

STRAFFORD, VERMONT TOWN REPORTS



Year ending December 31, 2024

HISTORICAL NOTE

PRESERVING WHAT IS SPECIAL IN STRAFFORD

50 years ago, Arthur and Esther Pope were asked by the Newton School PTA to put together a slide show on the years they spent in Strafford. The Pops lived for five years in Strafford from 1969-1974. During that time Arthur Pope served as the minister of the United Church of Strafford and President of the Strafford Historical Society, where he was one of the key people to start the restoration work of the Town House. He also taught English at Thetford Academy. Esther Pope taught at Newton School, was the town's first kindergarten teacher, and was the town reporter for the *White River Valley Herald*. Little escaped their notice. With the current changes in our community, particularly with the upcoming end of 47 years of the Coburn family running the general store, these lecture notes from their 1974 presentation still have a good deal of relevance as they speak to what makes Strafford special and what we need to be concerned about in our efforts to keep it that way. Pope wrote:

“For all practical purposes Straffordites live the good life — the kind of small town Americana that most of us have lost and dream about recapturing. We lived in one of the two villages within walking distance of the combination general store and post office.

Our total lives were pretty much centered in that tiny town nestled in the hills of central Vermont. Idyllic is the best word I can find to describe it.

What are some of the signs of the good life that we are talking about?

[1] It is where friend and neighbor can meet on the street and know each other. It is where people still take walks so that they bump into each other.

[2] It is not using a town as a bedroom town. It means having a “sense of place” and avoiding excessive development.

[3] It is a place conscious of its past and doing all within its power to preserve the best of its architecture, landscape and traditions.

[4] It is a place where the home, and the school are of primary importance.

[5] It is a place that readily welcomes new families and doesn't let them move in without some kind of evangelization converting them to becoming Straffordites. For example, we used to have an annual newcomers night that included dinner, introductions, with old timers relating stories about life in town.

Continued on inside back cover

Front cover: Early Morning at Coburns', oil on board (16"x 20"). by Jennifer Brown. With the announced sale of Coburns' General Store, the Strafford Community Foundation has launched a campaign to purchase the store, in order to keep a community-oriented store in Strafford.

Continued from inside front cover

[6] It is a place where hearts beat fast to old fashioned patriotism, although not necessarily military patriotism.

[7] Lastly, I guess it's a place where the really big news of the day is what you heard when you went to pick up your mail today at the general store.

But there are many dangers that threaten to take the good life from us.

Alistair Cooke recently remarked that when arriving by plane to various American cities and towns he couldn't readily tell where he was. Rows of motels, gas stations and used car lots look pretty much the same.

Now there is no question but what Mr. Cooke would know he was in Strafford, Vermont. Still many New England small towns are sacrificing the good life on the altar of efficiency.

Some of the warning signals are:

[1] Consolidated area schools

[2] Ever widening highways which split communities apart

[3] The razing of unique old community buildings.

[4] Consolidated town management teams.

[5] Our disappearing regional speech idiosyncrasies.

[6] Out of town shopping centers.

[7] Regional recreation areas.

Though none of these phenomena can be blamed or criticized individually, the overall trend I submit is one that can actually weaken our capacity for generosity, tolerance, selflessness, loyalty and love — and all those other

human attributes of any value which make up the good life. We have a unique responsibility to this somewhat floundering small town New England good life to make whatever decisions are necessary to maintain its distinctiveness, to fulfill our forbears' perhaps unknowing trust in us, not to surrender to the visual and spiritual pollution that so many towns already have. This is not only a responsibility, but in many situations may be a sacrifice, to preserve our regional soul.

To quote the Vermonter Pearl Buck: "The strength of a nation is in direct proportion to the strength of its individual communities."

And to sum up for myself; there will be no good life in America unless it is first nurtured and maintained in small new England communities like the one we meet in tonight."

Not all of Pope's 1974 observations and warnings are applicable today, and one could make the case that over the last 50 years Strafford has done and continues to do well preserving its culture and historic structures. Organizations like the Lions Club, PTA, and Friends of the Library are just a few examples. The incredible effort by the Strafford Community Trust to keep a community-oriented general store is another. Other examples of historic preservation and photos are included in pages of this booklet. Still there is a good deal of wisdom in Arthur Pope's words worthy of contemplation as we as a community go forward into the future.

John Freitag

DEDICATION

Rose Silloway, Barbara Murray, Dennis Preston, and Hazel Lewis

At the end of 2024 and in the beginning of 2025, Strafford lost four community members who gave long service to the Town and helped shape the community we love. They lived Strafford-centered lives, combining hard work with fun, all the while looking out for others. This Town Report is dedicated to Rose Silloway, Barbara Murray, Denny Preston, and Hazel Lewis.

Rose Silloway died on November 27, 2024, at the age of 82. She worked at Coburns' Store for 25 years and was on the Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee, a town bequest which provides aid for those in need. She was the Strafford correspondent for the *White River Herald* and active in the local Seniors group.

Barbara Murray died on December 23, 2024, at age 86. Barbara lived most of her life in the South Strafford home where she grew up. She had a wealth of knowledge on life in Strafford which she was generous in sharing and served for many years as a director of the Strafford Historical Society. Barbara worked for 35 years as the secretary at the Newton Elementary School where she was beloved by generations of Strafford children. Barbara, like Rose, was a member of the Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee and regularly active in the Strafford Seniors organization.

Dennis Preston died on January 18, 2025, at age 80. Denny grew up on his parent's farm on the Brook Road. Though he became a top-notch builder, farming never left his blood. He and his wife Beth could be seen in the summer making hay on the steep hillsides of his grandfather Delwin Preston's South Strafford farm. He was also a lifelong member of the Justin Morrill Driftskippers snowmobile club and spent long hours preparing and maintaining the trail system used by both snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. Denny also served as a long-time member of the Strafford Volunteer Fire Department.

Hazel Lewis died on January 23, 2025, at the age of 102. 84 years ago, Hazel moved to Strafford after marrying Delwin Lewis. Hazel had an amazing capacity to become friends with all and to keep in touch with so many others with cards and letters. She was deeply interested and involved in the community, keeping scrap books on everything related to Strafford and its people. She went to almost every Town Meeting and nearly every graduation and school play. Hazel, like Rose and Barbara was active in the Strafford Seniors and came to the lunches whenever she was able, right up to the end of her life. Her joy and happiness was often expressed through her love of dancing.

What these four special people had in common, and what their lives can teach us, is how to live a good caring life deeply rooted in our town, spiced with wit, humor and practical wisdom. While they are now gone, they will live on in our hearts and in the organizations in which they served.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOWN OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Town Officers.....	3
Elected State Officials.....	7
Town of Strafford Unified ByLaw Fees.....	7

TOWN BUSINESS

Warning for Town Meeting 2025.....	8
Informational Meeting.....	9
Official Proceedings for Town Meeting 2024.....	10
Special Town Meeting June 3, 2024.....	13
Selectboard Report.....	15
Reports of Other Town Officers.....	17
Town Accountings	
Budget.....	33
Other Accounting Information.....	46
Tax Information.....	52
Delinquent Taxes.....	54
Vital Statistics.....	56
Animal Licensing.....	58
Funds and Scholarships.....	59

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Morrill Memorial and Harris Library.....	66
Strafford Fire and Rescue.....	68
Other Strafford Organizations.....	70
Health, Social and Planning Services.....	84
Recycling and Solid Waste.....	103

STRAFFORD SCHOOLS

Newton School Graduates.....	106
Warning for School Meeting 2025.....	107
Proceedings of School Meeting 2024.....	110
School Directors' Report.....	114
Superintendent's Report.....	119
Reports from High Schools.....	128
School Accountings	
Budget.....	133
Revenue.....	141
Other Accounting Information.....	143
State Mandated School Funding Report.....	144
White River Valley Supervisory Union Budget.....	147
Secondary School Enrollment and Tuition.....	158
Graduates.....	159
Newton School Enrollment.....	159

TOWN OFFICE HOURS AND SERVICE SCHEDULES..... 160

TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator (Town & School):

David Grant Term expires March 2025

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2027

Selectboard:

Toni Pippy Term expires March 2027

Mary Linehan Term expires March 2026

Andrew Duncklee Term expires March 2026

Kelly Harman Term expires March 2025

Jeff Solsaa Term expires March 2025

Listers:

Tom Jacobs Term expires March 2027

Tim Denny Term expires March 2026

Ross Gortner Term expires March 2025

Auditors:

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2027

Suzanna Liepmann Term expires March 2026

June Solsaa Term expires March 2025

School Directors:

Sarah Root Term expires March 2027

Nelle Donaldson Term expires March 2026

Dustin Ray Term expires March 2026

Eric Lopez Term expires March 2025

Maggie Hooker Term expires March 2025

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne Castro Term expires March 2025

Trustee of Public Funds:

Therese Linehan Term expires March 2027

Cindy Stableford Term expires March 2026

Sarah North Term expires March 2025

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Lisa Bragg Term expires March 2025

Harris Library Trustees:

Miriam Newman Term expires March 2026

Kevin Lynch Term expires March 2025

Carol Wilson (*Selectboard Trustee*)..... Term expires March 2025

Cemetery Commissioners:

David Harris Term expires March 2027

Andrew Behrens Term expires March 2027

Lauri Berkenkamp Term expires March 2026

Kate Siepmann Term expires March 2026

Sherm Wilson Term expires March 2025

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee	Andrew Lane	Sean Lewis
Victoria Lloyd	Sarah North	Vincent Robinson
	Shelby Coburn	

APPOINTIVE OFFICERS

Road Foreman and Supervisor of Public Works	Paul Hardy
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Regina J. Josler
Selectboard Assistant	<i>Vacant</i>
Town Constable	<i>Vacant</i>
Zoning Administrator	Bonnie Bergeron
Zoning Administrator Alternate	<i>Vacant</i>
Development Review Board Clerk	Bonnie Bergeron
Town House Overseer	Paul Kifner
Emergency Management Director	Jason Schumacher
Deputy Emergency Management Director	<i>Vacant</i>
Emergency 9-1-1 Contact	Lisa Bragg
Town Health Officer	Stephen Marx
Dog Officer and Pound Keeper	Courtney Hardy
Tree Warden	Bob Wilson
Town Service Officer	Susan Coburn
Recycling Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association	Aaron Dotter
Fire Warden, appointed by the State	Calvin Benjamin
Fence Viewers	Greg Lewis, Gary Kendall
South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative	June Solsaa
Deputy Registrar	Dennis Cilley

Development Review Board:

Terrence Garrison (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Dan Ruml	Term expires March 2025
Martha Walke	Term expires March 2025
Sean Lewis	Term expires March 2027
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2027
<i>Vacant (Alternate)</i>	Term expires March 2027

Appointive Officers (continued)

Planning Commission:

Chrissy Jamieson	Term expires March 2028
Martha Walke (<i>Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2028
Dan Gottlieb	Term expires March 2028
Phoebe Mix	Term expires March 2028
Andrew Silovich	Term expires March 2028
Michael Scanlan	Term expires March 2026
Stuart Crocker (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Donald Graham (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Greg Colling	Term expires March 2025

Conservation Commission:

Kitty Mackie	Term expires March 2028
Anne Fayen	Term expires March 2028
Steve Faccio	Term expires March 2027
James Erbaugh	Term expires March 2027
Micki Colbeck (<i>Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Courtney Potter (<i>Recording Secretary</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Erin Yunger	Term expires March 2026
Michael Hebb (<i>Trails Commissioner</i>)	Term expires March 2025
Kate Bass (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025

Town House Advisory Group:

Rockwell Fuller	Term expires March 2026
Curt Albee	Term expires March 2025
Tim Bergeron	Term expires March 2025
Greg Colling	Term expires March 2025
Sarah Havens	Term expires March 2025
Steve Handy	Term expires March 2025
Susan Lee	Term expires March 2025
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2025
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2025

Recreation Board:

Hilary Linehan (<i>Co-chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026
Edmund Huang	Term expires March 2026
Leslie Berger	Term expires March 2025
Christa Wurm	Term expires March 2025
Jason Loomis (<i>Co-chair</i>)	Term expires March 2025

Historic Preservation Commission:

Ann Thorp (<i>Clerk</i>)	Term expires March 2027
Tim Utt	Term expires March 2027
Zach Mitchell	Term expires March 2026
Silas Treadway (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Term expires March 2026
David Taplin	Term expires March 2025

Appointive Officers (continued)

Regional Planning Commission:

John Echeverria Term expires March 2025
Vacant (Alternate)..... Term expires March 2025

East Central Vermont Community Fiber Network

Governing Board Representative:

Steve Willbanks Term expires March 2025
David Webb (*Alternate*)..... Term expires March 2025
Andrew Behrens (*Alternate*)..... Term expires March 2025

Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator Steering Committee:

David Lutz Term expires March 2025

Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:

Stephen Willbanks Term expires March 2026
Michael Scanlan (*Alternate*)..... Term expires March 2026

Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:

Elizabeth Preston Term expires March 2025

Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:

Joanna Hawkins Term expires March 2027
Danette Harris Term expires March 2026
Diana Leddy Term expires March 2025

Community-Building Award Committee:

Andy Coffin Term expires March 2025
Willis Phelps Term expires March 2025
Brooke Wilkinson Term expires March 2025
Rebecca Seibel Term expires March 2025
Lori Mikusa Term expires March 2025

Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:

Rockwell Fuller Term expires March 2025
Joanna Hawkins..... Term expires March 2025
Rod Maclay Term expires March 2025
Maureen Wilson Term expires March 2025

Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:

Barbara Murray Term expires March 2025
Susan Coburn..... Term expires March 2025
Sherry Duveneck Term expires March 2025

Notaries Public

Lisa Bragg
Victoria Lloyd

Susan Coburn
Roderick Maclay

Regina J. Josler
Sarah North

ELECTED STATE OFFICIALS

Senator Bernard Sanders	800-339-9834
Senator Peter Welch	800-642-3193
Representative Becca Balint	202-225-4115
Governor Phil Scott	802-828-3333
Lt. Governor David Zuckerman	802-828-2226
State Senator Mark MacDonald	802-433-5867
Representative Rebecca Holcombe	802-828-2228
Representative James Masland	802-785-4146

While the Vermont Legislature is in session, you may call the Sergeant-at-Arms and leave a message at 1-800-322-5616.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD UNIFIED BYLAW FEES Adopted March 13, 2024

Recording Fee, All Applications	\$ 15.00
Accessory Building 125sf or greater with utilities	150.00
Additions to Existing Structure	150.00
Deck and Unenclosed Porch (includes lean-to)	75.00
Mobile Home / Tiny Home / Yurt	150.00
Permitted Change of Use only	150.00
Residence (new construction)	250.00
Temporary Permit	75.00
Boundary Line Adjustment	150.00
Site Plan Review (review page 30/31 table 1/2 of Strafford Unified ByLaws for requirements)	150.00
Preliminary Plan Hearing	150.00
Minor Subdivision (2 lots, no other subdivision within 5 yrs.)	150.00
DRB-Major Subdivision (3 lots, \$100 for each additional lot)	500.00
Variance (additional \$150 fee for more than 2 warned hearings)	300.00
Conditional Use (additional \$150.00 fee for more than 2 warned hearings)	300.00
Planned Unit Development (PUD)	700.00
Certificate of Compliance	35.00

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to vote by Australian ballot either via mail as provided by the Town Clerk or at the Town Clerks Office on March 4, 2025, between the hours of 9:00 o'clock AM (when the polls will open) and 7:00 o'clock PM (when the polls will close) and thereby act on the following questions:

- Article 1:** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office.
- Article 2:** Shall the town appropriate \$ 1,855,194 to defray 2025 budget expenses?
- Article 3:** Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes?
- Article 4:** Shall the town collect taxes in two installments, as follows: one half of the total tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, September 3, 2025; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 3, 2025? Late taxpayers are charged at a rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months, and at a rate of 1.5% per month for each month thereafter. After a 7-day grace period ending December 10, 2025, an additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes.
- Article 5:** To elect the following officers:
For a term of three years:
Selectboard member
Lister
Auditor
Cemetery Commissioner
Trustee of Public Funds
Harris Library Trustee
For a term of one year to complete a three-year term:
Selectboard member
For a term of two years:
Selectboard member
For a term of one year:
Collector of Delinquent Taxes
Agent to Deed Real Estate

- Article 6:** Shall the town vote to eliminate the office of constable pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651a(d)?
- Article 7:** Shall the voters of the Town of Strafford vote to discontinue the use of the Australian ballot system for decisions of public questions and revert to traditional floor voting?
- Article 8:** Shall the voters of the Town of Strafford vote to discontinue the use of the Australian ballot system for budgetary questions and revert to traditional floor voting?
- Article 9:** Shall the voters of the Town of Strafford vote to discontinue the use of the Australian ballot system for the election of officers and revert to traditional floor voting?
- Article 10:** Shall the voters of the Town of Strafford move to hold annual town meeting by floor vote on Saturdays immediately preceding the first Tuesdays in March?

Dated this 30th day January, 2025

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Strafford:

Toni Pippy

Jeff Solsaa

Mary Linehan

Andrew Duncklee

Kelly Harman

TOWN OF STRAFFORD INFORMATIONAL MEETING

February 22, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford in Orange County in the State of Vermont are hereby warned to meet in the Strafford Town House on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 10 am for an Informational Meeting to review and discuss the Articles that have previously been duly Warned and signed and posted by the Selectboard on January 29, 2025.

These Articles shall be voted on by Australian Ballot on Tuesday March 4, 2025. The Australian balloting will take place from 9 am to 7 pm at the Town Clerk's Office.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84579479120>

Meeting ID: 845 7947 9120

Toni Pippy

January 29, 2025

Selectboard Chair

STRAFFORD TOWN MEETING INFORMATIONAL MEETING

March 2nd, 2024

Town House, 12 Brook Rd., Strafford VT 05072

Selectboard participants- John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Hannah Levinger, David Paganelli, Jeff Solsaa

Other participants in person- Curt Albee, Doc Bagley, Ellen Bagnato, Greg Bagnato, Michael Baher, Rebecca Bailey, Christine Bailey-Kellogg, William Bate, Chris Behr, Andy Behrens, Aurora Berger, Leslie Berger, Bonnie Bergeron, Lauri Berkenkamp, Marianne Biggar, Lisa Bragg, Kira Campbell, Lisa Carlson-Freitag, Maggie Carpenter, Leigh Chesnut, Van Chesnut, Kaitlin Christie, Matt Christie, Mark Chute, Noah Chute, Shelby Coburn, Micki Colbeck, Greg Colling, Maria Cunningham, Eric Donaldson, Nelle Donaldson, Stephen Drew, Dottie Dubey, Ed Eastman, Elizabeth Emmerick, James Esbough, Charlotte Faccio, Steve Faccio, Anne Fayen, Abbie Foster, Marty Frank, Dave Gibson, Ellen Gibson, Dan Gottlieb, David Grant, Nancy Grant, Kathy Hardy, Brynn Hare, Erica Hare, Kelly Harman, Susan Hodges, Rebecca Holcombe, Maggie Hooker, Ed Huang, Tom Jacobs, Regina Josler, Josh Kahan, Meredith Kendall, Rosie Kerr, Ann Kraybill, Rich Levitt, Mary Linehan, Raul Lopez Linehan, Ehrin Lingeman, Eric Lopez, Siobhan Lopez, Kevin Lynch, Alicia Maher, Jane Mann, Jim Masland, Steve Marx, Tracey McFadden, Lori Mikusa, Luke Miller, Miriam Newman, Sarah North, Kait Norton, Laura Ogden, Anita Onforio, Nate Osheyack, Nellie Pennington, Olivia Piepmeier, Trey Piepmeier, Toni Pippy, Sandy Preston, Dustin Ray, Charlotte Reimanis, Erik Reimanis, Kate Reimanis, Deborah Richie, Maureen Riley, Terry Riley, Sharon Risso, Gretchen Rittenhouse, Kayleigh Rodig, Sarah Root, Wellington Ramsey, Sonya Schumacher, Chuck Sherman, Rebecca Seibel, Kate Siepmann, Anna Smolla, Kyle Spriggs, Liz Spriggs, Diane Tensen, Bill Thompson, Mary Thompson, Silas Treadway, Shannon Varley, Martha Walke, Jonathan Wilder, Christa Wurm

Other participants via Zoom- Andrew Duncklee, Anne Peyton Yellow Brick Road, Beth (she/her), Beverly Bilsky, Callen, Candace, Cassie, Chip Hedler, Chris Lowrey, Stuart Crocker, Bill Risso, Sharon Risso, Cindy Stableford, Danette Harris, David Fletcher, David Kynor, Dorian, Emmeline Doyle, Gus speth, Heather Waterbury, Ingrid and David, James Wilson, Jaydl, Jessica Tidman, Joanna Hawkins, John Echternach, Judie Englander, Karen Odell, Karla Bushway, Kate Cassidy, Kay Plunkett, Kevin Plunkett, Kazmira Nedeau, Jonathan Nedeau, Kerrie Bushway, Mary Mulloy, Paul, Peter Duveneck, Rene B, Rockwell Fuller, Shawn, Suzanna Liepmann, Thomas Bossert, Tii McLane, Tom Kinder

Meeting called to order 10:01 am

Guidelines for Selectboard conduct read

At this meeting we are honoring two long-time Town workers who are retiring this year: Danny Prescott and Brian Johnson.

John moves to have David Grant act as the moderator for this meeting. Brian approved, all in favor. Reminder that this is an informational meeting and therefore no amendments can be made at this time.

John Freitag discussed the Town Finances and the effect on the budget on taxes.

Curt Albee gave a Town Office update.

Open for questions – Lauri Berkenkamp, Matt Christie, Toni Pippy, Kevin Lynch, Susan Hodges, Greg Bagnato, Ellen Bagnato, Steve Marx, and Meredith Kendall asked questions to the Board and/or Rebecca Holcombe.

Kelly Harman, John Freitag, and Toni Pippy all spoke as to why they are running for Selectboard.

Jim Masland and Rebecca Holcombe discussed the issues regarding educational taxes and the School Board budget.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Levinger

OFFICIAL RESULTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ELECTION
MARCH 5, 2024

Moderator, 1 year: David Grant 455; write-in 5

Town Clerk, 3 years: Lisa Bragg 446; write-in 4

Selectboard Member, 3 years: John Freitag 184; Toni Pippy 288; write-in 3

Treasurer, 3 years: Lisa Bragg 448; write-in 4

Lister, 3 years: Tom Jacobs 439; write-in 5

Auditor, 3 years: Nellie Pennington 445; write-in 1

Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years (2): David Harris 452, write-in 105

Trustee of Public Funds, 3 years: Therese Linehan 451; write-in 3

Selectboard Member, 2 years to complete a 3 year term: Hannah Levinger 419; write-in 8

Selectboard Member, 2 years: Andrew Duncklee 188; Kelly Harman 158; Andy Silovich 72; write-in 4

Collector of Delinquent Taxes, 1 Year: Jeanne Castro 445; write-in 3

Agent to Deed Real Estate, 1 Year: Lisa Bragg 432, write-in 3

Article 3: Shall the Town appropriate \$1,848,192 to defray 2024 budget expenses? Yes 302; No 165

Article 4: Shall the town authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for Town purposes? Yes 378; No 93

Article 5: Shall the town collect taxes in two installments, as follows: one half of the total tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 PM on Wednesday, September 4, 2024; the balance of the tax bill is due at the Town Office by or before 4:30 PM on Wednesday, December 4, 2024? Mailed payments must bear an official US Postal Service postmark dated prior to the respective due dates. Postage machine dates are not acceptable. Late taxpayers are charged at a rate of 1% per month for the first 3 months, and at a rate of 1.5% per month for each month thereafter. After a 7-day grace period ending December 11, 2024, an additional 8% collection fee will be charged on delinquent taxes. Yes 450; No 26



The 2024 summer painting project was part of on-going preservation work on the Town's most renowned building. Town House painting went all the way up to the top of the spire by Robert Morgan Steeplejacks.

Photo: Rockwell Fuller

WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 3, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to vote by Australian ballot either via mail as provided by the Town Clerk or at the Strafford Town Office on June 3, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 o'clock AM (when the polls will open) and 7:00 o'clock PM (when the polls will close) and thereby act on the following question:

Article 1: Shall general obligation notes or bonds of the Town of Strafford be issued in a principal amount not to exceed One Million and 00/100 dollars (\$1,000,000.00), and for a term not to exceed fifteen years, to finance the renovation and expansion of the historic Town Office.

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are further notified and warned that an informational meeting will be held on June 1, 2024, at 1 pm at the Town House.

Dated this 25th day April 2024

By the Selectboard members of the Town of Strafford:

Toni Pippy	Jeff Solsaa	Andrew Dunclee
Hannah Levinger	Kelly Harman	

WARNING FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
JUNE 1, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford in Orange County in the State of Vermont are hereby warned to meet in the Strafford Town House on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 1 pm for an Informational Meeting to review and discuss the Article that has previously been duly Warned and signed and posted by the Selectboard on May 2, 2024.

The Article shall be voted on by Australian Ballot on Monday June 3, 2024.

The Australian balloting will take place from 7 am to 7 pm at the Town Office.

Toni Pippy
May 8, 2024
Selectboard Chair

**PROCEEDINGS FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

JUNE 1, 2024

Selectboard Informational Hearing Minutes, 1 pm, June 1, 2024; Town House, Strafford, VT 05072

Selectboard participants: Toni Pippy, Kelly Harman, Absent Selectboard members: Andrew Duncklee, Hannah Levinger and Jeff Solsaa,

Moderator: David Grant

Attendees: Lisa Bragg, Rocky Fuller, Curt Albee, Paul Kifner, Shelby Coburn, Nellie Pennington, Kate Bass, Doug Viehmann/Architect, Roberta Robinson, Rebecca Seibel, Cindy Binzen, Mary Linehan, Susan Cloke, Gail Boyajian, Gerry Bergstein, Lisa Carlson-Freitag, David McWilliams, Nancy Grant, Phoebe Mix

The hearing was called to order at 1:05 pm pertaining to Article 1, Shall general obligation notes or bonds of the Town of Strafford be issued in a principal amount not to exceed One Million dollars and for a term not to exceed fifteen years, to finance the renovation and expansion of the historic Town Office. There was discussion and questions about the flood hazard zone and any implications to acquiring grants and insurance. Where would the office be housed during construction? Were the space requirements considered for 'future needs? What about parking, will there be more of it? The answers to these questions are uncertain for the time being. The hearing adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Toni Pippy

OFFICIAL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING BALLOT

JUNE 3, 2024

Article 1: Shall general obligation notes or bonds of the Town of Strafford be issued in a principal amount not to exceed One Million and 00/100 dollars (\$1,000,000.00), and for a term not to exceed fifteen years, to finance the renovation and expansion of the historic Town Office.

Yes: 189; No 205.

SELECTBOARD REPORT

2024 was another busy year for the Selectboard and Town staff. Toni Pippy returned to serve as Chair of the Selectboard, who worked hard to bring the budget under control after a significant increase in 2023. Taxpayers faced unacceptably high increases across the State, and Strafford was no exception. We are proud to present a budget for the combined General and Highway Funds that represents less than a 0.5% increase in spending.

The 2024 General Fund had an end of year deficit of \$77,532 which is applied to the 2025 expense budget. The 2024 Highway Fund had a surplus of \$129,497 at the end of the year which is applied to the 2025 budget as a Balance Forward.

The 2025 taxes to be collected for General, Highway and Fire Truck fund will increase by \$7,081 or .0038%.

A number of new policies and regulations were rolled out last year. After accepting the new Unified Bylaws in 2023, the Town faced a steep learning curve to adopt the new rules for zoning and permitting. Bonnie Bergeron was appointed as Zoning Officer and did an excellent job coming up to speed on the new and complex requirements and has supported the Town Office, Development Review Board, and residents to come into compliance. We are very grateful for all her efforts.

We put in place a new Winter Parking Ban to ensure that the roads can be plowed safely without injury to property or equipment. We appreciate the willingness of town residents to comply with the regulation, so our hardworking Road Crew can do their jobs efficiently, and make sure we can all use the roads safely.

Working with Bryan Kovalick, the Selectboard is developing a Capital Budget, laying out a rational projection of infrastructure (road, bridge, building and recreation) and realistic budgetary expectations. This is intended to guide future grant-seeking and ensure that funds are efficiently used over the coming years as we address the necessary road, bridge and building repairs, as well as desired recreation facilities.

FEMA grants awarded during the multiple floods in 2022-2023 have brought and will bring in over three million dollars as a result of the incredibly hard work of P.D. Hardy, Road Foreman, Lisa Bragg, Town Clerk/Treasurer, Stephanie Slayton, Grants Manager, and the Selectboard. Strafford's roads are better prepared to withstand heavy rains, flooding, and mud season because of these mitigation efforts. The increased demands of complying with procurement regulations and reporting for federal and state grants has drawn attention to the need to put in place more administrative and management resources going forward.

The Town was awarded a \$325,000 grant for renovations to the Town Office. Plans for necessary repairs, compliance with fire code, and ADA

regulations for the facility are underway, utilizing this grant and funds that have been set aside for maintenance and repair of the Town Office.

In the last few weeks, the State has put in place new ethics requirements which we will be incorporating in the coming months. Additionally, we have been provided new guidance for how to conduct Selectboard meetings, which we hope will improve efficiency and professionalism of the board.

At the 2023 Town Meeting, Strafford voters decided to use the Australian Ballot voting system for future Town Meetings, along with most Vermont towns. During recent elections, both annual town meeting and state and federal elections, we have seen much higher rates of voter participation.

As always, the Selectboard thanks the town for the opportunity to serve. This is not a job that we can do alone and we want to thank the many other elected and appointed townspeople who serve as board and committee members and the many volunteers who work tirelessly for the Town. We also thank the Road Crew for their exceptional dedication to maintaining and enhancing Strafford's roads; and to Lisa and Regina for their dedication, professionalism, and expertise in keeping Strafford running smoothly, especially during this very busy year.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Pippy

Jeff Solsaa

Andrew Duncklee

Kelly Harman

Mary Linehan

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

Elections dominated 2024 starting in March with the Presidential Primary and Town Meeting Australian voting in which the school vote was cancelled until a later date. In April we completed voting for the school district. In June we voted on the proposed town office renovation bond, August with the August Primary and then in November for the General Election. That was six, yes six elections completed in 2024. The General Election held at the Town House showed a lot of new voting materials from voting booths, lighting, signs inside and outside with a lot more smaller items, thanks to Regina applying for and receiving a \$5,000 election grant.

At the beginning of 2024 we switched IT services to All Access Infotech and have been incredibly happy with their support services. This year we received a proposal to upgrade our network system and to replace old and outdated computers, some as old as 2015. The network system upgrade for the Town Office, Town Garage, and the Listers will take place along with replacing eight computers this year.

Courtney Hardy, our Dog Officer, completed a much-needed update to our Dog Ordinance that is in effect now. A lot of the changes are in Section 12, Penalties and Costs, so please review because if the Dog Ordinance is not followed you could be fined. Licenses are due each year by April 1 and dog renewals have been mailed. You can renew by mail, drop box, or stop in the office.

Our July 2023 flood repairs have not been completed yet. Last year I worked and met with FEMA representatives almost weekly and out of nine projects, three are to be completed this year: Freeman Road Bridge replacement, Van Dyke Road culvert replacement, and Ward Road Bridge embankment repairs as well. Reimbursement funds have been coming in for the other six projects that are completed. Because these weather events will keep happening, Paul Hardy and I would like to develop a trained team to help with these disasters. This would include identifying damages, documentation, photos, etc. Anyone interested in volunteering when we have a weather event could contact me or Paul.

Because of the July 2023 storm and receiving over \$750,000 in federal funds, we also had to have a full audit of 2023. This was a challenge to even find someone that would bid on the job. It took a few tries, a call to the state, and calls to some audit companies before I hooked Sullivan and Powers and I am glad I did. They were great to work with. It was a lot, but I got to the end with a few adjustments that will be reported in this year's town report. There is also additional work to be completed this year such as updating some policies and procedures.

Training is also an important part of our job, and some trainings are mandatory now, such as an all-day Election Summit held in Montpelier last September that Regina and I attended. This was also the day before

our annual 2-day VMCTA conference also in Montpelier. In October we attended a VLCT Town Fair providing more training and finally I attended the year end Payroll and 1099 training provided by NEMRC.

I'm not a web designer, but I do my best to post town information on the town web site at www.traffordvt.org so take a browse and check it out. There is a lot of information you can access and if you are looking for your deeds, maps, a lister card, policies, minutes of meetings, etc., it is most likely there. If you are not finding what you need, please let me know. Another excellent feature is the ability to pay for property taxes, dog licenses, marriage licenses, etc. and make donations all with our on-line payment feature. Just look for the green oval at the top of the page. Selectboard meetings are posted on the home page with the agenda, zoom link, minutes of meeting and the recording that is now required by state statute.

Hard to know what else will happen this year but rest assured we have a great Selectboard that will continue to do great things for the town, my assistant Regina that will keep things moving, an excellent Road Crew that has and will continue to work hard, and all the new volunteers on committees, great to have you on board and thank you to all that continue.

Sincerely,
Lisa M. Bragg
Town Clerk/Treasurer

LISTERS' REPORT

The Board of Listers maintains Strafford's Grand List, a database with descriptions of real property parcels and their assessed values, which are the basis used in determining the amount of owners' property taxes. Each year the Listers track changes in ownership and mailing addresses, property assessments and reassessments (primarily due to new construction), sales and transfers and Homestead Declaration status. We also assist the State's Division of Property Valuation and Review in annually updating and certifying the records for property enrolled in Vermont's Land Use program (aka Current Use). These responsibilities are performed by one contracted assessor working three hours one day a week and three elected Listers who devote about five hundred hours throughout the year. Although Ross Gortner will leave the board this year, Tim Denny and Tom Jacobs will continue serving and we expect to elect a new Lister to a three-year term with the impending election.

This year's Grand List had 674 taxable properties assessed for almost \$215 million (slightly more than 2023). The town and three churches own 27 properties that are non-taxable by statute, and the properties owned by the Fireman's Association and Barrett Hall are tax-exempt by town vote. There were 166 parcels enrolled in Current Use. Despite the enrolled forests and fields accounting for about 62% of the total town area, the property value

exempted from taxation represents only 8% of the total town assessment. Vermont towns receive an annual ‘hold harmless’ payment from the state that is intended to compensate them for the missing tax revenue.

Each year the Department of Taxes statistically examines the value of each property sold during the last three years relative to its assessed value and produces both the ‘Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)’ and ‘Coefficient of Dispersion (COD)’ values. Strafford’s CLA has decreased steadily since 2018, but in the last three years our CLA dropped an unprecedented 24% and reached a record low of 71.34% as of December, 2024. This value, which is about average for the State, means that the sale values are now about 30% higher than their assessment. This discrepancy is important because it increases Strafford’s education tax rate. Simultaneously, our COD exceeded the 20% trigger point, and last summer we were ordered to begin the process for a town-wide reappraisal. Like most towns, Strafford will use an outside contractor to conduct the reappraisal and in January the Selectboard signed an agreement with the New England Municipal Resource Center. However, because of a backlog of towns needing reappraisal, our project will not begin until July, 2027 and then finish in June, 2029! We expect that the town will have the approximately \$80,000 in ear-marked reserved funds (received from the state) to pay NEMRC for their work. More information about the process and implications of the reappraisal will be distributed beginning early in 2027.

Property owners whose primary residence is in Strafford are reminded to file a Homestead Declaration (form HS-122) each year on or before the due date for State tax returns. Most residents will also want to file the accompanying Form HI-144 to qualify for a Property Tax Credit, which can substantially reduce the amount of tax owed. Timely submission of these forms avoids taxpayers having to pay a penalty and helps the Listers and Town Clerk reduce the time and expense of sending revised tax bills.

All property owners should remember to notify the Listers if their mailing address changes, because all official Lister correspondence and tax bills are delivered by the US Postal Service. For security reasons, we require a signed change of address form be submitted to the Town Clerk (a phone or email request is not sufficient). A change of address form is available at the Town Office or can be downloaded from the Listers’ web page.

We encourage town residents who have questions about assessments or other property-related issues to contact the Listers. Check our website (<https://www.straffordvt.org/auditors--listers>) for office hours, when you can likely get immediate assistance. Outside of office hours, the best way to contact us is by email (Listers@straffordvt.org) or you can leave a message on the office phone (765-4360).

Tim Denny (Chair)

Ross Gortner

Tom Jacobs

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2024. Based upon our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Town of Strafford. We have found audited accounts to be consistent and well-managed.

We are working with the Town Clerk to follow up on recommendations made by the outside auditors.

We would like to thank Lisa Bragg, Regina Josler, the Selectboard, and other town and school officials for their continued cooperation in the auditing process and in the preparation of the Town Report.

Nellie Pennington
June Solsaa
Suzanna Liepmann

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

This year we continued to keep the Evergreen cemetery mowed and clear of debris with Spring and Fall cleanups. Also the yearly cutting of some of the other cemeteries as well. We had Green Valley Memorials come in to plumb and repair many of the remaining stones in the Robinson Cemetery. We continue to visit and monitor all of the cemeteries.

Strafford Cemetery Commissioners
Andy Behrens
Kate Siepmann
David Harris
Laurie Berkenkamp
Sherm Wilson

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

Thank you to all who obtained burn permits and your dedication to Fire Prevention over the past year.

In 2024 we had 113 days with fire danger moderate or greater, including 25 at HIGH and 13 at VERY HIGH. For at least some portion of Vermont, there were 96 fires reported in 35 towns that burned 179 acres, which is above the 10 year average.

Vermont had a very active Fall fire season in 2024 with 38 fires in October and November alone!

Data from last 25 years on fires in October and November puts 2024 acreage burned roughly 18 times higher than previous 25 year average.

Causes: Arson: 8 fires, 2.8 acres; Camp Fire: 7 fires, 8 acres; Debris Burning (brush): 31 fires, 36.44 acres; Equipment use: 4 fires, 2.5 acres; Fireworks: 1 fire, 2 acres; Improper disposal of ashes: 16 fires, 85.71 acres; Power lines: 8 fires, 12.51 acres; Lightning: 2 fires, 0.2 acres; RailroadsL 1 fire, 0.1 acres; Undetermined: 19 fires, 29.63 acres.

State Law requires a permit for open burning with 200' of grass, woodlands, or buildings or if there is less than 1 inch of snow on the ground. Although there is no permit required with snow cover, it is always a good idea to call if you are going to have a large fire.

If some happens to see it and reports it, the Fire Department would not be called out. Burn permits are free of charge. Call your local Fire Warden at 802-765-9920.

Please remember you cannot obtain a permit by leaving a message, you must speak to the Warden, ONLY the Warden can issue fire permits.

Calvin Benjamin
Forest Fire Warden
802-765-9920

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

2024 saw big changes for the Zoning Administrator due to the new Unified Bylaws being adopted on November 16, 2023. Brian Johnson served as the zoning administrator for many years under the old zoning and decided to step down in early 2024. Thank you, Brian, for your years of service to the town. I am the new Zoning Administrator, appointed by the Selectboard in March 2024. I also serve as the clerk of the DRB.

Along with creating new forms to match up with the new zoning regulations, my position has also entailed creating policies and pursuing more in-depth research for each new application that comes to me for approval. The new zoning regulations are similar to the old zoning with the biggest change requiring me to research if a potential structure is in wetlands or a flood zone.

I look forward to helping anyone in town looking to start a project, to answer questions, and to help applicants through any zoning process. Our new forms, zoning regulations and fees are available online at www.straffordvt.org/zoning. I am available to talk or email Monday through Thursday 9 am to 6 pm or by appointment. My email is BBergeron@straffordvt.gov or call 802-272-2799.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bergeron, Zoning Administrator

STRAFFORD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Strafford Development Review Board (DRB) is the quasi-judicial body in town that holds hearings for potential approval of land use applications including subdivisions, conditional use permits, variances from zoning ordinances and lot line adjustments. The DRB works with the Zoning Administrator (ZA) to help clarify issues so that the proposed action supports the interests of the property owner as well as the interests of the Town of Strafford. The DRB also acts as a forum for the appeal of decisions of the ZA. The DRB interprets the Town Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances but does not write the ordinances. That is done by the Town Planning Commission with Selectboard approval. In cases where the interpretation or intent is ambiguous, the Selectboard may seek legal counsel.

The volunteer members of the DRB are appointed by the Selectboard. Currently, the DRB members are Terry Garrison, Chair, Dan Ruml, Martha Walke and Sean Lewis. Bonnie Bergeron is the DRB Clerk. The DRB currently has a vacant spot on the board and alternates are needed. Anyone interested in filling a slot is welcome to attend one of our meetings to meet the board and see what you can do for your community. If you can't make a meeting or would like more information, please contact Bonnie Bergeron at 802-272-2799.

The DRB meets on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at the Town Office Building in Strafford, when there is business before the Board. All meetings are open to the public in person or via zoom. The minutes are available to the public in the Town Records.

In 2024, the DRB met six times and held hearings for (1) subdivision application, (1) Conditional Use application and (1) lot line adjustment application. Lot line adjustments are not required to be a warned hearing. With the new Strafford Unified Bylaws approved in November 2023, the duties of the DRB have changed. We encourage everyone to read the new Unified Bylaws dated November 16, 2023. They are available to review on the town website or at the Town Clerk's office. New application forms are available online.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Bergeron
Clerk of the Strafford Development Review Board

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

In 2024 the Strafford Planning Commission worked with Bryan Kovalick of the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) on an Infrastructure Grant to begin the process of formulating a Capital Budget for the town. The advisory role of the Planning Commission is to review the Town Plan for our contributions to the Capital Budget; do a preliminary review of the final budget; and, if deemed necessary, make suggestions before the Selectboard's final approval. Because this is an ongoing process involving all town organizations and Boards, completion of the Capital Budget is not expected until the end of 2025.

Current members of the Commission are Donald Graham, Chair; Stuart Crocker, Vice-Chair; Martha Walke, Secretary; Greg Colling; Dan Gottlieb; Chrissy Jamieson; Phoebe Mix; Michael Scanlan and Andrew Silovich.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Walke, Secretary



The Brick Store was built in 1833-1834 and was the showcase of the mercantile operations owned by the partnership of Jedediah Harris and Justin Morrill. It has undergone historically sensitive renovations, first under the ownership of Kendall Mix and then her daughter, Phoebe Mix. This year Phoebe has done extensive work turning the downstairs of the ell of the building into a coffee shop.

Photo: John Freitag

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETINGS: We meet on fourth Tuesdays of the month, 7 PM, at the Town Office. We can be reached through email: conservation@straffordvt.org. We are also found on the Town's website under Boards and Committees and under Natural Resources. We also maintain a Facebook site where we post upcoming events:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087148153943>

MEMBERS: Micki Colbeck—Chair; Kate Bass—Vice Chair; Courtney Potter—Recording Secretary; Mike Hebb—Trails Manager; J.T. Erbaugh—Cobb Town Forest manager; Steve Faccio—Whitcomb Hill manager; Anne Fayan—Pocket Park manager; Erin Yunger; Kitty Mackie.

This year we said thank you to Chuck Sherman who had been on the SCC for many years and to Greg McHugo, and we welcomed Erin Yunger and Kitty Mackie to the board.

J.T. Erbaugh stepped down as Chair and Micki Colbeck was elected. Courtney Potter became the Recording Secretary.

HIKES AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS:

- On February 27th, We presented a program called, Healthy Rivers, to a full house at Barrett Hall, with river scientists, Rudi Rudell and Eric Donaldson. Rivers in equilibrium – rivers that are less likely to cause damage downstream, have beavers, forested shorelines, fallen trees in the water, and complex meanders. The old way of river maintenance with straightened cleaned channels and rip rapped banks promotes fast flowing rivers that cause serious damage downstream. Clean, straight rivers do not provide good habitat for fish, otter, mink, turtles, or other river species.
- Educational hikes and programs: We all volunteered to lead guided hikes and outdoor activities to help our neighbors experience nature and our wonderful 30 miles of hiking trails in a safe, low impact, and educational setting. We led two orchid hikes at the Cobb Town Forest, a river hike to see beaver habitat and riparian plants along the Ompompanoosuc, a spring ephemeral hike up Taylor Valley, a vernal pool hike, a celebration of our Pocket Park, a long hike across the town trails, and a gathering for families at Old City Falls – crafting with natural materials.
- Kiosk: We received some funding and locust timbers for an informational kiosk from the Alliance for Vermont Communities. We are discussing the location and design.
- April: officers were voted to remain for another year. Venue for our meetings was changed to Colbeck house after the closing of the Education Center. We moved to the town office in June.

- The Manning Farm Trail: Trail was built by the Upper Valley Land Trust and the Alliance for Vermont Communities. It was suggested we take it on as part of the Strafford Town Trail system. Currently, we have decided to include it in our maps and help, when possible, but not take on its maintenance or oversight as we are already short of volunteers. A few of us helped with trail building and putting up the trail signs.
- Strafford Trail System parameters: We drew up the guidelines used in building and maintaining our trail system. They are found at the end of June 24, 2024, minutes.
- Stipend for Trails Manager: We wrote a job description for this position. It would need to be self-funded at this time. The job description can be found at the bottom of the SCC minutes for September 24, 2024.
- The chair attended three workshops: Vermont Housing and Conservation's Sowing Seeds – Conservation Connections for a Resilient Future; Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Municipal Day; and Beaver Camp in Brattleboro by Patti Smith and Skip Lisle.
- We invited a Department of Environmental Conservation river scientist, Todd Menes to talk with neighbors about a beaver dam behind the village. He reassured us that the dam was not causing any concern and would wash out with the next big storm, which it has. He did find an undersized culvert upstream that was of concern.
- Ten-year capital budget: we agreed to maintain the current funding.
- A few of us hiked with the Sharon Conservation Commission on the Swett property – My Walden. We are discussing ways of partnering with our neighbors, particularly at the Ashley Town Forest which is in both towns.
- Trails report: The Strafford 30-mile trail system continues to be a source of enjoyment for many hikers. There are no new trails and no trails have had to be closed. Traffic damage has been minimal. More hikers have picked up litter than dropped it. Each of the 11 volunteers who have adopted parts of the trail have kept their sections clear and easy to follow. Thank you to them and to the many landowners who invite the public to cross their property. The Whitcomb Hill trails are still our most popular hikes due to the wonderful views of the surrounding mountains, including, on a clear day, Mt. Washington. The Cobb Town Forest is a popular attraction due to its rich wetlands and many orchids. Hiking opportunities are available on several other public trails in Strafford managed by different groups. The Ashley Community Forest and the Manning Farm Trail are two areas we encourage you to visit.

ASHLEY COMMUNITY FOREST

In January 2022, the towns of Strafford and Sharon accepted the generous gift of the 256.4-acre Ashley Community Forest from the Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC). In addition to the forest itself, AVC provided \$37,169 to seed a long-term management fund for the forest. The Ashley Community Forest Board consists of two residents from each town who were appointed by each town Selectboard: Kevin Gish and Erik Skarsten from Sharon and Annie Penfield and David Paganelli from Strafford. The fifth member of the Board, Michael Sacca of Tunbridge, was chosen by the appointed members. Rob Stainton, one of our original Sharon members, left the board this year and we are grateful for his two years of dedicated service.

Work at the forest is guided by a comprehensive, 10-year Stewardship Plan that was developed with extensive public input and is posted on both the Sharon and Strafford town websites. Unfortunately, Emerald Ash Borer, an introduced insect that kills ash trees was confirmed to be in both Strafford and Sharon this year. A timber sale is currently in progress to salvage ash from part of Stand 2 and to harvest some of the black locust trees in Stand 3. County Forester David Paganelli marked the trees to be cut and Bob Wilson of Strafford is doing the logging. We hosted a pre-harvest walk with the County Forester and a tour of the active timber harvest with Bob Wilson. Work in the woods will likely be complete in January, with cleanup and closeout to take place in the Spring after snowmelt. At that time, we plan to offer a post-harvest tour.

In 2024, we sponsored several events at the Forest. The weather didn't always cooperate, but the walks were well-attended and uniformly well-received. We held five invasive plant work days, each consisting of a five-hour Saturday session to pull or dig invasive plants. Most of this work was in the Sharon portion of the forest and thousands of invasive barberries, honeysuckle and buckthorn were removed. Strafford and Sharon are wonderful communities, and it was a great social experience to come together, meet like-minded neighbors and work for the betterment of our forest. We've used lots of muscle and determination and so far, not a drop of herbicide. Thank you to our many hearty volunteers and we look forward to seeing you again in 2025!

During August, a generous local couple funded mowing of the entire Strafford meadow and a trail through the Sharon meadow. All else in the Sharon meadow was left un-mowed this year to benefit pollinators. In 2025, we will reverse the pattern.

Michael Sacca arranged for funding from the Davis Conservation Foundation to construct a kiosk. The kiosk posts are 6x6 black locust posts cut from the forest by volunteers. The kiosk was built by TimberHomes of Montpelier and installed by volunteers in Summer 2024 near the parking

area at the end of Nutting Road. This will provide a space for maps, photos, event schedules and other information. Again, thank you to our volunteers, Michael and the Davis Conservation Foundation.

The parking area was improved this year by extending it to one side a small bit to increase the ability of vehicles to park and maneuver and also to gentle one of the ditches. Drainage along the road just beyond the parking area was improved and two loads of crushed stone were added for better traction. While equipment was on-site, water bars were installed to prevent erosion on one of the recreation trails. Calvin Benjamin of South Strafford did the excavator work.

Thank you to the Friends of the Ashley Community Forest, and all the citizens of Strafford and Sharon, for your ongoing support of this wonderful community resource through financial donations and the gift of volunteer time. This is especially important since the Ashley Community Forest is completely self-funded, with no direct financial support from either town.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

During 2024, Strafford Emergency Management continued to monitor notifications from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) and the National Weather Service in Burlington. Important and timely information was then communicated via public forums to the residents of Strafford. These situational awareness efforts have become a primary effort of the EMD.

In 2024, the EMD opened a cooling station in Barrett Hall during a summer heat wave. Although Barrett Hall was not opened as a warming station or shelter in 2024, it has this capacity. A new heat pump has made Barrett Hall a valuable emergency management resource. The EMD is grateful to the Barrett Hall board of trustees for the continued cooperation and support.

It's also important to acknowledge the efforts of Strafford Fire and Rescue, our town clerk's office, our selectboard, our constable, our road crew, and each other in keeping the town of Strafford as safe as possible. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and care.

Strafford Emergency Management Director
Jason Schumacher

STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

The Strafford Recreation Board continues to use our mission to guide us in our work: The Strafford Recreation Board believes that recreation is critical to a healthy mind and body and that recreation enriches our community and our connection to one another.

With that in mind, the goal of the Strafford Recreation Board is to ensure we have well-maintained town recreation facilities and encourage outdoor recreation for all ages. The Rec Board itself is made up of volunteers who often don't have the expertise or time to run programs, however we encourage others to make things happen!

The Rec Board manages the Red Barn, a large barn in the lower village used to house donated sporting equipment, medical equipment, and miscellaneous items of various town organizations. Slowly but steadily Rec Board members have been working to organize the interior. This year we sorted through & rearranged useful equipment and disposed of worn out, broken items. Member Stephen Drew installed motion sensor lighting in the sports equipment area – a major visibility improvement!

The Rec Board held several “open Red Barn dates” over the course of this year. These dates give Strafford residents a chance to look for sporting equipment needed for the current sports season. People also drop off donated equipment that they've outgrown or no longer need. While the Rec Board can't guarantee the accommodation of every need, the Red Barn has a wide selection of cross-country & downhill skis, ski boots, poles, skates, etc. We ask that donations be in usable and functional condition, and that people don't use the drop-off opportunity to dump broken equipment they'd otherwise have to pay for.

In addition to sporting equipment, the Red Barn houses a small collection of assistive medical devices for Strafford residents in need (wheelchairs, crutches, knee scooters, commodes, etc.) These can be borrowed by community members when the need arises. Once again, there are no guarantees that the equipment sought will exist at the Red Barn, but you may contact Sheila Keating, Strafford Community Nurse, for access & assistance with medical equipment.

The tennis courts continued to see heavy use this summer for tennis and pickleball, and remain in excellent condition since the resurfacing in 2023, due to the signs prohibiting bicycles, scooters, skateboards, and rollerblades. In May, the pickleball lines were repainted for improved visibility, and in October the practice backboard was replaced.

Anne Fayen continued as our lead gardener, maintaining the lovely community gathering space for all to enjoy. She also organized several projects for the park this year. Students from Newton School stopped in to learn about edible plants. A horticulture class from Thetford Academy

visited to gather woody cuttings. Mario Sacca was hired to prune fruit trees within the park, as well as those near the tennis court/Red Barn/gym area. The park is just so attractive to all, and the beavers agree. For that reason, Anne requested the installation of a barrier fence to deter them. Happily, the park was the recipient of a \$1,500 grant awarded by Mascoma Bank to support the cost and installation of a split rail fence. The work was performed by the Corner Rail Fence Company in August. The work of the grant was celebrated in September by an event jointly organized by the Conservation Commission.

Soccer Camp was once again held on Murray Field in June. Children of varying ability levels learned fundamentals in a fun and supportive environment. The program was run by Joshua “JT” Taylor (currently the Head Men’s Soccer Coach at South New Hampshire University), along with Erin (Clark) Taylor (currently a coach at Windham High School in NH). Erin grew up playing on Murray Field. We are lucky to host this duo! Soccer Camp was attended by over 30 children from the Strafford area and beyond.

Art Camp was again held at the Rosa B. Tyson Gym in August for its 13th year. Leslie Berger started this camp for the Newton PTA in 2011 along with Aurora Berger (then a 16-year-old). In 2024 they were joined by counselors Julia Martin, Casey Yunger, Jesse Martin, and Amelia Bailey-Kellogg (all of whom are Art Camp alumni). While the majority of the 32 campers were Strafford residents, children from Thetford, Sharon, Tunbridge, Chelsea, and even beyond were in attendance. The program supports children ages 5-14 of every art ability, offering structured projects along with open studio opportunities.

To improve safety for the many bicyclists using JMMH, especially during the warmer seasons, six bicycle caution signs were installed at key locations between the village. This was partially funded by a donation from the Ranger bicycle race that comes through town every June.

The Rec Board continues to get many requests to provide programming to the town, and we encourage those with great ideas to make them happen, or join the board, whether as a member for an upcoming term appointment, or for meetings. We are always open to help and new ideas.

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Linehan, Co-Chair
Jason Loomis, Co-Chair
Leslie Berger, member
Ed Huang, member
Stephen Drew, member

THE TOWN HOUSE ADVISORY GROUP

The mission of the Town House Advisory Group is to advise the Selectboard on policies and means of raising revenue for the purpose of using, maintaining, and preserving the historic Strafford Meeting House, and to implement such related procedures as approved by the Selectboard.

The Town House is used for a variety of events including Town Meeting, voting, musical concerts, seminars, weddings, Newton School graduation, memorial services and promotional events for the building itself.

This was the fourteenth year of pursuing our mission as the Town House Advisory Group. We currently have a core group of 7 official members, plus the Overseer Paul Kifner. If you would like to be on our email list to follow our activity, please send your address to rockwellfuller@gmail.com. Our activities are also posted on the Strafford web page: www.straffordvt.org/town-house. Anyone interested in participating is welcome.

This past year we saw long-awaited activity in maintenance of the building. The first step was to repair deteriorated trimwork on four of the five doors in the front of the building. Once completed, the painting company, Robert Morgan Steeplejacks, spent the next two months scraping, replacing rotted siding and some trim details, removing and reglazing all of the sash and gilding the clock numerals with gold leaf in the front of the building. This was perhaps the most comprehensive paint job the building has ever had. We were very impressed with the workmanship of Michael Duke and his crew. The next needed project is the replacement of the bell frame on the belfry deck. The old original frame has been compromised from years of exposure to the weather. We contracted with Mike Cotroneo to build the new frame with black locust harvested from the Sharon/Strafford jointly owned Ashley Forest. The frame is on site and ready to be hoisted and assembled on the belfry deck when the weather cooperates. This next season we plan on resuming the painting process as we do sections at a time until we round the building. The backhouse will be the next painting project before we start the main building again in the future.

We are looking forward to an eventful year of activity starting with Town Meeting.

I would like to thank our town Selectboard and all the people in our community for the support they have provided for us to do our job.

If you have questions about planned maintenance of the Town House or if you would like to help support our efforts with a contribution, please contact Rocky Fuller at rockwellfuller@gmail.com or call the Town Clerk's office at 802 765-4411.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Fuller

Town House Advisory Group Chair

STRAFFORD ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

In March 2020 at Town Meeting, the voters of Strafford resolved to work together to reach net-zero in greenhouse-gas emissions for the whole town by 2030. To meet this commitment, the Strafford Energy and Climate Committee (SECC) serves as an advisor for the citizens and the municipality of Strafford, and we provide ongoing assessment of Strafford's progress in adoption of restorative and renewable policies and practices. As a committee and a town, we must continually ask: Are we doing what we need to do to reach that goal of net-zero energy use by 2030 or not—and if not, why not?

In keeping with our Town Meeting resolution and Vermont's statewide goal of 90% renewable energy by 2050, the SECC's activities for this past year have included the following activities and actions:

We worked closely with the Strafford Selectboard and the Intramunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator (IREC) at the Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission. See www.trorc.org/programs/energy/ and also a summary from coordinator Harry Falconer in this Town Report. David Lutz is our committee's representative on the IREC steering committee.

At each of our monthly meetings, we receive a legislative and state-government update prepared by committee member Susan Hodges.

We host information tables and demonstrations of non-polluting yard and garden tools and non-plastic, recycled and recyclable options for consumer goods at the Independence Day festivities and at Coburn's Store, as well as providing energy and climate-related recommendations to town officials and residents via webinars, listserv postings, and consultations.

To gather baseline information as we strive to meet our 2030 goals, we conducted our first data-gathering survey about home energy use and habits in Strafford. This is part of an ongoing assessment of energy and transit use in our town. Our goal is to better understand where we can help residents in exploring and adopting low-carbon and lower-cost alternatives.

The responses we received—from 150 households—provided the following picture of climate-aware choices among our residents:

- Electric vehicle (EV) use in Strafford has increased from twelve in 2018 to forty-nine in 2023.
- Fifty-four households get part of their electricity from grid-tied solar with net metering, and at least eleven homes are off-grid entirely, with renewable energy systems.
- With respect to heating: most respondents said that their homes used a combination of sources, incorporating wood, propane, fuel oil, and/or electric heat pumps (see the chart with more details here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/191C11EoTB27q0-avKT1u9S34pq3cpy3i/view>)

- Eighty-six households have electric-powered or human-powered, non-combustion yard and lawn equipment.
- Thirty-eight households have electric bicycles.

If you're interested in learning more about your options—from conservation and weatherization, solar and storage batteries to heat pumps, electric vehicles and bikes, and rechargeable electric tools—please reach out! The committee is dedicated to bringing informational programs and support to help Strafford residents and our municipal and community-based organizations transition to carbon-free alternatives in order to meet our town's climate resolution.

In the coming year, we'll continue to work closely with the Intramunicipal Energy Coordinator (IREC) to explore potential energy savings for the town garage, identified through analysis as highest priority for energy-efficiency savings among our town buildings. We're also developing plans, in partnership with the Recreation Board, for a public EV-charging station in South Strafford village.

We will continue to review and update the town's Enhanced Energy Plan, which is part of the overall Town Plan, to gauge our progress toward the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The SECC also contributed to the updated Strafford Hazard Mitigation Plan, and this spring or summer we're hoping to host educational forums about how to make our homes more resilient and how to better prepare for floods, fires, and other emergencies, as well as providing information about water usage during times of increasing drought.

The Energy and Climate Committee page on the Strafford town website (www.straffordvt.org/energy-commission/) offers helpful information and links to organizations that provide services and financial assistance for your energy-saving and cash-saving projects. Past webinars on topics including heat pumps, plastic alternatives, electric vehicles, and forest carbon can also be viewed via links on this web page.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month (currently remotely, by web-video), and we welcome your questions, ideas, and eagerness to volunteer. You can reach us at energy@straffordvt.org

Respectfully submitted,

Dorian Yates, Chair
Jim Schley, Secretary
Matt Christie
Susan Hodges
David Lutz
Kazmira Nedeau

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2023, 2024, and Proposed 2025

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed	
GENERAL FUND Revenue						
Taxes/Fund Balance						
Balances Forward	\$ 20,912	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	<i>a</i>
Current Taxes	408,338 *	575,957	511,089	(64,868)	684,960	<i>b</i>
Taxes/Fund Balance Total	\$ 429,250	\$ 575,957	\$ 511,089	\$ (64,868)	\$ 684,960	
Governmental						
ARPA Revenue	\$ 25,701 *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Education Billing Fee	5,917 *	-	-	-	-	
PILOT/Fish and Game Tax	22,868	23,000	23,509	509	23,510	
State of Vermont Hold Harmless	122,816	125,000	125,935	935	125,935	
Governmental Total	\$ 177,302	\$ 148,000	\$ 149,444	\$ 1,444	\$ 149,445	
Interest						
1% Interest on First Payment	\$ 2,494	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,354	\$ (646)	\$ 2,000	
Delinquent Tax Interest	2,535	6,000	3,819	(2,181)	6,000	
Interest	391	400	440	40	400	
Interest Total	\$ 5,420	\$ 8,400	\$ 5,613	\$ (2,787)	\$ 8,400	
Penalty						
Delinquent Tax Penalty	\$ 5,271	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,899	\$ (101)	\$ 9,000	<i>c</i>
Penalty Total	\$ 5,271	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,899	\$ (101)	\$ 9,000	

* - Figure adjusted per outside auditor

a - Balance Forward uses a surplus from a prior year to offset taxes and/or represents spending from reserves

b - Current taxes affected by change in deferred revenue year to year, overpayment to school in 2024

c - Delinquent Tax Penalty represents the 8% delinquent penalty, and is paid to the Delinquent Tax Collector

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
Fees Total					
Dog License Fees	\$ 1,706	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,796	\$ 296	\$ 1,500
Dog Violation Fees	859	200	640	440	1,000
Liquor License Fees	70	70	70	-	70
Other Fees for Services	1,774	2,225	1,629	(596)	2,270
Recording Fees	11,371	11,000	9,692	(1,308)	10,000
Recording Surcharge	4,264	3,500	3,782	282	3,500
Subdivision Permit Fees	1,800	1,200	450	(750)	1,200
Zoning Permit Fees	3,300	1,500	3,095	1,595	3,000
Fees Total	\$ 25,144	\$ 21,195	\$ 21,154	\$ (41)	\$ 22,540
Grants					
Miscellaneous Grants	8,930 *	15,228	9,852	(5,376)	325,000
Parcel Mapping	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ 7	\$ 7	\$ -
Equal Education Grand List	700	-	703	703	-
State of Vermont Reappraisal Fund	5,950	6,000	5,976	(25)	6,000
Grants Total	\$ 15,581 *	\$ 21,228	\$ 16,537	\$ (4,691)	\$ 331,000
Donations					
Donations	\$ 5,695	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	1,000
Donations - Pocket Park	1,205	-	100	100	-
Donations - Town House	776	500	4,562	4,062	500
Donations - Dogs	1,161	-	123	123	-
Town House Usage	2,950	2,500	800	(1,700)	2,500
Donations Total	\$ 11,787	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,585	\$ 2,585	\$ 4,000
Miscellaneous					
Evergreen Cemetery	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	1,276	2,000	39,991	37,991	2,000
Recycling Revenue	1,937	2,000	1,882	(118)	2,000
Town Property Sale	79,170	30,000	-	(30,000)	-
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 82,684	\$ 34,000	\$ 41,873	\$ 7,873	\$ 4,000

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve) ^d					
Carrie Sanborn Fund	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
Conservation Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Conservation Trails	-	-	-	-	-
Energy Committee	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation Revenue	50	-	800	800	-
Independent Committees Total	30,050	-	25,800	25,800	-
GENERAL FUND Total Revenue	\$ 782,487 *	\$ 821,780	\$ 786,995	\$ (34,785)	\$ 1,213,345
GENERAL FUND Expenses					
Deficit Reduction					
Deficit Reduction	\$ -	\$ 46,745	\$ 46,745	\$ -	77,453 ^e
Deficit Reduction Total	\$ -	\$ 46,745	\$ 46,745	\$ -	\$ 77,453
Administration					
Select Board Salary	\$ 3,750	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -	\$ 7,500
Select Board Expenses	70	500	226	274	500
Select Board Assistant	-	-	-	-	10,400
Grant Manager	13,137	28,000	26,212	1,788	16,900
Clerk & Treasurer Office	100,244	113,856	109,400	4,456	116,553
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	28,891	30,863	30,930	(67)	35,712
Municipal Retirement	5,257	5,932	5,818	114	6,357
Employer Child Care Contribution	-	-	-	-	811
Social Security Tax	10,261	12,206	11,973	233	14,095
Unemployment Insurance	720	670	656	14	833
Workers' Compensation	1,519	2,041	2,040	1	1,258
Property & Liability Insurance	11,680	15,445	15,445	(0)	18,984
Financial Services	7,738 *	3,300	15,978	(12,678)	3,300
Administration Total	\$ 183,268 *	\$ 220,313	\$ 226,178	\$ (5,865)	\$ 233,203

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

d - These committees function independently and revenues are moved to their respective reserve funds

e - To offset the general fund deficit

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
General Services					
Town Office	\$ 33,419	\$ 43,000	\$ 38,041	\$ 4,959	\$ 66,100
Records Restoration	12,683	-	-	-	- ^f
VLCT Dues	2,539	2,618	2,618	-	2,676
Town Meeting & Elections	28	2,500	2,154	346	2,500
Town Report	2,707	3,300	2,820	480	3,300
Auditing	1,200	2,400	2,400	-	2,400
Outside Audit/Professional Services	3,400	18,000	39,867	(21,867)	5,000
Delinquent Tax Collector Salary	5,538	9,000	7,886	1,114	9,000
Listers	4,673	5,436	5,367	69	8,050
Lister Contract Services	15,241	9,240	9,840	(600)	9,240
Police Services	19,601	30,000	27,893	2,107	40,000
Dog Officer	2,174	2,000	2,359	(359)	3,740
Fire Protection/FAST Squad	67,105	74,025	74,025	-	73,250
Emergency Management	8,620	2,250	2,250	-	5,925
Ambulance Service	55,794	59,076	59,076	-	61,264
Solid Waste	9,933	9,846	10,069	(223)	9,846
Recycling	25,366	24,500	19,623	4,877	24,500
General Services Total	\$ 270,021	\$ 297,191	\$ 306,287	\$ (9,096)	\$ 326,791

f - Records restoration is paid from reserve funds from the recording surcharge

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
Community Services					
Adult Basic Education	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800
Capstone Community Action	300	300	300	-	300
Clara Martin Center/OCMH	2,700	2,700	2,700	-	2,700
Council on Aging	750	750	750	-	750
Health HUB School Clinic	500	500	500	-	1,000
Library	34,000	34,000	34,000	-	34,000
Orange County Restorative Justice	350	350	350	-	350
Orange County Special Investigations	1,500	1,500	1,500	-	1,500
Public Health Council	110	110	110	-	110
Red Cross	575	575	575	-	575
Safeline	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Senior Citizens Center	4,000	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Stratford Historical Society	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Community Nurse	4,000	4,000	4,000	-	4,000
Streetlights	1,220	1,600	1,268	332	1,600
Vermont Center for Independent Living	200	200	200	-	200
Visiting Nurse Alliance	3,250	3,250	3,250	-	3,250
Community Services Total	\$ 58,255	\$ 64,635	\$ 64,303	\$ 332	\$ 65,135
Planning					
Development Review Board	\$ 2,470	\$ 5,400	\$ 7,087	\$ (1,687)	\$ 5,400
Regional Planning	1,783	1,838	1,838	-	1,893
Regional Energy Coordinator	7,000	7,000	7,000	-	7,210
Zoning	1,000	5,000	10	4,990	5,000
Planning Total	\$ 12,253	\$ 19,238	\$ 15,935	\$ 3,303	\$ 19,503

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
General Government					
County Tax	\$ 46,913	\$ 42,028	\$ 42,028	\$ 0	\$ 40,000
Legal Fees & Consultants	5,868	5,000	19,405	(14,405)	15,000
General Government Total	\$ 52,781	\$ 47,028	\$ 61,433	\$ (14,405)	\$ 55,000
Municipal Property					
Municipal Building	\$ 27,522	\$ 61,400	\$ 10,733	\$ 50,667	\$ 386,400
Town House	5,400	17,800	67,607	(49,807)	17,800
Town House Restrooms	35	500	-	500	500
Cemeteries	15,047	16,760	14,800	1,960	16,960
Recreation Areas	17,507	6,200	5,337	863	7,550
Pocket Park	6,674	4,800	5,486	(686)	4,800
Municipal Property Total	\$ 72,184	\$ 107,460	\$ 103,963	\$ 3,497	\$ 434,010
Grant Expenditures					
Miscellaneous Grants	\$ -	\$ 16,920	\$ 12,667	\$ 4,253	\$ -
Grant Expenditures Total	\$ -	\$ 16,920	\$ 12,667	\$ 4,253	\$ -
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 3,788	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,978	\$ (2,978)	\$ 2,000
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 3,788	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,978	\$ (2,978)	\$ 2,000
Independent Committees (Revenue & Expenses from Reserve)					
Carrie Sanborn	\$ 31,509	\$ -	\$ 28,083	\$ (28,083)	\$ -
Conservation Fund	142	-	70	(70)	-
Conservation Trails	236	-	577	(577)	-
Energy Committee	-	250	-	250	250
Independent Committees Total	\$ 31,887	\$ 250	\$ 28,730	\$ (28,480)	\$ 250
GENERAL FUND Total Expenses	\$ 684,438 *	\$ 821,780	\$ 871,220	\$ (49,440)	\$ 1,213,345
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 98,049 *	\$ -	\$ (84,225)	\$ (84,225)	\$ -

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

g - These committees function independently and expenses are moved from their respective reserve funds

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed	
HIGHWAY FUND Revenue						
Taxes						
Balances Forward	\$ 51,606	\$ 30,983	\$ 160,480	\$ 129,497	\$ 129,497	<i>h</i>
Current Taxes	950,574	1,272,235	1,234,092	(38,143)	1,132,091	<i>i</i>
Taxes Total	\$ 1,002,180	\$ 1,303,218	\$ 1,394,572	\$ 91,354	\$ 1,261,588	
Governmental						
Enhancement Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
FEMA	\$ -	* \$ 1,050,000	\$ 494,257	\$ (555,743)	\$ 2,473,458	
ARPA	293,030	*	-	-	-	
Grants	430,368	60,000	68,248	8,248	243,914	
State of Vermont Emergency Fund	-	* 175,000	1,131,587	956,587	230,568	
Vermont Gas Tax	153,614	* 86,012	163,163	77,151	140,000	
Governmental Total	\$ 877,012	* \$ 1,371,012	\$ 1,857,255	\$ 486,243	\$ 3,087,940	
Loans						
Loan Proceeds	\$ 194,189	\$ -	\$ 153,706	\$ 153,706	\$ 475,000	<i>j</i>
Loans Total	\$ 194,189	\$ -	\$ 153,706	\$ 153,706	\$ 475,000	
Miscellaneous						
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 499	\$ -	\$ 4,738	\$ 4,738	\$ -	
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 499	\$ -	\$ 4,738	\$ 4,738	\$ -	
HIGHWAY FUND Total Revenue	\$ 2,073,880	* \$ 2,674,230	\$ 3,410,270	\$ 736,040	\$ 4,824,528	

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

h - Balance forward uses a surplus from a prior year and/or represents spending from reserves

i - Portion moved to Fire Truck Fund, per outside auditors

j - Loan for equipment, offset by purchase in Capital Expense

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
HIGHWAY FUND Expenses					
Labor & Benefits					
Highway Department Labor	\$ 206,200	\$ 300,769	\$ 264,540	\$ 36,229	\$ 289,794
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	28,557	34,395	36,838	(2,443)	43,529
Municipal Retirement	11,362	15,882	13,962	1,920	16,663
Employer Child Care Contribution	-	-	-	-	1,275
Social Security Tax	17,034	23,009	20,154	2,855	22,169
Workers' Compensation	14,336	15,553	15,553	0	17,234
Labor & Benefits Total	\$ 277,489	\$ 389,608	\$ 351,046	\$ 38,562	\$ 390,664
Municipal Property					
Contract Services	\$ 4,730	\$ 7,500	\$ 313	\$ 7,188	\$ 7,500
Materials	493	1,500	2,739	(1,239)	2,600
Recycling	196	600	242	358	600
Mowing	20,034	20,000	21,944	(1,944)	22,000
Town Garage	24,522	32,200	27,899	4,301	32,600
Municipal Roads Permit	2,190	2,500	2,450	50	2,500
Municipal Property Total	\$ 52,167	\$ 64,300	\$ 55,586	\$ 8,714	\$ 67,800

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
Materials					
Chloride	\$ 10,014	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,093	\$ 907	\$ 12,000
Gravel	142,135	150,000	136,343	13,657	157,500
Miscellaneous Materials	11,360	20,000	2,619	17,381	20,000
Salt	47,559	50,000	53,128	(3,128)	50,000
Sand	43,326	50,000	42,491	7,509	50,000
Contract Services	45,254	30,000	29,250	750	30,000
Contract Services-Hauling	9,980	6,000	-	6,000	3,000
Materials Total	\$ 309,629	\$ 318,000	\$ 274,925	\$ 43,075	\$ 322,500
Bridges					
Bridge Grant Expenditures	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bridge Contract Services	294,375	25,000	12,600	12,400	-
Materials	-	15,000	110	14,890	15,000
Bridges Total	\$ 494,375	\$ 40,000	\$ 12,710	\$ 27,290	\$ 15,000
Paving					
Paving Grant Contract Services	\$ 49,228	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 350,000
Paving Grant Expenditures	199,800	-	-	-	-
Retreatment	24,000	25,000	24,500	500	25,000
Paving Total	\$ 273,028	\$ 25,000	\$ 24,500	\$ 500	\$ 375,000
Grants for Public Works					
Highway Misc. Grants	\$ 38,932	\$ 74,000	\$ 145,801	\$ (71,801)	\$ 273,384
Grants for Public Works Total	\$ 38,932	\$ 74,000	\$ 145,801	\$ (71,801)	\$ 273,384

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed	
Equipment						
Capital Expense	\$ 234,773	\$ -	\$ 153,706	\$ (153,706)	\$ 475,000	k
Interest	27,730 *	23,671	12,716	10,955	35,818	
Debt Service	108,282 *	146,205	119,017	27,188	262,168	l
Gas & Oil	75,186	75,000	72,183	2,817	75,000	
Supplies	22,763	30,000	38,300	(8,300)	30,000	
Insurance	11,685	15,300	15,300	(0)	14,126	
Backhoe Repairs	3,206	3,000	1,062	1,938	3,000	
Grader Repairs	7,536	7,500	7,153	347	7,000	
Loader Repairs	3,198	10,000	6,878	3,122	7,000	
Mower Repairs	1,107	3,000	1,208	1,792	3,000	
Truck 1 Repairs - 2017 Ford	11,208	10,000	8,100	1,900	5,000	
Truck 2 Repairs - 2014 Western Star	4,175	2,000	8,054	(6,054)	5,000	
Truck 3 Repairs - 2021 Freightliner	5,930	6,000	7,100	(1,100)	6,000	
Truck 4 Repairs - 2020 Freightliner	15,674	5,000	5,014	(14)	7,000	
Tractor Repairs	-	2,000	3,551	(1,551)	2,000	
Small Equipment	-	-	10,179	(10,179)	10,000	
Equipment Rental	-	-	-	-	-	
Equipment Total	\$ 532,452 *	\$ 338,676	\$ 469,523	\$ (130,847)	\$ 947,112	

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

k - Represents capital purchase + principal of lease payments for equipment; offset by Loan Proceeds when loan is received

l - Principal payments for loans

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
FEMA					
Contract Services	\$ 1,361,138	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 41,935	\$ 1,358,065	\$ 2,354,203
Interest	-	24,646	68,773	(44,127)	78,865
Labor	27,378	-	-	-	-
Materials	317,425	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Expense	4,199	-	2,311	(2,311)	-
FEMA Total	\$ 1,710,141	\$ 1,424,646	\$ 113,018	\$ 1,311,628	\$ 2,433,068
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 1,318	-	5,206	\$ (5,206)	\$ -
Miscellaneous Total	\$ 1,318	\$ -	\$ 5,206	\$ (5,206)	\$ -
HIGHWAY FUND Total Expenses	\$ 3,689,529 *	\$ 2,674,230	\$ 1,452,314	\$ 1,221,916	\$ 4,824,528
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ (1,615,649) *	\$ -	\$ 1,957,956	\$ 1,957,956	\$ -
GARAGE BOND FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ 40,303	\$ 38,768	\$ 38,768	\$ -	\$ 37,312
Taxes Total	\$ 40,303	\$ 38,768	\$ 38,768	\$ -	\$ 37,312
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Revenue	\$ 40,303	\$ 38,768	\$ 38,768	\$ -	\$ 37,312
GARAGE BOND FUND Expenses					
Bond					
Debt Service	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000 <i>m</i>
Interest	5,304	3,768	3,768	1	2,312
Bond Total	\$ 40,304	\$ 38,768	\$ 38,768	\$ 1	\$ 37,312
TOWN GARAGE BOND Total Expenses	\$ 40,304	\$ 38,768	\$ 38,768	\$ 1	\$ 37,312
Town Garage Bond Grand Total	\$ (1)	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ -

* Figure adjusted per outside auditor

m- Principal payments for bonds; these are now recorded as expenses and borrowing as revenue

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
FIRE TRUCK FUND Revenue					
Taxes					
Current Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143 <i>n</i>
Taxes Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143
FIRE TRUCK Total Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143	\$ 38,143
FIRE TRUCK FUND Expenses					
Contract Services					
Contract Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contract Services Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment					
Capital Expense	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	33,112 <i>n</i>
Debt Service	\$ -	-	\$ 30,998	\$ (30,998)	- <i>n</i>
Interest	-	-	7,145	(7,145)	5,031 <i>n</i>
Equipment Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,143	\$ (38,143)	\$ 38,143
FIRE TRUCK Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,143	\$ (38,143)	\$ 38,143
Fire Truck Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

n - Per outside auditor, payments for fire truck should be in the Fire Truck Fund, not Highway Fund

	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2025 Proposed
ARPA GRANT FUND Revenue					
Grant					
ARPA Grant Revenue	\$ 318,730 *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grant Total	\$ 318,730 *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ARPA GRANT Total Revenue	\$ 318,730 *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ARPA GRANT FUND Expenses					
ARPA Grant Expenditures					
ARPA Expenses	\$ 318,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ARPA Grant Expenditures Total	\$ 318,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ARPA GRANT Total Expenses	\$ 318,730	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ARPA Grant Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>* Figure adjusted per outside auditor</i>					
TOTALS					
General Fund Grand Total	\$ 98,049 *	\$ -	\$ (84,225)	\$ (84,225)	\$ -
Highway Fund Grand Total	\$ (1,615,649) *	\$ -	\$ 1,957,956	\$ 1,957,956	\$ -
Town Garage Fund Grand Total	\$ (1)	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ -
Fire Truck Fund Grand Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (38,143)	\$ -
ARPA Grant Fund Grand Total	\$ - *	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ALL FUNDS Revenue	\$ 2,896,670	\$ 3,534,778	\$ 4,274,177	\$ 739,399	\$ 6,113,328
ALL FUNDS Expenses	\$ 4,414,271	\$ 3,534,778	\$ 2,400,445	\$ 1,134,333	\$ 6,113,328
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ (1,517,601)	\$ -	\$ 1,873,732	\$ 1,835,589	\$ -

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET ALL FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS

For Years Ending December 31, 2023 and 2024 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Town Garage	Fire Truck	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2024	12/31/2023
ASSETS							
Cash	\$ 421,414	\$ 315,697	\$ 19,782	\$ -	\$ 1,976,476	\$ 2,733,369	\$ 2,492,983
Delinquent Tax Receivable	74,734	-	-	-	-	74,734	62,545
Int. on Del. Tax Receivable	1,936	-	-	-	-	1,936	1,059
Del. Tax Penalty Receivable	6,016	-	-	-	-	6,016	5,004
Accounts Receivable	16,123	327,794	-	-	-	343,917	1,590,587
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 520,224	\$ 643,491	\$ 19,782	\$ -	\$ 1,976,476	\$ 3,159,972	\$ 4,152,177
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE							
LIABILITIES							
Deferred Revenue	\$ 76,110	\$ 275,668	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 351,778	\$ 113,206
Deferred Revenue - Grants	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000	4,000
Deferred Revenue - 60 Day	-	162,908	-	-	-	162,908	1,589,987
Accounts Payable	10,975	19,594	-	-	-	30,570	60,971
Accrued Payroll	4,224	7,344	-	-	-	11,568	8,152
Notes Payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,754,232
Accrued Interest Payable	22,870	-	-	-	-	22,870	22,870
Prepaid Taxes	1,853	-	-	-	-	1,853	4,043
Due to School District	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,220)
Due to Tax Collector	8,868	-	-	-	-	8,868	7,197
Miscellaneous Liabilities	(347)	-	-	-	-	(347)	11
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 128,552	\$ 465,515	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 594,067	\$ 3,563,449
FUND BALANCE							
Restricted (Note 3)	\$ 469,124	\$ 48,479	\$ 19,782	\$ -	\$ 1,976,476	\$ 2,513,861	\$ 2,284,002
Unrestricted	(77,453)	129,497	-	-	-	52,045	(1,695,273)
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 391,672	\$ 177,976	\$ 19,782	\$ -	\$ 1,976,476	\$ 2,565,906	\$ 588,728
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 520,224	\$ 643,491	\$ 19,782	\$ -	\$ 1,976,476	\$ 3,159,972	\$ 4,152,177

The accompanying notes are a necessary part of this financial statement.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2023 and 2024

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Town Garage Fund	Fire Truck Fund	Highway Recon Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2023	\$ 409,701	\$ 79,461	\$ 19,781	\$ -	\$ (452)
Prior Year Adj. (See Note 4)	\$ 19,450	\$ (1,698,961)	-	-	\$ 452
Adj. Fund Bal. Dec. 31, 2023	\$ 429,151	\$ (1,619,500)	19,781	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers Out (See Note 5)	-	(160,480)	-	-	-
Transfers In (See Note 5)	46,745	-	-	-	-
Revenues	786,995	3,410,270	38,768	38,143	-
Balances and Additions	\$ 1,262,892	\$ 1,630,290	\$ 58,549	\$ 38,143	\$ -
Expenditures:	(871,220)	(1,452,314)	(38,768)	(38,143)	-
Fund Balances Dec. 31, 2024	\$ 391,672	\$ 177,976	\$ 19,782	\$ -	\$ -



The Town Office was originally the first town library. It was designed, built and presented as a gift to the Town in 1883 by Justin Morrill. After a new library was built, this building eventually became our municipal building. In 2023 the town was awarded a \$325,000 in congressionally directed spending due to the historic importance of the building. A plan for the restoration of the building was submitted in December and is in the process of being approved.

Photo: John Freitag

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2024

2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor/Mower

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
August 8, 2025	\$ 22,845	\$ 794	\$ 22,051	\$ -

Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$139,153.

Mascoma Savings Bank

2021 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
June 30, 2025	\$ 22,880	\$ 880	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000
June 30, 2026	22,440	440	22,000	-

Terms: 2% interest. Original amount borrowed \$110,000.

State of Vermont

2024 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
August 31, 2025	\$ 44,984	\$ 8,124	\$ 36,860	\$ 122,260
August 31, 2026	44,984	6,242	38,742	83,518
August 31, 2027	44,984	4,264	40,720	42,799
August 31, 2028	44,984	2,185	42,799	-

Terms: 5.1% interest. Original amount borrowed \$194,189

Mascoma Savings Bank

2024 International CV 1-Ton

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
May 14, 2025	\$ 37,189	\$ 10,298	\$ 26,891	\$ 126,815
May 14, 2026	37,189	8,497	28,693	98,123
May 14, 2027	37,189	6,574	30,615	67,508
May 14, 2028	37,189	4,535	32,654	34,854
May 14, 2029	37,189	2,335	34,854	-

Terms: 6.7% interest. Original amount borrowed \$153,706.

Mascoma Savings Bank

2019 Int'l 4400 SBA 4x2 Fire Truck

Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
April 11, 2025	\$ 38,143	\$ 5,032	\$ 33,112	\$ 106,657
April 11, 2026	38,143	3,840	34,304	72,353
April 11, 2027	38,143	2,605	35,539	36,815
April 11, 2028	38,143	1,329	36,815	-

Terms: 3.6% interest. Original amount borrowed \$288,806.

Mascoma Savings Bank

For other indebtedness information, please refer to Note 6 in the "Notes to Financial Statements."

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Equipment Inventory

- 2024 International CV 1 Ton
- 2024 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck
- 2021 Freightliner Model 114SD Dump Truck
- 2020 Freightliner Model 108SD Dump Truck
- 2015 John Deere 544G Loader
- 2015 John Deere 410 Backhoe
- 2021 772G John Deere Grader
- 2018 John Deere 6110M Tractor
- 1991 Kubota Tractor
- 1989 Ford 8000 Chloride Truck
- 1,000 Gallon Aboveground Fuel Tank with Pump
- 2 – Chloride Tanks – 3000 gallon each
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 500 gallon
- Chloride Sprayer Tank – 1,000 gallon
 - 1 – Motorola Base Radio
 - 10 – Motorola 16 channel Scan Mobile Radio
 - 2 – Motorola 2 channel Hand Held Radios
 - 1 – 20' x 20' Sand Screen
 - 1 – Jonsered Chain Saw
 - 3 – Husqvarna Chain Saws
 - 2 – Echo Battery-operated Chain Saws
 - 1 – 225 Husqvarna Weed Cutter
 - 1 – 325 Husqvarna Power Broom
 - 1 – 8' Sweepster Power Broom
 - 1 – American Culvert Thawer
- 1 – Lincoln Mig Welder
- 1 – Yamaha 4500 Generator
- 1 – Hydraulic Hose Press
- 1 – Culvert Compactor
- 1 – Husqvarna Pole Saw
- 2 – Desktop Computers

Highway Department Buildings

- Town Garage Building
- Rear Storage Shed – Three bays
- Salt Shed
- Fuel Shed

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Year Ending December 31, 2024

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FUND ACCOUNTING—The accounts of the Town are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operation of each fund is accounted for on the modified accrual basis with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenues and expenditures, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

GENERAL FUND: The General Fund is the general operating fund of the town. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS: *Highway Fund*—The operating fund for road maintenance and improvements funded by a specific revenue source and restricted for road maintenance use only. *Town Garage Fund*—The Town Garage Fund was established in 2006 to build a new town garage. *Fire Truck Fund*—The Fire Truck Fund was re-established in 2023 at the direction of the outside auditors, to record the revenue & expenses for the Fire Truck purchased in 2019.

Note 2: ENDOWMENTS—This number represents both principal and interest of all endowments/trust funds for the Town of Strafford. As of 2022, it includes all funds managed by the Trustees of Public Funds, whose reports begin on page 59.

Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS

Restricted fund revenue and expenditures are reflected in the General Fund and Highway Fund statements. Net changes to restricted funds in each year will be reported in these notes. In the Highway Fund, restricted funds represent the equipment reserve and any other highway restricted funds; unrestricted funds are still restricted to highway use.

GENERAL FUND:	<i>Ending Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2024</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
Reserve-Town House	\$ 68,847.22	\$(44,387.73)	\$ 24,459.49
Reserve-Town House Clock	338.03	(220.00)	118.03
Reserve-Town House Spec Proj	9,312.66	-	9,312.66
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	18,665.57	3,782.00	22,447.57
Reserve-Legal Fees	9.90	-	9.90
Reserve-Listing Reappraisals	71,592.79	6,678.50	78,271.29

	<i>Ending Balance</i>	<i>Net Change in 2024</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>
GENERAL FUND:			
Reserve-Tennis Courts	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Reserve-Recreation	5,595.29	800.00	6,395.29
Reserve-Municipal Building	231,022.58	48,489.83	279,512.41
Reserve-Whitcomb Hill	3,765.88	-	3,765.88
Reserve-Dogs	2,087.99	(178.59)	1,909.40
Reserve-Evergreen Cemetery	9,392.68	1,960.00	11,352.68
Reserve-Pocket Park	5,955.47	(585.51)	5,369.96
Reserve-Energy Committee	2,147.48	-	2,147.48
Reserve-Conservation Comm.	11,649.82	-	11,649.82
Reserve-Conservation Trails	2,196.60	(577.30)	1,619.30
Reserve-Carrie Sanborn	8,866.13	(3,082.97)	5,783.16
Total General Reserve Funds	\$456,446.09	\$ 12,678.23	\$469,124.32

HIGHWAY FUND:

Reserve-Equipment	\$ 48,478.63	\$ -	\$ 48,478.63
Total Highway Reserve Funds	\$ 48,478.63	\$ -	\$ 48,478.63

Note 4: PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

GENERAL FUND:

Adjustments per outside auditors \$ 19,450.22

Adjustments included changes in the amount owed by the School, accrued interest on the tax anticipation note, ARPA revenue, miscellaneous grant revenue, accounts payable, and dental/health withholding.

HIGHWAY FUND:

Adjustments per outside auditors \$(1,698,961.30)

Adjustments primarily involved deferral of FEMA and State of Vermont Emergency Funds which should be recognized in the year in which they are received, and moving gas tax revenues which were received early. The large resulting deficit in 2023 was made up for with a large surplus in 2024.

Note 5: TRANSFERS

GENERAL FUND TRANSFER IN:

Deficit Reduction \$ 46,475.00

HIGHWAY FUND TRANSFER OUT:

Balances Forward \$160,480.00

Note 6: OTHER INDEBTEDNESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of June 30, 2024 is \$29,400.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024

Grand List				
Real Estate			214,839,900	
Plus Equipment			433	
Less Exemption			(200,000)	
Less Current Use			(17,630,300)	
Less Local Agreements			(1,576,700)	
Total			<u>195,433,333</u>	
Total Listed Value				
Residential			113,319,000	
Special Exemptions			2,736,900	
Non-approved Contracts				
Non-residential			79,377,433	
Taxes Billed				
			Tax rate	
General Fund	1,954,333.33	x	0.2947	575,942
Highway Fund	1,954,333.33	x	0.6510	1,272,271
Town Garage	1,954,333.33	x	0.0198	38,696
Local Agreements	1,954,333.33	x	0.0013	2,541
Homestead Educ.	1,133,190.00	x	1.6473	1,866,704
Nonresidential Educ.	793,774.33	x	1.6808	<u>1,334,176</u>
Total				<u>5,090,329</u>
Adjustments to Taxes Due				
Current use change				(2,752)
Adjustments due to late filing of Homestead Declaration				(1,501)
Late-filed Homestead Declaration penalties				3,020
Tax bill rounding				(3)
Total Taxes Due				<u><u>5,089,093</u></u>
Taxes accounted for as follows:				
Collections				4,977,764
Board of Civil Authority abatements				563
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2024)				<u>110,765</u>
Total Taxes Collectible				<u><u>5,089,093</u></u>

REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY
2024 Listed Values

Category	Municipal Listed Value	Education Listed Value (Homestead)	Education Listed Value (Nonresidential)	Total Education Listed Value
Residential less than 6 acres	49,777,800	37,093,700	12,684,100	49,777,800
Residential more than 6 acres	107,920,100	73,078,900	34,841,200	107,920,100
Mobile home without land	55,800	25,400	30,400	55,800
Mobile home with land	1,465,500	806,600	658,900	1,465,500
Vacation home less than 6 acres	984,200	321,600	662,600	984,200
Vacation home more than 6 acres	10,529,100	1,710,000	8,819,100	10,529,100
Commercial	5,774,000	-	5,774,000	5,774,000
Commercial Apartments	213,900	-	213,900	213,900
Utilities Electric	12,996,500	-	12,996,500	12,996,500
Farm	14,216,300	6,596,100	7,620,200	14,216,300
Woodland	8,049,600	5,700	8,043,900	8,049,600
Miscellaneous	2,857,100	-	2,857,100	2,857,100
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	214,839,900	119,638,000	95,201,900	214,839,900
Cable	433		433	433
TOTAL LISTED VALUE	214,840,333	119,638,000	95,202,333	214,840,333
Veterans' Exemptions	(200,000)	(40,000)	(10,000)	(50,000)
Current Use	(17,630,300)	(6,159,000)	(11,471,300)	(17,630,300)
Special Exemptions			(2,736,900)	(2,736,900)
Local Agreements	(1,576,700)	-	(1,576,700)	(1,576,700)
TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY	195,433,333	113,439,000	79,407,433	192,846,433
<i>2023 TOTAL TAXABLE PROPERTY</i>	<i>193,654,100</i>	<i>109,979,400</i>	<i>81,214,400</i>	<i>191,193,800</i>

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
Year Ending December 31, 2024

Name	Total	Name	Total
* Alsup, Monica	\$ 649.03	Johnson, John & Nancy	3,637.88
* Badams, Matthew	22.03	* Johnston, John M et al.	508.34
Begnoche, Jason	1,113.82	* Kidder Family Trust	631.96
Brown, Frank & Jessica	1,901.34	Lawrence, Duane	1,354.69
Bucchi, Peter & Linda	1,408.52	* MacPhail, Neal	2,261.04
* Bullock, Ian & Pullen, M	2,949.42	* Nedeau, Jonathan	22.62
Buxell, T & Gabriel, T	156.20	Nutting, Dillon, Rae & Lacey	4,452.59
Case, Colyn	216.10	Owen, Kate	6,989.66
Conant, James & David	1,067.30	* Smith, Stuart & Sylvia	2,581.53
Farina, Chris	23,143.66	* Stone, Robert	1,550.83
Garrison, Kate	31.86	Traudt, Scott	5,105.38
Jenks, Cheryl & Pixley, S	3,828.42	Walsh, Dana & Sean	9,621.38
Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2024			<u>\$75,205.60</u>

* Paid in full by January 29, 2025

	Total	2024	2023	Prior Years
Total Delinq. Dec. 31, 2024	\$ 75,205.60	\$ 63,686.77	\$ 11,518.83	\$ -
Plus December Collections	<u>47,078.72</u>	<u>47,078.72</u>	-	-
	\$ 122,284.32	\$ 110,765.49	\$ 11,518.83	\$ -
Previously uncollected		\$ 11,518.83		
2024 Delinq. Tax Warrant		<u>110,765.49</u>		
Total Delinquency		<u><u>\$122,284.32</u></u>		

Please Note: Due to legislative changes and a Supreme Court ruling regarding the confidentiality of tax bill information, individual delinquent tax information by year will no longer be reported.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN
DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVABLE**

Year Ending December 31, 2024

	Total	2024	2023	2022 & prior
Balance January 1, 2024	\$ 62,545.97		\$ 62,116.34	\$ 429.63
Delinquent to Collector	110,765.49	110,765.49	-	-
Subtotal	173,311.46	110,765.49	62,116.34	429.63
Collections/abatements/discharges	(98,105.86)	(47,078.72)	(50,597.51)	(429.63)
Balance December 31, 2024	\$ 75,205.60	\$ 63,686.77	\$ 11,518.83	\$ (0.00)

**TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES
COMPARED TO TOTAL TAXES BILLED**

2014 - 2024

	Delinquent Taxes	Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 2015	62,386.58	2014	3,703,651.00	1.68%
January 1, 2016	74,804.44	2015	3,785,861.56	1.98%
January 1, 2017	95,605.35	2016	3,899,828.07	2.45%
January 1, 2018	93,628.92	2017	3,866,892.28	2.42%
January 1, 2019	94,455.71	2018	3,897,401.78	2.42%
January 1, 2020	83,125.63	2019	4,058,332.15	2.05%
January 1, 2021	83,951.66	2020	4,383,855.30	1.92%
January 1, 2022	62,936.23	2021	4,430,342.00	1.42%
January 1, 2023	43,398.55	2022	4,214,958.79	1.03%
January 1, 2024	62,116.34	2023	4,322,959.00	1.44%
January 1, 2025	63,686.77	2024	5,089,093.00	1.25%

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

NAME OF CHILD	SEX	DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	PARENT'S NAME	PARENT'S NAME
Solomon J. Erbaugh	M	5/31/24	Randolph, VT	Talya R. Peltzman	James T. Erbaugh
Thérèse S. Kutolowski	F	7/27/24	Strafford, VT	Lisa R. H. Kutolowski	Mark J. Kutolowski

Civil Marriages

NAME	RESIDENCE	NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Vanessa L. Rule	South Strafford, VT	Michael S. Zens	South Strafford, VT	2/27/24	South Strafford, VT
Nicholas A. Till	Palo Alto, CA	Olivia L. Garry	Palo Alto, CA	7/27/24	Strafford, VT
Johanna L. Matson	Norwich, VT	Travis B. Parker	Norwich, VT	8/17/24	Norwich, VT
Sydney B. Sturgeon	Strafford, VT	Taylor A. Hiers	Strafford, VT	12/9/24	Strafford, VT

Deaths

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
Sylvia D. Swift	F	92	Strafford, VT	2/15/2024	Bedford, MA
Joyce C. Gilman	F	77	Strafford, VT	2/15/2024	Strafford, VT
Dorothy J. Burden	M	78	Strafford, VT	3/19/2024	Strafford, VT
Beckie S. Perron	F	46	Strafford, VT	5/19/2024	Strafford, VT
Vicki L. Eastman	F	72	Strafford, VT	6/12/2024	Strafford, VT
Martha Manheim	F	69	Ludlow, VT	6/12/2024	Strafford, VT
Mary Louise Pierson	F	65	Strafford, VT	7/18/2024	Strafford, VT
M. Ruth Whybrow	F	85	Woodstock, VT	8/22/2024	Strafford, VT
Pamela J. Whitfield	F	87	Springfield, VT	10/19/2024	South Strafford, VT

VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)**Burials**

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
Sylvia D. Swift	F	91	Hanover, NH	2/2/2024	Evergreen Cemetery
Joyce C. Gilman	F	86	Woodstock, VT	1/28/2024	Strafford Cemetery
Dorothy J. Burden	F	90	White River Junction, VT	11/27/2022	Strafford Cemetery
Beckie S. Perron	F	57	Lebanon, NH	1/3/2024	Strafford Cemetery
Vicki L. Eastman	F	72	Strafford, VT	6/12/2024	Strafford Cemetery
Martha Manheim	F	98	Strafford, VT	12/11/2022	Strafford Cemetery

These vital statistics represent marriages, civil unions, births, deaths and burials recorded in the Strafford Town Office.

Certificates filed elsewhere are not automatically forwarded to the Town Office.

If you would like those statistics to be included in this report, please arrange for copies of the records to be sent.

If you would prefer not to have your vital statistics listed in the Town Report due to privacy concerns or for any other reason, please notify the Town Clerk's office.

ANIMAL LICENSING

36	Male dogs
163	Neutered dogs
27	Female dogs
160	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,796.00

All dogs or wolf-hybrids six months of age and older must be licensed annually on or before the first day of April. A late fee of \$20.00 shall be due if a license is obtained after April 1.

Before obtaining a license, a copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented to the Town Clerk. A dog or wolf-hybrid over three months of age must be vaccinated; the initial vaccination is valid for 12 months. Within 9-12 months of initial vaccination, the animal must receive a booster vaccination. All subsequent vaccinations following the initial vaccination will be valid for 36 months.

License fees are \$11 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$15 for an unspayed female or unneutered male dog. Dog licenses issued after April 1st will be subject to an increase in the fee.

Proof of spaying or neutering, signed by a veterinarian, must be exhibited to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing.

Dogs should wear tags at all times, because if the dog is lost, it is more likely to be returned. If you should find or lose a dog, report it to the Dog Officer and/or the Town Clerk immediately.

Dog violations

Disturbances and Nuisances & Pooper Scooper: First offense—\$30 penalty/\$15 waiver; Second offense—\$50 penalty/\$25 waiver; Third offense—\$100 penalty/\$50 waiver; Subsequent offenses—Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$100 penalty.

Collar and License: First offense between April 1st and July 1st—\$25 penalty/\$20 waiver; Second offense—\$50 penalty/\$30 waiver.

Humane Care of Dogs: First offense—\$100 penalty per animal/\$50 waiver; Second offense—\$250 penalty per animal/\$100 waiver; Subsequent offenses—Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$250 penalty.

Enforcement, Impoundment, Notice of Impoundment and Release from Impoundment, Investigation of Vicious Dogs: First offense—\$200 penalty/\$75 waiver; Second offense—\$500 penalty/\$200 waiver; Subsequent offenses—Impoundment & impoundment costs, plus \$500 penalty.

VERMONT RABIES HOTLINE: 1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)
Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/2020 Market Value	12/31/2021 Market Value	12/31/2022 Market Value	12/31/2023 Market Value	12/31/2024 Market Value	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Total Contributions	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb	\$ 124,881.54	\$ 131,395.62	\$ 104,165.20	\$ 122,291.36	\$ 134,001.45	\$ 11,710.09	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 15,710.09
Gilman	14,239.47	15,344.71	12,872.58	15,083.51	17,519.30	2,435.79	0.00		2,435.79
Mix	130,633.94	141,620.11	117,351.36	137,708.57	160,247.83	22,539.26	0.00		22,539.26
Newton	160,530.85	150,074.55	124,559.35	145,423.59	169,139.00	23,715.41	0.00		23,715.41
Ordway	279,892.71	291,468.01	227,691.82	259,177.65	290,532.04	31,354.39	12,000.00		43,354.39
Robinson	12,585.74	13,552.94	11,354.47	13,308.44	15,486.16	2,177.72	0.00		2,177.72
RWW	33,674.90	36,431.82	30,284.57	35,469.61	41,176.71	5,707.10	0.00		5,707.10
SCE	7,787.48	8,386.82	6,991.71	8,087.90	9,091.33	1,003.43	0.00		1,003.43
SAA	5,918.82	6,336.50	5,394.21	6,235.10	7,008.47	773.37	0.00		773.37
ERF	20,937.44	22,591.80	18,871.50	22,071.65	25,584.50	3,512.85	0.00		3,512.85
CST	550,386.49	587,368.07	458,834.85	503,849.38	559,845.71	55,996.33	28,082.97		84,079.30
C-B A	73,355.36	78,507.55	63,875.49	74,935.92	84,969.17	10,033.25	1,000.00		11,033.25
STF *	39,521.09	42,795.77	135,549.13	41,792.23	48,471.09	6,678.86	0.00		6,678.86
DKB				355,445.92	413,403.43	57,957.51	0.00		57,957.51
Cash	-	-	20,923.56	18,414.76		-		-	-
Total	\$1,454,345.83	\$1,525,874.27	\$1,338,719.80	\$1,759,295.59	\$ 1,976,476.19	\$235,595.36	\$ 45,082.97	\$ -	\$ 280,678.33
<i>Disbursed</i>	<i>71,528.44</i>	<i>49,107.58</i>	<i>40,188.87</i>	<i>45,268.80</i>	<i>45,082.97</i>				

These Town Funds are administered by the Trustees of Public Funds.

Change before disbursements and additions **15.95%**

**TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
INVESTMENTS**

<u>Cash</u>	TPF	CST	<u>Market Value</u>
Mascoma Checking (2 accounts)	\$6,549.63	\$5,782.16	\$ 12,331.79
Fidelity Cash Account			-
Fidelity Gov't Cash Reserves (FDRXX)			<u>113,161.83</u>
	Total Cash	6.3%	\$ 125,493.62
<u>Fixed Income</u>			
JP Morgan Ultra-Short ETF (JPST)			\$ 76,269.86
<u>iShares Core US Aggregate Bond</u> ETF (STIP)			<u>150,873.30</u>
	Total Fixed Income	11.4%	\$ 227,143.16
	Total Cash & Fixed Income	17.7%	\$ 352,636.78
<u>US Equities</u>			<u>Market Value</u>
iShares Core S&P 500 ETF (IVV)			\$ 678,748.04
iShares Core Aggressive Allocation ETF (AOA)			14,785.73
iShares Core S&P US Growth ETF (IUSG)			368,302.05
iShares S&P Mid-Cap ETF (IJH)			191,291.70
iShares S&P Small-Cap ETF (IJR)			<u>107,269.82</u>
	Total US Equities	68.4%	\$1,360,397.34
<u>Foreign Equities</u>			<u>Market Value</u>
Vanguard FTSE Developed Markets ETF (VEA)			\$ 209,547.24
SPDR Portfolio Emerging Markets ETF (SPEM)			<u>66,226.62</u>
	Total Foreign Equities	13.9%	\$ 275,773.86
	Total Equity Funds	82.3%	\$1,636,171.20
End of the year total		100.0%	\$1,988,807.98

**FUNDS OVERSEEN BY
THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS**

Set forth below are the funds overseen by the Trustees of Public Funds. If you or your organization is interested in accessing these town resources, please contact the fund's committee or the Selectboard as indicated below. If no contact information is listed, please contact the TPF Chair.

DAVID K. BROWN FUND

In 2022 the Town of Strafford received a gift of \$300,000 from the David K. Brown Trust "to establish an endowment fund, the income from which shall be used for the preservation, maintenance, or restoration projects which maintain the historical character of the Strafford Town House." Requests for disbursements are made by the Selectboard.

GARDNER N. COBB CHILD WELFARE FUND

In 1968, the Town of Strafford received under the Will of Gardner N. Cobb \$10,000 to be held in Trust with the Corpus to be invested in direct obligations of the United States, with the net income to be disbursed by the Trustees for "the promotion of child hygiene, the treatment of remediable defects of needy children, including dental, or orthopedic or other medical care, routine immunizations against disease, and detection and elimination of tuberculosis and the dissemination of literature on the subject of Child Welfare."

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD FUND

This fund is the result of a \$50,000 bequest from the Edmund Coffin estate. It was established on September 1, 2016.

The purpose of the fund is to give an annual award to persons and/or organizations who, in the opinion of the selection committee, have made major contributions to building a sense of community in the town.

A committee, appointed by the Selectboard, recommends recipients annually.

EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

This fund was established in 2013 in concert with the wishes of Marion Slusser, who contributed \$10,000 to the Town of Strafford in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene.

The goal of this fund is to support efforts related to emergency management for the residents of the Town of Strafford. This includes, but is not limited to, maintenance of Town designated shelters, procuring and maintaining communications equipment, and assisting with grant matches when appropriate. The Selectboard shall act as advisors to the Trustees of Public Funds with regard to distributions from this Fund.

ROBERT I. GILMAN AND EVELYN ROBERTS GILMAN TRUST FUND

In 1988 \$2,000 was given by Mr. and Mrs. R. Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Gadzinski to establish the Robert I. Gilman and Evelyn Roberts Gilman Trust Fund to be used to benefit the Municipal Building.

ROBIN MIX MEMORIAL FUND

On September 2, 1987 the Town of Strafford received, under a Trust Agreement, \$5,407.83 establishing the Robin Mix Memorial Fund for Preservation of the Strafford Town House. “The purpose of this Fund is to provide an augmenting source of funding for the accomplishment of extraordinary repairs to, and for major preservation and restoration projects for, the Strafford Town House.”

NEWTON FUND

In 1931 the Town of Strafford received, under the Will of William E. Newton, \$14,200 to be held in trust, the income from which is “to be used first in keeping the two Newton lots in the cemetery at South Strafford in good condition, and then in any public improvement or for any public purpose in the village of South Strafford.”

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND

In 1980 the Town of Strafford received a bequest under the Will of Robert H. Ordway of \$56,671.99 in trust, from which the income is “to be used in assisting a deserving high school graduate or graduates who are inhabitants of the Town of Strafford, Vermont in obtaining education above the high school level.” See the Robert H. Ordway Scholarship Committee Report for further information.

WALTER C. ROBINSON FUND

On December 23, 1985 the Town of Strafford received \$1,000 under the Will of Walter C. Robinson “to be held in trust by the Trustees of Public Funds and to use the interest for the care of the Willard Robinson and Daniel Robinson cemetery lots in the Robinson Cemetery.”

CARRIE SANBORN TRUST

In May of 1986 the Carrie Sanborn Trust (CST) began providing assistance to aid Strafford residents in need of assistance. In 2008 authority to manage this trust was transferred from TD Banknorth to the Trustees of Public Funds. The Trustees shall make funds available for distribution by the CST Committee who act on referrals or requests. Please contact Sue Coburn for assistance or the Town Clerk for more information.

SELECTBOARD TRANSFERRED FUND

The Selectboard Transferred Fund (STF) was created when the Trustees of Public Funds accepted a lump sum of \$33,074.53 from the small endowments managed by the Selectboard. The Selectboard will decide how to disburse the funds (except those controlled by the Cemetery Commission).

THE STRAFFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND

This fund was established in December of 1999. The purpose of this fund is to receive and grant money to aid educational programs in the Town of Strafford, Vermont.

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FUND

The SAA Fund was established on October 25, 2004 to provide continued and improved financial support for the enhancement of athletic and recreational facilities for the people of Strafford.

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971 and was turned over the Trustees of Public Funds for investment management in 1994. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate; the Newton School Library is named in her honor.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

The funds overseen by the Trustees of Public Funds (TPF) gained 15.95% for the year (compared to 16.55% in 2023), exceeding our target return of 13.26%. TPF continued its relationship with Mascoma Wealth Management, which manages and invests all public monies overseen by the TPF.

The TPF oversees 14 separate named funds, each with a specified purpose. The TPF approved disbursement of a total of \$45,082.97 from the following funds:

The Carrie Sanborn Trust (CST): a total of \$28,082.97 to provide assistance to community members in need.

The Cobb Fund: \$4,000 to the Newton School.

The Ordway Fund: a total of \$12,000 to three recipients for higher education.

The Community Building Award: \$1,000 for the 2024 recipient of the award.

The TPF is grateful for the generosity of past and current community members who have provided gifts that support our town and its residents. We encourage individuals and organizations to contact the TPF with specific fund requests.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah North
Therese Linehan
Cindy Stableford

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND COMMITTEE REPORT

The Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee establishes guidelines, evaluates applications, and determines award recipients. The awards are funded by proceeds derived from the Trust established by Robert H. Ordway's will.

The Trustees of Public Funds manage the Trust and their financial statement and report appear elsewhere in this report.

The committee has developed criteria based on academic achievement, citizenship and character.

High school students must apply by June 1 of their senior year. Application forms may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office. All graduating seniors wishing to further their education beyond the high school level are encouraged to apply.

2024 Awards: Mia Bagnato, Addison Cadwell, Larry Justin Robinson

Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee:

Joey Hawkins

Diana Leddy

Danette Harris

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate. The Newton School Library is named in her honor.

The award is for Strafford residents recently graduated from High School who are preparing for teaching careers. It will be granted periodically at the discretion of the Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship committee.

Donations to the fund are welcome and can be made through the Trustees of Public Funds. Applications can be picked up at the Strafford Town Clerk's Office, and sent to any member of the committee. Anyone who would like to be on the committee is encouraged to contact any committee member and express his or her interest.

Committee members: Maureen Wilson, Rod Maclay, Rockwell Fuller, and Joanna Hawkins.

COMMUNITY-BUILDING AWARD

The Community Building Award was established in 2016, through a generous bequest from Ned Coffin. Ned had a deep love for the town and its beauty and a real appreciation for its people and institutions.

The award is given annually to an organization or individual who has made a meaningful contribution to building a sense of community in town.

The 2024 award was given to Beth Preston.

Beth's worthiness of this recognition is apparent to anyone who has lived in Strafford for any length of time. For decades, she has been effectively "on call" for the residents of Strafford. Her work for the FAST Squad, sometimes in life-or-death situations, is valued not just for her professional expertise, but also for her kind and compassionate manner. For years, she has managed to put people at ease in extremely stressful situations. As if that weren't enough, she also handles administrative matters as the chief of the FAST Squad. Put simply, this award is an attempt to convey the gratitude of the people of Strafford for her many years of extraordinary service.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Mikusa

Andy Coffin

Brooke Wilkinson

Rebecca Seibel

Willis Phelps

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

The Morrill Memorial and Harris Library is an essential community resource providing a range of services to the community. Nearly half of the library's operating budget (professional staff, maintenance of an aging historic building, library materials) comes from the Town appropriation while the remainder of the budget is funded through grants, our Annual Appeal and the generous support from The Friends of the Morrill Memorial Library. We are grateful to our community and the Town for this broad-based support.

2024 was another active year at the library. With new families in town, and a core group of avid young readers, our children's collection continued to see high circulation. In the fall, the library partnered with the Creative Nursery School to provide a weekly story time for our youngest citizens. Our summer preschool Story time series was a great success again this year, thanks to several dedicated volunteers. The annual six-week Summer Reading Program, Adventure Begins at Your Library, saw high participation in both its programs and students meeting their reading targets. Thanks to Meg Teachout for running the program.

Patrons' use of online services for audiobooks, eBooks and streaming videos has continued to grow exponentially. In October, we moved our movie streaming service to Biblioplus which offers unlimited viewing. Please contact the library to set up a library card or to find out your account number if you'd like to access these services.

The interlibrary loan service, supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in conjunction with the Friends group, continues to be a valuable resource with an average of 50 books/audiobook CDs and videodiscs arriving each month. If we don't have what you are looking for on our shelves, we'll try to find it for you, both in Vermont and, when necessary, farther afield. Please ask! We continue to offer a rotating collection of audiobook CDs, DVDs, and Large Print books.

In addition to having WiFi available to the community 24/7, we also offer printing, copying and computer use. Our brand new updated computers for patron use are up and running.

We are working on an updated website, a variety of programming options for adults and children and other modifications. Thanks to those who responded to our questionnaire to help guide our work. We welcome community suggestions and feedback.

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2024

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024		\$ 26,507
Income		
Endowed Funds	\$ -	
Town of Strafford	34,000	
Friends of the Library	8,441	
Contributions Income	9,478	
Grants	984	
Interest and dividends	2	
From Reserve Account	2,687	
Miscellaneous Income	1,241	
Total Income + Transfers In		\$ 56,834
Expenses		
Memberships	\$ 1,360	
Books, Periodicals, DVDs, Audio Books	4,264	
Programs, Children and Adult	1,505	
Internet Service	1,448	
Interlibrary loan service	1,136	
Electronic Catalog	525	
Personnel Expenses	35,416	
Utilities	3,192	
Building and Grounds Maintenance	5,291	
Administration	5,566	
Volunteer Gifts	273	
Reserve Fund	1,936	
Miscellaneous	325	
Total Expenses + Transfers Out		\$ 62,237
Net Income		\$ (5,403)
Ending Balance		\$ 21,104
Reserve Account		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024		\$ 2,687
Transfer to Checking		(2,687)
Ending Balance, December 31, 2024		\$ -
Fidelity CD, Bequest		
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024		\$ 128,810
Earnings		8,088
Ending Balance		\$ 136,898

LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Market Value January 1, 2024	\$ 448,125
Transfers to the Operating Fund from Restricted Funds	<u>\$ -</u>
Subtotal	448,125
 Market Value December 31, 2024	 \$ 492,714

STRAFFORD FIRE AND RESCUE

In 2024 the Fire Department and FAST Squad responded to 91 calls for assistance, including motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, and structure fires in Strafford and neighboring towns. This number is in keeping with recent years. In 2024 we had one member become a nationally registered EMT.

We continued the traditions of a Rabies Clinic in the Spring and our annual Chicken BBQ as part of the town's 4th of July celebration.

A summary of our spending and budget for 2024 is included on the following page. We mostly did a good job of sticking to the budget except in turnout gear (worn in hazardous environments) due to buying two sets of gear instead of our usual one. One was for a longtime member whose gear was out of date and the other was for a new member. We also had unforeseen equipment problems in the substation and both of our fire trucks, which required additional spending (under Vehicles and Building Maintenance) to remedy. At the substation we replaced the furnace, installed a generator, and did some foundation repair.

The following officers were elected at our annual meeting on January 2nd:

President: Mike Ekegren

Vice President: Andrew Lane

Treasurer: Pat Kelly

Secretary: Cabot Teachout

Fire Chief: Aaron Dotter

EMS Chief: John Lloyd

Board of Directors: Aaron Dotter, John Lloyd, Willis Phelps, Pat Kelly and Shawn Harlow.

We thank Beth Preston for her many years of service and dedication as Chief of the FAST Squad.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Dotter
Fire Chief

John Lloyd
EMS Chief

Opposite: The Universalist Church in South Strafford built in 1833 has been undergoing multi-year preservation work including the removal of rot from the sills. Dana Kendall and his brother Jeremy who have headed the repair work on the sill are shown here working on the northwest side of the building sill.

Photo: John Freitag

STRAFFORD FIRE & RESCUE
January 1 - December 31, 2024

EXPENSES

<u>Category</u>	<u>Spending</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 10,097	\$ 7,000
EMS Supplies	411	2,500
Utilities	9,082	8,500
Equipment Purchase & Maintenance	3,892	5,000
Insurance	11,855	12,000
Hanover Dispatch	16,950	17,000
Rescue Truck Financing	9,705	9,500
Miscellaneous	1,076	2,500
Testing	4,730	5,500
Training	1,871	2,000
Gear (PPE, Turnout)	9,332	6,500
Dues	770	525
Building Maintenance	10,727	5,000
Total Expenses	\$ 90,499	\$ 83,525



STRAFFORD COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM

2024 was the first full year of operations for nurse Sheila Keating and her ability to shepherd medical, legal, financial, and volunteer services to address the needs of Strafford residents was in full display. During the year Sheila worked with dozens of Strafford residents advocating for them with their health care providers, providing emotional support and assisting with food, housing, transportation, medical equipment and symptom management. In her first full year Sheila had a total of 153 interactions (in person, by phone or email) with 33 Strafford residents, reducing feelings of anxiety and social isolation and improving their ability to remain at home.

Sheila also organized several programs in 2024 that benefitted the overall well being of Strafford residents: a Dartmouth CARES clinic to provide free cholesterol and blood pressure screening, a Vermont Homeshares presentation and a presentation by Central Vermont Council on Aging.

Sheila reaffirms:

“I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the community nurse in Strafford. The job has proven to be even more fulfilling than I initially imagined, in the best possible way. In the time I’ve spent, I’ve had the privilege of meeting wonderful individuals, and the connections made have been truly heartwarming. I look forward to the ongoing journey of meeting more residents and continuing this meaningful and necessary work. Thank you for entrusting me with this role. Your support is deeply appreciated.”

SCNP is grateful for all of Sheila’s work and for all who support our program. We look forward to providing an increasingly beneficial impact on the health and well-being of Strafford residents in 2025.

Margaret Gadon and
Cindy Stableford, Co-chairs

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As we begin the 2025 legislative session, we are working across the legislature to tackle challenges of affordability in health care, housing and in education. Housing is tight, which is restricting the capacity of new people to move here, including our own children. As our existing population shrinks and ages, our health care gets more expensive, our schools have fewer children, and our houses hold fewer people who work in our local businesses and health care providers. This is putting upward pressure on the cost of health care, housing and schools. We can't just cut our way out of this; we also have to change the way we do some things.

We know that ensuring the wellbeing of our communities means making sure people can feel safe in their homes and can pay their bills. It means making sure people don't have to worry about how to get a doctor's appointment when they need it. We also are aware of the pressures more extreme weather is placing on our infrastructure, so we are working with climate and resilience top of mind.

Given the very real fiscal constraints of the state and our communities, how do we tackle these challenges? At the time of this writing, we have just received the Governor's proposals for transforming education. We expect to hear the specifics of his proposals in the coming weeks. Both of us have been thinking through how a new funding formula can slow the runaway education costs we have seen in recent years, even as we tackle some of the structural problems that are driving costs up in the first place. In addition, we have been working through the summer on ideas to bring down the cost of health care and create housing solutions.

As the 2025 legislative session began, we both found ourselves on the House Ways and Means committee. We will work closely with our communities as the session unfolds, to ensure we are learning from and representing the priorities you share. We are hopeful that hard work and collaboration will get us where we need to be. Feel free to reach out to us at jmasland@leg.state.vt.us (Rep. Jim Masland) or rholcombe@leg.state.vt.us (Rep. Rebecca Holcombe).

Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to reach out and share your hopes and concerns over the last months. We are carrying to Montpelier the stories and hopes you expressed to us: particularly concerning affordability, accessing health care, housing and education. Housing is tight, restricting the capacity of new families to move here and stay. As our existing population shrinks and ages, health care gets more expensive, our schools have fewer children, and our houses hold fewer people to work in our local businesses and as health care providers. This is putting inflationary pressure on the cost of health care, housing and schools. We can't just cut our way out of this; we also have to change the way we do some things.

We know that ensuring the well being of our communities means making sure people can feel safe in their homes, can pay their bills, don't need to worry about how to get a doctor's appointment when they need to and know they have a little left over each month. We also are aware that extreme weather is placing our infrastructure at risk; so, we are working with climate and resilience top of mind.

Given the very real fiscal constraints of the state and our communities, how do we tackle these challenges? We are beginning the session by dedicating the first weeks to hearing the Governor's ideas on how to tackle our most pressing challenges. We have been working through the summer on ideas to bring down the cost of health care and keep people safe in their homes. Both of us have been working on housing solutions. Both of us have been thinking through how a new funding formula can slow the runaway education costs seen in recent years – even as we tackle some of the structural problems that are driving costs up in the first place.

As the 2025 legislative session began, we both found ourselves on the House Ways and Means committee. Perhaps we landed there because of our joint and strenuous engagement last session around fixing the funding formula and tackling the challenges in education and education cost. We will work closely with our communities as the session unfolds to ensure we are learning from and representing the priorities you share. Our commitment is to work as hard as we can to make sure changes lead to better affordability, better opportunities, better fairness, better access to health care, and better quality for the people who call our towns home. We didn't get into this situation overnight. We are hopeful that hard work and collaboration will get us where we need to be.

Do not hesitate to contact us on any of these or other issue where we can be of assistance.

Representative Rebecca Holcombe
Norwich, VT 05055
RHolcombe@leg.state.vt.us

Representative Jim Masland
Thetford Center, VT 05075
JMasland@leg.state.vt.us

STRAFFORD & AREA LIONS CLUB

The Strafford & Area Lions Club is a member of the largest service organization in the world. Lions Clubs International, founded in 1917, is a global leader in community and humanitarian service with over 1.4 million members in 49,000 clubs serving more than 200 countries and geographic areas around the world. The Strafford & Area Lions Club has served our community with pride for over 38 years, seeking to improve the health and well-being of the community and to support those of us who may be in need.

The Club continued to operate and maintain the Lions Club Pond, the Rope Tow on Harrington Hill, and downhill and cross-country ski programs for more than 100 Strafford students. This year the Club continued its youth swimming program at the Lions pond with over 60 Strafford youth participating. In support of local food shelves, the Club held its annual “Food from The Heart” food drive, collecting over 1,000 pounds of food and over \$1,300 in cash donations, and also donated over 645 meals to the Sharon, Thetford, and Vershire food shelves. This year the Club was pleased to honor Strafford’s David “Red” Taplin as Strafford’s Citizen of the Year. On New Year’s Eve, the Club held its annual midnight run on the common beginning at the stroke of midnight. The Club also supported the Strafford recycling center, the Vermont Lions Charities Vision Fund, the Vermont Lions Disaster Relief Fund, Lions Clubs International Foundation, the Lions Twin State Soccer Association, and the Green Mountain Lions Camp for the deaf and hard of hearing, made donations in support of the Clara Martin Center and the Strafford Wiseguy Robotics Team, and gave financial assistance to the local victims of a fire disaster. Club members and others in the community made lap blankets and stuffed toy animals which were given to local hospitals and nursing homes, and the Club collected used eyeglasses, hearing aids, and pill bottles to be recycled and given to those in need.

All funds raised in the community go directly to the Club’s charitable endeavors. The Club’s fundraisers included its annual Rose Sale, Thanksgiving Pie Sale, Memory Tree, Chili Cook-Off, and Deer Pool.

The Club has 58 members and holds monthly dinner meetings at Barrett Memorial Hall on the 4th Monday of the month. The meetings include guest speakers on a variety of topics of interest to our community. Please feel free to attend. All are welcome. If you are interested in joining us in service to the Strafford community, please contact our Membership Chair, Melvin Coburn.

BARRETT MEMORIAL HALL

In 2024 Barrett Hall opened with an exciting cadre of events. Last winter featured community movie nights at the ‘Barrett Hall Duplex Theatre’ with kids’ films downstairs and older kids and adult movies upstairs along with popcorn and pizza.

Exercise classes are available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, we hope you find something for you and your family to join.

The Newton School Jr. High students presented a musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Teen cooking classes called the Meals Project headed up by Joey’s granddaughter, Julia Boger-Hawkins, is busy cooking up meals to distribute. In 2024 Julia headed up the Strafford Community Fridge project, located behind Barrett Hall. The fridge is a place where any member of the community can either drop off or pick up food at any time, no questions



asked. Since its opening in September, the fridge has been supported and utilized by many Strafford residents. If you want to support the community fridge, you can drop off shelf-stable or fresh foods, including prepared meals, at any time!

Many activities continue to serve the Strafford community, Wednesday Senior lunches, Tai Chi classes, Dance Portal, Lions Club meetings/dinners, Newton School programs, Universalist Church's winter season services, the hugely successful annual Holiday Craft Fair, and BACK again this year the Rummage Sale, run this year by the Strafford Preschool and Barrett Hall volunteers. Many other individual events and parties continue to fill the hall's calendar. We welcome other town and community uses of the Hall for meetings, private parties, or events with our full kitchen, dining room, stage, and dance floor. Emerson Gale tuned the piano so please come and use it anytime!

We have been busy with repair projects to keep Barrett Hall in good shape. We continued interior and exterior painting, replacing some broken windows, and the granite steps have been reset thanks to a generous donor. We replaced the carpeting and upgraded the electrical to accommodate the community refrigerator and generator. The generator has been installed allowing us to continue to serve as an emergency shelter and last summer we did offer space during the heat wave to come and cool off. The elevator has been repaired, and the new mini-splits heating/cooling system is helping with our goal to burn less fuel oil and lower our heating and cooling costs. Barrett Hall is forever grateful to have Ed Eastman as Barrett's caretaker, painter, cleaner and much more. We couldn't do all this without him.

On our wish list for the coming year: we need a new front door along with replacing all the locks. We hope to continue upgrading our systems to add solar and possibly a more efficient kitchen stove.

A very special thank you to the community for donating to help keep Barrett Hall fit to serve the community.

Steve Marx
David McWilliams
Sonya Schumacher
Moe Wilson
Barrett Memorial Hall Trustees

Opposite: Window artisans Greg Gorman and Kathy Chapman look pleased after the installation of the last of eleven stained glass windows they restored at the Universalist Church in South Strafford over a 10-year period.

Photo: John Freitag

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For 2024, our 68th year, the Strafford Historical Society is pleased to report that the second phase of our renovation of the Masonic Hall in South Strafford has been completed. Our thanks to Blake Spencer and his crew for strengthening and transforming the interior of the 1901 Masonic Hall and for the addition of a new ADA parking space and ramp out front. Although not apparent on the outside, the new structural work from the basement to the ceiling of the first floor is now in place. This work was made possible by a \$50,000 grant from the State of Vermont's Downtown and Village Tax Credit program and by the generosity of you, our donors.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, your contributions to the Strafford Historical Society are tax-deductible and may be sent directly to the Strafford Historical Society, P.O. Box 100, Strafford, Vermont, 05072, or use the Donate button on our website at straffordvthistory.org to reach our secure donation site.

If you want to know more about our renovation, about our next phases of construction, including a visual photo essay of the interior renovations, and to enjoy our growing inventory of historical blog features, please go to our website at straffordvthistory.org. At the same time, you can sign up for our new quarterly eNewsletter to keep track of our news and upcoming events.

Our recent structural work has been comprehensive. New support columns were added in the basement along with a vapor barrier under the new concrete floor. A drainage system was installed to keep the basement dry and the basement walls have been insulated. It is now the perfect place for storage, including for displays and larger artifacts, as well as for spare office furniture. Above, on the first floor, the ceiling rafters have all been replaced and a new support beam installed to carry the weight of the second floor. The first floor has also been raised and leveled. We now have a structurally sound floor system and a layout which will include our museum/exhibition space, a community meeting room, an office, an ADA restroom and now we have also created a new ADA-compliant entrance through the front door via our ADA parking space, ramp and porch deck.

To make the building move-in ready, a new round of fundraising and grant-writing is being initiated. In addition to the interior finish work we will repaint the Masonic Hall's exterior as we proceed with our landscaping plan, which will include the construction of a large back deck and the creation of an outdoor meeting space. The new Strafford History and Community Center is coming into focus.

Funding Overview. The Historical Society will be completing this project in additional phases, which is allowing us to apply for grants and raise funds as necessary to ensure that we do not go into debt for this project. The following is an overview of these phases:

The first phase of our project was to replace the roof and roof structure and replace the heating system with heat pumps. This phase cost \$165,000 and

was financed by Vermont's tax credit program (\$51,520) through Northfield Savings Bank, the Vermont Arts Council (\$18,040), the Mascoma Bank Foundation (\$10,000), the Byrne Foundation (\$3,000), Strafford's Newton Fund (\$23,500), with the remainder funded by generous private donations.

The second phase of the project, as described above, has been focused on demolition and internal structural needs. It was underwritten by what remained of the state tax credits and by a series of very generous donations by local supporters. An electrical upgrade of the building as well as roughing in the plumbing for the next phase of construction has already begun.

This approaching third phase of the project, supported a second \$50,000 state tax credit to be financed again through Northfield Savings Bank, will feature interior finish work – including a community meeting room with small kitchenette, office space as well as our ADA compliant bathroom, interior light fixtures, a comprehensive fire safety system and AV equipment. Painting the building and renovating the side porch will be priorities. We estimate that this phase of the project will cost roughly \$200,000. We will also be applying for a Vermont Cultural Facilities Grant, additional foundation funding and will again be relying on the generosity of our community to help us make this all happen.

In addition, not related to the renovation, the Historical Society has, in the past year, also overseen the restoration of 9 boxes of archival material, originally stored in the basement of Morrill Education Center and water-damaged in the summer 2023 flooding. This material included small diaries, film, and other historic materials (deeds, records, etc.). The restoration of this delicate material was completely covered by grants (about \$17,500) as well as significant in-kind contributions from Dartmouth's library staff and the assistance of Vermont's Division of Historic Preservation. In order to protect these recovered, fragile artifacts, we will be converting our attic into a climate-controlled storage space.

My thanks to the Strafford Historical Society's Board of Directors and our appointed Staff for their dedication in our efforts to renovate the Masonic Hall and once again resume our mission, on which the organization was founded, "to preserve the sites, objects, and related materials pertaining to the history of the Town of Strafford for the solution and betterment of the current affairs of said Town."

Aside from myself, the Strafford Historical Society's Board and Staff include: Laura Ogden, Secretary; David Webb, Vice President; Roberta Robinson, Treasurer; Simone Pyle, Curator; John Dumville; Jessica Tidman; Jared Jenisch; Scott Knoerlein; Susan Cloke; Earl Ransom; Carol Wilson, Registrar; John Freitag and Arthur Hanchett, Historians.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

The Justin Morrill State Historic Site and National Landmark is the homestead of Strafford's famous son, Senator Justin Smith Morrill. The site is owned and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP), with support from the Friends of the Morrill Homestead (Friends).

After an abbreviated 2023 season due to the July '23 flood, The Morrill Homestead re-opened in late May 2024 with a full season of events, camps and special programs. Prior to the opening, the Friends hosted a March Art Auction of Greta Newman's paintings, donated by her son, Andy Newman. The online bidding auction culminated in the show at Barrett Hall and was a huge success.

The official Open House saw a large crowd gather inside the Ed Center (due to rain) and a performance by puppeteers, No Strings Marionette Company. Families enjoyed ice cream, the puppet show, laughter and a lovely welcome back to the Homestead. Mid-June began our Walking Tours with John Freitag leading groups through the Village and pointing out homes and sites associated with Justin Morrill's early life. We hosted a fun Nature Play with Little Ones with Four Winds Nature Institute and the young children had a great learning experience in the rain. June ended with a Regenerative Agriculture Workshop.

July opened with a large turnout for our Gallery in the Garden and Minis for Morrill Auction. The month moved on with a Tree Walk then the standing room only talk given by Howard Coffin titled Vermont Women and the Civil War. Our Art camps began and due to interest by many families, we added an extra art camp this past summer. The Photography camp was also filled and campers displayed their photographs in the Strafford Village Post Office following the camp session.

August hosted the Printmaking and the Basket-Making Workshops, the Watercolor Workshop for adults and the Archaeology Talk given by a UVM Archaeologist. September started with the Saturday Walk with a Naturalist and the record-breaking crowd for the 19th Century Apple and Cheese Harvest Festival. There were music, wagon rides, face painting for children, farm animals, basket-making and our delicious apple cider from the cider press along with many different cheeses, apple pieces and ice cream. It was a large turnout on a beautiful Sunday in Vermont.

We were grateful to add an Apple-Pruning Workshop in October in the orchard that hosted a large crowd on a cold, blustery Saturday. The house tours closed, and the garden was put to bed. It was a success and we are very grateful to many volunteers who supported this 2024 season of events. The Homestead's Victorian gardens, historic grounds, and heirloom orchard are well cared for by our Master Gardener and a crew of teenage assistants and community volunteers.

We want to update everyone on this 2025 season. It will be different because the physical site will be closed for the summer. The State Division for Historic Preservation needs to conduct a water management study and work on the drainage issues causing extensive mold damage to the house. Due to the underground digging it will not be safe for any programs to be held at The Homestead.

However, stay tuned because we do plan to celebrate the 4th of July weekend with our Minis for Morrill Auction and other events that can keep Morrill's legacy alive and well off-site for this summer. The various events with all the details will be found at morrillhomestead.org.

The Friends greatly appreciate VDHP's dedication to preserving the buildings and collections and the financial support from individuals, area businesses, and foundations whose generosity makes possible all of our activities. We look forward to seeing you and your families back at the Homestead in 2026. Again, we would like to thank our neighbors and friends for your continued support of our endeavors!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kumari Patricia, Director
Jon Stableford, Board Chair

THE STRAFFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Cemetery Association is a private burial ground that is governed by the executive board made up of trustees of the association.

Plots are available for purchase by residents, former residents or close relatives of residents.

The association requests that the sexton be informed prior to any burial or monument installation. The cemetery is guided by a set of rules and regulations which the sexton can provide upon inquiry. No solar lights are allowed and all plastic flowers and planting containers must be removed by September 15th.

Our membership is open to anyone who is interested in the cemetery and new members are encouraged to join.

Officers of the association: President Gary Kendall, Vice President Greg Lewis, Treasurer Samantha Potter. Secretary Sherm Wilson, Sexton C. Punka Brown.

Board of Directors: Melvin Coburn, Barbara Murray, Ed Eastman

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Athletic Association (SAA) is an independent non-profit organization, created in 1964. It is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt entity and welcomes contributions from anyone who believes in our mission. Rosa Tyson helped to create the organization and over the years we've had tremendous support. Special memories and thanks to Kendall Mix, Dave Taplin, John Linehan, Peggy Thorp, Fred Schaafsma, John Freitag and many others in our community who dedicated countless hours and funding over the years. This organization has been primarily responsible for starting many of the recreational facilities in town, including the tennis courts, the Rosa Tyson Gym, the Town Pond (formerly called the SAA Pond) and the Rope Tow. Other town organizations, including the Lions Club and the Newton School, have since taken over responsibility for the recreation areas to provide insurance needs, but the SAA remains active to help care for each facility.

The mission of the Strafford Athletic Association is to provide athletic opportunities for residents of Strafford.

The SAA no longer owns anything in Strafford, but we continue to work with other town organizations and the school athletic department to help as necessary, either with funding or volunteer hours. Together, working with the Recreation Board, we continue to strive and fulfill our mission. In 2024 we sponsored several Campers to attend the Green Mountain Conservation Camp. We will look to do the same in 2025. We are always open to new ideas and again, we can accept tax deductible donations to help with our cause.

The volunteer board meets as-needed when projects or events arise. If you are further interested, have any questions, or would like to make a donation, please contact Tom Scull at 802-765-4617.

STRAFFORD COMMUNITY TRUST

The Strafford Community Trust is a Vermont charitable corporation established in 2024 to function as a community trust that will initiate, undertake, sponsor and support projects, programs and activities that will sustain and promote the general welfare of the Town of Strafford, Vermont and its residents. SCT operates with a volunteer board and has been raising funds to purchase the general store and relaunch it with new management. Until our 501(c)(3) status comes through the IRS, the Preservation Trust of Vermont serves as our fiscal sponsor which will allow us both to accept contributions and also to apply for grant funding. If you would like updates regarding the general store project, please refer to our website: www.straffordcommunitytrust.org.

CABIN FEVER UNIVERSITY

Cabin Fever University, Strafford's institute of random learning, is a nonprofit adult education program based right here in town. Established in 1995 by Eva Behrens, CFU focuses on the wealth of knowledge and experience among local people. Eva observed that artisans, horticulturalists, tech gurus, and craftspeople populate our community. With neighbors as faculty members, CFU provides free and affordable classes, workshops, and presentations. These events offer enrichment and recreational opportunities while building a stronger community.

Classes offered in the 2024 season included: Cooking Scrumptious Breakfasts and Small Plates; Basket-making; Needle-felting; Pottery Tiles; Cake Artistry. Presentations included: Energy Efficiency & Efficacy; Metal Detecting/Local Discoveries; Creating Healthy Habits; Writing an Advance Directive. Travel slideshows included: Summer Camp in Hangzhou, China; A Jack-of-every-trade on the Icon of the Seas; and Grave Hunting in Slovakia.

We are grateful for ongoing partnerships with area organizations which host classes/presentations: Barrett Hall, Newton School, Morrill Library, to name those most often accessed. Events are additionally held at private homes and sometimes outdoors: in the Pocket Park, on trails, at the ice rink, etc.

Possibilities abound! At our institution, any topic is possible. As always, we welcome ideas for new or rerun classes from community members. We also appreciate volunteers providing refreshments for our slideshow series. Leslie Berger, Therese Linehan, and Barbara Masteller are the current board members. Contact us with your suggestions.

Website: www.cabinfever.org

Contact: info@cabinfever.org

STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

In 2027, the Creative Preschool will have its 50th year anniversary!

Coming upon a milestone like this puts into perspective what has come before and what lies ahead. The success of the Creative Preschool is, and has been, buoyed and sustained by the generosity, commitment, and support from the Strafford community. The Creative Preschool was created by the people of this town and has been an important part of the fabric of Strafford. Over the years, hundreds of children have spent their days at the Creative Preschool and a large group of adults have been connected to the Creative preschool as a parent, caregiver, friend, employee and/or Board Member. And in the present, we must acknowledge our current passionate teaching team (10 of whom are from Strafford) and Board of Directors who all keep the Creative Preschool Inc. thriving.

In June 2024, the Creative Preschool expanded when we opened the Creative Nursery. The Nursery offers safe, nurturing, engaging child care for babies and toddlers (birth - 3 years). We worked diligently with the United Church of Strafford to bring this new program into existence. We are so grateful to the members of the United Church of Strafford who worked tirelessly to prepare for the Nursery and have carved out space for this new program. The Nursery is a very sweet and special place for the youngest ones in our community and fills a need for high-quality child care in Orange County.

Though the Preschool and the Nursery do not share the same physical location, we are the same organization. We are committed to our mission to create a community and an environment that will help children grow and develop into joyful, curious, and secure individuals who are able to interact positively with the people and world around them.

Our Nursery and Preschool programs are dedicated to providing experiences that are nurturing, playful, engaging, and developmentally appropriate. Highlights from the Nursery include going to the library to read with Melissa and Kevin, waving to neighbors during walks (“Hi, Bob!”), and establishing local landmarks in the Upper Village. Highlights from the Preschool include harvesting HUGE carrots from the garden, Forest Days, visiting the Newton School Library and Kindergarten, Art in the Pocket Park, Caroling at Coburn’s General Store, and picking flowers at Cloca Mora Farm. In addition to the day-to-day enrichment that the teaching team provides to each child, there are weekly visiting educators for Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, and Early Intervention support as well as Music with Brooke Wilkinson. We are thankful for all of their hard work maintaining a child-focused and joyful learning community.

Another way that we support children is by supporting their families. We know that families face many stressors as they raise young children. The Creative Preschool and Nursery is offering FREE Wellness and Resiliency

activities and support to all parents and caregivers of young children. Coming up the Creative Preschool will be hosting world-renowned author Kim John Payne:

Soul of Discipline

Lecture and Workshop with Kim John Payne

Friday, March 7, 6-7:30 Lecture at Barrett Hall
Open to the Public (Donations accepted)

Saturday, March 8, 9-12 Workshop at Creative Preschool
Limited Enrollment

Other opportunities include yoga at drop off/pick up, individual and group somatic healing sessions, mindfulness, art, and dance activities, meal and nutrition planning, and more!

Many on our teaching team have been at the Preschool and/or in education for 10 or more years. As educators, we are continually growing and learning to best meet the needs of children and their families. We are currently fundraising to help send a group of Creative Preschool and Nursery teachers to the Boulder Journey School in Boulder, CO to learn more about their Reggio Emilia program. This will both deepen our practice, build collegueship, and inspire new approaches to our programs.

Preschool and Nursery enrollment begin in the spring. Please reach out if you want to enroll your child(ren) at either or both programs. We prioritize placing Strafford children in our programs. However, our space is limited so adding your child or family to the waitlist is highly recommended. New families will be invited to our Spring Open House in April. The Creative Preschool is in community partnership with the Newton School and the Strafford School District through our shared work in educating children and Vermont's Universal Prekindergarten (UPK). UPK allows every Vermont child aged 3-5 to receive 10 hours a week, 35 weeks a year of free instruction, regardless of parental income or circumstance. We have a new website: straffordcreativepreschoolinc.com or reach out to Jody to learn more about our programs.

As we plan for the 50th year anniversary, we are collecting histories, stories, memories, and memorabilia to commemorate this occasion. Do you or someone you know have anything to share about the Creative Preschool? If so, please send a message to the email address below. We are beginning to plan for this milestone and your memories and input will guide us.

With Joy,

Jody Lowes, Executive Director
straffordcp.info@gmail.com
www.straffordcreativepreschoolinc.com

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY FIBER NETWORK

Strafford is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to all on-grid homes and businesses in its member towns. The District consists of 31 member towns and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. The business added over 900 new customers, and now serves nearly 9,500 customers, via 1,800 miles of network. When completed, the ECFiber network will be available to about 32,000 premises over more than 2,000 miles network. ECFiber is a miracle of collective action; without it few customers in our mostly rural towns would have reliable internet.

Construction in 2024 was focused on mainline underground work in the White River Junction, Wilder, and Quechee villages in the Town of Hartford; completing all of the Fairlees and Bradford except for the Bloodbrook/Wild Hill area in West Fairlee, where GMP is putting everything underground; finishing the Newbury cabling and starting the interconnection work at the central hub, with first customers coming on line in the winter; finishing the make-ready work and starting to cable Topsham.

The remaining towns along our northern tier, Corinth and Washington, will see make-ready work completed by spring with cable being run immediately afterwards. Windsor will see the northwest section of town built out. At this point, all "unserved" or "underserved" locations in our 31 towns will have multi-gigabit fiber service available on the nearest utility pole, and ECFiber on its own will have solved 20% of Vermont's rural broadband crisis with only a fraction of its funding – about 15% – coming from grants.

ECFiber dates its legal existence back to Town Meetings in 2008, when a two-year organizing effort paid off with 23 towns agreeing to create an internet service provider. The first customers began receiving service in 2011, just before the Irene floods; ECFiber became a CUD in June, 2015, opening the way to issuing revenue bonds. In 2020, eight new towns joined; in 2023 the last of the original towns came online, and in November, its Series 2023A municipal revenue bond received a "BB" rating from Standard & Poor's Global Credit arm, an historic moment in US financial history: the first time a municipal revenue bond not backed by taxes, and not for a regulated utility or exclusive service territory, received a rating. This was extended to the six earlier bonds as well.

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber and encourage you to subscribe. You will not be charged anything until we start service.

Stephen Willbanks, David Webb, Andy Behrens
Strafford@ecfiber.net | 802-ECFiber

Sign up today: www.ecfiber.net | About the District: www.ecvtd.gov

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

For over 45 years, the Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy, and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'24 (10/2023-9/2024), VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies, and community groups for information, referral, and assistance, and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to 297 individuals to help increase their independent living skills. VCIL's Home Access Program assisted 232 households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 115 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund provided 151 individuals with information on assistive technology; 43 of these



Since acquiring the Masons' Building in South Strafford, the Strafford Historical Society has embarked on major preservation work on the building, as well as the installation of an accessible parking spot and safe and attractive ADA-compliant access ramp.

Photo: Blake Spencer

individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. 507 individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program which served 40 people and provided 31 peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office, along with so many others, was devastated in the July flood) and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY24, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance
- Home Access Program
- Meals on Wheels
- Peer Advocacy Counseling
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund
- VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at: 1-800-639-1522, or, visit our website at www.vcil.org

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT EDUCATION

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Inc. (CVAE), a community-based nonprofit organization has served the adult education and literacy needs of Strafford residents for fifty-nine years.

CVAE serves as central Vermont's resource for free, individualized academic tutoring for individuals (ages 16 - 90+) in:

- Basic skills programs: reading, writing, math, computer and financial literacy
- English Language Learning and preparation for U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma and GED credential programs
- Academic skill readiness for work, career training and/or college

Strafford is served by our learning center in Randolph. The site has welcoming learning rooms with computers, laptops and internet access to support instruction. CVAE staff and volunteers also teach students at the library or other local sites as needed.

On average, 1 Strafford resident enrolls with CVAE a year. Teachers instruct students one-to-one and/or in small groups. Each student has a personalized education plan to address his/her learning goals. These goals might include: getting or improving a job, earning a high school credential, helping one's children with homework, budgeting and paying bills, reading important information, obtaining a driving license, preparing for college, gaining citizenship, and more.

Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72% chance of being at the lowest reading levels themselves, and 70% of adult welfare recipients have low literacy levels.

By helping to end the cycle of poverty, your support changes the lives of Strafford residents for generations to come.

CVAE provided free instruction to 454 people last year in the overall service area of Washington, Orange and Lamoille Counties. It currently costs CVAE \$3,710 per student to provide a full year of instruction. Nearly all students are low income. Almost 70 community volunteers work with CVAE's professional staff to meet the large need for these services while keeping overhead low.

We deeply appreciate Strafford's voter-approved past support. This year, your level support is again critical to CVAE's free, local education services. Only a portion of CVAE's budget is comprised of state and federal support. Funding is needed each year from the private sector and from the towns and cities we serve, to ensure we can help the neighbors who need education for a better life.

For more information regarding CVAE's adult education and literacy instruction for students, or volunteer opportunities, contact:

Randolph Learning Center
10 South Main St., Randolph, Vermont 05060
(802) 728-4492 www.cvae.net

VSNIP

The Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP) helps income-eligible Vermonters have dogs and cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated at a very reduced cost to them. Veterinary offices are throughout the state and we invite other veterinarians to join this altruistic effort to help continue eliminating routine euthanasia of mostly, an over population of cats and kittens. For an application, call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit: vsnip.vermont.gov. Together, we do make a difference!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator
Executive Director, VVSA

SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

The South Royalton Area Senior Citizen Center (SRASCC) serves the towns of Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. Seniors from other towns are always welcome. To qualify as a senior, you must be 60 years old or older. Suggested donation is \$5.00 for seniors and \$7.00 for all others.

The Board of Directors is composed of three representatives from each of the four towns. Sue Pirie is the director for both meal sites, one being in South Strafford at Barrett Hall, serving meals on Wednesday at Barrett Hall and the other in Royalton, at the Royalton Academy building, serving meals on Tuesday only for now and on Thursday to prepare curbside and home-delivered meals. We are fortunate to have Ed Eastman as the cook for Strafford and Brandon Hamilton the cook for Royalton. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutritional required. We served a total of 14,464 meals for the year 2023-2024. The food cost per meal was \$3.13 and total cost per meal \$9.73.

Since closing for COVID, attendance at the center has begun to get back to normal, curb side and home deliveries have remained high.

There is an established fund that offers aid to any senior who may have a need. Any senior needing assistance may contact Sue Pirie, the Senior Director; Karen Eddy, the Senior Advisor, or one of your Senior Board Representatives with their request. Requests are reviewed in a confidential manner.

Fundraising events continue so as to assist in the cost of running the center.

Willing Hands donated approximately 4,300 pounds of fresh produce and eggs to the senior meal sites this year. Panera Bakery donated 100 large boxes of bread, sweets and bagels. Several local farms also donate lots of fresh produce and fruits. We thank them all.

Strafford Senior Representatives are: Debby Richie, June Solsaa, and Lisa Durstin.

Submitted by,
SRASCC Board of Directors
Martha Fisk, President
Kay Ingraham, Vice-President
Corrine Ingraham, Secretary
Susan Coburn, Treasurer

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of supporting Central Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. For over 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters age 60 and up to remain independent and in their homes for as long as possible. CVCOA supports caregivers and families as they help loved ones navigate aging. CVCOA connects aging persons in our communities to the network of benefit programs and services they need to thrive and implements special projects and programs to alleviate social isolation and loneliness. All services are made available to our clients at no charge without regard to health, income, or resources.

Services include:

- Information & Assistance staff counsels older Vermonters and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, housing, mental health, legal assistance, support groups, healthy aging resources, and more through our Helpline, 1-800-642-5119 (toll free) or (802) 477-1364 (local).
- Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement, and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.
- Nutrition Program provides program management support, including menu development, training, and technical assistance for home-delivered, grab and go, and congregate meals at 13 nutrition sites. Free nutrition counseling services for people age 60+ to best support a healthy lifestyle.
- State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, New to Medicare workshops (in-person and on Zoom), and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.
- Family Caregiver Program Promotes the well-being of family members serving as caregivers to loved ones, including respite funding, training to help caregivers manage stress, and social activities Memorable Times Café / Memorable Times Online.
- Volunteer Programs provide direct service to community members through companionship, wellness classes, meal delivery, errands and grocery shopping, yardwork and garden help, creative guidance, and more.
- Community Programs help alleviate social isolation and loneliness and enhance social connection through exercise classes, veterinary services and pet food assistance, art activities, and technology training.

The need for aging services continues to increase in Vermont. During the last fiscal year (7/1/23-6/30/24), Central Vermont Council on Aging provided one or more services to 46 (unduplicated) Strafford residents.

Additionally, CVCOA provided nutrition counseling and education, caregiver training and respite funding, access to technology and resources, and opportunities to connect with volunteers for direct service, creativity, and technology assistance. CVCOA's case management staff provide information on a variety of topics, including elder abuse.

CVCOA served 4,531 unduplicated clients from 07/01/2023 through 06/30/2024.

CVCOA mobilized 247 Central Vermont volunteers who donated 18,000 hours of their time, valued at over \$600,000.

- 176 volunteers participating in our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Program volunteered more than 12,720 hours at our Central Vermont Nutrition site partners' Meals on Wheels programs.
- 75 volunteers donated nearly 4,500 hours to a wide-range of CVCOA-run volunteer efforts including leading wellness class, providing direct service support to clients, supporting special events, and more.
- 3 Senior Companions provided more than 760 hours of direct service support to nine (9) clients.

All staff, board members, and volunteers at Central Vermont Council on Aging extend our gratitude to the residents of Strafford for their ongoing commitment to the health, independence, and dignity of older adults in Central Vermont.

[1] Central Vermont Council on Aging does not directly operate a nutrition site. The CVCOA Nutrition and Wellness Program provides federal funding, technical assistance and nutrition counseling/education to 12 nutrition sites. This program supports home-delivered Meals on Wheels, congregate meals, and grab and go meals.

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is one of the oldest and largest non-profit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH is committed to providing the highest quality of care throughout all stages of life, from maternal child care to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. Providing individuals and families with the services they need at home allows them to maintain comfort and dignity throughout their recovery, rehabilitation, or final days.

VNH services reduce cost associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital stays and emergency room visits.

Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, VNH made 47,875 in-home visits to 2,429 residents of Vermont and New Hampshire

Residents served in the Town of Strafford include:

- Home Health Care: 6 with short-term medical or physical rehabilitation needs.
- Hospice Services: 2 in the final stages of their lives.

VNH serves many of our Region's most vulnerable citizens – the frail elderly and disabled, at-risk families, individuals with terminal illnesses, children with chronic medical needs and the uninsured or underinsured. We are dedicated to delivering outstanding home health and hospice services that enrich the lives of the people we serve.

It is with your help that we are able to provide services to those in need. Annual appropriations to VNH help to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Our twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connections with the Vermont Department of Health. The White River Junction Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to 22 towns in northern Windsor and southern Orange counties. Here are some of our highlights from the past year. For more information on our work, visit www.HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction

Promoting Healthy Eating: In 2024, the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program celebrated its 50th Anniversary of helping pregnant people and families with children under age 5. Our WIC staff provide WIC program participants with healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to community resources. To reduce transportation barriers, our office provides the most WIC program access points in the state with clinics at eight sites across the region. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction/wic-white-river-junction

Protecting the Community from Environmental Harm: Lead poisoning is a serious health risk, especially to young children. Our local Healthy Homes representative reports that 29% of children in our region have some detectable level of lead in their blood. No amount of lead is safe. The Lead Prevention Network brings together community and state partners from both VT and NH who are committed to seeing that all kids are screened for lead exposure and protected from the dangers of lead. To learn more, visit: <https://uvpublichealth.org/lead-poisoning/>

Improving Access to Dental Care: Our community has identified the lack of dental services in the region as a major health concern. In February, we helped to bring together dental providers and other volunteers to host a free dental clinic at the Hartford State Office Building. Our Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist facilitates an Upper Valley Dental Health Workgroup that is working to find solutions for making dental care more affordable and accessible. To learn more, visit: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/oral-health>

White River Junction Local Health Office
Toll-free: 888-253-8799 Main line: 802-295-8820
Email: AHS.VDHOLHWhiteRiverJunction@vermont.gov

PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL OF THE UPPER VALLEY

The Public Health Council of the Upper Valley (PHC) is our region's trusted leader in public health, supporting the people, professionals, and organizations, who together, make our communities healthier places to live, work, and play. Our mission is to improve the health of all Upper Valley residents through four key approaches:

1. **Collaborative Action:** We work with municipalities, health and human services organizations, businesses, and policymakers to develop and implement actionable plans and best practices to address community priorities and ensure access to essential public health services.
2. **Idea and Information Sharing:** We gather and disseminate important public health information across the region and create opportunities for people to come together and share their experiences and expertise.
3. **Support for Underserved People:** We advocate for health equity, sponsor promising programs, and provide additional technical assistance to municipal and organizational leaders to help vulnerable community members.
4. **Unified Priorities:** We align the public health priorities of the region to promote collaboration and progress toward shared goals.

PHC is recognized by the State of New Hampshire as one of its regional public health networks and collaborates closely with White River Junction District Office of the Vermont Department of Health.

Our work in 2024 included:

- Hosted six free flu vaccine clinics in Upper Valley in partnership with Dartmouth Health, Geisel School of Medicine, and local partners, providing close to 1,500 vaccines.
- Hosted eight learning sessions that bring people and organizations together across state lines to address the region's health priorities.
- Supported Upper Valley Strong's response to July 2024 flooding.
- Addressed health disparities by bringing together members of underserved communities to identify and respond to community-defined needs.
- Supported projects promoting childhood lead screening and recovery housing needs, among other improvements in our community health systems.
- Gathered local legislators and service providers to discuss many layers of work force challenges impacting health and wellbeing in our region.

PHC appreciates the opportunity to serve the residents of Strafford and will work hard to meet your needs in 2025. For more information about PHC, visit us at www.uvpublichealth.org.

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

This year has been a busy one for Upper Valley Ambulance. We are on pace to respond to over 1,600 emergency calls. This represents an increase of approximately 5% over last year's emergency call volume. In addition, on July 1 we added a fourth ambulance and crew during the daytime. This ambulance is dedicated to doing interfacility transfers and provides a much-needed service to DHMC and other local hospitals as they move patients to the most appropriate hospitals. Last year, Upper Valley Ambulance did 265 interfacility transfers. We are now on pace to do over 750 interfacility transfers per year.

The interfacility transfers have been a good source of revenue for Upper Valley Ambulance. Significantly, this operation has allowed for necessary wage and staffing increases while limiting the increase of our 2025 per capita charge to the towns to \$2 per capita instead of \$10 per capita. Since this is an additional ambulance and crew, the interfacility transfers have not interrupted emergency coverage.

We have a solid core of dedicated providers. In addition to the paramedics already on staff, two of our providers are in paramedic school and should be finishing in the summer of 2025. We also have five providers who are finishing their advanced EMT certification and should be ready to practice at that higher level in the spring of 2025.

In February of 2024, the previous director, Alan Beebe, retired. I was able to work with him for a few weeks in transition and have been filling the director position since then.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Zachary Bryan
Executive Director

SAFELINE

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

In FY 2024, Safeline provided 2,532 services for 285 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse.

42 services were provided for 5 victims (4 females, 1 male) who identified themselves as residents of Strafford. 8 children were affected. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety.

These services included assistance with Relief from Abuse protection orders, 4 domestic violence situations and 1 stalking. Services also included crises intervention, legal advocacy, safety planning, case management, emotional support and other services.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource to the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence in our society. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full-range of prevention education activities for community organizations, faith communities, youth groups and other groups seeking information about domestic and sexual violence.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

We thank the voters for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Strafford.

CLARA MARTIN CENTER

Clara Martin Center is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance use services to Orange County and the greater Upper Valley for the last 58 years. Clara Martin Center provides a multitude of services throughout greater Orange County to best meet the needs of community members in a holistic approach. These include individual, couples, and group therapy and services for co-occurring mental health and substance use. We also offer psychiatric consultations and evaluations and medication management services. Services are confidential and include:

- Outpatient Counseling
- Psychiatric Services
- Short-term crisis intervention
- School- and Home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Hospital Diversion
- Walk-in Clinic
- Vocational Services
- Substance Use Services
- Justice Involved Services
- 24-hour emergency system

Clara Martin Center’s broad range of programs serve children, families, couples, and individuals. Services are confidential and include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school- and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, alternatives to hospital care, respite care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic, and 24-hour emergency services.

With 58 years of experience and leadership under our belt, Clara Martin Center remains positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve. Clara Martin Center remains committed to meeting both the short- and long-term mental health and substance use care needs that the pandemic has impacted.

Clara Martin Center is proud to be in the process of becoming the first Certified Community Based Integrated Health Centers (CCBHC) in the State of Vermont, a federal model of care designed to ensure access to a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services regardless of ability to pay, including crisis mental health services, screening, assessment and diagnosis, patient-centered treatment planning, outpatient mental health and substance use services, primary care screening and monitoring, targeted case management, psychiatric rehabilitation services, peer support and family support services, and services for members of the armed services and veterans.

<u>FY2024</u>	<u>Total Served</u>	<u>Strafford Clients</u>
Children & Family Services	504	2
School Services	118	0
Vocational Services	70	1
Adult Services	747	7
CSP Services	145	3
Supportive and Transitional Housing	26	0
Substance Abuse Services	265	4
Corrections Services	99	2
Emergency Contacts/Walk-in Clinic	368	2
Access	598	5
Peer Services	55	0
Total Served by Program (unduplicated)	1,913	14

RED CROSS

As we look ahead to the new year, we take a moment to reflect on our profound gratitude to the municipal partners who help us deliver our lifesaving mission in our community. With your support, we are able to ensure the health, safety, and preparedness of our friends and neighbors throughout Northern New England.

Last year, our staff and volunteer workforce provided an array of services throughout the Northern New England region:

- We made 626 homes safer by installing 1,907 smoke detectors and educating 730 families about fire safety and prevention through our Home Fire Campaign.
- Trained 39,492 people in first aid, CPR, and water safety skills (training data for county level).
- We collected over 131,800 units of blood. Hospitals throughout Northern New England depend on the American Red Cross for these collections.
- In our region, over 3,400 service members, veterans, and their families received supportive services through our Service to the Armed Forces department.

In the past year, the American Red Cross has responded to 31 disaster cases in Orange County, assisting 51 individuals. The Red Cross provides safe shelter, food, relief supplies, financial assistance, and comfort to those in need after a disaster – whether it’s a home fire affecting a single family, or a storm or flood devastating an entire community. All Red Cross services are provided free of charge through the generosity of the American public and are available to everyone in need without discrimination.

Last year, Red Cross staff and volunteers worked throughout Orange County to educate residents on fire safety and preparedness. We made 15 homes safer by helping families develop emergency evacuation plans.

Orange County is home to 5 American Red Cross volunteers. We have volunteers from all walks of life, who are trained and empowered to respond to disasters in the middle of the night, to teach safety courses, to help at our many blood drives, and so much more. The American Red Cross is proud that 90% of its staff is made up of volunteers; they are truly the heart and soul of our organization.

We collected 846 pints of lifesaving blood at 26 drives in Orange County.

Last year, 214 Orange County residents were taught a variety of important lifesaving skills such as First Aid, CPR, Babysitting Skills, and Water Safety.

We proudly assisted 8 of Orange County’s service members, veterans, and their families by providing emergency communications and other services, including counseling and financial assistance.

ORANGE COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

Orange County Restorative Justice Center (OCRJC) is a community-based restorative justice agency, offering cost-effective alternatives to the Family, Criminal, and Civil Courts and the State Corrections system. We remain committed to our mission and vision—building and advocating for just communities by providing restorative programs to address legal issues, wrongdoing, conflict and the needs of harmed parties (victims); and connecting participants to services that improve the health, well-being and positive behavior of individuals and the community. We want the everyday life in Orange County communities to be safe, just and provide opportunities for all people to thrive.

We offer 13 programs to Orange County residents: Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) for high-needs youth, Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA), Community Restorative Practices training, Court Diversion, Driver’s License Reinstatement, Healthy Lifestyles leisure activities, Pre-Trial Services, Reparative Panels, Restorative Re-Entry after incarceration, Safe Driver Education, Transitional Housing, Victim Assistance and the Youth Substance Awareness Safety Program.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, 295 people were referred to us for services. Local volunteers provided 1,715 hours of their time to support 253 restorative meetings. We served 79 harmed parties and distributed \$3,000 in restitution to those who experienced losses due to crime. OCRJC helped: 79 people connect with counseling services, 12 people access our emergency support fund and 14 people reinstate their driver’s license. We secured 4 apartments for Transitional Housing and had 78 people in our Safe Driver program.

In FY24, OCRJC worked with 7 Strafford residents and addressed 3 incidents that took place in Strafford. For each incident referred to us, the person responsible and the individuals impacted by the crime are offered services.

OCRJC’s FY24 operating budget was \$921,412. We are proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County. The town of Strafford appropriated \$350 for FY24 to support our work. OCRJC requests \$350 in 2025 to support ongoing programs.

Thank you for your support! For additional information, visit our website at <https://ocrjvt.org> or contact Lisa Lee, Victim Services & Community Outreach Coordinator, at 802-685-3172 or Lisa@ocrjvt.org.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state. Member Benefits – All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 140 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, and fire districts. As members, municipal officials and staff can tap into specialized benefits, expertise, and services, such as:

- Legal and technical assistance, including prompt responses to thousands of questions on how to comply with state and federal requirements. VLCT also creates and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs to simplify the day-to-day work of municipal officials and staff. In 2024, members used VLCT’s consultation, resources, and government-specific finance training to help them obtain federal infrastructure funding, respond to flooding, and manage grants. Staff even helped state leaders design and implement grant programs to be easier for municipalities to use.
- Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials. VLCT provides training via webinars, classes at members’ locations, and its annual member conference. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials, and in 2024 VLCT helped members understand the local effects of updates to the Open Meeting Law, Act 250, and other state laws. VLCT’s Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities’ decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government, ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT’s recent legislative efforts have helped secure flood relief for municipalities, increase local transportation funding, expand remote meeting authority, improve emergency medical services, exempt downtowns from Act 250, and create local option tax authority. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont’s Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- Not-for-profit insurance programs. The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers’ compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also offers members group rates

on desirable employee benefits. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are only available to VLCT members.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit vlct.org. Recent audited financial statements are available at vlct.org/AuditReports.

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Two Rivers-Ottawuechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission, governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2024.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues: With more than 104 years of combined experience, our staff support your local officials in many areas. We provide advice on zoning, budgeting and capital planning, and reducing flood damage. We are engaged with state and federal initiatives, ensuring as a local government, you can take advantage of these. The Municipal Technical Assistance Program has supported eligible towns in identifying project opportunities and funding sources to undertake those projects. Additionally, TRORC staff have assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws, and studies.

Economy and Public Health: TRORC is part of the East Central Vermont Economic Development District, working to provide resources and opportunities for individuals, businesses, and communities. TRORC supports workforce needs and business growth by providing trainings, financial assistance research, and support for promotion and expansion planning. TRORC works with partners to maintain a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that identifies and proposes strategies to address economic challenges in the area, allowing the partners to seek EDA funding. Additionally, we work on initiatives to increase availability and access to health care services and preventative practices for all populations. This year, we worked on food security efforts, and helped towns with health planning and policy development.

Emergency Management and Preparedness: TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. We worked with communities in updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, which assist the reduction of future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they happen.

When disasters occur, TRORC actively becomes part of the state and local long-term recovery process. Most recently, we aided communities in recovery efforts from the July 2023 and July 2024 floods.

Energy/Climate Change: TRORC worked with towns on Enhanced Energy Plans, aiming to save money and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC worked with member towns in assessing town buildings and identifying funding sources for energy conservation upgrades. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation: TRORC worked with towns to identify needs and obtain funding for road improvement projects. We assist partners with managing transportation-related projects and ensuring compliance measures are maintained with the State. We also support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

TRORC helped the Town of Strafford update their Local Emergency Management Plan as well as plan and budget for future capital purchases. We provided guidance for managing federal grant funds, helped with an energy audit and an application to upgrade the energy efficiency of the town garage. Additionally, staff helped with funding opportunities for energy projects, such as the expansion of municipal solar and application for an electric vehicle charging station at a park and ride. TRORC provided guidance on environmental assessment for a site in town slated for redevelopment. TRORC also managed a ditching project at Brook Road.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret

STRAFFORD RECYCLING

You might have read somewhere about people who want to develop a “circular economy”. This would be one where most of the things we use as consumers (cars, toasters, kids’ toys, etc.) could be easily broken down into various pieces and the material in those pieces could be processed for reuse. This is a nice idea, and I’m all for it, but in practice we are a long way from anything like that.

As things are, there is a rather limited amount of material that can be recycled. This is not just in Strafford. The list of recyclable materials is paper, light cardboard, corrugated cardboard, tin cans, glass bottles and jars (to some extent), some plastics (such as #1 water bottles) and aluminum in cans and foil. Also, there is scrap metal, such as steel, copper wire, etc. That is the “universe” of recyclable materials. Even for these materials to be recycled they have to be in pretty pure form. Having to separate material is uneconomical for a processor. So, anything that is a mixture of materials is going to be nonrecyclable, even if the separate materials can be recycled.

What does this mean? It means that a lot of stuff that seems like it could recycle doesn’t. That silvery foil looking stuff on top of yogurt containers maybe has a little aluminum in it, but it has plastic film also. So, it is a mix of stuff and doesn’t recycle. The same with the wrappers on cream cheese. (My wife puts both of these in our home recycling bin, and I have to pull them out and put them in the trash.) Mixed materials are one reason why light bulbs can’t be recycled. We also don’t take paper coffee cups in the mixed paper bin because they have a thin plastic liner to keep the drink from leaking out.

I want to emphasize the limited amount of material that can be recycled because when nonrecyclables get mixed in with recyclables it costs more to have it hauled to Rutland for sorting only to have it put in the trash over there by Casella. It is better to put the nonrecyclables into the trash here and save the effort and money. We separate things at the Recycling Center to keep the Town’s costs down. People in town actually do a good job of sorting their material for recycling. This helps the town budget because Casella charges us a lot more for unsorted stuff (like the Commingled bin) than if we separate it out here in Strafford.

In 2024 the town paid about \$24,000 to operate the recycling center. We are hoping that we won’t be paying too much more than that in 2025. It would be much more than that, if we didn’t have our faithful volunteers who come out on Saturday mornings to staff the center. We on the committee thank them for contributing to making Strafford work as well as it does. We are happy to have more people volunteer; just contact me or anyone on the Recycling Committee: Vince Robinson, David Harris, and Scott Moore along with myself.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Scanlan (765-9625)

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs as well as offering technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities. .

- GUV held three special collections in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford. We collected 7.5 tons of tires, 10.2 tons of electronics (3.3 from the Sustainable Woodstock event), and approximately 8 tons of “big” trash. Collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- Members of the district recycled 2.09 tons of batteries in 2023. Please recycle your batteries and fluorescent bulbs at the Strafford Recycling Center. Batteries, paint, and fluorescent bulbs may be taken to participating hardware stores as well. Check our website.
- Vermonters saved 110,215 gallons of paint from the landfill in 2023.
- 241 GUV residents (21 from Strafford) participated in two household hazardous waste events.
- 155 GUV residents participated in three Styrofoam collection events, two in Lebanon and one in WRJ. GUV staff assisted with the events but did not sponsor them.
- 2025 GUV collection event dates and recycling updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town listservs, and in local newspapers.
- In 2024, Steve Willbanks once again represented Strafford on the GUVSWMD Board of Supervisors. We thank him for his dedication and ongoing support. We also thank all of the recycling volunteers for their continuing support.

For information, call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email hgillett@marcvt.org, or visit www.guvswwmd.org

GREEN UP VERMONT

Green Up Day saw a 30% growth in volunteers over 2023, picked up over four tons of litter and 15,813 tires. In flood clean-up projects, we took care of an additional 10,000 tires. We also attempted a Guinness World Records® title and succeeded! The record is: “The Most Pledges Received to Pick Up Trash in 24 Hours.” Vermont is the only state in the nation that can boast this achievement and the only state that offers a program like Green Up Day. As one of Vermont’s favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, and keep residents civically engaged.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives. We received a special flood recovery donation from Subaru of New England and have been able to rally volunteers and pay for many flood clean-up projects across the State.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2025.

Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of where we all get to live, work and play.

Be an Environmental Hero – Donate on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or at www.greenupvermont.org.

2025 Green Up Day is May 3rd.

Green Up Vermont is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS



Newton School Class of 2024

*Darby Parker, Rosemary Dotter, Eben Zoerheide,
Jeffrey Merchand, Lyle Mintz, Wyatt Harlow*

Photo by Randi Merchand

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING**

March 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford School District are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to VOTE BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT either via mail as provided by the Town Clerk or at the **Strafford Town Office on MARCH 4, 2025 between the hours of 9:00 o'clock AM (when the polls will open) and 7:00 o'clock PM (when the polls will close)** and thereby act on the following questions:

- Article 1.** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 2.** To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Article 3.** Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026?
- Article 4.** Shall the legal voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$4,424,498 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Town of Strafford School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,210.51, which is 2.36% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.
- Article 5.** To elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article 6.** Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$281,013 existing as of June 30, 2024?
- Article 7.** Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund in an amount not to exceed \$240,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$281,013 existing as of June 30, 2024?

The legal voters of the Strafford Town School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated: 22 January, 2025

Strafford Town School District Board of School Directors
Sarah Root, Chair
Eric Lopez, Vice Chair
Dustin Ray, Clerk
Nelle Donaldson, Member
Maggie Hooker, Member

**WARNING FOR INFORMATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the Town Strafford School District are hereby notified and warned that the informational meeting will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 1:00 o'clock pm as the Strafford Town House and via a virtual online meeting.

To be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 4, 2025:

- Article 1.** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 2.** To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Article 3.** Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026?
- Article 4.** Shall the legal voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$4,424,498 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Town of Strafford School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,210.51, which is 2.36% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.
- Article 5.** To elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.

Article 6. Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$281,013 existing as of June 30, 2024?

Article 7. Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund in an amount not to exceed \$240,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$281,013 existing as of June 30, 2024?

For the purpose of voting by Australian ballot:

Voters of the Town of Strafford will vote at the Strafford Town Office located at 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, VT 05072. The Polls will open on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 9:00 am and close at 7:00 PM.

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots will be publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Town Strafford under the supervision of the Clerk of the Strafford School District.

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2025

On behalf of the Strafford School District Board of Directors:

Sarah Root, Chair
Eric Lopez, Vice Chair
Dustin Ray, Clerk
Nelle Donaldson, Member
Maggie Hooker, Member

**POSTPONEMENT OF 2024
SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING**

At a special School Board meeting on February 15, 2024, the board voted to delay the annual meeting of the Strafford School District until April 15, due to the fact that the school funding formula was likely to be changed. Below is the warning for the postponed informational meeting.

**WARNING FOR INFORMATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING
STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The legal voters of the Town Strafford School District are hereby notified and warned that the informational meeting will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock am as the Strafford Town House and via a virtual online meeting.

To be voted by Australian ballot on Monday, April 15, 2024:

- Article 1.** To elect a Moderator who shall immediately assume office and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 2.** To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Article 3.** Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025?
- Article 4.** Shall the legal voters of the school district authorize the School Board of Directors to expend \$4,100,400 which is the amount the School Board of Directors has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$13,883.11 per equalized pupil.
- Article 5.** To elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years, one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article 6.** Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$180,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$419,787 existing as of June 30, 2023?
- Article 7.** Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund in an amount not to exceed \$200,000

from the estimated fund balance of \$419,787 existing as of June 30, 2023?

For the purpose of voting by Australian ballot:

Voters of the Town of Strafford will vote at the Strafford Town Office located at 227 Justin Morrill Hwy, Strafford, VT 05072. The Polls will open on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM.

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots will be publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Town Strafford under the supervision of the Clerk of the Strafford School District.

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2024

On behalf of the Strafford School District Board of Directors:

Sarah Root, Chair
Eric Lopez, Vice Chair
Jessica Tidman, Clerk
Maggie Hooker, Member
Dustin Ray, Member

STRAFFORD DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

@ STRAFFORD TOWN HOUSE

12 BROOK ROAD, STRAFFORD, VT 05072

& VIRTUALLY VIA GOOGLE MEET

APPROVED MINUTES

Participants: David Grant, Debby Richie, Diane Tensen, Liz Clarke, Nellie Pennington, June Solsaa, Rebecca Bailey, Kevin Lynch, Joey Hawkins, John Hawkins, Maureen Wilson, Jim Schley, Jessica Tidman, Beverly Bilsky, Keith Fifield, Leslie Berger, Terrence Garrison, A. Maher, Anita Onofrio, Allan Wylie, Tracy Thompson, Ray Ballou, Tara Weatherell, Jamie Kinnarney, Dustin Ray, Maggie Hooker, Eric Lopez, Sarah Root

To develop each child's potential for academic success, engagement and overall well-being by enriching each child's education with involvement, collaboration and outreach.

1. Call to Order

- Grant called the meeting to order at 10 AM.

2. Annual Meeting Articles

- The moderator explained how the meeting would work.
- The moderator opened the floor up to people running for School Board Director to speak; Root spoke and Lopez read a statement from Nelle Donaldson.
- The moderator went through the articles.
- Article 4 discussion:
 - Members of the Board and Administration presented about the school and the budget.
 - School topics discussed include student enrollment, class sizes, intervention, staffing, programming, student services, pictures of students engaged in learning, staff professional development, assessments, and school celebrations and events.
 - Budget topics discussed include Act 127, education funding, H850 and its effect on tax rates and education funding, what the school can and can't control in budgeting, the Longterm Weighted Average, yield, Common Level of Appraisal (CLA), budget increases, what the FY25 budget supports, changes since the previous version of the budget, the tax rate calculation, impacts of the changing yield, comparisons of budgets from other schools in the area, surplus funds and reserve funds.
 - Members of the public asked about the costs of high school tuition (over 30% of the budget), high school designation to help with tuition cost increases, and the impact of rejecting the budget (can borrow a portion of the current year budget).
- Root explained that putting all of the surplus in as offsetting revenue would create a starting deficit for next year, and the purpose of the tuition and capital reserve funds.
- A member of the public asked if they could set a maximum amount they would pay for tuition. School designation was explained. The Board intends to take this up as a discussion item in the future.

3. Other

- Please sign in
- Chip Hedler, a former employee of the school, passed away and Root recognized his service and dedication to the school.
- Root thanked Jessica Tidman for her time, service, and commitment to the Board.

4. Adjourn

- The moderator adjourned the meeting at 11:14 AM.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS**

April 15, 2024

School Moderator, 1 Year: David Grant 279; write-in 2

School Director, 3 Years: Sarah Root 237; write-in 14

School Director, 2 Years: Nelle Donaldson 278; write-in 1

Article 2: To fix the salaries in the amount of \$500 for the School District Officers for the 2024-2025 school year. Yes 270; No 28

Article 3: Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board of Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025? Yes 239; No 51

Article 4: Shall the legal voters of the school district authorize the School Board of Directors to expend \$4,151,186 which is the amount the School Board of Directors has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$14,161.23 per equalized pupil. Yes 182; No 113

Article 6: Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Tuition Reserve Fund in an amount not to exceed \$180,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$419,787 existing as of June 30, 2023? Yes 241; No 53

Article 7: Shall the legal voters of the School District authorize the School Board of Directors to transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund In an amount not to exceed \$220,000 from the estimated fund balance of \$419,787 existing as of June 30, 2023? Yes 236; No 57

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

It has been an exciting year at Newton School. We welcomed our new principal, Barrett Williams. Barrett lives in Thetford and was principal at Sharon Elementary School for many years before serving as Superintendent for the Rivendell District. We welcome him and are very excited about all that he brings to our district. If you haven't already, stop in and meet him.

Our Superintendent, Jamie Kinnarney, Barrett, and board chair Sarah Root have been at Coburn's General Store for Community Conversations this fall on a couple of occasions. More Community Conversations will be planned throughout the year to give Strafford residents a chance to meet this team and to ask them questions.

If you've driven past Newton School this year, you have seen an addition to the playground. Some of you have probably wondered what it is. Teacher Eric Walker and his class, along with volunteers, built a human-sized foosball game as a math assignment. They had a great time figuring out the dimensions and all the rest that went into building it. Once the snow melts, they will be able to again enjoy the fruits of their labor.

The Strafford Post Office was the site of a Newton art exhibit this fall. Another exhibit will go up in February. Please stop by and see the beautiful art created by our students. A big thank you to art teacher Nicole Butters, and Cyndy Veysey, Strafford Post Master, for putting this together.

The Newton School finished another successful Artist in Residence program in December. Kailie Larkin and Sophie Wood from The Royal Frog Ballet were the artists who worked with our students on storytelling, art, crafts, and performing with Winter Solstice as the theme. A big thanks to the PTA, who funds this wonderful opportunity for our students.

We were asked at last year's informational meeting to look into High School designation as a way of controlling costs. Our research showed the potential for monetary savings to be speculative and minimal at best, so the board decided it was not something we could endorse.

We recognize and appreciate the sacrifices the taxpayers of Strafford make each year to support the Strafford School District and we believe the budget we are bringing forward takes into account the needs of the district and also the imperative to control costs wherever possible. With the caveat that the Legislature and Governor have indicated they might take up school funding this legislative session, the current proposed budget represents a minimal tax reduction for residential properties, and a tax increase for non-residential properties.

We would also like to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding job all of our staff do everyday. Our students and our community benefit greatly from the dedicated, competent, wonderful staff we have at Newton. They do not always receive the recognition that is due and well deserved, so we would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT THE NEWTON SCHOOL

I would like to start by thanking the members of the school community, respected parents, teachers, and staff for welcoming me to Newton and giving me the opportunity to serve this community as its educational leader. In my short time as the Principal, I reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year, and I feel it is important to celebrate our achievements, discuss our areas for growth, and set our sights on the future as we focus on how to improve upon the educational experiences for our children.

1. Academic Achievements

First, I am proud to report on the excellent academic progress our students have made. This year, we saw:

- **Increased standardized test scores:** Across all grade levels, our students as a whole have shown academic growth in core content areas. This success is a testament to the hard work of our students and the dedication of our teachers. To build upon these successes, we will continue to focus on improving direct instruction practices with a focus on writing across all grades in our future planning.
- **Innovative learning initiatives:** Our new initiatives, as outlined in our strategic plan include specific math instruction (OGAP Training), EL literacy program implementation, MS pathways class (Portrait of a Learner) and improved communication that is transparent and informative. We have received positive feedback and feel it is making a measurable difference in student and community relationships and engagement.
- **Secondary School Readiness:** We have continued to strengthen our efforts in preparing students for life beyond The Newton School. This year, our MS has a weekly class that focuses on personal interest learning that includes voice and choice for our students. We’ve also enhanced our career exploration opportunities through partnerships with local businesses and professionals to set up job shadow opportunities and project based learning with local experts.

2. Social and Emotional Growth

The social and emotional well-being of our students remains a top priority. We have implemented several programs to support our students' mental health and social skills, including:

- **Mindfulness and emotional regulation opportunities:** These sessions have helped students develop coping strategies and build emotional resilience. We have initiated a second step curriculum in the elementary grades and character strong in our middle school. Our data suggested we have seen a significant decrease in office referrals during the first trimester as compared to last year. I attribute this to a strong teaching staff committed to responsive classroom management procedures, a supportive and engaged parent group and a sound systemic approach that continues to be supported by the supervisory union.
- **Peer mentoring and support groups:** Our peer mentorship program continues to thrive, with older students helping younger ones navigate the challenges of school life. These are led by our guidance counselor in small groups throughout the day and will be influenced by our students' needs.
- **Increased access to counseling services:** We've added and hired a fulltime counselor, established a working relationship with Clara Martin Center and worked directly with families to find individuals providing outside counseling hours. Our goal is and will continue to be improving communication between families and our support staff and ensuring that every student receives the care and attention they need.

3. Equity and Inclusion

We remain committed to creating an inclusive school environment where all students feel seen, heard, and valued. This year, we've taken several steps forward in promoting equity:

- **Diversity and Inclusion training:** All staff have participated in professional development on creating culturally responsive classrooms. Our in-house PD has focused on literacy through an equity lens that requires us to think about inclusive materials for all kids.
- **Curriculum updates:** We've made strides in diversifying our curriculum to better reflect the histories, cultures, and experiences of all students. Our focus on developing an improved system for using data to inform instruction requires three benchmark assessments per year in literacy and math. Through these data, teachers can then adjust instruction and improve outcomes for all students and progress monitoring every six weeks for those not showing growth.
- **Community engagement:** We hosted a number of cultural celebrations with artists in residence, local events recognizing veterans and MLK day

along with a series of community conversations hosted at Coburns' and Barrett Hall on a regular basis. Our hope is to provide parent workshops and celebrations of learning that have enriched our school's sense of unity and pride.

4. School Facilities and Technology

We've made significant improvements in our school infrastructure to provide a safe, welcoming, and efficient learning environment:

- **Building upgrades:** Our recent renovations to the building have been well-received, and we are continuing to make improvements in other areas. Future items to be addressed include paving the entry, replacing windows, updating our fire panel to code and other small projects that will improve the building envelope system.
- **Technology integration:** We have enhanced the use of technology in the classroom, with new devices, software, and online resources available to both students and teachers. Our goal is to ensure that every student has access to tools that prepare them for success in an increasingly digital world.

5. Community and Family Engagement

Our relationship with families and the community is central to our success. This year we have:

- **Strengthened parent/caregiver involvement** through events like parent-teacher conferences, feedback surveys, volunteer opportunities to read with kids, an active PTA that is amazingly supportive and focuses on enriching our student educational experience.
- **Partnerships with local organizations:** Our collaborations with local businesses, libraries, and nonprofits like the Justin Morrill Homestead have enhanced the resources available to our students, providing everything from internships, book donations and educational field trips to the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth, the Lebanon Opera House, and other culturally appropriate exposure to the world beyond Strafford.

6. Challenges and Areas for Growth

While there is much to celebrate, we recognize that there are areas where we can improve:

- **Addressing learning for all:** Although we've seen great progress, we know that some students are still catching up, while others may need to be pushed through enrichment opportunities. We are working hard to provide additional resources and support, including tutoring, summer programming, a positive working relationship with our local private pre-school and differentiated instruction practices.

- **Behavioral and discipline challenges:** We are continually refining our approach to discipline, focusing on restorative practices and promoting positive behavior through proactive interventions. We have seen a significant decrease in behavior referrals, which can be attributed to some structural changes to supervision of high traffic areas and more importantly approaching student discipline from the lens of understanding that kids are going to make mistakes, and it is our job to help them learn from these mistakes and make positive choices moving forward.
- **Teacher retention and professional development:** Ensuring our teachers have the resources and support they need is crucial for the ongoing success of our students. We will continue to invest in professional development and ensure that our staff are supported in their work. We are fully staffed this year for the first time since COVID and it has helped with consistency and uninterrupted learning when folks are out of the building. I believe sustainability of faculty and staff is a key factor in achieving institutional growth and your community support goes a long way in helping us maintain our teaching staff.

7. Looking Ahead

As we look to the next year, we are excited about the future. Some of our goals for the upcoming school year include:

- **Expanding our pathways program:** We plan to launch new initiatives that promote project based hands-on learning that enhances our science, technology, engineering, and math initiatives. We would also like to establish a Robotics Club and Jr. Iron Chef club for students interested in immersing themselves more deeply in these areas.
- **Strengthening community partnerships:** We'll continue to build relationships with local businesses and community organizations to create more opportunities for our students.
- **Focusing on mental health:** We will be rolling out new initiatives to further support the mental health and well-being of our students, including peer-led support groups and mental health awareness campaigns. In addition we will continue our efforts with outdoor education, which promotes stewardship for our land, cross curricular learning opportunities and real life experiences that are applicable to student learning.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, this year has been a year of growth, learning, and community repair. We've made improvements to our academic programs, social-emotional initiatives, and community partnerships, but we know there is still work to be done.

I am deeply grateful for the support of our dedicated teachers, staff, parents, and community members. Together, we will continue to create an environment where every student feels empowered to succeed.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to another successful year, filled with opportunities for our students to grow, achieve, and thrive.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barrett Williams
Principal
The Newton School

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT & CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

We want to begin by thanking the Strafford community for their continued support and commitment to all of the students and faculty/staff of the Newton School. The fiscal year 2026 (FY26) budget was developed with a focus on continuing our academic and social/emotional programming at Newton, while also working carefully to address concerns specific to residential tax rates across the supervisory union.

The Newton School has worked diligently to ensure great teaching and learning for every student in every classroom every day. We continue to implement instructional practices that are research-based and focused on personalized learning in order to achieve individualized student growth in the areas of academics and social/emotional learning. In every classroom at The Newton School, students are being challenged with rigorous academic expectations and supported to meet these expectations based on their individual growth. Flexible pathways, Spanish instruction, school-wide community-building activities, and learning in the woods are all vital aspects of a student's learning journey through Newton. Educators meet regularly to help ensure that students have the right support to make progress toward and meet grade-level expectations and opportunities to explore concepts deeply through integrated, hands-on, and real-world applications. This commitment to student-centered learning and growth aligns with our supervisory union's work to implement the WRVSU Portrait of a Learner, which clearly outlines the attributes that we expect our students to know, understand, and do as they attend our schools.

The budget as presented continues to provide funding that supports universal academic instruction and intervention PreK-8 and tuition for grades 9-12. We've been able to achieve all of this and keep residential tax rates in the town of Strafford at 1.6402.

What does this mean? It means that the projected finalized homestead tax rate has decreased .00071, or the equivalent of \$7.11 on a \$100,000 of assessed property value.

We are confident that this budget provides the resources necessary to provide a high-quality and responsive education for all students of Newton School, while also making certain that it happens in a fiscally responsible manner. We continue to work diligently across the supervisory union to present fiscally responsible budgets that leverage Federal/State dollars and both formula and competitively-won grants to support our local districts with added revenue. We are proud that we have once again been able to realize a projected surplus in the 2023-24 fiscal year. These surplus dollars enable us to ask your permission to continue our work in proactively funding our maintenance/operations and tuition reserve funds. This will allow us to extend our work in making certain that we have solid financial footing as we move forward in addressing several of the items identified as deferred maintenance needs in our Preventative and Capital Facility plans. We will continue to do everything in our power to analyze our system and ensure efficiencies have been identified while making certain that opportunities for students are enhanced.

We understand that there will be important conversations occurring at the state level this legislative session regarding how best to adjust our educational delivery system state-wide, while also proposing significant changes for the future of education funding in the State of Vermont to make our delivery system more economically sustainable. We have been and continue to be active participants in these conversations locally and in Montpelier. Therefore, we want to invite you to join us for any of our upcoming Community Conversations, our Budget Drop-In sessions on Friday mornings in February at the WRVSU offices or virtually (find information at wrvsu.org), or to give us a call anytime to better understand what is occurring here locally to provide fiscal sustainability while also being active participants in the state-wide conversation on the future of Vermont public education.

In closing, we would like to thank you all for supporting your school and students. Your support and involvement are critical in moving the school system forward with the vision of creating Schools of Excellence. We are creating an educational system throughout the ten towns of the WRVSU that is a destination for young families. This budget supports the work necessary for us to continue our work to deliver on these important goals.

With great appreciation and optimism,
Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of Schools
White River Valley Supervisory Union

Anda Adams
Chief Academic Officer, MTSS
White River Valley Supervisory Union

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES REPORT

The WRVSU Special Services Department continues to provide quality academic intervention, social/emotional learning, and behavioral support within the White River Valley Supervisory Union to students who receive specialized instruction within our eight school buildings, but we also ensure that our community students are provided quality services and interventions throughout the sixteen receiving middle and high schools through the choice school option in our region.

This is the second year the special services department has had the role of case managing Section 504 Plans for the SU. A Section 504 Plan is a document that ensures a person with a medical diagnosed disability receives equal access to their everyday environment through accommodations. In this case, their school environment. Throughout the supervisory union there are approximately one hundred fifteen students who receive accommodations and services through a Section 504 plan. It is a 3% increase from the previous year.

We are continuing an emphasis on professional training, modeling, and implementation of the structures of a Multi-tiered System of Supports. Having a solid multi-tiered system of support will be imperative for all schools. It will enhance the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to all students who require additional support at every level of need more quickly with documented progress monitoring.

When looking at the FY26 Special Education budget, you will notice that it contains a decrease of six paraeducators. We have had a decrease in the need for support staffing. You will also notice that the Behavioral Specialist position has been removed. Again, the need for a full time behavioral analyst has diminished. We will have an "As Needed" behavioral support contract with the Clara Martin Center. They have been able to increase their staffing, which in return has benefited our students and the type of support they are able to receive. Lastly, it includes an increase of one Occupational Therapist. Due to an increased need for support around fine motor skills, sensory processing, and physical impairments.

We will continue to support the professional growth of our staff so we can provide high quality interventions to all students using our own professionals instead of alternative schools, whenever possible. We plan to continue further professional development in academic screening tools, executive functioning skill development, and cognitive disabilities.

The overall FY26 WRVSU Special Education budget is \$8,461,371, which is an increase of 5.35% from FY25. A majority of the budget increase is associated with increased salary and medical insurance costs mandated by contracts and agencies. We have been very vigilant and efficient in our use of funds. We are taking a creative yet thoughtful approach to student programming and professional development opportunities so we can continue to bolster a rich Multi-Tiered System of Supports for all students at a reasonable cost.

With Much Appreciation,
Annette Rhoades
Director of Special Services



The scope of the work at the Strafford Historical Society Building includes a complete structural reworking of the first floor and cellar.

Photo: Blake Spencer

BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT

White River Valley Supervisory Union’s Business office handles the financial management of the Supervisory Union and our six-member districts: First Branch Unified District, Granville Hancock Unified District, Rochester Stockbridge Unified District, Sharon School District, Strafford School District and White River Unified District. We currently have a four-member team: Tara Weatherell, Business Manager, Ellen Blanchard, Accountant, Lisa Blair, Human Resources/Administrative Assistant to the Business Office, Johanna Snelling, Accounts Payable and Lori Rogers, Payroll/Accounting Clerk.

One of my roles as the Business Manager is to assist Superintendent Kinnarney and our Building Administration to develop budgets that align with the WRVSU’s Road Map to Success and maintain those budgets throughout the fiscal year.

There are multiple aspects of the current budgeting formula that local School Boards/School Districts do not have any control; these include the Property Yield, the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and the Secondary Tuition costs.

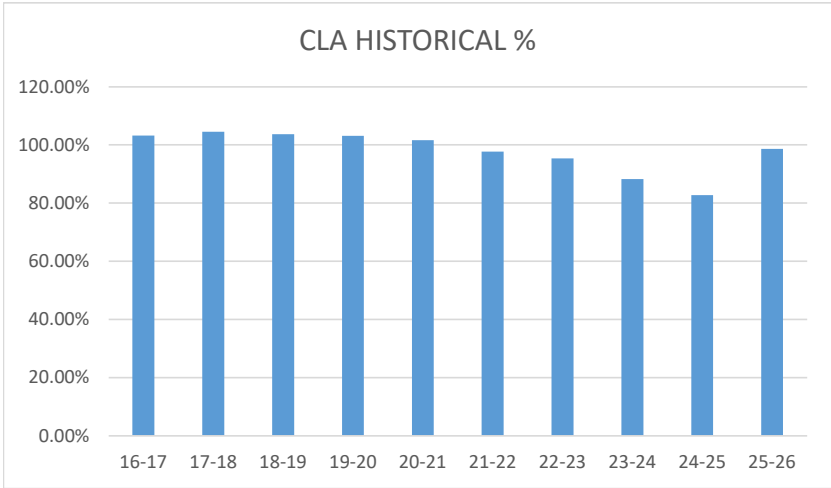
The Property Yield is determined by the State of Vermont Tax Commissioner using a statutory calculation and assumptions provided by the Agency of Education, Department of Taxes, Department of Finance and Management and the Joint Fiscal Office.

The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is used to make sure each town is paying their equitable share of education property taxes. The CLA is based on each Town’s property value grand list as it compares to property sales over a three-year period. If the grand list value is less than real estate sale prices the town will have a CLA of less than 100%; if the grand list value is more than the real estate sale prices the CLA will be more than 100%. The CLA doesn’t change the property value, it impacts the education tax rate to be paid by the town. The CLA is also used to determine when a Town needs to be reappraised. When the CLA is below 85% or above 115% the Town must reappraise.

In 2024 Act 183 was passed providing a “statewide adjustment” that averages the CLAs across the state. This means that each town’s CLA is divided by this average, and the result is used to adjust the tax rates. The statewide adjustment for 2025/2026 is 72.36%. More information on the statewide adjustment can be found at <https://tax.vermont.gov/statewide-adjustment>.

In essence, the CLA ensures that property taxes for education are fair and equitable across Vermont, so no town is over- or under-taxed compared to others.

For fiscal year 2025-2026 Strafford CLA decreased from 82.76% to 71.34% with the statewide adjustment applied it brings the CLA up to 98.59%. The following is a historical review of Strafford's Common Level of Appraisal:



The Secondary Tuition is another factor that the District Administration cannot control due to Strafford being a choice district for grades nine through twelve. The following is a comparison of the Secondary Tuition cost for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years that we have available as of the writing of this report:

ANNOUNCED TUITION (SECONDARY)

DISTRICT	FY25	FY26
State Average (Private)	\$19,774	UNKNOWN
White River Unified District	\$19,900	\$19,900
The Sharon Academy	\$20,900	\$22,900
St. Johnsbury Academy	\$23,425	\$24,600
Thetford Academy	\$23,890	\$25,060
Hartford Middle/High School	\$22,000	\$23,000
Hanover High School	\$23,944	UNKNOWN

Each of the above-reviewed variables has a direct impact on the educational tax rate.

The following is an overview of the Strafford School District's 2025-2026 projected budget as compared to 2024-2025:

NEWTON SCHOOL	2024-2025	2025-2026	DIFFERENCE
EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$4,100,400	\$4,424,498	\$324,098
LOCAL REVENUE	-\$167,591	-\$145,145	\$22,446
EDUCATION SPENDING	\$3,932,808	\$4,279,353	\$346,545
EQUALIZED PUPIL	283.28	301.14	17.86
PER PUPIL SPENDING	\$13,883.11	\$14,210.51	\$327
PRELIMINARY TAX RATE	1.3633	1.617	0.254
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE BEFORE CLA	1.391	1.791	0.400
PROPERTY YIELD (MAY CHANGE)	\$9,893	\$8,553	-\$1,340
COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL (CLA)	71.34%	98.59%	27.25%
RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AFTER CLA	1.6473	1.6402	-0.0071
NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE AFTER CLA	1.6808	1.8166	0.1358

The following shows how we calculate the tax rate:

1. Take the ACT 68 Education Spending of \$4,279,353 divide it by the 301.14 Long Term Weighted Average; this results in the Per Pupil Spending of \$14,210.51
2. Divide the Per Pupil Spending of \$14,210.51 by the \$8,553 Yield; this gives you the Preliminary Residential Tax Rate of 1.6171 (utilizing the 4.44 cent H.850 discount)
3. Take the Equalized Tax Rate of 1.6171 and divide by the CLA of 98.59%; 1.6402; this is the Residential Tax Rate after the CLA. This is the tax rate projected to be on your homestead property tax bill, which is a reduction of .0071 cents.

This tax rate would translate into the following dollar impact based on the Town's assessed property value:

Change per \$100,000 of property value \$7.11 Reduction
Change per \$250,000 of property value \$17.77 Reduction
Change per \$500,000 of property value \$35.54 Reduction

Superintendent Kinnarney, Principal Williams, the Strafford School Board and I all feel that this budget supports what is necessary to provide high-quality education to all students at The Newton School.

Sincerely,
Tara Weatherell
Business Manager

ONE PLANET PROGRAMS

SUMMER CAMP 2024

- Offered 6 summer camp locations: Bethel, Newton, Rochester (RSUD), Sharon, and South Royalton, Tunbridge (FBUD)
- Total summer enrollment of 343 students, grades K-6
- Offered four weeks (2.5hrs/day) of academic intervention for students who were referred based on assessment results and teacher feedback
- All intervention instructors were licensed teachers and paraeducators from WRVSU
- Extended the Sharon and South Royalton camp sites for a 7th week of programming and the Bethel and Tunbridge campsites for a 6th week of programming based on community feedback and need
- Across all sites, offered 22 different weekly themes based on student interest, all with unique programming activities
- Across all sites, offered 29 different exciting field trip locations, many connecting to weekly camp themes
- Partnered with the Arts Bus for 1 week of high quality arts enrichment at each of the 6 sites
- Partnered with Matt Colors the World to begin designing, creating, and installing 8x8' murals at each school building
- Employed 10 high school students (ages 16-18) from WRVSU
- Offered a CIT program for 14 and 15 year old students from WRVSU

SCHOOL YEAR 24-25

STAFFING

- Hired 1 new site coordinator to lead our Chelsea site
- Staff participated in the Handle with Care training offered by WRVSU to increase knowledge around de-escalation
- Site Coordinators and Director completed Vermont's Basic Specialized Care Training to become certified to better support our highest need children and families
- Site Coordinators and Director attended the Annual VT Afterschool Conference in November at Sugarbush Resort
- WRVSU high school student employees (ages 16-18 years) in Bethel, Newton, Sharon, South Royalton, and Tunbridge

PROGRAMMING

- All 8 sites are offering unique programming on a minimum of 4 afternoons per week including but not limited to: Matt Colors the World visits, The Arts Bus visits, Dungeons & Dragons Club, Homework Club, Origami, Go2Science, Cooking Club, Mountain Biking, Team Building Challenges, and Outdoor Exploration
- Daily structure of the program ensures all sites have voice and choice strategies in place, including group circle time, structured free choice time, social snack time, and decision/planning opportunities within enrichment programs.
- Continued community partnerships with Ridgeline Outdoor Collective, The Arts Bus, and Matt Colors the World
- Early Release programming: One Planet is operating on all of WRVSU's Early Release days; all sites are incorporating off-site field trips to high-interest locations
- February and April Vacation Camp: Our South Royalton site will be open for vacation camp in both February and April after a very successful trial year during our 23-24 school year.
- All three WRVSU middle schools will host a Jr. Iron Chef team, who hope to compete in the VT Afterschool Jr. Iron Chef competition in March!

LOOKING AHEAD

- All elementary buildings look to have a One Planet mural created by our students in conjunction with Matt Denton of Matt Colors the World. Be on the lookout for these murals as they continue to pop up in our buildings!
- FBUD Middle School is looking to expand its programming offerings with exciting club offerings this spring
- Director is preparing to submit 21st Century grant at the end of January

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

As I reflect on the past year at Thetford Academy and consider what to highlight in the Strafford town report, I am struck with pride at the abundance of programs, student achievements, and all-around ‘good news’ stories there are to feature in 2024. There is seldom an idle moment at our school on Thetford Hill, and no way to bundle it all into one or two pages.

One special highlight I include every year is a list of our recent graduates. Strafford was well represented in Thetford Academy’s Class of 2024. Congratulations to Charlize Brown, Addison Cadwell, Chenoweth Donohue, Alford Manning, Larry Justin Robinson, Grace Solsaa, Xander Waln, and Justin “Vin” Wylie, who all earned a Thetford Academy diploma in June.

Here are a few of the many other highlights in 2024:

- Our campus became a phone-free zone during the school day to support our top priorities of academic engagement and student well-being.
- Drama students wowed sold-out crowds with their performances of *Mamma Mia!* for the spring musical.
- Student and community volunteers helped design and develop a new disc golf course.
- A competitive Farm to School grant expanded our school garden program.
- The boys basketball and track teams won Vermont state championships.
- Panther robotics continued to dominate the VT/NH region and hosted their first meet in a decade at the Vaughan Alumni Gymnasium.
- The 1966 annex wing was renovated to add a wheelchair lift and expand campus accessibility.
- A strong senior class headed off to diverse and competitive post-secondary programs, including Bishop’s, Dartmouth, Dickinson, Middlebury, Northwestern, Princeton, University of Arizona, University of Utah, and Vassar, to name a few.

Thetford Academy is thriving and is a sought-after destination for families from a wide geographic area. Our enrollment for the 2024-25 school year is 320. Over half of our high school students are from towns other than Thetford, who have chosen Thetford Academy from among their town’s various high school options. We were pleased to welcome six graduates of the Newton School into the 9th grade this fall.

My hope is that many of you were able to experience Thetford Academy’s 205th year personally, in one way or another, and have your own highlight in mind. Perhaps you attended graduation or another event on campus,

talked with a current student, followed our news online, enjoyed our trails and fields for recreation, cheered on panther teams, came to a class reunion, served as a volunteer – or some combination of all of these! Our school is a community school and we are grateful for your engagement.

As we look ahead to Town Meeting Day in March, I want to assure you that the Thetford Academy Board of Trustees and I strive to strike a careful balance between cost and quality as we lead the school into the future. We are working diligently to manage school funding pressures, while ensuring that TA continues to be academically competitive, fiscally strong and sustainable, and a valued community asset – not just for the town of Thetford, but for all of our sending towns.

Thetford Academy endures and succeeds over the generations because of the deep and sustaining relationship with our community, including the residents of Strafford. I thank you for your interest and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Brennan, Head of School
Thetford Academy

THE SHARON ACADEMY

The mission of The Sharon Academy is to nurture intelligent, independent and creative thinking in a small school community, awakening students to their immense potential and the difference they can make in the world.

Highlights of the 2024-2025 School Year:

- “Footloose” Performance: This year’s High School Musical Interim production, performed at the Chandler Center for the Arts in Randolph, VT, showcased exceptional student leadership and succeeded as a community-building adventure.
- Finland Exchange Program: Now in its second year, this program, led by Fulbright Scholar Fallon Abel, partners TSA students with peers in Helsinki to address UN Sustainable Development Goals, such as Climate Action and Reducing Inequalities. TSA students will travel to Finland in late February, while Finnish students will visit TSA in May.
- STEAM Building: We are excited to announce that our state-of-the-art STEAM building will open in January. This new facility will provide incredible opportunities to expand hands-on, science-based learning and innovation for our students. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the USDA, Connor Contracting, and the generous donors whose support has made this transformative addition to our campus a reality.
- Spring Events: We invite you to join us for:

- Middle School Circus Interim: March 21 (6 PM Carnival, 7 PM show) and March 22 (3 PM Carnival, 4 PM show).
- Free Family Arts Day: A Sunday in late March (date TBD).
- Phoenix Phest: Saturday, May 31.
- Graduation Ceremonies: Middle School on June 12, High School on June 14.

Employee Profile: This year, TSA welcomes Jesse Dewey as the new Director of Academic Services. Jesse collaborates with staff, students, and families to provide tailored support for diverse learning needs. As a state-approved school for students on special education plans, TSA remains dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Student Spotlight: Congratulations to Strafford seniors Adi Alsup and Casey Yunger for their outstanding contributions and leadership in Footloose! Their wonderful performances and unwavering commitment to their roles, showcase their dedication and talent. Through their hard work and passion, they have not only achieved personal success but also have motivated and inspired their peers. Bravo!

Thank you to everyone who has supported TSA through time, expertise, and financial contributions. Your generosity allows us to fulfill our mission of knowing, valuing, and challenging every student to become the thinkers, creators, problem-solvers, and leaders our world needs.

We welcome you to visit us or attend one of our events—TSA is proud to be part of the local community, and you are always welcome!

Mary Newman
Head of School
The Sharon Academy

NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

The Newton School Parent Teacher Association is an organization dedicated to supporting Strafford's school and community. The PTA, which is composed of parents, school personnel, and community members, works to provide and support programs which benefit the entire student body and school community. The PTA typically coordinates and supports a number of events throughout the year, including Winter Carnival, Bike and Walk to School Day, the Fourth of July Fair, Halloween events, Artists In Residence, Staff Appreciation, field trips, and after-school workshops. The PTA also grants teacher and staff requests for classroom enrichment materials.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate this past year for Winter Carnival. We usually try to have Winter Carnival fall on a Saturday in February or March – and therefore missed the best weekend for it in January and didn't get the chance again. Our fingers are crossed for a suitable weekend for Winter Carnival 2025!

Bike and Walk to School Day occurred on a Friday in May. Not only did students enjoy the commute, but they were treated to a community breakfast once they arrived at school!

The Fourth of July Fair – an annual favorite – made another appearance this year- met with some pretty great weather! Kids were wandering around the common, figuring out which game to play next, eating sno-cones and candy from the PTA, wood fired pizza from Rockbottom and lots of people hung around until the fire department's chicken BBQ!

One change that Covid had on our Halloween activities has stuck around as a new tradition... When trick or treating was not possible, the PTA purchased enough pumpkins so that, with the support of the staff at Newton, each child was able to carve a pumpkin at school. These pumpkins were then transported to the Common for a Halloween night display of well over 100 pumpkins. This activity and display was extremely popular amongst students and the community that first Covid year and it has continued to make an appearance, with pumpkins being displayed along the sidewalk in front of the school.

Once kids got their fill of trick-or-treating in the villages, families gathered in Barrett Hall to enjoy a potluck dinner as well as the Haunted House (a creepy farm, corn, crow inspired event)!)

The PTA has also branched out a bit in our sponsorship as parents and community members have come to us with ideas for the students. "Community Movie Night" was one of these ideas spearheaded by a couple of parents in town and partially sponsored by the PTA. Though we certainly cannot take credit for the efforts of these awesome parents, we can encourage other parents to come to us with their ideas that need a bit of financial backing.

As always, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to Strafford. The PTA would not be able to meet our goals without the continued generosity and volunteer efforts of the Strafford community! Your contributions of time, talent, and funds support great programming for the children of Strafford. The PTA always welcomes new members and ideas. Anyone interested in participating in the PTA is invited to our monthly meetings, which usually occur on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. You may also reach out to a board member regarding ideas or concerns.

Sincerely,
Newton School PTA
Kira Campbell, Co-President
Lauren Phelps, Co-President
Hillary Miner, Secretary
Jason Stableford, Treasurer



The scope of the work at the Strafford Historical Society Building includes a complete structural reworking of the first floor and cellar.

Photo: Blake Spencer

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-2026 EXPENDITURE BUDGET**

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY24 PROPOSED	FY24 ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
1101 REGULAR ED INSTRUCTION	\$2,067,312	\$1,955,111	\$2,293,628	\$2,518,956	\$ 225,328	
111 TEACHER SALARY	631,216	578,197	685,758	752,909	67,151	9.3 FTE
121 PARA SALARY	27,675	29,038	53,688	66,353	12,665	2.0 FTE
131 SALARY SUB	30,000	24,417	30,000	30,000	-	
181 SALARY- GENERAL	-	-	-	-	-	
191 OTHER SALARY	4,000	3,850	7,000	7,000	-	
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	127,759	120,850	227,367	182,289	(45,078)	
218 H.S.A.	-	3,803	-	1,900	1,900	
219 HRA	25,200	21,309	38,500	24,500	(14,000)	
220 FICA	50,405	46,138	59,821	62,674	2,852	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	3,605	3,605	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	5,800	7,545	9,000	9,300	300	
233 VSTRS	-	-	-	-	-	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	1,453	1,714	2,756	3,649	893	
238 EMPLOYER MATCH	-	808	-	1,000	1,000	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	58	112	348	192	(156)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	6,295	-	5,102	5,653	551	
281 DENTAL INS	4,607	3,058	4,918	3,743	(1,175)	
292 LIFE	760	563	756	810	54	
294 LTD	1,732	1,117	3,405	1,966	(1,439)	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	20,000	7,426	20,000	15,500	(4,500)	
332 PURCHASED SERVICE	8,000	4,680	8,000	8,000	-	
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	12,000	1,738	12,000	12,000	-	
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	20,800	29,933	22,000	92,000	70,000	
562 TUITION TO PRIVATE SOURCES	607,340	783,851	844,595	942,780	98,185	
563 TUITION TO NON-VT LEA	375,315	164,976	143,664	152,284	8,620	Secondary Tuition
564 TUITION - SEC OUT OF STATE PRIVATE	35,938	48,709	40,185	41,921	1,736	FY26 ANNOUNCED TUITION RATES
567 TUITION TO VOC SCHOOLS	10,059	35,473	11,065	11,729	664	Enrollment as of 11/26/24
568 TUITION TO PUBLIC W/IN SU	37,000	18,500	39,800	59,700	19,900	Projected Increase: \$199,105
569 TUITION-OTHER	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	8,400	9,247	8,400	10,000	1,600	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	10,500	10,550	10,500	10,500	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
811 DUES & FEES	-	-	-	-	-	
897 PRIOR YEAR	-	(2,488)	-	-	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
	PROPOSED	ACTUALS	BUDGET	BUDGET		
1102 ART	\$ 29,750	\$ 20,691	\$ 39,004	\$ 30,008	\$ (8,996)	
111 TEACHER SALARY	25,666	15,990	26,155	24,675	(1,480)	.325 FTE Decrease from .5 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	188	-	5,290	-	(5,290)	
219 HRA	-	-	1,900	-	(1,900)	
220 FICA	1,964	1,171	2,116	1,888	(228)	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	109	109	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	-	1,950	1,500	1,550	50	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	10	19	23	13	(10)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	256	-	180	170	(10)	
281 DENTAL INS	116	56	235	-	(235)	
292 LIFE	-	18	54	54	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,550	1,487	1,550	1,550	-	
1103 PRESCHOOL	\$ 79,044	\$ 71,246	\$ 81,564	\$ 67,694	\$ (13,870)	
561 TUITION TO VT LEA	7,528	-	7,768	7,964	196	
562 TUITION TO PRIVATE SOURCES	71,516	71,246	73,796	59,730	(14,066)	
1106 WORLD LANGUAGE	\$ 39,228	\$ 9,136	\$ 41,383	\$ 39,389	\$ (1,993)	
111 TEACHER SALARY	35,576	7,559	23,825	35,689	11,865	.7 FTE Increase from .5 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	14,654	-	(14,654)	
220 FICA	2,722	818	1,927	2,730	803	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	157	157	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	10	19	23	13	(10)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	356	-	164	246	82	
281 DENTAL INS	-	-	235	-	(235)	
292 LIFE	64	-	54	54	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	500	740	500	500	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
1108 PE	\$ 42,681	\$ 33,723	\$ 41,212	\$ 43,388	\$ 2,175	
111 TEACHER SALARY	36,288	26,336	27,657	29,593	1,936	.6 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	900	4,533	6,348	7,087	738	
219 HRA	-	-	1,900	1,140	(760)	
220 FICA	2,776	1,869	2,237	2,264	26	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	130	130	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	725	-	1,500	1,550	50	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	10	19	23	13	(10)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	364	-	191	204	13	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY24 PROPOSED	FY24 ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
281 DENTAL INS	460	112	235	282	47	
292 LIFE	64	27	54	54	-	
294 LTD	94	61	66	71	5	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	766	1,000	1,000	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
1112 PERFORMING ARTS	\$ 31,007	\$ -	\$ 37,183	\$ 46,794	\$ 9,611	
111 TEACHER SALARY	26,428	-	26,500	32,586	6,086	.6 FTE Increase from .5 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	-	-	5,290	7,087	1,797	
219 HRA	-	-	-	1,140	1,140	
220 FICA	2,022	-	2,144	2,493	349	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	143	143	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	725	-	1,500	1,550	50	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	10	-	23	13	(10)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	264	-	183	225	42	
292 LIFE	64	-	54	54	-	
294 LTD	69	-	64	78	15	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	425	-	425	425	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
1201 SPECIAL ED INSTRUCTION	\$ 246,621	\$ 246,621	\$ 270,867	\$ 281,308	\$ 10,441	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	246,621	246,621	270,867	281,308	10,441	PER APPROVED BUDGET/ASSESSMENTS
1301 VOC TECH TUITION	\$ 18,924	\$ 23,275	\$ 24,321	\$ 23,034	\$ (1,287)	
566 VOC TECH ON BEHALF	18,924	23,275	24,321	23,034	(1,287)	FY26 AVERAGE @ FY26 RATE
1401 ATHLETICS & COCURRICULAR	\$ 19,032	\$ 4,791	\$ 23,102	\$ 23,173	\$ 70	
191 OTHER SALARY	16,100	2,870	16,100	16,100	-	
220 FICA	1,232	172	1,302	1,302	(0)	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	71	71	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	1,000	1,749	5,000	5,000	-	
811 DUES & FEES	700	-	700	700	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
	PROPOSED	ACTUALS	BUDGET	BUDGET		
2120 GUIDANCE	\$ 83,592	\$ 25,045	\$ 57,367	\$ 97,156	\$ 39,790	
111 TEACHER SALARY	46,350	20,717	49,203	74,260	25,057	1.0 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	23,879	900	1,500	11,811	10,311	
219 HRA	4,200	-	-	1,900	1,900	
220 FICA	5,910	1,619	3,981	5,681	1,700	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	327	327	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,350	1,509	1,500	1,550	50	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	5	10	23	13	(10)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	773	-	118	512	394	
281 DENTAL INS	461	-	470	470	(0)	
292 LIFE	63	45	54	54	-	
294 LTD	201	130	118	178	60	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	150	116	150	150	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	250	-	250	250	-	
2132 HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 80,188	\$ 78,020	\$ 84,500	\$ 91,381	\$ 6,881	
111 TEACHER SALARY	57,429	58,211	60,079	64,285	4,206	1.0 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	9,064	9,066	10,581	11,811	1,231	
219 HRA	2,100	1,950	1,900	1,900	-	
220 FICA	4,393	4,229	4,860	4,918	57	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	283	283	
232 OPEB RETIREMENT	1,450	1,509	1,500	1,550	50	
238 EMPLOYER MATCH	-	372	-	1,000	1,000	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	5	10	23	13	(10)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	574	-	415	444	29	
281 DENTAL INS	461	447	470	470	(0)	
292 LIFE	63	54	54	54	-	
294 LTD	149	96	118	154	36	
321 CONTRACTED INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	2,500	2,011	2,500	2,500	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	-	
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	500	-	500	500	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	65	-	-	-	
2212 CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION	\$ 33,735	\$ 33,735	\$ 41,354	\$ 41,457	\$ 102	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	33,735	33,735	41,354	41,457	102	PER APPROVED BUDGET/ASSESSMENTS

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY24 PROPOSED	FY24 ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
2213 STAFF TRAINING	\$ 26,000	\$ 34,836	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000	\$ -	
251 TUITION BENEFIT	14,000	34,311	20,000	20,000	-	
331 INSERVICES & TRAINING	11,000	525	11,000	11,000	-	
581 TRAVEL	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	
2220 LIBRARY/MEDIA SERVICES	\$ 63,329	\$ 72,731	\$ 80,271	\$ 62,509	\$ (17,762)	
111 TEACHER SALARY	50,822	61,585	66,294	43,558	(22,736)	.6 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	1,200	1,500	1,200	7,087	5,887	
219 HRA	-	-	-	1,140	1,140	
220 FICA	3,888	4,769	5,363	3,332	(2,031)	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	192	192	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	5	10	23	13	(10)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	508	-	457	301	(157)	
281 DENTAL INS	461	-	470	282	(188)	
292 LIFE	63	54	54	54	-	
294 LTD	132	85	159	301	142	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	250	110	250	250	-	
641 BOOKS & PERIODICALS	2,400	1,935	2,400	2,400	-	
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	2,500	1,703	2,500	2,500	-	
811 DUES & FEES	1,100	981	1,100	1,100	-	
2311 BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$ 11,497	\$ 29,600	\$ 11,670	\$ 13,743	\$ 2,073	
141 ADMIN SALARY	2,500	5,200	2,500	2,500	-	
161 CLERICAL SALARY	100	1,750	100	1,000	900	
220 FICA	191	520	210	268	57	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	15	15	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	-	12,569	-	-	-	
311 SECTION 125 ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	660	-	660	660	-	
349 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	100	-	100	100	-	
520 INSURANCE	3,846	3,116	4,000	4,400	400	
541 ADVERTISING	1,800	4,865	1,800	2,500	700	
581 TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	100	179	100	100	-	
811 DUES & FEES	2,200	1,401	2,200	2,200	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
	PROPOSED	ACTUALS	BUDGET	BUDGET		
2313 BOARD TREASURER	\$ 3,168	\$ 4,213	\$ 3,178	\$ 6,088	\$ 2,910	
141 ADMIN SALARY	2,200	600	2,200	2,200	-	
220 FICA	168	46	178	178	0	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	10	10	
533 POSTAGE	600	3,567	600	3,500	2,900	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	100	-	100	100	-	
811 DUES & FEES	100	-	100	100	-	
2315 LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,620	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	
342 LEGAL SERVICES	2,500	5,620	2,500	2,500	-	
2320 EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION	\$ 44,979	\$ 44,979	\$ 39,410	\$ 44,416	\$ 5,007	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	44,979	44,979	39,410	44,416	5,007	PER APPROVED BUDGET/ASSESSMENTS
2410 OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL	\$ 261,724	\$ 255,837	\$ 280,093	\$ 306,722	\$ 26,629	
141 ADMIN SALARY	99,910	100,000	105,000	116,480	11,480	1.0 FTE
161 CLERICAL SALARY	48,729	54,052	51,062	53,395	2,333	1.0 FTE
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	50,215	50,229	58,617	65,435	6,818	
219 HRA	8,600	8,051	8,400	8,400	-	
220 FICA	11,371	10,423	12,625	12,995	370	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	747	747	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	2,558	2,831	2,681	2,937	256	
235 - RETIREMENT/ANNUITY	1,500	1,500	1,500	2,000	500	
251 TUITION BENEFIT	2,200	-	2,200	4,068	1,868	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	10	19	46	26	(20)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	1,499	-	1,077	1,171	94	
281 DENTAL INS	878	895	940	940	(0)	
292 LIFE	317	270	270	270	-	
294 LTD	387	250	375	408	33	
331 INSERVICES & TRAINING	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-	
443 RENTALS OF COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY	6,000	8,568	6,000	9,000	3,000	
531 TELEPHONE SERVICES	6,000	3,378	6,000	5,000	(1,000)	
533 POSTAGE	1,000	303	1,000	1,000	-	
551 PRINTING & BINDING	250	36	250	250	-	
581 TRAVEL	1,000	1,003	1,000	1,000	-	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	7,250	7,029	9,000	9,000	-	
739 EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	-	
811 DUES & FEES	9,050	6,999	9,050	9,200	150	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY24 PROPOSED	FY24 ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
2510 FISCAL SERVICES	\$ 78,721	\$ 90,434	\$ 96,767	\$ 97,434	\$ 668	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	63,721	63,721	81,767	82,434	668	PER APPROVED BUDGET/ASSESSMENTS
835 INTEREST ON SHORT TERM DEBT	15,000	26,713	15,000	15,000	-	
2570 PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$ 660	\$ 662	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ -	
311 SECTION 125 ADMINISTRATION SERVICES	660	662	700	700	-	
2580 ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	\$ 83,207	\$ 66,063	\$ 88,179	\$ 92,022	\$ 3,843	
352 OTHER TECHNICAL SERVICES	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	-	
432 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY	500	-	500	500	-	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	44,979	44,979	45,456	46,229	773	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	-	-	-	-	-	
651 SUPPLIES TECHNOLOGY	35,228	21,084	39,723	42,793	3,070	
734 TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
735 TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
2610 OPERATION OF BUILDING	\$ 161,977	\$ 167,071	\$ 162,171	\$ 179,856	\$ 17,685	
151 SUPERVISOR SALARY	51,168	45,061	44,928	47,528	2,600	1.0 FTE
181 SALARY- GENERAL	17,940	14,843	19,864	21,164	1,300	1.0 FTE (.5 FTE DURING SCHOOL YEAR)
211 HEALTH INSURANCE	2,250	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	
220 FICA	5,287	4,483	5,242	5,255	13	
229 CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	302	302	
234 RETIREMENT-VMERS	3,628	3,109	4,373	4,808	435	
251 TUITION BENEFIT	-	-	-	-	-	
261 UNEMPLOYMENT	10	19	46	26	(20)	
271 WORKERS COMPENSATION	3,843	-	3,369	3,572	203	
281 DENTAL INS	844	184	462	463	1	
292 LIFE	128	77	108	108	-	
294 LTD	180	116	156	165	9	
341 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,000	1,747	6,000	6,000	-	
411 UTILITY SERVICES	-	-	1,200	1,200	-	
425 WASTE REMOVAL	4,000	4,250	4,000	4,500	500	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	10,000	13,901	10,000	15,000	5,000	
441 RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	-	-	-	-	-	
520 INSURANCE	8,099	8,910	8,423	9,265	842	
611 SUPPLIES GENERAL	14,200	18,770	15,000	18,000	3,000	
622 ENERGY ELECTRICITY	15,400	22,208	16,000	16,000	-	
624 ENERGY FUEL OIL	17,500	20,461	17,500	21,000	3,500	
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	3,500	6,934	3,500	3,500	-	
811 DUES & FEES	-	-	-	-	-	

FUNCTION & OBJECT DESCRIPTION	FY24 PROPOSED	FY24 ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
2620 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING	\$ 54,600	\$ 70,593	\$ 54,600	\$ 54,600	\$ -	
411 UTILITY SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	50,000	67,609	50,000	50,000	-	
441 RENTALS OF LAND & BUILDINGS	4,600	2,984	4,600	4,600	-	
2630 GROUNDS	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,570	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -	
422 SNOW REMOVAL	15,000	17,570	18,000	18,000	-	
431 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
733 FURNITURE & FIXTURES	-	-	-	-	-	
2711 TRANSPORTATION-RESIDENT	\$ 108,369	\$ 151,622	\$ 151,513	\$ 165,456	\$ 13,943	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	108,369	151,622	151,513	165,456	13,943	
2713 TECH TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	-	-	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	-	-	-	-	-	
2715 TRANSPORTION-FIELD TRIPS	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,414	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	9,000	7,414	9,000	9,000	-	
2790 OTHER TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	-	-	
519 STUDENT TRANSPORT	-	-	-	-	-	
3100 FOOD SERVICES	\$ 18,450	\$ 18,643	\$ 20,863	\$ 21,636	\$ 773	
593 SU-ASSESSMENT	18,450	18,643	20,863	21,636	773	
5020 DEBT SERVICE-LONG TERM	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,079	\$ 79	
831 REDEMPTION OF PRINCIPAL	3,000	-	3,000	4,135	1,135	
832 INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT	3,000	-	3,000	1,943	(1,057)	
5390 INTERFUND TRANSFER	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -	
910 TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	-	
(blank)	-	-	-	-	-	
(blank)	-	-	-	-	-	
Grand Total	\$3,728,296	\$3,547,282	\$4,100,400	\$4,424,498	\$ 324,099	7.90%

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY25-26 Revenue Budget**

Description	STRAFFORD Budget 2023-2024	STRAFFORD ACTUALS 2023-2024	STRAFFORD Budget 2024-2025	STRAFFORD Budget 2025-2026	Notes
BAL. CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR YRS	\$ -		\$ 28,000	\$ -	
<u>REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES</u>					
Interest	\$ 5,000	\$ 40,022	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
Tuition	-	30,670	-	-	
TuitionPK	-	-	-	-	
Miscellaneous/RENTALS	5,000	4,935	5,000	5,000	
Prior Year Adjustments	-	10,149	-	-	
Transfer from Tuition Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	
Donations	-	-	-	-	
Total Local Source Revenues	\$ 10,000	\$ 85,776	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
<u>REV. FROM STATE/FED. SOURCES</u>					
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	\$ 3,451,415	\$ 3,447,065	\$ 3,908,487	\$ 4,256,319	
ACT 60 Related Transportation	45,091	49,814	45,091	49,814	Based on FY24 Actual
Vocational Transportation Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	
Small Schools Grant	122,677	122,677	-	-	Removed with Act 127
Medicaid Reimbursement (IEP & EPSDT)	80,188	80,188	84,500	85,331	Cover Nurse Salary & Benefits
State Placed Reimbursement	-	9,713	-	-	
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$ 3,699,371	\$ 3,709,457	\$ 4,038,078	\$ 4,391,464	
<u>OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS</u>					
School Wide CFP/previously Title I/other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Other FEDERAL Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Vocational Education					
Tech Ctr from State to the Tech Ctr	\$ 18,924	\$ 23,275	\$ 24,321	\$ 23,034	
Grand Total All Revenues	\$ 3,728,295	\$ 3,818,507	\$ 4,100,400	\$ 4,424,498	

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-2026
TAX RATE EXPLANATION**

	Act 68 Tax Factors				
Budget	4,424,498		Property Yield	\$ 8,553	9,893 12/1 Tax Dept Letter
Changes	0		Common Level of Appraisal with Statewide CLA	98.59%	82.76% 15.83%
Total	4,424,498		Actual CLA prior to Statewide CLA Adjustment	71.34%	
- Local Revenue	(145,145)		VT Non-Residential rate	1.7910	1.3910
Education Spending	4,279,353				
			Adjustment for CLA		
LONG TERM WEIGHTED AVERAGE (v5)	301.14	FY25 LTWA 283.28	Estimated Actual Residential FY26 Tax Rate	1.6402	AFTER CLA
Education Spending Per Pupil	\$ 14,210.51	\$15,926.00	Estimate Actual Non-Residential FY26 Rate	1.8166	AFTER CLA
Less Exclusions	\$ -				
PP over cap amount	\$ -	0	Actual Residential Tax Rate FY25	1.6473	AS OF 10/24/24
Revised PP spending	\$ 14,210.51		Actual Non-Residential Rate FY25	1.6808	AS OF 10/24/24
Equalized Residential Tax Rate BEFORE CLA	1.6615				
H.850 Discount with Statewide CLA applied	(0.0444)				
Equalized Residential Tax Rate BEFORE CLA	1.6171				
Equalized Non-Residential Rate BEFORE CLA	1.7910		Change in Tax Rates from FY25 to FY26		
			Actual Residential Tax Rate	(0.0071)	
FY25 PER PUPIL SPENDING W/LTW	\$ 13,883.11		Actual Non-Residential Rate	0.1358	
DIFFERENCE IN FY26 VS. FY25 PER PUPIL	2.36%				
CHANGE IN FY26 VS FY25 EQUALIZED TAX RATE	0.2538				
amount to cut .01 cent of tax rate	\$ 25,756.50				
		CHG %	Increase per \$100,000 of property value	\$ (7.11)	
PRIOR YR BUDGET	\$4,100,400	7.90%	Increase per \$250,000 of property value	\$(17.77)	
PRIOR YR ED FUND	\$3,932,808	8.81%	Increase per \$500,000 of property value	\$(35.54)	
PRIOR YR TAX RATE BEFORE CLA	1.3633	18.61%			

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED FUND BALANCE REPORT OF MAJOR FUNDS
FYE June 30, 2024**

General Fund	\$309,013
Tyson Gym Reserve	\$ 35,064
Capital Improvement Fund	\$329,360
Tuition Reserve	\$344,250

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITED STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
FYE June 30, 2024**

Long-term debt included a note payable for \$35,000, annual payments in the amount of \$5,692 thru 2031. Interest rate is 6.85% the balance at the end of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year was 29,308.

Short-term debt included a tax-anticipation note for \$677,501 that was paid in full in the fiscal year 2024.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDIT REPORT
FYE June 30, 2024**

The Strafford School District has hired Telling & Hillman P.C., a professional audit firm, to review the district's finances. A copy of the audit will be available upon completion for review at the White River Valley Supervisory Union Business Office located at 461 Waterman Road Royalton, Vermont and online at <https://wrvsu.org/approved-budgets-and-audits>

PRELIMINARY

Three Prior Years Comparisons - Format as Provided by AOE

ESTIMATES ONLY

District: Stratford		<p style="color: red;">FY25 was the first year of Act 127 Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership for pupil counts. Equalized pupils are shown for FY23 & FY24. LTWADM are the new counts to use.</p>		T199	Property dollar equivalent yield	Homestead tax rate per \$8,553 of spending per LTWADM	
SU: White River Valley				Orange County	8,553	<--See bottom note	1.00
			12,260			Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income	
Expenditures		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025		FY2026	
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, and full technical center expenditures)	\$3,545,997	\$3,728,296	\$4,100,400		\$4,424,498	1.
2.	<i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-			2.
3.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$3,545,997	\$3,728,296	\$4,100,400		\$4,424,498	3.
4.	<i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-			4.
5.	<i>plus</i> Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-			5.
6.	Total Expenditures	\$3,545,997	\$3,728,296	\$4,100,400		\$4,424,498	6.
7.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-		-	7.
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-		-	8.
Revenues							
9.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc.)	\$248,436	\$257,956	\$167,591		\$145,145	9.
10.	Offsetting revenues	\$248,436	\$257,956	\$167,591		\$145,145	10.
11.	Education Spending	\$3,297,561	\$3,470,340	\$3,932,809		\$4,279,353	11.
12.	Pupils (eqpup FY23 - FY24, LTWADM FY25 - FY26)	168.47	169.65	283.28		301.14	12.

		\$19,573.58	\$20,455.88	\$13,883.12	\$14,210.51	
13.						13.
14.	<i>minus</i> Principal and interest payments for all voter approved bonds prior to July 1, 2024	na	na	na		14.
15.	<i>minus</i> Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$66,446 for an individual (per pupil)				na	15.
		Excess spending penalty suspended for FY23 - Sec. 5 of Act 59, 2021.			Excess spending penalty suspended for FY24 & FY25 - Sec. 8 of Act 127, 2022.	
16.	<i>minus</i> Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per expup)				based on \$67,638	16.
17.	<i>minus</i> Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer pupils				na	17.
18.	<i>minus</i> Estimated costs of new students after census period (per pupil)				na	18.
19.	<i>minus</i> Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per pupil)				na	19.
20.	<i>minus</i> Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per pupil)				na	20.
21.	<i>minus</i> Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per pupil)				na	21.
22.	<i>minus</i> Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.				na	22.
		threshold = \$19,997	threshold = \$22,204	threshold = \$23,193	threshold = \$15,926	
23.	Excess spending threshold	na	na	na	\$15,926.00	23.
24.	<i>plus</i> Excess Spending per Pupil over threshold (if any)	Suspended thru FY23	Suspended thru FY29	Suspended thru FY29	-	24.
25.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$19,574	\$20,456	\$13,883	\$14,210.51	25.
26.	District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	147.015% based on yield \$13,314	132.461% based on yield \$15,443	140.333% based on \$9,785	166.146% based on \$8,553	26.

Prorating the local tax rate

27.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$14,210.51 ÷ (\$8,553 / \$1.00)]	\$1.4702 based on \$1.00	\$1.3246 based on \$1.00	\$1.3633 based on \$1.00	\$1.6615 based on \$1.00	27.
28.	Tax rate "cent discount" (FY25-FY29) adjusted by statewide adjuster of 72.36%				\$0.044	28.
29.	Cent discount adjusted anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate				\$1.6171	29.
30.	Percent of Stratford pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	30.
31.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.66)	\$1.4702	\$1.3246	\$1.3633	\$1.6171	31.
32.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	95.36%	88.22%	82.76%	98.59%	32.
33.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.6171 / 98.59%)	\$1.5417 based on \$1.00	\$1.5015 based on \$1.00	\$1.6473 based on \$1.00	\$1.6402 based on \$1.00	33.

If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a **PARTIAL** homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.

34.	Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [($\$14,210.51 \div \$12,260$) x 2.00%]	<input type="text" value="2.45%"/> <small>based on 2.00%</small>	<input type="text" value="2.33%"/> <small>based on 2.00%</small>	<input type="text" value="2.67%"/> <small>based on 2.00%</small>	<input type="text" value="2.32%"/> <small>based on 2.00%</small>	34.
35.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.32%)	<input type="text" value="2.45%"/> <small>based on 2.00%</small>	<input type="text" value="2.33%"/> <small>based on 2.00%</small>	<input type="text" value="2.67%"/> <small>based on 2.00%</small>	<input type="text" value="2.32%"/> <small>based on 2.00%</small>	35.
36.		<input type="text" value="-"/>	<input type="text" value="-"/>	<input type="text" value="-"/>	<input type="text" value="-"/>	36.
37.		<input type="text" value="-"/>	<input type="text" value="-"/>	<input type="text" value="-"/>	<input type="text" value="-"/>	37.

- Using the revised December 1, 2024 Education Fund Outlook FY26 forecast, the FY26 education fund need results in a property yield of \$8,553 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$12,260 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.791. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION
FY25-26 BUDGET

Description	FY24 BUDGET	FY24 UNAUDITED ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES
CURRICULUM - SALARIES	\$ 46,360	\$ 7,929	\$ 62,700	\$ 65,170	\$ 2,470	.35 FTE, LEADERSHIP & COACHING STIPENDS
CURRICULUM - COORDINATOR SALARY	118,085	76,500	133,875	137,940	4,065	1.0 FTE
CURRICULUM - HEALTH INS	25,258	25,114	29,309	36,852	7,543	
CURRICULUM - HRA	4,000	2,405	4,000	4,665	665	
CURRICULUM - CURR EMPER TAXES	12,580	6,044	14,285	14,008	(277)	
CURRICULUM - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	806	806	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
CURRICULUM - LIFE INS	279	216	292	292	-	
CURRICULUM - NTHA VSTRS	1,450	1,509	1,500	1,500	-	
CURRICULUM - RETIREMENT CONTR	2,300	2,000	3,050	3,050	-	
CURRICULUM - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	1,263	1,263	Previously single line item under Central Office
CURRICULUM - PROF DEV	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	
CURRICULUM - DENTAL INS	523	462	692	654	(38)	
CURRICULUM - CONTRACTED SERV	5,000	269	9,000	9,000	-	
CURRICULUM - ADMIN PROF DEV	-	-	4,068	4,068	-	
CURRICULUM - TRAVEL	2,500	4,000	3,200	2,700	(500)	
CURRICULUM - SUPPLIES	1,500	1,160	2,500	2,500	-	
CURRICULUM - CURR-BOOKS & PERIODICALS	500	218	700	700	-	
CURRICULUM - TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	-	-	-	-	-	
CURRICULUM - DUES & FEES	5,000	5,084	5,200	3,645	(1,555)	
	\$ 230,335	\$ 132,911	\$ 279,371	\$ 293,813	\$ 14,442	
DISTRICT WIDE - CONTRACTED SERV	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,180	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
DISTRICT WIDE - TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE- SUPPLIES	1,000	113	-	-	-	Moved these expenses to Curriculum & Instruction
DISTRICT WIDE - BOOKS & PERIODICALS	200	67	-	-	-	
DISTRICT WIDE- DUES & FEES	500	644	-	-	-	
	\$ 5,700	\$ 2,005	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Description	FY24	FY24	FY25	FY26	DIFFER-	NOTES
	BUDGET	UNAUDITED ACTUALS	BUDGET	PROPOSED	ENCE	
TECHNOLOGY - SALARIES	\$ 288,806	\$ 293,974	\$ 306,576	\$ 321,890	\$ 15,314	5.0 FTE - INCLUDES DATA MANAGER STIPEND
TECHNOLOGY - HEALTH INS	88,683	61,295	71,198	79,890	8,693	
TECHNOLOGY- HRA	17,200	7,352	10,600	10,600	-	
TECHNOLOGY- EMPER TAXES	22,094	19,830	24,802	24,625	(177)	
TECHNOLOGY- CHILD CARD TAX	-	-	-	1,416	1,416	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
TECHNOLOGY - LIFE INS	508	432	432	432	-	
TECHNOLOGY - RETIREMENT CONTR	20,272	19,047	14,243	22,532	8,289	
TECHNOLOGY - ANNUAL ANNUITY	-	2,000	1,500	2,000	500	
TECHNOLOGY - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	2,221	2,221	
TECHNOLOGY - TRAVEL/CONF	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-	
TECHNOLOGY- DENTAL INS	2,267	1,966	1,872	1,872	-	
TECHNOLOGY - CONTR SERV	20,000	45	20,000	20,000	-	
TECHNOLOGY - REPAIR	500	25	500	500	-	
TECHNOLOGY - TRAVEL	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	-	
TECHNOLOGY - SUPPLIES	13,300	10,176	13,300	13,300	-	
TECHNOLOGY - DUES & FEES	-	1,421	100	1,400	1,300	
	\$ 477,631	\$ 419,565	\$ 469,123	\$ 506,679	\$ 37,556	
OFFICE OF SUPER - SUPERINTENDENT SALS	\$ 148,361	\$ 152,681	\$ 161,843	\$ 171,554	\$ 9,711	1.0 FTE
OFFICE OF SUPER - ADMIN SUPPORT	55,620	56,160	58,968	61,916	2,948	1.0 FTE
BOARD CLERK - SALARIES	900	1,750	1,000	1,000	-	
BOARD CLERK - FICA	-	832	77	77	-	
BOARD CLERK - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	4	4	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
BOARD DUES & FEES	-	225	-	225	225	
OFFICE OF SUPER - HEALTH INS	26,938	26,945	31,445	35,103	3,658	
OFFICE OF SUPER - HRA	6,300	4,301	6,300	6,300	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - EMPLOYER TAXES	15,605	15,395	17,864	17,860	(3)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	1,027	1,027	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
OFFICE OF SUPER - LIFE INSURANCE	254	270	270	270	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - RETIREMENT CONTR	3,615	3,786	5,480	5,834	354	
OFFICE OF SUPER - ANNUITY	1,500	9,134	8,092	8,600	508	
OFFICE OF SUPER - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	1,611	1,611	
OFFICE OF SUPER - COURSE REIMB	5,750	-	5,000	5,750	750	
OFFICE OF SUPER - DENTAL INS	951	923	969	969	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - CONTR SERV	5,000	10,451	2,500	10,500	8,000	
OFFICE OF SUPER - LEGAL FEES	15,000	5,688	12,500	10,000	(2,500)	
OFFICE OF SUPER - REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	500	-	500	500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - SUPERINTENDENTS TRAVEL	4,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - STAFF TRAVEL	100	554	200	500	300	
OFFICE OF SUPER - IN-SERVICE MTGS, ETC	2,500	633	2,500	2,500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	-	774	1,500	1,500	-	
OFFICE OF SUPER - DUES AND FEES	17,500	25,058	20,000	25,000	5,000	
OFFICE OF SUPER - FINGERPRINTING EXP	4,500	5,338	4,500	5,000	500	
	\$ 314,894	\$ 328,899	\$ 349,509	\$ 381,602	\$ 32,093	

Description	FY24 BUDGET	FY24 UNAUDITED ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES
FISCAL SERVICES - TREASURER SALS	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ -	
FISCAL SERVICES - TREASURER FICA	92	92	96	96	(0)	
FISCAL SERVICES - TREASURER CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	5	5	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
FISCAL SERVICES - ADMIN SALARY	106,590	111,500	117,075	121,743	4,668	1.0 FTE
FISCAL SERVICES - SUPPORT SALS	212,519	219,496	224,656	236,939	12,283	4.0 FTE
FISCAL SERVICES - HEALTH INS	99,791	79,571	88,747	109,708	20,961	
FISCAL SERVICES - HRA	19,400	6,320	15,000	17,200	2,200	
FISCAL SERVICES - EMPLOYER TAXES	24,412	22,736	27,646	27,439	(207)	
FISCAL SERVICES - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	1,578	1,578	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
FISCAL SERVICES - LIFE INS	508	441	435	432	(3)	
FISCAL SERVICES - RETIREMENT CONTR	21,050	21,490	23,067	25,108	2,041	
FISCAL SERVICES - ANNUAL ANNUITY	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	2,475	2,475	
FISCAL SERVICES - COURSE REIMB	3,000	26,218	4,068	7,068	3,000	
FISCAL SERVICES - DENTAL INS	2,376	1,847	485	2,424	1,939	
FISCAL SERVICES - OTHER CONTR SERV	62,000	66,010	75,000	75,000	-	PAYCHEX
FISCAL SERVICES - AUDIT	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	FIXED ASSET MANAGEMENT
FISCAL SERVICES - COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	200	-	200	200	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - TRAVEL/CONF	2,000	4,904	4,500	5,000	500	
FISCAL SERVICES - SUPPLIES	5,000	5,314	5,000	5,000	-	
FISCAL SERVICES - SOFTWARE	35,000	22,204	20,000	22,200	2,200	FINANCIAL SOFTWARE PROGRAM
FISCAL SERVICES - DUES AND FEES	2,500	19,225	4,000	10,000	6,000	
FISCAL SERVICES - AUDIT	60,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	-	
PERSONNEL ADMIN FEES	4,000	390	7,700	-	(7,700)	MOVED TO CENTRAL OFFICE
	\$ 665,137	\$ 680,957	\$ 692,375	\$ 744,314	\$ 59,639	
CENTRAL OFFICE - BLDG/GRDS CONSULT	\$ 25,000	\$ 28,571	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	
CENTRAL OFFICE - EMPLOYER TAXES	1,913	316	2,023	2,023	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - CHILD CARE TAXE	-	-	-	110	110	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
CENTRAL OFFICE - WORKERS COMP	9,750	39,542	9,229	-	(9,229)	MOVED TO DEPARTMENTS
CENTRAL OFFICE - UNEMPLOYMENT TAX	1,200	759	1,200	1,259	59	
CENTRAL OFFICE - LTD	10,000	12,691	3,210	11,805	8,595	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SECTION 125 ADMIN	-	4,070	-	4,000	4,000	DATAPATH MONTHLY ADMIN FEES
CENTRAL OFFICE - CUSTODIAL SERVICES	2,500	180	2,500	2,500	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - DISPOSAL SERVICES	1,500	1,492	1,500	1,500	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - REPAIRS AND MAINT	2,000	28,623	2,000	2,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - RENTAL OF BUILDINGS	62,403	62,559	64,275	66,203	1,928	INCREASE PER LEASE AGREEMENT
CENTRAL OFFICE - PROPERTY/LIABILITY INS	2,400	1,822	2,400	2,640	240	
CENTRAL OFFICE - INTERNET	-	948	1,000	1,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - TELEPHONE EXP	8,000	10,098	8,000	10,000	2,000	
CENTRAL OFFICE - POSTAGE	5,150	5,069	5,150	5,150	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - ADVERTISING	4,000	3,753	5,000	5,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SUPPLIES	7,000	7,530	10,000	10,000	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - SOFTWARE	500	-	-	-	-	
CENTRAL OFFICE - COPIER LEASE	8,000	8,094	9,000	9,000	-	
	\$ 151,316	\$ 216,119	\$ 151,487	\$ 159,190	\$ 172	

Description	FY24 BUDGET	FY24 UNAUDITED ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES
INSTRUCTION SALARY	\$ 63,528	\$ 581	\$ 66,294	\$ 70,935	\$ 4,641	
INSTRUCTION BENEFITS	1,500	-	-	-	-	
INSTRUCTION FICA	4,860	44	5,363	5,427	63	
INSTRUCTION CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	312	312	
INSTRUCTION LIFE	63	-	54	54	-	
INSTRUCTION	1,450	-	1,500	1,500	-	
INSTRUCTION RETIREMENT	-	-	-	-	-	PreK Literacy/Math Interv.
PREK TUITION REIMB	-	3,600	-	1,000	1,000	Funded by Title I
INSTRUCTION WC	-	-	-	489	489	
INSTRUCTION DENTAL	-	-	-	-	-	
INSTRUCTION PURCHASED SERVICES	-	-	-	-	-	
INSTRUCTION TRAVEL	-	548	1,000	1,000	-	
INSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	1,000	38	1,000	1,000	-	
	\$ 72,401	\$ 4,811	\$ 75,211	\$ 81,717	\$ 6,505	
PRESCHOOL COORD - SALARY	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	STIPEND IS \$5K
PRESCHOOL COORD - BENEFITS & TAXES	383	-	405	405	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	22	22	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
PRESCHOOL COORD - NTHA VSTRS	-	1,509	1,500	1,500	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - LIFE	-	54	-	-	-	
PRESCHOOL COORD - WINOOSKI VALLEY	13,500	11,840	13,500	13,500	-	WIN. VALLEY PARTNERS & TS GOLD
PRESCHOOL COORD - SUPPLIES	1,000	1,892	1,000	2,000	1,000	
PRESCHOOL COORD - TRAVEL	1,000	2,019	1,000	2,000	1,000	
PRESCHOOL COORD - PROFESSIONAL DEV	2,000	160	2,000	2,000	-	
	\$ 22,883	\$ 17,473	\$ 24,405	\$ 26,427	\$ 2,022	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - SALARY	\$ 27,851	\$ -	\$ 29,004	\$ 31,034	\$ 2,030	.4 FTE POSITION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - HEALTH INS	3,626	-	11,723	13,087	1,364	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - HRA	1,900	1,403	1,600	1,600	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CURR EMPER TAXES	2,131	-	2,346	2,374	28	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	137	137	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - LIFE INS	63	54	22	54	32	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - NTHA VSTRS	1,450	1,509	1,500	1,500	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - RETIREMENT CONTR	-	-	200	-	(200)	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	214	214	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - PROF DEV	400	-	400	400	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - DENTAL INS	460	447	460	470	10	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - CONTR CURRICULUM SER	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - ADMIN PROF DEV	-	-	-	-	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - TRAVEL	100	1,299	300	1,300	1,000	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - SUPPLIES	50	-	150	150	-	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - DUES & FEES	100	-	100	100	-	
	\$ 38,130	\$ 4,713	\$ 47,805	\$ 52,420	\$ 4,615	

Description	FY24 BUDGET	FY24 UNAUDITED ACTUALS	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 PROPOSED	DIFFER- ENCE	NOTES
COMMUNITY SERVICES - IMPROVE OF INSTR	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,363	\$ 78,481	\$ 39,119	.5 FTE COMM SCHOOL CORD - ADDED
COMMUNITY SERVICES - HEALTH INS	-	-	8,179	9,130	951	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCT	-	-	2,000	2,000	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - CURR EMPER TAXES	-	-	3,184	6,004	2,819	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	345	345	FY25 INCLUDED IN EMPLOYER TAX LINE
COMMUNITY SERVICES - LIFE INS	-	-	54	27	(27)	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - RETIREMENT CONTR	-	-	-	-	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - WORKERS COMP	-	-	-	291	291	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - PROF DEV	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - DENTAL INS	-	-	235	235	0	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - CONTRACTED SERV	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - TRAVEL	-	-	500	500	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - SUPPLIES	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES - BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	200	200	-	
COMMUNITY SERVICES- DUES & FEES	-	-	500	5,000	4,500	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,215	\$ 105,214	\$ 47,999	
Total Projected WRVSU Budgeted Expenditures:	\$ 1,978,426	\$ 1,807,451	\$ 2,146,501	\$ 2,351,374	\$ 204,873	
				9.54%		

White River Valley SU FY26 Member Assessment Allocation

	FY24 WRVSU Assessment Allocation:		FY25 WRVSU		FY26 WRVSU		\$\$ Change FY25 to FY26
	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	
FBUD	20.34%	\$ 371,902	21.05%	\$ 418,159	19.54%	\$ 428,195	\$ 10,036
GHUD	3.12%	\$ 57,047	2.96%	\$ 58,800	3.34%	\$ 73,192	\$ 14,391
RSUD	10.55%	\$ 192,899	10.24%	\$ 203,418	10.61%	\$ 232,505	\$ 29,087
SHARON	15.41%	\$ 281,760	15.43%	\$ 306,517	14.74%	\$ 323,009	\$ 16,491
STRAFFORD	10.25%	\$ 187,414	10.47%	\$ 207,987	9.79%	\$ 214,536	\$ 6,549
WRUD	40.33%	\$ 737,404	39.85%	\$ 791,621	41.98%	\$ 919,939	\$ 128,318
	100.00%	\$ 1,828,426	100.00%	\$ 1,986,501	100.00%	\$ 2,191,374	\$ 204,873

WRVSU Revenue / Assessment Sources:	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	\$\$ Change
WRVSU BUDGET EXPENDITURES (Non SpEd)	\$ 1,978,426	\$ 2,146,501	\$ 2,351,374	\$ 204,873
LESS LOCAL SOURCE REVENUES:				-
INDIRECT RATE	-	-	-	-
INTEREST	-	-	-	-
LESS DIRECT GRANT REVENUE	-	-	-	-
MEDICAID	-	-	-	-
EPSDT / MAC	-	-	-	-
FEDERAL TITLE FUNDS:	-	-	-	-
IDEA B	-	-	-	-
Title II - Curriculum	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	-
Title II - Prek	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	-
Title I - Prek Reading / Math Intervention	(70,000)	(80,000)	(80,000)	-
Local Assessment Amount:	\$ 1,828,426	\$ 1,986,501	\$ 2,191,374	\$ 204,873

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION

**Special Education
FY25-26 BUDGET**

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY23-24		FY24-25		FY25-26		DIFFERENCE	NOTES
	APPROVED	ACTUALS	APPROVED	PROPOSED	APPROVED	PROPOSED		
EEE TEACHER SALS	\$ 136,204	\$ 138,308	\$ 140,358	\$ 160,159	\$ 19,801		2.0 FTE	
EEE SUPPORT STAFF SALS	-	-	-	-	\$0			
EEE INSTR - HEALTH INS	18,128	18,133	21,161	23,623	\$2,461			
EEE INSTR - EMPLOYER TAXES	10,420	9,960	11,355	12,252	\$897			
EEE INSTR - HRA	3,800	3,136	3,800	3,800	\$0			
EEE INSTR - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	705	\$705			
EEE INSTR - LIFE INS	127	-	108	108	\$0			
EEE INSTR - OPEB	-	1,509	1,500	1,500	\$0			
EEE INSTR - EMPLER RETIREMENT	-	-	-	-	\$0			
EEE INST ER MATCH	-	885	-	885	\$885			
EEE INSTR - WORKERS COMP	-	-	968	1,105	\$137			
EEE INSTR - UNEMPLOYMENT	122	77	51	26	(\$25)			
EEE INSTR - PROF DEV	4,000	378	4,000	2,000	(\$2,000)			
EEE INSTR - DENTAL INS	921	-	940	940	(\$0)			
EEE INSTR - DISABILITY INS	354	-	337	384	\$47			
EEE - CONTRACTED SERVICES	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	\$0			
EEE - TUITION	500	-	500	500	\$0			
EEE INSTR - TRAVEL	2,500	5,517	5,000	5,500	\$500			
EEE - SUPPLIES	1,500	551	1,500	1,500	\$0			
EEE-DIRECT INSTR.-DUES&FEES	300	-	300	300	\$0			
TOTAL EEE INSTRUCTION	\$ 183,875	\$ 178,453	\$ 196,878	\$ 220,286				
IDEA B PRE-K - SUPPLIES	\$ -	\$ 402	\$ -	\$ -	\$0			
TOTAL IDEA B PREK	\$ -	\$ 402	\$ -	\$ -	\$0			
EEE - OT CONTR SERVICES	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$0			
EEE - OT TRAVEL	500	-	500	500	\$0			
TOTAL EEE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$0			
SPEC ED - TEACHER SALS	\$ 1,204,753	\$ 1,120,380	\$ 1,260,906	\$ 1,374,454	\$113,548	17.0 FTE & .65 INT PROG CORD		
SPEC ED - SUPPORT STAFF SALS	1,007,451	915,634	994,406	875,611	(\$118,794)	30 FTE PARA		
SPEC ED - SUMMER SALS	30,000	-	30,000	30,000	\$0			
SPEC ED - SUBSTITUTES	40,000	30,731	40,000	40,000	\$0			
SPEC ED - HEALTH INS	632,888	533,248	619,605	771,221	\$151,616			
SPEC ED - HRA	127,900	68,892	84,000	122,735	\$38,735			
SPEC ED - EMPLOYER TAXES	169,234	147,224	182,455	172,130	(\$10,325)			
SPEC ED - CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	9,900	\$9,900			
SPEC ED - LIFE INS	3,419	2,700	2,948	2,735	(\$213)			
SPED-VSTRS OPEB	11,500	10,563	11,500	11,500	\$0			
SPEC ED - RETIREMENT CONTR	65,484	60,296	68,858	61,128	(\$7,730)			
SPED ER MATCH	-	885	-	885	\$885			
SPEC ED - WORKERS COMP INS	16,592	-	15,562	15,525	(\$36)			
SPEC ED - UNEMPLOYMENT	3,222	2,038	1,348	623	(\$725)			
SPEC ED - PROF DEV	-	1,875	-	-	\$0			
SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	22,803	18,573	18,980	19,222	\$242	FY24 and beyond budgeted in Function 2213		

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY23-24 APPROVED	FY23-24 ACTUALS	FY24-25 APPROVED	FY25-26 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
SPEC ED - CONTRACTED SERVICES	153,500	94,765	153,500	185,000	\$31,500	Added a Behavioral Contract
SPEC ED - ADVERTISING	-	1,053	150	1,000	\$850	
SPEC ED - TUITION	1,640,000	992,656	1,640,000	1,800,000	\$160,000	
SPEC ED - TRAVEL	3,000	3,353	3,000	10,000	\$7,000	
SPEC ED - EXCESS COSTS	670,000	545,309	670,000	670,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - SUPPLIES	15,000	5,473	15,000	15,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - BOOKS	-	-	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - SOFTWARE	3,500	1,875	3,500	3,500	\$0	
SPEC ED - EQUIPMENT	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	\$0	
TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECT INSTRUCTION	\$ 5,830,246	\$ 4,557,521	\$ 5,825,718	\$ 6,202,169	\$376,452	
IDEA B PROP SHARE SUPPLIES	\$ 5,806	\$ -	\$ 5,806	\$ 5,806	\$0	
IDEA B - PROP SHARE PROF SERV	-	3,230	-	-	\$0	
TOTAL PROPORTIONATE SHARE	\$ 5,806	\$ 3,230	\$ 5,806	\$ 5,806	\$0	
IDEA B - DIRECT INSTRUCTION SALARIES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	
IDEA B - DIRECT INSTRUCTION EMPLOYER TAXES	-	-	-	-	\$0	
IDEA B - DIRECT INSTRUCTION PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	-	190,471	-	-	\$0	
IDEA B - TUITION	-	-	-	-	\$0	
IDEA B - DIRECT INSTR SUPPLIES	-	5,345	-	-	\$0	
TOTAL IDEA B DIRECT INSTRUCTION	\$ -	\$ 195,816	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	
SPEC ED - PSYCH SRVCS SALARY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,000	\$ 62,623	(\$22,377)	PSYCHOLOGIST 1.0 FTE
SPEC ED - PSYCH HEALTH INS	-	-	29,309	11,811	(\$17,497)	
SPEC ED - PSYCH EMPLOYER TAXES	-	-	6,877	4,791	(\$2,086)	
SPEC ED - PSYCH CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	276		
SPEC ED - PSYCH RETIREMENT	-	-	-	3,992	\$3,992	
SPEC ED - PSYCH WORKERS COMP	-	-	587	432	(\$154)	
SPEC ED - PSYCH DENTAL INS	-	-	485	470	(\$15)	
SPEC ED - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	350,000	133,195	230,000	180,000	(\$50,000)	Clara Martin Classroom Case Managers
TOTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$ 350,000	\$ 133,195	\$ 352,256	\$ 264,395	(\$88,137)	
IDEA B - PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULT	\$ -	\$ 102,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	
IDEA B - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	-	-	-	-	\$0	
TOTAL PSYCHOLOGICAL	\$ -	\$ 102,477	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	
SPEC ED - SLP SALS	\$ 260,442	\$ 311,071	\$ 324,585	\$ 326,850	\$2,265	3.0 FTE SLP & 2.0 SLP AIDE
SPEC ED - SLP HEALTH INS	60,480	36,581	71,798	101,653	\$29,855	
SPEC ED - SLP HRA	10,300	6,619	10,300	12,400	\$2,100	
SPEC ED - SLP EMPLOYER TAXES	19,924	22,410	26,259	25,004	(\$1,255)	
SPEC ED - SLP CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	1,438	\$1,438	
SPEC ED - SLP LIFE INS	253	272	324	270	(\$54)	
SPEC ED - SLP RETIREMENT CONTR	2,989	4,502	4,866	5,369	\$503	
SPEC ED - SLP ER MATCH	-	1,885	-	1,885	\$1,885	
SPEC ED - SLP WORKERS COMP	1,953	-	2,240	2,255	\$16	
SPEC ED - PROF DEV	4,000	516	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - DENTAL INS	1,743	1,372	1,872	1,778	(\$94)	
SPEC ED - DISABILITY	677	-	779	626	(\$153)	
SPEC ED - SLP CONTRACTED SERVICES	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - SLP TRAVEL	2,500	1,409	2,500	3,000	\$500	
SPEC ED - SLP SUPPLIES	1,500	1,614	1,500	1,500	\$0	
SPEC ED - SLP DUES & FEES	1,000	798	1,000	1,000	\$0	

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY23-24 APPROVED	FY23-24 ACTUALS	FY24-25 APPROVED	FY25-26 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
TOTAL SPEECH SERVICES	\$ 387,762	\$ 389,048	\$ 468,023	\$ 505,028	\$37,005	
IDEA B - SPEECH CONT SVC	\$ -	\$ 3,975	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000	\$0	
TOTAL IDEA B SPEECH	\$ -	\$ 3,975	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - OT SALARIES	\$ 135,441	\$ 116,893	\$ 181,713	\$ 210,910	\$29,197	3.0 FTE DUE TO INCREASED NEEDS
SPEC ED - OT HEALTH INS	37,109	22,769	60,117	87,617	\$27,500	
SPEC ED - HRA	8,400	2,660	8,000	12,000	\$4,000	
SPEC ED - OT EMPLOYER TAXES	10,361	8,124	14,701	16,135	\$1,434	
SPEC ED - OT CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	928	-	
SPEC ED - OT LIFE INS	127	81	162	163	\$1	
SPEC ED - OT EMPER RETIREMENT	8,804	7,644	12,266	13,446	\$1,180	
SPEC ED - OT WORKERS COMP	1,016	-	1,254	1,455	\$201	
SPEC ED - OT UNEMPLOYMENT INS	122	77	77	38	(\$38)	
SPEC ED - DISABILITY	352	-	436	506	\$70	
SPEC ED - OT PROF DEV	2,000	215	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - OT DENTAL INS	855	373	940	1,410	\$470	
SPEC ED - OT CONTRACTED SERVICES	15,000	8,069	15,000	15,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - OT TRAVEL	1,500	596	1,500	3,000	\$1,500	
SPEC ED - OT SUPPLIES	1,000	755	1,000	1,000	\$0	
IDEA B OT CONTRACTED SERVICES	-	105,471	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - OT EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	\$0	
TOTAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	\$ 222,086	\$ 273,727	\$ 297,165	\$ 363,608	\$65,516	
PHYSICAL THERAPY CONT SVC	\$ -	\$ 14,125	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - OTHER SUPPORT SERV	-	339	-	-	\$0	
IDEA B - OTHER SUPPORT CONT	-	-	-	-	\$0	
IDEA B SUPPORT SERVICES	-	299,829	-	-	\$0	
TOTAL OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES	\$ -	\$ 314,294	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAININGS	\$ 25,000	\$ 14,917	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$0	17 FTE @ \$1,000 per CBA
INST STAFF TRAINING	-	4,905	-	-	\$0	
IDEA B - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF TRAININGS	-	2,925	-	-	\$0	
TOTAL STAFF TRAINING/CURRICULUM	\$ 25,000	\$ 22,747	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN SALS	\$ 98,500	\$ 105,000	\$ 110,250	\$ 114,950	\$4,700	1.0 FTE
SPEC ED - SUPPORT SALS	53,642	42,848	44,990	47,240	\$2,250	.8 FTE
SPEC ED - ADMIN HEALTH INS	29,231	36,892	30,909	34,060	\$3,152	
SPEC ED - HRA ADMIN COST	8,770	5,249	4,370	4,000	(\$370)	
SPEC ED - ADMIN EMPLOYER TAXES	11,639	10,840	12,559	12,408	(\$151)	
SPEC ED - ADMIN CHILD CARE TAX	-	-	-	714	\$714	
SPEC ED - ADMIN LIFE INS	317	540	270	270	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN RETIREMENT CONTR	5,487	2,929	3,037	3,307	\$270	
SPEC ED - ADMIN ANNUITY	-	5,000	2,000	2,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN WORKERS COMP	1,141	-	1,071	1,119	\$48	
SPEC ED - UNEMPLOYMENT	122	77	26	26	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN PROF DEV	2,000	385	2,000	2,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN DENTAL INS	951	1,385	485	485	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN CHILD FIND	500	-	500	500	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN CONTR SERVICES	5,000	6,456	5,000	5,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN LEGAL SERVICES	5,000	958	5,000	5,000	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN REPAIRS/MAINT	500	-	500	500	\$0	

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	FY23-24 APPROVED	FY23-24 ACTUALS	FY24-25 APPROVED	FY25-26 PROPOSED	DIFFERENCE	NOTES
SPEC ED - CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN PHONE	-	-	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN ADVERTISING	-	-	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED ADMIN - MILEAGE	-	-	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN SUPPLIES	500	257	500	500	\$0	
SPEC ED - ADMIN BOOKS & PERIODICALS	-	-	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - EQUIPMENT	-	-	-	-	\$0	
SPEC ED - DUES & FEES	2,000	6,154	2,000	6,000	\$4,000	
TOTAL SPECIAL ED ADMINISTRATION	\$ 225,300	\$ 224,970	\$ 225,466	\$ 240,078	\$14,612	
IDEA B - INDIRECT COST	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	
TOTAL CENTRAL SERVICES	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	
SPEC ED - CONTRACTED TRANSPORTATION	\$ 424,500	\$ 420,445	\$ 424,500	\$ 424,500	\$0	Home to School Transportation
TOTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION	\$ 424,500	\$ 420,445	\$ 424,500	\$ 424,500	\$0	
IDEA B - TRANSPORTATION	\$ 120,000	\$ 95,307	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$0	STA Extra Services/Contracted Service
IDEA B PREK TRANSPORTATION	-	6,620	-	-	\$0	
EEE TRANSPORTATION	-	-	-	-	\$0	
TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 120,000	\$ 101,928	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$0	
TOTAL WRVSU SPECIAL EDUCATION	\$ 7,784,076	\$ 6,922,228	\$ 8,031,312	\$ 8,461,371	\$430,059	

5.35%

SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUE				
	FY24 BUDGET	FY25 BUDGET	FY26 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
	\$ 7,784,076	\$ 8,031,312	\$ 8,461,371	\$ 430,059
Act 73 Census Block Grant (NEW FY23)	\$ 3,606,573	\$ 3,743,039	\$ 3,845,790	\$ 102,751
Extra Ordinary Reimbursement (Excess of \$66,500/per student)	\$ 933,500	\$ 905,342	\$ 1,142,703	\$ 237,361
IDEA B Basic Flow Through	\$ 750,906	\$ 697,661	\$ 690,072	\$ (7,589)
IDEA B Pre-School	\$ 29,076	\$ 14,805	\$ 14,692	\$ (113)
EEE	\$ 146,156	\$ 173,020	\$ 173,020	\$ -
TOTAL SU SPECIAL ED REVENUES	\$ 5,466,211	\$ 5,533,867	\$ 5,866,277	\$ 332,410
MEMBER TOWN ASSESSMENT	\$ 2,317,865	\$ 2,497,445	\$ 2,595,094	\$ 97,649
TOTAL	\$ 7,784,076	\$ 8,031,312	\$ 8,461,371	\$ 430,059

WRVSU SpEd Assessment Breakdown:	FY24	FY25	FY26
EEE NET EXPENSE TO BE ASSESSED	\$ 13,143.96	\$ 13,553.15	\$ 37,074.45
REGULAR SPECIAL ED SERVICES TO BE ASSESSED	\$ 2,304,721	\$ 2,483,892	\$ 2,558,020
	\$ 2,317,865	\$ 2,497,445	\$ 2,595,094
		\$ 179,579	\$ 97,649

WRVSU FY26 SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSESSMENT

FY26 PROPOSED SpEd ASSESSMENT			\$ 2,595,094	
%	Amount	Change	FY25 %	FY25\$
20.85%	541,077	(19,849)	22.46%	\$ 560,926
5.83%	151,294	19,679	5.27%	\$ 131,615
10.98%	284,941	26,206	10.36%	\$ 258,735
16.75%	434,678	(1,875)	17.48%	\$ 436,553
10.41%	270,149	(574)	10.84%	\$ 270,723
35.18%	912,954	74,062	33.59%	\$ 838,892
SU SpEd Only: 2,595,094		97,650	100.0%	\$ 2,497,444

WRVSU SPECIAL EDUCATION Assessment Only:	FY26 SpEd Assessment Schedule:		
	%	Amount	Monthly
FBUD	20.85%	\$ 541,077	\$ 45,090
GHUD	5.83%	\$ 151,294	\$ 12,608
RSUD	10.98%	\$ 284,941	\$ 23,745
SHARON	16.75%	\$ 434,678	\$ 36,223
STRAFFORD	10.41%	\$ 270,149	\$ 22,512
WRUD	35.18%	\$ 912,954	\$ 76,080
SU SpEd Only:		\$ 2,595,094	\$ 216,258
			\$ 2,595,094

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION**

(as of January 2024)

SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	Total
Thetford Academy	10	5	4	2	21
Hanover High School	1	1	1	2	5
Hartford High School	0	1	1	0	2
White River Valley H.S.	1	1	0	1	3
Kimball Union	0	0	1	0	1
Sharon Academy	8	4	2	1	15
St. Johnsbury Academy	0	0	0	1	1
Out of State Private	0	2	0	0	2
Total Enrollment	20	14	9	7	50

	2022-2023 Tuition Rate	2023-2024 Tuition Rate	2024-2025 Tuition Rate
White River Unified District			\$ 19,900
Thetford Academy	20,963	22,430	23,890
The Sharon Academy	18,500	19,425	20,900
Hanover High School	22,555	23,568	23,944
Hartford High School	19,500	20,800	22,000
St. Johnsbury Academy			23,425
Private Schools (state average)	17,278	18,266	19,744

Congratulations, Graduates!
~ 2024 ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Newton School

Rosemary Dotter
Lyle Mintz

Wyatt Harlow
Darby Parker

Jeffrey Merchand
Eben Zoerheide

The Sharon Academy

Finn Proulx

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Sharon Academy

Jasper Erhard

Levi Mintz

Thetford Academy

Charlize Brown
Alford Manning III

Addison Cadwell
Larry Robinson

Chenoweth Donohue
Grace Solsaa

Xander Waln

Justin "Vin" Wylie

Hanover High School

Mia Bagnato

Joss Ray

Hartford High School

Lev Breese

White River Valley High School

Kyle Murray-Smith

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	PreK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2014-15		14	8	11	16	10	19	14	16	12	120
2015-16	9	9	11	9	11	16	12	18	15	16	117
2016-17	8	12	9	12	9	11	16	14	17	15	123
2017-18	12	8	12	11	12	8	10	13	9	16	111
2018-19	15	10	10	14	11	13	8	10	10	9	110
2019-20	16	15	10	9	12	11	11	6	6	10	106
2020-21	16	10	13	12	11	12	9	12	4	6	105
2021-22	14	10	13	14	12	11	13	9	13	3	112
2022-23	19	16	11	13	14	12	10	14	5	11	125
2023-24	18	13	18	11	13	14	13	8	14	6	128
2024-25	17	7	12	14	8	11	13	13	8	11	114

*Note: Reflects official October 1st student counts where available.
As of 2016-17, total includes pre-K.*

STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday – 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

TOWN OFFICE: 765-4411 ~ TownClerk@StraffordVT.org

LISTERS: 765-4360 ~ Listers@StraffordVT.org

SELECTBOARD ~ Selectboard@StraffordVT.org

TOWN GARAGE: 765-4550

www.straffordvt.org

Board Meetings

Some meetings may include video conferencing options.

Selectboard – Town Office – Second and Fourth Thursday, 6:00 PM

*Subject to change – check www.straffordvt.org or
call the Town Office for current Selectboard meeting times*

Planning Commission – Morrill Homestead Education Center
Third Monday, 7:00 PM

Development Review Board – Town Office – Third Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Conservation Commission – Town Office – Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Energy Committee – via video conference – Second Tuesday, 7:00 PM

School Directors – Newton School or via video conference –
Second Tuesday, 5:30 PM

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9 1 1

Orange County Sheriff: 685-4875

STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Saturdays 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM – South Strafford Substation

STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER

Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12 noon

MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY

Mon. 1-8PM, Wed. 2-5PM, Thu. 10AM-5PM, Sat. 9AM-noon

Check the library website for modified current hours.

765-4037 ~ StraffordVTLibrary@gmail.com

www.StraffordLibrary.org

LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Second Monday each month – 7:00 PM at Library