

BENNINGTON

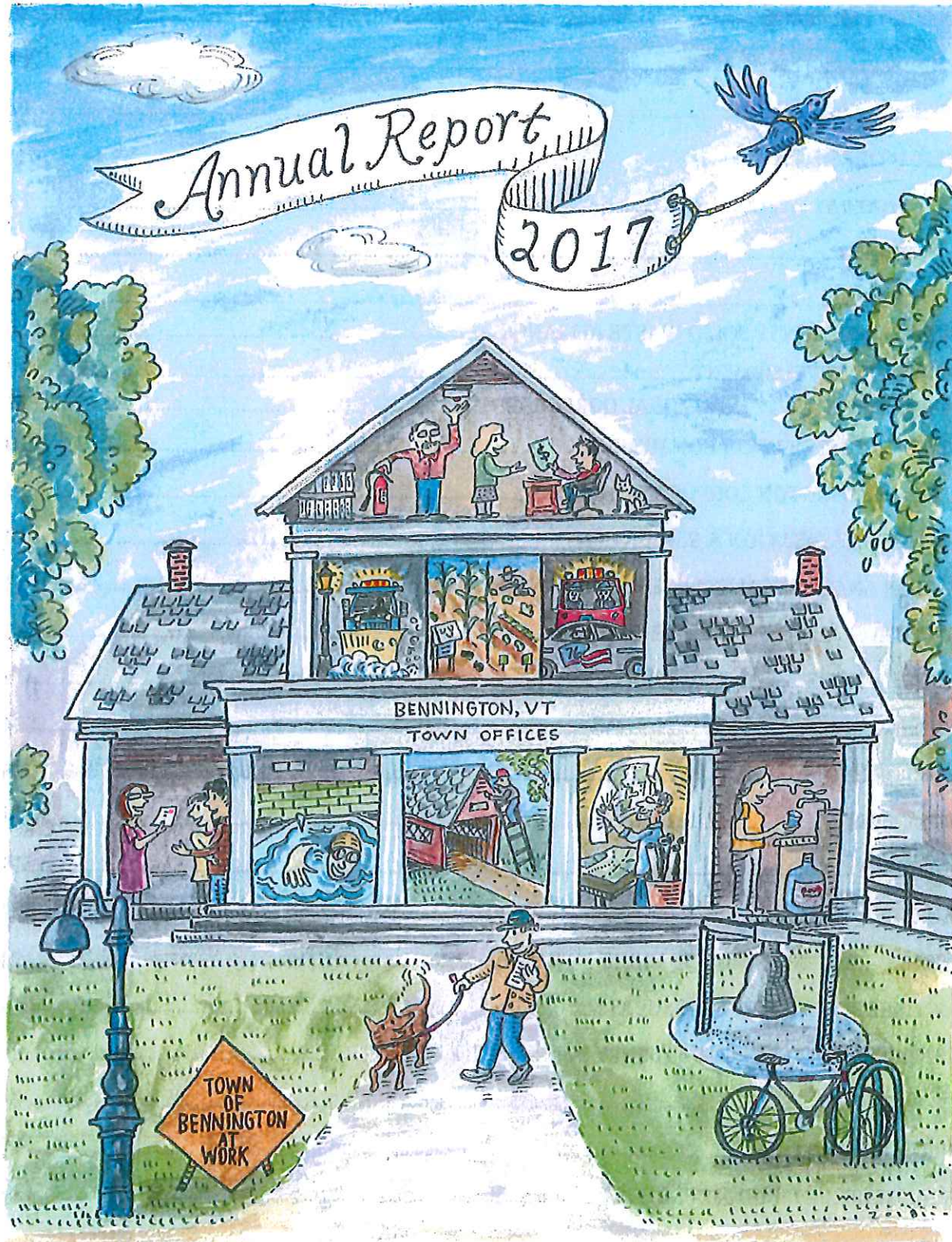


Illustration by Matthew Perry

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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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Select Board

Thomas H. Jacobs, Select Board Chair

2017 was an interesting year for the Bennington Select Board with Chad Gordon and Carson Thurber taking their seats on the board on April 1st.

Seven wonderful citizens, Jonathan Cohen, Robert Ebert, P. Lynn Green, Michael Keane, Daniel Malmborg, Sean-Marie Oller and Robert Plunkett were appointed to the Charter Review Committee. They spent about six months meeting regularly to review the Bennington's Charter in its entirety. Since the Charter had not seen such a comprehensive review in many years it was a monumental undertaking for this dedicated committee. The committee presented its final report for the Select Board's consideration. I expect that the board will offer the Charter revisions to the Bennington voters in the summer of 2018. This important document provides a guide and direction for the governance of our community.

One of the biggest challenges for the board and one of the biggest wins was the effort to gain designation of a portion of our downtown as a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) District. Having a TIF will allow redevelopment opportunity to be enhanced in the downtown. With a TIF, a portion of the tax revenue generated by the enhanced value of a redeveloped project (i.e. the Putnam Block) would be used to pay down any bond voted by the town for the infrastructure improvements in the TIF district. It's a terrific tool in our redevelopment arsenal.

The new Public Works garage on Bowen Road will allow the various Public Works Department to be housed under one roof. The property previously used by the Highway Department on Orchard Road and Depot Street will be sold or leased for more productive benefit.

While we have many challenges going forward, our Select Board is so thankful to have the support of the town's management and support team. The Select Board's charge to itself is to give Bennington a great return on the citizenry's investment. We have a wonderful town that we can make even more special in 2018 and beyond.

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 2018.

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)

Donald A. Campbell	3/2018
Jim Carroll	3/2018
Jeanne Connor	3/2019
Thomas H. Jacobs	3/2019
Jeannette Jenkins	3/2019
Chad Gordon	3/2020
Carson Thurber	3/2020

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

(appointed to 3-year term)

Charles W. Copp	5/2018
Barry Horst	5/2018
Daniel Malmborg	5/2019
Jane Griswold Radocchia	5/2019
Ron Alderman	5/2020
William Barney	5/2020
Charles N. Kokoras	5/2020

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)

Anne G. Bugbee	3/2018
Michael P. McDonough	3/2018
Jeffrey Goldstone	3/2020
Joseph H. Hall	3/2020

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	3/2020
Kristi L. Pepoon, MSW, AAP	3/2018
Nancy V. Messina	3/2019
Sharyn L. Brush	3/2022
Sandra Bessette	3/2021

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(elected 2-year term)

Position Open	1/31/2019
Susan Beal	1/31/2019
Shannon Behan	1/31/2019
Barbara Bluto	1/31/2019
Marlene Driscoll	1/31/2019
Deborah Giroux	1/31/2019
James Gulley, Sr.	1/31/2019
Michele Hogan	1/31/2019
Albert Krawczyk	1/31/2019
Brian Maroney, Jr.	1/31/2019
James Marsden	1/31/2019
Anne Mook	1/31/2019
Mary A. Morrissey	1/31/2019
Marjorie Robinson	1/31/2019
David B. Shaffe	1/31/2019

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)

Position Open	3/2018
Carol L. Holm	3/2018
Robert W. Ebert	3/2019

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)

Nicholas T. Lasoff

5/2018

Kenneth Swierad

5/2019

Robert W. Ebert

5/2020

Charles W. Copp

5/2021

Michael P. McDonough

5/2021

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

(appointed to 2-year term)

Daniel Monks

3/2018

Position Open

3/2019

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

4/14/2018

Notes:

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.

As I have done in the past, I would now like to outline the proposed FY2019 fiscal year budget, to be voted on March 6, 2018. The Town budget presented to the voters this year is increasing \$234,970.00 or 1.86 %. Considering all other revenues, the combined property tax rate, based on last year's Grand List, would increase by \$0.0099. These calculations include the Bennington Free Library, \$470,000.00, the John McCullough Library in North Bennington, \$22,000.00, North Bennington Recreation, \$6,000.00, Lake Paran, \$2,700.00, and the Bennington Rescue Squad, included in the General Fund budget for the first time, at \$150,000.00, all 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, with the exception of the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse (BCAACA), are all requesting the same amounts as last year. The BCAACA is seeking an additional \$2,500.00 and is on the ballot by petition for \$5,000.00. The total amount requested by the agencies on the ballot is \$129,300.00. If the Agencies on the ballot are all approved, it will add an estimated \$0.0126, bringing the total increase to \$0.0226. The Town staff and Select Board worked very hard to present a budget that is as balanced with the projected revenues as possible. I believe we have succeeded. We now ask the voters for their support.

I note that the ballot this year includes a petitioned Charter change proposal. This proposal asks the voters to amend our Charter by creating a first step towards a mayoral form of government. Please read the proposed amendment carefully and consider its impact before voting. It proposes to change Bennington's form of government dramatically.

We also have two open Select Board seats. The filing date is January 29, 2018 at 5 pm.

I am pleased to report that the new Public Works Facility at 78 Bowen Road, purchased with voter-approved bond monies, is now occupied. It is the new home of the Bennington Highway and Water Departments. We plan to celebrate its completion with a community open house this Spring.

I have been very fortunate to work with many talented people, staff and Board members. We all work hard to find solutions that are in the best interest of the residents of Bennington. Thank you all, and a special thank you to the community for your support and patience throughout the year.

Respectfully
Stuart A. Hurd, Town Manager

Town of Bennington

Goals for 2017

	Didn't meet goal	Met goal	Reason
Provide a safe Community			
1. Increase officer involvement in the local schools		X	4 Officers in schools
2. Create an effective body worn camera program		X	Implemented
3. Continue drug enforcement		X	See statistics
4. Improve recruitment and retention in the Fire Department		X	Program in place
5. Implement new radio frequency to improve ground communication & firefighter safety		X	Implemented

Provide opportunities for recreation

1. Continue to improve youth programs		X	Berkshire Y offering summer programs
2. Continue to improve Senior programs	X		New group in place to help
3. Increase participation at the Rec Center		X	See statistics
4. Continue to develop pathways and trail systems		X	Interim Ninja Pathway; White Rocks trail parking

Encourage new development and growth

1. Assist in Putnam Block redevelopment		X	\$200,000 loan;1.0 million CDBG
2. Provide an efficient and effective permitting program		X	See statistics
3. Encourage new developments to improve grand list		X	See Permitting report

Enhance the quality of life

1. Continue project catalyst		X	Now merged with ACT
2. Develop downtown parks / green spaces		X	Park at 336 designed
3. Complete the Pleasant St. Enhancement Project	X		Vtrans & utilities delay

Improve Infrastructure

1. Continue lead service line replacements (10 Min.)		X	36 Completed
2. Continue Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade		X	Bond passed; design begun
3. Continue road paving (10 Miles Min.)	X		8 Miles completed PFOA project prevented, completion of more miles
4. Continue sidewalk replacement (2500 lin. Ft. Min.)		X	2,770 lin. Ft. completed

Statistics

	2016	2017
Police Department		
Criminal arrests	684	721
# of offenses	981	1048
# of calls	8,833	8,476

Fire Department		
# of calls	204	205
# of structure fires	12	0

Highway Department		
Miles paved	15,175	8
Lineal feet sidewalk	3,702	2,770
Lineal feet storm drain	1,754	3,500

Water/ Sewer Department		
Waterline / Hydrant repairs	35	21
Lead line service replaced	5	36
Manholes repaired	75	70
Sewer mains cleaned televised (lin. Ft)	20,180	1,200

Recreation		
# of participants at Center	40,469	43,789
Non-member pool users	18,541	22,492

Permitting		
# of permits issued	120	204
Estimated cost	\$11,592,210.00	\$47,580,585.00

Police

Paul J. Doucette, Chief of Police

Officers made 721 criminal arrests for a total of 1,048 offenses in 2017. Officers responded to 8,476 calls for service, issued 4,092 Vermont Civil Violation Complaints and issued 2365 warnings for observed violations. Officers from the Bennington Police Department investigated 447 motor vehicle crashes: 400 crashes involved property damage only, 46 crashes involved personal injury and 1 crash involved a fatality.

Officer Robert Murawski and K-9 Gracie successfully completed the K-9 Tracking Course at the Vermont Police Academy. Officer Murawski and Gracie are currently working together on patrol. In 2018, Officer Murawski and Gracie will attend narcotic detection training.

Patrol officers have been trained and are now carrying electronic control devices. Each officer was issued a body camera and modern video recording systems were installed in all marked patrol units. Officers received additional first aid training and are carrying tourniquets and Narcan.

During 2017, three full-time employees joined the Bennington Police Department. Dustin Lynds joined the Department and attended the 104th Basic Course for Police Professionals graduating in November of 2017. Kimberly Coonradt joined the Department as a dispatcher. Benjamin Cassavaugh 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, Lt. David Dutcher will retire from the Department and we will conduct a promotional process as well as another hiring process.

All members of the Bennington Police Department continue to receive training in a variety of topics. During 2017 members of the Department participated in 2,995 hours of training. Our goal is to train and retain the members of the Bennington Police Department. Training is needed to secure the future of the Bennington Police Department.

During 2018, members of the Bennington Police Department and Bennington Police Association will conduct several community based events. We have been reviewing needs of our local youth within the Town of Bennington. We identified the need for a bicycle safety event and the importance of youth having access to quality bicycle helmets at no cost. We will be presenting another New Experience Camp in the summer of 2018. Our Department and Association recognize the need for local youth to be engaged with law enforcement officers in a positive manner. We look forward to working with local businesses, schools and stakeholders to make our events successful.

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

Fire

Chief Steve Crawford

During calendar year 2017, members of the Bennington Fire Department responded to 205 calls for service resulting in 1,204 volunteer hours. Bennington Fire Department members assigned to our fire prevention team instructed fire safety and prevention methods to 1,789 youth as well as 379 adults. A total of 1,129 volunteer hours of service were dedicated to fire safety and prevention alone.

The Bennington Fire Department had some great accomplishments in 2017. We were able to replace all of our self-contained breathing apparatus to new 4500 PSI units from Scott. These units are more efficient and have the latest safety technology. We have also purchased new responding software for "Who's Responding," allowing the fire department technology to see which members are responding to calls for service. The software also provides an array of features to help with our emergency response to the Bennington community.

As members of the Bennington Fire Department look into the future, our goal is to continue to serve the Bennington community with a high standard of excellence. Volunteer firefighters have served this community for over 100 years! The Bennington Fire Department will look for the support of the community in our effort to purchase a new ladder truck as our current ladder truck reaches 21 years of service. We have formed a truck committee that is working on building a truck for the future needs of Bennington. The Bennington Fire Department has the only ladder truck in southern Bennington County.

It is truly an honor to be the Bennington Fire Chief and leader of a great organization. The amount of time Bennington Fire Department members give to the community for training, calls for service, and prevention and safety efforts is extraordinary. Looking at the current times, and the world as it is, we are fortunate to have the dedicated members allowing the Town of Bennington to maintain this volunteer organization.

Department of Public Works

R.J. Joly, Public Works Director

Larry Gates, Assistant Public Works Director

HIGHWAY

The Highway Department is made up of a crew of 14-Laborers, 2-Working Foreman, a Public Works Director and an Assistant Public Works Director. The department manages and maintains 128 miles of roads, 13 bridges, 475 catch basins, 40 miles of sidewalks, and hundreds of miles of ditches, culverts, and swales. The Highway Department is also responsible for downtown sweeping, sidewalk blowing, trash removal, and roadside mowing.

2017 Top Accomplishments

- Paved over 8 miles of road
- 2,770 linear feet of concrete curb and sidewalk installed
- Moved into a new public works facility at 78 Bowen Road / and all excavation needed
- Painted Papermill Covered Bridge
- Installed 3,500 linear feet of storm drainage in streets that never had any
- Rebuilt Emmons and Mt. Anthony Roads after July 2nd, thunderstorm damage on West side of town.
- Installed Ninja Bridge beams for decking to be installed by others.
- Built the White Rocks Trail Parking lot
- The River Walk Way Park, between North and School Streets, paving and improvements
- Awarded 2-Class 2 paving project grants (Berard Street / South Benmont bridge membrane project)

2018 Priorities

- Peppermill Bridge replacement
- Install 9.5 miles of pavement
- Install 2,500 linear feet of curb and sidewalk
- Replace and install new storm drainage in all areas of new road construction
- Keep ahead of VTRANS with manhole rebuilds, culvert replacements, and water line replacements on Rt7, Rt67 and Rt9 paving projects

Water

The Water Department has a four-man crew, plus a Working Foreman. Together they are responsible for supplying clean drinking water to approximately 13,250 users through 62 miles of water mains and 3,700 connections. The crew also runs and maintains the Water Filtration Plant in Woodford, six pumping stations and five water tanks throughout town. Additionally, they maintain and flush bi-annually approximately 500 Fire Hydrants. This year the Water Department saw two longtime employees, Terry Morse, Water Resources Superintendent and Mark White, Water Foreman both retire. The Town then merged Water,

Sewer and Highway Departments to form the Department of Public Works. RJ Joly, Highway Superintendent was promoted to the DPW Director. Water Operator Tony Onorato was promoted to Water Foreman and Larry Gates was promoted to Assistant DPW Director. Together the DPW Director and Assistant Director will oversee the Water and Wastewater Departments.

2017 Accomplishments include

- Total line/hydrant repairs 21
- Lead line replacements 36
- Water system bacteria samples taken 219
- Total Water Produced 560 Million Gallons
- Average Gallons used per day 1.53 Million Gallons
- Dewey Street Phase 3 Line Extension
- PFOA line extensions began

2018 Goals

- Complete the PFOA water line extensions
- System wide digital mapping (Utility Cloud)
- Continue Lead line change outs
- Complete the transition into our new facility at 78 Bowen Rd
- Train two new operators
- Work with and stay ahead of VTRANS paving project with valve replacements on Route 9, Route 7 and Route 67

Sewer

The Wastewater crew is a five-man crew plus a Laboratory Technician and a Chief Operator. Together they are responsible for treating 13-Billion gallons of wastewater collected each year through 67 miles of sanitary sewer mains ranging in size from 4-inches to 36-inches. They are also approximately 1,300 manholes and five pumping stations to maintain. This last year a lot of their attention had been focused on the repair and/or replacement of the Rotating Biological Contactors (RBC's). With the passing of the \$9.85 million-dollar bond we now have the money to completely replace all 30 RBC's and do the much-needed upgrades to the thirty-year old Wastewater Plant.

2017 Accomplishments include

- Sewer manholes rebuilt 70
- Sewer lines cleaned/televised 1,200 LF (linear feet)
- Total wastewater treated 1.3 Billion Gallons
- Average gallons per day treated 3.57 Million Gallons
- Average % BOD/Solids removed 91% BOD/92% Solids
- Replaced two RBC's
- Cleaned Secondary Digester

2018 Goals

- Replace 30 Rotating Biological Contactors
- Begin construction on the Treatment Plant upgrade
- Replace Grit Pumps
- Rebuild approximately 80 manholes ahead of the VTrans State paving projects for Route 9, Route 7 and Route 67

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

Solid Waste Implementation Plan and the Universal Recycling Law: In December of 2015, the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance adopted a solid waste implementation plan or "SWIP" to comply with both the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) and the materials management plan developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The SWIP describes how the member towns will increase recycling, reduce the amount of materials sent to landfills, and provide outreach program for residents, schools, businesses and institutions to assist them in recycling. The Alliance provides information on their website (www.bcswavt.org) and Facebook page as well as in local newspapers.

School and Business Outreach: This past year, the Alliance provided outreach to Burr and Burton, Pownal Elementary and Stamford Elementary schools including assisting Pownal Elementary with on-site composting. The Alliance provided outreach to over 40 businesses on ways to increase recycling, manage food scraps, and properly dispose of hazardous materials.

Funding and Grants: The member towns provide most of the funding for programs. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 the Alliance received over \$25,000 in grants from the Agency of Natural Resources and from the Agency for Agriculture and Markets for sales of compost bins and for household hazardous waste events. The Alliance also received \$4,000.00 from the High Meadows Fund to assist the towns of Pownal, Searsburg, Shaftsbury and Stamford in starting food scrap collection at their transfer stations.

Programs and Events: The Alliance sponsors and supports many programs to assist residents, businesses, schools and institutions to properly dispose of materials. The following are some of our major programs.

- Household Hazardous Waste Events: The Alliance held two household hazardous waste (HHW) events in the spring and fall of 2017. The spring event was sponsored by the Town of Bennington and held at the Bennington Transfer Station. The fall event was managed by the Bennington County Regional Commission and held at the Dorset School. Over 400 households participated in the two events. In 2018, the Alliance will again hold two events for the 13 Alliance towns. One will be held in Bennington on May 12, 2018 and the second at the Dorset School on September 15, 2018.
- Electronics Collections: The Vermont E-Cycles program provides for free disposal of electronic devices including computers, monitors, printers, computer peripherals, and

televisions, regardless of brand, age, or condition, for consumers, charities, school districts, and small businesses. Free collection locations in Bennington County include the Bennington, Northshire (Dorset), Pownal, Searsburg, and Sunderland Transfer Stations and other sites listed at <http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/product-stewardship/electronics>. The Dorset School also holds annual E-Waste Collection events.

- Fluorescent Bulbs: Vermont has also implemented a plan to accept used fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) at various retail. These bulbs contain mercury, which is a hazardous substance. Residents can dispose of bulbs at several hardware stores and other retail establishments and at several of the transfer stations. More information is available at <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/fluorescent-bulbs/>.
- Paint Collections: PaintCare Inc. is a non-profit organization established to assist paint manufacturers to plan and operate paint stewardship programs in the United States, including Vermont. Both latex and oil-based paint have been collected at HHW events and at special PaintCare events, and several local hardware stores accept paint. To find a location, residents may visit <http://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-locations/>.
- Battery Recycling: Primary (alkaline) batteries and rechargeable batteries are now accepted at many retailers and at the Bennington, Northshire, Sunderland and Pownal Transfer Stations. You can find locations at: <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/battery-recycling/>. For more information, visit Call2Recycle at <http://www.call2recycle.org/what-can-i-recycle/>.
- Textiles: The Bennington, Northshire, Sunderland, Shaftsbury and Pownal transfer stations have textile boxes where residents can donate clothing and shoes. Boxes are also located throughout the Alliance area. Visit www.bcswavt.org for locations. Goodwill in Bennington also accepts clothing donations as well as other household items, books and used electronic devices. Visit them at <http://www.goodwill-berkshires.com/>.
- Leaf and Yard Waste, Food Scraps and Other Organics: All transfer stations accept leaf and yard waste, clean wood and food scraps. Visit <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/transfer-stations/> for information on your transfer station.
- Construction and Demolition Debris: All transfer stations accept construction and demolition debris from builders and do-it-yourself homeowners. The TAM Pownal facility also accepts construction and demolition debris from residents and businesses.
- Prescription Drugs: Prescription drugs should be properly disposed when they are no longer needed as they can make their way into water sources and can pose a hazard in the home. The Bennington Police Department, the Manchester Police Department, the Bennington County Sheriff and Southwestern Vermont Medical Center accept prescription drugs. Go to <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/disposing-of-prescription-drug/> for more information.

Community Development

Zirwat Chowdhury, Director

In 2017, with the task of economic development contracted to the Bennington County Industrial Corporation (BCIC), the Office of Economic and Community Development was reconfigured into the Office of Community Development. The Office of Community Development coordinates and directs the municipality's efforts in improving the quality of life in Bennington. It works closely with community partners to create and provide a nourishing environment- including better and more affordable housing, food, education, training, and indoor and outdoor recreation for infants, youth, adults, and seniors. Following is a summary of its activities in 2017:

Revolving Loan Program: Administration of the Town's Revolving Loan Program, which provides financing to businesses and individuals with limited access to commercial lines of credit, with the aim of nurturing small businesses and improving the housing stock. The loan program also provides competitive, low-interest funds for downtown businesses.

New Loans in 2017:

Bennington Revolving Loan Program (BRLP):	\$ 76,000
Town-Wide Housing Loan Program:	\$142,500
Bennington Economic Development Fund:	\$ 10,000

YMCA-Partnership: Partnered with the Berkshire-YMCA for the first time in 2017 to provide a children's summer camp at the Recreation Center. Enrollment at the 2017 summer camp was nearly three times higher than in previous years, and all four camp counsellors were hired locally.

Community Development Block Grants: Assists community groups in applying for community development block grants administered by the State and provides reporting to the State on grants awarded.

New CDBG in 2017:

Putnam Redevelopment Project (\$1,000,000)

ACT-Partnership: Like many towns and cities across the United States, Bennington is also facing the challenges of an opioid crisis. In 2016, the Office of Economic and Community Development spearheaded Project Catalyst to use local resources to target high-risk populations that have demonstrated active substance use. The goal of Project Catalyst was to reduce substance abuse, positively impact youth, and reduce blight across the community. With the reorganization in 2017 of the Alliance for Community Transformations (ACT), a community-driven, collaborative effort that addresses Substance Use Disorder and focuses on youth advocacy and support, the Office of Community Development decided to disband Project Catalyst and redirect its resources and efforts towards ACT.

Bennington County Industrial Corporation

Summary of Contract Activities

The Town of Bennington and the Bennington County Industrial Corporation (BCIC) entered into an agreement for BCIC to provide economic development activities on behalf of the Town commencing July 1, 2017. The report below summarizes some of the highlights of that work.

Business Visitations and Support

BCIC staff have visited with 30 business since July 1. The director of the Vermont Training Program accompanied BCIC staff on ten of the visits to discuss VTP grant applications. Two local companies have received VTP grants in the final half of 2017: NSK Steering Systems was awarded \$208,000 in July, and Energizer was awarded \$76,000 in December. In September, BCIC received a \$17,500 award from the Agency of Administration's Building Communities Grants program on behalf of Knock-Out Victory, a local mixed martial arts studio and youth fitness collaborative. The grant was awarded to offset construction and fit-up costs for its new facility.

Workforce Development

BCIC's Workforce and Education Committee is leading the region's workforce efforts with a variety of programs that develop and retain talent at all age levels: internship and certification programs for adults; the Reality Fair, Sophomore Summit, and Emerging Leaders program for high schoolers; the Shires Challenge and Seedlings program for elementary and middle school students; and the community-wide Career Week program held in April. In July, a Northshire chapter of the BCIC Workforce and Education Committee was established as part of BCIC's ongoing effort to increase its presence regionally. The Northshire committee is co-chaired by Pauline Moore, economic development coordinator for the Town of Manchester, and Wendy Morse of the VT Department of Labor who also co-chairs the Southshire chapter.

Entrepreneurial Support and Facilitation of Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

A \$15,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation in June (with a supplementary \$1,500 grant in December) has been used to support BCIC's entrepreneurial programming this fiscal year. In October, BCIC staff co-hosted an Open House at Williams Financial for individuals interested in the Ice House Entrepreneurial Program. The eight-week program welcomed twelve participants, with most living in Bennington and most under 40 years of age. The program completed its first iteration with classes at CCV and a final meeting and celebration at the Lightning Jar on December 18. The program's Steering Committee has secured the services of another facilitator for the spring.

Regional Economic Development Capacity and Coalition Building

The Regional Economic Development (RED) Group, convened and supported by BCIC staff since February 2017, continues to meet monthly to discuss regional data and directions for Bennington County and Southern Vermont as a whole. In October, the US Economic Development Administration accepted an application for grant funding to support the creation of a Comprehensive Economic Development Zone for Southern Vermont, allocating \$70,000 to support staffing and consulting capacity for the process.

Historic Preservation Commission

Zirwat Chowdhury, Director of Community Development

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 for its historic and archaeological resources. 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 levels, the CLG 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 Community Development, Zirwat Chowdhury, 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 encourage the preservation of Bennington's architectural history and enable property owners to understand their historic buildings better and make informed choices in planning design changes to their buildings. The site includes the HPC's preservation manual, *Time and Place in Bennington: A Handbook for the Central Bennington Historic District*.

The Bennington HPC website can be viewed at: <http://benningtonvt.org/boards-commissions/hpc/>

Better Bennington Corporation

John Shannahan, Director

The mission of the Bennington Downtown Alliance is to lead and support public and private efforts that promote and enhance downtown as the vital commercial and cultural heart of the community. While that mission may be brief in words, it's broad enough to put us in the lead position as we partner with so many individuals and organizations that, at times, it's difficult to remember we're just a small not-for-profit representing the concerns of the downtown community.

Before I share some of the highlights of the past year, it's necessary to first say thank you to the numerous, dedicated volunteers whose efforts, time, talent, and financial support make every single thing we do possible. I would love to name each one of them, and share with you everything they do behind the scenes to keep our community beautiful, inviting, and exciting, but I would have to publish a book.

That said, 2017 was a year with some enormous advancements. Most everyone is aware that downtown Bennington received the TIF designation, a powerful tool for future development. You also know that the purchase of the Putnam block was completed and is now slated for redevelopment in 2018. Those two things alone will have a major impact on downtown with hundreds of additional people living and working downtown.

We've been a leading member of the Bennington Area Arts Council since it's rebirth. As their financial agent from the beginning, we have always believed our involvement and support would lead to a stronger and more diverse community that is known for its cultural assets. I am pleased to share that the National Center for Arts Research at SMU agrees; in 2017 they named Bennington as the 3rd most arts vibrant community, with populations of less than 50,000, in the United States. That designation puts us in the top 5% of all cities in the country; something all our residents need to recognize and be proud of.

As funds have allowed, we've been creating a community boardroom. Once completed we will have a professional meeting space for up to 20 people that will be available for corporate and organizational meetings in downtown. We also reached our fundraising goal for the Park at 336! Groundbreaking will be taking place this spring thanks to the support of all those who contributed. Our events continue to grow, and each year attract new and more diverse crowds.

Malls, once Main Street America's biggest competitors, are closing all over the country, however, most Main Streets have survived. So too will they survive the effects of on-line shopping, especially when they continue to get the support of their local leaders and citizens. While Bennington has seen its share of challenges it continues to grow with a net gain of 4 new businesses in 2017. The shift is more toward food, beverage, entertainment, and professional services than retail, but we can definitely still boast that we have a bookstore, toy stores, men's clothing, interactive gaming, fine dining, chocolate shop, musical instrument shops, jewelry, eyeglasses, cafes, breweries, VT products, art supplies, gift shops, computer, galleries, salons, live equity theatre... See where I'm heading with this?

Parks and Recreation & Senior Center

Tracy Knights, Director

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

at 124 Pleasant Street. It provides a variety of programs for seniors and is the home of the Meals and Wheels Program.

The membership or daily fee at the Recreation Center entitles the user to the six lane, 25-yard heated pool, sauna, showers and weight room at the Recreation Department.

The Recreation Center's Rec Trac computer system recorded 43,789 visits from members and patrons paying the daily fee. The visit count doesn't include the numerous people who come for free swims, school groups, day cares and swim teams or swim meets. Membership and daily fees totaled \$85,613.00.

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 22,492 people which are not members or didn't pay a daily fee used the swimming pool from January through December, 2017. These visits are not recorded in the Rec Trac system. Average of 5,524 people visiting the center per month.

The weight room is equipped with an 8 Station Universal machine, Hack/Leg Press machine, Peck Deck machine, Olympic benches, free weights, dumbbells, steppers, rowers, treadmills, stationary bikes, elliptical machine and a Hip Flexor machine. Ages 12 years and older are welcome to use the weight room during building hours.

Water Exercise Class, swim lessons, Lifeguard Training Courses, and birthday parties are a few examples of programs offered by the Recreation Department for a minimal fee. A total of \$16,414.00 was brought in from these programs and other miscellaneous sales.

The Recreation Center offers the pool and a multi-purpose room for children's birthday parties for a fee of \$50.00. The fee includes reserved pool time on Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., a certified lifeguard, and the room which can be used for cake, ice cream, pizza, games, etc. If the pool is already booked for a party or event, and the room is available, it can be rented for \$20.00 per hour. There were 39 pool parties booked for 2017 totaling \$1,950.00.

Various youth and adult leagues held practices, games and tournaments at Willow Park, Beech Street and Memorial Park fields. Special events include the Egg Hunt, sport camps, memorial softball tournaments, benefit tournaments, national qualifiers, horseshoe tournaments, 4th of July Celebration, Cycle Cross, Cross Country Running and BMX races are all held at the Willow Park site. The Pavilion at Willow Park, located off East Road, and the Jim Ross Pavilion is rented out for reunions, weddings, picnics, etc. The pavilions can be rented out from April through October. Rental fees are based on the number of people using the facility. The total of rental fees were \$2,460.00.

The Recreation Department continues to work with a variety of non-profit organizations and athletic leagues helping coordinate, schedule, run or participate in local events.

Thank you for your continued support of the Parks & Recreation Department.

Sollwan and Mary Alexander Sleeman Memorial Fund

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

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

The original Fund contained \$52,156.27. During this year, \$0.00 was expended at the Recreation Center. Interest earned was added to the Fund leaving a reserve fund balance of \$6,654.03.

Notes:

Permitting, Planning & Code Enforcement

Larry McLeod, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Marshal

Kevin Goodhue, Building Inspector/Health Officer/Fire Marshal

Permit Type	2016 Permits	Dollar Volume	2017 Permits	Dollar Volume
Single Family Dwelling	2	\$270,000.00	6	\$960,000.00
Duplex	0	\$0.00	2	\$260,000.00
Mobile Homes	10	\$323,000.00	9	\$267,000.00
Apartments	1	\$75,000.00	1	\$4,750,000.00
Apartment Renovations	7	\$131,000.00	8	\$176,000.00
Condominiums	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Residential Renovations	16	\$238,600.00	26	\$933,200.00
Residential Additions	7	\$243,500.00	9	\$475,750.00
Commercial Construction	5	\$6,658,500.00	6	\$8,139,500.00
Commercial Renovations	19	\$2,209,000.00	12	\$25,204,000.00
Industrial Construction	1	\$15,000.00	1	\$450,000.00
Industrial Renovations	1	\$1,000.00	4	\$670,000.00
Garages	10	\$257,000.00	8	\$249,500.00
Sheds	26	\$38,050.00	24	\$70,850.00
Decks	11	\$57,800.00	18	\$78,050.00
Institutions	9	\$928,000.00	9	\$4,553,500.00
Signs	16	\$50,360.00	31	\$42,935.00
Use and Zoning	8	\$1,000.00	9	\$0.00
Subdivisions	3	\$0.00	7	\$0.00
Septic Systems-New/Repair	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Home Occupation	2	\$2,000.00	1	\$0.00
Propane Tank/Storage Tank	1	\$2,000.00	4	\$56,000.00
Boilers/Furnaces, A/C, RTU's	6	\$46,400.00	0	\$0.00
Tents	5	\$9,500.00	3	\$7,900.00
Handicap Access/Ramps	1	\$1,500.00	4	\$8,700.00
Concreate Slabs	2	\$6,000.00	0	\$0.00
Cell Towers	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Solar Installations	1	\$28,000.00	1	\$227,700.00
Camps	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Demolition	0	\$0.00	1	\$0.00
Totals	170	\$11,592,210.00	204	\$47,580,585.00

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 47 reported animal bites to humans in 2017, 29 from dogs, 16 from cats, 1 rat, and 1 bat. This compares to 52 in 2016, 46 in 2015, 38 in 2014, 33 in 2013, 46 in 2012, 41 in 2011, 36 in 2010, 32 in 2009. 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 2017, the Planning Department developed, with the help of White & Burke and Michael McDonough, Planning Commission Chairperson, an application for a Tax Increment Financing District focused upon the Designated Downtown. The application was approved

in November of 2017 by the Vermont Economic Progress Council. TIF District revenue will help to fund important public infrastructure necessary to support private development in the Downtown.

In 2017, the Planning Commission completed the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan; worked with the BCRC to develop a revised Energy Section of the Town Plan to meet the requirements of Act 174; began meeting with local governmental, educational, health care, business, and non-profit institutions and organizations to gain insight into their perspectives, needs, plans, etc.; reviewed several solar energy projects; and continued its support of numerous ongoing efforts to construct trails, bike paths and sidewalks. In 2018, the Planning Commission intends to: support BCRC's effort to develop a Bennington County Cultural Plan; work with the Select Board regularly to better coordinate Commission and Select Board efforts; continue meeting with local governmental, educational, health care, business, and non-profit institutions and organizations; 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 2017 by the Development review Board were: a medical clinic, food pantry and offices operated by Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services at 121 Depot Street; an addition to Kaman Composites at 25 Performance Drive; a new Honda dealership at 751 North Bennington Road; a new Tri-State Credit Union building on Washington Avenue; a new consolidated Department of Public Works facility at 78 Bowen Road; and the redevelopment of the Hotel Putnam; Courthouse and Winslow Buildings in downtown Bennington.

Board of Listers

John M. Antognioni, Assessor

With no reassessment activity in 2017, this office sent 113 Change of Appraised Value notices to property owners on May 18, 2017. These notices were sent to owners of property in which a material change had occurred from April 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017. The Board of Listers had 57 property grievances, 3 of which were forwarded to the Bennington Board of Civil Authority. Two appeals from 2017 are currently outstanding.

The Town of Bennington's grand list for 2017 of all properties was \$1,020,560,725. The State's Equalization Study for 2017 (effective January 1, 2018) shows Bennington's common level of appraisal at 94.62 percent and our coefficient of dispersion at 14.76 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 2017 Equalization Study used sales data from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017.

Robert Ebert was reappointed to the Board of Listers by the Select Board in 2017, joining Carol Holm.

Town Clerk

Cassandra Barbeau, Town Clerk

This past spring and summer, I was pleasantly surprised with what appeared to be a brisk real estate market. Both property transfers and mortgage refinancing transactions kept us busy in the office for a good portion of the year. Remember, property sales can be found on our website at <http://benningtonvt.org/departments/town-clerk/property-transfers/>. This page is frequently updated to keep you informed as to who your neighbors are.

Just as things started to slow down with real estate this fall, we were dealing with two unexpected elections. One for our Wastewater Facility Bond and the other for the Act 46 School Merger issue. While I would consider turnout light for both, it was nice to see such support for the much-needed repairs to our infrastructure on the Bond vote. As for the school merger, with only two Towns voting in favor, and two against, only time will tell how that will play out at the State level.

Finally, following up on last year's report regarding the changes to Vermont Vital Records law, H. 111 passed into law last spring. Beginning July 1, 2018, all vital records, (birth, death and civil marriage) after January 1, 1909 will be moved to a Statewide electronic database.

What this means to you:

- Certified copies of certificates can only be issued to family members, legal guardians, and certain court-related parties and legal representatives.
- Requesters must complete an application and show acceptable identification.
- Town clerks will enter the application information into the statewide system.
- Requests will be tracked with the statewide system in order to prevent fraud.

As with any new procedure, I expect there to be a learning curve and bugs to deal with. Internally, with our office and with the Department of Health, it will streamline several processes. For the general public, it will mean a little extra time and the completion of an application and required identification. While for some it may be considered a burden, I hope most will realize it is being done to ultimately protect you and your loved ones' records. These new rules associated with the law will enhance the safety and security of vital records and provide greater protection against identity theft. Please be patient with us as we navigate through these required changes.

As always, please reach out with any questions and concerns regarding the office at (802)442-1043 or cbarbeau@benningtonvt.org.

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
205 South Street
Bennington, VT 05201
8/11/2017**

Joan Pinsonneault, Treasurer

Cash Flow and Account Balances as of June 30, 2017

	<u>06/01/17 - 06/30/17</u>	<u>07/01/16 - 06/30/17</u>
CASH FLOW:		
Beginning Balance	\$3,749,124.70	\$2,005,838.55
ADD:		
Interest	\$865.62	\$15,945.69
Various Town receipts	\$816,531.50	\$31,081,274.96
Bond Anticipation Note	\$0.00	\$2,200,000.00
Total available cash	\$4,566,521.82	\$35,303,059.20

**The Tax Anticipation Line of Credit for borrowing purposes was not drawn on during the fiscal year 2016-2017

SUBTRACT:

Disbursements:

Payroll Warrants	\$537,182.83	\$6,984,524.77
Vendor Warrants	\$1,189,874.35	\$22,708,398.72
DPW wire payment to escrow for facility purchase	\$0.00	\$1,696,569.08
Bank wireout service charge	(\$30.00)	\$0.00
Prepaid checks	\$3,973.50	\$866,755.15
Vendor payments	\$20,387.96	\$230,810.05
Deposit slip charge	\$0.00	\$157.40
Bank Analysis Fees – Fraud Protection & Positive Pay	\$219.87	\$930.72
Total Disbursements	\$1,754,342.26	\$32,490,879.64
Cash Balance on June 30, 2017	<u>\$2,812,179.56</u>	<u>\$2,812,179.56</u>

Operating Accounts

	<u>INTERST</u>		<u>BALANCE</u>
	<u>06/01/17 -</u> <u>06/30/17</u>	<u>07/01/16 -</u> <u>06/30/17</u>	<u>6/30/17</u>
<u>Chittenden Bank:</u>			
MBA Affiliate Dep *9633	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$190,000.00
MBA Depository *7505	\$865.62	\$15,945.69	\$2,076,482.39
General Fund Checking			
Acct *0543	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Payroll Checking Acct	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00
*0551			
Flexible Spending Acct	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
*8912			
DPW Facility Acct *9452	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500,697.17
	<u>\$865.62</u>	<u>\$15,945.69</u>	<u>\$2,812,179.56</u>

Notes:

Agencies

The following agencies received monies in the amount shown from the Town of Bennington's General Fund in FY 2018:

Bennington Free Library - \$457,750.00
Bennington Rescue Squad - \$207,460.00
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
Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) - \$15,210.00
Sunrise Family Resource Center - \$15,000.00
Bennington Project Independence - \$11,000.00
The Tutorial Center - \$10,000.00
Bennington Free Clinic - \$7,500.00
BROC - 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
Paran Recreations, Inc - \$2,700.00
Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse - \$2,500.00
Turning Point Center of Bennington - \$2,500.00

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2017 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BENNINGTON FIRE FACILITY
130 RIVER STREET – 3RD Floor
BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201**

MONDAY, MARCH 06, 2017

MINUTES

MODERATOR: Jason Morrissey

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Jacobs – Chair; Michael Keane – Vice Chair; Jim Carroll; Justin Corcoran; Donald Campbell; Jeanne Conner; Jeannie Jenkins; Stuart Hurd, Town Manager; Cassandra Barbeau, Town Clerk; Dan Monks, Zoning Administrator & Assistant Town Manager; Joan Pinsonneault, Treasurer; Mike McDonough, Economic & Community Development Director; Michele Johnson, Human Resources & Contracts Administrator; Keith Whitcomb, Bennington Banner; BNN News; CAT-TV; (145) Citizens; Linda E. Bermudez – Recording Secretary

Absent: *None*

At 7:00 P.M., **Jason Morrissey** called the meeting to order.

Congressman Peter Welch was introduced and asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance which was recited by all.

Congressman Welch discussed how current times in Washington, DC are tough and the country is now divided over many subjects. The challenge is that the framework is broken. It is a joy to represent Vermont because we have a tradition of fairing problems. There is nothing so wrong with America that what's right, can't fix.

Congressman Welch opened up for questions. Adrienne (Bennington resident) asked if signing petitions make a difference. Congressman Welch stated it does.

Another Bennington resident (unidentified) asked for his thoughts on oil pipelines. Congressman Welch stated we need to move forward with renewable energy as much as we can.

Another Bennington resident (unidentified) asked what happens when the Federal Administration doesn't agree and the head of the EPA doesn't believe in global warming. Congressman Welch stated it is a real challenge. Your concerns are real and the divisions are significant but this is your democracy. It is important for you to keep an eye on us and stay involved. Let's do what we can and let's do it together.

Jason Morrissey then read the Town warning:

-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.

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, March 6, 2017

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 (Jacquie Prue) to accept the Town Report as submitted. Motion was seconded by the floor (Aaron Sawyer). 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) and was level funded and set for the same in FY'18.

Motion: **Motion from the floor (Bob Black) to approve Select Board compensation as submitted. Motion was seconded by the floor (Aaron Sawyer). Motion passed unanimously (verbally).**

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

Michael Thompson, North Bennington wanted to have a non-binding resolution read and voted upon this evening that designates Bennington as a town of inclusivity of all humanity. Laura Block, Christopher Gagne, Mary Garisch, Tom Hailey, Bob Block, Jeannie Rainer & Vicky Lampron stepped forward to each read a section of this resolution.

Jason Morrissey stated that the resolution put forth this evening voids Federal law and therefore is found to be non-germane.

Mary Garisch stated the Moderator must state this as a non-binding and is advisory only.

Joe Hall stated sanctuary cities are contrary to Federal law; that should be the end of the discussion.

Mr. Morrissey again stated the resolution was non-germane and suggested the resolution be amended to remove a provision contrary to Federal law.

Motion: **Motion from the floor (verbally) to adjourn. Motion was seconded by the floor (verbally).**

Motion was DEFEATED (verbally).

Meeting discussion continued.

Jim Carroll questioned the definition of a sanctuary city. Mr. Morrissey stated his position was not to have an opinion but to simply moderate the meeting.

A resident who wished not to identify herself stated she understood that Federal government makes laws and then the States can make their own. If the Federal government enforces theirs then we back off and follow them.

The Town Manager stated that the last three lines are beyond the Town's power and parview. He suggested amending the non-binding resolution to strike the last three lines.

Kiah Morris stepped forward to remind everyone that this is a non-binding resolution. It would not engage local law enforcement. They are not asking for those changes to take place, it is just an expression of the will of the people. People have a right to be heard.

Jeff Vickers stepped forward and stated this was a very one-sided vote this evening. There was great support present, however those who may oppose had no warning this resolution would be read and/or voted upon. Therefore, those who would oppose are not represented.

Motion: Motion from the floor (*verbally*) to amend resolution as presented by the Town Manager to strike the last three lines of the Inclusivity of all Humanity Resolution. Motion was seconded by the floor (*verbally*). Motion passed (*verbally*).

Will Stuart identified himself as a Bradford Street resident. He read a statement regarding the noise, pollution, traffic and vibrations he experiences at this house due to the tanker trucks filling up at Morgan Springs. He stated he has complained multiple times to the Town Manager and Terrance Morse, Water Resources Superintendent but has seen no help. Mr. Stuart asked why the revenues were not included in the town report. He feels the Town Manager is constantly hiring others to do his work. He would like to see a Mayoral system of Town government. You must go so Bennington can grow.

Kate Trafton identified herself as a Sunrise Family Center Board member. It is a pleasure to serve and give back. Their organization has served over 800 families. Please vote Yes for article #14.

Forest Wyman Director of the Bennington Rescue Squad stated this is the first time their organization was on the ballot. They are a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year critical care support organization. There is currently no direct funding from Bennington. Please vote Yes on article #17.

Richard Dundas stepped forward on behalf for the Bennington Free Clinic. This organization is primarily volunteer; however they do need funding to support such things as medications and lab tests for those who use the clinic. Please vote Yes.

The Manager wanted to clarify some questions raised earlier. The Town of Bennington sells approximately 100,000 gallons of water per day from a 2.1 Million gallon per day facility. There is no danger to our water supply by selling this water. We are looking into different solutions for some of the complaints of noise etc. that have come in. This includes the development of an off-site loading location. The revenue generated by the sales are used to mitigate the water rates each year. Last year the water sales totaled approximately \$65,000.

The Manager continued by noting that the Rescue Squad is on the ballot every year regarding tax-exempt status. This support saves them just over \$16,000 each year. Additionally, the Town of Bennington Police Dispatch handles all of their 6,000 calls per year. If they were to handle these calls themselves or contract out it would be much more expensive. The Town has been very supportive of this organization.

Pat Kinney stated he was a former Town employee. He questioned how many bonds the Town has. He agreed the Highway Department needs a new facility but questioned if it should be in a swamp. Mr. Kinney also questioned if the Town could get more money for the water it sells.

The Manager stated the Bond for the DPW Facility would be incorporated into this year's budget and have no impact on taxes this year or in the future.

The Manager continued by reading a resolution regarding Multiple Myeloma Month.

Mary Morrissey then stepped forward to read a similar resolution adopted by the State of Vermont

recognizing March 2017 as Multiple Myeloma Month.

Jan Bopp stepped forward and identified himself as a Multiple Myeloma survivor. He lives each day with great gratitude. There is hope. He then encouraged all adults to get the protein test.

Mary Gerisch stepped forward and noted that only the amendment to the Inclusivity of All Humanity resolution was accepted. The resolution itself was not voted upon.

Motion: Motion from the floor (verbally) to accept the Inclusivity of All Humanity resolution as amended and approved. Motion was seconded by the floor (verbally). Motion passed (verbally).

Maryanne St. John stepped forward on behalf of BROCC. They helped 1700 individuals in different ways such as fuel assistance, weatherization, housing, food, tax preparation, healthcare etc. We are grateful for community's support in the past. Please vote Yes on article #10.

Cathy Aliberti stepped forward on behalf of Green Mountain RSVP. They work to match volunteers with non-profit organization including museums & hospitals as well as provide transportation to doctor appointments, assist in tax preparations, and coordinate meals on wheels' recipients. Please vote Yes on the ballot.

Andy Laportain stepped forward on behalf of Council on Aging. They work to keep seniors independent and include such services as counseling (both mental and financial), personal care, healthcare insurance and meals on wheels. Please vote Yes on article #11.

Resident who refused to identify herself spoke of snow plow issues. She cannot shovel her driveway because she is now too old. It then becomes icy. She feels it is not necessary to plow the sidewalks. People can just walk over it. If the Town feels they need to plow sidewalks can they redirect the snow?

Michael McDonough stepped forward to commend those present tonight. We were able to do something that Washington hasn't. There was a passionate issue on the floor and although we disagreed, we were able to find resolution and move forward. We should be proud.

Gail, Bennington resident, stepped forward on behalf of the Visiting Nurses and Hospice. She had been a recipient of their services. This organization does great work and comes in during desperate times. Please support them and vote Yes.

**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 ☐

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,

Approved by:

Linda E. Bermudez
Secretary

Jason Morrissey
Moderator

TOWN MEETING ELECTION -- MARCH 7, 2017 TALLY SHEET

ARTICLE A:	Benn	N. Benn	total
SELECT BOARD (elect 2)			
Mike "Long Shot" Bethel	559	30	589
Chad E. Gordon	732	53	785 *
Michael Keene	581	85	666
Tracy Kramer	180	18	198
Vickie A. Lampron	445	50	495
Carson A. Thurber	1193	87	1280 *

And the said GORDON and THURBER were declared elected.

ARTICLE 1:

BUDGET

YES	1489	160	1649
NO	563	28	591

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 2:

DPW Facility Bond

Yes	1175	138	1313
No	852	46	898

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 3:

Tax Exempt: Benn Rescue

Yes	1600	169	1769
No	481	19	500

And it was so voted

ARTICLE 4:

**Benn County Assoc. Against
Child Abuse**

Yes	1589	156	1745
No	476	29	505

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 5:

Turning Point

Yes	1238	131	1369
No	812	54	866

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 6:

PAVE

Yes	1358	142	1500
No	697	46	743

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 7:

Ctr for Independent Living

Yes	1417	152	1569
No	640	34	674

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 8:

RSVP

Yes	1373	144	1517
No	656	38	694

And it was so voted

ARTICLE 9:**Benn Free Clinic**

Yes	1538	169	1707
No	533	22	555

And it was so voted

ARTICLE 10:**BROC**

Yes	1156	133	1289
No	876	51	927

And it was so voted

ARTICLE 11:**Council on Aging**

Yes	1408	150	1558
No	648	33	681

And it was so voted

ARTICLE 12:**Tutorial Center**

Yes	1151	140	1291
No	893	47	940

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 13:**BPI**

Yes	1329	146	1475
No	717	42	759

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 14:**Sunrise**

Yes	1091	137	1228
No	937	52	989

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 15:

VNA & Hospice

Yes	1495	157	1652
No	548	29	577

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 16:

Coalition for Homeless

Yes	1293	141	1434
No	751	45	796

And it was so voted.

ARTICLE 17:

Benn Rescue Squad

Yes	1192	140	1332
No	889	47	936

And it was so voted

Recorded March 8, 2017 at 8:15 AM by *Carminda Baisan* Town Clerk

NOTES:

-PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE-

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY BOND**


The residents of the Town of Bennington are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance) in said Town on Monday, October 2, 2017, at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of a hearing on the proposed \$9.85 million Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) bond to be voted on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at the Bennington Fire Facility on River Street (Lincoln Street entrance) and at the North Bennington Village Office on Main Street in North Bennington. The Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

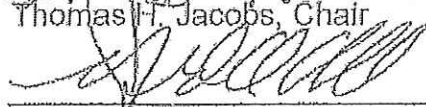
The Article on the ballot reads as follows:

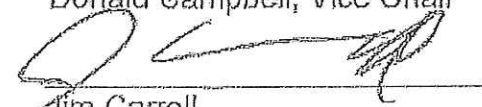
ARTICLE Shall the bonds of the Town of Bennington in an amount not to exceed \$9.85 million be issued for the purpose of upgrading the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility?

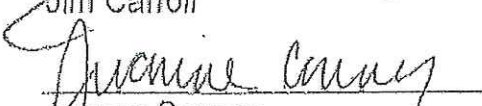
YES ☐
NO ☐

Dated this 28th Day of August, 2017 by the Bennington Select Board:



Thomas H. Jacobs, Chair



Donald Campbell, Vice Chair


Jim Carroll



Jeanne Conner


Chad Gordon


Jeannette Jenkins


Carson Thurber

Recorded September 5, 2017 at 10:15 AM


Town Clerk, Bennington, VT

Special Town Meeting October 10, 2017


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

Article: Shall the bonds of the Town of Bennington in an amount not to exceed \$9.85 million be issued for the purpose of upgrading the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility?

Yes 520

No 209

And it was so voted.

Recorded October 11, 2017 at 8:30 AM by , Town Clerk

-WARNING-

**TOWN OF BENNINGTON
2018 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 5, 2018, 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 16, 2018.

Following the completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned to Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 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 5, 2018

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 6, 2018
THE POLLS TO BE OPEN FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.
AT THE POLLING PLACES SPECIFIED ABOVE**

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

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

ARTICLE 1. Shall the Town appropriate for the next fiscal year, July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, the total sum of \$12,893,030.00 consisting of the following: \$4,087,120.00 for the laying out, maintaining, and repairing of the highways and bridges of the Town; and \$8,805,910.00 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, \$7,500.00 for regional economic development, and \$451,600.00 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 Town of Bennington amend the Town Charter to add Section 407 as follows:

§ 103-407. Mayoral form of government

(a) In lieu of a town manager, the voters may adopt a mayoral form of government, by vote at a duly-warned annual meeting, warned pursuant to a petition signed by five percent of the voters or on the Selectboard's own motion. Once a vote in favor of this form of government is successful, the voters shall elect a mayor at the next annual meeting. Once the mayor takes office, the Town Manager system of governance shall end for Bennington.

(b) The mayor shall be responsible for the management of the administrative affairs of the Town, in the same manner and with the same powers and responsibilities as the Town Manager, as stated in statute and this charter.

(c) The mayor shall have the power to make or break a tie, and shall have the power to veto any action of the Selectboard.

(d) The mayor shall serve as the voice of the Town of Bennington, taking responsibility for implementing the policies of the Selectboard, leading the Town toward greater prosperity and a healthy economy, and a better life for all its residents.

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 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. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$5,000.00 for Project Against Violent Encounters?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$5,500.00 for Green Mountain Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 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. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Bennington Free Clinic?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for BROCC - Community Action In Southwestern Vermont?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$7,500.00 for Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Inc.?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$10,000.00 for The Tutorial Center?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$11,000.00 for Bennington Project Independence?

YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$15,000.00 for Sunrise Family Resource Center?

YES ☐
NO ☐

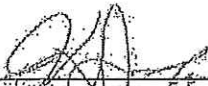
ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$21,600.00 for Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice?

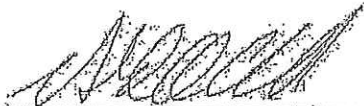
YES ☐
NO ☐

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters increase the F.Y. 2019 General Fund by the sum of \$25,000.00 for Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless?

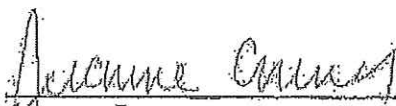
YES ☐
NO ☐

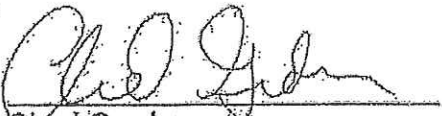
BY THE SELECT BOARD

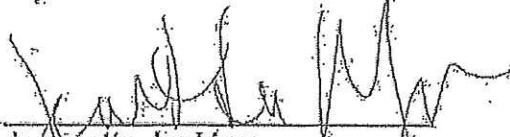

Thomas H. Jacobs, Chair

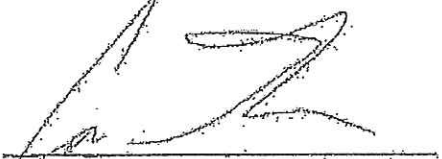

Donald A. Campbell, Vice Chair


Jim Carroll



Jeanne Conner


Chad Gordon


Jeannette Jenkins


Carson Thurber

Dated at Bennington, Vermont this 29th day of January, 2018.

Recorded January 30, 2018 at 8:45 AM by , Town Clerk