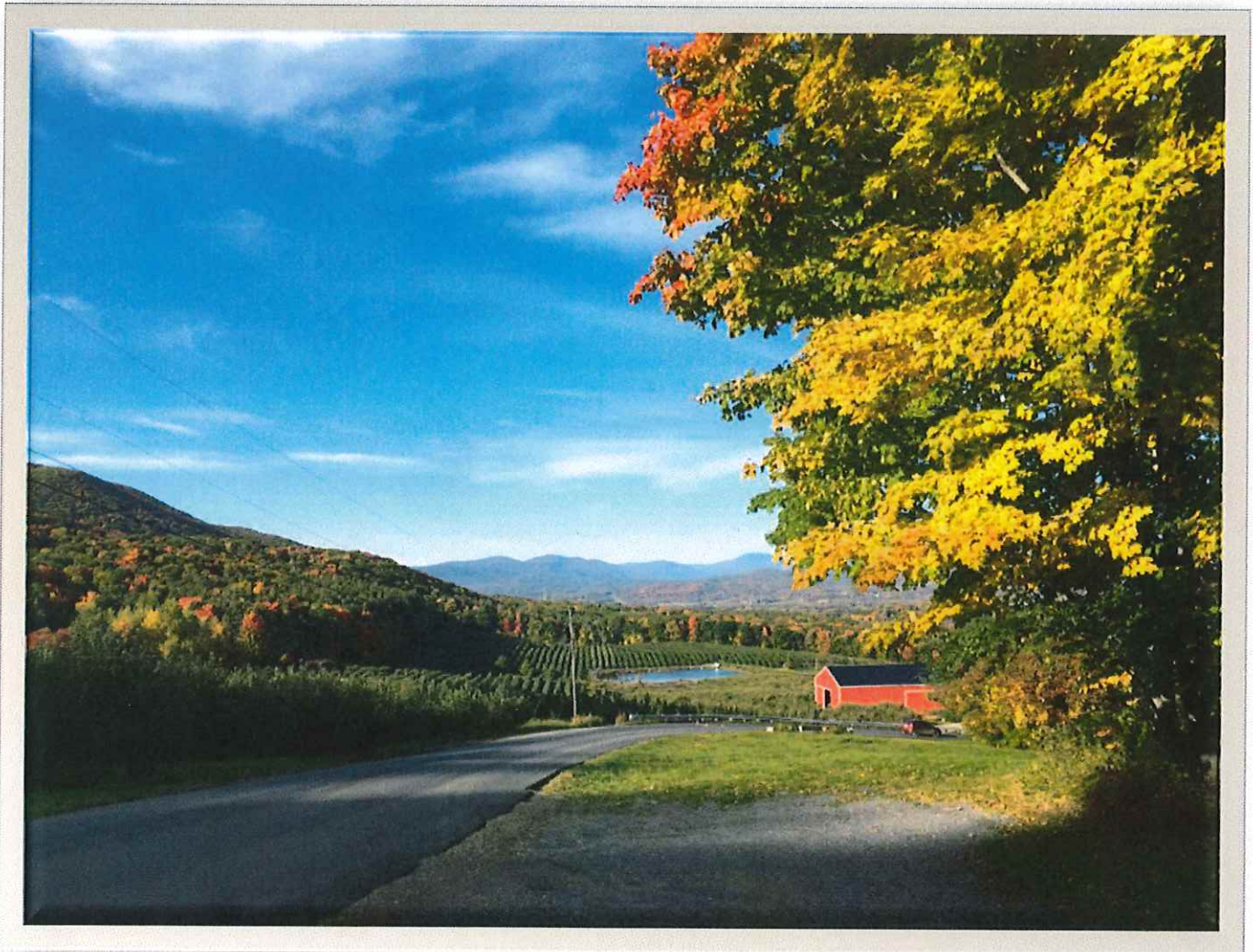


## 2016 Annual Report

# BENNINGTON



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 published a separate Annual Report.

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## **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.

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Town of Bennington  
205 South Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
(802) 442-1037

[www.benningtonvt.org](http://www.benningtonvt.org)

## Select Board

Thomas H. Jacobs, Select Board Chair

It has been an honor and privilege for your Select Board to serve you this past year. It has been a year of challenge but one of significant possibility for our community. The announcement in July that a group of institutions and citizens had organized to acquire the Greenberg Block from the Greenberg trust was met with enthusiasm across the community as we all recognize that block to be the heart of our downtown. If the community is to regain its vitality the downtown must be attractive to guests and residents and this project is the foundation toward that becoming a reality. The private sector can't be expected to make this project succeed without substantial public support. This effort must be one of a private and public partnership and the selectboard has recognized its role as critical to the potential success for this significant project. The board has recently approved an application to the state of Vermont for a \$1,250,000 Vermont Community Development Program grant for activities involved with the project. The board also has had initial discussion regarding the formation of a TIF, or tax incremental financing district as a possible tool for community infrastructure improvement in the defined district, which would include the Greenberg block. There are significant obstacles to developing a TIF district but this board is committed to pursuit of the designation which will require full town buy in.

The town management has developed a strong supportable budget which has been reviewed and is recommended by the board to our citizens. A key component is the acquisition of a building on Bowen Road formerly housing one of the Plasan facilities. It will allow many of the highway and water department activities to be placed under one roof rather than scattered all over town. The hope is that the acquisition can be made with a substantially budget neutral impact. Further, property which the town now uses for these activities, such as the building in downtown on Depot Street might be sold for meaningful development that would yield vitality to the community.

The board recently completed its first ever community survey. The results are indicative of the challenges and opportunities for both management and select board. We look forward to seeing the initial results of the efforts, including the work toward completion of the community pathway network which is already visible and usable commencing at the Bennington College entrance.

The Select board appreciates your encouragement and advice on how we together can make this the community we envision for ourselves and generations to come.



## 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, 2017.

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

(elected 3-year term)

Justin J. Corcoran	3/2017
Michael A. Keane	3/2017
Donald A. Campbell	3/2018
Jim Carroll	3/2018
Jeanne Connor	3/2019
Thomas H. Jacobs	3/2019
Jeannette Jenkins	3/2019

**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)

Ron Alderman	5/2017
William Barney	5/2017
Charles N. Kokoras	5/2017
Charles W. Copp	5/2018
Barry Horst	5/2018
Daniel Malmborg	5/2019
Jane Griswold Radocchia	5/2019

**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 - Position Vacant	06/30/19

**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	03/31/2019
DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER - Kevin J. Goodhue	07/31/2019

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

(appointed to 3-year term)

Jeffrey Goldstone	3/2017
Joseph H. Hall	3/2017
Anne G. Bugbee	3/2018
Michael P. McDonough	3/2018

**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)

Scott Fox	3/2017
Position Open	3/2018
Position Open	3/2019
Kim M. Livingston	3/2020
Sandra Bessette	3/2021

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE**

(elected 2-year term)

Position Open	1/31/2017
Susan Beal	1/31/2017
Barbara Bluto	1/31/2017
Linda Corcoran	1/31/2017
Marlene Driscoll	1/31/2017
James Gulley, Sr.	1/31/2017
Michele Hogan	1/31/2017
Brian Maroney	1/31/2017
James Marsden	1/31/2017
Anne Mook	1/31/2017
Mary Morrissey	1/31/2017
Marjorie Robinson	1/31/2017
John Santarcangelo	1/31/2017
David Shaffe	1/31/2017

**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	3/2017
Position Open	3/2018
Carol L. Holm	3/2018



**TOWN MODERATOR**

(elected to 3-year term)

Jason P. Morrissey

3/2019

**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)

Charles W. Copp

5/2017

Michael P. McDonough

5/2017

Nicholas T. Lasoff

5/2018

Kenneth Swierad

5/2019

Robert W. Ebert

5/2020

**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

3/2017

Daniel Monks

3/2018

**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

4/14/2017

## 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 for people of all ages, 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 planning principles.

This year's Report introduces the new Municipal Report Card, our new, more focused department reports. You will find the department reports highlighting accomplishments and outlining goals for the coming year. It features more comparative analysis and is more directed in its content. We hope to use this to identify success measures that are meaningful for the staff and the public. Those key areas are customer service, operations and resources, and economic and community vitality. A sample from the recent citizen survey follows.

As I have done in the past, I would now like to outline the proposed FY2018 fiscal year budget, to be voted on March 7, 2017. The Town budget presented to the voters this year is increasing \$430,040.00 or 3.58 %. Considering all other revenues, the combined property tax rate, based on last year's Grand List, would increase by \$0.0265. These calculations include the Bennington Free Library, \$457,750.00, the John McCullough Library in North Bennington, \$18,000.00, North Bennington Recreation, \$6,000.00, and Lake Paran, \$2,700.00, all of which are included as line items in the budget following reviews of their requests and subsequent approval by the Select Board. The Agencies on the ballot this year are all requesting the same amounts as last year, except Sunrise Family Resource Center which petitioned for \$15,000.00, a \$5,000.00 increase over last year. These Agencies on the ballot are joined by the Bennington Rescue Squad, its first-time on the ballot, with a request for \$207,459.00. If the Agencies on the ballot are all approved, it will add an estimated \$0.0331, bringing the total increase to \$0.0596. The Town staff and Select Board worked very hard to present a budget that was as balanced with the projected revenues as possible. I believe we have succeeded. The voters will now weigh in.

I note that the ballot this year includes tax exempt status for the Bennington Rescue Squad, a five (5) year exemption, that must have voter approval. It also contains a bond issue for a new Public Works Facility at 78 Bowen Road. The ballot amount, \$3.2 million, includes the purchase price of the property and the cost to retrofit it to meet our needs. If approved, it will be the new home of the Bennington Highway and Water Departments. The entire cost of the bond will be included within the Highway and Water Fund budgets by restructuring other capital projects costs on an annual basis. No tax or rate increases are anticipated if this vote is successful. It is important to note that the total cost of this project is only 50% of the cost to build a new facility.

We also have two open Select Board seats. The filing date is January 30, 2017 at 5 pm.

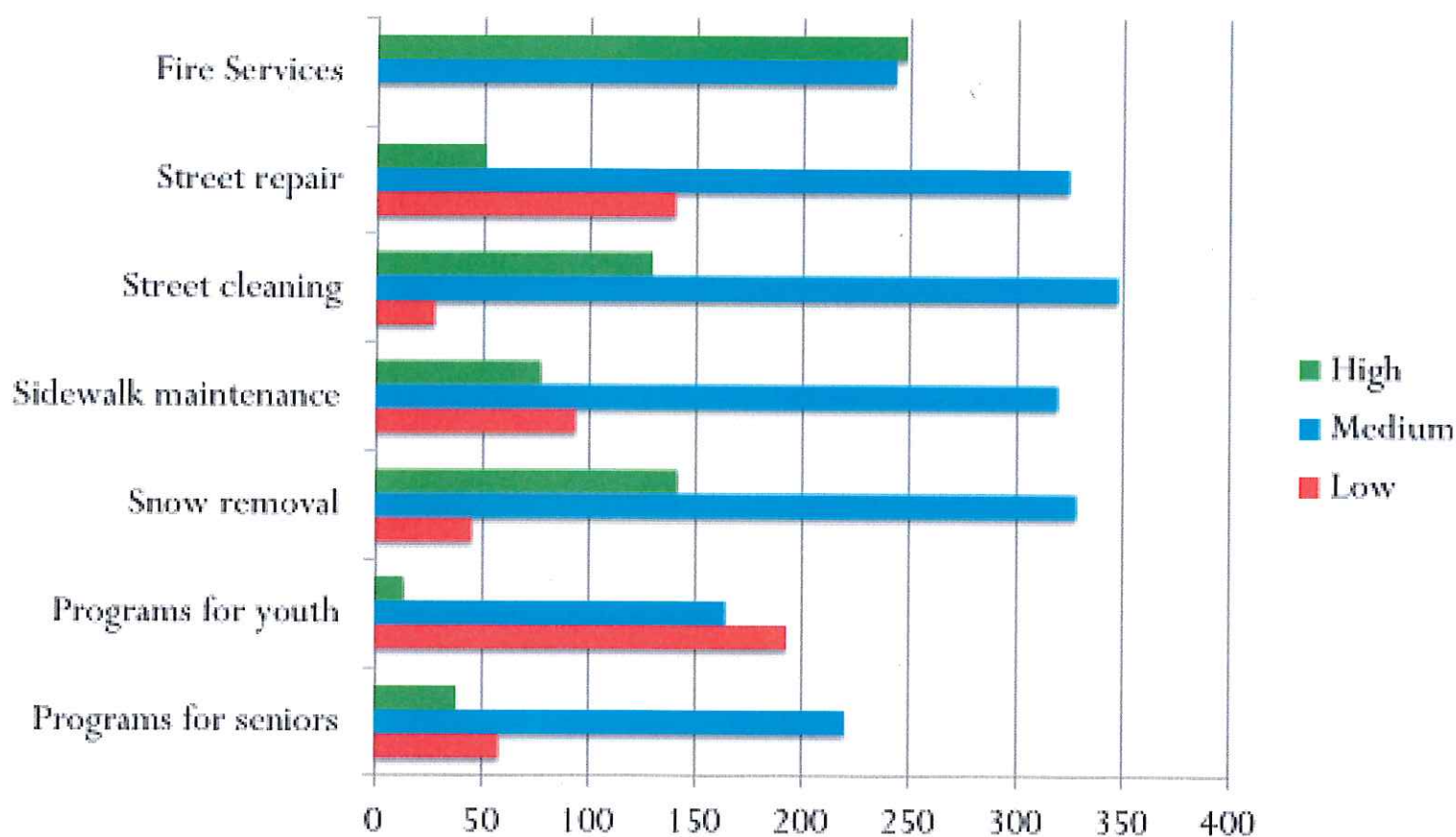
I have been very fortunate to work with many talented people, staff and Board members. We do not always agree, but we all work hard to find a solution that is in the best interest of the residents of Bennington. Thank you one and all, and a special thank you to the community for your support and patience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

Respectfully,  
Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager



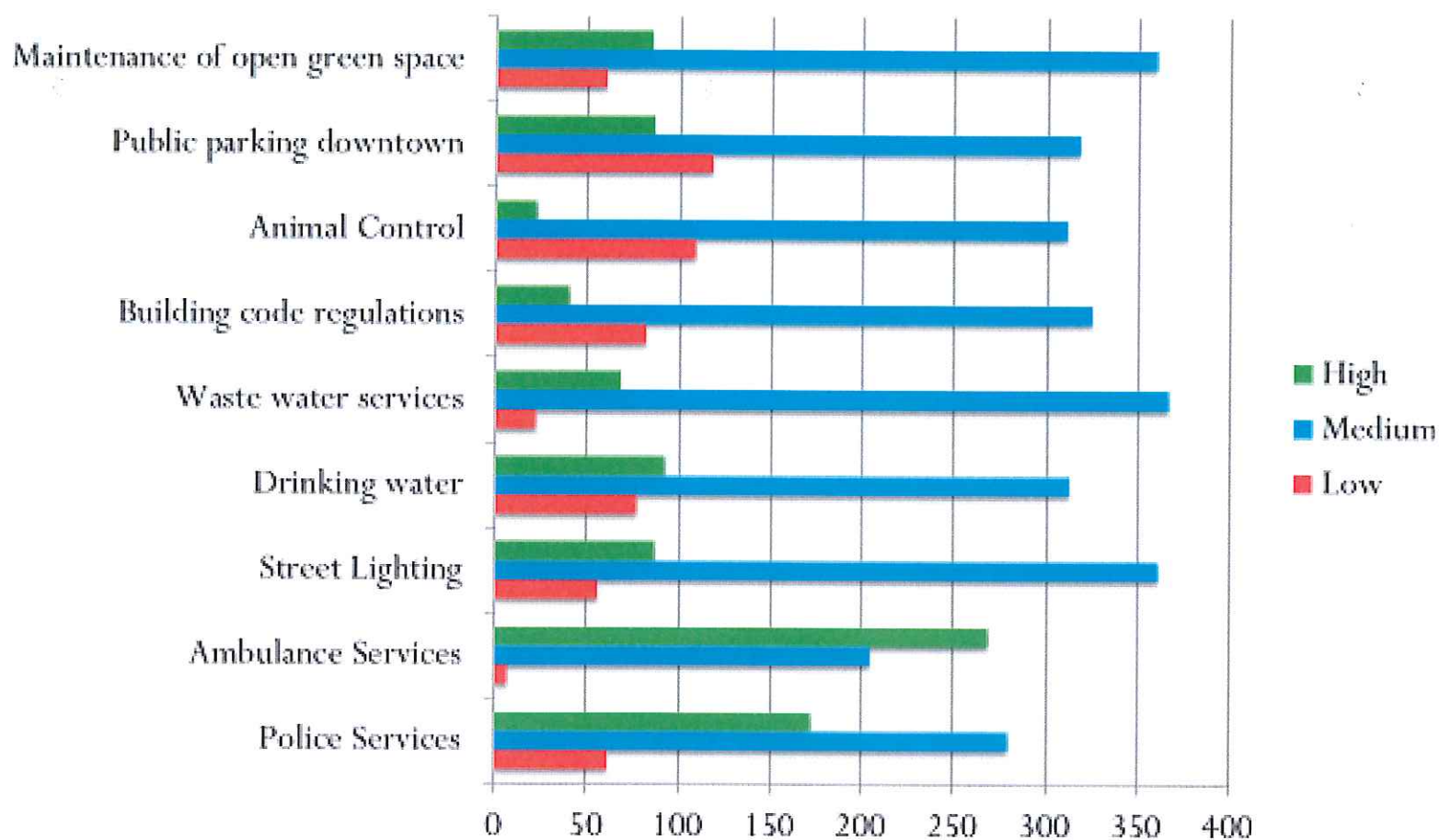
# Municipal services

Rating of services provided by the Town



# Municipal services continued

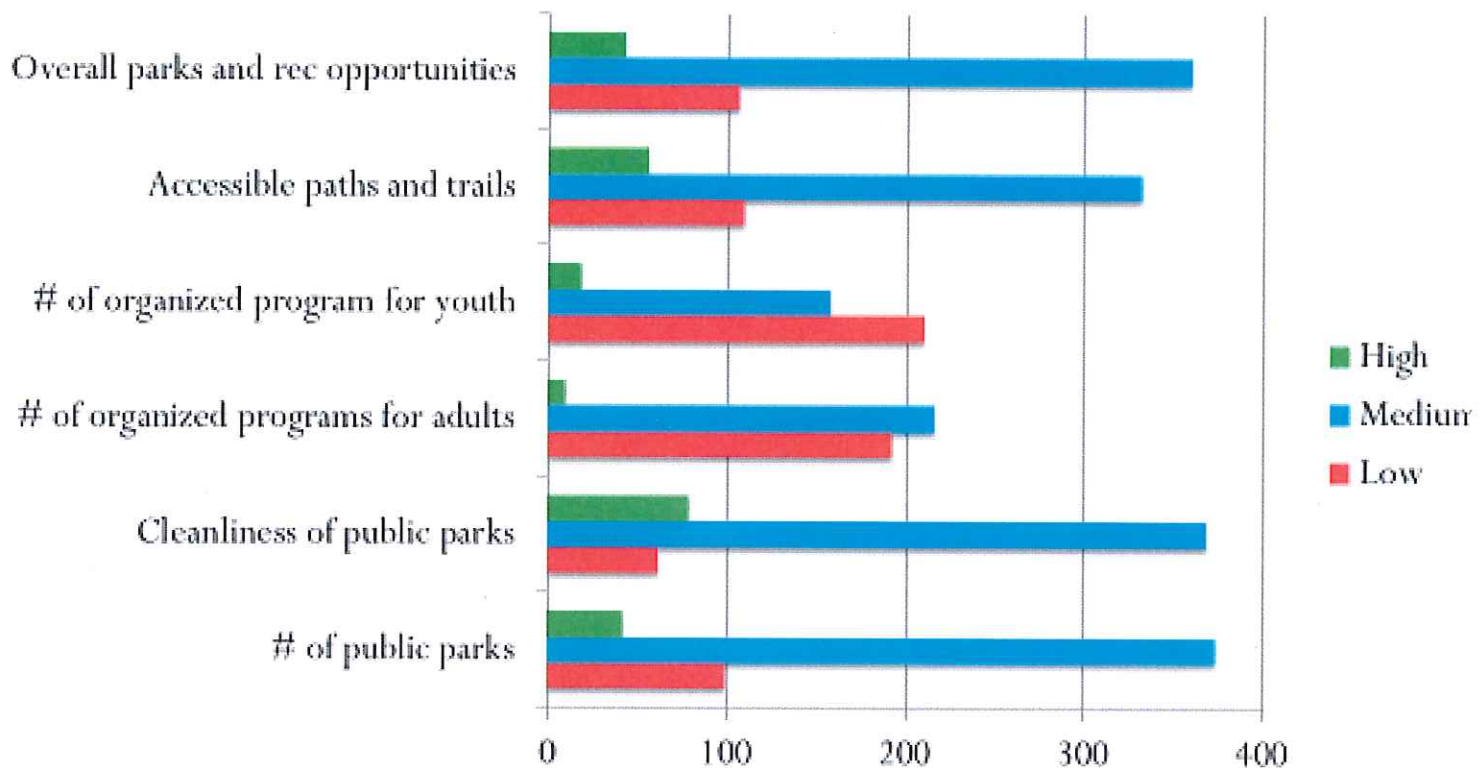
Rating of services provided by the Town





# Parks, Recreation and Community Programs

## Rating of Parks and Recreation opportunities in Bennington



# Police

Paul J. Doucette, Chief of Police

Officers made 684 criminal arrests for a total of 981 offenses in 2016. Officers responded to 8,833 calls for service, issued 4,882 Vermont Civil Violation Complaints and issued 3398 warnings for observed violations. Officers from the Bennington Police Department investigated 520 motor vehicle crashes: 441 crashes involved property damage only, 77 crashes involved personal injury and 2 crashes involved fatalities.

Members of the Bennington Police Department are pleased with the support received from members of the community. During 2016 we collaborated with the Bennington County Sheriff's Department to raise funds to begin canine programs in each department. The response from the community was outstanding and I am pleased to report the Bennington Police Department received approximately \$19,000.00 in donations to begin the program. The program is underway and Officer Robert Murawski has been named as the K-9 Handler. Our K-9 team will be headed to the Vermont Police Academy for training in 2017!

As planned, we acquired an all-terrain utility vehicle to assist with patrolling areas we are unable to access with our patrol vehicles. A select group of officers were trained in the use of the vehicle.

During 2016 we added three new employees to the Department. Daniel Ferrara joined the Department and attended the 101<sup>st</sup> Basic Course for Police Professionals graduating in November of 2016. Rebecca Levine joined the Department as a dispatcher and Derek Osgood joined the department and is currently training to achieve his certification as a law enforcement officer in the State of Vermont. In the upcoming year, we plan to add an additional officer to the patrol division and assign an existing officer to a School Resource Officer position.

All members of the Bennington Police Department continue to receive training in a variety of topics. During 2016 members of the Department participated in 3,187 hours of training.

We continued our New Experience Camp program and have engaged in other community events as well. You will continue to see members of the Bennington Police Department involved in the Bennington community volunteering and working with the residents to make our town safer!

## 2016 Top Accomplishments:

- Continued to recruit new personnel and provided excellent training to all staff
- Police facility and safety equipment upgrades
- Increased traffic safety programs and continued with drug enforcement activities

## 2017 Top Priorities

- Increase law enforcement officer involvement in local schools
- Create an effective body worn camera program
- Increase the level of training for supervisors within the department



# Fire

Chief Jeff Vickers

In 2016 the members of the Bennington Fire Department continued to volunteer many hours of personal time to continue their education in the fire service. This dedication to continually improving their skills was critical in responding efficiently and professionally to calls for service throughout the year. I believe the men and women of the Bennington Fire Department are an incredible resource to the Town of Bennington and second to none. We responded to 204 calls in 2016, including 65 alarm activations, 12 building fires and 27 motor vehicle accidents.

After multiple meetings to plan the future of the Bennington Fire Department, the critical item of recruiting and retaining volunteers was determined to be the most important challenge facing the Department. We plan to work on this issue in 2017 and beyond. It will require a joint effort of Town Government, Fire Department members and the residents of Bennington to be successful. While there may be no quick and easy solution, I feel it is essential to the future of the Bennington Fire Department as well as the safety of the citizens of Bennington and worth the effort.

The members of the Bennington Fire Department participated in many Fire Prevention classes throughout the year, spending 2,831 hours reaching 1,133 adults and children. I feel this is one of our most important jobs, particularly with young people. It is always fun to engage with the children as they are full of curiosity and energy.

I was pleased to see that the Bennington Fire Department was well regarded in the 2016 Bennington Citizen Survey. I look forward to continuing our constant push for education and excellence in 2017, specifically in regards to making the department stronger in regards to recruiting and retention.

## 2016 Highlights:

- ISO audit was completed resulting in the Bennington Fire Department maintaining its current Public Protection Classification rating.
- 1,133 people reached through Fire Prevention classes.
- 8 firefighters participated in the American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb of the Bennington Battle Monument, raising \$1,446 for the American Lung Association.

## 2017 Goals:

- Work on a Recruiting and Retention Program, including partnering with Town Government.
- Continue to define specification for the upcoming ladder truck purchase.
- Implement new radio frequency and revisit radio use SOPs to improve fire ground communications and firefighter safety.

# Highway

Raymond Joly, Highway Superintendent

The Highway Department is made up of a 14-man crew, (1) Superintendent and (2) Working Foremen (one for each garage). The Highway Department is responsible for maintaining approximately 120 miles of road in the Town of Bennington. The Depot Street Garage maintains and services the roads in town and the Orchard Road Garage maintains and services the rural roads in town. Crews maintain 13 bridges, greater than 20', 475 catch basins, numerous miles of ditches, culverts, and swales. The Highway Department also replaces and maintains all 45 miles of sidewalk in town, along with all sweeping and trash removal.

## 2016 Top Accomplishments

- Fuller Road bridge replacement
- Silk Road covered bridge repainting
- Henry Covered Bridge roof replacement
- Morgan Street and South Branch Street retaining wall construction

## 2017 Top Priorities

- Peppermill Bridge replacement
- Paper Mill Covered Bridge Repainting
- Benmont South end bridge rehab

# Water Resources

Terrance Morse, Water Resources Superintendent

## Sewer

Priority at the Wastewater Treatment Facility for 2016 was the Rotating Biological Contactors (RBCs) – our main secondary treatment process. The RBC structures are original from the 1983-1985 upgrade, and most of the drive units are at least 15 to 20 years old. The age of these RBCs are overtaking any proactive maintenance the Wastewater crew has been doing.

In April 2016 one of the RBCs was lost to fire after a gear drive failed and the heat it generated caused the unit to smolder and catch fire. Penta Construction is scheduled to remove the old structure and replace it with an entirely new structure in Spring 2017.

Between May and November 2016 the RBCs continued to plague the WWTF crew with over 50% failures. Because the RBC process was not running efficiently that led to odor problems and permit exceedances. Vermont ANR visited the site on several occasions, and the Town received a compliance order seeking repair within a 45 day time frame, which we were able to meet by the end of October. This was a daunting task that involved countless hours of work by the crew and the assistance of other Town Departments, local contractors, and assistance from ANR, our engineers at Aldrich & Elliott, and Vermont Rural Water Association for guidance.



Given the recent events the Wastewater Treatment Facility is hoping to proceed with a 2017 bond vote to make additional upgrades to the RBCs, the influent screening process, electrical improvements, and the anaerobic digesters – all of which have outlived their life expectancy.

### **Water**

The Water Department began 2016 with the South End Water Project- Phase I fully functional. Attention quickly turned to PFOA concerns. Bennington Municipal Water system was tested multiple times and found to be free of PFOA's, however multiple property owners with their own well systems were not so lucky. The rest of 2016 has been consumed with finding a resolution and clean water source for those effected. Several properties effected by PFOA's that were already adjacent to existing municipal water mains were connected in the Fall of 2016. The Town will continue to move forward in 2017 seeking clean water resolution for the remaining properties affected by PFOA issue.

#### **Our Permit System provides with the following Year-End Statistics:**

Total water line/hydrant repairs	35*
Lead water line replacements	5*
Water system bacteria samples	226
Sewer manholes repaired/replaced	75
Sewer lines cleaned/televised & lined	20,180 ft Cleaned

*\*Estimates*

#### **Our Water Filtration Plant SCADA supplies the following totals:**

Total water produced	364.5 Million Gallons
Average 2016 water used per day	1.7 Million Gallons

#### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Instrumentation supplies the following totals:**

Total wastewater gallons treated	1.1 Billion Gallons
Average 2016 gallons per day treated	3.9 Million Gallons
Average % BOD/Solids removed	89%/BOD/92%Solids
Total septage received	86,775 Gallons
Total compost produced	209 Tons

## **Economic and Community Development**

Michael Harrington, Economic and Community Development Director

In Bennington it is the job of the Office of Economic and Community Development (OECD) to proactively shape the landscape of the Town by assisting with the growth of business and the community in which they exist. Specifically, the OECD provides support in the form of advocacy, revolving loans, tax incentives and networking to both existing and potential businesses. The OECD plays an active role in the municipality's efforts to make Bennington an easy and friendly place to do business.

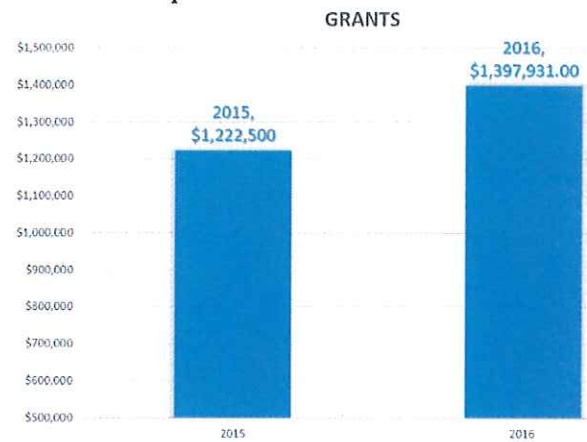
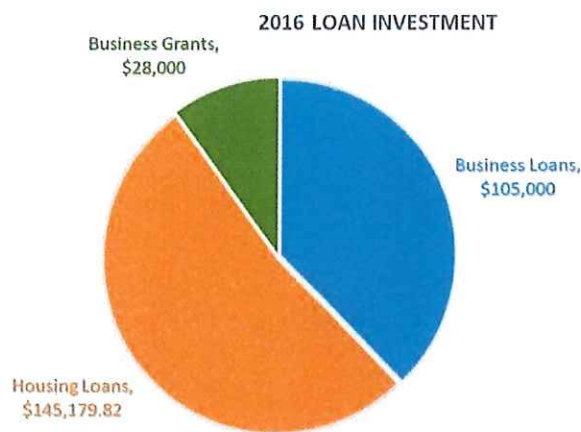
The Economic and Community Development Office assists in the acquisition of community development block grants and other programs that are geared toward neighborhood revitalization. The Town's low interest loan program provides funding to property owners and families so that facilities can be maintained and kept up to code, and close partnerships with landlords and developers insure that quality housing is a top priority.

## 2016 Top Accomplishments

- Adoption of the Property Maintenance Ordinance
- Implementation of Project Catalyst and the Neighborhood Block Party
- Execution of the first-ever Citizen Survey
- Adoption of new business and community loan programs

## 2017 Top Priorities

- Continuation of Project Catalyst
- Implementation of Putnam Project Community Development Block Grant
- Implementation of new town loan software
- Completion of the Pleasant/School Street Enhancement Project
- Implementation of Berkshire Family YMCA Partnership



# Historic Preservation Commission

Michael Harrington, Economic and Community Development Director

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 can provide grants and technical assistance to the HPC 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 maintains a page on the Town of Bennington website. The Commission's webpage 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 design changes to their buildings, and inspires the preservation of Bennington's architectural history. The site includes the HPC's preservation manual, *Time and Place in Bennington: A Handbook for the Central Bennington Historic District*.

The site can be viewed at: [www.benningtonvt.org](http://www.benningtonvt.org)

## **Better Bennington Corporation**

John Shannahan, Director

The Better Bennington Corporation's mission is to build, improve, and support a vital downtown that benefits our entire community.

Our focus areas continue to be streetscape maintenance, marketing, and business recruitment and retention tools. As result of our 2016 recruitment efforts, our on-line property listing resulted in the sale of a downtown property creating a new business and major property improvements. In addition, downtown witnessed dozens of façade improvements and the continued openings and expansions. Seven new businesses joined the downtown community and two existing businesses relocated within the district allowing them to expand.

The improvements to the downtown holiday displays required an enormous effort on behalf of the BBC and the Town of Bennington, but the positive feedback was overwhelming. More additions are planned for next season. Our commitment to the arts and culture is evident in our strong efforts and support of the Bennington Area Arts Council whose mission is aligned with ours in that arts and culture will play a pivotal role in the economic development of downtown.

As downtowns nationwide are being redesigned for pedestrian enjoyment instead of vehicle traffic, the BBC is excited to announce that The Park at 336 fundraising campaign is well underway with more than 35% of our goal already met. Ground breaking on this beautiful new addition to downtown will happen this year, because of everyone's support!

As the year comes to a close we want to congratulate two business owners whose success is what all others strive to achieve, Nancy Woltman and George Krawczyk. Happy (semi) retirement!

## **Parks and Recreation & Senior Center**

Tracy Knights, Director

The Bennington Recreation Center is located at 655 Gage Street. It is the administrative office for the Parks & Recreation Department. The center is a municipal facility and is supported by the town of Bennington taxpayers.

A membership or daily fee entitles the user to the six lane, 25 yard heated pool, sauna, showers, weight room and discounts on programs offered by the Recreation Department.



The Recreation Center's Rec Trac computer system recorded 40,489 visits from members and patrons paying the daily fee. This visit count doesn't include the numerous people who come for free swims, school groups, day cars and swim teams. Membership and daily fees totaled \$107,195.00.

The swimming pool is also used by members and non-members for many programs, therapeutic and recreational swimming opportunities. Adaptive physical education classes, day cares, school groups, swim teams and special programs are a few examples of groups who pay for private swimming time. The pool is maintained at a comfortable temperature to suit the needs of the variety of ages who use it. A total of 18,541 people which are not members or didn't pay a daily fee used the swimming pool from January through December, 2016. These visits are not recorded in the Rec Trac system. Average being 200 people visiting the center each day.

Outside the Recreation Center facility there are four tennis courts, two handball/racquetball courts, 6 hoop basketball court, all open to the public free of charge. The softball field is also open free of charge to the public providing there are no games or practices scheduled.

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

The center is town-owned, taxpayer-funded and currently on the second floor of the Senior Citizens' Service Center at 124 Pleasant Street. The regular activities provided by us are: quilting and sewing; music lessons; exercise; dance; painting, ceramics and sculpture; card and board games; BINGO, movies; potluck and a weight program named H.E.L.P. (help everyone lose pounds). 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.

## **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 the exclusive use of the Bennington Community Recreation Center located on Gage Street in Bennington, Vermont.*
- 2. Special consideration will be given to benefit the handicapped through capital improvements, equipment, or tuition for those in need as it relates to the Recreation Center.*
- 3. The Fund will be expended on a ten (10) year annuitized basis for the uses noted above.*

4. *Dr. Richard Alexander Sleeman, Professor, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams, Massachusetts, represents the Sleeman Family.*

The original fund contained \$52,156.27. During this year, \$0.00 was expended at the Recreation Center. Interest earned was added to the Fund leaving a reserve fund balance of \$6,640.75.

## Permitting, Planning & Code Enforcement

Larry McLeod, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Marshal  
Kevin Goodhue, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Marshal

Permit Type	2015 Permits	Dollar Volume	2016 Permits	Dollar Volume
Single Family Dwelling	5	\$888,000.00	2	\$270,000.00
Duplex	1	\$200,000.00	0	\$0.00
Mobile Homes	9	\$393,000.00	10	\$323,000.00
Apartments	1	\$140,000.00	1	\$75,000.00
Apartment Renovations	11	\$2,537,300.00	7	\$131,000.00
Condominiums	2	\$333,332.00	0	\$0.00
Residential Renovations	33	\$817,600.00	16	\$238,600.00
Residential Additions	1	\$70,000.00	7	\$243,500.00
Commercial Construction	4	\$1,761,000.00	5	\$6,658,500.00
Commercial Renovations	20	\$1,507,055.00	19	\$2,209,000.00
Industrial Construction	0	\$0.00	1	\$15,000.00
Industrial Renovations	1	\$360,000.00	1	\$1,000.00
Garages	9	\$170,500.00	10	\$257,000.00
Sheds	30	\$74,700.00	26	\$38,050.00
Decks	16	\$57,150.00	11	\$57,800.00
Institutions	23	\$8,466,500.00	9	\$928,000.00
Signs	24	\$32,200.00	16	\$50,360.00
Use and Zoning	11	\$15,000.00	8	\$1,000.00
Subdivisions	6	\$0.00	3	\$0.00
Septic Systems- New/Repair		\$0.00		\$0.00
Home Occupation	1	\$500.00	2	\$2,000.00
Propane Tank/Storage Tank	1	\$0.00	1	\$2,000.00
Boilers/Furnaces, A/C, RTU's	20	\$246,100.00	6	\$46,400.00
Tents	3	\$10,000.00	5	\$9,500.00
Handicap Access/Ramps	9	\$22,300.00	1	\$1,500.00
Concrete Slabs	0	\$0.00	2	\$6,000.00
Cell Towers	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Solar Installations	1	\$60,000.00	1	\$28,000.00
Camps	1	\$30,000.00	0	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>\$18,192,237.00</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>\$11,592,210.00</b>



# Health Officer

Larry McLeod, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Marshal  
Kevin Goodhue, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Marshal

The Health Officer is the Town Official who is responsible for Public Health Problems in 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 52 reported animal bites to humans in 2016, 39 from dogs, 10 from cats, 1 squirrel, and 2 bats. This compares to 46 in 2015, 38 in 2014, 33 in 2013, 46 in 2012, 41 in 2011, 36 in 2010, 32 in 2009, 44 in 2008. 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 State-wide 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/bed bug complaints, lead, mold and asbestos concerns from tenants in rental housing.

Another persistent health concern is dry scraping and power washing 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.

# Planning

Daniel W. Monks, Permitting Director

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 2016, the Planning Commission began developing a Hazard Mitigation Plan; worked with the BCRC to inventory and map Bennington trails and pathways; adopted changes to the UMU District; adopted an amendment to the Town Plan regarding the siting of solar facilities; and supported numerous ongoing efforts to construct trails, bike paths and sidewalks. In 2017, the Planning Commission intends to work with the Select Board regularly to better



coordinate Commission and Select Board efforts; meet with local governmental, educational, health care, business, and non-profit institutions and organizations to gain insight into their perspectives, needs, plans, etc.; develop updated regulations regarding telecommunications facilities; and consider the development of a form-based code for Bennington.

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 2016 by the Development were: a 7-unit planned residential development on North Branch Street; a new AutoZone store on Northside Drive; a new restaurant in the former Carmody's on Main Street; a new Subaru dealership on North Bennington Road; and an expansion of the Market Wagon on Harwood Hill Road.

## **Board of Listers**

John M. Antognioni, Assessor

With no reassessment activity in 2016, this office sent 141 Change of Appraised Value notices to property owners on May 18, 2016. These notices were sent to owners of property in which a material change had occurred from April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016. The Board of Listers had 52 property grievances, 4 of which were forwarded to the Bennington Board of Civil Authority. Two appeals from 2016 are outstanding.

The Town of Bennington's grand list for 2016 of all properties was \$1,015,973,225. The State's Equalization Study for 2016 (effective January 1, 2017) shows Bennington's common level of appraisal at 93.61 percent and our coefficient of dispersion at 14.29 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 2016 Equalization Study used sales data from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2016.

Carol Holm was reappointed to the Board of Listers by the Select Board in 2016, joining Robert Ebert.

## **Town Clerk**

Cassandra Barbeau, Town Clerk

The past year has proved to be a very busy election year, with the November General Election yielding nearly 70% voter turnout in Bennington. It was also our first complete year using the new online voter checklist and registration system provided by the Vermont Secretary of State. While there are always bugs to work out with new systems like this, working hand in hand with the Secretary of State, we have worked through the problems and it is proving to be a very effective system. Integrated into this system is voter accessibility through the Vermont My Voter Page located at <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>. By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- Check registration status;
- View information on upcoming elections;

- Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours;
- View a sample ballot

You may also register to vote online through the portal at <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>. During 2016, over 25,000 Vermonters registered to vote using the online system and for the November General Election, nearly 6,500 Vermonters requested an absentee ballot through the My Voter Page. I would like to encourage you to use the resources mentioned above to confirm your voting status. If you have difficulty accessing your page and believe you are registered, please call the office as we may be missing important information on your page.

This past July, I was excited and honored to be appointed as one of two Clerks across the State to serve on a five-member Legislative Study Committee concerning the security of Vital Records. As many of us know, Vital Records are facing more and more security measures across the Country in recent years. I expect the Vermont Legislature will be making sweeping changes to our laws regarding your birth, marriage and death records. This study committee has also led to my involvement with Legislative Council on many aspects of records management and accessibility at the Town level and how best to move forward with these potential changes. I am happy to be a part of these important decisions and finding balance with maintaining proper security while ensuring necessary accessibility for my constituents.

## **NOTES:**

TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
205 South Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
7/10/16

Joan Pinsonneault, Treasurer

**Cash Flow and Account Balances as of June 30, 2016**

	<u>06/01/16 -</u> <u>06/30/16</u>	<u>07/01/15 -</u> <u>06/30/16</u>
CASH FLOW:		
Beginning Balance	\$2,404,890.13	\$534,368.39
ADD:		
Interest	\$490.42	\$10,186.19
Various Town receipts	\$1,013,550.88	\$33,111,045.82
Tax Anticipation Line of Credit draw	\$0.00	\$1,933,964.63
Total available cash	<u>\$3,418,931.43</u>	<u>\$35,589,565.03</u>
 SUBTRACT:		
Disbursements:		
Payroll Warrants	\$625,005.89	\$5,969,172.58
Vendor Warrants	\$648,396.16	\$26,381,326.99
EPA wire payment - South End Water Line	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Prepaid checks	\$105,465.92	\$849,909.18
Vendor payments	\$34,205.91	\$332,253.42
Deposit slip charge	\$0.00	\$206.31
Bank Analysis Fee - Fraud Protection	\$19.00	\$858.00
Total Disbursements	<u>\$1,413,092.88</u>	<u>\$33,583,726.48</u>
 Cash Balance on June 30, 2016	<u><u>\$2,005,838.55</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,005,838.55</u></u>



TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
205 South Street  
Bennington, VT 05201  
7/10/16

**Operating Accounts**

	<u>INTEREST</u>		<u>BALANCE</u>
	06/01/16 -	07/01/15 -	
	<u>06/30/16</u>	<u>06/30/16</u>	<u>06/30/16</u>
<u>Chittenden Bank:</u>			
MBA Affiliate Dep. *9633	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$190,000.00
MBA Depository *7505	\$490.42	\$10,186.19	\$1,770,838.55
General Fund Checking Acct *0543	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Payroll Checking Acct *0551	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
Flexible Spending Acct *8912	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
TOTALS:	\$490.42	\$10,186.19	\$2,005,838.55

## Agencies

The following agencies received monies in the amount shown from the Town of Bennington's General Fund in FY 2017:

Bennington Free Library - \$437,000.00  
 Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless - \$25,000.00  
 Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice - \$21,600.00  
 John G. McCullough Free Library - \$18,000.00  
 Paran Recreations, Inc - \$17,700.00  
 Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) - \$14,840.00  
 Bennington Project Independence - \$11,000.00  
 Sunrise Family Resource Center - \$10,000.00  
 The Tutorial Center - \$10,000.00  
 Bennington Free Clinic - \$7,500.00  
 BROCC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont - \$7,500.00  
 Southwestern Vermont Council On Aging, Inc. - \$7,500.00  
 Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program - \$7,200.00  
 Vermont Center For Independent Living - \$7,000.00  
 North Bennington Recreation - \$6,000.00  
 Project Against Violent Encounters - \$5,000.00  
 Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse - \$2,500.00  
 Turning Point Center of Bennington - \$2,500.00

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
2016 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY  
130 RIVER STREET – 3<sup>RD</sup> Floor  
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016**

**MINUTES**

**MODERATOR:** Jason Morrissey

**ALSO PRESENT:** Tom Jacobs – Chair; John McFadden – Vice Chair; Sharyn Brush; Jim Carroll; Justin Corcoran; Michael Keane; Donald Campbell; Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Cassandra Barbeau, Town Clerk; Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator & Assistant Town Manager; Joan Pinsonneault, Treasurer; Mike Harrington, Economic & Community Development Director; Keith Whitcomb, Bennington Banner; BNN News; CAT-TV; (80) Citizens; Linda E. Bermudez – Recording Secretary

Absent: *None*

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

Mr. Morrissey announced there were Solid Waste surveys at the back of the room regarding the new multi-town alliance. They are not mandatory. He continued by noting that the Vermont Department of Conservation was on the first floor in the truck bay addressing the water well concerns in North Bennington. This is not part of Bennington's Annual Meeting. They will be available for questions until 8:00pm.

**Jason Morrissey then read the Town warning:**

**-WARNING-  
TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
2016 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, February 29, 2016, 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 19, 2016.*

*Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 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 24, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. at the Bennington Town Clerk's Office.*

Mr. Morrissey then reminded those present that the only binding decisions from the floor this evening are for Article #1 and Article #2.

## **BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR**

**Monday, February 29, 2016**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**Motion: Motion from the floor 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.*

It was discussed that the compensation for the FY'17 budget was set at \$1,400 per year (per member).

**Motion: Motion from the floor to approve Select Board compensation as submitted.**

**Motion was seconded by the floor (verbally). Motion passed unanimously (verbally).**

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

Brian Campion stepped forward with Mary Morrissey, Timothy Corcoran, Jr, Ann Lammy & Rachel Fields. They asked Sharyn Brush to join them. Each read a portion of a resolution recognizing Mrs. Brush's (19) years of public service on the Select Board as well as other public serving boards within the Town of Bennington.

Mary Morrissey then continued by reading a resolution regarding Multiple Myeloma. She asked Jan Bopp to join her in the resolution. He is a cancer survivor and advocate. Mr. Bopp encouraged the public to have their blood tested for early detection.

Bruce Lee Clark stepped forward. He asked the public to vote Yes on Article #7 Bennington Free Clinic. Volunteer Doctors, Nurses and staff continue to see new patients and help with many things including the State Health Connect insurance program.

Maryann St. John stepped forward and asked the public to vote Yes on Article #8. She thanked the public for past support and continues to help many in the community. BROCC assists the community



with many things including housing, heating, food, weatherization of homes, taxes, Health Connect insurance and utilities etc.

Jennifer Pluvey stepped forward. She is a Case Manager for the Council in Aging. She asked the public to vote Yes on Article #9. Their organization provides Meals on Wheels program, assist in tax preparation, legal assistance, mental health outreach and transportation among many other services for the elderly.

Genevieve Plunkett, Peter Lawrence and two other representatives of Sunrise Family Resource Center stepped forward to ask for support on Article #10. Their organization has helped the community for (46) years. They assist families with job connections, education, childcare needs and assist those who have grown up in Foster Care transition out. Please vote Yes!

Cathy Aliberti stepped forward and asked the public to vote Yes on Article #6. Green Mountain Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has (71) volunteers that assist many local organizations. They include blood drives, tax preparations, transportation, food pantries and even companionship.

There was no other business this evening.

#### **BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY BALLOT**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016**

**THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.  
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE**

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

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

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

**ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, the total sum of \$12,020,560.00 consisting of the following: \$3,902,050.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$8,118,510.00 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 \$50,000.00 for fire equipment, \$20,000.00 for parking improvements,**

**\$15,000.00 for regional economic development, \$50,000.00 for bridge repair/replacement and \$344,160.00 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. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$2,500.00 for Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?**

YES  
NO

**ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 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. 2017 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. 2017 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. 2017 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. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?**

YES  
NO

**ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 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. 2017 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. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for Sunrise Family Resource Center?**

YES  
NO

**ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?**

YES  
NO

**ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?**

YES  
NO

**ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?**

YES  
NO

**ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2017 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?**

YES  
NO

Jason Morrissey, Moderator asked to close the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda E. Bermudez  
Secretary

*Approved by:*  
Jason Morrissey  
Moderator

## **Bennington Town Meeting Election--March 1, 2016 Tally Sheet**

Pursuant to the foregoing warning, the voters of the Town of Bennington met at 7 o'clock AM on March 1, 2016 and after the votes were counted, the following named persons and articles received the number of votes set opposite the names and articles designated.

	N. Benn	Benn	total
<b>TOWN</b>			
<b>TREASURER</b>			
Joan E. Pinsonneault	2616	285	2901

And the said PINSONNEAULT was declared elected.

### **TOWN MODERATOR**

Jason P. Morrissey	2560	274	2834
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And the said  
MORRISSEY was  
declared elected.

### **SELECT BOARD (3 to be elected)**

Mike Bethel	728	68	796
Jason Bushee	469	41	510
Jeanne Conner	1425	161	1586 *
Tom Jacobs	1542	162	1704 *
Jeannie Jenkins	1472	178	1650 *
Michael McDonough	957	91	1048
Don Miller	1131	103	1234

And the said CONNER, JACOBS and JENKINS were declared elected.

### **ARTICLE 1: Budget**

Yes	2248	290	2538
No	798	52	850

And it was so  
voted.

### **ARTICLE 2: Benn County Assoc Against Child Abuse**

Yes	2359	297	2656
No	681	52	733

And it was so  
voted.



**ARTICLE 3:  
Turning Point Ctr**

Yes	1790	246	2036
No	1177	81	1258
And it was so voted.			

**ARTICLE 4: PAVE**

Yes	2033	274	2307
No	966	66	1032
And it was so voted.			

**ARTICLE 5: VCIL**

Yes	2219	290	2509
No	790	46	836
And it was so voted.			

**ARTICLE 6: Grn  
Mtn RSVP**

Yes	2060	270	2330
No	929	64	993
And it was so voted.			

**ARTICLE 7:  
Bennington Free  
Clinic**

Yes	2294	302	2596
No	758	42	800
And it was so voted.			

**ARTICLE 8: BROCC**

Yes	1746	240	1986
No	1232	86	1318
And it was so voted.			

**ARTICLE 9:  
Council on Aging**

Yes	2071	263	2334
No	920	69	989
And it was so voted.			

**ARTICLE 10:  
Sunrise**

Yes	1734	257	1991
No	1271	77	1348

And it was so  
voted.

**ARTICLE 11:  
Tutorial Center**

Yes	1842	256	2098
No	1164	79	1243

And it was so  
voted.

**ARTICLE 12: BPI**

Yes	1967	243	2210
No	975	76	1051

And it was so  
voted.

**ARTICLE 13: VNA  
& Hospice**

Yes	2259	284	2543
No	712	44	756

And it was so  
voted.

**ARTICLE 14:  
Coalition For the  
Homeless**

Yes	1990	272	2262
No	983	61	1044

And it was so  
voted.

Recorded March 2, 2016 at 11:00 AM by Camunda Barber Town Clerk



# Official Tally Sheet

## November 8, 2016 General Election

Total votes cast: 6171

### FOR PRES. & VICE-PRES.

	Total 2-1	Benn 2-2	Total
Clinton & Kaine (Democratic)	1764	1597	3361
DeLaFuenta & Steinberg (Independent)	13	9	22
Johnson & Weld (Libertarian)	72	83	155
Lariva & Puryear (Liberty Union)	3	5	8
Stein & Baraka (Green)	63	84	147
Trump & Pence (Republican)	970	979	1949
Bernie Sanders (Write-In)	152	197	349

### FOR US SENATOR

Pete Diamondstone (Liberty Union)	35	42	77
Cris Ericson (U.S.Marijuana)	170	168	338
Patrick Leahy (Democratic)	1936	1815	3751
Scott Milne (Republican)	828	826	1654
Jerry Trudell (Independent)	63	94	157

### FOR REP. TO CONGRESS

Erica Clawson (Liberty Union)	306	319	625
Peter welch (Dem/Rep)	2496	2450	4946

### FOR GOVERNOR

Bill "Spaceman" Lee (Liberty Union)	130	113	243
Sue Minter (Democratic)	1627	1490	3117
Phil Scott (Republican)	1280	1366	2646

### FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Randy Brock (Republican)	1085	1128	2213
Boots Wardinski (LibertyUnion)	114	116	230
David Zuckerman (Prog/Dem)	1709	1569	3278

### FOR STATE TREASURER

Murray Ngoima (Liberty Union)	123	132	255
Beth Pearce (Dem/Rep)	2157	2107	4264
Don Schramm (Progressive)	421	413	834

### FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

James C. Condos (Dem/Rep)	2321	2237	4558
Mary Alice "Mal" Herbert (Lib Union)	373	393	766

### FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

Marina Brown (Liberty Union)	199	217	416
Dan Feliciano (Republican)	1002	994	1996
Doug Hoffer (Dem/Prog)	1238	1464	2702

**FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Deborah "Deb" Bucknam (Republican)	844	866	1710
TJ Donovan (Democratic)	1585	1459	3044
Rosemarie Jackowski (Liberty Union)	449	477	926

**FOR STATE SENATOR (2 to be elected)**

Brian Campion (Democratic)	2168	1963	4131
Dick Sears (Democratic)	2283	2234	4517

**FOR STATE REP. DIST. 2-1(2 to be elected)**

Timothy R. Corcoran II (Democratic)	2316	0	2316
Rachael Fields (Democratic)	1870	0	1870

**FOR STATE REP. DIST 2-2 (2 to be elected)**

Kiah Morris (Democratic)	0	1757	1757
Mary A. Morrissey(Republican)	0	2143	2143

**FOR HIGH BAILIFF**

Frederick C. Gilbar (Democratic)	2416	2440	4856
----------------------------------	------	------	------

**FOR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (15 to be elected)**

Susan Beal (Dem)	1294	1208	2502
Shannon Behan (Dem)	1338	1296	2634
Barbara Bluto (Dem)	1446	1325	2771
Marlene Driscoll (Dem)	1319	1156	2475
Debbie Giroux (Dem)	1431	1416	2847
James A. Gulley Sr. (Dem)	1343	1297	2640
Tom Haley (Dem)	1054	1042	2096
Michele Hogan (Dem)	1507	1394	2901
Charles N. Kokoras (Rep)	649	671	1320
Albert C. Krawczyk (Rep)	1167	1243	2410
Bruce P. Lonergan (Rep)	689	728	1417
Brian J. Maroney Jr. (Rep)	1256	1368	2624
James Marsden (Dem)	1365	1316	2681
Anne Mook (Dem)	1602	1609	3211
Mary A. Morrissey (Rep)	1653	1835	3488
Eugenie "Genie" Rayner (Dem)	687	607	1294
Marjorie Robinson (Dem)	1095	1037	2132
John T. Santarcangelo (Rep)	1179	1008	2187
Aaron Sawyer (Dem)	889	800	1689
David Shaffe (Ind)	1104	1157	2261
Anna Kinney Swierad (Rep)	832	936	1768
Gabe White (Dem)	757	672	1429

And the said BEAL, BEHAN, BLUTO, DRISCOLL, GIROUX, GULLEY, HOGAN, KRAWCZYK, MARONEY, MARSDEN, MOOK, MORRISSEY, ROBINSON, SANTARCANGELO AND SHAFFE were declared elected.



**-WARNING-**

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON  
2017 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 6, 2017, 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 17, 2017.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 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. Residents of Bennington and North Bennington may register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office, 205 South Street, Bennington, Vermont. Eligible residents registering on Election Day must do so at the polling place where they will cast their Town Meeting ballot.

**BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR**

**Monday, March 6, 2017**

**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 7, 2017**

**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, 2017 through June 30, 2018, the total sum of \$12,450,600.00 consisting of the following: \$3,996,990.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the

Town; and \$8,453,610.00 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 \$60,000.00 for fire equipment, \$20,000.00 for parking improvements, \$5,000.00 for regional economic development, and \$402,750.00 for healthcare reserve and workers compensation insurance, any unexpended portion of which will be reserved to subsequent years for that purpose.

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 2.** Shall the bonds of the Town of Bennington in an amount not to exceed \$3.2 million be issued for the purpose of purchasing and renovating a public works facility at 78 Bowen Road in the Town of Bennington?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 3.** Shall the Town of Bennington grant tax exempt status as provided in T.32 §3840 to the Bennington Rescue Squad, Inc. for its property #49514600 for the tax listing years April 1, 2017, through and including March 31, 2022?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 4.** Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$2,500.00 for Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 5.** Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$2,500.00 for Turning Point Center of Bennington?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 6.** Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 7.** Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$7,000.00 for Vermont Center For Independent Living?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 8.** Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$7,200.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for BROCC - Community Action In Southwestern Vermont?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$15,000.00 for Sunrise Family Resource Center?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐

**ARTICLE 17. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2018 General Fund by the sum of \$207,459.00 for the Bennington Rescue Squad?**

YES ☐  
NO ☐



BY THE SELECT BOARD

Thomas H. Jacobs, Chair

Donald A. Campbell

Jeanne Conner

Jeannette Jenkins

Michael A. Keane, Vice Chair

Jim Carroll

Justin J. Gercoran

Dated at Bennington, Vermont this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.

NOTES:

# APPENDIX

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Financial Statements and Schedules**  
**June 30, 2016**  
**(With Independent Auditor's 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, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

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

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

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

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

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



## Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bennington, Vermont, as of June 30, 2016, 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 40 - 44, and the schedule of funding progress on page 45 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### *Other Information*

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

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

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 3, 2017, on our consideration of the Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Town of Bennington, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

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

January 3, 2017

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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, 2016. 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 \$23,872,193 at June 30, 2016, an increase of \$961,984 from last year. The principal reason for this increase is a proportionately greater increase in Capital Assets than the increase 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.
- 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.



**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

*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, 2016**

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"> <li>- Statement of net assets</li> <li>- Statement of activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Balance sheet</li> <li>- Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statement of net assets or balance sheet</li> <li>- Statement of revenues, expenses and changes in fund net assets</li> <li>- Statement of cash flows</li> </ul>
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, 2016**

**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, 2016 and 2015 and the Statements of Activities for the years then ended.

**Government-Wide Statements**

The Town's combined net position increased by \$961,984 to \$23,872,193 at June 30, 2016. 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)**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>		<b>Business-type Activities</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
Current and other assets	\$ 4,096	3,727	3,814	2,936	7,910	6,663
Capital assets	15,485	15,266	14,518	12,641	30,003	27,907
Total assets	19,581	18,993	18,332	15,577	37,913	34,570
Deferred outflows of resources	989	297	-	-	989	297
Total assets and deferred outflows	20,570	19,290	18,332	15,577	38,902	34,867
Current liabilities	1,946	3,269	480	388	2,426	3,657
Long-term liabilities	4,871	1,977	7,721	5,724	12,592	7,701
Total liabilities	6,817	5,246	8,201	6,112	15,018	11,358
Deferred inflows of resources	12	598	-	-	12	598
Total liabilities and deferred inflows	6,829	5,844	8,201	6,112	15,030	11,956
Net position:						
Invested in capital						
assets, net of debt	12,346	13,681	6,456	6,917	18,802	20,598
Restricted	3,476	3,614	-	-	3,476	3,614
Unrestricted	(2,081)	(3,849)	3,675	2,547	1,594	(1,302)
Total net position	\$ 13,741	13,446	10,131	9,464	23,872	22,910

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 3.3 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 39.6%, computes the percent of assets financed with debt. Debt-to-net assets ratio, which equals approximately 62.9%, computes the amount owed for debt on every dollar that the Town has available for use providing programs.

Based on liabilities of \$15 million and total assessed property value of \$1,027 million, the Town's total obligations represent approximately \$1.46 per \$100 of 2015-16 assessed property value. Per capita obligations - the amount of total liabilities per person - is approximately \$938 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, 2016**

The Town's capital assets (Table 1), such as infrastructure, buildings and equipment, less outstanding debt used to acquire them, amounted to \$18.8 and \$20.5 million at June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively. These assets represent the largest portion of the Town's net assets. Although the \$18.8 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, 2016, net assets of \$3.5 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)**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>		<b>Business-type Activities</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 528	537	4,263	4,180	4,791	4,717
Grants and contributions	818	1,662	-	-	818	1,662
General revenues:						
Property taxes	10,220	9,580	-	-	10,220	9,580
Other general revenues	1,179	912	23	22	1,202	934
Total revenues	<u>12,745</u>	<u>12,691</u>	<u>4,286</u>	<u>4,202</u>	<u>17,031</u>	<u>16,893</u>
<b>Program expenses:</b>						
General government	3,392	2,895	-	-	3,392	2,895
Public safety	3,784	3,619	-	-	3,784	3,619
Public works	118	154	-	-	118	154
Community development	103	73	-	-	103	73
Health and welfare	8	8	-	-	8	8
Recreation	876	852	-	-	876	852
Highways and roads	3,819	3,752	-	-	3,819	3,752
Highways and roads						
- Hurricane Irene flood	-	7	-	-	-	7
Library	426	402	-	-	426	402
Interest on long-term debt	54	77	-	-	54	77
Water	-	-	1,829	1,767	1,829	1,767
Wastewater treatment	-	-	1,637	1,616	1,637	1,616
Parking	-	-	23	30	23	30
Total expenses	<u>12,580</u>	<u>11,839</u>	<u>3,489</u>	<u>3,413</u>	<u>16,069</u>	<u>15,252</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) before transfers and adjustments</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>1,641</b>
Transfers	130	140	(130)	(140)	-	-
Prior period adjustment	-	(422)	-	-	-	(422)
<b>Increase (decrease) in net position</b>	<b>\$ 295</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>1,219</b>

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Net position of the Town's governmental activities (Table 2) increased by approximately 2.2% or \$295 thousand as reported in Table 2 for the year ended June 30, 2016, including net operating transfers from business-type activities of \$130 thousand. The unrestricted net position deficit comprises approximately 15.2% of the total net position of governmental activities at June 30, 2016.

The net position related to business-type activities increased by approximately \$667 thousand for the year ended June 30, 2016.

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

	<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>	
	<b>Total Cost of Services</b>	<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>Total Cost of Services</b>	<b>Net Cost of Services</b>
General government	\$ 3,392	2,839	2,895	2,201
Police department	3,425	3,172	3,340	3,101
Fire department	359	355	279	275
Public works	118	101	154	145
Community development	103	103	73	73
Health and welfare	8	8	8	8
Recreation	876	749	852	740
Highways and roads	3,819	3,532	3,752	3,313
Highways and roads - Hurricane Irene flood	-	(105)	7	(695)
Library	426	426	402	401
Interest on long-term debt	54	54	77	77
	<u>\$ 12,580</u>	<u>11,234</u>	<u>11,839</u>	<u>9,639</u>

The costs of providing governmental services (Table 3) amounted to approximately \$12.6 and \$11.9 million for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, 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 \$11.2 and \$9.6 million for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015. 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, 2016**

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

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>		<b>Business-type Activities</b>		<b>Total Primary Government</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Land and land improvements	\$ 747	744	233	251	980	995
Construction in progress	280	188	139	597	419	785
Distribution and collection systems	-	-	6,613	3,963	6,613	3,963
Buildings and improvements	2,499	2,631	6,858	7,256	9,357	9,887
Equipment and vehicles	2,360	2,135	675	574	3,035	2,709
Infrastructure	9,599	9,568	-	-	9,599	9,568
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 15,485</b>	<b>15,266</b>	<b>14,518</b>	<b>12,641</b>	<b>30,003</b>	<b>27,907</b>

The Town, at the request of the State's Drinking Water Division, joined with Southern Vermont College to design and construct a 1.0 million gallon water tank and water main extensions, not only to serve the College, but also to provide very necessary water pressure to the higher elevations in our water system. The College will pay its proportionate share of the \$3.0 million bond. The project was substantially complete before this fiscal year ended. In fact, the cost to construct the tank, pump station and associated lines was below the bond amount allowing the Town to extend the water main south along Monument Avenue thereby enhancing water pressure at the Hospital. The Highway Department purchased a new single axle dump truck, a new grader, and a new loader/backhoe utilizing the State's Highway Equipment Fund which allows towns to borrow necessary funds at a reduced interest rate and spread the cost over, in this case, 7-10 years. Tropical Storm Irene appeals on the final \$1.3 million debt were concluded unsuccessfully. The Town will pay a total debt of \$1.4 million over 15 years, the expenditures beginning in FY17.

A two-year study of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and system completed three years ago is now being used to guide selected projects. The Town anticipated slip lining old, leaking sewer lines identified in the study at an estimated cost of \$50,000 and began replacing the gear drives in the Rotating Biological Contactors at a cost of \$22,000 each, budgeting \$88,000 the year. The majority of work required to upgrade the Waste Water Treatment facility will ultimately require bonding. The Town will continue to identify portions of the upgrade which can be accomplished annually thereby reducing the total necessary borrowed funds.

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

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>		<b>Business-type Activities</b>		<b>Total Primary Government</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
General obligation bonds	\$ 2,295	985	8,062	5,724	10,357	6,709
Capital lease obligations	844	600	-	-	844	600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 3,139</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>8,062</b>	<b>5,724</b>	<b>11,201</b>	<b>7,309</b>

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, 2016**

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE TOWN'S FUNDS**

The Town saw its fund balance improve this year. This year that fund balance improved by \$1,902,943. Tropical Storm Irene debt has been moved into the balance sheet. Our fund balance at year end is now \$639,494.

Reviewing the revenues, we find a positive \$1,084,165, actual to budgeted, which includes Irene reimbursement of \$105,562. The remaining amount is largely due to increased grant revenue (\$132,111 over budget) and increases in other revenue.

On the expenditure side, reimbursable overtime and police special services appear to be overspent but are offset by revenues. Fuel costs throughout the budget had a much-reduced impact on the expense side. The continued low cost of fuel helped. The Pathway project cost, showing as over-expended, is offset by grant funds and monies in reserve. The Highway Fund equipment line appears over-expended; however, the major capital purchases, a dump truck, a grader, and a loader/backhoe were purchased with borrowed funds which provides an offset on the revenue side. Health management fees, a self-insurance fund established by the Select Board as a reserve, show as an over-expenditure when spent to cover costs.

**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, 2016**

	<b>Primary Government</b>		
	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Business-type Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Assets:</b>			
Cash	\$ 2,744,242	-	2,744,242
Accounts receivable, net	110,042	1,129,854	1,239,896
Property taxes receivable, net	1,138,496	-	1,138,496
Interest receivable	2,126	-	2,126
Prepaid expenses	132,234	38,220	170,454
Notes receivable, current	111,626	-	111,626
Internal balances	(2,646,320)	2,646,320	-
Notes receivable, non-current	2,502,896	-	2,502,896
Capital assets:			
Land and construction in progress	1,026,409	458,480	1,484,889
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	14,458,994	14,059,237	28,518,231
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>19,580,745</b>	<b>18,332,111</b>	<b>37,912,856</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Financial Resources:</b>			
Contributions to VMERS pension plan	989,287	-	989,287
<b>Total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources</b>	<b>\$ 20,570,032</b>	<b>18,332,111</b>	<b>38,902,143</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 417,416	115,447	532,863
Line of credit	162,113	-	162,113
Accrued liabilities	950,667	23,574	974,241
Deferred revenue	9,401	-	9,401
Accrued landfill post-closure costs:			
Due within one year	33,410	-	33,410
Due in more than one year	498,385	-	498,385
Bonds payable:			
Due within one year	305,410	341,224	646,634
Due in more than one year	1,989,883	7,720,826	9,710,709
Lease payable:			
Due within one year	98,313	-	98,313
Due in more than one year	745,847	-	745,847
Net pension liability - VMERS	1,605,609	-	1,605,609
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,816,454</b>	<b>8,201,071</b>	<b>15,017,525</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Financial Resources:</b>			
VMERS investment earnings projection	12,425	-	12,425
<b>Net position:</b>			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	12,345,950	6,455,667	18,801,617
Net restricted for:			
Capital projects	274,774	-	274,774
Community development projects	2,614,522	-	2,614,522
Other purposes	586,682	-	586,682
Unrestricted (deficit)	(2,080,775)	3,675,373	1,594,598
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 13,741,153</b>	<b>10,131,040</b>	<b>23,872,193</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
Statement of Activities  
June 30, 2016

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
<b>Primary government:</b>							
<b>Governmental activities:</b>							
General government	\$ 3,391,715	232,001	320,464	-	(2,839,250)	-	(2,839,250)
Public safety:							
Police	3,424,604	147,592	104,824	-	(3,172,188)	-	(3,172,188)
Fire	359,174	4,635	-	-	(354,539)	-	(354,539)
Public works	118,358	17,549	-	-	(100,809)	-	(100,809)
Community development	103,514	-	-	-	(103,514)	-	(103,514)
Health and welfare	7,751	-	-	-	(7,751)	-	(7,751)
Recreation	875,776	126,486	-	-	(749,290)	-	(749,290)
Highways and roads	3,818,796	-	-	287,400	(3,531,396)	-	(3,531,396)
Highways and roads - Hurricane Irene flood expense	190	-	-	105,562	105,372	-	105,372
Library	425,900	-	-	-	(425,900)	-	(425,900)
Interest on long-term debt	54,618	-	-	-	(54,618)	-	(54,618)
Total governmental activities	12,580,396	528,263	425,288	392,962	(11,233,883)	-	(11,233,883)
<b>Business-type activities:</b>							
Water	1,829,445	2,407,487	-	-	-	578,042	578,042
Sewer	1,637,410	1,851,676	-	-	-	214,266	214,266
Parking	22,742	3,960	-	-	-	(18,782)	(18,782)
Total business-type activities	3,489,597	4,263,123	-	-	-	773,526	773,526
Total primary government	\$ 16,069,993	4,791,386	425,288	392,962	(11,233,883)	773,526	(10,460,357)
<b>General revenues:</b>							
Property taxes					10,220,095	-	10,220,095
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					306,508	-	306,508
Investment earnings					60,256	23,359	83,615
Miscellaneous					812,123	-	812,123
Transfers					130,000	(130,000)	-
Total general revenues and transfers					11,528,982	(106,641)	11,422,341
Change in net position					295,099	666,885	961,984
Net position - beginning					13,446,054	9,464,155	22,910,209
Net position - ending					\$ 13,741,153	10,131,040	23,872,193

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**June 30, 2016**

	General Governmental Activities Fund	Special Revenue Funds Community Development Fund	Downtown Improvement Commission	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets:</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,077,177	667,065	-	2,744,242
Delinquent taxes receivable, net of allowance uncollectible accounts of \$295,517	1,138,496	-	-	1,138,496
Accounts receivable	110,042	-	-	110,042
Interest receivable	-	2,126	-	2,126
Prepaid expenses	132,234	-	-	132,234
Notes receivable, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$28,000	-	2,614,522	-	2,614,522
Due from other funds	-	-	21,381	21,381
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,457,949</b>	<b>3,283,713</b>	<b>21,381</b>	<b>6,763,043</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 405,035	-	-	405,035
Line of credit	162,113	-	-	162,113
Accrued liabilities	400,010	-	-	400,010
Due to other funds	1,629,640	1,055,849	-	2,685,489
Unearned revenue	9,401	-	-	9,401
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,606,199</b>	<b>1,055,849</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,662,048</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>				
Unavailable revenue - delinquent property taxes	212,256	-	-	212,256
<b>Fund Balances:</b>				
Nonspendable	-	2,614,522	-	2,614,522
Restricted	1,663,448	-	21,381	1,684,829
Committed	234,219	-	-	234,219
Assigned	6,897	-	-	6,897
Unassigned	(1,265,070)	(386,658)	-	(1,651,728)
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>639,494</b>	<b>2,227,864</b>	<b>21,381</b>	<b>2,888,739</b>
<b>Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances</b>	<b>\$ 3,457,949</b>	<b>3,283,713</b>	<b>21,381</b>	<b>6,763,043</b>

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, 2016**

Total fund balances - governmental funds (from page 14)	\$ 2,888,739
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	15,485,403
Deferred outflows of financial resources related to pension activities are not recognized in the funds	989,287
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and are deferred in the funds.	212,256
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(5,822,107)
Deferred inflows of financial resources related to pension activities are not recognized in the funds	(12,425)
Net position of governmental activities (page 12)	<u>\$ 13,741,153</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, 2016**

	General Governmental Activities Fund	Special Revenue Funds Community Development Fund	Downtown Improvement Commission	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 10,253,504	-	69,948	10,323,452
Permits and licenses	68,802	-	-	68,802
Intergovernmental revenues	1,019,196	-	-	1,019,196
Fees and charges	378,116	-	-	378,116
Fines and forfeitures	31,082	-	-	31,082
Interest	7,047	53,209	-	60,256
Rental revenue	50,263	-	-	50,263
Hurricane Irene grants and assistance	105,562	-	-	105,562
Other	736,733	(3,331)	-	733,402
<b>Total revenues</b>	12,650,305	49,878	69,948	12,770,131
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General government	2,491,176	-	-	2,491,176
Public safety	3,482,495	-	-	3,482,495
Public works	118,358	-	-	118,358
Health and welfare	7,751	-	-	7,751
Recreation	864,106	-	-	864,106
Debt management	319,424	-	-	319,424
Highways and roads	3,865,629	-	-	3,865,629
Project expenditures	-	23,800	-	23,800
Hurricane Irene flood expense	190	-	-	190
Other	1,344,858	9,766	69,948	1,424,572
<b>Total expenditures</b>	12,493,987	33,566	69,948	12,597,501
<b>Excess of revenues over expenditures</b>	156,318	16,312	-	172,630
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>				
Proceeds from issuance of debt	1,568,625	-	-	1,568,625
Operating transfers in (out)	178,000	(48,000)	-	130,000
	1,746,625	(48,000)	-	1,698,625
<b>Excess of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses</b>	1,902,943	(31,688)	-	1,871,255
<b>Fund balance, July 1, 2015</b>	(1,263,449)	2,259,552	21,381	1,017,484
<b>Fund balance, June 30, 2016</b>	\$ 639,494	2,227,864	21,381	2,888,739

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, 2016**

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (from page 16)	\$ 1,871,255
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 a decrease in deferred property taxes.	(103,357)
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 depreciation exceeded capital outlays in the current period.	(212,606)
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.	78,722
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	(1,737,838)
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.	398,923
Change in net position of governmental activities (page 13)	\$ <u>295,099</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**June 30, 2016**

	<b>Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds</b>			
	<b>Water Fund</b>	<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b>Parking Meter Fund</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Assets:</b>				
Current assets:				
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$24,000	\$ 684,961	444,893	-	1,129,854
Prepaid expenses	30,625	7,585	10	38,220
Due from other funds	1,443,377	1,060,947	159,784	2,664,108
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>2,158,963</b>	<b>1,513,425</b>	<b>159,794</b>	<b>3,832,182</b>
Capital assets:				
Land and land improvements	18,000	-	465,599	483,599
Distribution and collection systems	8,518,674	1,332,713	-	9,851,387
Buildings and equipment	9,009,683	18,159,406	3,014	27,172,103
Construction in progress	136,156	3,498	-	139,654
Less accumulated depreciation	(6,501,680)	(16,373,667)	(253,679)	(23,129,026)
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>11,180,833</b>	<b>3,121,950</b>	<b>214,934</b>	<b>14,517,717</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 13,339,796</b>	<b>4,635,375</b>	<b>374,728</b>	<b>18,349,899</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 109,266	6,181	-	115,447
Accrued liabilities	5,503	18,071	-	23,574
Notes and bonds payable, current portion	341,224	-	-	341,224
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>455,993</b>	<b>24,252</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>480,245</b>
Notes and bonds payable, less current portion	7,720,826	-	-	7,720,826
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>8,176,819</b>	<b>24,252</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,201,071</b>
<b>Net Position:</b>				
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	3,118,783	3,121,950	214,934	6,455,667
Unrestricted - designated	430,397	578,952	40,411	1,049,760
Unrestricted - undesignated	1,613,797	910,221	119,383	2,643,401
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>5,162,977</b>	<b>4,611,123</b>	<b>374,728</b>	<b>10,148,828</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net position</b>	<b>\$ 13,339,796</b>	<b>4,635,375</b>	<b>374,728</b>	<b>18,349,899</b>

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, 2016**

	<b>Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds</b>			
	<b>Water Fund</b>	<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b>Parking Meter Fund</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Operating revenues:</b>				
Fees and charges for services	\$ 2,391,835	1,850,557	3,960	4,246,352
Other	15,652	1,119	-	16,771
	2,407,487	1,851,676	3,960	4,263,123
<b>Operating expenses:</b>				
Administration	622,499	767,694	-	1,390,193
Buildings	60,326	-	-	60,326
Equipment	56,838	21,786	-	78,624
Water systems	103,845	-	-	103,845
Filtration plant	219,094	-	-	219,094
Sewer system	-	53,154	-	53,154
Sewer treatment plant	-	531,028	-	531,028
Parking	-	-	4,565	4,565
Depreciation	593,772	254,280	18,177	866,229
Total operating expenses	1,656,374	1,627,942	22,742	3,307,058
<b>Operating income</b>	751,113	223,734	(18,782)	956,065
<b>Nonoperating revenues (expenses):</b>				
Interest income	21,544	1,481	334	23,359
Interest expense	(164,751)	-	-	(164,751)
	(143,207)	1,481	334	(141,392)
<b>Income (loss) before operating transfers</b>	607,906	225,215	(18,448)	814,673
Operating transfers in (out)	(72,000)	(78,000)	20,000	(130,000)
	(72,000)	(78,000)	20,000	(130,000)
<b>Change in net position</b>	535,906	147,215	1,552	684,673
<b>Net position - beginning</b>	4,627,071	4,463,908	373,176	9,464,155
<b>Net position - ending</b>	\$ 5,162,977	4,611,123	374,728	10,148,828

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	<b>Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds</b>			
	<b>Water Fund</b>	<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b>Parking Meter Fund</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>				
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 2,541,590	1,874,623	3,960	4,420,173
Other operating cash receipts	15,652	1,119	-	16,771
Cash payments to suppliers of goods or services	(809,166)	(714,228)	(4,087)	(1,527,481)
Cash payments to employees for services	(506,155)	(655,878)	(488)	(1,162,521)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>1,241,921</b>	<b>505,636</b>	<b>(615)</b>	<b>1,746,942</b>
<b>Cash flows from non-capital financing activities:</b>				
Operating transfers from (to) other funds	(72,000)	(78,000)	20,000	(130,000)
Advances from (to) other funds	(844,150)	(206,477)	(19,719)	(1,070,346)
Interest expense (refunding) on short-term borrowings	(164,751)	-	-	(164,751)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) non-capital financing activities</b>	<b>(1,080,901)</b>	<b>(284,477)</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>(1,365,097)</b>
<b>Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:</b>				
Principal payments on bonds	(346,919)	-	-	(346,919)
Proceeds from issuance of bonds	2,684,779	-	-	2,684,779
Purchase of capital assets	(2,520,424)	(222,640)	-	(2,743,064)
<b>Net cash used in capital and related financing activities</b>	<b>(182,564)</b>	<b>(222,640)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(405,204)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>				
Interest on cash investments	21,544	1,481	334	23,359
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>21,544</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>23,359</b>
<b>Net increase in cash</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash, beginning</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash, ending</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Reconciliation of operating income to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:</b>				
Operating income (loss)	\$ 751,113	223,734	(18,782)	956,065
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:				
Depreciation	593,772	254,280	18,177	866,229
Change in operating assets and liabilities:				
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and other current assets	149,755	24,066	(10)	173,811
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(252,719)	3,556	-	(249,163)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>\$ 1,241,921</b>	<b>505,636</b>	<b>(615)</b>	<b>1,746,942</b>

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, 2016 the carrying amount of the Town's cash was \$2,744,242 and the bank balance was \$3,097,228. Of the bank balance, \$506,641 was covered by Federal depository insurance and the remaining \$2,590,587 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, 2016.

#### (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 6.000%; 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 \$2,614,522 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, 2016 consisted of the following:

Due To	Due From		
	General Fund	Community Development	Total
General Fund	\$ -	1,055,849	1,055,849
Downtown Improvement Commission	21,381	-	21,381
Water	1,443,377	-	1,443,377
Sewer	1,060,947	-	1,060,947
Parking	159,784	-	159,784
Total	\$ 2,685,489	1,055,849	3,741,338

(continued)



# TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (6) Internal Balances (continued)

Internal transfers for the year ended June 30, 2015 were as follows:

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount	Purpose
General Fund	Parking	\$ (20,000)	Fund capital outlay
Community Development	General Fund	48,000	Administrative charges
Water	General Fund	72,000	Administrative charges
Sewer	General Fund	78,000	Administrative charges
		\$ 178,000	

### (7) Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements and Transfers	Ending Balance
<b>Governmental activities:</b>				
Land and land improvements	\$ 801,645	12,805	-	814,450
Buildings and improvements	7,498,828	25,659	-	7,524,487
Equipment and vehicles	6,981,790	734,968	(385,211)	7,331,547
Infrastructure	35,096,955	1,151,488	-	36,248,443
Construction in progress	187,970	91,702	-	279,672
Totals at historical cost	50,567,188	2,016,622	(385,211)	52,198,599
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land and land improvements	(57,207)	(10,505)	-	(67,712)
Buildings and improvements	(4,868,412)	(156,443)	-	(5,024,855)
Equipment and vehicles	(4,846,516)	(498,302)	373,434	(4,971,384)
Infrastructure	(25,528,887)	(1,120,358)	-	(26,649,245)
Total accumulated depreciation	(35,301,022)	(1,785,608)	373,434	(36,713,196)
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 15,266,166	231,014	(11,777)	15,485,403

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

General government	\$ 39,818
Public safety:	
Police	134,475
Fire	118,480
Recreation	61,055
Highway and roads	1,431,780
	<u>\$ 1,785,608</u>

(continued)

# TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (7) Capital Assets (continued)

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements and Transfers	Ending Balance
<b>Business-type activities:</b>				
Land and land improvements	\$ 483,599	-	-	483,599
Buildings and improvements	24,075,887	16,954	-	24,092,841
Equipment and vehicles	2,870,877	208,385	-	3,079,262
Distribution and collection systems	6,876,341	2,391,052	583,994	9,851,387
Construction in progress	596,972	126,676	(583,994)	139,654
Totals at historical cost	34,903,676	2,743,067	-	37,646,743
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land and land improvements	(232,488)	(18,177)	-	(250,665)
Buildings and improvements	(16,819,746)	(415,878)	-	(17,235,624)
Equipment and vehicles	(2,297,036)	(107,176)	-	(2,404,212)
Distribution and collection systems	(2,913,529)	(324,996)	-	(3,238,525)
Total accumulated depreciation	(22,262,799)	(866,227)	-	(23,129,026)
Business-type activities capital assets, net	\$ 12,640,877	1,876,840	-	14,517,717

### (8) Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended June 30, 2016 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Amounts Due within One Year
<b>Governmental Activities</b>					
Bonds payable	\$ 985,078	1,568,625	(258,410)	2,295,293	265,910
Capital lease obligations	599,736	353,120	(108,696)	844,160	98,313
<b>Governmental activities long-term liabilities</b>	\$ 1,584,814	1,921,745	(367,106)	3,139,453	364,223
<b>Business-type Activities</b>					
Bonds payable	\$ 5,724,190	2,684,779	(346,919)	8,062,050	341,224
<b>Business-type activities long-term liabilities</b>	\$ 5,724,190	2,684,779	(346,919)	8,062,050	341,224

(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
2017	\$ 305,410	45,822	351,232	341,224	153,500	494,724
2018	299,410	49,095	348,505	460,457	231,729	692,186
2019	242,120	49,761	291,881	473,618	217,991	691,609
2020	242,118	34,112	276,230	487,174	203,859	691,033
2021	149,807	28,002	177,809	479,376	189,320	668,696
2021-2025	498,428	95,723	594,151	2,621,423	722,054	3,343,477
2026-2030	465,000	39,060	504,060	2,111,072	318,242	2,429,314
2031-2035	93,000	1,116	94,116	906,516	110,825	1,017,341
2036-2040	-	-	-	181,190	5,768	186,958
	\$ 2,295,293	342,691	2,637,984	8,062,050	2,153,288	10,215,338

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, 2016 equipment recorded under capital lease in the Government-wide financial statements amounted to \$2,304,743. Accumulated amortization amounted to \$1,224,898.

Future minimum payments required under capital leases are as follows:

Year ending June 30,	
2017	\$ 98,313
2018	90,418
2019	90,418
2020	90,418
2021	90,418
Thereafter	598,810
Total minimum lease payments	1,058,795
Less amount representing interest	(214,635)
Present value of minimum lease payments	\$ 844,160

### (10) Line of Credit

The Town entered into an emergency line of credit agreement due to damages caused by Hurricane Irene. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 the Town obtained a 15 year term note for \$1,400,000 bearing interest at 2.4%.

(continued)



# TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (10) Line of Credit (continued)

The Town has outstanding borrowings of \$162,113 under a line of credit agreement for Recreation Center improvements. The line, which bears interest at 1.50%, matures in July 2017.

### (11) Property Taxes

Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of April 1st. Property taxes for fiscal year 2016 were levied August 12, 2015 and were payable November 10, 2015.

### (12) Governmental Fund Balance

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

	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds		Total
		Community Development	Downtown Improvement Commission	
<b>Non-spendable:</b>				
Notes receivable	\$ -	2,614,522	-	2,614,522
<b>Restricted for:</b>				
Capital Facilities	164,774	-	-	164,774
Downtown improvement	-	-	21,381	21,381
Employee benefits and insurance	155,056	-	-	155,056
Fire Equipment	309,654	-	-	309,654
Health and welfare	1,060	-	-	1,060
Hunt Street foot bridge	188,568	-	-	188,568
Ninja Pathway	2,925	-	-	2,925
Other purposes	7,325	-	-	7,325
Parks and recreation	105,862	-	-	105,862
Pathway project	110,000	-	-	110,000
Planning and zoning	4,686	-	-	4,686
Police - K-9 Fund	24,242	-	-	24,242
Public Safety	16,014	-	-	16,014
Reappraisal	573,282	-	-	573,282
<b>Committed for:</b>				
Highway Improvements	229,000	-	-	229,000
Hurricane Irene interest	5,219	-	-	5,219
<b>Assigned for:</b>				
Employee benefits and insurance	5,959	-	-	5,959
Parks and recreation	938	-	-	938
<b>Unassigned</b>	(1,265,070)	(386,658)	-	(1,651,728)
<b>Total fund balances</b>	\$ 639,494	2,227,864	21,381	2,888,739

## TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### Notes to Financial Statements

#### **(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."

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 4.875% of their annual covered compensation and the Town is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 5.50% of annual covered payroll. Plan members in "Group C" are required to contribute 10.0% (January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016), and 9.875% (July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015) of their annual covered compensation and the Town is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 7.25% (January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016), and 7.125% (July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015) 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, 2016 amounted to \$304,349. Town contributions to VMERS for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 amounted to \$291,155, \$275,095 and \$252,673, respectively. The Town also contributed \$525,294, \$500,280 and \$476,457 for unfunded pension liability during 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Total covered payroll amounted to \$4,958,552.

##### 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.

## TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### Notes to Financial Statements

#### **(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.

#### **(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 \$531,795. The Town's post-closure costs for the year ended June 30, 2016 amounted to \$34,957.

##### ***(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:		
2017	\$	7,174
2018		4,212
2019		3,540
2020		935
	\$	<u>15,861</u>

Rent expense under these agreements for the year ended June 30, 2016 was \$9,996.

(continued)



## TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### Notes to Financial Statements

#### (16) Contingencies (continued)

##### (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 \$2,000 toward the maximum out-of-pocket health expenses for the single person plan. The Town is responsible for the next \$4,500 toward the maximum out-of-pocket health expenses for the two person, parent with child (children) and family plans.

#### (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, 2016, 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	\$	56,303
Interest on net OPEB obligation		-
Annual OPEB cost		56,303
Contributions made		-
Increase in net OPEB obligation		56,303
Net OPEB obligation, beginning of year		494,349
Net OPEB obligation, end of year	\$	550,652

(continued)

## TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### Notes to Financial Statements

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

##### *Funded Status and Funding Progress.*

As of June 30, 2016, the actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$471,549, all of which was unfunded. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$1,964,325 and the ratio of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability to the covered payroll was 24.0 percent.

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

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.

##### *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.

(continued)



# TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

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

Health insurance premiums - 2015 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.

Based on the historical and expected returns of the Town's short-term investment portfolio, a discount rate of 0.3 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, 2016, was thirty years.

### (18) *Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Financial Resources*

#### *Pension Plan Description and Benefits Provided*

A detailed description of the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System (VMERS) is included in Note 13 to the financial statements.

#### *Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions*

At June 30, 2016, the Town reported a liability of \$1,605,609 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for VMERS. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2015. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation dated June 30, 2015. The Town's proportion of the net liability was based on a projection of the Town's long-term share of contributions to VMERS relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. This information was provided by VMERS reports provided to the Town.

For the year ended June 30, 2016, the Town recognized pension expense of \$438,150. At June 30, 2016 the Town reported deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	\$ 310,193	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Town contributions and proportionate share of contributions	4,234	12,425
Difference between expected and actual experience	50,754	
Changes in assumptions	319,757	
Town contributions subsequent to the measurement date	304,349	-
	<u>\$ 989,287</u>	<u>12,425</u>

(continued)



## TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### Notes to Financial Statements

#### **(18) Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Financial Resources (continued)**

The Town's contributions subsequent to the measurement date which will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2016. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

June 30, 2017	\$	131,850
June 30, 2018		131,850
June 30, 2019		276,964
June 30, 2020		-
Thereafter		-
	\$	<u>540,664</u>

#### **Significant Actuarial Assumptions and Methods**

**Interest Rate:** A select-and-ultimate interest rate set, specified below. The interest rate set is restarted every year:

Year 1	6.25%	Year 10	8.50%
Year 2	6.75%	Year 11	8.50%
Year 3	7.00%	Year 12	8.50%
Year 4	7.50%	Year 13	8.50%
Year 5	7.75%	Year 14	8.50%
Year 6	8.25%	Year 15	8.50%
Year 7	8.25%	Year 16	8.75%
Year 8	8.25%	Year 17	
Year 9	8.50%	and later	9.00%

**Salary Increases:** 5% per year

#### **Deaths:**

Active participants – 50% of the probabilities in the 1995 Buck Mortality Tables for males and females

Non-disabled retirees and terminated vested participants – The 1995 Buck Mortality Tables with no set-back for males and one-year set-back for females

Disabled retirees – RP-2000 Disabled Life Tables

Beneficiaries – 1995 Buck Mortality Tables for males and females

**Spouse's Age:** Husbands are assumed to be three years older than their wives.

#### **Cost-of-Living Adjustments to Benefits of Terminated Vested and Retired Participants:**

Assumed to occur at the rate of 1.5% per annum for Group A members and 1.8% per annum for members of Groups B, C and D.

(continued)

## TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### Notes to Financial Statements

**(18) Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of  
Financial Resources (continued)  
Significant Actuarial Assumptions and Methods (continued)**

**Actuarial Cost Method:** Entry Age Normal - Level Percentage of Pay.

**Asset Valuation Method:** Invested assets are reported at fair value.

Note - For funding purposes - A smoothing method is used, under which the value of assets for actuarial purposes equals market value less a five-year phase-in of the differences between actual and assumed investment return. The value of assets for actuarial purposes may not differ from the market value of assets by more than 20%. (Not for GASB 68)

**Inflation:** The separately stated assumptions for investment return, salary increases and cost of living adjustments are consistent with an expected annual inflation rate of 3.00% to 3.25% per year.

**Long-Term Expected Rate of Return:**

The long-term expected rate of return on System investments was determined using best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) developed for each major asset class using an econometric model that forecasts a variety of economic environments and then calculates asset class returns based on functional relationships between the economic variable and the asset classes. These best estimate ranges were combined to produce forecasts of the short, intermediate, and longer term horizons by weighting the expected future nominal rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage. The various time horizons in the forecast are intended to capture more recent economic and capital market conditions as well as other plausible environments that could develop in the future over economic cycles. To reflect this in the rate-of-return assumption, a Select and Ultimate assumption setting approach, which is cited in Section 3.8.4 of Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 27 as an alternative to a single assumed rate of return, is employed. Best estimates of arithmetic rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation as of June 30, 2014 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Equity	31.50%	8.61%
Fixed Income	33.00%	1.91%
Alternatives	15.50%	6.93%
Multi-strategy	20.00%	4.88%

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.95%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will continue to be made in accordance with the current funding policy. Based on these assumptions, the fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current System members. The assumed discount rate has been determined in accordance with the method prescribed by GASB 68.

(continued)

## TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### Notes to Financial Statements

**(18) Pension Reporting for Assets/Liabilities and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Financial Resources (continued)**

**Significant Actuarial Assumptions and Methods (continued)**

The following table presents the Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.95 percent, as well as what the proportionate share would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percent lower (6.95%) or one percent higher (8.95%):

1% Decrease (6.95%)	Discount Rate (7.95%)	1% Increase (8.95%)
\$ 3,207,098	\$ 1,605,609	\$ 263,103

**(19) Subsequent Events**

Subsequent to June 30, 2016 the Town received advances under a line of credit agreement in anticipation of property tax collections. The line of credit allows for total advances up to \$2.0 million with interest accruing at 1.20%. The line matures December 9, 2016.

The State of Vermont has asked that the Town provide a final design for the necessary water main extensions to provide a long-term solution to the PFOA crisis. The State has agreed to pay for this work which is estimated to cost approximately \$450,000. The State still has targeted 2017 for construction to begin.

Management has evaluated subsequent events through January 3, 2017, 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, 2016**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
<b>Property taxes:</b>			
General	\$ 6,003,160	6,135,674	132,514
Highway	3,410,550	3,545,550	135,000
Fire	341,150	341,150	-
Penalties and interest	250,000	231,130	(18,870)
	<u>10,004,860</u>	<u>10,253,504</u>	<u>248,644</u>
<b>Permits and licenses:</b>			
Alcoholic beverages	5,000	6,450	1,450
Dog licenses	8,500	7,918	(582)
Marriage license	3,000	1,530	(1,470)
Building and zoning permits	40,000	36,320	(3,680)
Fire permits	4,000	4,635	635
Landfill	15,000	11,949	(3,051)
	<u>75,500</u>	<u>68,802</u>	<u>(6,698)</u>
<b>Intergovernmental revenues:</b>			
State shared interests:			
Federal and State Grant	188,000	320,111	132,111
Highway	391,000	287,400	(103,600)
In lieu of taxes	260,000	306,508	46,508
Other	101,500	105,177	3,677
	<u>940,500</u>	<u>1,019,196</u>	<u>78,696</u>
<b>Fees and charges:</b>			
Police sales and services	95,000	87,499	(7,501)
Police dispatch fees	20,400	20,400	-
Police false alarm fees	8,000	8,611	611
Vital records fees	35,000	48,477	13,477
Recording fees	100,000	81,043	(18,957)
Sale of cemetery lots	3,000	5,600	2,600
Recreational center charges	20,000	30,231	10,231
Pool membership fees	75,000	75,021	21
Senior citizens	20,000	21,234	1,234
	<u>376,400</u>	<u>378,116</u>	<u>1,716</u>
<b>Fines and forfeitures:</b>			
Police fines, seizures and forfeitures	26,000	31,082	5,082

(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, 2016**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<b>Revenues (continued):</b>			
Interest	\$ 8,000	7,047	(953)
Rental revenue	60,840	50,263	(10,577)
Gain on sale of assets	2,000	4,900	2,900
Hurricane Irene grants and assistance	-	105,562	105,562
Other	72,040	731,833	659,793
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>11,566,140</b>	<b>12,650,305</b>	<b>1,084,165</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
<b>General Government:</b>			
Select Board	16,950	14,900	2,050
Town Manager	215,810	215,109	701
Treasurer	23,800	20,086	3,714
Accounting	232,000	228,898	3,102
Listing	160,220	146,873	13,347
Tax collecting	81,410	85,184	(3,774)
Town Clerk	180,220	172,452	7,768
Planning and zoning	244,520	227,278	17,242
Economic and community development	161,280	175,122	(13,842)
Plant and equipment:			
Administration	696,790	835,156	(138,366)
Buildings and grounds	370,240	370,118	122
	<u>1,067,030</u>	<u>1,205,274</u>	<u>(138,244)</u>
	<u>2,383,240</u>	<u>2,491,176</u>	<u>(107,936)</u>
<b>Public safety:</b>			
Police:			
Administration	3,012,090	2,922,860	89,230
Investigation	17,440	12,973	4,467
Training	20,930	20,491	439
Communications	27,470	21,078	6,392
Police building	114,060	76,476	37,584
Equipment	119,120	87,567	31,553
Special services	33,370	70,425	(37,055)
	<u>3,344,480</u>	<u>3,211,870</u>	<u>132,610</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, 2016**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<b><i>Expenditures (continued):</i></b>			
Fire:			
Administration	\$ 60,830	57,900	2,930
Fire fighting	21,090	22,754	(1,664)
Communications	16,150	13,833	2,317
Machinery and equipment	108,730	122,802	(14,072)
Buildings	69,870	53,336	16,534
	<u>276,670</u>	<u>270,625</u>	<u>6,045</u>
	<u>3,621,150</u>	<u>3,482,495</u>	<u>138,655</u>
<b><i>Public works:</i></b>			
Solid waste management	90,250	86,184	4,066
Cemetery and mini-park	31,840	32,174	(334)
	<u>122,090</u>	<u>118,358</u>	<u>3,732</u>
<b><i>Health and welfare:</i></b>			
Health officer	8,070	7,751	319
	<u>8,070</u>	<u>7,751</u>	<u>319</u>
<b><i>Recreation:</i></b>			
Supervision	413,950	416,116	(2,166)
Recreation Center	9,100	7,835	1,265
Indoor pool	28,300	25,914	2,386
Parks	59,000	64,700	(5,700)
Pathway	1,000	96,986	(95,986)
Buildings	137,900	110,680	27,220
Vehicles and equipment	19,510	18,100	1,410
Senior Citizens' Center	99,000	97,123	1,877
Senior Citizens' - building	33,520	26,652	6,868
	<u>801,280</u>	<u>864,106</u>	<u>(62,826)</u>
<b><i>Debt management:</i></b>			
Principal	359,410	258,410	101,000
Interest - bonds	58,100	52,899	5,201
Interest - Recreation Center improvements	4,000	3,306	694
Interest - tax anticipation note	5,000	4,809	191
	<u>426,510</u>	<u>319,424</u>	<u>107,086</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, 2016**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<b>Expenditures (continued):</b>			
<b>Highways and roads:</b>			
Administration and buildings	\$ 1,483,590	1,476,129	7,461
Construction and maintenance - town highways	473,200	464,693	8,507
Highway projects	733,200	934,690	(201,490)
Installing and maintaining traffic control devices	79,900	90,748	(10,848)
Buildings	36,750	24,276	12,474
Sidewalks	155,220	125,529	29,691
Bridges	56,600	59,199	(2,599)
Streetlights	118,500	112,268	6,232
Downtown	66,610	17,820	48,790
Vehicles and equipment	383,430	560,277	(176,847)
	<u>3,587,000</u>	<u>3,865,629</u>	<u>(278,629)</u>
<b>Other:</b>			
Bennington Battle Day	15,000	15,000	-
Bennington County Regional Commission	14,550	14,550	-
Bennington Free Clinic	7,500	7,500	-
Bennington Home Health	21,600	21,600	-
Bennington Project Independence	11,000	11,000	-
Bennington Tutorial Center	10,000	10,000	-
Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council	7,500	7,500	-
Bennington Homeless Shelter	25,000	25,000	-
Bennington In Bloom	22,000	22,926	(926)
Bennington In Bloom - Northside Drive	10,000	6,573	3,427
Capital Facilities	-	9,162	(9,162)
Catamount BMX	-	320	(320)
CERCLA	53,400	34,957	18,443
Conservation of natural resources - tree program	7,750	1,225	6,525
County taxes	80,000	78,691	1,309
Drug investigations	-	540	(540)
Fire Department donations	-	773	(773)
Fireworks	6,000	7,911	(1,911)
Flood control program	10,600	16,210	(5,610)
Health management fees	-	332,049	(332,049)
Holiday celebrations	9,100	8,892	208
Hunt Street bridge	-	68,582	(68,582)
Hurricane Irene flood expense	-	190	(190)
Kocher Drive Landfill	-	148,630	(148,630)
Library administration	425,900	425,900	-
336 Main Street Park	-	1,979	(1,979)
Miscellaneous contingencies	20,000	-	20,000

(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, 2016**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
<b>Expenditures (continued):</b>			
<i>Other (continued):</i>			
North Bennington - recreation	8,700	8,700	-
Planning grant	-	12,000	(12,000)
Project Against Violent Encounters	5,000	5,000	-
Retired Seniors Volunteer Program	7,200	7,200	-
Senior Center equipment/improvements	-	6,000	(6,000)
Turning Point Center	2,500	2,500	-
Vermont Council on Aging	7,500	7,500	-
Vermont CTR - Independent Living	7,000	7,000	-
Veterans' Honor Roll	-	10,775	(10,775)
Wellness	-	713	(713)
	<u>794,800</u>	<u>1,345,048</u>	<u>(550,248)</u>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<u>11,744,140</u>	<u>12,493,987</u>	<u>(749,847)</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures</b>	<u>(178,000)</u>	<u>156,318</u>	<u>334,318</u>
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>			
Operating transfers in (out):			
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	-	1,568,625	1,568,625
Administrative charges:			
Community Development Fund	48,000	48,000	-
Water Fund	72,000	72,000	-
Sewer Fund	78,000	78,000	-
Transfer to Parking Fund	(20,000)	(20,000)	-
	<u>178,000</u>	<u>1,746,625</u>	<u>1,568,625</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,902,943</u>	<u>1,902,943</u>
<b>Fund balance, July 1, 2015</b>	<u>(1,263,449)</u>	<u>(1,263,449)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Fund balance, June 30, 2016</b>	<u>\$ (1,263,449)</u>	<u>639,494</u>	<u>1,902,943</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 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%
6/30/2015	-	453,928	453,928	0.0%	1,934,761	23.5%
6/30/2016	-	471,549	471,549	0.0%	1,964,325	24.0%



**TOWN OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2016**

<b>Federal Grant/Program Title</b>	<b>CFDA Number</b>	<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
<u>United States Department of Justice</u>			
Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program	16.607		5,243
2012 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant	16.783	02140-11912C-104	4,947
Total U.S. Department of Justice			<u>10,190</u>
<u>United States Department of Transportation</u>			
Passed through Vermont Agency of Transportation:			
<u>Federal Highway Administration</u>			
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	STP BIKE BP15(2)	16,132
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	STP BP14(010)	20,390
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	08126-11EH08	483
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	BENNINGTON TAP TA16 (1)	695
Highway Planning and Construction	20.205	CA0312	20,799
Total Passed through Vermont Agency of Transportation			<u>58,499</u>
Passed through Vermont Department of Public Safety:			
<u>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</u>			
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	02140-1415-1002	5,894
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	02140-1415-2001	5,000
State and Community Highway Safety	20.600	NH16402-102	49,603
			<u>60,497</u>
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608	02140-1115-5102	1,421
Minimum Penalties for Repeat Offenders for Driving While Intoxicated	20.608	NH16164-102	8,868
			<u>10,289</u>
Total Passed through Vermont Department of Public Safety			<u>70,786</u>
Total U.S. Department of Transportation			<u>129,285</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	2,356,997
Total U.S. Environmental Protection Agency			<u>2,356,997</u>
<u>United States Department of Homeland Security</u>			
Passed through Vermont Agency of Transportation:			
FEMA Disaster Relief	97.036	08131-FE0496	105,562
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			<u>105,562</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u>\$ 2,602,034</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, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Town of Bennington, Vermont's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 3, 2017.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

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

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

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



### **Compliance and Other Matters**

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

### **Purpose of this Report**

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

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

January 3, 2017

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

# Municipal Budget

## Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposal

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FY2016	ACTUAL FY2016	BUDGET FY2017	ACTUAL FY17 PRD6	PROPOSED FY2018	FY17 vs FY18 % INC/(DEC)
SELECT BOARD	16,950	14,900	16,550	8,158	16,550	0.00%
TOWN MANAGER	215,810	215,109	219,480	109,121	225,620	2.80%
TREASURER	23,800	20,086	15,990	7,688	16,520	3.31%
ACCOUNTING	232,000	228,898	230,150	114,238	237,620	3.25%
LISTING	160,220	146,873	136,350	57,522	129,020	-5.38%
COLLECTIONS	81,410	85,184	121,000	56,185	121,510	0.42%
TOWN CLERK	180,220	172,452	193,990	92,198	182,290	-6.03%
PERMIT-PLAN-CODE ENFORCE	244,520	227,278	248,420	116,636	255,370	2.80%
ECONOMIC & COMM DEV	161,280	175,122	196,230	143,499	192,010	-2.15%
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	696,790	835,156	742,070	497,470	776,670	4.66%
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	370,240	370,118	417,440	250,815	566,810	35.78%
FLOOD CONTROL	10,600	16,210	3,300	312	11,410	245.76%
POLICE	3,344,480	3,211,870	3,397,390	1,635,595	3,607,180	6.18%
DEBT-POLICE	53,190	53,190	53,190	48,497	49,970	-6.05%
SOLID WASTE MGMT	90,250	86,184	126,350	47,493	138,800	9.85%
CERCLA	53,400	34,957	1,370	4,597	4,400	221.17%
CEMETARY	31,840	32,174	32,900	14,893	32,440	-1.40%
HEALTH OFFICER	8,070	7,751	8,070	3,875	8,070	0.00%
PARKS & RECREATION	668,760	740,331	685,820	464,129	521,990	-23.89%
DEBT-RECREATION	44,000	3,306	43,960	3,306	43,960	0.00%
SENIOR CITIZENS	132,520	123,775	130,910	51,591	143,410	9.55%
GRANTS & SUBSIDIES	449,150	560,950	493,540	617,840	499,660	1.24%
HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS	30,100	29,892	30,100	33,582	30,100	0.00%
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS	39,750	41,499	39,750	12,639	40,250	1.26%
MISC CONTINGENCIES	40,000	20,000	40,000	9,970	40,000	0.00%
DEBT-IRENE BOND	0	0	40,000	0	126,470	216.18%
DEBT-FIRE BUILDING BOND	27,290	27,282	25,760	25,762	0	-100.00%
DEBT-TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE	5,000	4,809	5,000	0	5,000	0.00%
COUNTY TAX PAYMENTS	80,000	78,691	80,000	81,964	80,000	0.00%
RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURES	0	513,306	0	164,996	0	0.00%
HIGHWAY FUND	3,587,000	3,934,401	3,694,110	2,274,635	3,741,070	1.27%
DEBT-HIGHWAY FUND	231,550	165,359	207,940	180,657	255,920	23.07%
FIRE FUND	276,670	270,625	281,600	154,106	350,510	24.47%
DEBT-FIRE FUND	65,480	65,478	61,830	61,828	0	-100.00%
Expenditures Subtotal	11,269,830	12,197,098	11,666,840	7,029,052	12,139,710	4.05%
Debt Management Subtotal	382,510	316,118	353,720	316,743	310,890	-12.11%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	11,652,340	12,513,216	12,020,560	7,345,795	12,450,600	3.58%
Less Transfer To Parking Fund	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	0.00%
NET OF TRANSFERS OUT	11,632,340	12,493,220	12,000,560	7,325,795	12,430,600	3.58%