOARD (THREE to be elected)

Mike Bethel	539	48	587
Peter J. Brady Sr.	681	52	733
Sharyn Brush	836	88	924
Thomas H. Jacobs	1213	133	1346
John McFadden	900	121	1021
Charles R. "Chuck" Putney	676	91	767
Eugene "Gene" Rowley	439	28	467
And the said BRUSH, JACOBS, AND MCFADDEN were declared elected.			

ARTICLE 1: Budget

Yes	1397	175	1572
No	609	46	655
And it was so voted.			

**ARTICLE 2: Paran
Rec**

Yes	1081	183	1264
No	895	36	931
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 3: PAVE

Yes	1163	161	1324
No	816	56	872
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 4: Independent Living

Yes	1303	168	1471
No	663	46	709
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 5: RSVP

Yes	1257	165	1422
No	709	51	760
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 6: Tutorial Ctr

Yes	1099	151	1250
No	874	62	936
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 7: Coalition for Homeless

Yes	1075	140	1215
No	893	75	968
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 8: Free Clinic

Yes	1457	189	1646
No	540	34	574
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 9: BROCC

Yes	1002	152	1154
No	948	60	1008
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 10: Council on Aging

Yes	1207	165	1372
No	761	47	808
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 11: BPI

Yes	1212	161	1373
No	760	55	815
And it was so voted.			

ARTICLE 12: VNA & Hospice

Yes	1376	185	1561
No	612	33	645
And it was so voted.			

-WARNING-
TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The residents of the Town of Bennington qualified by law to vote in Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance) in said Town on Monday, March 3, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., or immediately following the Bennington School District's Annual meeting should that run over, to transact the business specified to be done from the floor.

If you are a resident of the Town of Bennington, intend to be present at the meeting and are hearing impaired, arrangements will be made for a sign interpreter to be present at this meeting. For necessary arrangements, please contact Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager at the Bennington Town Offices, 205 South Street, P.O. Box 469, Bennington, VT - (802) 442-1037 no later than Friday, February 21, 2014.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at The Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance). The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. for the election of officers and voting on all ballot articles specified. However, those on the checklist to vote in the Village of North Bennington shall vote for the election of officers and on all ballot articles at the North Bennington Village Office on Main Street in North Bennington. The Bennington Fire Facility above mentioned, is hereby established as the central polling place for those on the checklist to vote in said Bennington. The deadline for registering to vote is February 26, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. at the Bennington Town Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR

Monday, March 3, 2014

7:00 P.M.

- ARTICLE 1. TOWN REPORT: To hear the report of Town Officers and to take appropriate action thereon.
- ARTICLE 2. SELECT BOARD MEMBERS COMPENSATION: To determine what compensation shall be paid to the Town Select Board Members.
- ARTICLE 3. OTHER BUSINESS: To transact such other proper business when met.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014
THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE

SELECT BOARD ELECTION. Two Select Board Members residing in the Town shall be elected for terms of three (3) years.

- ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, the total sum of \$11,532,350.00 consisting of the following: \$3,864,460.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$7,667,890.00 for the payment of the following: Any indebtedness not otherwise specifically provided for, interest on indebtedness, legally authorized State and County taxes, the prosecution and defense of the common rights and interests of the inhabitants of the Town, and for other necessary incidental expenses?

The proposed budget includes \$40,000.00 for fire equipment, \$10,000.00 for parking improvements, \$50,000.00 for highway bridge repair and \$296,610.00 for healthcare reserve and workers compensation insurance, any unexpended portion of which will be reserved to subsequent years for that purpose.

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 2. Shall the bonds of the Town of Bennington in an amount not to exceed \$3.3 million be issued for the purpose of constructing a water tank, pump station, and water mains on the lands of Southern Vermont College to address water pressure inadequacies in portions of the municipal water system?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$3,150.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$4,500.00 for Vermont Center For Independent Living?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$7,200.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$7,200.00 for The Tutorial Center?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for BROCC - Community Action In Southwestern Vermont?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence, Adult Day Service?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

YES ☐
NO ☐

BY THE SELECT BOARD

Joseph Krawczyk, Jr., Chair

Sharyn L. Brush, Vice Chair

Jim Carroll

Justin J. Corcoran

Thomas H. Jacobs

John C. McFadden

Greg Van Houten

Dated at Bennington, Vermont this 27th day of January, 2014.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Financial Statements and Schedules
June 30, 2013
(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

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SECTION I

FINANCIAL SECTION



Independent Auditor's Report

The Select Board
Town of Bennington, Vermont

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Bennington, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bennington, Vermont, as of June 30, 2013, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 55 - 62, the budgetary comparison information on pages 90 - 94, and the schedule of funding progress on page 95 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Bennington, Vermont's basic financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 17, 2014, on our consideration of the Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs, P.C.

January 17, 2014

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2013**

The management's discussion and analysis of the Town of Bennington, Vermont's financial performance provides an overview of the Town's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. It focuses on the year-end results and provides an objective analysis of the various funds the Town operates in the conduct of its business from a management perspective. It discusses both the government-wide and fund-based financial statements. Please read it in conjunction with the Town's financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Town's combined net position was \$19,940,959 at June 30, 2013, an increase of \$668,759 from last year. The principal reason for this increase is an increase in Capital Assets and a decrease in Total Liabilities (See Table 1). The impact of Hurricane Irene continues to affect the Town's liabilities; however, as indicated earlier, those liabilities declined from last year to this year.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial section of this report consists of three parts: Managements' Discussion and Analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and additional required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the Town. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the Town as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Town's finances. Fund financial statements for governmental activities tell how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the Town's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the Town's most significant funds. The remaining statements provide financial information about activities for which the Town acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of those outside of the government.

Government-wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities are also referred to as the Government-wide financial statements. These statements report information about the Town and its activities as a whole. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Town's net position and changes in net position. You can think of the Town's net position - the difference between assets and liabilities - as one way to measure the Town's financial health, or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Town's net position are one indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. You will need to consider other non-financial factors, however, such as changes in the Town's property tax base and the condition of the Town's roads, to assess the overall health of the Town.

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, report two kinds of activities:

- Governmental activities - Most of the Town's basic services are reported here, including the police, fire, public works, community development, and recreation departments, and general administration. Property taxes and state and federal grants finance most of these activities.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2013**

- Business-type activities - The Town charges a fee to customers to help it cover all or most of the cost of certain services it provides. The Town's water and sewer system and parking facilities are reported here.

Fund Financial Statements

The remaining statements are fund financial statements that focus on individual parts of the Town, reporting the Town's operations in more detail than the Town-wide statements.

- The Governmental Funds - Most of the Town's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Town's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Town's programs. The differences between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds are reconciled in the schedules following each of the governmental fund financial statements.
- The Proprietary Funds - When the Town charges customers for the services it provides - whether to outside customers or to other units of the Town - these services are generally reported in Proprietary funds. Proprietary funds are reported in the same way that all activities are reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of the Town's General Fund budget to reported results for the year.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2013

The following table summarizes the major features of the Town's financial statements, including the portion of the Town's activities they cover and the types of information they contain.

Major Features of the Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

	Government-Wide Statements	Fund Financial Statements	
		Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
Scope	Entire Town (except fiduciary funds)	The activities of the Town that are not proprietary or fiduciary. Includes general fund and special revenue funds.	The activities of the Town for which a fee is charged to external users (such as water and wastewater treatment activities).
Required financial statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statement of net assets - Statement of activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balance sheet - Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statement of net assets or balance sheet - Statement of revenues, expenses and changes in fund net assets - Statement of cash flows
Accounting basis and measurement focus	Accrual basis of accounting and economic resources measurement focus	Modified accrual basis of accounting and current financial resources measurement focus	Accrual basis of accounting and economic resources measurement focus
Type of asset/liability information	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term	Generally, assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets or long-term liabilities included	All assets and liabilities, both short-term and long-term; including capital assets
Type of inflow/outflow information	All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and the related liability is due and payable	All additions and deductions during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2013**

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TOWN AS A WHOLE

This section summarizes information and data as related to the Statements of Net Position as of June 30, 2013 and 2012 and the Statements of Activities for the years then ended.

Government-Wide Statements

The Town's combined net position increased by approximately \$668,759 to \$19,940,959 at June 30, 2013. Our analysis below focuses on the net position (Table 1) and changes in net position (Table 2) of the Town's governmental and business-type activities.

**Table 1
Net Assets
(in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Current and other assets	\$ 4,786	5,710	1,896	1,649	6,682	7,359
Capital assets	14,413	13,563	12,512	12,512	26,925	26,075
Total assets	19,199	19,273	14,408	14,161	33,607	33,434
Current liabilities	(5,801)	(5,976)	(471)	(842)	(6,272)	(6,818)
Long-term liabilities	(1,455)	(1,555)	(5,939)	(5,789)	(7,394)	(7,344)
Total liabilities	(7,256)	(7,531)	(6,410)	(6,631)	(13,666)	(14,162)
Net position:						
Invested in capital						
assets, net of debt	13,294	12,311	6,573	6,434	19,867	18,745
Restricted	3,407	3,457	-	-	3,407	3,457
Unrestricted	(4,758)	(4,026)	1,425	1,096	(3,333)	(2,930)
Total net position	\$ 11,943	11,742	7,998	7,530	19,941	19,272

The Town's liquidity - the ability to pay for its immediate obligations - is measured by comparing current assets to current liabilities. The Town has current assets approximately 1.1 times greater than its current liabilities.

The Town's solvency - the ability to fulfill its total obligations - is measured by comparing debt-to-assets ratio and debt-to-net assets ratio. Debt-to-assets ratio, which equals approximately 40.7%, computes the percent of assets financed with debt. Debt-to-net assets ratio, which equals approximately 68.5%, computes the amount owed for debt on every dollar that the Town has available for use providing programs.

Based on liabilities of \$13.7 million and total assessed property value of \$1,007 million, the Town's total obligations represent approximately \$1.36 per \$100 of 2012-13 assessed property value. Per capita obligations - the amount of total liabilities per person - is approximately \$850 for the Town, based on total population of approximately 16,000 as reported in the 2010 Federal Census Report.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2013

The Town's capital assets (Table 1), such as infrastructure, buildings and equipment, less outstanding debt used to acquire them, amounted to \$19.9 and \$18.7 million at June 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. These assets represent the largest portion of the Town's net assets. Although the \$19.9 million of the Town's net capital assets are reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

At June 30, 2013, net assets of \$3.4 million (Table 1) have been restricted by the voters or sources external to the Town to be used for specific purposes.

Table 2
Changes in Net Position
(in Thousands)

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Revenues:						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 513	510	3,746	4,657	4,259	5,167
Grants and contributions	1,242	2,698	199	354	1,441	3,052
General revenues:						
Property taxes	8,980	8,569	-	-	8,980	8,569
Other general revenues	566	393	25	22	591	415
Total revenues	<u>11,301</u>	<u>12,170</u>	<u>3,970</u>	<u>5,033</u>	<u>15,271</u>	<u>17,203</u>
Program expenses:						
General government	2,684	2,476	-	-	2,684	2,476
Public safety	3,475	3,516	-	-	3,475	3,516
Public works	112	104	-	-	112	104
Community development	72	126	-	-	72	126
Health and welfare	47	52	-	-	47	52
Recreation	713	716	-	-	713	716
Highways and roads	3,398	4,148	-	-	3,398	4,148
Highways and roads						
- Hurricane Irene flood	40	4,622	-	-	40	4,622
Library	371	361	-	-	371	361
Interest on long-term debt	104	20	-	-	104	20
Water	-	-	1,876	1,991	1,876	1,991
Wastewater treatment	-	-	1,472	1,396	1,472	1,396
Parking	-	-	24	335	24	335
Total expenses	<u>11,016</u>	<u>16,141</u>	<u>3,372</u>	<u>3,722</u>	<u>14,388</u>	<u>19,863</u>
Excess (deficiency) before transfers and adjustments	285	(3,971)	598	1,311	883	(2,660)
Transfers	130	130	(130)	(130)	-	-
Prior period adjustment	(214)	-	-	-	(214)	-
Increase (decrease) in net position	<u>\$ 201</u>	<u>(3,841)</u>	<u>468</u>	<u>1,181</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>(2,660)</u>

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2013**

Net position of the Town's governmental activities (Table 2) increased by approximately 1.7% or \$201 thousand as reported in Table 2 for the year ended June 30, 2013, including net operating transfers from business-type activities of \$130 thousand. The unrestricted net position deficit comprises approximately 39.6% of the total net position of governmental activities at June 30, 2013.

The net position related to business-type activities increased by approximately \$468 thousand for the year ended June 30, 2013.

**Table 3
Governmental Activities
(in Thousands)**

	2013		2012	
	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services
General government	\$ 2,684	2,192	2,476	1,896
Police department	3,148	2,896	3,182	2,989
Fire department	327	322	334	315
Public works	112	99	104	72
Community development	72	(42)	126	(406)
Health and welfare	47	47	52	52
Recreation	713	624	716	626
Highways and roads	3,398	3,052	4,148	3,772
Highways and roads - Hurricane Irene flood	40	(403)	4,622	3,236
Library	371	371	361	361
Interest on long-term debt	104	104	20	20
	\$ 11,016	9,262	16,141	12,933

The costs of providing governmental services (Table 3) amounted to approximately \$11.0 and \$16.1 million for the years ended June 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The cost of providing services is offset by charges for services and program-specific operating and capital grants, resulting in a net cost of services amounting to approximately \$9.3 million for the year ended June 30, 2013 as compared with \$12.9 million in the prior fiscal year. The net cost of services is funded by property taxes, investment earnings and grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2013**

**Table 4
Capital Assets at Year-end
(Net of Depreciation, in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Land and land improvements	\$ 522	529	265	282	787	811
Construction in progress	54	324	57	379	111	703
Distribution and collection systems	-	-	3,670	3,069	3,670	3,069
Buildings and improvements	2,822	2,324	7,958	8,351	10,780	10,675
Equipment and vehicles	1,588	1,777	562	431	2,150	2,208
Infrastructure	9,427	8,608	-	-	9,427	8,608
Totals	\$ 14,413	13,562	12,512	12,512	26,925	26,074

The Town moved forward with several small capital projects. It completed another phase of the Northside Drive water main project, originally estimated at \$285,000. Two phases remain to be completed over the next two fiscal years. The Highway Department and Water Department both purchased tandem dump trucks utilizing the State's Highway Equipment Fund. The total cost estimated at \$270,000 will be spread over 7 years to minimize the impact on the annual budgets for each department. The Town also completed the renovations to the Recreation Center using bond funds approved by the voters. This project results in the appearance of an over-expenditure in the Recreation budget. Tropical Storm Irene expenses are shown as a \$596,435 excess expenditure. Borrowed funds covered this expense.

A two-year study of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and system completed last year is now being used to guide selected projects. Using this study, the Town Sewer Department purchased a "Muffin Monster" at an estimated cost of \$67,800. This piece of equipment, in spite of its cute nomenclature, shreds material coming into the plant and separates it from the waste stream. The study identified this as a necessary addition to the plant.

**Table 5
Outstanding Debt, at Year-end
(In Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2011
General obligation bonds	\$ 991	1,024	5,939	6,078	6,930	7,102
Capital lease obligations	129	228	-	-	129	228
Totals	\$ 1,120	1,252	5,939	6,078	7,059	7,330

The Town uses capital lease obligations to finance the acquisition of certain vehicles and equipment.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2013**

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TOWN'S FUNDS

The Town continues to have a positive fund balance. This year that fund balance net of Tropical Storm Irene and Recreation Center improvement costs is \$433,500. When accounting for the Irene and Recreation Center costs, the fund balance appears to be negative at year-end, (\$2,880,623). If we compare last year to this year, the fund balance decreased once again. Most likely, the Town will not know the full impact of Irene expenses until sometime in 2014. FEMA's determination has been slow to finalize. Two appeals are pending totaling approximately \$2.34 million.

If we review the revenues, we find a positive \$475,000, net of Irene. This is the result of increased grant revenue (\$310,000 over budget) and increase in other revenue. Irene revenue totaled \$443,000 this year.

On the expenditure side, Police administrative costs appear to be under control. Reimbursable grant funds continue to positively impact the Police budget. Fuel costs throughout the budget had a much-reduced impact on the expense side. The decrease in cost of fuel helped. The Recreation Center pool improvement project indicates an over-expense. This is covered by borrowed funds approved by the voters. The Highway Fund equipment line appears over-expended; however, the major capital purchase, a tandem dump truck, was purchased with borrowed funds, allowing payment over time, but the full expense is shown for reporting purposes.

CONTACTING THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of the finances of the Town and to demonstrate the Town's accountability with the funds it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need any additional financial information, please contact:

Mr. Stuart Hurd, Town Manager
205 South Street
Bennington, VT 05201

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2013

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 1,284,476	-	1,284,476
Accounts receivable, net	329,805	1,113,029	1,442,834
Property taxes receivable, net	1,256,803	-	1,256,803
Interest receivable	8,293	-	8,293
Prepaid expenses	85,723	18,681	104,404
Notes receivable, current	106,758	-	106,758
Internal balances	(764,686)	764,686	-
Notes receivable, non-current	2,478,207	-	2,478,207
Capital assets:			
Land and construction in progress	576,350	458,480	1,034,830
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	13,837,081	12,052,980	25,890,061
Total assets	\$ 19,198,810	14,407,856	33,606,666
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 714,126	295,663	1,009,789
Line of credit	4,126,088	161,288	4,287,376
Accrued liabilities	650,564	14,065	664,629
Deferred revenue	21,903	-	21,903
Accrued landfill post-closure costs:			
Due within one year	28,796	-	28,796
Due in more than one year	595,293	-	595,293
Bonds payable:			
Due within one year	216,483	318,265	534,748
Due in more than one year	774,104	5,620,502	6,394,606
Lease payable:			
Due within one year	43,459	-	43,459
Due in more than one year	85,108	-	85,108
Total liabilities	7,255,924	6,409,783	13,665,707
Net position:			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	13,294,277	6,572,693	19,866,970
Net restricted for:			
Capital projects	235,026	-	235,026
Community development projects	2,584,965	-	2,584,965
Other purposes	586,682	-	586,682
Unrestricted (deficit)	(4,758,064)	1,425,380	(3,332,684)
Total net position	\$ 11,942,886	7,998,073	19,940,959

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Activities
June 30, 2013

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Primary Government		
					Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Primary government:							
Governmental activities:							
General government	\$ 2,684,272	267,742	224,718	-	(2,191,813)	-	(2,191,813)
Public safety:							
Police	3,148,004	138,257	116,045	-	(2,893,702)	-	(2,893,702)
Fire	326,800	4,405	-	-	(322,395)	-	(322,395)
Public works	112,014	13,490	-	-	(98,524)	-	(98,524)
Community development	71,694	-	113,561	-	41,867	-	41,867
Health and welfare	46,935	-	-	-	(46,935)	-	(46,935)
Recreation	713,141	89,432	-	-	(623,709)	-	(623,709)
Highways and roads	3,397,549	-	-	345,102	(3,052,447)	-	(3,052,447)
Highways and roads - Hurricane Irene flood expense	39,894	-	-	442,997	403,103	-	403,103
Library	371,400	-	-	-	(371,400)	-	(371,400)
Interest on long-term debt	104,509	-	-	-	(104,509)	-	(104,509)
Total governmental activities	11,016,212	513,326	454,324	788,099	(9,260,464)	-	(9,260,464)
Business-type activities:							
Water	1,876,109	2,129,795	198,951	-	-	452,637	452,637
Sewer	1,472,470	1,608,040	-	-	-	135,570	135,570
Parking	23,581	7,782	-	-	-	(15,799)	(15,799)
Total business-type activities	3,372,160	3,745,617	198,951	-	-	572,408	572,408
Total primary government	\$ 14,388,372	4,258,943	653,275	788,099	(9,260,464)	572,408	(8,688,056)
General revenues:							
Property taxes					8,979,554	-	8,979,554
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					229,844	-	229,844
Investment earnings					58,187	25,148	83,335
Miscellaneous					278,119	-	278,119
Transfers					130,000	(130,000)	-
Total general revenues and transfers					9,675,704	(104,852)	9,570,852
Change in net assets					415,240	467,556	882,796
Net position - beginning					11,741,683	7,530,517	19,272,200
Prior period adjustment					(214,037)	-	(214,037)
Net position - ending					\$ 11,942,886	7,998,073	19,940,959

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2013

	General Governmental Activities Fund	Special Revenue Funds Community Development Fund	Downtown Improvement Commission	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 715,653	568,824	-	1,284,477
Delinquent taxes receivable, net of allowance uncollectible accounts of \$295,517	1,256,803	-	-	1,256,803
Accounts receivable	329,805	-	-	329,805
Interest receivable	-	8,293	-	8,293
Prepaid expenses	85,725	-	-	85,725
Notes receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$28,000	-	2,584,965	-	2,584,965
Due from other funds	127,696	-	21,381	149,077
Total assets	\$ 2,515,682	3,162,082	21,381	5,699,145
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 698,672	-	-	698,672
Line of credit	4,126,088	-	-	4,126,088
Accrued liabilities	277,710	-	-	277,710
Due to other funds	-	913,763	-	913,763
Deferred revenue	293,835	-	-	293,835
Total liabilities	5,396,305	913,763	-	6,310,068
Fund Balances:				
Nonspendable	-	2,584,965	-	2,584,965
Restricted	1,757,917	-	21,381	1,779,298
Committed	193,337	-	-	193,337
Assigned	13,532	-	-	13,532
Unassigned	(4,845,409)	(336,646)	-	(5,182,055)
Total fund balances	(2,880,623)	2,248,319	21,381	(610,923)
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 2,515,682	3,162,082	21,381	5,699,145

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2013

Total fund balances - governmental funds (from page 66)	\$ (610,923)
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	14,413,431
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and are deferred in the funds.	271,932
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(2,131,554)
Net position of governmental activities (page 64)	<u>\$ 11,942,886</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2013

	General Governmental Activities Fund	Special Revenue Funds Community Development Fund	Downtown Improvement Commission	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Property taxes	\$ 8,892,878	-	69,948	8,962,826
Permits and licenses	80,195	-	-	80,195
Intergovernmental revenues	915,708	113,561	-	1,029,269
Fees and charges	361,821	-	-	361,821
Fines and forfeitures	25,199	-	-	25,199
Interest	8,059	50,128	-	58,187
Rental revenue	46,111	-	-	46,111
Hurricane Irene grants and assistance	442,997	-	-	442,997
Other	255,951	15,081	-	271,032
Total revenues	11,028,919	178,770	69,948	11,277,637
Expenditures:				
General government	2,165,910	-	-	2,165,910
Public safety	3,240,396	-	-	3,240,396
Public works	112,014	-	-	112,014
Health and welfare	25,335	-	-	25,335
Recreation	1,209,389	-	-	1,209,389
Debt management	298,969	-	-	298,969
Highways and roads	3,474,361	-	-	3,474,361
Project expenditures	-	1,746	-	1,746
Hurricane Irene flood expense	596,436	-	-	596,436
Other	927,399	-	69,948	997,347
Total expenditures	12,050,209	1,746	69,948	12,121,903
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(1,021,290)	177,024	-	(844,266)
Other financing sources (uses):				
Proceeds from issuance of debt	157,386	-	-	157,386
Operating transfers in (out)	170,000	(40,000)	-	130,000
	327,386	(40,000)	-	287,386
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	(693,904)	137,024	-	(556,880)
Fund balance, July 1, 2012	(2,186,719)	2,325,332	21,381	159,994
Prior period adjustment	-	(214,037)	-	(214,037)
Fund balance, June 30, 2013	\$ (2,880,623)	2,248,319	21,381	(610,923)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2013

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (from page 68)	\$ (556,880)
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources (property taxes not collected within 60 days of fiscal year end) are not reported as revenues in the funds. This amount represents an increase in deferred property taxes.	16,718
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current period.	824,713
When recognizing the sale of capital assets, the governmental funds report the total proceeds of the sale. Only the gain or loss on the sale is reported on the Statement of Net Assets.	7,112
Issuance of long-term obligations is recorded as an other financing source in the governmental funds, but increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets	(231,795)
Repayment of principal on long-term obligations is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets.	355,372
Change in net assets of governmental activities (page 65)	\$ <u><u>415,240</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Net Position
Proprietary Funds
June 30, 2013

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Parking Meter Fund	Totals
Assets:				
Current assets:				
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$24,000	\$ 699,790	413,239	-	1,113,029
Prepaid expenses	7,722	10,959	-	18,681
Due from other funds	266,233	351,147	147,306	764,686
Total current assets	973,745	775,345	147,306	1,896,396
Capital assets:				
Land and land improvements	18,000	-	443,599	461,599
Distribution and collection systems	4,792,141	1,304,269	-	6,096,410
Buildings and equipment	8,876,263	17,730,876	3,014	26,610,153
Construction in progress	56,922	-	-	56,922
Less accumulated depreciation	(4,890,087)	(15,623,838)	(199,699)	(20,713,624)
Total non-current assets	8,853,239	3,411,307	246,914	12,511,460
Total assets	\$ 9,826,984	4,186,652	394,220	14,407,856
Liabilities:				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 290,823	4,840	-	295,663
Line of Credit	161,288	-	-	161,288
Accrued liabilities	725	13,340	-	14,065
Notes and bonds payable, current portion	318,265	-	-	318,265
Total current liabilities	771,101	18,180	-	789,281
Notes and bonds payable, less current portion	5,620,502	-	-	5,620,502
Total liabilities	6,391,603	18,180	-	6,409,783
Net Position:				
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,914,472	3,411,307	246,914	6,572,693
Unrestricted - designated	422,244	413,534	61,411	897,189
Unrestricted - undesignated	98,665	343,631	85,895	528,191
Total net position	3,435,381	4,168,472	394,220	7,998,073
Total liabilities and net position	\$ 9,826,984	4,186,652	394,220	14,407,856

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
Proprietary Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2013

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Parking Meter Fund	Totals
Operating revenues:				
Fees and charges for services	\$ 2,104,030	1,603,568	7,782	3,715,380
Other	25,765	4,472	-	30,237
	2,129,795	1,608,040	7,782	3,745,617
Operating expenses:				
Administration	571,119	710,530	-	1,281,649
Buildings	75,032	-	-	75,032
Equipment	71,079	26,098	-	97,177
Water systems	271,045	-	-	271,045
Filtration plant	209,546	-	-	209,546
Sewer system	-	49,401	-	49,401
Sewer treatment plant	-	415,574	-	415,574
Parking	-	-	6,504	6,504
Depreciation	492,032	270,861	17,077	779,970
Total operating expenses	1,689,853	1,472,464	23,581	3,185,898
Operating income	439,942	135,576	(15,799)	559,719
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):				
Interest income	24,542	199	407	25,148
FEMA storm assistance and grants	198,951	-	-	198,951
Hurricane Irene expense	(1,935)	-	-	(1,935)
Interest expense	(184,320)	(6)	-	(184,326)
	37,238	193	407	37,838
Income (loss) before operating transfers	477,179	135,769	(15,392)	597,556
Operating transfers in (out)	(72,000)	(78,000)	20,000	(130,000)
	(72,000)	(78,000)	20,000	(130,000)
Change in net position	405,179	57,769	4,608	467,556
Net position - beginning	3,030,202	4,110,703	389,612	7,530,517
Net position - ending	\$ 3,435,381	4,168,472	394,220	7,998,073

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2013

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Parking Meter Fund	Totals
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 2,282,521	1,627,782	7,782	3,918,085
Other operating cash receipts	25,765	4,472	-	30,237
Cash payments to suppliers of goods or services	(592,815)	(578,007)	(5,917)	(1,176,739)
Cash payments to employees for services	(472,424)	(618,578)	(587)	(1,091,589)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,243,047	435,669	1,278	1,679,994
Cash flows from non-capital financing activities:				
Operating transfers from (to) other funds	(72,000)	(78,000)	20,000	(130,000)
Advances from (to) other funds	(226,008)	(191,200)	(21,685)	(438,893)
Cash receipts from FEMA storm assistance and grants	198,951	-	-	198,951
Cash payments for Hurricane Irene expense	(1,935)	-	-	(1,935)
Interest expense (refunding) on short-term borrowings	(184,320)	(6)	-	(184,326)
Net cash provided by (used in) non-capital financing activities	(285,312)	(269,206)	(1,685)	(556,203)
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:				
Principal payments on bonds	(291,541)	-	-	(291,541)
Proceeds from issuance of bonds	152,321	-	-	152,321
Repayment on line of credit	(228,458)	(1,903)	-	(230,361)
Purchase of capital assets	(614,599)	(164,759)	-	(779,358)
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	(982,277)	(166,662)	-	(1,148,939)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Interest on cash investments	24,542	199	407	25,148
Net cash provided by investing activities	24,542	199	407	25,148
Net increase in cash	-	-	-	-
Cash, beginning	-	-	-	-
Cash, ending	\$ -	-	-	-
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Operating income (loss)	\$ 439,942	135,576	(15,799)	559,719
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation	492,032	270,861	17,077	779,970
Change in operating assets and liabilities:				
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and other current assets	178,491	13,255	-	191,746
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	132,582	15,977	-	148,559
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 1,243,047	435,669	1,278	1,679,994

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Financial Reporting Entity

The Town of Bennington, Vermont (the "Town") is a unit of local government chartered by the State of Vermont. The Town operates under a Select Board - Manager form of government and provides services as outlined in its charter.

The accompanying financial statements of the Town of Bennington, Vermont include all of the financial activity of the general government, special revenue funds, water department, sewer department and parking meter fund. All these components are included because they are under the direct control of the Select Board and the Town Manager. The Town exercises significant oversight and financial interdependence exists. The Town is not a component unit of another reporting entity.

The Town applies all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. Proprietary funds apply Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements and Accounting Principles Board (APB) opinions issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict with GASB pronouncements, in which case, GASB prevails.

(b) Basis of Presentation

The basic financial statements include both government-wide (based on the Town as a whole) and fund financial statements.

Government-wide Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net assets and the statement of activities) report information on all non-fiduciary activities of the Town. Eliminations have been made to minimize the effect of internal transactions between funds. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, State aid, intergovernmental revenues, and other exchange and non-exchange transactions. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants, while the capital grants column reflects capital-specific grants.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Town's governmental and business-type activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with and are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs, and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund statements provide information about the Town's funds. Separate statements for each fund category (governmental and proprietary) are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining funds are aggregated and reported as non-major funds, however because the Town has only one non-major fund in each fund type, they are reported in individual columns.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)*

(b) Basis of Presentation (continued)

Fund Financial Statements (continued)

The financial activities of the Town that are reported in the accompanying financial statements have been classified in the major funds described in the following paragraphs.

Governmental Funds

General Governmental Activities Fund - The General Governmental Activities Fund is used to account for all revenues and expenditures applicable to the general operations of the governmental agencies of the Town. All general operating revenues which are not restricted as to use by sources external to the Town are recorded in the General Governmental Activities Fund.

Special Revenue Funds - The Special Revenue Funds are operating funds, for which the use of revenues is restricted, generally by Federal and state governments. The Town uses two Special Revenue Funds: the Community Development Fund and the Downtown Improvement Commission.

Proprietary Funds

Enterprise Funds - Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The Town uses three Enterprise Funds: the Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and Parking Meter Fund.

(c) Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The Government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash transaction takes place. Non-exchange transactions, in which the Town gives or receives value without directly receiving or giving equal value in exchange, include property taxes, grants and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

The governmental fund statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The Town considers all revenues other than property taxes reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within one year after the end of the fiscal year. Property taxes are recognized to the extent collected within sixty days of fiscal year end.

Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(d) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Town uses the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data for the General Governmental Activities Fund reflected in the financial statements:

1. The Town Manager prepares the annual operating budget for the General Governmental Activities Fund for the Town's fiscal year ended June 30th prior to March of the preceding fiscal year. The Town Manager prepares the budget through consultation with the Town's department supervisors. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. The Town Manager submits the budget to the Select Board for approval.
2. After the budget is approved, the Select Board publishes a warning in the Town newspaper for a special Town meeting to discuss the budget.
3. Prior to July 1 of the new fiscal year, the annual Town meeting is held and the budget is legally enacted by a general Town vote.
4. Budget revisions must be approved by the Select Board. Appropriations lapse at the end of the Town's fiscal year if not encumbered.
5. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for the General Governmental Activities Fund.
6. The budget for the General Governmental Activities Fund is adopted on the modified accrual basis. The budgeted amounts are as originally adopted.

(e) Internal Balances and Transfers

Internal balances arise primarily as a result of the Town's pooling of cash deposits. Internal transfers represent administrative charges paid by the enterprise funds and community development fund to the general governmental activities fund.

(f) Capital Assets

Property and equipment is stated at known or estimated historical cost. Net interest costs are capitalized on projects during the construction period. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets as follows: office furniture and equipment – 5 to 10 years, motor vehicles and heavy equipment – 5 to 15 years, buildings and building improvements – 10 to 40 years, and infrastructure – 10 to 40 years. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in income for the period. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to expense as incurred; significant renewals and betterments are capitalized. Deduction is made for retirements resulting from renewals or betterments. GASB No. 34 requires the Town to report and depreciate new infrastructure assets effective with the statement's implementation.

(g) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows presented for the proprietary funds, cash equivalents include all short-term highly liquid investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and have original maturities of three months or less.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(h) Long-term Debt and Deferred Charges

In the government-wide financial statements long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable statement of net assets. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the straight-line method which approximates the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Bond issuance costs are reported as deferred charges and amortized over the term of the related debt.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures. Accumulated unpaid vacation pay is accrued in proprietary funds (using the accrual basis of accounting). The current portion of accumulated unpaid vacation pay is accrued in governmental funds (using the modified accrual basis of accounting). Accumulated unpaid sick pay is paid to Town employees only while employed and is not recorded as the ultimate liability is not subject to reasonable estimation.

(i) Governmental Fund Balance/Net Assets

Beginning with fiscal year 2011, the Town implemented GASB Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions." This Statement provides more clearly defined fund balance categories to make the nature and extent of the constraints placed on a government's fund balances more transparent. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints:

Non-spendable fund balance is either not in spendable form (such as inventory), or is required to be maintained intact legally or contractually.

Restricted fund balance—amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.

Committed fund balance—amounts constrained to specific purposes by the Town itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority (i.e., Selectboard). To be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Selectboard takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint.

Assigned fund balance—amounts the Town intends to use for a specific purpose. Intent can be expressed by the Selectboard or by an official or body to which the Selectboard Council delegates the authority.

Unassigned fund balance—amounts that are available for any purpose. Positive amounts are reported only in the general fund.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(i) Governmental Fund Balance/Net Assets (continued)

The Selectboard establishes (and modifies or rescinds) fund balance commitments by passage of an ordinance or resolution. This is typically done through adoption and amendment of the budget. A fund balance commitment is further indicated in the budget document as a designation or commitment of the fund (such as for special incentives). Assigned fund balance is established by Selectboard through adoption or amendment of the budget as intended for specific purpose (such as the purchase of fixed assets, construction, debt service, or for other purposes).

In the general fund, the Town strives to maintain an unassigned fund balance to be used for unanticipated emergencies of approximately 20% of the actual GAAP basis expenditures and other financing sources and uses.

In the government-wide financial statements, net assets are classified in the following categories:

Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt – This category groups all capital assets into one component of net assets. Accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balances of debt that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of these assets reduce this category.

Restricted – This category presents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted resources are used first to fund appropriations when there are both restricted and unrestricted resources available.

Unrestricted – This category includes both designated and undesignated net assets of the Town. Designated net assets include reserves that were established by the Board, which are considered internally designated. Undesignated net assets are not restricted for any project or other purpose.

In the fund financial statements, reserves and designations segregate portions of fund balance that are either not available or have been earmarked for specific purposes. While a separate bank account is not necessary for each reserve fund, a separate identity for each reserve fund is maintained.

(j) Encumbrance Accounting

Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are recorded as a reservation of fund balance in the Town's governmental funds, since they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities

(k) Use of Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(2) Explanation of Certain Differences Between Governmental Fund Statements and the Government-wide Statements

Due to the differences in the measurement focus and basis of accounting used in the governmental fund statements and the government-wide statements, certain financial transactions are treated differently. The basic financial statements contain a full reconciliation of these items. The differences result primarily from the economic focus of the Statement of Activities, compared with the current financial resources focus of the governmental funds.

Total Fund Balances of Governmental Funds vs. Net Assets of Governmental Activities

Total fund balances of the Town's governmental funds differ from "net assets" of governmental activities reported in the Statement of Net Assets. This difference primarily results from the additional long-term economic focus of the Statement of Net Assets versus the solely current financial resources focus of the governmental fund Balance Sheets.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance vs. Statement of Activities

Differences between the governmental funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance and the Statement of Activities fall into one of the categories listed below.

1. Long-Term Revenue and Expense Differences - Long-term revenue differences arise because governmental funds report revenues only when they are considered "available", whereas the Statement of Activities reports revenues when earned. Differences in long-term expenses arise because governmental funds report on a modified accrual basis, whereas the accrual basis of accounting is used on the Statement of Activities.
2. Long-Term Debt Transaction Differences - Long-term debt transaction differences occur because both interest and principal payments are recorded as expenditures in the governmental fund statements, whereas interest payments are recorded in the Statement of Activities as incurred, and principal payments are recorded as a reduction of liabilities in the Statement of Net Assets.
3. Capital Assets - Capital related differences include the difference between proceeds for the sale of capital assets reported on governmental fund statements and the gain or loss on the sale of assets as reported on the Statement of Activities, and the difference between recording an expenditure for the purchase of capital items in the governmental fund statements and depreciation expense on those items as recorded in the Statement of Activities.

(3) Cash

At June 30, 2013 the carrying amount of the Town's cash was \$1,300,999 and the bank balance was \$1,247,896. Of the bank balance, \$525,149 was covered by Federal depository insurance and the remaining \$722,747 was fully collateralized.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(3) *Cash (continued)*

Certain cash balances are restricted for amounts reserved or designated, as follows:

General Governmental Activities Fund:	
Battle Day Parade	\$ 1,490
Bennington in Bloom	2,564
Capital facilities	125,026
Cherry trees	617
Community Built Park	1,250
Drug Investigation	550
Employee benefits and insurance	136,671
Energy Committee	90
Fire department donations	5,116
Fire equipment	157,030
Fireworks	9,025
Highway	179,000
Hunt Street Foot Bridge	290,913
Hurricane Irene interest	14,337
Information signs	1,588
Land Purchase	22
Leonard J Black Memorial Park	25
Lilac Trail donations	1,514
Memorial Fountain	1,945
9/11 Memorial	1,812
Ore Bed	176,185
Pathway project	110,000
Pet seizures	1,060
Police LLEBG - Drug Courts	477
Reappraisal	459,904
Rec Center equipment	1,547
Rec Center renovations	250,000
River Restoration	1,121
Seizure and forfeiture	6,153
Senior Center Equipment/Improvements	5,259
Sleeman - Recreation Center	8,621
Seniors Music Instruments	132
Summer Camp	210
	<u>\$ 1,951,254</u>

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(3) *Cash (continued)*

Certain cash balances are restricted for amounts reserved or designated, as follows:

Enterprise Funds:

Water Fund:

Improvements and equipment	\$ 422,244
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Parking Fund:

Parking Improvements	61,411
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Sewer Fund:

Machinery and equipment	413,534
	<u>\$ 897,189</u>

Custodial Credit Risk of Bank Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Town's deposits may not be returned to it. At year-end, none of the Town's investments were subject to custodial credit risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Town's investment policy reduces this risk by structuring the investment portfolio so that the operating funds are maintained in demand accounts to meet cash needs for ongoing operations, thus avoiding the need to redeem certificates of deposit prior to maturity, and investing excess, designated, or restricted funds in certificates of deposits when a favorable interest rate is available.

(4) *Investments*

The Town is not restricted by state statute as to the type of investments that it is authorized to hold. The Town invested primarily in collateralized and insured certificates of deposit during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013.

(5) *Notes Receivable – Special Revenue Funds*

Notes receivable - Special Revenue Funds consist of loans to individuals and businesses under the Community Development Program of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Such notes are interest bearing at various interest rates between 3.625% and 6.125%; generally require monthly payments over terms ranging from five to fifteen years. The terms of the notes receivable include security interests in personal property or real estate mortgages.

The Community Development Fund's non-spendable fund balance of \$2,584,965 denotes the non-current portion of notes receivable that it is not available to finance the general operations of the fund.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(6) Internal Balances

Internal balances at June 30, 2013 consisted of the following:

Due To	Due From		
	General Fund	Community Development	Total
General Fund	\$ -	913,763	913,763
Downtown Improvement Commission	21,381	-	21,381
Water	266,233	-	266,233
Sewer	351,147	-	351,147
Parking	147,306	-	147,306
Total	\$ 786,067	913,763	1,699,830

Internal transfers for the year ended June 30, 2012 were as follows:

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount	Purpose
General Fund	Parking	\$ (20,000)	Fund capital outlay
Community Development	General Fund	40,000	Administrative charges
Water	General Fund	72,000	Administrative charges
Sewer	General Fund	78,000	Administrative charges
		\$ 170,000	

(7) Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements and Transfers	Ending Balance
Governmental activities:				
Land and land improvements	\$ 562,453	-	-	562,453
Buildings and improvements	6,763,149	628,008	-	7,391,157
Equipment and vehicles	5,964,831	316,507	(116,525)	6,164,813
Infrastructure	31,273,397	1,669,654	-	32,943,051
Construction in progress	324,330	54,414	(324,330)	54,414
Totals at historical cost	44,888,160	2,668,583	(440,855)	47,115,888
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land and land improvements	(32,680)	(7,837)	-	(40,517)
Buildings and improvements	(4,439,140)	(129,960)	-	(4,569,100)
Equipment and vehicles	(4,187,509)	(481,991)	92,887	(4,576,614)
Infrastructure	(22,665,898)	(850,328)	-	(23,516,226)
Total accumulated depreciation	(31,325,227)	(1,470,116)	92,887	(32,702,457)
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 13,562,933	1,198,467	(347,968)	14,413,431

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(7) Capital Assets (continued)

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

General government	\$ 49,581
Public safety:	
Police	136,485
Fire	122,910
Recreation	30,119
Highway and roads	1,131,021
	<u>\$ 1,470,116</u>

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements and Transfers	Ending Balance
Business-type activities:				
Land and land improvements	\$ 461,599	-	-	461,599
Buildings and improvements	23,938,240	16,172	-	23,954,412
Equipment and vehicles	2,496,424	263,167	(103,850)	2,655,741
Distribution and collection systems	5,274,718	821,692	-	6,096,410
Construction in progress	378,597	56,272	(377,947)	56,922
Totals at historical cost	32,549,578	1,157,303	(481,797)	33,225,084
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land and land improvements	(179,608)	(17,077)	-	(196,685)
Buildings and improvements	(15,587,154)	(409,698)	-	(15,996,852)
Equipment and vehicles	(2,065,065)	(132,886)	103,852	(2,094,099)
Distribution and collection systems	(2,205,679)	(220,309)	-	(2,425,988)
Total accumulated depreciation	(20,037,506)	(779,970)	103,852	(20,713,624)
Business-type activities capital assets, net	\$ 12,512,072	377,333	(377,945)	12,511,460

(8) Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2013 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Amounts Due within One Year
Governmental Activities					
Bonds payable	\$ 1,023,867	157,386	(190,666)	990,587	216,483
Capital lease obligations	227,924	18,674	(118,031)	128,567	43,459
Governmental activities long-term liabilities	\$ 1,251,791	176,060	(308,697)	1,119,154	259,942
Business-type Activities					
Bonds payable	\$ 6,077,987	152,321	(291,541)	5,938,767	318,265
Business-type activities long-term liabilities	\$ 6,077,987	152,321	(291,541)	5,938,767	318,265

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(8) Long-term Liabilities (continued)

Bonds payable mature annually in varying amounts through fiscal year 2027, and interest is generally payable semiannually at rates ranging from 3 percent to 6 percent.

Maturities of bonds payable are as follows:

	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities		
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
2014	\$ 216,483	61,550	278,033	318,265	181,026	499,291
2015	212,038	40,598	252,636	326,254	169,869	496,123
2016	188,663	25,204	213,867	335,056	159,153	494,209
2017	188,663	10,446	199,109	344,121	148,168	492,289
2018	99,874	6,173	106,047	342,348	138,224	480,572
2019-2023	84,866	12,949	97,815	1,796,626	534,032	2,330,658
2024-2028	-	-	-	2,032,329	253,078	2,285,407
2029-2033	-	-	-	443,768	13,313	457,081
	\$ 990,587	156,920	1,147,507	5,938,767	1,596,863	7,535,630

All bonds payable are secured by the general revenue raising powers of the Town.

(9) Leases

The Town leases certain equipment under agreements, which are classified as capital leases. At June 30, 2013 equipment recorded under capital lease in the Government-wide financial statements amounted to \$1,208,816. Accumulated amortization amounted to \$511,248.

Future minimum payments required under capital leases are as follows:

Year ending June 30,	
2014	\$ 47,251
2015	47,251
2016	44,450
Total minimum lease payments	138,952
Less amount representing interest	(10,385)
Present value of minimum lease payments	\$ 128,567

(10) Line of Credit

The Town entered into an emergency line of credit agreement due to damages caused by Hurricane Irene. The line of credit allows for total advances up to \$5 million with interest accruing at 1.65%. The balance outstanding on the line of credit amounted to \$3,710,262 at June 30, 2013. The advances were made to fund the costs of Bolles Brook reconstruction, waterline replacement and the stabilization of the Roaring Branch and Walloomsac Rivers. The line matured September 2013.

The Town has outstanding borrowings of \$577,114 under a line of credit agreement for Recreation Center improvements. The line, which bears interest at 1.65%, matured in July 2013.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(11) Property Taxes

Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of April 1st. Property taxes for fiscal year 2013 were levied August 12, 2012 and were payable November 13, 2012.

(12) Governmental Fund Balance

The Town's fund balance classifications at year-end are as follows:

		Special Revenue Funds			
			Downtown		
	General	Community	Improvement		Total
	Fund	Development	Commission		
Non-spendable:					
Notes receivable	\$ -	2,584,965	-		2,584,965
Restricted for:					
Capital Facilities	125,026	-	-		125,026
Downtown improvement	-	-	21,381		21,381
Employee benefits and insurance	136,671	-	-		136,671
Fire Equipment	157,030	-	-		157,030
Health and welfare	1,060	-	-		1,060
Hunt Street foot bridge	290,913	-	-		290,913
Ore Bed	176,185	-	-		176,185
Other purposes	1,232	-	-		1,232
Parks and recreation	36,012	-	-		36,012
Pathway project	110,000	-	-		110,000
Planning and zoning	1,588	-	-		1,588
Public Safety	12,296	-	-		12,296
Reappraisal	459,904	-	-		459,904
Rec Center renovations	250,000	-	-		250,000
Committed for:					
Highway Improvements	179,000	-	-		179,000
Hurricane Irene interest	14,337	-	-		14,337
Assigned for:					
Employee benefits and insurance	12,594	-	-		12,594
Parks and recreation	938	-	-		938
Unassigned	(4,845,409)	(336,646)	-		(5,182,055)
Total fund balances	\$ (2,880,623)	2,248,319	21,381		(610,923)

(13) Deferred Compensation Plan and Pensions

Defined Benefit Plan

The Town participates in the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of Vermont. Participants are grouped by department. "Group B" participants consist of all departments except the Police department, which comprises "Group C."

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(13) *Deferred Compensation Plan and Pensions (continued)*

VMERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The Retirement System Division of the Vermont State Treasurer's Office issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for VMERS. That report may be obtained by writing to Retirement System Division, Vermont State Treasurer's Office, 133 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

Plan members in "Group B" are required to contribute 4.5% of their annual covered compensation and the Town is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 5% of annual covered payroll. Plan members in "Group C" are required to contribute 9.25% of their annual covered compensation and the Town is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 6.5% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Town of Bennington are established and may be amended by the Retirement Board, Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System.

Contributions made to VMERS by the Town for the year ended June 30, 2013 amounted to \$252,673. Town contributions to VMERS for the years ended June 30, 2012 and 2011 amounted to \$246,040 and \$238,863, respectively. The Town also contributed \$413,812 and \$420,277 for unfunded pension liability during 2013 and 2012, respectively. Total covered payroll amounted to \$4,576,275.

Deferred Compensation Plan

The Town offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan permits employees to defer a portion of their salary until future years. Under provisions of the plan deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency.

(14) *Risk Management*

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to general liability, property and casualty, workers' compensation, employee health and accident and environmental liability. The Town purchases commercial insurance coverage for the risks of losses to which it is exposed, exclusive of environmental liabilities which are not covered due to the excessive cost of coverage.

(15) *Commitments*

Solid Waste Disposal

The Bennington Transfer Station is operated under a contract with a waste management company. The Town agreed, as a condition of the contract to indemnify such company from all liability, loss, cost or expense incurred in connection with the operation of the transfer station or other handling of Bennington waste. The contract also indemnifies the Town in the event that liabilities are incurred for which the company is responsible.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(16) Contingencies

(a) Litigation-General

The Town is party to various legal actions which normally occur in governmental operations. The amounts of any settlements under these actions are expected to be within the limits of the Town's insurance coverage and are not likely to have a material adverse effect on the affected funds of the Town.

(b) Landfill Post-Closure Costs

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 18, the Town has recorded a liability for the present value of estimated post-closure repair, maintenance and monitoring costs in the statement of net assets amounting to \$624,088.

The Town's post-closure costs for the year ended June 30, 2013 amounted to \$27,487.

(c) Federal and State Grants

In the normal course of operations, the Town receives grant funds from various Federal and State agencies. The grant programs are subject to audit by agents of the granting authorities, the purpose of which is to ensure compliance with conditions precedent to the granting of funds. Any liability for reimbursement which may arise as the result of such audits is not believed to be material.

(d) Operating Leases

The Town leases certain equipment under agreements which are classified as operating leases. Future minimum payments required under leases having non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year are as follows:

Year ending June 30:

2014	\$	12,439
2015		5,672
2016		<u>3,252</u>
	\$	<u><u>21,363</u></u>

Rent expense under these agreements for the year ended June 30, 2013 was \$22,691.

(e) Contingency – Health Care Benefits

On January 1, 2012, the Town changed the employee health insurance program to a High Deductible Health Plan with a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA). All eligible employees who chose to participate were enrolled in BCBS-VT Plan with a \$500 maximum out-of-pocket expense. The Town is responsible for the next \$4,500 toward the maximum out-of-pocket health expenses for the single person plan. The Town is responsible for the next \$9,500 toward the maximum out-of-pocket health expenses for the two person and family plans.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(17) Post Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions

Plan Description.

The Town of Bennington provides under the "Combined Agreement By And Between The Town of Bennington And AFSCME Council 93, Local #490 Police Chapter & Public Works Chapter" through June 30, 2013, post-retirement health care benefits for police union employees who retire from the Town employment after attaining age 55 and have at minimum 20 years of service.

The Town will pay 50 percent of a single premium in effect provided that the employee does not have access to an equivalent health plan until the employees reach age 65.

Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation.

The town's annual other post employment benefit (OPEB) cost (expense) is calculated based on the annual required contribution of the employer (ARC). The town has elected to calculate the ARC and related information using the alternative measurement method permitted by GASB Statement 45 for employers in plans with fewer than one hundred total plan members. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal cost each year and to amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years.

Funding Policy.

The Town's portion of the benefits is funded on a pay-as-you-go basis and included in health care expenditures. Currently no employees are eligible to participate and the Town did not make any contributions.

The following shows the components of the town's annual OPEB cost for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and changes in the town's net OPEB obligation for post-retirement health care benefits:

Annual required contribution	\$	74,409
Interest on net OPEB obligation		-
Annual OPEB cost		<u>74,409</u>
Contributions made		-
Increase in net OPEB obligation		<u>74,409</u>
Net OPEB obligation, beginning of year		<u>298,441</u>
Net OPEB obligation, end of year	\$	<u><u>372,850</u></u>

Funded Status and Funding Progress.

As of June 30, 2013, the actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$634,575, all of which was unfunded. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$1,812,669 and the ratio of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability to the covered payroll was 35.0 percent.

The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, will present multiyear trend information in subsequent years about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(17) Post Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions (continued)

The projection of future benefit payments for an ongoing plan involves estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information

Methods and Assumptions.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive agreement (the agreement as understood by the employer and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and members to that point. The methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

The following simplifying assumptions were made:

Retirement age for active employees—Based on the historical average retirement age for the covered group, active plan members were assumed to retire at age 55, or at the first subsequent year in which the member would qualify for benefits.

Mortality—Life expectancies were based on mortality tables from Internal Revenue Service regulations and based on the “RP-2000 Mortality Tables Report” issued by the Society of Actuaries.

Turnover—Non-group-specific age-based turnover data from GASB Statement 45 were used as the basis for assigning active members a probability of remaining employed until the assumed retirement age and for developing an expected future working lifetime assumption for purposes of allocating to periods the present value of total benefits to be paid.

Healthcare cost trend rate—The expected rate of increase in healthcare insurance premiums was based on projections of the Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and in conjunction with experience of premium increases obtained by the Town. A rate of 5.6 percent was used.

Health insurance premiums—2013 health insurance premiums for retirees were used as the basis for calculation of the present value of total benefits to be paid.

Inflation rate—The expected long-term inflation assumption was assumed to equal the increase in healthcare costs.

Payroll growth rate—The expected long-term payroll growth rate was assumed to equal the rate of inflation.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(17) Post Employment Benefits Other Than Pensions (continued)

Based on the historical and expected returns of the Town's short-term investment portfolio, a discount rate of 0.4 percent was used. In addition, a simplified version of the unit credit actuarial cost method was used. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability is being amortized as a level percentage of projected payroll on an open basis. The remaining amortization period at June 30, 2013, was thirty years.

(18) Subsequent Events

Subsequent to June 30, 2013 the Town received advances under a line of credit agreement in anticipation of property tax collections. The line of credit allows for total advances up to \$2.0 million with interest accruing at 1.25%. The line matured December 2, 2013.

In July 2013, the Town received advances under a new line of credit agreement for Recreation Center improvements in the amount of \$532,113 with interest accruing at 1.60% and maturing in July 2014.

In September 2013, the Town received advances under a new line of credit agreement for Hurricane Irene damages in the amount of \$3,550,000 with interest accruing at 1.65% and maturing in September 2014.

A final determination and assessment of eligibility for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for debris removal costs incurred as a result of Hurricane Irene amounting to approximately \$2.34 million has not been determined.

Management has evaluated subsequent events through January 17, 2014, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund
Year Ended June 30, 2013

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Property taxes:			
General	\$ 5,152,860	5,122,011	(30,849)
Highway	3,159,370	3,159,370	-
Fire	341,640	341,640	-
Penalties and interest	210,000	269,857	59,857
	<u>8,863,870</u>	<u>8,892,878</u>	<u>29,008</u>
Permits and licenses:			
Alcoholic beverages	5,000	4,840	(160)
Dog licenses	12,900	8,513	(4,387)
Marriage license	2,500	3,655	1,155
Building and zoning permits	40,000	48,092	8,092
Fire permits	3,700	4,405	705
Landfill	38,000	10,690	(27,310)
	<u>102,100</u>	<u>80,195</u>	<u>(21,905)</u>
Intergovernmental revenues:			
State shared interests:			
Federal and State Grant	-	126,549	126,549
Highway	262,000	345,102	83,102
In lieu of taxes	245,500	229,844	(15,656)
Other	96,500	214,213	117,713
	<u>604,000</u>	<u>915,708</u>	<u>311,708</u>
Fees and charges:			
Police sales and services	100,000	90,838	(9,162)
Police dispatch fees	14,400	14,400	-
Police false alarm fees	5,500	7,820	2,320
Vital records fees	20,000	30,660	10,660
Recording fees	58,000	108,353	50,353
Sale of cemetery lots	3,000	2,800	(200)
Animal control fees	200	15	(185)
Recreational center charges	25,000	17,987	(7,013)
Pool membership fees	85,000	71,445	(13,555)
Senior citizens	20,000	17,503	(2,497)
	<u>331,100</u>	<u>361,821</u>	<u>30,721</u>
Fines and forfeitures:			
Police fines, seizures and forfeitures	41,000	25,199	(15,801)

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2013

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues (continued):			
Interest	\$ 25,000	8,059	(16,941)
Rental revenue	43,000	46,111	3,111
Gain on sale of assets	10,000	3,000	(7,000)
Hurricane Irene grants and assistance	-	442,997	442,997
Other	90,700	252,951	162,251
Total revenues	10,110,770	11,028,919	918,149
Expenditures:			
General Government:			
Select Board	17,840	20,234	(2,394)
Town Manager	202,550	202,130	420
Treasurer	21,010	22,576	(1,566)
Accounting	215,140	213,772	1,368
Listing	143,610	143,391	219
Tax collecting	75,020	85,421	(10,401)
Town Clerk	224,190	227,575	(3,385)
Planning and zoning	275,610	278,516	(2,906)
Economic and community development	112,310	114,131	(1,821)
Plant and equipment:			
Administration	481,840	541,866	(60,026)
Buildings and grounds	318,880	316,298	2,582
	800,720	858,164	(57,444)
	2,088,000	2,165,910	(77,910)
Public safety:			
Police:			
Administration	2,696,000	2,683,112	12,888
Investigation	10,400	5,416	4,984
Training	11,270	10,661	609
Communications	25,030	30,084	(5,054)
Police building	100,110	84,490	15,620
Equipment	129,050	128,131	919
Special services	33,370	52,371	(19,001)
	3,005,230	2,994,265	10,965

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2013

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures (continued):			
Fire:			
Administration	\$ 61,920	59,064	2,856
Fire fighting	19,940	17,553	2,387
Communications	7,150	11,615	(4,465)
Machinery and equipment	118,200	105,065	13,135
Buildings	54,850	52,834	2,016
	<u>262,060</u>	<u>246,131</u>	<u>15,929</u>
	<u>3,267,290</u>	<u>3,240,396</u>	<u>26,894</u>
Public works:			
Solid waste management	94,700	84,158	10,542
Cemetery and mini-park	43,860	27,856	16,004
	<u>138,560</u>	<u>112,014</u>	<u>26,546</u>
Health and welfare:			
Health officer	8,070	12,372	(4,302)
Animal control	15,340	12,963	2,377
	<u>23,410</u>	<u>25,335</u>	<u>(1,925)</u>
Recreation:			
Supervision	380,960	370,595	10,365
Recreation Center	9,200	5,939	3,261
Indoor pool	11,150	10,643	507
Parks	37,350	39,482	(2,132)
Pathway	1,600	7,018	(5,418)
Buildings	113,710	106,022	7,688
Vehicles and equipment	4,920	5,115	(195)
Recreation Center improvements	47,600	530,093	(482,493)
Senior Citizens' Center	109,840	94,714	15,126
Senior Citizens' - building	47,960	39,768	8,192
	<u>764,290</u>	<u>1,209,389</u>	<u>(445,099)</u>
Debt management:			
Principal	190,670	190,666	4
Interest - bonds	48,320	100,011	(51,691)
Interest - tax anticipation note	10,000	8,292	1,708
	<u>248,990</u>	<u>298,969</u>	<u>(49,979)</u>

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2013

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures (continued):			
Highways and roads:			
Administration and buildings	\$ 1,334,610	1,344,650	(10,040)
Construction and maintenance - town highways	396,400	335,566	60,834
Highway projects	653,100	653,486	(386)
Installing and maintaining traffic control devices	60,900	66,360	(5,460)
Buildings	39,070	30,521	8,549
Sidewalks	99,310	121,658	(22,348)
Bridges	70,000	33,722	36,278
Streetlights	127,100	131,398	(4,298)
Downtown	157,130	185,818	(28,688)
Vehicles and equipment	379,550	571,182	(191,632)
	<u>3,317,170</u>	<u>3,474,361</u>	<u>(157,191)</u>
Other:			
Bennington County Regional Commission	13,570	13,570	-
Bennington Free Clinic	4,500	4,500	-
Bennington Home Health	21,600	21,600	-
Bennington Project Independence	9,450	9,450	-
Bennington Tutorial Center	7,200	7,200	-
Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council	7,020	7,020	-
Bennington Homeless Shelter	22,500	22,500	-
Bennington In Bloom	18,000	20,282	(2,282)
CERCLA	4,980.00	720.00	4,260
Community Built Park	-	590	(590)
Conservation of natural resources - tree program	7,750	3,965	3,785
County taxes	76,000	76,634	(634)
Drug investigations	-	(50)	50
Flood control program	2,040	3,587	(1,547)
Health management fees	-	216,749	(216,749)
Holiday celebrations	21,600	20,725	875
Hurricane Irene flood expense	-	596,436	(596,436)
Library administration	371,400	371,400	-
Miscellaneous contingencies	20,000	-	20,000
North Bennington - recreation	7,700	7,700	-
Poor relief - burials	3,000	-	3,000
Project Against Violent Encounters	3,150	3,150	-
Retired Seniors Volunteer Program	7,200	7,200	-
Reserve fund expenditures	-	91,805	(91,805)

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -
Budget and Actual - General Governmental Activities Fund (Continued)
Year Ended June 30, 2013

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures (continued):			
Other (continued):			
Seizure/Forfeiture	\$ -	1,772	(1,772)
9/11 Memorial	-	930	(930)
Vermont Council on Aging	9,900	9,900	-
Vermont CTR - Independent Living	4,500	4,500	-
	<u>643,060</u>	<u>1,523,835</u>	<u>(880,775)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>10,490,770</u>	<u>12,050,209</u>	<u>(1,559,439)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(380,000)</u>	<u>(1,021,290)</u>	<u>(641,290)</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Operating transfers in (out):			
Proceeds from note payable	-	157,386	157,386
Administrative charges:			
Community Development Fund	40,000	40,000	-
Water Fund	72,000	72,000	-
Sewer Fund	78,000	78,000	-
Transfer to Parking Fund	(10,000)	(20,000)	(10,000)
	<u>180,000</u>	<u>327,386</u>	<u>147,386</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>(693,904)</u>	<u>(493,904)</u>
Fund balance, July 1, 2012	<u>(2,186,719)</u>	<u>(2,186,719)</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, June 30, 2013	<u>\$ (2,386,719)</u>	<u>(2,880,623)</u>	<u>(493,904)</u>

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

Schedule of Funding Progress for Health Care Benefits

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) - Simplified Credit Cost (b)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((b-a)/c)
6/30/2009	\$ -	503,300	503,300	0.0%	1,736,246	29.0%
6/30/2010	-	542,903	542,903	0.0%	1,777,054	30.6%
6/30/2011	-	797,926	797,926	0.0%	1,770,360	45.1%
6/30/2012	-	494,697	494,697	0.0%	1,776,951	27.8%
6/30/2013	-	634,575	634,575	0.0%	1,812,669	35.0%

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended June 30, 2013

Federal Grant/Program Title	CFDA Number	Grant Number	Expenditures
<u>United States Department of Housing and Urban Development</u>			
Passed through Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development			
Community Development Block Grants/State's program	14.228	07110-IG-10	\$ 86,306
Total U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development			<u>86,306</u>
<u>United States Department of Transportation</u>			
Passed through Vermont Agency of Transportation:			
<u>Federal Highway Administration</u>			
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	STP EH 07 (14)	109,600
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	STP BIKE (26)S	3,502
		STP SDWK (12)	32,186
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	STP EH 08 (00)	13,246
Total Passed through Vermont Agency of Transportation			<u>158,534</u>
Passed through Vermont Department of Public Safety:			
<u>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</u>			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	02140-1112-2102	4,147
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	02140-1213-2101	15,647
			<u>19,794</u>
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608	02140-1113-5001	11,867
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608	02140-1112-9202	3,891
			<u>15,758</u>
Safety Belt Performance Grants	20.609	02140-0912-3503	3,696
Total Passed through Vermont Department of Public Safety			<u>39,248</u>
Total U.S. Department of Transportation			<u>197,782</u>
<u>United States Department of Homeland Security</u>			
Passed through Vermont Agency of Transportation:			
FEMA Disaster Relief	97.036	FEMA-4022-DR-VT	376,215
Passed through Vermont Department of Public Safety:			
US Department of Homeland Security Grant	97.067	02140-70264V-115	6,503
US Department of Homeland Security Grant	97.067	02140-78152-212	20,250
			<u>26,753</u>
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			<u>402,968</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u>\$ 687,056</u>

SECTION II

COMPLIANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Select Board
Town of Bennington, Vermont

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Bennington, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Town of Bennington, Vermont's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 17, 2014.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Town of Bennington, Vermont's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs, P.C.

January 17, 2014

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY OMB CIRCULAR A-133**

To the Select Board
Town of Bennington, Vermont

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Town of Bennington, Vermont's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Town of Bennington, Vermont's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2013. Town of Bennington, Vermont's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to its federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of Town of Bennington, Vermont's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about Town of Bennington, Vermont's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of Town of Bennington, Vermont's compliance.

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, Town of Bennington, Vermont, complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2013.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of Town of Bennington, Vermont, is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of OMB Circular A-133. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs, P.C.

January 17, 2014

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended June 30, 2013

Summary of Auditor's Results:

1. The auditors' report expresses an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of Town of Bennington, Vermont.
2. No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of Town of Bennington, Vermont, which would be required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, were disclosed during the audit.
3. The auditors' report on compliance for the major federal award programs for Town of Bennington, Vermont expresses an unqualified opinion on the major federal programs.
4. No reportable conditions relating to the audit of the major federal award program are reported in the *Report on Compliance with Requirements That Could Have a Direct and Material Effect on Each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133*.
5. There are no audit findings that are required to be reported in accordance with Section 510(a) of OMB Circular A-133.
6. The program tested as a major program for the year ended June 30, 2013 was:

FEMA Disaster Relief (CFDA 97.036).
7. The threshold used for distinguishing between Type A and B programs was \$300,000.
8. Town of Bennington, Vermont did not qualify as a low-risk auditee.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET PROPOSAL

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FY2013	ACTUAL FY2013	BUDGET FY2014	ACTUAL FY14 PRD6	PROPOSED FY2015	FY14 vs FY15 % INC/(DEC)
SELECT BOARD	17,840	20,234	17,840	8,107	16,000	-10.31%
TOWN MANAGER	202,550	202,130	208,170	120,830	214,050	2.82%
TREASURER	21,010	22,576	22,500	11,182	23,070	2.53%
ACCOUNTING	215,140	213,772	226,310	138,214	229,620	1.46%
LISTING	143,610	143,391	148,010	84,110	153,460	3.68%
COLLECTIONS	75,020	85,421	77,290	46,740	81,130	4.97%
TOWN CLERK	224,190	227,575	219,040	123,874	223,220	1.91%
PERMIT-PLAN-CODE ENFORCE	275,610	278,516	226,940	142,400	237,590	4.69%
ECONOMIC & COMM DEV	112,310	114,131	152,100	86,687	166,260	9.31%
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	481,840	541,866	589,810	484,131	655,340	11.11%
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	318,880	316,298	357,780	209,119	372,520	4.12%
FLOOD CONTROL	2,040	3,587	4,560	738	4,320	-5.26%
POLICE	3,005,230	2,994,278	3,157,790	1,886,094	3,302,190	4.57%
DEBT-POLICE	60,300	60,296	57,950	52,065	55,580	-4.09%
SOLID WASTE MGMT	94,700	84,158	70,790	27,902	93,470	32.04%
CERCLA	4,980	720	3,680	720	53,400	1351.09%
CEMETARY	43,860	27,856	39,000	17,268	41,300	5.90%
HEALTH OFFICER	8,070	12,372	8,070	3,875	8,070	0.00%
ANIMAL CONTROL	15,340	12,963	0	0	0	0.00%
PARKS & RECREATION	558,890	1,062,194	608,660	393,340	636,150	4.52%
DEBT-RECREATION	47,600	12,712	40,000	34,311	0	-100.00%
SENIOR CITIZENS	157,800	134,482	153,060	73,814	146,480	-4.30%
GRANTS & SUBSIDIES	389,970	489,690	401,530	488,880	423,460	5.46%
HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS	21,600	20,725	20,600	16,867	28,600	38.83%
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS	25,750	24,247	25,750	12,425	28,750	11.65%
MISC CONTINGENCIES	33,000	20,000	56,690	5,000	30,000	-47.08%
DEBT-FIRE BUILDING BOND	33,910	33,905	32,340	30,063	28,800	-10.95%
DEBT-TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE	10,000	8,292	10,000	5,417	10,000	0.00%
COUNTY TAX PAYMENTS	76,000	76,634	77,000	77,095	78,000	1.30%
RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURES	0	307,981	0	396,768	0	0.00%
HIGHWAY FUND	3,317,170	4,126,274	3,479,420	2,908,429	3,720,500	6.93%
DEBT-HIGHWAY FUND	65,200	65,224	141,790	88,783	143,960	1.53%
FIRE FUND	262,060	246,131	254,470	115,987	257,950	1.37%
DEBT-FIRE FUND	79,580	79,573	75,810	70,351	69,110	-8.84%
Expenditures Subtotal	10,104,460	11,888,138	10,788,650	7,880,595	11,368,860	5.38%
Debt Management Subtotal	296,590	182,066	176,100	280,990	163,490	-7.16%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,401,050	12,070,204	10,964,750	8,161,585	11,532,350	5.18%
Less Transfer To Parking Fund	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	0.00%
NET OF TRANSFERS OUT	10,381,050	12,050,208	10,944,750	8,141,585	11,512,350	5.19%

NOTES