

Town of Bennington, Vermont



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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 Corcoran Family

Timothy R. Corcoran
June 4, 1950 – November 6, 2014

Served on the Bennington Select Board 1973 - 1994
Served in the House of Representatives 1981 – 1995

Served as Bennington Town Clerk 1995 – until his death

This Annual Report is dedicated to
Timothy R. Corcoran, a true Benningtonian.
His community was his life.

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, Cassandra Barbeau 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 Bennington Select Board meets at 6 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Bennington Fire Station Meeting Room on River Street unless otherwise warned. In the case of holidays, conflicts or special topics, the meeting could be moved. Additional meetings are held as necessary for emergencies, budgetary workshops or other issues that arise. All meetings are open to the public, regardless. Meetings are broadcast on CAT-TV. We thank them for their continued commitment to the community. The Bennington Select Board is made up of seven Bennington residents holding 3-year terms. In 2014, Sharyn Brush was re-elected to the board and Michael Keane was elected for his first term. Also on the board are Justin Corcoran, John Mc Fadden, Tom Jacobs and myself, Greg Van Houten. I was elected Chair, and Sharyn Brush, Vice Chair in the April reorganization meeting. Joe Krawczyk stepped down from the board after many years of service to Bennington both on the Select Board and as a State Representative. I am grateful for the chance to work with Joe. He is truly dedicated to Bennington.

2014 began with the Town Staff's budget presentations. The Town Manager and staff did an excellent job of preparing and presenting a budget that focused on the needs of our residents and businesses, while addressing the challenges of reduced support from state and federal sources and a stagnant economy. The infrastructure is sound and as is our fiscal condition as a result. The Town of Bennington budget and the school budgets were presented together at the second select board meeting in February. That practice will be carried to 2015. Water and sewer budgets as well as the budget of our Better Bennington Corporation were set in spring in order to be approved in June.

Town meeting saw a bond vote for an expansion of the municipal water system to address pressure deficiencies in the south end and partner with Southern Vermont College to bring their campus on our system. The bond was defeated. Design adjustments were made and an informational hearing was held to clarify points of question to the public. A revised bond article was voted and approved in June. We thank voters for their guidance and support in addressing this vital issue.

The board has continued to meet with our local school board representatives and The Bennington Economic Development Partners to keep our goals in line and work together. The Morgan Street Wetlands Project continues to evolve, as does the Ninja Bike Trail thanks to community generosity and hard work of our staff and volunteers. These two recreational assets will be significant additions to Bennington. The pedestrian enhancement project along Kocher Drive and across US 7 to Northside Drive continued into engineering and budget phases. Staff and engineers are close to a design that will improve the safety of the public with only a minor financial impact to our budget. We are also at the end of a long negotiation with the Federal Government regarding reimbursement for money spent to repair our rivers after Tropical Storm Irene. Town staff has recovered all but \$1.3 million of the \$5 million in emergency spending. We are hopeful that further reimbursement will come, and the town can attend to previously identified projects that were put on hold after the storm. We thank our federal representatives and their staffs for their attention to our requests.

2014 saw the Bennington Fire Department consolidate two aging trucks into a new Rescue Pumper. The new truck is a state of the art first response unit that brings tools, water, lights, communications and personnel to the scene for rapid deployment and reduced strain on resources. The board re-established a position long frozen on the Bennington Police Department enabling us to return to full staff later this year. Our emergency services department has also collaborated with the Bennington County Sheriff's Department and Bennington Rescue Squad and the Bennington Rural Fire Department to optimize response and minimize dispatch and impoundment costs. We are well served by maintaining this high level of cooperation, both financially and practically.

The Select Board undertook the task of creating a policy and practice for reviewing our Town Manager. This was approved in January 2015 and will allow the board to document the performance of the manager, thus creating a benchmark for the position looking forward. Several economic development initiatives were endorsed by the board including grant facilitations, business and residential improvement loans and The Bennington Housing Study. The staff is currently working on an ordinance to address deteriorating vacant buildings. The board has petitioned the state to address the ongoing concerns on Northside Drive, a state road, as well as requesting the Bennington Visitors center be renamed in honor of the late Senator James Jeffords.

2014 saw the loss of many of our friends and neighbors like any year. The passing of our friend and Town Clerk, Tim Corcoran, was especially difficult based on the many years and many ways he served our town, touching most everyone in and around Bennington. Thanks to Tim's dedication and foresight, his office was left in the capable hands of his 20-year assistant. The board unanimously appointed Cassandra Barbeau to the position of Bennington Town Clerk in November.

Bennington continues to move forward, and thanks to vision and determination, is poised to take advantage of the opportunities that will arise over the next few years as the economy continues to grow. The plans to develop tools of economic development, sustain business and population, enhance educational opportunities and expectations are paramount to the success of this regional center. Recognizing the strengths of our industrial, medical, cultural, educational and commercial markets and how they make Bennington a unique and attractive community will serve us well in an expanding economy as it did in a shrinking economy.

I encourage our neighbors to read this annual report, learn about your town, and commit some time to making it the best it can be. It is our honor to serve as the Bennington Select Board, and has been my great privilege to serve as chair. I thank you for your support during my term. Please register and vote, every chance you get.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg 'GVH' Van Houten
Select Board Chair

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, 2015.

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)

Greg Van Houten	3/15
James Carroll	3/15
Sharyn L. Brush	3/16
Thomas H. Jacobs	3/16
John C. McFadden	3/16
Justin J. Corcoran	3/17
Michael A. Keane	3/17

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 W. Copp	5/15
Barry Horst	5/15
Daniel Malmborg	5/16
Milt Surdam	5/16
Ron Alderman	5/17
William Barney	5/17
Charles N. Kokoras	5/17

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	06/30/19
VERMONT DEPUTY TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN – Henry Higgins	06/30/19
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	03/31/16
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER - Kevin J. Goodhue	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)

Anne G. Bugbee	3/15
Joann Erenhouse, Esq.	3/15
Jeffrey Goldstone	3/17
Joseph H. Hall	3/17

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)

Jonathan Ryan	3/15
Kim M. Livingston	3/16
Scott Fox	3/17
Kristi Pepoon	3/18
Kathy L. Carrier	3/19

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
(elected 2 year term)

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

Robert W. Ebert	3/15
Position Open	3/16
Carol L. Holm	3/16

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)

Kenneth Swierad	5/15
Barry Horst	5/16
Charles W. Copp	5/17
Michael P. McDonough	5/17
Donald A. Campbell	5/18

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)

William C. Deveneau	3/15
Daniel Monks	3/16

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	4/14/15
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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 FY2016 fiscal year budget, to be voted on March 3, 2015. The Town budget presented to the voters this year is increasing \$119,990.00, or 1.03%. Considering other revenues, the amount to be raised by taxes is increased by \$0.0373, assuming all agencies were level funded. Unfortunately agency requests placed in the budget increased this year by \$25,690.00. 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 2015 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 tax rates is the reduction of fund balance support in the General Fund. Over the last six years, the Select Board has been returning a portion of the General Fund balance to the tax payers to mitigate the General Fund tax rate. 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 thirteen (13) additional agency ballot initiatives included this year totaling \$121,800.00. Should these agencies be approved, the General Fund tax rate will increase by \$0.012. The last Article, Article 15, is a petitioned request to add fluoride to the municipal water system. This is an advisory vote. WE also have two open select Board seats. Eight candidates have filed petitions to run. The Town Clerk's position is also open. The incumbent, Cassandra Barbeau, is the only candidate.

I note that the Town is still awaiting a decision on its final appeal on T.S. Irene expenditures totaling approximately \$1.1 million. We hope to resolve this issue in our favor this year.

At this time, I note, with sadness, the passing of long-time Town Clerk, Timothy R. Corcoran, last year. He and I worked together for more than forty (40) years. We all miss him, his practical jokes, his advocacy for the average citizen, and his love of this community.

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,
Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

During 2014, Officers from the Department responded to 8,245 calls for service, made 618 arrests for a total of 960 criminal offenses and issued 2,086 Vermont Civil Violation Complaints. Officers investigated 485 motor vehicle crashes within the Town of Bennington. Of the 485 motor vehicle crashes, 1 involved a fatality, 57 involved personal injury and 427 involved property damage.

Bennington Police Officers and civilian staff documented 2,125 hours of in-service training in 2014. This training included mental health, domestic violence, first aid, blood borne pathogens, fire extinguisher, field training officer, firearms, autism, active shooter, crash investigation, criminal enforcement, drug investigation and incident command. In addition the Department participated in a statewide catastrophic preparedness exercise.

Members of the Department continue to work on drug related issues in and around Bennington. We, along with our law enforcement and community partners, realize we will never be able to simply arrest everyone involved in drug related activities. We have been working closely with members of state and local government, community groups, United Counseling Service, Southwest Vermont Medical Center and local doctors in an effort to provide treatment to people involved in drug activity. Our efforts will continue. We look forward to continued community support.

Over the course of 2014, 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. A grant award of \$5,000.00 was received from the Vermont Governor's Highway Safety program allowing the purchase of an enclosed cargo trailer and multiple highway safety equipment related items.

The Bennington Police Department also received two grant awards totaling \$142,630.00 for the purchase of a Zetron Max Pro Console for the dispatch center and 28 Motorola XTS1500 portable radios. The grants allowed for most of the Department communications to be upgraded replacing equipment that was more than 15 years old. In addition, we worked out a ten year lease with Crowne Castle to move our radio equipment to a new location on Mount Anthony. This will enhance our ability to communicate effectively within the Town of Bennington.

The Bennington Police Department worked with the Bennington Fire Department and Bennington County Sheriff's Department holding another successful New Experience Camp in the summer of 2014. The interest in the week long adventure continued to grow and we had 30 participants this year. We are looking forward to more exciting changes in 2015.

Detective Peter Urbanowicz and Officer William DiNunzio both retired from the Bennington Police Department during 2014. Officer DiNunzio had 31 years of service with the Town of Bennington while Detective Urbanowicz served for 18 years. Both men served the Town and its residents well over their careers. They will be missed.

Officer Nicholas Cervero, Officer Michael Sharshon and Officer Michael Pierce were hired and began working as part-time police officers in 2014. The three officers attended training at the Vermont Police Academy and have been working with field training officers at the Department while waiting to attend the full-time basic law enforcement officer training course at the Vermont Police Academy beginning in February 2015.

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, Jr.
Chief of Police and Public Safety Director

BENNINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

As I look back on 2014, I would like to thank all of the volunteer members of the Bennington Fire Department! They are truly incredible people. Also, I appreciate all of the support I have received, both locally from our Town Government and Select Board, as well as all surrounding agencies including the State of Vermont. As a new fire chief prepares to take over at the Bennington Fire Department, I look back over the last twenty-five years; I have had so many mentors and made many friends! As I stated to the Select Board when presenting the 2016 budget, "It's not volunteering any more, but a part time job that you don't get paid for." When a person wants to volunteer as a fire fighter, they are asked to take a training class that is over two-hundred hours within two years of joining the fire department. This is a huge time commitment by a volunteer and a tremendous cost savings to the tax payers of Bennington.

In 2014 we took delivery of a new Toyne rescue pumper and downsized our fleet by one fire truck. The new rescue pumper will perform the duties of the two trucks it replaced. Thank you to the truck committee and the community for providing the fire department with a much needed rescue pumper truck. This truck will serve the community well and will enhance our abilities to provide greater service when needed!

I would also like to address the issue of combining the Bennington Fire Department and the Bennington Rural Fire Department. While cost savings have been discussed, I believe there are other things that need to be addressed. In speaking with Chief Wayne Davis of the Bennington Rural Fire Department, each department responds to approximately 200 to 250 calls for service per year, a combined call rate of 400 to 500 calls for service. While both fire departments struggle with recruiting and retaining volunteer members, we respond to our calls, rely on mutual aid and work well together. In the event the Town elects to combine the fire departments, call volume and response by volunteer members would double. We rely on local employers to allow the volunteers to leave work and respond to fire calls. If the call volume is doubled, it will put an additional strain on the employer and volunteer.

The fire department budgets combined are approximately \$650,000.00. This is a significant amount of money, but it is far less than if we had a paid department. Departments having full-time staff around the State of Vermont, with budgets in the

millions of dollars, find they still need volunteers or paid-on-call members to cover when large scale events or critical incidents take place. We need to take care of our volunteers, keep them safe and provide them with necessary training and equipment. We need to focus on maintaining the desires of our volunteers wanting to volunteer their time for the community.

Currently there are 59 fire fighters and 10 junior fire fighters in our fire program. Retention of volunteers may be challenging. Not one volunteer firefighter asks for money or for a reward. We volunteer to provide a high level of service to our community. There is no better feeling for a volunteer Firefighter than having someone approach them and say, "Thank you for helping me."

Lastly, I would like to mention our fire prevention program. We educate hundreds of children and adults each and every year. I thank every volunteer involved in our program. Each volunteer does a great job. Following instruction, the children tell me they have their parents change the batteries in detectors and practice fire drills at home, which is exactly what we are hoping for!

We responded to 209 calls for service in 2014. The calls for service break down as follows:

- 3- other fires
- 5- building fires
- 6- cooking fires
- 2- chimney fires
- 5- furnace malfunctions
- 2- trash fires
- 2- animal rescues
- 15- motor vehicle accidents with injuries
- 13- motor vehicle accidents
- 10- motor vehicle accident general clean up
- 2- good intent calls
- 30- hazardous conditions calls, including propane, fuel and unknown odors
- 35- alarm activations
- 25- false alarms/ Alarms pulled
- 20- alarm activations/ where batteries needed changings
- 10- faulty detectors
- Total man hours for fire calls: 1,522.00
- Total man hours for training and meetings: 1,718.00

Fire prevention was taught to 706 children and 108 adults during 2014. Members of the Bennington Fire Department volunteered 213.5 hours providing fire prevention instruction to the community.

Bennington Fire Department members volunteered a total of 3,453.5 hours during 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Crawford
Fire Chief

PUBLIC WORKS

Highway Division

EXCAVATION PROJECTS:

The Highway Department had a very productive year beginning with the Silver Street sidewalk project. It replaced catch basins, storm drain piping, excavated and installed new retaining walls, new curb and sidewalk from Union Street, south to Norton Street on the east side of the street. The Park Street Bridge membrane was replaced by the Highway Department near the Scott Street entrance. The department removed existing blacktop and loose concrete, washed the bridge, repaired the concrete, installed a new membrane, installed some curb and sidewalk, and paved the area. The lower Willow Park contaminated sites were cleared and fabric and erosion stone was installed by the Highway Department, others installed a fence around this area. The wooded brush area around the Roth Pavilion was cleared, top soiled and seeded. All roads that received pavement had ditches cleaned out, and new culverts and shoulders installed.

CONTRACT PAVING PROJECTS:

The Town contracted out the following roads and streets to be paved: Jewett Drive, Dermody Road, Eastview Drive, a portion of Willow Park parking lot, Bradford Street, Safford Street, Observatory Street, Stark Street, Pine Street, Silver Street, and Forestview Drive. All were paved by Pike Industries.

SIDEWALK PROJECTS:

The Highway Department poured 612 cubic yards of concrete sidewalks as follows: Silver Street, Safford Street, Bradford Street, and South Street in front of the County Court House. A Highway Department crew also reset bricks in front of the County Court House.

ADDITIONAL WORK AND PROJECTS:

The Highway Department replaces hundreds of damaged, stolen, faded, and noncompliant signs per year. There are also seasonal duties such as sweeping, storm drainage maintenance and cleaning, bark mulching, decorating, set out planters, garbage cans located and emptied weekly, and benches placed. Many hours were devoted to the flood wall maintenance this fall to pass the inspection. The Coleville Road Bridge was replaced this season as the existing bridge abutment was undermining and the water opening was hydraulically inadequate.

GRANTS:

The Highway Department received a structures grant from the State of Vermont for \$175,000.00. This money was used to help replace the Coleville Road Bridge.

EQUIPMENT:

The Highway Department replaced one 2004 single axle dump truck with a new 2015 tandem axle dump truck. It also replaced one 2003 ¾ ton pickup with a new 2015 one ton utility body pickup. A used 2000 bucket truck was also purchased.

EMPLOYEES:

Richard Morgan was promoted from a Highway Laborer to a Working Highway Foreman in January. Kirk Chitwood was hired as a Highway Laborer in February.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Highway Department did the following paving projects: a portion of Whipstock Road, Blackberry Lane and the Park Street Bridge. Private contractors installed guard rail along the North side of Houghton Lane, replaced the turn buckles beneath the Henry Bridge and ground the brush pile at the Transfer Station. The cold storage area near the salt shed was finished and heated so there is room to get all equipment out of the weather.

WINTER MAINTENANCE:

The Highway Department plows, salts and maintains 115 miles of roads, 40 miles of sidewalks, and 8 parking lots during the winter months. The crews work nights, weekends, and holidays in order to keep them all as safe as possible for travel.

Respectfully submitted,
R.J. Joly, Highway Superintendent

PUBLIC WORKS**Water Resources/Water & Sewer Divisions**

The 2014 calendar year was again a very successful year in regards to Bennington's Water Resources Division. We were able to meet or exceed our goals for Water and Wastewater for the year and stay within budgets.

During the winter months the Water crews installed a new backwash metering system at our Water Filtration Plant. This system will allow for more efficient backwashing of filters at the plant saving both water and energy. Final design was completed on our South End Water Project mandated by the State of Vermont in anticipation of a March bond vote. This \$3.3 Million dollar project would include a 750,000-gallon water tank, a water pump station and approximately 3,000 lineal feet of 10" water line. This project will help improve pressures and flows to the higher elevations within the towns' water distribution system. These areas currently do not meet the full criteria outlined by Federal EPA Safe Drinking Water Standards. **Note:** The initial bond vote failed in March but was downsized to a \$3.0 Million project and passed in June.

The Wastewater Division completed a major energy audit at the town's Wastewater facilities funded totally through an Efficiency Vermont grant program. (\$10,000.00) Through this educational process we determined that electrical savings were available through simple equipment run time adjustments, with more significant savings through the investment on new more efficient equipment. The Wastewater Treatment Facility is the Town's largest single user of electricity budgeted at \$150,000.00 annually. Through our operators' efforts and our newly installed equipment, we will save an estimated \$13,500.00 annually. We also expect savings in fuel oil consumption with improvements made to address heating type deficiencies realized during the audit.

In 2014, the Town hired a private contractor to construct one of the final two short phases of water line improvements along Northside Drive. The construction of these final two phases will complete a 6-year \$1.3 Million process to upgrade water system components along Northside Drive and North Bennington Road. Our Wastewater and Water crews worked in preparation for the Highway Department's road improvement projects. We began on Silver Street and moved to Safford and Bradford Streets. Our goal was to make

all the necessary repairs and upgrades to sanitary sewer and water systems in these project areas before the final paving was completed.

Our Wastewater Department bid and contracted to replace an outdated sewer pump station on Bank Street in North Bennington. Timing of this project was critical as the project completion had to be coordinated with a planned paving project on Bank Street. We also had new pump controls panels installed at our Hildur Hill and Beech Street Pump Stations replacing the 30 plus year old systems at these two locations. Our Wastewater crews also took on a very large task of cleaning one of the Primary Digesters at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Due to a number of extenuating circumstances and poor performance of our rental equipment, our well-intended efforts turned into a real learning experience. However, we did prevail.

The reconstruction of the Benmont Avenue Bridge was bid and let by the State of Vermont in the late fall. The significance here is that we will be placing a new water line on the reconstructed bridge at a substantial savings to the town by teaming up with the initial project. This project is scheduled to begin in early 2015.

The Water Department had two new roof access hatches installed at the Filtration Plant so that they could replace an aging backwash pump system. It would appear the original 1977 design of the Water Filtration Plant did not adequately account for the future removal of these 12-15 foot tall pump units.

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

Total Drinking Water Processed for 2014

Average Daily Water Used

Wastewater Processed for 2014

Average Daily Wastewater Processed

Average BOD and TSS Removals for 2014

553 Million Gallons

1.6 Million Gallons Total

1.3 Billion Gallons

3.6 Million Gallons

96% Removals

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 strong 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
- Continuous Improvement

Loan Portfolio:

In 2014 the Town gave out seven (7) Town-wide Housing Loans and six (6) Business Loans for a total of \$301,520. These loans allowed for the creation of three new businesses, the expansion/renovation of three businesses, and the repair/upgrade of several housing units in town. In addition a number of homeowners were able to make the necessary upgrades to their homes. The most notable of these loans was for the rehabilitation and remediation of the former Alcaro Motors property on Main Street by West Shore Management and the relocation of LaFlamme's Furniture to this downtown parcel.

Loan Portfolio as of January 1, 2015	Business Loan (BRLP)	Housing Loan (TWHL)	Micro Loan (inactive)
Current Total Active Loans	28	33	6
Total Amount Loaned	\$935,321	\$686,864	\$43,867
Current Outstanding Balance	\$660,692	\$435,394	\$20,682
Current Long-term Delinquency (>3 mon)	4	1	2
Current Available Balance	\$373,371		\$140,273

Grant Portfolio:

Grant	Status (Expected Deadline)
• CDBG – Shires Housing (Monument View)	In Progress (TBD)
• Pleasant Street Enhancement Grant	In Progress (Sept 2016)
• Municipal Planning Grant (Town Area-wide Plan)	In Progress (Dec 2015)
• VTrans Bike/Ped Grant (Applegate Pathway Project)	In Progress (Dec 2015)
• VTrans Grant (Scoping Study of Franklin Lane Project)	In Progress (Jun 2015)
• VTrans Bike/Ped Grant (Ninja Bike Path)	In Progress (Jun 2015)
• VTrans Vehicle Charging Station Grant	In Progress (Jun 2015)
• Municipal Planning Grant (Housing Study)	Complete
• USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant (Marketing)	Complete
• VCRD Downtown WiFi Grant	Complete

Economic Development

- **Bennington Economic Development Partners:** The Bennington Economic Development Partners (BEDP) exists to create, facilitate, and evaluate economic development activities in the Bennington Region through organization collaboration and enhanced communication. The BEDP has spent the past year working to make measurable gains towards the completion of the strategies that were adopted by the Select Board in May 2013 as part of the Town's Economic Development Strategy.

Specifically the group has done significant work in the areas of workforce K-16 education collaboration, training, downtown, connectivity, recreation, housing, recruitment, brownfields, and marketing.

Moving forward, the group believes it appropriate to prioritize those strategies that are most important (and achievable), and to develop manageable work plans that outline milestones for the next 12 months.

Original Strategies		Status
90D3	Develop an umbrella program for support of Bennington enhancement projects. Possible elements could include a façade program with a 50/50 match, marketing efforts, downtown property rental assistance, recreational opportunity development and other community enhancement projects.	Ongoing
SA2	Create a continuum of workforce development and targeted training opportunities to ensure local jobs are created and filled by Bennington residents wherever feasible. As an initial step, identify skills required by Bennington employers and make recommendations to public and private schools and training providers for curriculum enhancements, new and revised programs by July 1, 2014.	Ongoing
SA3	Design and implement a comprehensive local internship program for high school students, college students and unemployed and underemployed adults based upon the needs of area businesses by July 1, 2014.	Ongoing
SA4	Survey existing, emerging and departed businesses and recruiting professionals to identify actions that can be taken to help with start-up and retention costs and attracting and retaining high caliber managers and employees. Recommendations might address barriers such as space availability, costs of doing business in Bennington, workforce issues, transportation, availability of financing and community amenities. As part of this effort, create a process to assist local businesses with recruitment of key employees.	Ongoing
SA5	Research growth industries for the next 10 years and identify methods to attract or incubate selected entities in the Bennington region. Special attention should be given to critical parts of the value chain of key area industries.	No Progress
SA6	Develop a cultural plan designed to improve opportunities for, and communication and cooperation among, Bennington's artistic and cultural businesses, resources and practitioners.	Nearing Completion
90D1	Establish an implementation and accountability framework for the Bennington Strategic Economic Development Plan.	Completed
90D2	Create a blanket of free wi-fi "hot spots" to cover all of downtown Bennington.	Completed
90D4	Commence efforts to attract college students to downtown Bennington by addressing business hours, the mix of businesses which cater to students and the establishment of regular transportation at night between the colleges and downtown.	Completed
90D5	Identify a target property and secure a lease for a college store in downtown Bennington.	Completed
90D6	Continue active progress on the Ninja Trail from Bennington to North Bennington.	Completed
90D7	Detail specific action steps to be taken to recruit businesses to and expand businesses in Bennington, drawing from the strategies articulated in the Bennington Strategic Economic Development Plan. (Recruitment and Retention Plan)	Completed
90D8 / SA8	Support the MAU Math Pilot Program to foster increased math confidence and skills in students in grades 9-12. As appropriate, expand the model to reach more math students, and students in other academic areas.	Completed
90D9	Schedule and conduct a Select Board-School Boards meeting to discuss elements of common concern and to devise a structure for communications.	Completed
SA1	Establish an implementation and accountability framework for the Bennington Strategic Economic Development Plan.	Completed

SA7	Produce a strategy, by July 1, 2014, to develop an adequate supply of quality housing units at affordability level consistent with the workforce needs of Bennington businesses.	Completed
SA9	Utilize the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) program and other sources to identify and map underutilized and vacant properties and develop options to achieve future development objectives of such sites.	Completed
SA10	Develop a full-service marketing campaign that targets professionals and those in the 25-44 year old demographic who have left the area.	Completed

These seven strategies are the key focus of the group even as the BEDP continues its work on other projects and initiatives that support the Town's economic development strategic plan.

1. Develop an Internship Program that serves local businesses, utilizing high school, college and post-graduate students who would benefit from internships at local businesses.
 2. Develop a seamless Career Exploration Continuum for students in grades k-16 that supports economic development in the Bennington area.
 3. Develop and implement a comprehensive engagement strategy that identifies prospects and utilizes a pipeline process to track contact status, level of interest, and next steps.
 4. Establish a downtown commercial and residential improvement program to provide for improvement of vacant and underutilized downtown space.
 5. Establish a direct bus/shuttle link between Bennington and the Amtrak passenger rail station in Rensselaer.
 6. Completion of Phase 1 of the Ninja Pathway Project.
 7. Publication of digital and print maps marking cultural, recreational, and entertainment assets for recruitment and tourism.
- **Town Economic Development Plan:** Adopted in May of 2013, this document identified a number of recommendations for moving the Town forward when it comes to economic development. The first recommendation was to appoint the Bennington Economic Development Partners as the group to oversee the Plan's progress.

Community Development

- **Project Catalyst**
Project Catalyst is designed to create a comprehensive approach to combating drug abuse and related crimes in the town of Bennington, VT. Specifically, this project focuses on strategic enforcement, active community partnering, and broad prevention efforts.
This project targets 'at-risk' neighborhoods and streets and offers a number of different opportunities to tenants, landlords and home owners who live within the specified area referred to as the 'saturation period.' The project targets areas that exhibit certain risk factors (as identified below) and focuses efforts within that area for a predetermined timeframe. At the end of this period, the town would track changes to statistical markers such as crime, truancy, property appearance, EMS calls and overall improvement on the blighted area.

Project Catalyst has two approaches. The first is a targeted effort focusing on a specific area or neighborhood, while the second is the implementation of actions or campaigns that would span the greater community (i.e. crime tip line).

Over the past five years Bennington has seen an alarming increase in overall illegal activity, especially related to drug distribution and use. Simultaneously, there has been a need to have community members more engaged in the reclaiming of their neighborhoods. Additionally, a need for combating the negative image associated with active drug enforcement and the associated negative media attention has highlighted the need for an increase in positive brand reinforcement. The goal of this project is to reduce the number of drug related incidents through the active engagement of the community and the collaboration of multiple state and local agencies. Through enforcement, treatment and prevention, Bennington can continue its tradition of being a safe, healthy and vibrant community that focuses on the wellbeing of others and that encourages a small town way of life.

- **The E.Y.E.S. Program** (Every Yard - Every Street)
The EYES Program, which stands for Every Yard, Every Street, focuses on the desire to have a measurable impact on the Bennington community by including every property on every road. Specifically focused on drug use and abuse, this program combines outreach, prevention, education, engagement and relationship-building to achieve the goal of encouraging all residents to reclaim a community that is being impacted by drug related abuse.

While the term EYES is a moniker, it also denotes the idea that we are a community that will remain vigilant and that we care about the safety of our neighborhoods and the lifestyle of our residents. The EYES program began with the implementation of an anonymous crime tip line and the marketing of the program to the general public.

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 page 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

I've been encouraged to start the Better Bennington Corporation's (BBC) annual report with a thank you on behalf of the merchants all throughout downtown who wish to express their appreciation to all those folks who understand that supporting locally owned businesses also supports the entire local economy.

Locally, and nation-wide, the "Shop Small" message is finally beginning to take hold, clearly demonstrated this past holiday season in Downtown Bennington as shoppers proudly displayed their "Small Business Saturday" buttons and tote bags while they visited the shops, restaurants, and galleries on Main Street.

The annual activities and programs coordinated by the BBC are much too numerous to recap within this short report, so I am encouraging you to visit www.betterbennington.com on a regular basis to stay connected with all the events and activities that occur throughout the year. In addition to a calendar of events, our website provides a directory of all our cultural assets, a new business resource kit, and an on-line listing of the available properties and opportunities that exist. Main Streets across America are still the breeding grounds for entrepreneurs, and the committees of the BBC are here to help get you started with your own venture.

This year we welcomed several new and expanded businesses with 7 ribbon cutting ceremonies during our First Friday celebrations. The college community also continues to expand its downtown presence with the new student center and dorms for Northeastern Baptist College, adding to SVC, CCV, and Vermont Technical that already have a downtown location.

Some "behind the scenes" BBC partnerships that deserve recognition include those with the Vermont Arts Exchange, Bennington School, Bennington College, Cultural Bennington, AmeriCorps Vista, the Bennington Economic Development Partners, the

State of Vermont, the Town of Bennington, and of course, all the volunteers who help make everything we do possible. Thank you to everyone one of you.

As we wrap up 2014, we also need to thank the property owners, members, and corporate sponsors whose financial support allows us to provide services to the local businesses, promote our cultural assets, and keep all our events free to the public.

Respectfully submitted,
John Shannahan, 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 well-being 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 to be a member of the center. 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 are: quilting and sewing; music lessons; exercise; dance; and senior chair yoga; 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, healthy eating, and education programs supported by the Council on Aging. I have added senior chair yoga cost free for the town and all seniors who participate thanks to Sonya Burdge. Plans for enriching the cultural lives of our members included trips to the Bethlehem, Pa., Cape Cod, Big E, a fall foliage train ride, a trip to Mystic Seaport to attend a Shoji Tabuchi Show and trip to the Bronx Zoo, in addition to our customary trips to Hampton Beach, and Radio City Music Hall, Mac-Haydn Theatre, and Capital Repertory Theatre, I have hosted Vermont Humanities Teas, Don Bettis and the COVE Players. To foster the social well-being of our members, The center offers many potluck luncheons, partnered with Bennington County Meals on Wheels for special events.

The center is seeing growing numbers of diverse members every year. The center has seen a 29% increase in Baby Boomers participating in the programs. A survey performed at the center indicated that 64% of seniors taking the survey live alone and 57% of seniors taking the survey live alone at poverty level. Many of these rely on the senior center for socialization and transportation.

I cannot fail to show my appreciation for over 1,300 hours of unpaid time provided by my volunteers, but more importantly for their talent, humor and patience. My job could never be done without each individual. They continue to compliment our strengths and support

our goals. I hope they understand that my achievements would not be possible without them. I earnestly thank them again for another year.

The goals of any director are increased worth, continued improvement, and forward progression for the facility and its programs. Our seniors support these goals. The residents of Bennington are encouraged read our newsletter, *Senior Community News*, for information about our programs. The bulletin can be found at various locales about town, by subscription and right at the center. You may call for a 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 by 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 957 memberships purchased and had a total of 1,886 members in 2014.

The Rec Trac computer system recorded approximately 38,421 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 2014 was \$10,743. There were 1,309 adults and 1,261 youth who paid the daily fee. This visit count does not include free swim, day cares, school groups and swim teams. The revenue for memberships and daily fees totaled \$73,235.

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 3,486 visits. Approximate pool visits totaled 41,832.

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. The total for room rentals and birthday parties was \$1,794. 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 \$23, 341.

Outside the Recreation Center facility there are four tennis courts, two racquet/handball courts, 3 full size basketball courts all open to the public free of charge. The softball field is open to the public free of charge unless reserved for a tournament or league.

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, volleyball courts and a 9-hole Disc Golf course. The Jim Ross and the East Road/upper pavilion is rented out for group picnics, weddings, reunions, etc. for a minimal fee. Rentals totaled \$1,180. They can be rented out April 1 through mid-October.

Work still continues to the Lower Willow restrooms with new tiling, light and toiletry fixtures. Job will be completed by April 1, 2015.

At the Recreation Center work still continues in the basement with the installation of LED lighting and high quality ceiling tiles.

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 \$0.00 including interest earned. During this year, \$1,251.14 was expended on repairs and maintenance of the Park. This concludes the Community Built Park Reserve Fund.

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, \$2,024.50 was expended at the Recreation Center. Interest earned was added to the Fund leaving a reserve fund balance of \$6,614.24.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

PERMITTING, PLANNING & CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

Permit Type	2013 Permits	Dollar Volume	2014 Permits	Dollar Volume
Single Family Dwelling	10	\$1,577,000.00	3	\$500,000.00
Duplex	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Mobile Homes	11	\$424,000.00	10	\$392,500.00
Apartments	1	\$8,000.00	1	\$275,000.00
Apartment Renovations	8	\$69,250.00	5	\$68,000.00
Condominiums	6	\$1,008,000.00	0	\$0.00
Residential Renovations	40	\$468,050.00	22	\$508,000.00
Residential Additions	9	\$406,500.00	8	\$376,000.00
Commercial Construction	8	\$1,816,500.00	6	\$3,941,000.00
Commercial Renovations	9	\$702,650.00	14	\$1,204,000.00
Industrial Construction	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Industrial Renovations	2	\$174,000.00	1	\$30,000.00

Garages	8	\$190,000.00	10	\$226,000.00
Sheds	34	\$148,200.00	25	\$52,050.00
Decks	21	\$83,400.00	23	\$62,450.00
Institutions	13	\$509,200.00	17	\$2,103,000.00
Signs	25	\$39,060.00	22	\$30,800.00
Use and Zoning	9	\$30,000.00	13	\$16,000.00
Subdivisions	12	\$0.00	6	\$0.00
Septic Systems-				
New/Repair	0	\$0.00	2	\$1,500.00
Home Occupation	0	\$0.00	3	\$6,000.00
Propane Tank/Storage				
Tank	1	\$30,000.00	9	\$64,500.00
Boilers/Furnaces, A/C,				
RTU's	17	\$252,200.00	4	\$6,500.00
Tents	2	\$5,500.00	4	\$17,250.00
Handicap Access/Ramps	6	\$16,500.00	0	\$0.00
Concreate Slabs	2	\$10,000.00	0	\$0.00
Cell Towers	2	\$25,000.00	1	\$27,000.00
Miscellaneous				
Totals	256	\$7,993,010.00	209	\$9,907,550.00

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 38 reported animal bites to humans in 2014. 25 from dogs, 12 from cats and 1 squirrel. This compares to 33 in 2013, 46 in 2012, 41 in 2011, 36 in 2010, 32 in 2009, 44 in 2008, 52 in 2007, 56 in 2006. 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 2014, the Planning Commission worked with the Bennington County Regional Commission to complete the Bennington Housing Report, applied for and received a grant for a Downtown Bennington Area-Wide Plan, supported numerous efforts to design trails, bike paths and sidewalks, and began updating the Bennington Town Plan.

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 2014 by the Development Review Board were: a new water tower and other improvements to the municipal water system, the renovation of 897 Monument Avenue into a new Admissions Office for Southern Vermont College, an expansion of Bennington Furniture, and a new Cumberland Farms on Northside Drive.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel W. Monks, Permitting Director

DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENT

With no reassessment activity in 2014, this office sent 186 Change of Appraised Value notices to property owners on May 14, 2014. These notices were sent to owners of property in which a material change had occurred from April 1, 2013 to April 1, 2014. The Board of Listers had 52 property grievances, 4 of which were forwarded to the Bennington Board of Civil Authority, and then 1 to the Superior Court Bennington Unit. No appeals from 2014 or prior years are outstanding.

The Town of Bennington's grand list for 2014 of all properties was \$1,016,299,825. The State's Equalization Study for 2014 (effective January 1, 2015) shows Bennington's common level of appraisal at 91.51 percent and our coefficient of dispersion at 15.32 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 2014 Equalization Study used sales data from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014.

Robert Ebert was appointed to the Board of Listers by the Select Board in 2014, joining Carol Holm, and replacing Michael Keane who was elected to the Select Board in March 2014, and Shirley Archibald who elected to retire from the board after twenty years of service.

Respectfully Submitted,
John M. Antognioni, Assessor

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Introduction to new Town Clerk, Cassandra Barbeau...

Following the death of long time Town Clerk, Timothy Corcoran on November 6, 2014, at the Select Board meeting held on November 10, 2014 I was appointed Town Clerk. It was with a heavy heart to be appointed to the position I have worked toward for over twenty years. Knowing the reason Tim trained me so well and knowing his drive for the office and community he loved so much, I have been in the office every day since his passing. During the days immediately following Tim's death, I was overwhelmed by the support and encouragement I received from my family, friends, co-workers and community members and those kind words propelled me forward on the days I wished I didn't need to come to the office. I am happy to know that the community I have lived in all my life recognizes my hard work and experience here in the Office of the Town Clerk and although it was certainly not the way I wished to earn the promotion, I am comfortable the Town is in good hands with my experience.

I have recently hired a new full-time Assistant Town Clerk, Kayla Thompson. Kayla is also a lifelong Bennington resident and resides here with her husband, Adam. I am now in the process of teaching her everything there is to know about local government, state government, record keeping, election law, various licensing and everything else that took me twenty years to learn!

While there may be a new face and moving a little furniture in the office, residents will most likely notice little has changed at the Town Clerk's Office. We also still have our Town cat, Maggie. Please feel free to stop by and say hello!

Beginning in 2008, the Vermont Department of Health began phasing in new regulations for acquisition of birth and death certificates. Coupled with new federal regulations and tightened security regarding this type of personal information, we will no longer make public the names, dates of birth and residency of such individuals. The official records are housed in the Town Clerk's Office and, at this time, are still available for inspection.

Cassandra Barbeau
Town Clerk
Bennington, VT

2014 LAND POSTINGS

Date Filed	Property Owner	Location	Acreage
11/13/2014	Bates, Randall E.	210 Michaels Drive/825 Houghton Ln	14
10/1/2014	Beal, Elizabeth	1819 Monument Ave	230
10/1/2014	Beal, Susan	1601 Monument Ave	42
10/10/2014	Bennington College	1 College Drive	450
10/22/2014	Denio, Chris	2319 Chapel Road	100
8/8/2014	Garden Homes Management	Gore Road Park	15
11/4/2014	Hall-Fleming, Patricia	River Road/Orebed Road	215
9/15/2014	Hennefeld, Julien	183 Silk Road	10
11/18/2014	Heys, Edward	268 Pippin Knoll	2
6/13/2014	Holland Company	Gore Road	66
9/18/2014	Irish, Robert	85 Red Pine Road	69
10/17/2014	Kachmar, Wayne M.	514 Orebed Road	50
5/23/2014	King, Gary	654 Chapel Road	1
8/5/2014	Kolar, Eileen S.	241 Houghton Lane	12
6/19/2014	Korn, Steve	3 Monument Circle	11
9/24/2014	Leone, Ronald	593 US Rt 7 South	3
3/3/2014	Lettre, Michael	150 Gore Road	5
4/28/2014	Parks, William V.	77 Fuller Road	150
9/10/2014	Pence, Suzanne	Pippin Knoll, west side	11
11/13/2014	Smith, Howard S.	Houran Road	131
11/18/2014	Traber, Melville Jr.	474 Orebed Road	5.5
6/19/2014	Zak, Madeline	Skiparee Road	430

2014 First Class Liquor Licenses

- 1 150 Depot LLC
- 2 Allegro Ristorante
- 3 American Legion Post #13, Inc.
- 4 Aramark "Dining Hall"
- 5 Aramark "Student Center"
- 6 Bennington Lanes
- 7 Bennington Pizza House
- 8 Bennington Pizza Plaza
- 9 Brown Cow Café LLC
- 10 Chili's Grill & Bar
- 11 Donovan's
- 12 Eagles, Frat. Order of, Aerie #1861
- 13 Elks, B.P.O. Bennington Lodge #567
- 14 Four Chimneys Inn
- 15 JC's Tavern
- 16 Jensen's Restaurant
- 17 Kevin's Sports Pub & Restaurant
- 18 Madison Brewing Company, Pub & Restaurant
- 19 Moose, Loyal Order of Lodge #1233
- 20 Mt. Anthony Golf & Tennis Club
- 21 Pangaea
- 22 Papa Pete's Restaurant
- 23 Peppermill's of Bennington
- 24 Pizza Hut
- 25 Publyk House
- 26 Ramunto's Pizza
- 27 Safford Mills Inn & Café
- 28 Veterans of Foregin Wars Post #1332
- 29 Your Belly's Deli

2014 Second Class Liquor Licenses

- 1 305 South LLC
- 2 Aldi, Inc.
- 3 Apple Barn
- 4 AUM, Inc.
- 5 Bennington Beverage Outlet
- 6 Beshara's Discount Bev. & Groceries
- 7 Beverage Den, Inc.
- 8 Catamount Glass
- 9 Cumberland Farms #8006
- 10 CVS Pharmacy #337
- 11 D's Market & Deli, Inc.
- 12 Elm Street Market
- 13 Hannaford Food & Drug Store
- 14 Henry's Market
- 15 K Mart #9536
- 16 Madison Brewing Company
- 17 Mag's Market
- 18 Martin's Mini Mart & Beverage Discount
- 19 Maruti, Inc.
- 20 Mincer's Mini Mart, Inc.
- 21 North Bennington Variety
- 22 Powers Market
- 23 Price Chopper #171
- 24 Rite Aid Store #10314
- 25 River Street Variety
- 26 Short Stop #117
- 27 Short Stop #145
- 28 Stewart's Shop #195
- 29 Tennybrook
- 30 Walmart Store #2289
- 31 Willy's Variety

TOWN OF BENNINGTON
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
 205 SOUTH STREET
 BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201
 802-442-1046
 July 7, 2014

Cash Flow and Account Balances as of June 30, 2014

CASH FLOW:	<u>06/01/2014 – 06/30/2014</u>	<u>07/01/2013 – 06/30/2014</u>
Beginning Balance	\$668,663.91	\$530,745.59
ADD:		
Interest	\$73.93	\$7,019.37
Various Town Receipts	\$721,331.18	\$29,193,312.67
Tax Anticipation Line of Credit	\$0.00	\$1,219,938.21
Special Line of Credit Draw (Irene)	\$0.00	\$11,004.47
Capital Equip.Note (trucks & skid steer)	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$298,974.00</u>
Total Available Cash	\$1,390,069.02	\$31,260,994.31
 SUBTRACT:		
Disbursements:		
Payroll Warrants	\$419,528.07	\$5,473,836.94
Vendor Warrants	\$714,505.58	\$25,086,197.37
Portion of Vendor Warrant #24 not released (\$140,632.11)		(\$140,632.11)
Vendor Warrants – Irene	\$0.00	\$11,462.77
Prepaid Checks	\$934.41	\$148,198.19
Vendor Payments	\$27,379.68	\$313,238.49
Community Built Park Fund donation transfer	\$0.00	\$205.00
Deposit Slip Order	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$134.27</u>
Total Disbursements	\$1,021,715.63	\$30,892,640.92
 Cash Balance on June 30, 2014	<u>\$368,353.39</u>	<u>\$368,353.39</u>

Respectfully submitted,
 Joan E. Pinsoneault, Town Treasurer

Operating Accounts

	<u>INTEREST</u>		<u>BALANCE</u>
	06/01/2014- 06/30/2014	07/01/2013- 06/30/2014	06/30/2014
<u>Chittenden Bank:</u>			
MBA Affiliate Dep.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$190,000.00
MBA Depository	\$73.93	\$7,019.37	\$133,353.39
General Fund Checking	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Payroll Checking	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
Flexible Spending	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
TOTALS	\$73.93	\$7,019.37	\$368,353.39

AGENCIES

The following agencies received monies in the amount shown from the Town of Bennington's General Fund in 2014:

Bennington Coalition for the Homeless - \$25,000.00
Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) - \$14,260.00
Bennington Free Clinic - \$7,500.00
Bennington Free Library - \$387,600.00
Bennington Project Independence, Adult Day Service - \$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 - \$13,900.00
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 SVHC- \$21,600.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living - \$4,500.00

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

2014 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY
130 RIVER STREET – 3RD Floor
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

MONDAY, MARCH 03, 2014
MINUTES

MODERATOR: Jason Morrissey

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Krawczyk – Chair; Sharyn Brush – Vice Chair; Jim Carroll; Greg Van Houten; Justin Corcoran; John McFadden; Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Tim Corcoran, Town Clerk; Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator & Assistant Town Manager; Terrance Morse, Water Resources Superintendent; Joan Pinsonneault, Treasurer; Mike Harrington, Economic & Community Development Director; Patrick McArdle, Rutland Herald; Keith Whitcomb, Bennington Banner; (65) Citizens; Linda E. Bermudez – Secretary

Absent: *Tom Jacobs*

At 7:00 P.M., **Jason Morrissey** called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Krawczyk, recited by all.

At this time Mr. Morrissey recognized Joe Krawczyk. Mr. Krawczyk wanted to introduce and congratulate the Mount Anthony Union High School Wrestling Team. They recently won their 26th State Championship. Mr. Krawczyk thanked Coach Scott Legacy along with the Assistant Coaches and the entire team for all their hard work. They have turned out some quality men and women over the years through this program.

Mr. Legacy thanked everyone for their support. They do not take their victories for granted. They are not easy and they are not guaranteed each year. The team consists of 7th through 12th Grade students who work very hard each time and do their best. Mr. Legacy continued by thanking the Assistant Coaches. He noted that most of them are volunteers. It was important to Mr. Legacy to also note that the JV Wrestling team just won their 25th State Championship.

Bennington was the host for this recent state championship. Mr. Legacy stated he was proud to host them and extremely happy to fill the local hotel rooms and restaurants with customers. They will now be moving on to defend the New England Title in Rhode Island.

Joe Krawczyk again thanked Mr. Legacy, the Assistant Coaches and the entire team. In two weeks there will be a parade for the Wrestling Team to celebrate the State Championship.

Joan Pinsonneault, Town Treasurer reminded everyone that Declaration of Homesteads are due by April 15th, 2014. If anyone is looking for a State Payment as well, they need to file the Household Income form along with the Declaration of Homestead. If these items are filed after April 15th, 2014 the homeowner will incur a penalty. Please check with elderly neighbors and family members to be sure they are filing the paperwork.

Jason Morrissey asked for a moment of silence to recognize Norman Greenberg and all the other residents of Bennington who passed this year.

Jason Morrissey 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 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."

Mr. Morrissey continued by summarizing each of the ballot items. He then reminded those present that no other binding decisions can be made from the floor other than Article #1 and Article #2.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR

Monday, March 03, 2014 7:00 P.M.

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

Mr. Bombard stepped forward to speak. He asked why he is forced to donate to charities that he may not agree with. Joe Krawczyk stated that voters have the ability to vote "no" on each specific request. Mr. Bombard replied by noting that although he votes no, if the majority vote yes, he is required to pay. Mr. Krawczyk stated in years past all of the organizations were clumped together. You were not able to vote individually, or see how much each one was requesting. These organizations cannot fully fund themselves. If one does not pass, it does not become part of the tax rate.

Mr. Bombard continued by stating he feels Bennington is a dying town. Job losses are making it hard for people to afford their homes. Please pay attention. Mr. Krawczyk responded by noting that the closing of one division of Plasan has been a big blow to Bennington. He believes the Governor, State Delegation, and the Town Staff are working hard to recruit and maintain the jobs and companies we do have. Mr. Krawczyk then noted that this is one of the reasons he is stepping

down from the Select Board this year. He is going to be focusing on the Veteran's Home and the 218 jobs it holds. These are not jobs the Town wants to lose. Mr. Krawczyk then followed by reminding the public that the \$0.12 increase in school taxes came down from the State of Vermont, not the Town of Bennington.

Motion: Tim Corcoran motioned to accept the Town Report as submitted. Motion was seconded by the floor (*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: Tim Corcoran motioned to keep compensation for Town Select Board Members the same as last fiscal year (no change in compensation). Motion was seconded by the floor (*verbally*). Motion passed unanimously (*verbally*).

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

Scott Malinowski stepped forward. He asked where the money for the payback of the \$3.3 Million Dollar Water Bond would be coming from. Would this be from the ratepayers or the general fund? The Town Manager explained it would be the Water Rate payers ONLY. The Town's Charter requires only those on the system pay. However, the law requires ALL voters to have a say, because the entire Town is used as "collateral" for the bond.

Abbey Shapiro stepped forward to speak. She stated she felt that Southern Vermont College (SVC) paying only 22% of the project was poor planning. Ms. Shapiro also stated she thought that having no "reserves" to help pay for the project and no incentive to save for such a thing was poor planning as well. No one has asked the "water users" what they can afford. She also noted that this project will be benefitting Southwestern Vermont Medical Center (SVMC) and asked why they are not contributing. Ms. Shapiro stated she spoke with a couple of residents in the area of concern and no one will admit to having pressure issues. She feels this benefits the community as a whole; therefore the entire community should be responsible for the payback.

Ms. Shapiro then stated she felt that there should be more, or better, checks and balances in the Town government. The Select Board currently also acts as the Water Board and feels this is unfair. She asked the Select Board to rethink the way the Water System is funded. This may not be the only bond in the future. She asked the public to Vote "No" on the Water Bond issue.

Dennis Whiteford stepped forward and asked what the impact would be if the bond is voted down. The Manager reminded the public that this project is State mandated by the year 2018. It is a condition of our Permit to Operate. If this bond is voted down, the Town will come before the community again with another Bond Vote. These pressure issues MUST be addressed as mandated by the State. SVC will move on and fix their problem without us. This will leave us with a higher interest rate, no contribution from a partner and as many things, the overall cost will simply be higher due to time. SVC will address their issue without connecting to Town water, and therefore leaving us without the additional income from this large consumer.

Mr. Whiteford then asked what happened over the last few years that made the rates go up. What would be the likelihood of developing a separate Water Board? The Manager stated that previous boards kept the rates artificially low. They did not address the problems of depreciation. If they

had addressed it continually, we would not be here. The more recent Select Boards did not take the decisions for increases lightly. However, they chose to address it and now have been mostly rectified; we are now on track.

The Manager continued by stating in 1973 when there was a separate Water Board, they continually ran in the "red". They were severely deficient. The Select Board does an excellent job. The Manager again reminded the public that this project must go forward no matter what. The partnership benefits the Town far more than it benefits the college.

Jim Carroll asked what the consequences from the State would be if the bond is rejected. The Manager stated there would certainly be fines to pay. We are uncertain at this time how much those would be. The Select Board and Town Manager reviewed some of the design of the project. The Manager again noted that the Tank benefits the water system, not SVC.

Other Bonds the Town currently holds was discussed. The Manager noted that the Burgess Road Bond would be finished/paid off in 2015. The money that is budgeted each year to pay this would remain in the budget so that it could roll into this new bond. The Firehouse Bond is paid out of the General Fund and is paid by taxpayers. This will be finished/paid off in two years. It was asked if that amount could then be rolled into the Water Fund for payment. The Manager noted that it could not. The charter prohibits this. Water and Sewer are "Enterprise Funds" or "independent businesses".

Peter Brady stepped forward and suggested that the Town renegotiate the contract with Vermont Pure and ask for more money. The Manager explained that we are now in our 11th year of a 20-year contract. We had reached out to many companies; however Vermont Pure was the only one that was interested. They invested money to make the necessary improvement in order to move forward. At this point the cost to them will increase each year as per the contract. They are allowed by contract to extract 100,000 gallons per day. They have not yet reached that amount due to increases in bottling and shipping costs. The Town has been in touch with two developers to build a bottling company here in Bennington as well as an offset facility for loading. Currently the large trucks must travel through and load in a residential neighborhood. The Town would welcome an increase in volume extracted. The State however is looking to reduce spring extraction for fear of depleting springs and creating land issues.

Mary Garish stepped forward to represent the Coalition for the Homeless. She thanked the Town community and the local Town officials for their support. She noted however, there was still a lot of work to be done. Please support the ballot vote.

Maryanne St. John stepped forward to represent Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC). She described what her organization was able to accomplish last year including fuel assistance, weatherization of homes, child and adult food programs, and health care services. She thanked the Town for their support last year and asked everyone to support this year's ballot.

Bruce Clark stepped forward to represent the Interfaith Council. He introduced the new chair of the organization Charlie Gecko. They thanked the community for everyone's support in the past. They also thanked all of the Doctors and Nurses who have volunteered. The organization still needs support there is a lot of work still to be done. This year will be difficult with the instatement of the new Health Care Laws. Please support the ballot.

Chris Oldham stepped forward and asked if each Select Board member could state what they would be focused on this coming year. Sharyn Brush stated she would like to push forward with the merging of the two Fire Departments. She believes this merger could save a considerable amount of money. John McFadden stated his goal would be to push for commercial and industrial recruitment. Developing a good program is his #1 priority. Jim Carroll supported Mr. McFadden's

idea. He would like to see economic development move forward. Justin Corcoran also agreed. He plans to work for business in Bennington. The Town needs to do what it can to foster jobs. Greg Van Houten stated a good education system and good infrastructure always very important in attracting businesses. Some businesses in Town are doing well and we need to support them.

Tracey Schwartz stepped forward and encouraged everyone to shop locally and to shop downtown. Before you head to a "big box store" come downtown first.

The Town Manager offered great thanks to Joe Krawczyk for his many years of service. This is his last Town Meeting. He has served on the Bennington Select Board for 12 years and has seen many changes. The Manager thanked Mr. Krawczyk for his support and his leadership over the many years. At this time, the entire floor rose and applauded Mr. Krawczyk.

Mr. Krawczyk thanked everyone. He stated it had been both a privilege and an honor to serve the people of Bennington. Mr. Krawczyk thanked everyone for their support and noted he would still be involved in the community. He hopes everyone will continue to support the Town and the Vermont Veteran's Home. Out of 140 Veteran's Homes in the nation, Bennington's was voted "Best in Class". These 218 jobs are as important as the care for the Veteran's themselves.

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.

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?*

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

- 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?*
- 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?*
- ARTICLE 6.** *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$7,200.00 for The Tutorial Center?*
- ARTICLE 7.** *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?*
- 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?*
- 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.?*
- 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?*
- ARTICLE 11.** *Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2015 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?*
- 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?*

Jason Morrissey, Moderator asked to close the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda E. Bermudez
Secretary

TOWN MEETING ELECTION – MARCH 4, 2014 TALLY SHEET
--

ARTICLE A:

SELECT BOARD (elect 2)

	Benn	N. Benn	Total
Mike Bethel	430	33	463
Peter J. Brady Sr.	564	44	608
Justin Corcoran	972	84	1056
Frank Dawson	73	4	77
Rachael Fields	739	60	799
Michael A. Keane	882	82	964

And the said CORCORAN AND KEANE were declared elected.

ARTICLE 1:

BUDGET

Yes	1325	134	1459
No	699	41	740

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 2:

SVC Water Bond

Yes	819	95	914
No	1198	71	1269

And it was not voted.

ARTICLE 3:

PAVE

Yes	1169	131	1300
No	844	43	887

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 4:

Independent Living

Yes	1306	126	1432
No	696	44	740

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 5:**RSVP**

Yes	1322	129	1451
No	677	42	719

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 6:**Tutorial Center**

Yes	1141	125	1266
No	864	48	912

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 7:**Bennington Free Clinic**

Yes	1443	145	1588
No	597	30	627

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 8:**BROC**

Yes	1079	118	1197
No	909	51	960

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 9:**Council on Aging**

Yes	1321	126	1447
No	683	41	724

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 10:**BPI**

Yes	1331	128	1459
No	681	42	723

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 11:

VNA & Hospice

Yes	1416	144	1560
No	601	28	629

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 12:

Coalition for Homeless

Yes	1159	120	1279
No	856	55	911

And it was so voted.

NOTES:

WARNING-

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2015 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 2, 2015, 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 20, 2015.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 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 25, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Bennington Town Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR

Monday, March 2, 2015

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 3, 2015

**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.

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

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, the total sum of \$11,652,340.00 consisting of the following: \$3,818,550.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$7,833,790.00 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, \$20,000.00 for parking improvements and \$326,240.00 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 voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$2,500.00 for One World Conservation Center?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$2,500.00 for Turning Point Center of Bennington?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$7,000.00 for Vermont Center For Independent Living?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$7,200.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 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. 2016 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. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for WBTN 1370 AM?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2016 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 15. Shall the Town of Bennington adjust the natural level of fluoride in the Bennington water system to a level recommended for preventing tooth decay (advisory only)?

YES ☐
NO ☐

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Financial Statements and Schedules

June 30, 2014

(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, 2014, 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.

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www.lovecody.com

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, 2014, 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 4 - 11, the budgetary comparison information on pages 37 - 41, and the schedule of funding progress on page 42 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 November 19, 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.

November 19, 2014

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2014

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 \$21,690,279 at June 30, 2014, an increase of \$1,749,320 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, 2014**

- 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, 2014

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, 2014**

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, 2014 and 2013 and the Statements of Activities for the years then ended.

Government-Wide Statements

The Town's combined net position increased by \$1,749,320 to \$21,690,279 at June 30, 2014. 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	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Current and other assets	\$ 3,656	4,786	2,467	1,896	6,123	6,682
Capital assets	14,477	14,413	12,368	12,512	26,845	26,925
Total assets	18,133	19,199	14,835	14,408	32,968	33,607
Current liabilities	(3,822)	(5,801)	(484)	(471)	(4,306)	(6,272)
Long-term liabilities	(1,435)	(1,455)	(5,536)	(5,939)	(6,971)	(7,394)
Total liabilities	(5,257)	(7,256)	(6,020)	(6,410)	(11,277)	(13,666)
Net position:						
Invested in capital						
assets, net of debt	13,293	13,294	6,500	6,573	19,793	19,867
Restricted	3,539	3,407	-	-	3,539	3,407
Unrestricted	(3,956)	(4,758)	2,315	1,425	(1,641)	(3,333)
Total net position	\$ 12,876	11,943	8,815	7,998	21,691	19,941

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 1.4 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 34.2%, computes the percent of assets financed with debt. Debt-to-net assets ratio, which equals approximately 51.9%, computes the amount owed for debt on every dollar that the Town has available for use providing programs.

Based on liabilities of \$11.3 million and total assessed property value of \$1,010 million, the Town's total obligations represent approximately \$1.12 per \$100 of 2013-14 assessed property value. Per capita obligations - the amount of total liabilities per person - is approximately \$700 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, 2014

The Town's capital assets (Table 1), such as infrastructure, buildings and equipment, less outstanding debt used to acquire them, amounted to \$19.8 and \$19.9 million at June 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. These assets represent the largest portion of the Town's net assets. Although the \$19.8 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, 2014, 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	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Revenues:						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 494	513	4,258	3,746	4,752	4,259
Grants and contributions	1,906	1,242	33	199	1,939	1,441
General revenues:						
Property taxes	9,364	8,980	-	-	9,364	8,980
Other general revenues	689	566	25	25	714	591
Total revenues	<u>12,453</u>	<u>11,301</u>	<u>4,316</u>	<u>3,970</u>	<u>16,769</u>	<u>15,271</u>
Program expenses:						
General government	2,993	2,684	-	-	2,993	2,684
Public safety	3,633	3,475	-	-	3,633	3,475
Public works	85	112	-	-	85	112
Community development	73	72	-	-	73	72
Health and welfare	8	47	-	-	8	47
Recreation	788	713	-	-	788	713
Highways and roads	3,608	3,398	-	-	3,608	3,398
Highways and roads						
- Hurricane Irene flood	35	40	-	-	35	40
Library	382	371	-	-	382	371
Interest on long-term debt	56	104	-	-	56	104
Water	-	-	1,750	1,876	1,750	1,876
Wastewater treatment	-	-	1,587	1,472	1,587	1,472
Parking	-	-	23	24	23	24
Total expenses	<u>11,661</u>	<u>11,016</u>	<u>3,360</u>	<u>3,372</u>	<u>15,021</u>	<u>14,388</u>
Excess (deficiency) before transfers and adjustments	792	285	956	598	1,748	883
Transfers	140	130	(140)	(130)	-	-
Prior period adjustment	-	(214)	-	-	-	(214)
Increase (decrease) in net position	\$ 932	201	816	468	1,748	669

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
Year Ended June 30, 2014**

Net position of the Town's governmental activities (Table 2) increased by approximately 0.8% or \$932 thousand as reported in Table 2 for the year ended June 30, 2014, including net operating transfers from business-type activities of \$140 thousand. The unrestricted net position deficit comprises approximately 30.7% of the total net position of governmental activities at June 30, 2014.

The net position related to business-type activities increased by approximately \$816 thousand for the year ended June 30, 2014.

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

	2014		2013	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Net</u>
	<u>Cost of</u>	<u>Cost of</u>	<u>Cost of</u>	<u>Cost of</u>
	<u>Services</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Services</u>
General government	\$ 2,993	2,553	2,684	2,192
Police department	3,346	2,957	3,148	2,896
Fire department	287	282	327	322
Public works	85	71	112	99
Community development	73	73	72	(42)
Health and welfare	8	8	47	47
Recreation	788	692	713	624
Highways and roads	3,608	3,269	3,398	3,052
Highways and roads - Hurricane Irene flood	35	(1,083)	40	(403)
Library	382	382	371	371
Interest on long-term debt	56	56	104	104
	<u>\$ 11,661</u>	<u>9,260</u>	<u>11,016</u>	<u>9,262</u>

The costs of providing governmental services (Table 3) amounted to approximately \$11.7 and \$11.0 million for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013, 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 years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013. 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, 2014**

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

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
Land and land improvements	\$ 518	522	269	265	787	787
Construction in progress	148	54	557	57	705	111
Distribution and collection systems	-	-	3,436	3,670	3,436	3,670
Buildings and improvements	2,712	2,822	7,548	7,958	10,260	10,780
Equipment and vehicles	1,532	1,588	558	562	2,090	2,150
Infrastructure	9,567	9,427	-	-	9,567	9,427
Totals	\$ 14,477	14,413	12,368	12,512	26,845	26,925

The Town completed another phase of the Northside Drive water main project, originally budgeted at \$302,500. One phase remains to be completed in the next fiscal year. The Highway Department purchased a replacement pickup truck. The Highway Department purchased two single axle dump trucks utilizing the State's Highway Equipment Fund. The total cost estimated at \$312,000 will be spread over 7 years to minimize the impact on the annual budget for the department. Tropical Storm Irene expenses were minimal. Borrowed funds covered this expense. The Town continues its FEMA appeals to recover all eligible monies.

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 several replacement parts at a cost of \$75,600. These necessary parts upgraded the primary and secondary clarifiers.

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

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total Primary Government	
	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013
General obligation bonds	\$ 1,077	991	5,869	5,939	6,946	6,930
Capital lease obligations	107	129	-	-	107	129
Totals	\$ 1,184	1,120	5,869	5,939	7,053	7,059

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, 2014**

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TOWN'S FUNDS

The Town continued to improve its fund balance. This year that fund balance net of Tropical Storm Irene and Recreation Center improvement improved by \$919,077. When accounting for the Irene and Recreation Center costs, the fund balance appears to be negative at year-end, (\$1,961,546). If we compare last year to this year, the fund balance increased. The Town still does not know the full impact of Irene expenses. FEMA's determination has been slow to finalize. One appeal is pending totaling approximately \$1.3 million.

If we review the budget to actual revenues, we find a positive \$566,657 net of Irene. This is the result of increased grant revenue (\$100,449 over budget) and increases in other revenue. Irene revenue totaled \$1,117,644 this year.

On the expenditure side, Police administrative costs were impacted by reimbursable grant funds totaling \$148,600. Fuel costs throughout the budget were within acceptable limits. The Highway Fund equipment line appears over-expended; however, the major capital purchase, two single axle dump trucks, were purchased with borrowed funds, allowing payment over time. but the full expense is shown for reporting purposes. It is then offset by \$298,974 of revenue in the Other Financing Sources section. Otherwise, the Highway Fund finished with a positive balance.

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, 2014

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Assets:			
Cash	\$ 577,455	-	577,455
Accounts receivable, net	201,117	1,201,241	1,402,358
Property taxes receivable, net	1,340,767	-	1,340,767
Interest receivable	4,042	-	4,042
Prepaid expenses	85,838	24,609	110,447
Notes receivable, current	111,626	-	111,626
Internal balances	(1,240,593)	1,240,593	-
Notes receivable, non-current	2,576,355	-	2,576,355
Capital assets:			
Land and construction in progress	665,736	458,480	1,124,216
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	13,810,956	11,909,765	25,720,721
Total assets	\$ 18,133,299	14,834,688	32,967,987
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 339,692	137,649	477,341
Line of credit	2,485,052	-	2,485,052
Accrued liabilities	650,915	13,976	664,891
Deferred revenue	4,230	-	4,230
Accrued landfill post-closure costs:			
Due within one year	30,304	-	30,304
Due in more than one year	563,614	-	563,614
Bonds payable:			
Due within one year	262,979	332,885	595,864
Due in more than one year	813,433	5,535,642	6,349,075
Lease payable:			
Due within one year	49,831	-	49,831
Due in more than one year	57,506	-	57,506
Total liabilities	5,257,556	6,020,152	11,277,708
Net position:			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	13,292,943	6,499,718	19,792,661
Net restricted for:			
Capital projects	264,600	-	264,600
Community development projects	2,687,981	-	2,687,981
Other purposes	586,682	-	586,682
Unrestricted (deficit)	(3,956,463)	2,314,818	(1,641,645)
Total net position	\$ 12,875,743	8,814,536	21,690,279

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Activities
June 30, 2014

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	\$ 2,992,902	239,290	200,757	-	(2,552,855)	-	(2,552,855)
Public safety:							
Police	3,345,731	140,307	248,670	-	(2,956,754)	-	(2,956,754)
Fire	286,631	4,330	-	-	(282,301)	-	(282,301)
Public works	85,413	14,586	-	-	(70,827)	-	(70,827)
Community development	72,849	-	-	-	(72,849)	-	(72,849)
Health and welfare	7,751	-	-	-	(7,751)	-	(7,751)
Recreation	787,684	95,438	-	-	(692,246)	-	(692,246)
Highways and roads	3,608,159	-	-	339,398	(3,268,761)	-	(3,268,761)
Highways and roads - Hurricane Irene flood expense	35,014	-	-	1,117,644	1,082,630	-	1,082,630
Library	382,550	-	-	-	(382,550)	-	(382,550)
Interest on long-term debt	55,819	-	-	-	(55,819)	-	(55,819)
Total governmental activities	11,660,503	493,951	449,427	1,457,042	(9,260,083)	-	(9,260,083)
Business-type activities:							
Water	1,749,926	2,411,150	33,352	-	-	694,576	694,576
Sewer	1,586,808	1,840,143	-	-	-	253,335	253,335
Parking	22,892	6,505	-	-	-	(16,387)	(16,387)
Total business-type activities	3,359,626	4,257,798	33,352	-	-	931,524	931,524
Total primary government	\$ 15,020,129	4,751,749	482,779	1,457,042	(9,260,083)	931,524	(8,328,559)
General revenues:							
Property taxes					9,363,739	-	9,363,739
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					261,515	-	261,515
Investment earnings					49,599	24,939	74,538
Miscellaneous					378,087	-	378,087
Transfers					140,000	(140,000)	-
Total general revenues and transfers					10,192,940	(115,061)	10,077,879
Change in net assets					932,857	816,463	1,749,320
Net position - beginning					11,942,886	7,998,073	19,940,959
Net position - ending					\$ 12,875,743	8,814,536	21,690,279

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2014

	General Governmental Activities Fund	Special Revenue Funds Community Development Fund	Downtown Improvement Commission	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 69,490	507,965	-	577,455
Delinquent taxes receivable, net of allowance uncollectible accounts of \$295,517	1,340,767	-	-	1,340,767
Accounts receivable	201,117	-	-	201,117
Interest receivable	-	4,042	-	4,042
Prepaid expenses	85,838	-	-	85,838
Notes receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$28,000	-	2,687,981	-	2,687,981
Due from other funds	-	-	21,381	21,381
Total assets	\$ 1,697,212	3,199,988	21,381	4,918,581
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 332,032	-	-	332,032
Line of credit	2,485,052	-	-	2,485,052
Accrued liabilities	211,580	-	-	211,580
Due to other funds	308,211	953,763	-	1,261,974
Deferred revenue	321,883	-	-	321,883
Total liabilities	3,658,758	953,763	-	4,612,521
Fund Balances:				
Nonspendable	-	2,687,981	-	2,687,981
Restricted	1,482,732	-	21,381	1,504,113
Committed	260,118	-	-	260,118
Assigned	9,018	-	-	9,018
Unassigned	(3,713,414)	(441,756)	-	(4,155,170)
Total fund balances	(1,961,546)	2,246,225	21,381	306,060
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 1,697,212	3,199,988	21,381	4,918,581

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, 2014

Total fund balances - governmental funds (from page 14)	\$ 306,060
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	14,476,692
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and are deferred in the funds.	317,653
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(2,224,662)
Net position of governmental activities (page 12)	\$ <u>12,875,744</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, 2014

	General Governmental Activities Fund	Special Revenue Funds Community Development Fund	Downtown Improvement Commission	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Property taxes	\$ 9,248,070	-	69,948	9,318,018
Permits and licenses	65,861	-	-	65,861
Intergovernmental revenues	1,050,340	-	-	1,050,340
Fees and charges	359,758	-	-	359,758
Fines and forfeitures	21,358	-	-	21,358
Interest	5,240	44,359	-	49,599
Rental revenue	46,974	-	-	46,974
Hurricane Irene grants and assistance	1,117,644	-	-	1,117,644
Other	431,156	(3,552)	-	427,604
Total revenues	12,346,401	40,807	69,948	12,457,156
Expenditures:				
General government	2,310,932	-	-	2,310,932
Public safety	3,472,850	-	-	3,472,850
Public works	85,413	-	-	85,413
Health and welfare	7,751	-	-	7,751
Recreation	773,194	-	-	773,194
Debt management	271,520	-	-	271,520
Highways and roads	3,685,253	-	-	3,685,253
Project expenditures	-	1,701	-	1,701
Hurricane Irene flood expense	35,014	-	-	35,014
Other	1,264,371	1,200	69,948	1,335,519
Total expenditures	11,906,298	2,901	69,948	11,979,147
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	440,103	37,906	-	478,009
Other financing sources (uses):				
Proceeds from issuance of debt	298,974	-	-	298,974
Operating transfers in (out)	180,000	(40,000)	-	140,000
	478,974	(40,000)	-	438,974
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	919,077	(2,094)	-	916,983
Fund balance, July 1, 2013	(2,880,623)	2,248,319	21,381	(610,923)
Fund balance, June 30, 2014	\$ (1,961,546)	2,246,225	21,381	306,060

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, 2014

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (from page 16)	\$ 916,983
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.	45,721
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.	86,200
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.	(49,504)
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	(365,444)
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.	298,901
Change in net assets of governmental activities (page 13)	\$ <u>932,857</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Net Position
Proprietary Funds
June 30, 2014

	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	\$ 728,060	473,181	-	1,201,241
Prepaid expenses	7,713	16,896	-	24,609
Due from other funds	532,976	570,759	136,858	1,240,593
Total current assets	1,268,749	1,060,836	136,858	2,466,443
Capital assets:				
Land and land improvements	18,000	-	465,599	483,599
Distribution and collection systems	4,792,140	1,304,269	-	6,096,409
Buildings and equipment	8,934,807	17,806,147	3,014	26,743,968
Construction in progress	473,227	84,000	-	557,227
Less accumulated depreciation	(5,403,340)	(15,892,292)	(217,326)	(21,512,958)
Total non-current assets	8,814,834	3,302,124	251,287	12,368,245
Total assets	\$ 10,083,583	4,362,960	388,145	14,834,688
Liabilities:				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 132,028	5,621	-	137,649
Accrued liabilities	1,261	12,715	-	13,976
Notes and bonds payable, current portion	332,885	-	-	332,885
Total current liabilities	466,174	18,336	-	484,510
Notes and bonds payable, less current portion	5,535,642	-	-	5,535,642
Total liabilities	6,001,816	18,336	-	6,020,152
Net Position:				
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,946,307	3,302,124	251,287	6,499,718
Unrestricted - designated	406,241	493,923	40,411	940,575
Unrestricted - undesignated	729,219	548,577	96,447	1,374,243
Total net position	4,081,767	4,344,624	388,145	8,814,536
Total liabilities and net position	\$ 10,083,583	4,362,960	388,145	14,834,688

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, 2014

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Parking Meter Fund	Totals
Operating revenues:				
Fees and charges for services	\$ 2,411,124	1,833,244	6,505	4,250,873
Other	26	6,899	-	6,925
	2,411,150	1,840,143	6,505	4,257,798
Operating expenses:				
Administration	585,265	730,635	-	1,315,900
Buildings	83,179	-	-	83,179
Equipment	54,748	25,072	-	79,820
Water systems	97,789	-	-	97,789
Filtration plant	226,721	-	-	226,721
Sewer system	-	61,814	-	61,814
Sewer treatment plant	-	500,834	-	500,834
Parking	-	-	5,265	5,265
Depreciation	513,254	268,453	17,627	799,334
Total operating expenses	1,560,956	1,586,808	22,892	3,170,656
Operating income	850,194	253,335	(16,387)	1,087,142
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):				
Interest income	23,810	817	312	24,939
FEMA storm assistance and grants	33,352	-	-	33,352
Hurricane Irene expense	(37)	-	-	(37)
Interest expense	(188,933)	-	-	(188,933)
	(131,808)	817	312	(130,679)
Income (loss) before operating transfers	718,386	254,152	(16,075)	956,463
Operating transfers in (out)	(72,000)	(78,000)	10,000	(140,000)
	(72,000)	(78,000)	10,000	(140,000)
Change in net position	646,386	176,152	(6,075)	816,463
Net position - beginning	3,435,381	4,168,472	394,220	7,998,073
Net position - ending	\$ 4,081,767	4,344,624	388,145	8,814,536

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Funds
Year Ended June 30, 2014

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds			
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Parking Meter Fund	Totals
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 2,382,863	1,778,324	6,505	4,167,692
Other operating cash receipts	26	6,899	-	6,925
Cash payments to suppliers of goods or services	(724,371)	(699,576)	(4,481)	(1,428,428)
Cash payments to employees for services	(481,590)	(629,581)	(784)	(1,111,955)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,176,928	456,066	1,240	1,634,234
Cash flows from non-capital financing activities:				
Operating transfers from (to) other funds	(72,000)	(78,000)	10,000	(140,000)
Advances from (to) other funds	(266,743)	(219,612)	10,448	(475,907)
Cash receipts from FEMA storm assistance and grants	33,352	-	-	33,352
Cash payments for Hurricane Irene expense	(37)	-	-	(37)
Interest expense (refunding) on short-term borrowings	(188,933)	-	-	(188,933)
Net cash provided by (used in) non-capital financing activities	(494,361)	(297,612)	20,448	(771,525)
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:				
Principal payments on bonds	(338,220)	-	-	(338,220)
Proceeds from issuance of bonds	267,980	-	-	267,980
Repayment on line of credit	(161,288)	-	-	(161,288)
Purchase of capital assets	(474,849)	(159,271)	(22,000)	(656,120)
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	(706,377)	(159,271)	(22,000)	(887,648)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Interest on cash investments	23,810	817	312	24,939
Net cash provided by investing activities	23,810	817	312	24,939
Net increase in cash	-	-	-	-
Cash, beginning	-	-	-	-
Cash, ending	\$ -	-	-	-
Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Operating Income (loss)	\$ 850,194	253,335	(16,387)	1,087,142
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Depreciation	513,254	268,453	17,627	799,334
Change in operating assets and liabilities:				
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and other current assets	(28,261)	(65,879)	-	(94,140)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(158,259)	157	-	(158,102)
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 1,176,928	456,066	1,240	1,634,234

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.

(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.

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.

(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)

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, 2014 the carrying amount of the Town's cash was \$577,455 and the bank balance was \$1,125,059. Of the bank balance, \$506,614 was covered by Federal depository insurance and the remaining \$618,445 was fully collateralized.

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(3) *Cash (continued)*

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, 2014.

(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 \$2,687,981 denotes the non-current portion of notes receivable that it is not available to finance the general operations of the fund.

(6) *Internal Balances*

Internal balances at June 30, 2014 consisted of the following:

Due To	Due From		
	General Fund	Community Development	Total
General Fund	\$ -	953,763	953,763
Downtown Improvement Commission	21,381	-	21,381
Water	532,976	-	532,976
Sewer	570,759	-	570,759
Parking	136,858	-	136,858
Total	\$ 1,261,974	953,763	2,215,737

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(6) Internal Balances (continued)

Internal transfers for the year ended June 30, 2014 were as follows:

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount	Purpose
General Fund	Parking	\$ (10,000)	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
		\$ 180,000	

(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	3,918	-	566,371
Buildings and improvements	7,391,157	36,873	-	7,428,030
Equipment and vehicles	6,164,813	548,089	(563,970)	6,148,932
Infrastructure	32,943,051	1,108,913	-	34,051,964
Construction in progress	54,414	102,646	(9,340)	147,720
Totals at historical cost	47,115,888	1,800,439	(573,310)	48,343,017
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land and land improvements	(40,517)	(7,838)	-	(48,355)
Buildings and improvements	(4,569,100)	(147,051)	-	(4,716,151)
Equipment and vehicles	(4,576,614)	(470,668)	430,465	(4,616,817)
Infrastructure	(23,516,226)	(968,776)	-	(24,485,002)
Total accumulated depreciation	(32,702,457)	(1,594,333)	430,465	(33,866,325)
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 14,413,431	206,106	(142,845)	14,476,692

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

General government	\$ 51,696
Public safety:	
Police	136,687
Fire	93,149
Recreation	51,332
Highway and roads	1,261,469
	<u>\$ 1,594,333</u>

(continued)

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(7) Capital Assets (continued)

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements and Transfers	Ending Balance
Business-type activities:				
Land and land improvements	\$ 461,599	22,000	-	483,599
Buildings and improvements	23,954,412	-	-	23,954,412
Equipment and vehicles	2,655,741	133,815	-	2,789,556
Distribution and collection systems	6,096,410	-	-	6,096,410
Construction in progress	56,922	500,304	-	557,226
Totals at historical cost	33,225,084	656,119	-	33,881,203
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land and land improvements	(196,685)	(17,626)	-	(214,311)
Buildings and improvements	(15,996,852)	(410,103)	-	(16,406,955)
Equipment and vehicles	(2,094,099)	(137,584)	-	(2,231,683)
Distribution and collection systems	(2,425,988)	(234,021)	-	(2,660,009)
Total accumulated depreciation	(20,713,624)	(799,334)	-	(21,512,958)
Business-type activities capital assets, net	\$ 12,511,460	(143,215)	-	12,368,245

(8) Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2014 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Amounts Due within One Year
Governmental Activities					
Bonds payable	\$ 990,587	298,974	(213,149)	1,076,412	262,979
Capital lease obligations	128,567	26,565	(47,795)	107,337	49,830
Governmental activities long-term liabilities	\$ 1,119,154	325,539	(260,944)	1,183,749	312,809
Business-type Activities					
Bonds payable	\$ 5,938,767	267,980	(338,220)	5,868,527	332,885
Business-type activities long-term liabilities	\$ 5,938,767	267,980	(338,220)	5,868,527	332,885

(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
2015	\$ 262,979	48,493	311,472	332,885	175,432	508,317
2016	239,603	31,695	271,298	355,119	164,617	519,736
2017	239,603	15,531	255,134	364,424	153,527	517,951
2018	149,603	9,985	159,588	364,008	143,340	507,348
2019	92,413	14,353	106,766	373,879	132,892	506,771
2020-2024	92,311	2,408	94,719	1,888,311	500,515	2,388,826
2025-2029	-	-	-	2,148,541	204,747	2,353,288
2030-2034	-	-	-	41,360	3,841	45,201
	\$ 1,076,512	122,465	1,198,977	5,868,527	1,478,911	7,347,438

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, 2014 equipment recorded under capital lease in the Government-wide financial statements amounted to \$1,254,088. Accumulated amortization amounted to \$683,455.

Future minimum payments required under capital leases are as follows:

Year ending June 30,

2015	\$ 55,146
2016	52,345
2017	7,895
Total minimum lease payments	115,386
Less amount representing interest	(8,049)
Present value of minimum lease payments	\$ 107,337

(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 \$3,550,000 with interest accruing at 1.65%. The balance outstanding on the line of credit amounted to \$2,202,939 at June 30, 2014. 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 \$282,113 under a line of credit agreement for Recreation Center improvements. The line, which bears interest at 1.60%, matured in July 2014.

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 2014 were levied August 14, 2013 and were payable November 12, 2013.

(12) Governmental Fund Balance

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

	<u>Special Revenue Funds</u>			
	General	Community	Downtown	
	Fund	Development	Improvement	Total
			Commission	
Non-spendable:				
Notes receivable	\$ -	2,687,981	-	2,687,981
Restricted for:				
Capital Facilities	154,400	-	-	154,400
Downtown improvement	-	-	21,381	21,381
Employee benefits and insurance	23,385	-	-	23,385
Fire Equipment	267,030	-	-	267,030
Health and welfare	1,060	-	-	1,060
Hunt Street foot bridge	290,913	-	-	290,913
Kocher Drive landfill	73,630	-	-	73,630
Other purposes	7,943	-	-	7,943
Parks and recreation	16,537	-	-	16,537
Pathway project	110,200	-	-	110,200
Planning and zoning	4,766	-	-	4,766
Public Safety	16,174	-	-	16,174
Reappraisal	516,694	-	-	516,694
Committed for:				
Highway Improvements	229,000	-	-	229,000
Hurricane Irene interest	31,118	-	-	31,118
Assigned for:				
Employee benefits and insurance	8,080	-	-	8,080
Parks and recreation	938	-	-	938
Unassigned	(3,713,414)	(441,756)	-	(4,155,170)
Total fund balances	\$ (1,961,546)	2,246,225	21,381	306,060

(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 4.625% of their annual covered compensation and the Town is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 5.125% of annual covered payroll. Plan members in "Group C" are required to contribute 9.5% (January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014), and 9.375% (July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013) of their annual covered compensation and the Town is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 6.75% (January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014), and 6.625% (July 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013) 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, 2014 amounted to \$275,095. Town contributions to VMERS for the years ended June 30, 2013 and 2012 amounted to \$252,673 and \$246,040, respectively. The Town also contributed \$476,457 and \$443,812 for unfunded pension liability during 2014 and 2013, respectively. Total covered payroll amounted to \$4,826,170.

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 \$593,917.

The Town's post-closure costs for the year ended June 30, 2014 amounted to \$30,171.

(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:		
2015	\$	5,672
2016		3,252
2017		2,504
	\$	<u>11,428</u>

Rent expense under these agreements for the year ended June 30, 2014 was \$12,439.

(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	\$ 66,470
Interest on net OPEB obligation	-
Annual OPEB cost	<u>66,470</u>
Contributions made	-
Increase in net OPEB obligation	<u>66,470</u>
Net OPEB obligation, beginning of year	<u>372,850</u>
Net OPEB obligation, end of year	<u>\$ 439,320</u>

Funded Status and Funding Progress.

As of June 30, 2014, the actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$592,490, all of which was unfunded. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$1,905,782 and the ratio of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability to the covered payroll was 31.1 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, 2014, was thirty years.

(18) Subsequent Events

Subsequent to June 30, 2014 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 0.80%. The line matures December 2, 2014.

In July 2014, the Town received advances under a new line of credit agreement for Recreation Center improvements in the amount of \$282,113 with interest accruing at 1.40% and maturing in July 2015.

In September 2014, the Town received advances under a new line of credit agreement for Hurricane Irene damages in the amount of \$1,550,540 with interest accruing at 1.55% and maturing in September 2015.

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 \$1.3 million has not been determined.

Management has evaluated subsequent events through November 19, 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, 2014

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues:			
Property taxes:			
General	\$ 5,461,880	5,449,655	(12,225)
Highway	3,215,710	3,215,710	-
Fire	330,280	330,280	-
Penalties and interest	220,000	252,425	32,425
	<u>9,227,870</u>	<u>9,248,070</u>	<u>20,200</u>
Permits and licenses:			
Alcoholic beverages	5,000	5,620	620
Dog licenses	10,000	8,508	(1,492)
Marriage license	5,000	305	(4,695)
Building and zoning permits	40,000	37,312	(2,688)
Fire permits	4,000	4,330	330
Landfill	27,000	9,786	(17,214)
	<u>91,000</u>	<u>65,861</u>	<u>(25,139)</u>
Intergovernmental revenues:			
State shared interests:			
Federal and State Grant	-	100,449	100,449
Highway	443,500	339,398	(104,102)
In lieu of taxes	245,500	261,515	16,015
Other	96,500	348,978	252,478
	<u>785,500</u>	<u>1,050,340</u>	<u>264,840</u>
Fees and charges:			
Police sales and services	105,000	93,999	(11,001)
Police dispatch fees	14,400	14,400	-
Police false alarm fees	8,000	10,550	2,550
Vital records fees	35,000	32,426	(2,574)
Recording fees	90,000	92,457	2,457
Sale of cemetery lots	3,000	4,800	1,800
Animal control fees	-	200	200
Recreational center charges	25,000	20,531	(4,469)
Pool membership fees	80,000	74,907	(5,093)
Senior citizens	23,000	15,488	(7,512)
	<u>383,400</u>	<u>359,758</u>	<u>(23,642)</u>
Fines and forfeitures:			
Police fines, seizures and forfeitures	36,000	21,358	(14,642)

(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, 2014

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues (continued):			
Interest	\$ 20,000	5,240	(14,760)
Rental revenue	45,000	46,974	1,974
Gain on sale of assets	3,000	88,000	85,000
Hurricane Irene grants and assistance	-	1,117,644	1,117,644
Other	70,330	343,156	272,826
Total revenues	10,662,100	12,346,401	1,684,301
Expenditures:			
General Government:			
Select Board	16,840	18,022	(1,182)
Town Manager	207,170	205,484	1,686
Treasurer	22,500	21,088	1,412
Accounting	226,310	226,121	189
Listing	148,010	146,884	1,126
Tax collecting	77,290	73,288	4,002
Town Clerk	219,040	218,036	1,004
Planning and zoning	226,640	225,232	1,408
Economic and community development	149,200	150,120	(920)
Plant and equipment:			
Administration	589,810	672,704	(82,894)
Buildings and grounds	350,780	353,953	(3,173)
	940,590	1,026,657	(86,067)
	2,233,590	2,310,932	(77,342)
Public safety:			
Police:			
Administration	2,792,110	2,935,964	(143,854)
Investigation	17,100	6,345	10,755
Training	16,770	17,475	(705)
Communications	21,270	18,395	2,875
Police building	99,800	104,129	(4,329)
Equipment	149,940	144,257	5,683
Special services	33,370	52,803	(19,433)
	3,130,360	3,279,368	(149,008)

(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, 2014

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures (continued):			
Fire:			
Administration	\$ 61,610	55,085	6,525
Fire fighting	27,700	26,417	1,283
Communications	18,790	7,506	11,284
Machinery and equipment	82,240	50,478	31,762
Buildings	60,630	53,996	6,634
	<u>250,970</u>	<u>193,482</u>	<u>57,488</u>
	<u>3,381,330</u>	<u>3,472,850</u>	<u>(91,520)</u>
Public works:			
Solid waste management	65,790	57,911	7,879
Cemetery and mini-park	39,000	27,502	11,498
	<u>104,790</u>	<u>85,413</u>	<u>19,377</u>
Health and welfare:			
Health officer	8,070	7,751	319
	<u>8,070</u>	<u>7,751</u>	<u>319</u>
Recreation:			
Supervision	402,770	391,366	11,404
Recreation Center	7,700	8,805	(1,105)
Indoor pool	12,100	10,301	1,799
Parks	52,150	51,240	910
Pathway	0	17,514	(17,514)
Buildings	116,520	142,838	(26,318)
Vehicles and equipment	12,420	15,168	(2,748)
Recreation Center improvements	40,000	6,419	33,581
Senior Citizens' Center	113,280	90,009	23,271
Senior Citizens' - building	39,780	39,534	246
	<u>796,720</u>	<u>773,194</u>	<u>23,526</u>
Debt management:			
Principal	266,150	213,150	53,000
Interest - bonds	41,740	52,953	(11,213)
Interest - tax anticipation note	10,000	5,417	4,583
	<u>317,890</u>	<u>271,520</u>	<u>46,370</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, 2014

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<i>Expenditures (continued):</i>			
<i>Highways and roads:</i>			
Administration and buildings	\$ 1,366,630	1,379,628	(12,998)
Construction and maintenance - town highways	414,450	433,055	(18,605)
Highway projects	657,440	740,189	(82,749)
Installing and maintaining traffic control devices	71,400	67,691	3,709
Buildings	38,750	40,459	(1,709)
Sidewalks	139,360	110,922	28,438
Bridges	140,000	10,574	129,426
Streetlights	118,500	114,125	4,375
Downtown	141,540	71,759	69,781
Vehicles and equipment	391,350	716,851	(325,501)
	<u>3,479,420</u>	<u>3,685,253</u>	<u>(205,833)</u>
<i>Other:</i>			
Battle Day parade	-	1,490	(1,490)
Bennington County Regional Commission	13,980	13,980	-
Bennington Free Clinic	7,500	7,500	-
Bennington Home Health	21,600	21,600	-
Bennington Project Independence	11,000	11,000	-
Bennington Tutorial Center	7,200	7,200	-
Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council	7,500	7,500	-
Bennington Homeless Shelter	7,500	7,500	-
Bennington In Bloom	18,000	22,594	(4,594)
Capital Facilities	-	36,121	(36,121)
CERCLA	58,810	72,669	(13,859)
Community Built Park	-	1,251	(1,251)
Conservation of natural resources - tree program	7,750	4,868	2,882
County taxes	77,000	77,095	(95)
Drug investigations	-	100	(100)
Flood control program	2,560	1,419	1,141
Health management fees	-	319,162	(319,162)
Holiday celebrations	20,600	19,004	1,596
Hurricane Irene flood expense	-	35,014	(35,014)
Library administration	382,550	382,550	-
Miscellaneous contingencies	46,690	8,939	37,751
North Bennington - recreation	7,700	7,700	-
Senior Center equipment/improvements	-	598	(598)
Project Against Violent Encounters	3,150	3,150	-
Retired Seniors Volunteer Program	7,200	7,200	-
Reserve fund expenditures	-	200,886	(200,886)

(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, 2014

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Expenditures (continued):			
Other (continued):			
Vermont Council on Aging	7,500	7,500	-
Vermont CTR - Independent Living	4,500	4,500	-
Worker's comp costs	-	8,100	(8,100)
Youth appreciation	-	1,195	(1,195)
	<u>720,290</u>	<u>1,299,385</u>	<u>(579,095)</u>
Total expenditures	<u>11,042,100</u>	<u>11,906,298</u>	<u>(864,198)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(380,000)</u>	<u>440,103</u>	<u>820,103</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Operating transfers in (out):			
Proceeds from note payable	-	298,974	298,974
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)	(10,000)	-
	<u>180,000</u>	<u>478,974</u>	<u>298,974</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>919,077</u>	<u>1,119,077</u>
Fund balance, July 1, 2013	<u>(2,880,623)</u>	<u>(2,880,623)</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, June 30, 2014	<u>\$ (3,080,623)</u>	<u>(1,961,546)</u>	<u>1,119,077</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%
6/30/2014	-	592,490	592,490	0.0%	1,905,782	31.1%

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended June 30, 2014

Federal Grant/Program Title	CFDA Number	Grant Number	Expenditures
<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 BIKE BP 13(13)	\$ 9,456
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	STP BIKE (26)S	2,980
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	08126-11EH08	11,383
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	BENNINGTON TAP TA13	6,032
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	CA0312	15,001
Total Passed through Vermont Agency of Transportation			<u>44,852</u>
Passed through Vermont Department of Public Safety:			
<u>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</u>			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	02140-1213-2101	2,505
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	02140-1213-2203	5,000
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	02140-1314-2003	5,000
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	02140-1314-1002	17,703
			<u>30,208</u>
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608	02140-1113-5001	6,591
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608	02140-1114-5002	6,852
			<u>13,443</u>
Total Passed through Vermont Department of Public Safety			<u>43,651</u>
Total U.S. Department of Transportation			<u>88,503</u>
<u>United States Environmental Protection Agency</u>			
Passed through Vermont Agency of Natural Resources:			
Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds	66.468	RF3-243	56,895
Total U.S. Environmental Protection Agency			<u>56,895</u>
<u>United States Department of Homeland Security</u>			
Passed through Vermont Agency of Transportation:			
FEMA Disaster Relief	97.036	08131-FE0496	1,440,260
Passed through Vermont Department of Public Safety:			
US Department of Homeland Security Grant	97.067	02140-70264V-118	6,333
US Department of Homeland Security Grant	97.067	02140-70264V-302	138,630
US Department of Homeland Security Grant	97.067	02140-72142-203	526
			<u>145,489</u>
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			<u>1,585,749</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u>\$ 1,731,147</u>

SECTION II

COMPLIANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL



**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***

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, 2014, 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 November 19, 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.

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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.

November 19, 2014

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET PROPOSAL

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FY2014	ACTUAL FY2014	BUDGET FY2015	ACTUAL FY15 PRD6	PROPOSED FY2016	FY15 vs FY16 % INC/(DEC)
SELECT BOARD	16,840	18,022	16,000	6,909	16,950	5.94%
TOWN MANAGER	207,170	205,484	214,050	105,525	215,810	0.82%
TREASURER	22,500	21,088	23,070	9,555	23,800	3.16%
ACCOUNTING	226,310	226,121	229,620	116,866	232,000	1.04%
LISTING	148,010	146,884	153,460	75,791	160,220	4.41%
COLLECTIONS	77,290	73,288	81,130	36,023	81,410	0.35%
TOWN CLERK	219,040	218,036	223,220	115,706	180,220	-19.26%
PERMIT-PLAN-CODE ENFORCE	226,640	225,232	237,590	126,714	244,520	2.92%
ECONOMIC & COMM DEV	149,200	150,120	166,260	103,220	161,280	-3.00%
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	589,810	672,704	655,340	601,966	696,790	6.32%
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	350,780	353,953	372,520	175,449	370,240	-0.61%
FLOOD CONTROL	2,560	3,281	4,320	1,605	10,600	145.37%
POLICE	3,130,360	3,279,366	3,302,190	1,538,396	3,344,480	1.28%
DEBT-POLICE	57,950	57,949	55,580	50,885	53,190	-4.30%
SOLID WASTE MGMT	65,790	57,911	93,470	53,794	90,250	-3.44%
CERCLA	58,810	72,669	53,400	31,722	53,400	0.00%
CEMETARY	39,000	27,502	41,300	15,042	31,840	-22.91%
HEALTH OFFICER	8,070	7,751	8,070	3,875	8,070	0.00%
PARKS & RECREATION	603,660	637,232	636,150	365,317	668,760	5.13%
DEBT-RECREATION	40,000	6,419	0	138	44,000	
SENIOR CITIZENS	153,060	129,543	146,480	61,887	132,520	-9.53%
GRANTS & SUBSIDIES	404,230	404,230	423,460	423,460	449,150	6.07%
HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS	20,600	19,004	28,600	24,844	30,100	5.24%
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS	25,750	25,600	28,750	8,050	39,750	38.26%
MISC CONTINGENCIES	56,690	18,939	30,000	10,272	40,000	33.33%
DEBT-FIRE BUILDING BOND	32,340	32,339	28,800	27,276	27,290	-5.24%
DEBT-TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE	10,000	5,417	10,000	3,747	5,000	-50.00%
COUNTY TAX PAYMENTS	77,000	77,095	78,000	79,351	80,000	2.56%
RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURES	0	392,718	0	143,114	0	0.00%
HIGHWAY FUND	3,479,420	3,876,867	3,720,500	2,313,320	3,587,000	-3.59%
DEBT-HIGHWAY FUND	141,790	119,586	143,960	148,098	231,550	60.84%
FIRE FUND	250,970	193,482	257,950	156,221	276,670	7.26%
DEBT-FIRE FUND	75,810	75,813	69,110	65,463	65,480	-5.25%
Expenditures Subtotal	10,791,350	11,660,127	11,368,860	6,703,997	11,501,380	1.17%
Debt Management Subtotal	176,100	171,518	163,490	295,607	150,960	-7.66%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,967,450	11,831,645	11,532,350	6,999,604	11,652,340	1.04%
Less Transfer To Parking Fund	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	0.00%
NET OF TRANSFERS OUT	10,947,450	11,811,649	11,512,350	6,979,604	11,632,340	1.04%