

TOWN OF
Brandon
VERMONT



2021



159th ANNUAL REPORT

*Including the Otter Valley
Unified Union School Report*





Chris Brickell



David Kachajian
Police Chief



Rodney Pulcifer

- Dedication -

The Selectboard expresses the appreciation of the community to those who choose to protect and serve by dedicating this year's Town Report to the officers and leaders of the Brandon Police Department.

The pandemic came quick on the heels of an intense national re-examination of what we ask our police officers to do, how we train and equip them to work with vulnerable people in trying circumstances, and how we ensure that their efforts reflect the values of our communities. In some moments in some places, this dialogue became overheated; a failure to recognize, let alone appreciate, the risks and sacrifices made by those in law enforcement became evident. We are gratified that in Brandon our conversations have been civil and respectful. Our police department has been on the front lines of COVID response along with fire, rescue, medical, school, and public-facing storefront and restaurant personnel. Through the public health emergency our police have continued their established practices of de-escalation of volatile situations, readiness to skillfully help any who find themselves in emergencies, commitment to restorative justice practices, and protection of all individuals' exercise of Constitutionally-recognized rights.

The Town of Brandon bade farewell in December to two long-serving leaders in law enforcement. Our chief of police, Christopher Brickell, tendered his resignation after 17 years of exemplary service to the Town to accept a position at the Vermont Police Academy. Our department's lieutenant, Rod Pulsifer, retired upon completing a full career in the profession including 14 years in Brandon. Our police have been professionally led, and our community has been especially well-served, by these two dedicated gentlemen. We thank them and all the officers - past, present, and those men and women who will chose Brandon in the future - for devoting some or all of their career to acting as Brandon's guardians.

We are excited to welcome Brandon's new chief of police, David Kachajian, to oversee the protection of people and property of our town. He will be making connections with the community as he begins his service here. Please seek him out and make him feel welcome.

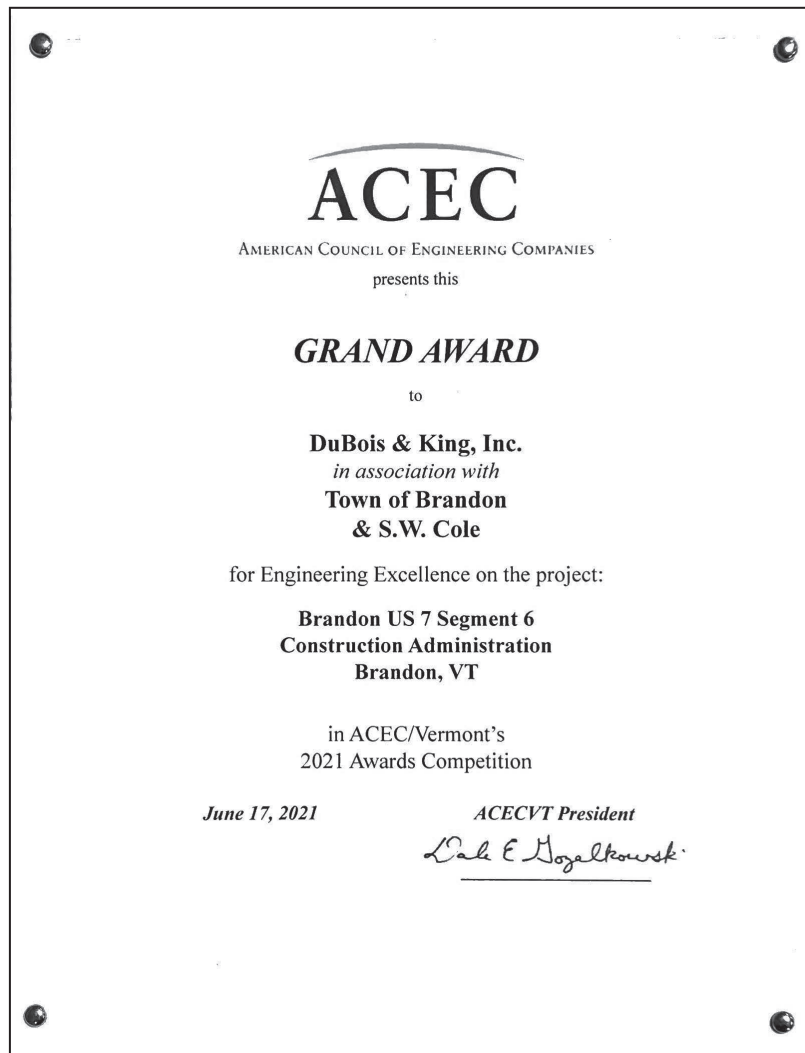
For their professionalism through a trying time, responsiveness to urgent needs, and positive impact on our quality of life, the Selectboard takes this opportunity to say thank you to our police.

Town Meeting Procedures 2022

As authorized by the Vermont Legislature, **the Town of Brandon will hold its 2022 annual informational meeting using the Zoom online meeting platform at 7PM on Monday, February 28, 2022. No votes will be taken at this meeting.** There is no physical meeting location where the public may attend. To attend and participate in the Town's annual informational meeting by Zoom, look at the instructions at the top of the meeting warning on page 5. The 2022 evening meeting will consist of a budget presentation by the selectboard.

No voting will occur at this information-only meeting.

There are no public questions in Brandon this year. **All 2022 town meeting voting will be by Australian (paper) ballot, and these ballots will be mailed to every registered voter in advance of the town meeting.** Please return your ballot by mail or drop it off at the town office. Those choosing to vote in person may vote at the American Legion, 550 Franklin St, from 10AM to 7PM on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

In accordance with 24 V.S.A §1682(a)(2) and the affirmative vote at the Brandon Annual Town Meeting on March 6, 2006, the Town hereby gives notice that the independent audit for fiscal year 6/30/2021 conducted by RHR Smith & Company, CPA's is available in the Town Offices located at 49 Center Street. A complete copy may be requested by contacting the Town Office at 802-247-3635, or may be accessed on the website townofbrandon.com.

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Town Officers

SELECT BOARD (5)

Brian Coolidge

bcoolidge@townofbrandon.com
1227 McConnell Rd; Call or text (802) 345-8961

Tim Guiles

tguiles@townofbrandon.com
44 Carver St; Call or text (802) 279-2168

Seth Hopkins (board chair)

shopkins@townofbrandon.com
52 Park St; Call or text (802) 247-3300

Mike Markowski

mmarkowski@townofbrandom.com
1946 Forest Dale Road
Call or text (802) 465-8385

Tracy Wyman

twyman@townofbrandon.com
114 Wyman Rd; Call (802) 247-5748

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (12)

The following JPs officiate at weddings

Bruce Blanch (R)

blanchedge@aol.com (802) 558-5449

Kathy Clark (D)

kdclark23@yahoo.com

Bertram "Bud" Coolidge (R)

bjcool3@comcast.net (802) 247-6512

Hillary Knapp (I)

hillary.knappy@gmail.com (802) 558-2345

Bill Moore (D)

bmoore@townofbrandon.com (802) 774-8135

Marge Munger (R)

scottmarl@myfairpoint.net (802) 247-6708

John Peterson (D)

john.peterson@ottertin.com (802) 247-3280

Laura Peterson (D)

laura@redmudboots.com (802) 247-3280

Joan Thomas (R)

(802) 236-5837

The following JPs do not officiate at weddings

Bob Clark (D)

misterclark09@yahoo.com

Seth Hopkins (R)

oskarhop@me.com (802) 247-3300

Wendy Rowe Feldman (I)

wendy@rowerealestate.com (802) 236-9112

VT STATE REPRESENTATIVES (2)

Rep. Stephanie Zak Jerome (D)

515 Wheeler Rd, Brandon 05733
sjerome@leg.state.vt.us
(802) 683-8209

Rep. Charles "Butch" Shaw (R)

910 Markowski Rd, Florence 05744
bshaw@leg.state.vt.us
(802) 483-2398

VERMONT STATE SENATORS (3)

Sen. Brian Collamore (R)

124 Patricia Ln, Rutland 05701
bcollam@aol.com
(802) 773-1365

Sen. Cheryl Hooker (D/P)

115 State St., Montpelier, VT 05663-5301
chooker@leg.state.vt.us
(802) 353-7288

Sen. Joshua Terenzini (R)

332 Killington Ave, Rutland 05701
joshua.terenzini@gmail.com
(802) 353-7749

GOVERNOR OF VERMONT

Governor Phil Scott (R)

109 State Street Pavilion, Montpelier 05609
(802) 828-3333
Email via: <https://governor.vermont.gov/email>

REPRESENTATIVE TO U.S. CONGRESS (1)

Congressman Peter Welch (D)

128 Lakeside Ave Suite 235, Burlington 05401
(802) 652-2450
Email via: <https://welch.house.gov/contact>

U.S. SENATORS (2)

U.S.Sen. Patrick Leahy (D)

199 Main St 4th Floor, Burlington 05401
(802) 863-2525
Email via: <https://www.leahy.senate.gov/contact>

U.S.Sen. Bernie Sanders (I)

1 Church St 3rd Floor, Burlington 05401
(802) 862-0697
Email via: <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/contact/>

2022 Warning

WARNING FOR EVENING MEETING - FEBRUARY 28, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Brandon, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to convene remotely on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00P.M. to transact the following business through the following virtual connection:

- A** On your computer or smartphone, download the Zoom app and enter meeting ID# 832 5624 8326
- B** On your computer or smartphone, visit this link in a web browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83256248326>
- C** Without a computer: Dial 1(929) 205-6099 and follow instructions, entering meeting ID # 832 5624 8326 and # (pound key). When prompted for participant ID, hit# again to enter the meeting.

1. To hear a presentation by the Select Board of its recommended budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. This budget and appropriations will be voted by Australian Ballot on March 1, 2022 at the Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT, between the hours of 10 am and 7 pm.

2. To transact any other business proper to be done when met.

3. Adjourn.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT - MARCH 1, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Brandon, Vermont are further notified and warned that ballots for the following articles will be mailed to all registered, active voters and they may return them by mail or drop them off at the town offices or meet at the Brandon American Legion Post #55, 550 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. to vote in person by Australian Ballot or to drop off mailed ballots on the following matters:

1. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year:
- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Moderator..... | One for one-year term |
| Selectman..... | One for three-year term |
| Selectman..... | Two for one-year term |
| Trustee of Public Funds..... | One for three-year term |
| Library Trustee..... | One for two-year term |

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate the sum of Three Million, Two Hundred Thirty Thousand, and One Hundred and Thirty Dollars (\$3,230,130) for the FY 2022-2023 budget year, of which the sum of Two Million, Seven Hundred Twelve Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-four Dollars (\$2,712,274) is to be raised by property taxes?

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$7,000 for the Brandon Independence Day Celebration Committee, to support activities offered at the Independence Day celebration, to be raised by property taxes?

4. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,000 for the Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce, for the improvement and advancement of businesses and community in Brandon, to be raised by property taxes?

5. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$82,850 for the Brandon Area Rescue Squad Inc., to support volunteer emergency medical services, to be raised by property taxes?

6. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$92,000 for the Brandon Free Public Library, to support the programs, resources, and community activities of the library, to be raised by property taxes?

7. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$13,500 for Brandon Senior Citizens Center, Inc, to support free community lunches, and activities and programs at the center, to be raised by property taxes?

8. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,000 for the Open Door Clinic, Community Health Services of Addison County, which provides access to dental and healthcare, free of charge, to those who are uninsured or under-insured, to be raised by property taxes?

9. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$550 for RSVP & The Volunteer Center, for free income tax preparation and volunteer placements, to be raised by property taxes?

10. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$1,500 for Rutland County Humane Society, for shelter and care to companion animals, to be raised by property taxes?

11. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$10,200 for the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, for home care, hospice and community health services, to be raised by property taxes?

WARNING - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

12. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$5,000 for the Brandon Museum at the Stephen A. Douglas Birthplace Community Center, Inc, to protect and maintain the building and historical artifacts, to be raised by property taxes?

13. Shall the voters of the Town of Brandon appropriate \$3,000 to support the Community Meals and Emergency Shelter Programs of Charter House Coalition, to be raised by property taxes?

Select Board Signed and Certified January 24, 2022

Seth Hopkins
Michael Markowski
Timothy Guiles
Tracy Wyman
Brian Coolidge

Adopted and approved at a duly warned meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Brandon called, noticed and held on January 24, 2022. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Brandon on January 25, 2022.

Brandon 2021 Annual Town Meeting Minutes

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021, 7 PM

REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

MEETING RECORDING: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOZ8MxLn 8>

Moderator Bill Moore called the Annual Town Meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Attending the meeting were Select Board Members, Seth Hopkins, Douglas Bailey, Brian Coolidge, Tracy Wyman and Timothy Guiles, Town Manager, David Atherton, Clerk, Sue Gage and 63 attendees. Moderator Moore reminded all attending that this zoom format was an informational meeting only and that there would be no voting.

Selectman Seth Hopkins began the meeting by introducing the town report dedicatee, Seth Clifford. Mr. Clifford was honored and thankful for the recognition and has enjoyed his many years of community service.

Mr. Hopkins then presented a comprehensive budget proposal to the attendees. The budget to be voted by Australian Ballot on March 2, 2021 at the Brandon American Legion from 10 am to 7 pm, is for \$3,244,010 of which \$2,744,135 is to be raised by property taxes.

Jeff Lewis from Aldrich & Elliot followed Mr. Hopkins with a discussion and presentation of the Waste Water bond proposal. The bond proposal is for \$5,700,000 of which nearly half may be covered by grants. Grants will become available once a positive bond vote is achieved. Mr. Lewis stated that the bond covers equipment and fixtures that are well beyond their life expectancy.

Representative Stephanie Jerome addressed the attendees about work at the state legislature, specifically programs geared toward small business recovery during COVID. Representative Butch Shaw followed Representative Jerome adding additional information about activity at the state legislature.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.



Bill Moore, Moderator



Susan Gage, Clerk

Selectboard Report

The Selectboard returned to in-person meetings immediately following the lifting of Vermont's state of emergency in June. We continue to offer a Zoom option for any of the public who would like to participate remotely; access details appear at the top of each meeting's warning (posted on the town's website the Friday before our Monday meetings). This feature has been used only sparingly so far.

We are presenting the voters with another stable, balanced budget for their consideration this year. The town manager, department heads, Budget Advisory Committee have worked with the selectboard to offer an operating budget that entails a modest *decrease* in both the real dollar spending plan and in the amount we need to raise by property tax. So there is a savings to the taxpayer. Another savings to the taxpayer is related: we will not be requesting the traditional stand-alone paving appropriation this year, for the first time in many years. Paving projects will be funded through the operating budget and the Town's 1% local option tax on sales/meals/rooms. This represents \$100,000 (last year's voter-approved paving article) which will drop off the tax levy in the new fiscal year that begins July 1st.

The 1% local option fund referenced above has generated revenue beyond forecast expectations at the time the board proposed it to the voters in 2016. We have called upon it to satisfy the Town's share of the Segment 6 project rebuilding our downtown infrastructure; in the past year we have also purchased a new backhoe for the highway department entirely from local option money rather than your property taxes. The local option tax is functioning as designed when proposed and should continue to provide a steady stream of non-property-tax revenue to the Town in future years. Brandon voted to restrict use of this fund to capital expenditures, and the selectboard exercises restraint and care in its use. See treasurer's report on the local option tax fund elsewhere in this book of reports.

Highlights of the 31 selectboard meetings of the year are presented separately for your review. You will see that discussion of eligible uses of the \$1M+ the town received as its ARPA allotment consumed much time and thought this summer. In the end, it appears that many of the very good suggestions from community residents for use of ARPA money simply are not eligible given the guidelines placed upon the program. However, the exercise was beneficial in bringing to light some potential projects we may move forward with separately from ARPA. We will focus on obligating the ARPA money to uses clearly allowable by the legislation, and which will provide the town the widest possible benefit lasting the longest possible duration.

Other recurring themes this year have been the result of activity in our revitalized, vibrant village center. We have worked through welcome challenges related to the sharing of a compact space by residents both in downtown apartments and houses and driving in from rural parts of town, regular visitors from neighboring towns doing their shopping, as well as tourists from afar coming to experience for a fleeting few days the special way of life that we enjoy here year after year. The Town's newly-paved parking lot with electric car charging stations west of the Town Hall is one way we have been able to in-fill and maximize what space we have for the convenience of all. The new and solar-powered "your speed" signs at the south and north ends of town are helping to slow and calm motor traffic. The Greenways group is working in the direction of identifying and developing recreation resources throughout Brandon. These and other efforts continue to make Brandon an important and attractive community, much more than just a dot on the map.

Our community benefits from the hard work of many contributors, starting with our professional staff across all areas: our public works department including



Selectboard Report con't.

buildings and grounds, highway, and wastewater; our police department; recreation, economic development, management and administration, zoning, health & rental code, and assessing staff; town clerk and treasurer's office; all augmented by the tremendous contributions of the volunteers who staff our boards, commissions, and appointed offices. Truly, town government is a team effort, and one undertaken by people who share the best motivations, efficiently providing needed services toward the thoughtful improvement of the community we all call home.

Selectboard Members

Seth Hopkins, Chair	2022
Brian Coolidge	2023
Tim Guiles	2022
Mike Markowski	2022
Tracy Wyman	2024

TOWN OF BRANDON

2022-2023 Budget - Summary

REVENUES DESCRIPTION	FY-20/21 ACTUAL	FY-21/22 APPROVED	FY-22/23 PROPOSED
To Be Raised in Taxes	\$ 2,999,544	\$ 2,744,135	\$ 2,712,274
Tax	(11,779)	45,000	45,000
Transfer in G/F	7,057	-	-
Town Administration	15,613	100	250
Assessor	1,988	2,000	2,000
Code Enforcement	14,410	14,000	14,000
Clerk/Treasurer	168,205	158,435	160,556
Police Dept	24,031	62,500	61,500
Highway Dept	211,122	159,550	159,450
Intergovernmental	14,033	11,300	14,000
Recreation	37,979	37,000	51,100
Bldgs. & Grounds	37,600	10,000	10,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 3,579,802	3,244,020	3,230,130
Tax Expenditures	29	5,000	5,000
Town Administration	365,667	378,295	388,475
Assessor	36,821	36,945	44,895
Zoning Report	27,983	38,185	42,515
Town Clerk/Treasurer	202,402	193,030	212,090
Police Dept	659,175	836,965	765,420
Highway	782,419	866,245	896,350
Partner Agencies	209,810	224,675	219,000
Recreation	144,603	145,460	147,400
Debt Service	275,372	266,000	252,250
Economic Develop.	40,487	43,530	45,840
Bldgs. & Grounds	298,906	209,690	210,895
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,043,675	3,244,020	3,230,130
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	\$ 2,999,544	\$ 2,744,135	\$ 2,712,274
% increase from prior year			-1.16%
\$ increase from prior year			-31,861
APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 271,024	\$ 296,024	\$ 217,330

Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee members are selected from applications submitted to the Select Board, and are charged with the responsibility of providing insight and transparency to the budget process. Since its inception in 2014 the committee has observed a vast improvement and streamlining of the process.

Along with the Select Board and Town Manager, the committee members are presented each department's budget by their respective department heads. Throughout the process, the committee members are given ample opportunities to ask questions and understand the drivers to operating costs. This year, with ongoing concerns over Covid and the loss of some key employees, the process has become more complicated.

It is the opinion of the committee that as each department presents, they have been mindful of the needs of the community while demonstrating fiscal responsibility.

It is proving to be challenging for smaller towns everywhere to compete regarding personnel and supply chain issues. The Select Board has made well-informed budgetary decisions. The Budget Committee is again impressed at how far along the budget process has come. With the efforts put into compiling and presenting the data, the committee is able to get a comprehensive view of what is required to support the Town going forward.

Budget Committee

Doug Bailey	2022
Janet Coolidge	2022
Neil Silins	2022
Barry Varian	2022
Peter Werner	2022

2021 Select Board Minutes Synopsis

The Brandon Selectboard holds regular evening meetings the second and fourth Mondays of the month in the Town Hall basement. The public is invited to attend and participate, in-person or by Zoom (details on posted agendas/warnings). There is dedicated time at each meeting for the public to bring items of concern to the board's attention, as well as opportunity for public comment as part of each of the board's warned agenda items.

The selectboard is responsible for general oversight of the affairs of the Town (24 VSA § 872). Often this means a small "working group" of two board members takes on a project between meetings and reports back to the full board at a meeting. Aside from taking care of routine administrative matters (reports, paying bills, etc.) at each meeting, the following are highlights of some of the more significant work of the board at its 2021 meetings:

January 11

Approved proposed annual budget and paving appropriation
Agreed to collaborate with school district on this year's report book
Moved forward on bond vote for wastewater treatment plant upgrades

January 25

Voted to include cannabis licensing question on ballot per Act 164
Adopted warning for annual town meeting by Zoom on customary date
Voted to mail ballots to all active registered Brandon voters
Appointed Tim Kingston interim animal control officer
Adopted Declaration of Inclusion
Approved support materials for grant application for Brandon Library

February 8

Extended public comment on several issues
Spent first of the 1% Local Option Tax Funds on Segment 6 (\$295,110)

Feb 22

Adopted process for consideration of possible noise ordinance
Adopted policy on filling vacancies in appointed positions
Appointed Jack Schneider as Alternate to DRB
Voted not to allow a requested easement on a town-owned lot but to offer lot for sale

March 8

Reorganized board following Town Meeting
Made numerous annual appointments and designations

TOWN OF BRANDON

2022-2023 Budget - Revenues

REVENUES DESCRIPTION	FY-20/21 ACTUAL	FY-21/22 APPROVED	FY-22/23 PROPOSED
Current Tax (inc. appropriations)	\$2,999,544	\$3,040,159	\$2,943,628
Abatements	(39,767)	-	-
Delinquent Taxes	8,373	-	-
Penalty & Interest ¹	19,615	45,000	45,000
Duplication.....	-	100	-
Vendor Permits.....	200	-	250
Miscellaneous.....	4,283	-	-
COVID-LGER Grant	11,130	-	-
Misc./Revenues Assessor	1,988	2,000	2,000
Misc Zoning	150	-	-
Land Use Permits.....	4,935	5,000	5,000
Rental Code Compliance	9,325	9,000	9,000
Pilot/CU	44,831	54,500	51,211
Wastewater Administration .	30,000	30,000	30,000
Liquor Licenses.....	2,195	2,000	2,195
Land Records.....	38,357	34,100	37,960
Vault Time	5,860	5,300	5,500
Misc. Clerk.....	1,844	1,000	500
Marriage Licenses	290	300	300
Hunting/Fishing Licenses.....	49	35	50
Vital Statistics	5,891	5,300	5,800
Dog License.....	1,288	2,000	1,500
Records Preservation	14,004	12,400	14,040
Bank Interest.....	1,535	1,500	1,500
Penalty/Interest Late Taxes...	80	10,000	10,000
Grants	21,981	-	-
State Traffic Tickets	6,258	4,000	4,000
Parking Fines.....	10	-	-
Bravo Fees	75	-	-
SRO Officer ²	12,788	53,500	53,500
Click-it or Ticket Campaign..	-	2,000	-
Document Reim. Req. PD.....	4,900	3,000	4,000
Misc./Extraordinary	1,523	500	500
Access Permits	250	250	250
Excavation Permits	50	200	50
Reimb- Work WW/BFD	5,429	-	-
State Highway.....	198,886	158,000	158,000
Grants	4,239	-	-
Street Signs	20	-	-
Over Weight Permits	725	600	650
Mosquitoss-Trustees Reim. ³ .	14,033	11,300	14,000
Recreation Department ⁴	37,979	37,000	51,100
Miscellaneous.....	27,500	-	-
Solar Lease Payments	10,000	10,000	10,000
Town Hall Rent.....	100	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES.....	\$ 3,512,745	\$3,540,044	\$3,461,484

NOTES:

#1 = Selectboard waived penalties & interest for duration of declared state of emergency (13 March 2020 - 14 June 2021)

#2 = School resource officer funded by RNESU school district per agreement with Town

#3 = Requested by Insect Control District and received from Trustees of Public Funds of Brandon for Mosquito Abatement

#4 = Increased Rec offerings again after pandemic

Town Manager's Report

I was really hoping to start my annual report bidding farewell to the pandemic and saying that it's nice to finally be back to normal. Unfortunately, that is not the case. However, I think Brandon has adjusted very well to the normal and continued to keep moving forward despite the constant hurdles we continue .

This year we saw the completion of the Conant Square Parking Area, which also includes two EV charging stations and the Stormwater Mitigation project on Pearl Street and the parking area behind the Howe Block. Both of these projects were grant funded.

We received a VTrans Transportation Alternatives Grant to replace the sidewalks on Union Street from the Segment Six project limits to the Railroad crossing. The project is currently in the design phase and we hope to have it go out to bid by December 2022.

We also were awarded a VTrans Class 2 Structures Grant for a box culvert on Arnold District Road that is in need of replacement. We are hoping to have this out to bid this spring for 2022 construction.

Floodplain mitigation continues on Newton Road with another grant award for the removal of three more dwellings. This funding came to us through the Flood Resilient Communities Fund. This funding will cover 100% of the costs for acquisition and removal.

I have also submitted a grant application with FEMA to fund scoping and study on the North Street Bridge. This structure is undersized and has been an area of concern since the flooding in 2011.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to the phenomenal employees we have in all of our town departments. None of this would happen day after day without all of you. I am so grateful to be able to work with all of the talent and professionalism that you all bring!

Respectfully Submitted,

Town Manager

David J. Atherton

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
TOWN ADMINISTRATION	ACTUAL	APPROVED	
Salary/Wages	\$191,616	\$198,475	\$204,850
Benefits/Taxes	79,882	84,070	87,025
Travel & Expenses	58	1,000	500
Dues & Subscriptions	6,241	6,050	6,750
Professional Development..	115	600	100
Legal Services.....	20,086	25,000	20,000
Auditors	14,000	15,000	14,000
Office Supplies	5,067	6,000	3,000
Service Contracts	10,090	10,000	12,000
Postage Expenses.....	6,571	6,000	8,250
Technical Support ¹	9,334	8,000	15,000
Office Equipment	800	3,000	2,000
Legal Advertising	2,211	1,000	1,000
Town Report	4,838	6,600	5,000
Telephone Exp. Admin.	7,864	6,500	8,000
Animal Control Expenses ..	349	1,000	1,000
COVID expenses.....	6,545	-	-
Total Town Administration ..	\$ 365,667	\$378,295	\$388,475

NOTES:

#1 = Cyber-security contract

Magnified board's commitment to public participation

Set dates for hearings on noise ordinance

Appointed Todd Nielsen, Liz Gregorek and Bob Foley to Planning Commission

March 20

Public Hearing on Noise Ordinance

March 22

Public Hearing on Noise Ordinance

March 22

Public Comment & Rec Dept Response re: Estabrook Park

Public Comment re: Conflicts of Interest

Adopted Local Emergency Management Plan & Mutual Aid Agreement

Appointed Tim Kingston animal control officer with indefinite term

Accepted bid on town-owned lot discussed at Feb 22 meeting

Accepted agreement between Town and Brookdale Mobile Home Park

April 12

Reviewed audit with professional auditors

Considered survey and letters submitted regarding noise ordinance

Adopted policy to avoid conflicts of interest in board appointments

Voted to rely on existing state statute regarding noise, and not to draft a local noise ordinance

Directed town manager, rec director, and police chief to develop a comprehensive use of public spaces policy

Rescinded 1994 board resolution regarding use of Estabrook Park

April 26

Authorized letter stating Town not opposed to proposed swamp lots transfer

Signed loan application for wastewater plant and grant resolution for Library

Extended (via failed vote to end) waiver of interest and penalties on taxes and sewer through duration of state of emergency

Posted two additional Town-owned lots for sale

May 10

Extensive discussion on proposal for tree committee

Adopted parks and recreation facility use waiver

May 24

Voted to return to in-person meetings at expiration of state of emergency if Zoom access can be arranged

Adopted ordinance for use of town parks and recreational areas

First ARPA funds discussion

Accepted bids for two Town-owned swamp lots

June 14

Voted to reinstate penalties and interest on

continued.....

2021 Select Board Minutes Synopsis continued . . .

taxes and sewer charges
Endorsed Brandon Energy Committee mission statement

Appointed Jack Schneider to DRB
Examined financial management evaluation with town treasurer
Voted not to assess the late homestead filing penalty

June 28

ARPA discussion
Voted to allow temporary signage per guidelines proposed by town manager
Made numerous fiscal-year-calendar appointments and year-end budget determinations
Accepted bids for annual fuel contracts
Moved forward on contract negotiations with police union

July 6

With town treasurer, set tax rate

July 12

Met with BLSG Insect Control District representative
Further progress on police union contract negotiation

July 21

Responded to open meeting law complaint

July 26

ARPA discussion
Set a path for public tree inventory creation
Green Fleet update
Set site visit for request to discontinue a portion of Steinberg Rd
Ratified police union contract as negotiated by team

Aug 9

Site visit to Steinberg Rd
Traffic light discussion
BLSG Resolution update
ARPA
Energy Committee Proposal for Solar Park / High / Marble St discussion

Aug 23

Further updates from BLSG & Energy Committee
Authorized letter to State re: parcel surrounding Park Village Water Tank
ARPA
Authorized up to \$127,500 of 1% Local Option Fund for new backhoe
Authorized \$14,412 of 1% Fund for Seg6 add-on (bridge)

Police Department Report

This year(2021) is my last year serving you all as Chief of Police. I will no longer be a member of this department at the end of this year(2021). It has been one of the most difficult decisions to make, yet I believe change is good. Since my arrival in Brandon in 2004 I can honestly say I have been honored to work for this community, and to serve with the officers and administrative staff I have worked with, past and present. The officers of this department have always worked hard to serve us all to the best of their abilities. They are caring, intelligent, honest, and most of all dedicated to their profession and our community. They respond to people in crisis, people in danger, and quite often make me proud of their interactions with the public when I review their body worn cameras, which they have worn since 2016. I have seen many changes in our town since 2004. High burglary rates, drug crimes, and thefts were the norm initially. We identified criminal activity, worked with many law enforcement partners and social service organizations, and have seen our community transform into a wonderful inviting town that has attracted new businesses and new faces. Many people are responsible for those changes, and the support of the police department by our community was key to many of our successes. All of us should be proud of what Brandon has become, and not forget that to continue to see these positive changes we enjoy, takes continual work.

I have been extremely fortunate during my time in Brandon. I have met many people and formed relationships with community members. I am excited about the future of this town and its police department. I will continue to support the police department in whatever capacity I can. I cannot begin to express the gratitude I have for my coworkers, and the partnership I have had with Lt. Pulsifer who has assisted me daily in the management of the department. We have 2 new recruits who will be graduating from the academy in late February 2022 to join the ranks of the department. New leadership will continue to serve our town, and I will wish that person the best as they become the next partner of this community.

My most sincerest of thanks to all of you who have made my last 17 years here truly rewarding.

Respectfully,

Chief of Police
Christopher Brickell

Officers:
Aidan Alnwick
Joseph Mannino
Adam Murach

Administrative Assistant:
Linda Graziano

Rodney Pulsifer
Nicholas Stendardo
Michael Vonschleusingen

Police Department Report cont.

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
POLICE DEPARTMENT	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Salary/Wages ¹	\$436,904	\$532,550	\$500,910
Benefits/Taxes	156,730	213,465	202,310
Travel & Expenses	-	2,750	500
Clothing Allowance	3,345	5,500	4,000
Dues & Subscriptions	1,323	2,000	2,000
Professional Development..	1,165	5,000	2,000
Radio Maintenance	-	1,500	1,500
MDT/Aircards	2,881	3,000	3,000
Office Supplies	2,870	2,500	2,500
Professional Supplies	5,000	5,000	5,000
Service Contracts	5,360	9,000	6,000
Postage Expenses PD	55	200	200
Office Equipment	4,913	3,000	3,000
Community Police	-	250	250
New Equipment - Vehicles .	816	3,000	3,000
Fuel - Vehicles	9,091	16,000	14,000
PD Maint. Supplies-Vehicl..	63	250	250
PD Vehicle Maintenance ...	6,851	10,000	10,000
PD Telephone Service	4,808	5,000	5,000
Capital Improvements	17,000	17,000	-
Total Police Department.....	\$ 659,175	\$836,965	\$765,420

NOTES:

#1 = Includes SRO position funded by school district



Dog Licenses 2020-2021

TYPE	# SOLD	FEE	TOTAL
Neutered	259	\$ 4.00	\$1,036.00
Un-Neutered	28	\$ 8.00	224.00
Neutered After 10/1	0		
Un-Neutered After 10/1	0		
Kennel/Special	0		
Late Fees			4.00
Total Paid to Town.....			\$1,264.00

Sept 13

Further ARPA & Energy Committee Discussion
Appointed Robert Black to Energy Committee

Sept 27

Presentation from Brandon Greenways
ARPA presentation by RRPC Regional Planner
ARPA discussion
Voted to declassify Class 4 portion of Steinberg Road to Legal Trail
Further updates and discussion with BLSG representative
Authorized \$11,115 of 1% Local Option Fund for Seg6 close-out
Amended wastewater project loan agreement
Considered grievance brought by police union

Oct 11

Met with police union regarding grievance
Set budget workshop schedule
Voted to move forward with scoping studies for Newton Road pump station, Union Street water/sewer, sewer from town highway barn, and connection of Fire Districts #1 and #2 as potential ARPA-eligible projects
Directed board chair to respond to police union

Oct 25

Traffic light discussion
Appointed Neil Silins, Doug Bailey, and Peter Werner to Budget Advisory Committee
Appointed Tom Kilpeck as Emergency Services Rep to Regional Emergency Management Cmte
ARPA discussion and potential to fund solar outside ARPA
Voted to mail ballots to all active registered Brandon voters
Approved board chair's letter to VTrans re: Carver Street Sidewalk Project
Equity and Inclusion: town manager, town clerk, and economic development officer to steer
Further action on police union grievance

Nov 8

Approved proposal regarding Arnold District Rd box culvert
Entered into cybersecurity computer upgrade agreement with Silloway

Nov 15

Workshop with Budget Committee & professional staff

Nov 22

Approved proposed amendment to BLSG Agreement
Examined and approved Assessor's Errors & Omissions
Voted not to have a mask mandate in Brandon
Directed board chair to draft farewell to Chief Brickell

continued.....

2021 Select Board Minutes Synopsis continued . . .

Nov 29

Workshop with Budget Committee & professional staff

Dec 6

Workshop with Budget Committee & professional staff

Dec 13

Routine business in brief meeting

Dec 20

Workshop with Budget Committee & professional staff

Assessor's Report

The Grand List is statutorily set as of April 1st of each year. The Assessor's office is responsible for tracking all changes in Ownership and Real Property Value. The Town of Brandon had a growth of approximately \$900,000.00. 82 change of assessment notices were sent to property owners. There were 5 approved grievances. Please contact the Assessors office if you have any questions or need any other information.

The annual equalization study (using the past three years of sales 2018,2019 and 2020) was completed by Vermont Department of Taxes Division of Property Valuation and Review. The CLA (Common Level of Assessment) was calculated at 98.56 for January of 2021. The Town will be notified in January of 2022 with the calculated CLA numbers for 2022 Grand List.

The Real Estate Market has been extremely volatile in Vermont. During the period of 4/1/2020 thru 3/31/2021 there were 51 fair market sales in Brandon with an average CLA (assessed value/sales price) of 90.33. The Dept of Taxes (Property Valuation and Review) is aware of the mercurial market across Vermont and will also have that information available when calculating the new CLA numbers for 2022 and beyond.

Karen Folger has been hired by the Town of Brandon as the Assistant Assessor. The regular hours for the Assessor's office are Tuesdays from 9am-3pm. The Assessors office can be reached by email at assessor@townofbrandon.com

Respectfully submitted,

Assessor/NEMRC

Lisa Truchon, VMPA

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
ASSESSOR	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Salary/Wages.....	\$6,569	\$9,000	\$9,000
Benefits/Taxes	502	695	695
Travel & Expenses	57	100	100
Dues & Subscriptions	50	100	100
Continuing Education	-	200	150
Mapping.....	4,900	2,600	8,800
Legal Fees Assessor	-	500	500
Property Assessor	19,528	18,000	20,000
Professional Supplies	-	250	250
Office Equipment	215	500	300
Reapp Acct.-Transfer out ...	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total Assessor	\$36,821	\$36,945	\$44,895

Economic Development Report

Along with the standard work of connecting new and current businesses with the local, state and federal resources they require to be successful; I have also spent 2021 working on the new challenges that our community faces. The economic development needs of the Town of Brandon have changed drastically in the last 4 years. Our need for workforce development has only become more apparent in the wake of the ongoing pandemic and an aging population that is leaving many jobs unfilled. This dovetails into an issue with retaining young people who already call Brandon home and attracting new people to move to the region.

In 2022, our energies will be focused on working with Otter Valley to provide more localized solutions to workforce development. Area employers working with educators to introduce middle and high school students to careers and job paths that keep them in Vermont and, ideally Brandon is an example of locally sourced solution. OV has also been enthusiastic about working with our rec department in hosting continuing education classes for adults that may be looking for a career change.

Brandon's existing housing stock will simply not support our current community needs. By working closely with state and county housing organizations, local landowners, contractors and private developers, we look to leverage the funds that are being allocated by the federal government to address the burgeoning need for homes that families and young adults can move afford to move into.

My recent appointment to the Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region (CEDRR) and my continued membership on the Vermont Community Development Association boards provides vital connections with the people that make decisions about how these resources are allocated. The programs that they can offer combined with our local resources like Brandon's Revolving Loan Fund and property improvement/development incentives like tax stabilization help businesses reinvestment efforts go further.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any help you may need for your existing business or with any leads and ideas you might have for potential new businesses.

(802) 247-3635 X213

Bmoore@townofbrandon.com

<http://townofbrandon.com/departments/economic-development/>

Respectfully submitted,

Economic Development Officer

Bill Moore

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
ECONOMIC DEVELOP.	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Salary/Wages.....	\$17,700	\$18,240	\$18,970
Benefits/Taxes	10,874	11,140	11,220
Travel & Expenses	244	250	250
Economic Development ¹	11,669	12,000	14,000
Killington Valley ²	-	1,400	1,400
Hist. Preservation Comm. ...	-	500	-
Total Economic Development	\$40,487	\$43,530	\$45,840

NOTES:

#1 = Partnering with Downtown Brandon Alliance & Brandon Chamber

#2 = Regional marketing for Rutland County

Rutland County Solid Waste District Collection Schedule

April 23, 2022

BRANDON 8am-10am

May 28, 2022

BRANDON 8am-10am

September 24, 2022

BRANDON 8am-10am

Questions?

Call 802-775-7209

or visit www.RCSWD.com

Animal Control Officer Report

I have responded to 17 calls for the town and answered several out of town calls asking for guidance.

1 dog was lodged at RCHC, capture assisted by BPD

3 calls for lost/missing dogs.

2 calls from upset neighbors about loose dogs off property. Owners have limited understanding of animal welfare and boundaries, quiet for now

6 calls for wild and livestock animals, referred callers to game warden office or Agency of Ag

2 calls loose pigs on Rt. 7. problem is resolved

2 calls loose goats in village, Town clerks office called for help, returned to pen.

1 call for horse neglect. Referred caller to Agency of Ag.

Respectfully,
Tim Kingston

B•REC

What YOU want to DO!

Bill Moore,
Director

Extension 213
bmoore@townofbrandon.com

Colleen Wright,
Assistant to the Director

Extension 211
cwright@townofbrandon.com
brandonvt.myrec.com

2021 Recreation Participant Numbers

2021 Celtics Bus Trip	48
Adult Basketball	17
Archery at Estabrook!	29
Brandon Rec-RNESU	
Summer Support	29
Crafty Ceramics - Tree Project.....	14
Cue Theatre! Summer Camp.....	9
Facebook Paint & Sip	7
Fall Baseball.....	23
Fall Cheer	18
Fall Cheerleading.....	9
Fall Dance Classes -	
Miss Michaela Motion	26
Fall Soccer	134
Flag Football	64
Food Boxes!	4
Gamer Gathering	7
Get-in Line! -	
Reaching your money goals! ..	6
Jozef Sloma's Trailblazers!	10
Live Lockdown Online Bingo.....	18
Otter Bots First Lego League	
Robotics.....	8
Otter Community Pre-Season	
Basketball Clinic	19
Pee Wee Cheer!	8
Pre-Season Soccer Camp	50
Quiz Night with BFPL (Nov-Dec) .	58
Quiz Night with BFPL Virtual.....	44
Sew What!.....	3
Summer Baseball/Softball	26
Summer Cheer	10
Summer Cornhole League	15
Swimming Lessons w Jake Jacobs	71
Table Tennis @ The Town Hall	6
We Think You Can Dance	5
Winter Cornhole League	12
Youth Basketball - Open Gym	22
Youth Basketball (Grade 5/6	
@ Middlebury Rec).....	19

Recreation Department Report

"Rested" Programs & Events

Youth Basketball K-4th grades, Little Otter Youth Wrestling, Pick-up Volleyball @ OV North Campus, Country Heat Video Workout, Sunday Afternoon Pickleball, Italian Film Series, Brandon Idol, A Week of Fun (April, February and Summer), Snowbowl Ski Lessons, February Break Camp @ Town Hall, February Break Camp @ Town Hall, Fall Kick-ball League, 2020 – 2021 Winter Cheer, Middle School Lacrosse, Bounce House Karaoke, Mom Prom, Cabaret, Winter Cornhole Tournament, Fishing Derby, The Vermont State Cornhole Championship, Neshobe Pie Gobbler Thanksgiving Fun Run, NYC Spring & Fall Bus Trips

Events & Initiatives

- Get it and Go – Meal Project with **Brandon Area Toy Project & American Legion and Sponsors – January**
- Ice Skating Rink @ **The Neshobe Golf Course- January-February**
- The Great Brandon Bake-off Competition - with the **Brandon Free Public Library & Olivia's Crouton - January - March**
- Safety Day with **Neshobe PTO, Fire Department, Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Brandon Police Department and OMYA – May**
- Spring Estabrook Craft Fair – **June**
- Job Fair @ Central Park – **June**
- Literacy Day @ Estabrook Park with the **Brandon Free Public Library & Brandon Area Toy Project - June**
- Family Games with Neshobe PTO at the **Brandon Independence Day Celebration – July**
- Jack McKernon Drive-in with **The Paramount Theatre @ Estabrook Park – July**
- Brandon Carnival Days – with the **Brandon Area Toy Project and sponsors – July**
- Estabrook Rock Fest with the **Brandon Area Toy Project – August**
- Harvest Fest with Neshobe PTO, **Brandon Free Public Library, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce @ Estabrook Park – October**
- Fall Estabrook Craft Fair – **October**
- Spooksville with **Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Free Public Library, Brandon Area Rescue Squad, Brandon Police Department & Brandon Fire Department @ Estabrook Park– October**
- The Nutcracker @ **The Barn Opera - December**
- "Get Lit, Brandon" Decorating Competition with the **Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce & The Reporter – December**
- Brandon's Winter Wonderland Kris Kringle Village - **December**
- "Reverse Parade" with the **Brandon Area Toy Project, Brandon Free Public Library & Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce – December**
- **OMYA Safety Programs – Reflective Walking Helmets and Hats, Bicycle Helmets – Year Round**

2021 feels like 2021...

While health issues loomed large over all our best laid plans, our communities' incredible will and adaptability meant that more activities were able to happen here in the "733" (**TM Colleen Wright**). While some old familiar ones returned with some modifications, we launched some new initiatives, activities and events to build community and keep folks healthy and engaged. Our partnerships, sponsors and volunteers have risen to the challenge. Exhibit A: In January when it looked like state-run prepared meal program was going to end, **The Brandon American Legion, Brandon Area Toy Project** and local chefs along with generous support from local sponsors collaborated to create "Get it and Go". Hot meals prepared, packaged and distributed in a safe manner for anyone. This led into a closer relationship with the **Vermont Foodbank** which morphed

Recreation Department Report cont.

into our partnership with the **Brandon Area Toy Project** and **Otter Valley Union High School** to host a monthly VeggieVanGo site. Lesa Pratt and her community and school volunteers meet the VT Foodbank truck to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables on the 3rd Friday of every month at the OVUHS parking lot. This partnership also sees a weekly food box distribution for folks that have signed up at our rec website (brandonrec.com). We have an extraordinary number of generous volunteers and sponsors who help us to collaborate and create activities and programs that serve the people who live here and draw folks to our amazing town. 2,000+ volunteer hours in 2021. Programs like our summer youth program Jozef Sloma's Trailblazers, help teach young people about the wonders of the outdoors and the fulfillment of volunteerism. Jozef Sloma was a young naturalist in the area who lived for the woods. Hiking, camping, fishing, building community; all these things were in his lifestyle. He was working to bring this program to fruition when he was killed in a motorcycle accident. This year-round program connects 6th – 11th graders with outdoor volunteer projects.

General Programming - Youth

The Vermont Department of Health guidance required much in the way of space, masking and limitations on what types of activities in which people can be engaged indoors. The pod based nature of the school's education delivery, limited gym space (only half the gym is currently available), the limit on who can use the space (they even considered hiring the Rec Director as a part-time employee and running activity as a part of the state licensed SOAR program), and the restrictions around co-mingling with other groups outside of the school proved to be too much to overcome for the 2021 majority of the winter season. All was not lost and thanks to our friends at the **Middlebury Rec**, in honor of our longtime friend parent and coach, **Kristle Wheeler**, our 5th and 6th graders were able to enjoy a month of a basketball season in March. Dustin & Scott graciously allowed our kids to practice and play spectatorless games at their beautiful Creek Road facility. Our spring sports saw a return to normalcy with a full baseball and softball season for the first time in 2 years. Summer programming included some old favorites and some new offerings. Fall youth sport activities also saw us add in some indoor programs. **Miss Michaela Motion Dance** classes were held at the Town Hall and Pilar Pilates studio. The **OtterBots First Lego League robotics** group is facilitated by OVUHS tech ed teacher, **Devon Karpak** and will see a team of 6th -9th graders compete in a statewide contest in January at Norwich University. Winter of 2022 will mark the return of **Little Otters Wrestling** along with other programs that were sidelined due to restrictions.

General Programming – Adults

Indoor programming for adults is struggling to rebound. While our Quiz Night with the **Brandon Free Public Library** was able to have some continuity, thanks to the Zoom, other in-person activities were severely impacted by the lack of access to the spaces and people's concerns about their health. **Table Tennis at the Town Hall** is back along with our **winter cornhole league**. There is some light at the end of the tunnel. Sunday pick-up basketball has been approved by the school and there are hopes that our volleyball and pickleball groups will be allowed to continue after the 2022 February break.

Infrastructure

Outdoor recreation remains a priority for our department. Infrastructure Improvement plans will see us grant writing/fundraising for planned work to be done at Estabrook park that includes a tennis court move, 3900' ADA path, bicycle pump track and skateboard park. We are happy to say that thanks

Health Officer Report

Town Health Officer's in the State of Vermont are nominated by their respective towns and appointed by the Commissioner of Health. The THO is responsible for investigating and addressing public health problems in their town. Some of these are animal bites, drinking or public water, lead paint, infectious disease, solid or hazardous waste, sewage, and the rental housing health code.

Respectfully submitted
Town Health Officer
Thomas Kilpeck

Rental Housing Report

There are currently 479 Rental Housing units in the Town of Brandon. Rental Housing consists of any Non-Owner-Occupied dwellings, such as single-family homes, apartments, duplexes, and owner-occupied homes with two or more rooms rented. These rental units are all subject to regulations under the State of Vermont and the Town of Brandon Rental Housing Codes.

A new Certificate of Occupancy is required every time there is a change of tenant at a Rental Unit.

Prior to a new tenant moving in, an inspection is performed and a new C/O is issued. Additionally, an Annual a Statement of Compliance is sent to the owners of all rental housing in Brandon. This is a self-assessment performed by the owners/managers of the property, to ensure that each Rental Unit is up to code. The specifics of the Rental Housing Code can be found on the town's website at www.townofbrandon.com, or by contacting me at the office.

Respectfully submitted
Rental Housing Officer
Thomas Kilpeck

E911 Coordinator Report

Our emergency services, Police Dept, Fire Dept, and Rescue Squad, depend strongly on the owners of all properties to have their street numbers posted and visible in time of emergency.

The Town of Brandon requires ALL Homes and Buildings to have their street address numbers to be posted near the front entrance of each building and be visible from the road. If your entrance cannot be seen from the road, an additional posting is needed, near the road and visible at all times. Numbers are to be 4 inch white or silver reflective, block style, on a green or black background.

Respectfully submitted
E911 Coordinator
 Thomas Kilpeck

Tree Warden Report

Seven large Sugar maples on Park Street were removed during 2021. These trees were more than 100 years old and were full of defect (they were rotten.) They were a hazard to pedestrians and adjoining property. The stumps were removed with a stump grinder and the areas leveled and seeded.

Five trees that died in the Segment 6 project area were replaced by the contractor this year.

As a reminder, all trees proposed to be removed within public rights-of-way must be approved by the Tree Warden prior to removal. Trees removed without approval can result in significant penalties.

Respectfully,
Town Tree Warden
 Wayne Kingsley

Recreation Department Report cont.

to some motivated volunteers, the Seminary Hill Dog Park work has been completed with a grand opening scheduled for spring of 2022. The Seminary Hill playground is still in good condition and the possibility of building a shade enclosure that would span the border with the dog park has been mentioned as a priority for folks who enjoy both parks but want some protection from the sun.

Post Pandemic

With the continued support of our amazing community organizations and volunteers, we are constantly looking to the future. The reinvigoration of our existing (and new) committees can be transformative. If you have any interest in volunteering, planning or otherwise just helping us to realize critical recreation missions, please reach out! Even if it is just feedback (negative or positive), it is all critical for the development of a rec department that best reflects our communities' values.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recreation Director-Not Dictator

Bill Moore

Member

Colleen Wright

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
RECREATION DEPT.	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Salary/Wages ¹	\$ 57,368	\$ 59,110	\$ 65,885
Benefits/Taxes	25,064	27,050	27,815
Travel & Expenses	-	250	250
Dues & Subscriptions	85	600	600
Advertising/Recruitment....	7,501	7,000	7,000
Fuel	488	500	500
Vehicle Maint.	153	1,000	1,000
Registration Software.....	2,395	3,000	3,000
Storage Unit Supply/Maint	2,100	-	-
Equipment /Supplies	1,008	4,000	2,000
Recreation Programming ² ..	20,714	30,100	34,350
Office/Equip. Supplies	-	200	200
Recreation Telephone.....	244	350	500
Parks Maintenance	747	-	-
Estabrook.....	5,024	1,000	-
Estabrook Fundraising	506	500	500
Seminary Hill.....	18,456	500	1,000
EV Festival Expenses.....	-	-	2,500
DOG PARK EXPENDITURES.	2,750	300	300
Grant Match.....	-	10,000	-
Total Recreation	\$ 144,603	\$ 145,460	\$ 147,400

NOTES:

#1 = Increase in hourly rate for assistant to rec director

#2 = Increased Rec offerings again after pandemic

Energy Committee Report

The Brandon Energy Committee's mission is to help the town of Brandon do its' part to achieve the Vermont energy goals.

The Vermont legislature recently passed two significant and achievable energy goals:

1. To meet 90% of Vermont's overall energy needs from renewable resources by 2050.
2. To reduce Vermont's green house gas emissions by 50% from the 1990 baseline level by 2028, and by 75% from the 1990 level by 2050.

Achieving these Vermont energy goals will help Brandon become a healthier and wealthier community that benefits everyone. Our energy bills will go down, our homes will be more comfortable and valuable, our environment will be cleaner.

The Brandon Energy Committee came out of Covid hibernation in July of this year. We are committed to being a group that accomplishes tasks, thus during the following months we worked on defining what is called "SMART Goals" for the coming 18 months. (SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time based.)

Here are our key goals and where we stand with achieving them (in bold) as of this writing, November 30, 2021. (Please note, we are quite early in our process of achieving these goals.) As we complete these goals we intend to adopt new ones and we welcome your suggestions, (Contact information below.)

1. Submit monthly articles to the Reporter to encourage progress toward Vermont goals. **This is well underway on an ongoing basis.**
2. Create energy saving displays for public outreach locations by March, 2022.

continued.....



Energy Committee Report continued . . .

3. Develop an Energy Resource Binder for use by Energy Committee Members by February, 2022.

4. Support SolarFest in selecting Brandon as their permanent home by December, 2021. **SolarFest has expressed a commitment to this recently.**

5. Support the Town Economic Development Officer in hosting The first Davenport Electric Festival featuring EV's, battery operated appliances, tools, eBikes and more in July, 2022. **This event has been scheduled for July 9th at Estabrook Park and is being planned currently.** Contact Jack Schneider at schneider@att.net or 646-286-8158 if you care to volunteer in supporting this event.

6. See if we can get the Brandon 4th of July Committee to adopt a theme of "Electrifying Brandon - Home of the Electric Motor" by March, 2022 and create a team to build a Brandon Energy Committee float for it by June, 2022.

7. Establish a Harvest Fest booth promoting energy savings programs to Brandon residents in October, 2021. **This was accomplished.**

8. Develop baseline data defining Green House Gas emissions for all Town functions by December, 2021. **This is essentially accomplished.**

9. Analyze total savings achievable resulting from conversion to renewable sources for municipal vehicles and buildings by March, 2022.

10 Support a community solar project that residents, businesses and municipal entities can participate in by December, 2022. **SolarFest has committed to spearhead this effort with our support.**

11. Seek Town funds and/or grants to provide financial incentives for residents to undertake Heat Squad Energy Audits and Efficiency VT endorsed purchases by January, 2022.

Highway Department Report

This year I feel we had a very productive year. Lot of ditching and shoulder work in different areas, brush and tree cutting, culvert replacements, cleaning curbs and sprayed sidewalks to protect them from winter maintenance.

Florence road we replaced culverts where needed, did some extensive bank stabilization, with the cooperation from the land owner to improve our shoulder width, this made a big different in line of site and stabilizing our road. We also did a portion of High Pond road and then paved this entire area.

Mills Lane we also did some bank stabilization reshaped road and paved.

Briggs Lane reshaped and paved to improve water runoff, to prevent washouts in hard rain events.

We also paved Woods Lane, Railroad Ave. and Middle road.

With the help of a Grant we were able to get Ditching, Shoulders and culvert work and replacement done on Long Swamp, Marshall Phillips and Hacks Sawmill road.

Shoulder and Ditching also on Birch Hill, McConnell, Hawk View and Middle Road and keeping up with regular schedule maintenance such as Grading, Cold patching, Road side mowing and assisting other departments as needed.

I feel very fortunate to have such a good group of people to work with. I feel the Town of Brandon is in good hands and we will continue to strive and improve our infrastructure.

As always, if you have any issues or concerns or just a question feel free to call the Highway Garage.

I look forward to serving the community.

Highway Foreman

Shawn Erickson

Highway Dept.

Brian Kilpeck
Dan Snow
Jeremy Disorda

Bldgs. & Grounds

Paula Butterfield
Josh Preseau

Wastewater Dept.

Steve Cijka
Tim Kingston

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
HIGHWAY DEPT.	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Salary/Wages.....	\$ 218,807	\$ 245,650	\$ 244,150
Benefits/Taxes	93,808	115,795	117,400
Travel & Expenses	190	300	200
Clothing Allowance.....	4,531	2,500	2,500
Dues & Subscriptions	-	100	100
Continuing Education	-	100	200
Contractors	276	5,000	5,000
Equipment Rental	4,762	8,000	8,000
State Permits.....	1,840	3,000	2,000
New Equipment-Misc. Tools	5,534	10,000	10,000
Safety Equipment	467	1,500	1,500
Fuel - Vehicles HW	22,367	30,000	30,000
Oil - Vehicles	656	2,200	2,200
HW Maint. Supplies-Vehicl	18,449	20,000	20,000
HW Tires - Vehicles	15,471	5,000	7,000
HW Outside Maint. - Vehic	43,651	25,000	25,000
HW Telephone.....	1,596	2,100	2,100
Ditching	779	-	-
Roadside Mower- Maint....	739	1,500	1,500

Highway Department Report cont.

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
HIGHWAY DEPT. cont.	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Tree Removal/Planting.....	18,100	8,000	10,000
Guardrails.....	44	6,000	6,000
Signs & Posts.....	10,560	4,000	6,000
Line Painting.....	-	2,000	2,000
Paving Roads ¹	64,518	70,000	100,000
Cold Patching.....	707	2,500	2,500
Culverts.....	9,044	8,000	8,000
Gravel.....	34,076	55,000	55,000
Chloride.....	28,704	25,000	25,000
Road Salt.....	65,124	85,000	85,000
Winter Sand.....	25,671	25,000	25,000
Sidewalks.....	14,460	15,000	15,000
Leased Equipment.....	77,486	78,000	78,000
Grant Match.....	-	5,000	-
Total Highway Department.	\$ 782,419	\$ 866,245	\$ 896,350

NOTES:

#1 = Funded by this operating budget and local option (1%) tax. No separate appropriation article is requested by the Town this year.

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
BLDGS. & GROUNDS	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Salary/Wages.....	\$ 48,597	\$ 54,660	\$57,395
Benefits/Taxes.....	20,111	18,530	20,600
Testing/Monitor Fee.....	1,644	-	-
Heating - Propane.....	3,868	9,000	9,000
Heating Fuel.....	6,663	15,000	10,000
Bldgs & Grounds Water Fee.....	1,604	1,800	1,700
Bldgs & Grounds Electric....	71,857	70,000	70,000
Electric EV Car Stations.....	953	1,000	1,000
Highway Bldg Maint.....	18,805	10,000	10,000
PD Bldg Maint.....	1,690	2,000	2,000
Town Office ¹	2,743	-	5,000
Cemeteries.....	-	500	500
Municipal Mowing-maint ..	2,649	2,500	2,500
Recreation Field Maint.....	88	2,500	500
Town Clock Maint.....	865	500	1,000
Town Hall Repair/Maint....	61,599	15,000	10,000
Parks Maint.....	7,479	3,000	6,000
Trash costs-Transfer Stat	367	500	500
Maint. Supplies Bldgs.....	1,125	1,000	1,000
Generator Maint.....	1,255	2,200	2,200
Highway Shed - Rollover F	44,944	-	-
Total Bldgs. & Grounds	\$ 298,906	\$209,690	\$210,895

NOTES:

#1 = Anticipate replacing windows

12. Support all municipal entities, (Town, Fire, Rescue, Schools) in conducting free Efficiency Vermont energy audits by June, 2022.

13. Support the Town in committing to building a net zero maintenance garage in the coming years.

14. Provide educational information to Brandon residents as to best practices for processing food waste to reduce Green House Gas emissions by June, 2022.

15. Provide BEC members with a monthly update on electric transportation and machinery development on a monthly basis. **This is underway on an ongoing basis.**

16. Create a volunteer group to implement residential button up efforts for Brandon residents by May, 2022.

17. Conduct surveys and inquiries to better define BEC goals in the future, including surveying best practices of other Vermont energy committees by June, 2022.

18. Support establishing a supercharger in Brandon, hopefully at Hannaford parking lot by September, 2022. **Hannaford has expressed willingness to work of this.**

We welcome your comments, suggestions and your volunteer efforts should you care to offer them. We can be reached at brandonenergycommittee@gmail.com.

Energy Committee

Jim Emerson, Chair
Jack Schneider, Vice-Chair
Robert Black
Matthew Orchard
Lowell Rasmussen



Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission's most notable accomplishment the past year was successfully amending the Town Plan to include an **Enhanced Energy Plan (EEP)**, one of the few towns in the county to have this advantage. This was largely the result of over 20 months work by the Energy Committee (an appointed panel serving the PC). To be approved by both the Rutland Regional and VT Planning Commissions; the Town's EEP had to include required research data, establish long term objectives, and identify preferred locations for future renewable energy generation facilities. The main benefit of this EEP is that the Town will be granted "Substantial Deference" by the VT Public Utility Commission when reviewing applications for new or expanding solar, wind, or hydroelectric generation installations. This gives the Town a greater "voice" in this state permit process, which may result in a more Town-friendly project with regards to locations, aesthetics, and neighborhood impact. The Enhance Energy Plan starts on page 22 of the Town Plan; which is posted at www.TownofBrandon.com and printed copies are available on request to the Zoning Administrator.

The PC has continued working to improve certain sections of the Brandon Land Use Ordinance (BLUO) that have been "hot button" topics the past year. These include Noise, Open Storage of junk and junk vehicles, keeping of Farm Animals in urban locations, and Signage.

The Planning Commission meets regularly on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm, and usually Zoom remote participation is available. All meetings are open to the Public and citizen attendance is welcome!

With the December resignation of Allison Walter, the PC seeks a new Member and/or Alternate. The main

Planning & Zoning Administrator Report

The past Fiscal Year experienced a transition from pandemic restrictions and stimulus funds to vaccines and a return to a "New Normal". The result is that ZA issued 50 zoning permits (although some included multiple requests); down 29% from F.Y. 2020's high.

Summary of permits reviewed 7/1/2020 - 6/30/21

Project # Applications

Residential (attached to housing): additions, decks, porches.....	10
Accessory (detached) Structures: garages, sheds, pools, fences.....	18
Single Family Residences (stick-built, modular, panel, log, mobile homes); new or replaced	5
Commercial Projects (including multi family housing, Changes of Use	5
Home Occupations	0
Signs (business related).....	7
Demolitions (Note that a VT Asbestos Inspection Certificate may be required); Miscellaneous	0
Subdivisions, Boundary Line Adjustments	3
Agricultural Structures (to qualified farmers), Farm Animal permits (a Conditional Use)	1
Denied, incomplete, withdrawn Applications.....	1

Total #applications reviewed:..... 50

The DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) held eight Public Hearings to decide on requests for conditional uses, variances, setback waivers, Act 250 review, and other commercial applications. All were approved.

The current (all volunteer) DRB members are Samantha Stone (Chair), Robert Clark, John Peterson, Ralph Ethier, and new member Jack Schneider. Hillary Knapp provides administrative and recording services.

The DRB now needs an Alternate Member to assist in review of Appeals, Variances, Waivers and Conditional Use permit applications. Qualifications are a willingness to participate when needed, and impartial application of common sense to the Town's rules. The DRB only meets when there is an application to review, usually on the fourth Wednesday of the month. If interested, please contact Chairperson Samantha Stone (xsamstone@yahoo.com) or the ZA for information.

UPDATES: Additional permit application information, and a clarified Zoning Fee Schedule is available for review at www.TownofBrandon.com. As always, **please check with the Zoning Administrator** (not your Contractor, Salesperson, or Neighbor) for reliable information on when or if a Permit is needed. Plan to apply for your local permit 30 days in advance of construction start-up; and Conditional Uses may take 60 days to process.

In 2022, The ZA will be available to assist on Tuesdays (8:15-4:00), Wednesday mornings (8:15-12:30), and by special appointment as necessary on nights & weekends. Permitting information, application forms, fee schedules, ZA's Office hours (subject to temporary changes), and contact details are posted on this Town

Well Regards

Zoning Administrator

Jeffrey M. Biasuzzi

Planning & Zoning Adm. Report cont.

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
PLANNING & ZONING	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
Salary/Wages.....	\$ 25,349	\$ 31,375	\$ 31,775
Benefits/Taxes ¹	1,939	2,410	4,340
Travel & Expenses	-	300	200
Continuing Education	-	150	150
Legal Services - zoning	-	3,000	2,000
Professional Supplies	25	-	100
Planning/Zoning Postage..	81	250	250
Legal Advertising	589	700	500
Energy Cm Public Outreach ² .	-	-	3,200
Total Zoning	\$ 27,983	\$ 38,185	\$ 42,515

NOTES:

#1 = Our share of expense with other towns served by same zoning officer

#2 = Townwide survey



Planning Commission Report continued . . .

qualification is the desire to volunteer about 3 hours a month; and apply common sense towards resolving Zoning and Planning related issues.

Many thanks to current Planning Commissioners William Mills, Ralph Ethier, Lowell Rasmussen, Robert Foley, Todd Nielson, and Liz Gregorek. Gratitude to past members Michael Shank, Stephanie Jerome, Alexandria Breyer, and Ali Walter.

Many Thanks also to current Energy Committee members Jim Emerson (Chair), Robert Black, Matthew Orchard, Lowell Rasmussen, and Jack Schneider; AND past members Michael Shank & Edna Sutton.

Finally, both the PC and Energy Committee could not do their work without the excellent recording services of Charlene Bryant!

Planning Commission

Ralph Ethier.....	2024
Bob Foley.....	2024
Liz Gregorek	2022
William Mills	2023
Todd Nielsen	2023
Lowell Rasmussen	2022
Jack Schneider.....	2022
Alison Walter	(resigned)

Brandon Restorative Action for Victims and Offenders (BRAVO)

"Punishment alone does not create an adequate voice for those harmed or an adequate opportunity for those who create the harm."

Robert L. Sand, Founder
Center for Justice Reform,
Vermont Law School

The Restorative Justice (RJ) movement, which began in the US during the 1970s, continues to grow across America. Three Brandon residents, Art Doty (d. 2019), Lance Mead (d. 2020), and Debbie Boyce, were instrumental in creating BRAVO several years ago. Debbie continues to be an active member.

Restorative justice practices vary, but what they all share is a belief that healing the harm done to individuals is more beneficial for communities than punishing nonviolent offenders. BRAVO volunteers work in conjunction with the Brandon Police Department and Chief of Police, Christopher Brickell, who refers cases to BRAVO. Three BRAVO panel members work with offenders, and with parents or guardians of juvenile offenders, to create a plan, often involving letters of apology and community service, to remedy the harm done to the offender and to other members of the community. Offender participation in RJ programs is entirely voluntary. In 2020 BRAVO handled one adult case and four juvenile cases.

BRAVO thanks:

Chief of Police Chris Brickell for his level headedness, guidance, and wisdom.

Town Manager, Dave Atherton and Selectboard Chair, Seth Hopkins for ongoing support. Tim Guiles and Bill Mathis for past service.

Most RJ Programs have both paid staff and volunteers, but since BRAVO has no paid staff, we regularly recruit and welcome volunteers. The work of

Public Works Projects

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
DEBT SERVICE	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
RT 7 Town Share -2006	\$ 164,232	\$ 170,000	\$ 158,000
Interest Exp.- Short Term	18,878	5,000	5,000
PD Bond Payment.....	27,891	27,500	26,650
2016 Segment 6 Bond	64,371	63,500	62,600
Total Debt Service	\$ 275,372	\$ 266,000	\$ 252,250

Vital Statistics Report

	2021	2020	2019	2018
Births	29	39	30	35
Deaths	48	69	44	47
Civil Marriages	26	24	37	18

Due to the town's liability exposure and the possible use of information fraudulently, the Vermont Department of Health has recommended against printing names in the Vital Statistics section of the Town Report. The Brandon Town Clerk's office concurs with this policy.

Partner Agencies

EXPENDITURES	FY-20/21	FY-21/22	FY-22/23
PARTNER AGENCIES	ACTUAL	APPROVED	PROPOSED
VLCT Insurance	\$ 81,223	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,225
Unemployment Insurance ..	4,532	5,650	5,650
Worker's Comp Insurance .	46,241	42,000	46,075
Insurance Deductible	1,000	1,000	1,000
County Tax.....	28,268	30,000	30,000
Rut. Regional Commission .	975	975	1,000
Green-Up Day	300	300	300
Public Transit	3,500	3,500	3,500
REDC.....	500	500	500
Rut Nat Resources Conserv	1,250	250	250
Mosquito Control	42,021	40,500	40,500
Reserve Fund transfer	-	10,000	-
Total Partner Agencies	\$ 209,810	\$ 224,675	\$ 219,000



BRAVO can be immensely satisfying. It can also be frustrating. If you are committed to justice and want to improve outcomes for offenders, victims, and your community, please consider volunteering.

BRAVO meets the first Monday of the month from 6-7. Volunteer training is provided through the Vermont Department of Corrections.

BRAVO is an inclusive group seeking to foster equity and diversity in Brandon.

2021 BRAVO Members

Claire Astone, Chair
 Lindsey Berk
 Marielle Blais, Coordinator/Secretary
 Debbie Boyce
 Sue Gage
 Jeff Haylon
 Mitch Pearl
 Beth Taylor, Vice Chair
 Riker Wickoff

Town Officials

Town Clerk

Sue Gage 2023

Town Treasurer

Sue Gage 2023

Trustees of Public Funds

Coutney Satz 2022

Laura Miner 2024

Tanner Romano 2023

Revolving Loan Fund Committee

Wendy Bizzarro 2023

Stephanie Jermone 2022

Karen Lynch 2022

Frank Spezzano 2024

Catherine Wall 2023

Tom Whittaker 2024

Fence Viewers

Lou Faivre 2022

Todd Nielsen 2022

John Reynolds 2022

Inspector of Wood

Bob Kilpeck 2022

Weighers of Coal

Lou Faivre 2022

Olga Hopkins 2022

Deputy Health Officer

David Atherton 2022

Emergency Management Director

David Atherton

Historic Preservation Commission

Frank Bump

Bob Clark

John Peterson

Jeff Stewart

Recording Secretaries

Charlene Bryant

Hillary Knapp

Town Office Staff

Karen Folger

Luanne Merkert

Jacelyn Savelle

Elaine S. Smith



Reports

from Intergovernmental Appropriations and Public Agencies

BRANDON LEICESTER SALISBURY GOSHEN INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT

Breaking News! The Brandon/Leicester/Salisbury/Goshen/Pittsford (commonly known as the BLSG) Insect Control District is changing its name to the Otter Creek Watershed (OCW) Insect Control District. With a new town potentially joining and a current member potentially leaving the District, having a more generic name will alleviate the need to change the formal agreement that established the District and the District's By-Laws, every time there is a change in District membership. Needless to say, there are a plethora of related logistics to change (e.g., web site, call center greeting, vehicle registrations, insurance policies, bank accounts...) that the District will be making over the next several months.

The technical term for the level of biting insect activity within the District this past spring and summer was "horrendous". The BLSG staff worked many long days surveying (dipping for larvae throughout the 6,000 acres of wetlands within the District setting / retrieving / counting the contents of light traps in all member towns, including Salisbury) and then dispensing larvicide, when State-mandated larval counts were present and / or spraying adulticide where light trap counts exceeded thresholds of adult mosquitoes.

The BLSG is dedicated to constantly improving the quality of our efforts through training, program development, and continuing education. As a result, our staff is able to target areas of high density mosquito breeding. This year Rutland County received 143.8 lbs of *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* (bti) and *Bacillus Sphaericus* (bs) while Addison County received 125.7 lbs.

Adulticide applications included Addison County receiving 216.2 gal of Permanone/Permasease and 11.7 gallons of Fyfanon. Rutland County received 494.5 gallons of Permanone/Permasease and 50.9 gallons Fyfanon to combat adult mosquito populations.

BLSG uses a series of factors to determine where and when to spray. This includes surveillance, species of mosquito, number of mosquitoes collected from mosquito traps, landing rates, weather and citizen service requests, in any given area. The District received 766 calls from residents reporting and requesting mosquito control: 182 calls from Brandon, 279 from Leicester, 65 from Salisbury, 4 from Goshen, 173 from Pittsford, 34 from Proctor and 31 misc. Total requests equal 766 requests from individuals for spraying services, a 417% increase from last year.

Salisbury. As reported previously, on Town Meeting Day last March Salisbury voters decided not to fund their portion of the BLSG budget for the fiscal year that started July 1, 2021. Consequently, and as provided for in the BLSG By-Laws, the BLSG Board of Trustees voted to suspend mosquito control services in the Town of Salisbury starting July 1st. That decision was agreed to by the two BLSG representatives from Salisbury: Paul Vaczy, who also is Chair of the Salisbury Select Board, and Jeff Schumann, who also is President of the LDFLA. Subsequently, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets notified the BLSG that if larvicide services were not provided to Salisbury, that would void the \$70,000 grant that they award the BLSG annually. The BLSG Board, in July, voted to resume larviciding (but not adulticiding) in Salisbury, when and where larva counts met State thresholds. Salisbury voters will have to decide during Town Meeting Day in March 2022 if they will fund the OCW.

Kudos to Will Mathis, Jeremy New, John Capen and Kerry White for heroic efforts this season keeping the biting insect populations at a tolerable level. Speaking of heroic efforts, the OCW normally employs 6 to 8 part-time folks to do all of the things pertaining to insect control in this area. Due to a number of factors over the past year, the staff has declined to a dedicated hard nucleus, and could really use some more help! If you know someone who might be interested in making some extra money and has a flexible schedule please have them contact Will Mathis for more information about what the job entails. Will can be reached by leaving a message with the OCW call center (802-247-6779) or sending an email to BLSGDistrict@gmail.com (though this email address will change sometime soon). To apply for a position, a letter of interest and resume should be sent to: OCW Insect Control District, PO Box 188, Brandon, VT 05733. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Operations Director
Will Mathis

District Representatives:
Wayne Rausenberger
Richard Russ

BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT

I am proud to report that the members of the Brandon Fire Department continue to be prepared and ready to respond to the emergency needs of the three towns that we cover - Brandon, Goshen, and Leicester. There are currently twenty-four (24) members of the fire department, that put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to keep our equipment and themselves prepared to respond at a moments notice. As training remains an important focus of the fire service, I can report that we currently have four members enrolled in Firefighter 1. This is a Nationally Accredited, two-hundred-hour class designed to train firefighters.

BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT cont.

Not everyone is capable of going into a dangerous situation to aid others, it takes a whole team. From the firefighters entering a burning home, to the operators of the apparatus pumping them water, the support staff working on the outside, and the officers making the plan and decisions, it is a team effort for every different call. The Brandon Fire Department is looking for new members willing to join this team. Please stop by the fire station to discuss becoming a member. We are normally here on the second and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You also can contact me via email at chief@dunmorehose.org or by leaving a message on the non-emergency line 802-247-3400.

From January 1, 2021, through November 30, 2021, the Brandon Fire Department responded to 150 calls for assistance.

Motor Vehicle accidents	31	Rescues of Person or Animal	3
Structure Fires	4	Assistance to EMS	22
Chimney Fires.....	1	Outdoor fires & other calls.....	20
Other building related emergencies.....	14	Other Good intent & cancellations.....	9
Alarm Activations.....	27	Mutual Aid to another department	19

I would like to acknowledge our working relationship with the Brandon Area Rescue Squad and the Brandon Police Department, along with our mutual aid departments from Pittsford, Salisbury, and Whiting. I also want to praise the Prudential Board and the Water Superintendent for their guidance and assistance, without which my duty as Fire Chief would be far more difficult than it is.

The largest THANK YOU goes to our firefighters, who respond at any hour of the day or night, to provide assistance those in need in our community.

Respectfully submitted

Fire Chief

Thomas Kilpeck

Ron Euber, Ass't. Chief
Jordan Martin, Captain
Jesse Bilodeau, Captain
Roger Bougor, Lieutenant
Cody Taylor, Lieutenant
Ken Backus

Scott Bertrand
Steve Bilodeau
Peter Carlson
Bradley Danforth
David Dushaney
Rob Fales

Harry E. Hunt
Harry L. Hunt
Kyle Hutchins
Brian Kilpeck
Courtney Lee
Jason Martin

Tracey Murray
Dennis Reisenweaver
Peter Smith
Garret Trask
Brent Young

GREEN UP VERMONT

www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day on May 1, 2021 was a huge success thanks to nearly 22,000 volunteers statewide who Greened Up. The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is needed and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play a very special place. As one of Vermont's favorite holidays, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship.

Along with Green Up Day, we work year-round to further our impact with waste reduction initiatives, additional clean-up efforts, and educational programs.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. Thank you for your support of this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow us on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 229-4586

Green Up Day, May 7, 2022

Green Up Day Coordinator

James Leary

RUTLAND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

The Rutland County Solid Waste District offers a variety of solid waste, recycling, waste education, household hazardous waste, composting and administrative support programs for our eighteen member municipalities, residents, and businesses. Some services are also available to non-District communities on a fee for service basis. In addition, the District operates a regional drop-off center and transfer station at 14 Gleason Road in Rutland City. District program, facility and rate and program information and obtaining your required annual permit on our web site, www.rcswd.com.

New this year, The District has had many new challenges amid COVID-19. Being deemed essential by Governor Scott we remained on the job in full force. Each of our employee raised for the occasion in implementing the guidelines from the CDC, VOSHA, and VBOH. The District also has developed many efficiencies. A new annual permit can be obtained from the convenience of your home or business via www.rcswd.com/permits. Debit and credit cards will all be accepted as an added means of payment accepted at our facilities. A small convenience fee will be charged.

The RCSWD did complete the Districts Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) for the 2020-2025. The State requires that all communities have a current SWIP in place that meets the requirements of the State's Material Management Plan and delineates how solid and hazardous waste will be managed in the District towns for a five-year period. Milestones will need to be reported back as required. The community's involvement in drafting and developing this document was encouraged.

The District has worked and will continue to contact with local businesses informing them about recycling composting and hazardous waste and the programs that we offer. The District will also be working with local schools on many of these same issues.

The town of Pittsfield, Vermont was able to provide more services to their residents and business and reduced their tax rate by joining the Solid Waste District. We are very happy to have them on board.

Our website has been updated! This is your virtual Solid Waste Administration Office. Appointments, permits, and so much information and detail at your fingertips 24 -hours a day. Please see our 2021 Annual Report Book which covers detail and all our programs to include but not limited to:

Waste Disposal: During 2021, residents and businesses in our member municipalities disposed of approximately 36,000 tons of municipal solid waste which includes the construction and demolition activity along with a significant amount of bulky waste.

Recycling: The District owns a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), recycling center in Rutland City that is leased to Casella Waste Management for their operations. The MRF accepts Zero Sort recycling from transfer stations, commercial haulers and large generators for processing and sale for re-use. The facility currently receives approximately 35,000 tons of recyclables a year from a large geographical area. Since we began tracking material in 2013 the facility has processed over 222,911.35 tons of recyclables.

Household Hazardous Waste: Rutland County Solid Waste District operates an extensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for district residents and small business generators. The program operates year-round from the Gleason Road facility by appointment. An additional 32 events are scheduled collections at twelve town transfer stations within eighteen member towns through the spring, summer, and fall. The HHW program collects and safely disposes of dozens of hazardous, flammable, and toxic materials. The RCSWD HHW also collects electronic waste and has collected over 45.95 tons of material.

Other Programs: The District also offered waste management education, and reduction programs, construction, demolition waste, clean wood, and composting. The District is continuing with its "Merry Mulch" program in collecting and processing over 1,200 Christmas trees annually. The District also has been working local organizations including the Rutland Master Gardener's Club, 350 Rutland County, the Rutland Dismas House, Rutland Neighborhood Program, and Vermont Southwestern Council on Aging, Rutland Hospital and Women's Network & Shelter and the Rutland County Humane Society and our valued haulers.

District Manager
Mark S. Shea

Rutland County Solid Waste District Representative
Gabe McGuidan

DOWNTOWN BRANDON ALLIANCE

The Vermont State Designated Downtown program provides financial advantages such as grants and tax incentives to towns that have been accepted into the program. There are only 22 towns accepted into this program and Brandon is one of those towns. The Downtown Brandon Alliance (the DBA) is the organization that maintains the State requirements to keep this Designated Downtown privilege. These requirements are somewhat boring like keeping track of the number of new businesses, the amount of money spent on downtown building renovations etc. The far more enjoyable responsibilities of the DBA are creating and implementing events and programs to keep downtown Brandon a fun and exciting place to live and shop. Our board of directors would like to thank the people of Brandon for their financial support. The Downtown Brandon Alliance is an all-volunteer organization with a board of directors, plus a fun-filled group of willing citizens that get together to apply the work needed to accomplish the DBA goals. Over the years these events have ranged from cleaning town parks in the spring and fall or teaming up with the chamber of commerce to create as much as possible a positive Segment 6 construction project, to the Vermont Cornhole Championships. For many years the DBA has been the folks that bring you the spring and summer flowerpots and the holiday winter decorations. Our new addition this year to downtown décor has been the fall gourds. Grown by volunteers and displayed in the downtown flowerpots to keep some fall beauty going after the summer flowers have gone. If beginning part of a creative, fun, active group sounds exciting to you we love to welcome new volunteers just send an email to bandondba@yahoo.com and we'll find a place for you.

Respectfully

Devon D. Fuller

President DBA

BRANDON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

2021 has not been an easy year for the committee. At the start of 2020 the committee was composed of Lance Mead, Richard Baker, Frank Bump, John Peterson, and Jeff Stewart. We have added Bob Clark recently lost the first two members, and Blaine Cliver, our mentor in many ways, has moved from the community. It will be immediately necessary to add at least two new members and to pick a new chairman.

Covid-19 also put a halt to most our activities, but before that occurred we had accomplished the following:

Lance and Frank had been proceeding with a registration of Brandon's historic barns, but with the virus it is now difficult to make personal calls on properties. Nevertheless, they had accomplished quite a bit. Some of these barns are not in the best shape – and State Preservation Barn Grants are available. But they are highly competitive and the committee is willing to help with property owners preparing applications.

Brandon has 243 properties on the Historic Register, but it is clear that the original survey in 1975 was a slap-dash effort and the job needs to be redone – and to include properties that were missed in the , earlier effort. Accordingly, Devon Coleman at the state was contacted and he indicated they would become involved with the effort – but Covid put that into suspension.

Likewise, with the Town's encouragement, we made application for a Historic Marker for the twin-arch stone bridge and had received encouragement from the State, but again, this is pending.

The condition of the Methodist Church remains of great concern. With a grant for an engineer's survey the extent of the needed repairs is clear. But a source of funding and possible future use of the building beyond that of the Methodist congregation needs to be established.

While the committee endeavors to protect and enhance the historic structures that make Brandon such a special place, their efforts would be much improved with a full board and a new chair. So would anyone interested in serving please contact the town manager.

Jeff Stewart,

Temporary Chair

BRANDON TRANSFER STATION

In September of 2019, we, the Wyman family, took over the operations of the Brandon Transfer Station. We are continuing to consolidate the recycling to Zero Sort. During the month of February in 2020, Covid-19 made things at the Transfer Station a bit more challenging. We decided to make it so only two cars at a time could pull into the circle. We have decided to continue this. We still have curbside service for those who want to stay in their cars. We will continue to offer this service to everyone.

Garbage is weighed on our scale at a per pound rate with a minimum of \$1.50. Recycling is free for customers who bring garbage on a regular basis. Otherwise, there is a minimal fee for straight recycling.

We offer food compost disposal at this time at \$.10 per pound with a minimum fee of \$.50 per container. We do ask that our food compost in one single bag or in a container to be emptied and returned to the customer. We ask that no paper or plastic wrap be added in.

We will continue to have a steel/metal container for people to drop off items at no cost along with brush/yard debris. There is a fee for microwaves and any items containing freon.

At this time, our hours are as follows:

Tuesday 1-6 pm
Thursday 1-6 pm
Saturday 7:30 am to Noon

We are continuing to make renovations to continue to improve the appearance of the Transfer Station and the quality of service we provide.

We appreciate all of the support we have received from the Town of Brandon and our Brandon community. Thank you for supporting our Dump'in Donuts on Saturday morning!

Jonathon Wyman
Harriet Wyman
Tracy Wyman

VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM "VSNIP"

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program aka "VSNIP", under the oversight of the VT Economic Services Department, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VWSA). VSNIP helps financially challenged Vermont residents spay/neuter cats and dogs for \$27.00. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters when dogs are licensed by an added \$4.00 fee. This is the major funding for this important program. Funds are determined by the number of dogs licensed in your town office, which is required by law when a dog is six months of age. A current rabies vaccination is required to register, and a rabies vaccination can be administered after 12 weeks of age for both cats and dogs.

Prostrate and mammary cancer is more likely to occur in unsterilized cats and dogs. It's not pretty and they're likely to die. Animals live longer and happier when they're spayed and neutered, are less likely to fight for territory, and mark what they claim to be "theirs"!

Licensing a dog: 1) helps identify your dog if lost, 2) provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal, but would still need immediate medical attention, 3) if your dog bites an animal or person – which could result in quarantine or possible euthanasia to test for infection, and 4) helps pay for VSNIP, addressing the population situation in Vermont.

Farms with cats should especially be aware that one rabid cat or dog can affect an entire population of animals on the premise. The answer is neutering through VSNIP which includes a rabies vaccination and the first of the two part distemper series.

Look for Rabies Clinics in March across the state. You can call your veterinarian and ask the cost of a rabies vaccination only, or call your nearest Tractor Supply Store for their Monthly Rabies Clinic schedule. Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

To receive a VSNIP application, send a 9" S.A.S.E to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if it's for a cat, dog or both. For more information, call 802-672-5302.

Please visit our website: www.VVSAHS.org VWSA will be hosting Rabies Clinics in March. Call for dates and locations.

The animals thank you in advance! Together We Truly Do Make A Difference!!

Sue Skaskiw,
VWSA Humane Society Director / VSNIP Administrator

Accounts

EXPENDITURES

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER

	FY-20/21 ACTUAL	FY-21/22 APPROVED	FY-22/23 PROPOSED
Salary/Wages.....	\$ 112,301	\$ 112,950	\$ 122,500
Benefits/Taxes	58,420	62,855	64,400
Dues & Subscriptions	215	150	250
Professional Development.....	185	750	750
Elections ¹	14,237	1,800	8,300
Dog License Expense	146	125	150
Office Supplies	487	800	500
Records Preservation	4,251	12,400	14,040
Office Equipment	-	1,200	1,200
Grant Expenses.....	12,160	-	-
Total Town Clerk/Treasurer	\$ 202,402	\$ 193,030	\$ 212,090

NOTES:

#1 = 1 election in 2021; 3 elections in 2022 (town meeting; state primary; state election)

State Payments to the Town of Brandon

Dept. of Finance and Management – July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

AOT - Grants/Other HW projects	\$ 2,101,307.26
AOT - Class 1, 2, 3 Roads	198,885.95
Dept. of Public Service/Grant Funds.....	5,199.63
Dept. of buildings & General Services/ Grant Funds	10,000.00
Dept. of Housing & Comm. Dev/ Grant Funds	32,575.00
Dept. of Public Safety/Grant Funds	50,197.61
Secretary of State/Town Mtg Day reimbursement.....	4,821.38
Dept. of Taxes/ Grant Funds.....	24,161.64
Judicial & Civil Fines/Document Reimbursement.....	1,879.50
Annual Ticket refund	4,378.71
DCF Fingerprinting reimbursement	460.00
Recording Fees	190.00
Assessor Reappraisal.....	16,898.00
Assessor Revenue	1,988.00
Local Option Tax.....	210,667.40
Municipal Property Tax Adjustment.....	192,648.03
PILOT/Current Use/Hold Harmless/RR Tax.....	44,577.93
TOTAL	\$ 2,900,836.04

Debt and Loan Balances

Debt and Loan Balances 6/30/2021					
LONG-TERM DEBT					
BONDS					
\$ 364,871	Waste Water, System Improvements	ANNUAL PMT 21/22	ANNUAL PMT 22/23	ANNUAL PMT 23/24	DATE COMPLETED
\$ 21,034	Waste Water, Carver Street Extension of System	\$ 30,919	\$ 30,907	\$ 30,895	December-36
\$ 462,606	Waste Water, Champlain St Pump Station	\$ 4,637	\$ 4,635	\$ 4,632	December-25
\$ 810,000	General Fund, Infrastructure Bond 2006	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964	\$ 22,964	February-48
\$ 237,000	General Fund, PD Building Rehab	\$ 163,308	\$ 157,498	\$ 151,315	December-26
\$ 709,920	General Fund, Overflow Culver, Rte 7, Bridge 114	\$ 27,240	\$ 26,589	\$ 25,937	December-32
		\$ 63,292	\$ 62,557	\$ 61,561	November-37
STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS					
\$ 540,000	CWSRF -RF1-214-3.0 Park St - \$12,962 forgiven, \$32231.91/yr beg 5/1/21	\$ -	\$ 32,232	\$ 32,232	May-40
\$ 97,000	WW - RF1-223-1.2 Sewer Break/Neshobe River - \$45,000 forgiven, \$10,300/yr, beg 7/1/25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	July-29
\$ 8,633	Waste Water Engineering/Flow Analysis - \$2,200/yr, 5/1/2020	\$ 2,158	\$ 2,158	\$ 2,158	May-24
\$ 3,251,064.38					
CAPITAL LEASES					
\$ 120,899	General Fund - Grader Lease	\$ 32,408	\$ 32,408	\$ 32,408	February-25
\$ 86,422	General Fund - Sidewalk Plow	\$ 24,028	\$ 24,028	\$ 24,028	November-24
\$ 58,673	General Fund - 2019 Ford Truck Lease	\$ 21,051	\$ 21,051	\$ 21,051	November-23
\$ 265,994.10		\$ 392,004.38	\$ 417,026.29	\$ 409,180.54	
SHORT-TERM DEBT					
\$ -	DESCRIPTION				
\$ -					
\$ -					

Treasurer's Tax Report (aka Tax Reconciliation)

TREASURERS TAX REPORT TAX YEAR ENDING 5/15/2021

TAXES BILLED 2020-2021	TAX RATE	X GRAND LIST =	TOTAL RAISED
Non-Residential Education.....	1.5763	\$1,420,154	\$2,238,588.62
Homestead Education.....	1.3479	\$2,017,316	\$2,719,139.56
Municipal			
Town	0.7899	\$3,439,689	\$2,717,010.34
Fire District #1	0.0834	\$3,439,689	286,870.06
Local Agreement Rate	0.0064	\$3,439,689	22,014.01
Appropriations	0.0788	\$3,439,689	271,047.49
Misc Taxes			1,637.17
Total Taxes Billed.....			\$8,256,307.00
Late Homestead Penalties.....			-
Total Taxes Collectible.....			\$8,256,307.00
Taxes Paid by 5/15/20		\$7,986,782	
Abatements		(20)	
Delinquent Taxes		269,545	
Total Taxes Accounted for			8,256,307.00
TAXES PAID TO:			
Otter Valley Unified Union School District (OVUUSD).....		4,122,814	
Brandon Fire District #1		286,900	
Total			4,409,714.00
EDUCATION TAX CASH FLOW FINAL			
State Payments.....		1,039,938	
State Payments to Municipality.....		191,648	
Non-Residential Education Tax Billed		2,249,180	
Homestead Education Tax Billed		2,730,462	
Payments to OVUUSD.....		(4,122,814)	
		856,828	
State Payments.....		(1,039,938)	
State Payments to Municipality.....		192,648	
Late Fees Retained.....		(240)	
.225 of 1% Retained by Municipality - Homestead.....		(4,237)	
.225 of 1% Retained by Municipality - Non-Residential.....		(5,061)	
Variance		0	
RECONCILE TAX REVENUE IN GL TO TAXES BILLED			
Tax Revenue per General Ledger.....			2,999,544.00
Municipal Tax AS BILLED			
Municipal Taxes.....		2,717,408	
Appropriations		271,087	
Total Municipal Taxes Billed.....			2,990,133.00
Municipal Fees from State Ed Payments			9,226.52
Misc Adjustments			355.00
Grand List Adjustments, Treasurers Report			(482.00)
Total Municipal Taxes Billed and Fees Collected.....			2,999,544.00
VARIANCE			0

NOTE: FOR PURPOSES OF RECONCILING THE EDUCATION TAX BILLING, FINAL GRAND LIST AMOUNTS ARE USED IN THE TAX CALCULATION AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE. THESE FIGURES VARY SLIGHTLY FROM THE BILLED TAXES WHICH ARE BASED ON THE GRAND LIST IN JULY.

Respectfully Submitted
Susan Gage, Treasurer

Tax Rates / Grand List / Town Budget Over Time

	6/30/18	6/30/19	6/30/20	6/30/21	6/30/22
GRAND LIST					
Grand List	\$335,841,900	\$336,433,400	\$330,490,800	\$344,129,900	\$345,374,100
TAX RATES					
Town Budget.....	0.7696	0.7856	0.8026	0.7899	0.7945
Voted Appropriations.....	0.0623	0.0792	0.0660	0.0788	0.0857
Fire District	0.0864	0.0871	0.0867	0.0834	0.0859
Local Agreement Rates.....	0.0137	0.0105	0.0077	0.0064	0.0062
Total Local Tax Rates	0.9320	0.9624	0.9630	0.9585	0.9723
Education Rates					
Non Residential Education	1.5113	1.5189	1.5516	1.5763	1.6356
Homestead Education	1.3658	1.3277	1.3343	1.3479	1.3862
Total Tax Rate, Homestead	2.2978	2.2901	2.2973	2.3064	2.3585
Total Tax Rate, Non Residential.....	2.4433	2.4813	2.5146	2.5348	2.6079
APPROVED BUDGETS					
Budget to be Raised by Taxes	\$ 2,509,066	\$2,578,045	\$2,652,555	\$2,718,353	\$2,744,135
APPROPRIATIONS					
ARC of Rutland	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Brandon Area Rescue Squad	20,735	20,735	28,000	28,000	28,000
Brandon Free Public Library.....	85,500	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
Brandon Independence Day Committee	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Brandon Senior Citizens Center	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
Charter House Coalition	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Foxcroft Farm	-	-	-	-	-
Open Door Clinic, Community Health Services	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
RSVP	550	550	550	550	550
Rutland Area Visiting Nurses	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200
Rutland County Humane Society	750	750	750	750	750
Rutland Mental Health	6,624	6,624	6,624	6,624	6,624
Southwest Council on Aging.....	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Stephen Douglas House	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Infrastructure / Paving	50,000	100,000	50,000	100,000	100,000
Brandon American Legion Post #55 ...	-	-	-	-	25,000
	\$203,259	\$259,759	\$218,024	\$271,024	\$296,024

Properties Votes Exempt & Properties with Tax Stabilization

PROPERTIES VOTED EXEMPT				
DATE VOTED	NAME	BEGINNING DATE	END DATE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION
3/4/19	BARS Building & Land	7/1/19	6/30/24	584,200
3/3/15	Brandon Senior Citizens	7/1/20	6/30/25	257,800
3/4/19	Brandon Masonic Assn	7/1/19	6/30/24	264,100
PROPERTIES WITH TAX STABILIZATION				
DATE STABILIZED	NAME	STABILIZATION END DATE	STABILIZED VALUE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION
7/1/18	C&D Realty Holdings LLC	6/30/23	223,600	526,400
7/1/17	Olivia's Holdings LLC	6/30/25	885,000	887,200
7/1/19	Smith Block LLC	6/30/28	366,900	1,787,300
7/1/19	Briggs Lane Brandon LLC	6/30/23	62,200	302,200

General Fund Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet Previous Year - Period 12 June
General Fund

ASSETS

Checking #176452010	\$1,612,349.06
Petty Cash - Town Office	150.00
Petty Cash - Police Dept	50.00
Petty Cash - Recreation	75.00
Cash in MM #177607060	5,132.53
Delinquent Tax Receivable	340,582.01
Int. & Pen. Receivables	52,902.09
Accounts Receivable	18,276.80
Middlebury Acct. 10047019	47,275.98
Due From/To Other Funds	(819,643.17)
Prepaid Expenses	6,500.00
Fund Balance Current Year	1,500,764.51
Total Assets	\$1,263,650.30

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 49,111.16
Dog Lic. Fees to State	145.00
Marriage Lic. Fees to Sta	100.00
Hunting/Fishing Lic. to S	8.50
Anticipated Tax Credits	6,317.02
Deposits Payable	1,800.00
Deferred Tax Revenue	330,449.10
Tax Posting Variance	32.84
Accts Receivable Posting	(2.50)
Total Liabilities	\$ 387,961.12

FUND BALANCE

Fund Balance	\$ 484,041.46
Restricted Highway Funds	93,479.28
Fund Balance-Recreation	28,848.77
Reserved by Selectboard	30,433.00
Nonspendable Fund Balance	6,500.00
Reserved - Records Pres.	27,283.25
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	670,585.76
Fund Balance Current Year	205,103.42
Total Fund Balance	875,689.18
Total Liabilities Fund Balance	\$1,263,650.30

General Fund Balance Over Time

Fund Balance	6/30/17	6/30/18	6/30/19	6/30/20	6/30/21
ENDING FUND BALANCE.....	\$547,028	\$604,545	\$616,970	\$670,586	\$875,689
Unrestricted & Unassigned Fund Balance	408,484	563,426	473,056	519,340	689,145
Restricted Highway, statutory	61,002	(2,725)	12,489	36,451	93,479
Reserved Fund Balance.....	31,185	30,914	28,092	39,679	56,132
Assigned Fund Balance.....	33,351	-	85,000	40,000	30,433
Nonspendable Fund Balance.....	13,006	12,931	18,333	35,116	6,500
Total Fund Balance.....	\$547,028	\$604,545	\$616,970	\$670,586	\$875,689

Fund Balance Policy in Effect 6/30/2017

Budget for Next Year	\$2,999,986	\$3,138,185	\$3,190,885	\$3,408,909	\$3,540,044
% of Unrestricted & Unassigned FB relative to Next Year Budget	13.62%	17.95%	14.83%	15.23%	19.47%

TOWN OF BRANDON FUND BALANCE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to set parameters on the town's unrestricted reserve fund balance. Responsible stewardship of the taxpayers' money, and adequate provision for future needs of the town, both foreseen and unforeseen, require the town to maintain a positive fund balance. The fund balance may be used by the selectboard for any purpose not in conflict with Vermont or Federal statute.

The selectboard finds that a desirable amount for the town's unrestricted reserve fund balance is not less than 15% nor more than 30% of the town's then-current annual operating budget.

Local Options Tax Fund Over Time

	6/30/17	6/30/18	6/30/19	6/30/20	6/30/21	Totals to Date
BEGINNING BALANCE.....	\$ -	\$ 73,081	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$ -
REVENUES						
Local Option Tax Revenue	\$ 72,842	\$187,495	\$169,636	\$192,319	\$210,667	\$832,959
Bank Interest.....	239	1,555	5,513	3,566	950	11,823
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	\$ 73,081	\$189,050	\$175,148	\$195,885	\$211,617	\$844,782
EXPENDITURES						
Infrastructure Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Infrastructure Projects Matching Funds....	-	-	-	150,000	320,636	470,636
Infrastructure Debt / Capital.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$150,000	\$320,636	\$470,636
Change in Fund Balance	\$ 73,081	\$189,050	\$175,148	\$45,885	(109,019)	\$374,116
ASSETS						
Due To/From Other Funds	\$ 73,081	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$374,146
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 73,081	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$374,146
LIABILITIES						
Liabilities.....	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FUND BALANCE						
Prior Year Fund Balance.....	\$ -	\$73,081	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,165	\$374,146
Current Year	73,081	189,050	175,148	45,885	(109,019)	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE .	\$ 73,081	\$262,131	\$437,279	\$483,164	\$374,146	\$374,146

Trustees of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds (TOPF) received three funding requests for the reporting year, two of which were approved. The first request was on behalf of the Brandon Senior Center for replacement flooring and the second funding request was on behalf of the Town of Brandon for the purpose of mosquito spraying.

One of the biggest projects for the TOPF this year was the implementation of a new funding application form in July of 2020. This form was created by the TOPF following a legal counsel completed by James C. Leary in July of the previous year. The purpose of the formal application is to standardize the process and assist the board with award criteria and decisions. Application forms are available on the Town website. We urge all applicants to review the criteria prior to submission.

In addition to the creation of the application form, the TOPF continue to review the history of the trust and the funding parameters initially created by Shirley Farr on February 9, 1960. Shirley Farr set up the fund for the purposes of proper sewage disposal, drainage of swamps, and other sanitary improvements, which does not easily translate to current times and regulations. The recommendation from Mr. Leary was to standardize the application process and also encouraged the board to determine its own interpretation of the last will and testament of Ms. Farr as it relates to current times. Based on the wishes of the late Shirley Farr, the trust currently continues to disburse funds being guided by her original 1960 direction:

The trust shall be used for: "primarily for proper sewage disposal, drainage of swamps and other sanitary improvements and any amounts not needed and expended for such purposes shall be used for spraying trees or in the general improvement of the village in ways not sufficiently provided for by taxation."

We are looking forward to receiving application submissions in 2022!

–Tanner, Courtney, and Laura

Expenditures:

Brandon Senior Center (Replacement Flooring (9/25/2020).....	\$ 2,500.00
Town of Brandon (Mosquito Control) 5/13/2021	14,033.00

Total Expenditures:	\$ 16,0533.00
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Ending Balance Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Account as of 6/30/2020	\$ 2,945.89
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Composition of Fund as of June 30, 2021	\$939,476.23
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Morgan Stanley Investment Account	
Cash Balance.....	\$ 54,460.42
Equities	\$579,348.42
Fixed Income	\$305,667.39

Total Fund Value on June 30, 2021	\$939,476.23
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Five Year Historical Record of Fund Value

Year end June 30, 2017	\$695,661.77
Year end June 30, 2018	\$727,073.27
Year end June 30, 2019	\$739,651.89
Year end June 30, 2020	\$770,304.35
Year end June 30, 2021	\$939,476.23

Outstanding fund commitments as of June 30, 2021	NONE
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Trustees of Public Funds

Courtney Satz.....	2022
Laura Miner.....	2024
Tanner Romano.....	2023

RUTLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT (RNRCD)

A sample of the activities the District was involved in during 2020/2021:

Organization:

Local Work Group - District Supervisors participate in Local Work Group meetings to assist USDA in setting local priorities for Cost Share Programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Due to Covid 19 restrictions a survey was sent to landowners and partners this year.

Programs:

Agricultural Outreach Specialist – The District in cooperation with the Poultney Mettowee and Bennington County NRCD's share staff who provides education and outreach, nutrient management planning, assistance with grant writing and letters of support, wetlands outreach, and overall support to landowners for water quality improvements.

Land Treatment Planning - The District works with a Land Treatment Planner providing technical assistance to farmers for the development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.

Portable Skidder Bridges – The District has a portable skidder bridge available for rent to loggers and foresters. Skidder bridges reduce stream disturbance, minimizing the potential for erosion and sedimentation.

Outreach:

Website – Please visit our website: <https://www.vacd.org/conservation-districts/rutland> for more information about District projects and programs.

Watershed Planning for the Otter Creek and its Tributaries:

With funding through grant sources, the District:

- Hired an Engineering Consultant to complete a Phosphorus Control Plan for the City of Rutland. The goal of the Phosphorus Control Plan (PCP) is to provide a plan for the City to achieve the percent phosphorus (P) reduction target for the Otter Creek segment of Lake Champlain. This work will build upon the work completed during the Moon Brook Stormwater Master Plan completed by Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC December 1, 2019.
- Worked with the Rutland Recreation and Parks Department to implement Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's) designed by Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC at Rotary Park. This included rehabilitating and expanding an existing infiltration trench to provide extra capacity for stormwater runoff and install a new bioretention facility.
- Continues to work with the VT DEC and the Town of Clarendon on a floodplain restoration project on the Cold River.
- Received a 100% a final design for the removal of the Youngs Brook Dam located in the Town of West Rutland, which will serve to restore the floodplain and wetlands and remediate adverse stream impacts, reduce erosion and sedimentation and improve water quality.
- Received final designs for Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's) identified in the Stormwater Master Plan for the Town of Brandon prepared by Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC in October 2017, and worked with the Town of Brandon to hire a Construction Contractor to implement these practices.
- Hired an Engineering Consultant to complete a final design for stormwater best management practices (BMP's) identified in the Town of Wallingford Stormwater Master Plan at Wallingford Elementary School.
- Will continue to work with the City of Rutland, Towns and landowners to develop and prepare projects for future design and implementation. These projects have been identified in Stormwater Master Plans or other plans.

For further information or to be added to our mailing list or list of volunteers, please contact Nanci McGuire at nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net

Wastewater Balance - FY 20/21

Balance Sheet Previous Year - Period 12 Jun

Account	Last Yr Pd 12 Jun
ASSETS	
Sewer Fees Receivable	\$ 276,952.05
Unbilled Receivables	123,897.84
Accounts Receivable	62,184.80
Due/To Other Funds	553,375.72
Sewer Plant	1,521,824.80
Acc. Depreciation-Bldgs	(1,124,743.55)
SEWER PLANT UPGRADE	599,673.59
Accum. Dep. Sewer Lines	(215,511.96)
sewer lines	2,834,599.96
Sewer Equipment	1,592,381.73
Acc. Depreciation-Equip	(846,902.33)
Construction in Progress	131,763.47
Total Assets	\$ 5,509,496.12
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 35,056.72
Sewer Fee Credits	3,173.58
Accrued Vacation/Comp	4,297.09
USDA Bond - Pump Station	462,606.34
2012 WW CWSRF RF1-159	6,474.92
SEWER IMPROV SERIES 4	364,870.82
CARVER REFI 2012 SERIES	21,172.58
CWSRF Park Street	518,937.85
Interest Payable - Bond	5,511.15
Sewer Posting Variance	(84.19)
CWSRF-Coll Sys Loan Paya	131,269.47
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,553,286.33
FUND BALANCE	
Reserved Fund Balance	\$ 10,000.00
Retained Earnings	834,118.70
Contributed Capital	1,989,420.64
Contributed Capital	254,282.77
Contributed Capital	954,635.17
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	\$ 4,042,457.28
Fund Balance Current Year	\$ (86,247.49)
Total Fund Balance	\$ 3,956,209.79
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 5,509,496.12

Wastewater Budget / Actual - FY 20/21

Account	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Wastewater Revenues			
Sewer Fees - Revenues	\$515,000	\$445,043.09	86.42%
Sewer Base Fees	170,000	178,781.89	105.17%
Sewer Permit Revenue.....	350	100.00	28.57%
Interest Revenue	26,000	1,842.82	7.09%
Total Wastewater Revenues	\$ 711,350	\$625,767.80	87.97%
Wastewater Expenses			
Wages-Permanent Full Time	\$105,000	\$101,817.93	96.97%
Overtime.....	5,000	2,523.12	50.46%
On Call hours.....	5,200	5,200.00	100.00%
Fica.....	7,400	6,572.86	88.82%
Medicare	1,750	1,537.20	87.84%
Health Insurance	41,400	39,790.40	96.11%
Life & Disability Ins.	1,750	1,442.40	82.42%
DENTAL	3,400	3,252.72	95.67%
HRA WW	4,000	3,630.00	90.75%
VMER	9,800	8,575.58	87.51%
Travel & Expenses	500	242.89	48.58%
Clothing Allowance	1,500	895.85	59.72%
Dues & Subscriptions	600	485.00	80.83%
Continuing Education	500	234.00	46.80%
Engineering.....	5,000	-	0.00%
Professional Services	600	592.00	98.67%
Contractors	15,000	23,644.89	157.63%
Equipment Rental	5,000	-	0.00%
Licenses & Fees.....	2,400	2,340.00	97.50%
Legal Services.....	5,000	11,584.00	231.68%
Auditors	2,500	2,500.00	100.00%
Testing	4,000	4,368.25	109.21%
Office Supplies	500	39.99	8.00%
Professional Supplies	2,000	2,653.46	132.67%
New Equipment-Misc Tools.....	25,000	3,295.39	13.18%
Safety Equipment	1,000	224.98	22.50%
Fuel - Vehicles	1,600	1,300.90	81.31%
Maintenance-Vehicles	2,000	390.31	19.52%
Wastewater Telephone.....	3,000	2,947.04	98.23%
LP Gas - Bldgs.....	10,000	7,497.99	74.98%
Water	5,000	6,048.00	120.96%
Electric.....	50,000	28,471.10	56.94%
Maint. Supplies - Bldgs	3,000	1,033.75	34.46%
Outside Maint. - Bldgs	10,000	24,080.68	240.81%

Wastewater Budget / Actual cont.

Account	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Wastewater Expenses cont.			
Maint. Supplies - General	9,000	9,863.96	109.60%
Cold Weather Bacteria	1,400	-	0.00%
Sodium Hypochlorite	15,600	7,378.80	47.30%
Root-X	15,000	14,848.65	98.99%
Sodium Bisulfite	19,100	9,712.35	50.85%
Sodium Aluminate	24,960	19,046.76	76.31%
Sludge Disposal	55,000	57,607.50	104.74%
Trucking	19,000	17,617.50	92.72%
Outside Equip. - Pump St.	25,000	9,543.68	38.17%
Collection Systems	35,000	11,706.92	33.45%
Aeration System Maint.	15,000	-	0.00%
Interest Exp - Short Term	-	(4,811.28)	100.00%
Administration Expense	30,000	30,000.00	100.00%
USDA Bond Champlain PS in	10,700	10,615.39	99.21%
USDA Bond-Champ. PS-Prin	12,400	-	0.00%
USDA Bond Loan #8 Interes	900	842.11	93.57%
USDA Bond Loan#8 Prin	3,800	-	0.00%
USDA Bond Loan #9 Interes	13,700	13,633.46	99.51%
USDA Bond Loan #9 Prin	17,300	-	0.00%
2012 WW CWSRF RF1-159	2,200	-	0.00%
Insurance Expenses	17,000	14,662.16	86.25%
Insurance Claim Ded	1,000	-	0.00%
WW Unemployment	550	490.00	89.09%
WW Workers Comp.	9,500	5,938.68	62.51%
Seg 6 Match	-	750.45	100.00%
USDA Short Lived Asset	37,000	37,000.00	100.00%
Depreciation	150,000	146,355.52	97.57%
Total Wastewater Expenses	\$ 880,510	\$712,015.29	80.86%
Total 20 Sewer Fund	\$(169,160)	\$ (86,247.49)	

Wastewater Cash Flow

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 6/30/2021

	Wastewater Fund	Sewer Capital AC	COMBINED
Beginning Cash Equivalent.....	\$ 339,583.41	\$171,025.23	\$ 510,608.64
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS			
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (86,247.49)	\$ 2,753.65	\$ (83,493.84)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by Operation			
Depreciation.....	\$ 146,355.52	\$ -	\$ 146,355.52
Receivables	164,530.55	-	164,530.55
Prepaid Expenses.....	187.39	-	187.39
Posting Variance Account.....	13,233.57	-	13,233.57
Payables	15,790.64	-	15,790.64
Sewer Credits	3,110.79	-	3,110.79
Accrued Expenses	(7,072.75)	-	(7,072.75)
Net Cash or Cash Equivalents Provided by (Used in) Operations	\$ 249,888.22	\$ 2,753.65	\$ 252,641.87
CASH FLOWS FROM NON CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Grant / Loan Revenue	\$ 370,885.53	\$ -	\$ 370,885.53
Interfund Transfers		37,000.00	37,000.00
Net Cash Flow from Non Capital Financing Activities.....	\$ (370,885.53)	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 407,885.53
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL & RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Capital Contributions.....	\$ 25,720.93	\$ -	\$ 25,720.93
Principal Payments on Debt, New Debt.....	(35,601.91)	-	(35,601.91)
Acquisition of Capital Assets	(397,100.46)	-	(397,100.46)
Net Cash Flows from Capital & Related Financing Activities.....	\$ (406,981.44)	\$ -	\$ (406,981.44)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents.....	\$ (213,792.31)	\$ 39,753.65	\$ 253,545.96
Cash Equivalents beginning	\$ 339,583.41	\$171,025.23	\$ 510,608.64
Cash Equivalents ending	\$ 553,375.72	\$210,778.88	\$ 764,154.60

Town of Brandon – Activity in Special Funds

	FUND 37	FUND 38	FUND 43	FUND 46	FUND 47	FUND 48	FUND 51	FUND 53	FUND 56	FUND 61	FUND 63	FUND 64	FUND 70	FUND 90
REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES														
Bank Interest / Investment Revenue														
Local Options Tax Revenue	\$ 42		\$ 111,946	\$ 113	\$ 183	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 376		\$ 0	\$ 282	\$ 0	\$ 950	\$ 1,053
Revolving Loan Fund														
Local Options Tax Revenue / Rev	\$ 13,543				\$ 16,898								\$ 210,667	
Per Parcel Payment / State of Vermont								\$ 2,377						
Capacity Fees														
Unrealized Gains (Losses)			\$ 87,589											
Fed/State Grant Revenue				\$ 1,396,255					\$ 402,837					
SRF Loans									\$ 606,002					
Local Grants				\$ -					\$ -					
Local Reimbursements				\$ 2,165					\$ -					
Interfund Transfers				\$ 320,636	\$ 5,000		\$ 17,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 309					
Water Revenues														
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 13,584	\$ -	\$ 199,535	\$ 1,719,170	\$ 22,081	\$ -	\$ 17,038	\$ 39,754	\$ 1,009,148	\$ 0	\$ 282	\$ 0	\$ 211,617	\$ 735,704
Program / Direct Expenses	\$ 35		\$ 23,500		\$ 29				\$ 41,502					
Investment Expenses			\$ 9,413											
New Equipment														
Route 7, Segment 6				\$ 1,609,958										
Bridge 114														
Churchill Bridge				\$ 20,745										
Union St Sidewalk														
Champlain St Pump Station									\$ 1,170,670					
Park Street														
Culverts / Infrastructure														
Depreciation Expense				\$ 1,160,413									\$ 320,636	\$ 815,621
Interfund Transfers														
Water Expenditures	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ 32,913	\$ 1,630,703	\$ 29	\$ 1,160,413	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,212,171	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 320,636	\$ 815,621
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ 32,913	\$ 1,630,703	\$ 29	\$ 1,160,413	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,212,171	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 320,636	\$ 815,621
INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE	\$ 13,549	\$ -	\$ 166,622	\$ 88,466	\$ 22,052	\$ (1,160,413)	\$ 17,038	\$ 39,754	\$ (203,024)	\$ 0	\$ 282	\$ 0	\$ (109,019)	\$ (78,864)
BALANCE SHEET														
ASSETS														
Cash/Investments			\$ 942,422	\$ -							\$ 16,922			
Due From/To (Cash Equivalent)	\$ 26,768			\$ (48,226)	\$ 106,713		\$ 27,763	\$ 210,779	\$ (434,095)	\$ 202		\$ 211	\$ 374,146	\$ 14,673
Loans / Grants Receivable	\$ 326,012	\$ 391,000		\$ 197,362					\$ 364,035					
Fixed Assets less Acc Dep						\$ 40,562,043								
Other Receivables													\$ 225,557	
Prepaid Expenses														
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 352,779	\$ 391,000	\$ 942,422	\$ 149,136	\$ 106,713	\$ 40,562,043	\$ 27,763	\$ 210,779	\$ (70,060)	\$ 202	\$ 16,922	\$ 211	\$ 374,146	\$ 240,230
LIABILITIES														
Deferred Revenue	\$ 326,012	\$ 391,000		\$ -										
Accounts Payable				\$ 145,131					\$ 52,541				\$ 14,913	
Grant Anticipation Notes														
FUND BALANCE														
Fund Balance	\$ 13,218	\$ -	\$ 775,800	\$ (84,461)	\$ 84,662	\$ 41,722,456	\$ 10,725	\$ 171,025	\$ 80,423	\$ 201	\$ 16,640	\$ 210	\$ 483,165	\$ 304,181
Current Year Fund Balance	\$ 13,549	\$ -	\$ 166,622	\$ 88,466	\$ 22,052	\$ (1,160,413)	\$ 17,038	\$ 39,754	\$ (203,024)	\$ 0	\$ 282	\$ 0	\$ (109,019)	\$ (78,864)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$ 352,779	\$ 391,000	\$ 942,422	\$ 149,136	\$ 106,713	\$ 40,562,043	\$ 27,763	\$ 210,779	\$ (70,060)	\$ 202	\$ 16,922	\$ 211	\$ 374,146	\$ 240,230

Federal Grants Status Report

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards June 30, 2021

Grant Name	Federal Expenditures	Expenditures to Subrecipients
Segment 6	\$1,287,159	\$ 26,885
Churchill Bridge	11,033	-
Park St. - Bioswales	343,376	-
	\$ 1,641,568	\$ 26,885
WW Coll Sys SRF	\$ 21,875	\$ -
Park St. Sewer CWSRF	235,366	-
Park St. Water CWSRF	252,452	252,452
	\$ 509,693	\$252,452
Library Grant.....	\$ 5,408	\$ 4,261
Digitizing Records.....	12,160	-
Clerk - Town Meeting Grant.....	22,389	4,261
	\$ 2,173,650	\$283,598

Appropriations

BRANDON INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE (BIDCC)

The BIDCC is a small group of volunteers responsible for organizing and fundraising for Brandon's Independence Day Celebration. For more than 40 years, this annual tradition has attracted thousands of out-of-town visitors and stimulated business in our commercial center. More importantly, it is the event that brings together the entire Brandon Community. We have faced extraordinary challenges over the last several years due to the reconstruction of our town center, forcing us to change the venue, and to reconstruct the entire event. Then, just as the construction was ending, the pandemic took over. Nevertheless, this past summer, on July 3rd, we were able to stage an enormously successful event, right in the middle of our beautifully remodeled downtown. Now that we have tweaked the original model a bit, we are expecting the 2022 Celebration to be even bigger and better!

- There will be a full day of planned activities, from parade to fireworks, all taking place downtown on July 2, 2022 (as usual, the first Saturday in July).
- The parade begins at 10:00 and follows the Park Street/Route 7 route.
- Vendors and live music will continue throughout the day at multiple locations, with a concentration around Central Park.
- Family games and activities will take place behind the Brandon Inn.
- The Silent Auction will run throughout the day at Fellowship Hall.
- The annual Street Dance, with Jam Man Entertainment, will take place in the parking lot between Central Park and Park Street businesses.
- The Fireworks at dusk will be set off from Mill Lane, viewable from nearly everywhere within a mile of downtown!

With vaccinations increasing, we fervently hope that the pandemic will be fading into memory by the summer of 2022, and we will be free to enjoy all that our Vermont summer provides.

We want to express our gratitude to the entire Brandon community for their continued support. The yearly appropriation we receive is crucial to allowing us to provide the fireworks, parade bands, prizes, sanitary facilities, trash pickup, publicity and the other myriad activities involved with a community-wide all-day event. We look forward to continuing the tradition of the Brandon Independence Day Celebration. **Appropriation Request: \$7,000**

Bill Moore, Chairperson
Susan Stone, Treasurer

BRANDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"The Brandon Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based organization dedicated to the improvement and advancement of a positive and dynamic economic, industrial, professional and business climate, and community enhancement in the Brandon area." We strive to make the Brandon area a better place to live, work, and play.

The Chamber of Commerce puts on many community events throughout the year including the free Summer Concert Series that was able to provide some much needed distraction during this pandemic-centric year. We also were able to produce several other events in restructured and reinvented ways to make them work in a safe and productive environment. The Great Brandon Auction, Yard Sale Day, HarvestFest, Moonlight Madness, Holiday Decorating contest and Reverse Holiday Parade were once again able to proceed along with a reduced Memory Tree lighting ceremony. We gave a prize award to an outstanding OVUHS student, helped beautify the town and participated in the Independence Day Celebration festivities that were held completely in the village including the awesome fireworks display.

We continue to partner in the activities and operations of our wonderful museum, visitors center, and community meeting space.

We have a redesigned, active and busy website full of information for the traveling public and the community. Our popular electronic newsletter is sent to more than 1500 email addresses on a regular basis and is an effective communication vehicle.

The Chamber continues to be heavily involved with town economic development, striving to bring new residents and businesses to expand our tax base and working closely with the town's economic development officer. We have highlighted various aspects of Brandon at the Rutland Trade Show and now have 3 "concierges" that work with the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region organization, communicating directly with people interested in moving to the area, answering their questions, facilitating introductions and pointing them to local resources.

We send out informational packets requested by visitors and those interested in starting a business in town.

continued.....

BRANDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE con't

We thank the Brandon voters and taxpayers for past support and look to them for help with future expenses. We're proud to be part of Brandon and hope to continue to effect change in a positive and dynamic way.

Please contact the Chamber at 802-247-6401 or info@brandon.org with any questions or look us up on-line and see our snazzy new website at www.brandon.org. If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, click on the "Join Our Newsletter" on the site.

Businesses of every size and many valuable "individual" members contribute greatly to making Brandon the place we all love. So call or email today and join in the journey. **Appropriation Request - \$1,000**

Pat Wood, President

Bernie Carr, Executive Director

BRANDON AREA RESCUE

Brandon Area Rescue continues to provide progressive and up to date emergency medical coverage for Brandon, Leicester, Sudbury, and Goshen. Our emergency coverage region spans over 112 miles encompassed with 5,836 respected community members. Below shows the emergency call data from this past year.

2020 Q4 - 2021 Q3 Calls for Service by Type	Calls*	Percentage	Unreimbursed Value**
Transports (Billable)	404	57.96%	n/a
Treat/Evaluate/No Transport	194	27.83%	\$107,212.16
Refused/No Transport	55	7.89%	\$30,395.20
Canceled	32	4.59%	\$0.00
Assist Other Agencies	12	1.72%	\$0.00
Grand Total	697	100.00%	\$0.00
*Derived from Vermont Statewide Incident Reporting Network (SIREN)			
**Based upon 80% of average billed BLS Emergency amount			

In addition to emergency calls we maintain 3 ambulances outfitted to operate at the highest level of prehospital emergency care: Advanced Life Support. Innovative medical equipment requires through daily inspections coupled with annual preventative maintenance, part replacement, and as needed equipment replacement.

The last three years we have seen a sizeable efflux of volunteer providers for various reasons. Despite staffing challenges, we continue to provide medical coverage for various town functions and high school sporting events, in addition to hosting AHA approved CPR courses. Mutual aid requests continue to climb highlighting the staffing disparities throughout the region. In 2020 we responded to 38 of those calls, and in 2021 we responded to 51.

We currently staff one full time employee certified as a paramedic who oversees daily operations, personnel, and training. The roster currently supports seventeen volunteers, two part time employees certified as EMT's, two Critical Care Paramedic and one Paramedic all per diem.

We thank you for your continued support on and off scene. As always, please be sure your house number is easily visible for emergency services responding and pull to the right and come to a complete stop when any emergency service vehicle is utilizing lights and sirens.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at: brandonrescue@gmail.com or (802) 247-3231

Appropriation Request - \$82,580

Respectfully,
Chief Stage, NRP

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The mission of the Brandon Free Public Library is to provide a friendly and safe atmosphere in which patrons of all ages may enrich their lives through the benefit and pleasure of learning and discovery. The BFPL pledges quality service demonstrating respect for the individual and our community.

Approximately half of the Library's income is derived via the appropriation from the Town of Brandon. *At the 2022 Town Meeting, Brandon voters will be asked to approve the appropriation for the Library.*

The Library's other sources of income include several annual fundraisers, financial donations from the non-profit Friends of the Library, direct donations, grants, apartment rents, line items from the towns of Leicester, Goshen, and Sudbury, and distribution from endowment (which is invested wisely and provides needed income for the operating budget).

In 2020, the global pandemic changed the way we had to do things at the library, as well as decreased the amount we were able to raise via donations and fundraisers.

The Library employs two full-time and one part-time librarian, and cleaning personnel. In 2020 the library had to close its doors between March and September, but expanded services and the librarians worked consistently to provide 40+ hours a week of access with every service provided free. The Brandon Library welcomes everyone to access our myriad services and resources.

General Services

- Books, DVDs, programming, magazines, newspapers, audioCDs, interlibrary loan, Friday films, Meditation Circle, Junior Librarian Program, friendly and helpful Librarians

Children's Services

- Books, Teen area, DVDs, audioCDs, magazines, summer program every July/August, story hours Wednesdays and Fridays, Crazy8s Afterschool Club, monthly Game Night, Teen Advisory Group

Outreach Services

- Monthly delivery of books to 4 residential/senior buildings
- Biweekly delivery books (with a story time!) to daycares
- Personalized visits to homebound patrons
- Everybody Wins! participation at local elementary school

Building as a Resource

- The Library building is used by a wide variety of community groups; Brandon Planning Commission, DBA, Al-Anon, school tutors, Farmer's Market, Republican/Democratic caucuses, Estabrook Award, Child Care Providers, writer's group, Italian Club, PTO, homeschoolers, and more
- Local artists – "pop-up gallery" monthly

Computer/Digital Services

- 7 public computers and laptops. Librarians assist patrons and offer tech help/solutions and assistance with job applications, unemployment, insurance applications, etc.
- The Brandon Library pays membership fees for patrons to access RBDigital movie streaming service, Vermont Online Library, Listen-Up Vermont e-lending, and Universal Class free to our patrons
- Print, air-print, copy, scan, fax for public use
- Personalized computer help: free sessions by appointment
- Free Wi-Fi

Non-traditional Services

- The BFPL Seed Library offers free seeds and sustainability education
- The Library is an outlet for community service and volunteer opportunities
- Free/reduced-price passes available for area museums and parks
- Weekly bread distribution site for Brandon Food Shelf
- Mitten tree provides free mittens and hats
- Snowshoes for loan

Elderly Services

- Extensive Large Print selection
- Home delivery for housebound patrons. The Library is often one of the few links someone might have to our community
- Various programming for older populations
- Free rides to the polls

continued.....

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY cont.

Community Partnerships

- Recreation Department – Quiz night, Trivia League, Spooksville, Harvest Fest, Spring Swing
- Neshobe PTO – Crazy 8s
- Neshobe School – Resource sharing, 2nd grade visit
- Brandon Town Hall – Masquerade Ball, Summer Reading Finale
- Brandon Police Dept. – Local Heroes Story Time
- Brandon Area Toy Project – Pete the Cat Story Time
- Neshobe SOAR program – site visits

Some of the above services were rendered unavailable by COVID-19 restrictions. Although we had to close our doors for a few months, we never stopped working tirelessly for our community. During that time, the following services were added, continued and/or amplified:

- Increased social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
- Curbside delivery of library materials
- Print/copy/fax via email
- Online story times weekly
- Virtual Trivia weekly
- Free books, puzzles, games outside 3 days/week
- Friends' sale cart outside 3 days/week
- Free WiFi open, and boosted to extend service across the Central Park
- Free masks, sewed by the library Director
- Distributed bread, art kits, and craft boxes for Town of Brandon
- Created and distributed almost 1200 craft kits for our summer program
- Purchased Overdrive Advantage to ease wait times for e-materials
- Purchased RBDigital to provide access to streaming content
- Received returns for Neshobe/Otter Valley schools
- Interlibrary Loan reestablished
- Waived patron out of town fees for 2020
- Continued ordering of library materials
- Continued and tightened collaboration with Town Officials
- Multiple wellness checks for patrons daily
- Continued planning/grant writing
- Seed library distributed over 500 packets of seeds

Funds from Brandon, Sudbury, Leicester, and Goshen keep the Library open. The Library is a busy place with an average door count of 200 people/day.

It will be important for voters to "Check Yes" for the Library. We thank you for supporting one of Brandon's gems – your local Library. Check us out at the corner of Franklin and Park Streets. 802-247-8230 brandonpubliclibrary.org

Board of Trustees: David Roberts, President; Cristy Harding, Treasurer; Carol Fjeld, Recording Secretary; Sue Gage, Stacey Doucette, Beate Jensen, John Peterson, and Bruce Ness **Appropriation Request - \$92,000**

BRANDON SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, INC.

1591 Forestdale Road ~ 247-3121

Another year with our world turned upside down.

We opened in August for Meals on Wheels, Bone Builders and the various clubs with restrictions in place. We have also opened for the meals, lunch, brunch and the dinners with limited seating, again with restrictions.

We have been serving the free curbside lunches since the beginning of the pandemic in March, 2020. Although we started out with 200 hot lunches, we slowly dropped down to 160, then to 130. At the present time, we are serving 120. We will continue this program, but have cut it back to every other Friday, as we have continued with our monthly dinner program and are now back serving the brunch program on the third Thursday, per SW Vermont Council on Aging's strict guidelines. We continue to use our bus to pick up folks for the various meal. All seem to enjoy this free ride.

Socialization, at this point, is of utmost importance to us at the Senior Center. We try to encourage people to just stop in for a cup of coffee and a chat. We are now offering stained glass classes on Monday and Wednesday, to anyone who wants to try their hand at it.

The Board of Directors continues to improve the building and gardens.

The new raised gardens were put to good use for growing vegetables not only for the meals, but also as a giveaway to those in need of fresh produce. Since we had time on our hands and wanted to be outdoors, our vegetable/herb gardens were spectacular this year.

The Toe Nail Clinic continued and the nurses changed their visits to every month, instead of every other month, as there was such a high need. Reservations spaced apart at 10 minute intervals, with vaccinations and mask wearing in place. Records were kept by both the Visiting Nurses and the Senior Center for contact tracing purposes. We also hosted a Flu Clinic with pharmacists giving free flu shots to anyone who wanted one.

The Center continues to be "green" by gardening, recycling and composting. We also collect clean returnable bottles to help defray operating expenses. We thank everyone who contributes in any way, thereby helping us to help others. As we are all in this together, we encourage folks to keep safe and help each other. Thank you, Brandon!

Appropriation Request - \$13,500

OPEN DOOR CLINIC

The Open Door Clinic (ODC) is requesting an allocation of \$1,000 from the Town of Brandon for the fiscal year 2022-2023 to be included in the Town Warning for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The allocation will be used to provide free health care to the uninsured and under-insured residents of Brandon and Addison County in general. We would be grateful for your continued support of our incredibly nimble and responsive clinic.

Our Mission: The Open Door Clinic provides access to free, quality health care services to those who are uninsured or under-insured in a compassionate, respectful, and culturally sensitive manner until a permanent healthcare provider can be established.

YTD Report: Between 1/1/21-11/30/21, the clinic has provided 3,431 medical and dental visits to 1,489 distinct patients, including 682 new patients! As compared to this time last year, we've experienced a 57% increase in distinct patients served, a 95% increase in new patients and a 161% increase in medical and dental visits provided. **We have served 20 Brandon residents through 37 medical visits, 9 dental visits and 16 consults and case management services during this same timeframe.**

Volunteer Based: As a free clinic, we cannot charge for any of our services and rely solely on the expertise and efforts of an incredible cohort of volunteers to care for our patients. Our volunteers include our medical director, dental director, nurse practitioners and physicians, nurses, EMTs, PTs, nutritionists, pharmacists, medical interpreters, and general volunteers. We provide chronic and acute care and refer our patients to a variety of specialists when needed.

Help with Health Insurance: Our incredibly knowledgeable insurance navigator has helped more than 260 individuals learn about health insurance plans this year; and has enrolled 182 people in Vermont Health Connect. She has helped eight people from Brandon. Melanie is the only navigator remaining in Addison County, is available to meet with any member of our community and her services are also free!

Outreach and Services: I am so proud of our staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to provide Covid testing and vaccines on more than 51 farms, five orchards and at 43 businesses this year. They have given 740 first doses of the Covid vaccine, 698 second doses and 63 Johnson and Johnson vaccines! We're also currently immersed in our annual flu vaccine program and have given 361 flu vaccines to date all the while continuing to see patients at clinic during year two of the pandemic.

Budget for last completed fiscal year, 2020:

Total Income: \$651,984

% of Total Income from All Sources:

Federal Grants:.....	22.5%
State Grants:	21.6%
Municipal Taxes:.....	2.9%
Patient Donations:	0.3%
Fundraising:	26.0%
Grants, Foundations	26.7%
and UWAC	

Total Operating Expense: \$414,983

% Breakdown of Operating Expense:

Fundraising:.....	1.2%
Facilities/Operations:.....	2.2%
Salaries:	83.6% **
Office Expenses:.....	2.4%
Clinic/Programs:	8.6%
Professional Fees/Other:	2.0%

76% 76% of these positions/personnel costs directly support our clinical programs including: two registered nurses, a dental hygienist and dental assistant, our insurance navigator, a trilingual administrative assistant (!) and a bilingual care coordinator all of whom are integral to making our programs function smoothly. **Appropriation Request - \$1,000

Heidi R. Sulis, MPH, Executive Director

RSVP & THE VOLUNTEER CENTER

Brief Description of RSVP & The Volunteer Center

RSVP and The Volunteer Center is a volunteer management program for people of all ages who want to meet community needs through volunteer service. RSVP/VC considers volunteering to be a key solution in responding to Rutland County's most pressing challenges. Needs are met in critical areas such as human services, elder care, health care, education, and the arts. RSVP/VC involves individuals in service that matches their personal interests and makes use of their varied life and professional experiences. RSVP/VC enables people to contribute to their communities while enjoying the personally satisfying and rewarding experience that community engagement offers.

RSVP/VC also offers several free "Signature Programs" that benefit residents. These include RSVP Bone Builders, an osteoporosis prevention program which provides strength and balance exercise classes offered at many locations in Rutland County; RSVP Rutland Reads a children's literacy and mentoring program; and RSVP Operation Dolls & More, which distributes over 15,000 new and restored items to children. Last year approximately 15,000 items were distributed through RSVP Operation Dolls & More to 40 partner agencies and an estimated 1,200 children. We also partner with MRP to help provide free income tax return services to low-income residents of Rutland County.

RSVP & THE VOLUNTEER CENTER cont.

Locally, RSVP & The Volunteer Center is the largest program of coordinated volunteer services serving the people of Rutland and Addison Counties with 456 volunteers. From July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, RSVP/VC volunteers provided 97,719 hours of community service. Based on the Independent Sector National Value of a volunteer hour, this equates to \$2,623,755 in service to the community.

Services Provided to Brandon Residents

In FY'21, Brandon residents took advantage of RSVP/VC programs such as free income tax return preparation, and our free Bone Builders exercise classes. Brandon RSVP/VC volunteers donated their services to the following non-profit organizations: Community Cupboard, Bridges & Beyond, One-2-One, the Godnick Center, RSVP Bone Builders, and RSVP Operation Dolls and More. Some of the services they provide include knitting mittens and clothing for needy children, driving seniors to medical appointments, assisting at local food banks, providing free tax assistance, restoring dolls and toys for the RSVP Operation Dolls & More program, and leading RSVP Bone Builders Classes in Brandon. In total, Brandon RSVP Volunteers donated 3,405 hours of service to the community in FY'21.

The monies we are requesting this year will be used to help defray the financial impact of COVID-19 on our organization. Our volunteers continued to support the communities through the COVID-19 pandemic and are now supporting organizations as they resume in-person service models. With your help, RSVP & The Volunteer Center will continue to respond to the needs of our local communities.

On behalf of RSVP & The Volunteer Center and our non-profit partners, we would like to thank the residents of Brandon for their continued support of our organization. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our programs, please feel free to call us at 775-8220. **Appropriation Request - \$550**

Sincerely,
Maryesa White
Interim Director

RUTLAND HUMANE SOCIETY

The Rutland County Humane Society provides shelter and care to companion animals while finding loving families for those at risk or homeless.

We also serve our community by providing information and referral services to people dealing with animal issues.

The RCHS shelter is the largest program of the agency, taking in more than one thousand animals in 2020.

Our agency is funded through fees for service, town funding, donations and special events. No funding comes from the state or federal government or national organizations. We sincerely thank those who support our operations. We can only save lives with your help.

The Rutland County Humane Society took in 85 animals from Brandon from December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021. Please call us at 483-9171 or visit our website at RCHSVT.org if you would like more information about the Rutland County Humane Society. **Appropriation Request - \$1,500**

VNA & HOSPICE OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION

In 2020, the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region provided Rutland County residents with exceptional home care, hospice, and community health services. From infants with hi tech needs to seniors who wish to remain independent at home, and those who are facing a terminal illness, we continue to bring medically necessary health care wherever it is needed, regardless of the location of residence, or complexity of health issues.

In the face of shrinking government and state reimbursements and rising healthcare costs, VNAHSR has continued to identify community needs and provide essential cost-effective healthcare services to Rutland County's most vulnerable individuals.

In 2020, VNAHSR's dedicated staff made more than 160,581 visits to 3,298 patients. In the town of Brandon, we provided 10,249 visits to 181 individuals.

In closing, we wish to thank you for your past support. With your vote of confidence, we will continue to meet our mission to enhance the quality of life of all we serve through comprehensive home and community health services.

Appropriation Request - \$10,200

Sara C. King
CEO

Dan DiBattista
President of the Board of Directors

THE BRANDON MUSEUM

The Brandon Museum is asking voters to approve a \$5,000 appropriation from the town at the 2022 Town Meeting. During the pandemic the museum incurred considerable expenses, most significantly in the areas of building repair and installing upgraded heating and cooling systems.

Here's what we do for the community:

- As Brandon's Visitor's Center, we act as the town's welcome to many tourists
- We host school visits from the Neshobe 3rd and 4th graders when they study Vermont history
- In the spring 2022 semester we are co-teaching a course at Otter Valley on the history and technology of electric motors
- We tell the story of Brandon's history to the outside world, most recently via an interview with the CBC Canada Radio
- We make our meeting space available for free to multiple community organizations
- We provide Brandon's only public restroom

We are currently creating an exciting new exhibit, scheduled to open in July 2023, on the invention of the electric motor by Thomas Davenport of Brandon in 1833. Davenport was a visionary leader in the development of electric power whose work is more relevant than ever. It is time to present his story. The support of the town will be a crucial factor when it comes to further fundraising for this exhibit.

We look forward to working with the town to publicize our town's pioneering role in one of the most important technological changes in world history.

There are big stories to be told about Brandon and, with your help, we hope to tell them. **Appropriation Request - \$5,000**

Sincerely,

The Board of the Brandon Museum

CHARTER HOUSE COALITION PROGRAM

Charter House Coalition has provided a consistent resource for neighbors in need since 2005. Our emergency shelter is open 24 hours to persons experiencing homelessness. We offer free, nutritious meals each day of the year to anyone in the community. Our social services meet the needs of individuals and families throughout Addison County as we help to identify and overcome barriers that end homelessness. Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, during the Covid pandemic, staff and volunteers, prepared and delivered 100,330 meals. Our outreach program provided essential support to approximately 525 adults and children temporarily housed in area hotels and at our emergency shelter.

We are proud to partner with the following agencies and businesses; United Way of Addison County, Turning Point of Addison County, Women Safe, John Grallam Shelter, ACCT, CVOEO, HOPE, Middlebury Police and Fire Departments, MREMS, Porter Hospital, Agency of Human Services, Vermont Dept of Health, Parent Child Center, CSAC, Middlebury College, Green Peppers, Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op and each of our locally owned or managed hotels. As providers, we recognize that there is much work to do and we appreciate your consideration. **Appropriation Request - \$3,000**

With gratitude, Heidi Lacey
Executive Director

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

**BRANDON • GOSHEN • LEICESTER
PITTSFORD • SUDBURY • WHITING
VERMONT**



Otter Valley Unified Union School District Meeting

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 6:30 PM
Auditorium at Otter Valley Union High School**

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

The legal voters of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District (Unified Union District) comprising the voters of the Towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Otter Valley Union High School in the auditorium on February 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. to conduct the following business:

Article 1: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until the next Annual District Meeting following the election and qualification of their successors:

- A. Moderator
- B. Clerk
- C. Treasurer

Article 2: To approve the minutes from the Unified Union District meeting held on February 26, 2020 and the District Informational Meeting held virtually on February 24, 2021.

Article 3: To hear the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union District present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.

Article 4: To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to Unified Union District Officers.

Article 5: To authorize the Unified Union District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund or Town Tax Funds by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date: provided, however, that the Unified Union District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.

Article 6: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, March 1, 2022 for the purpose of voting the following articles at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to the Brandon American Legion Post #55 following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Brandon	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Brandon American Legion Post #55
Town of Goshen	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Goshen Town Hall
Town of Leicester	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Leicester Town Office
Town of Pittsford	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Pittsford Fire House
Town of Sudbury	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Whiting Fire Station

Article 7: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until March following the election and qualification of their successors:

- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years
- B. School Director, Leicester for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term
- C. School Director, Pittsford for a term of three (3) years

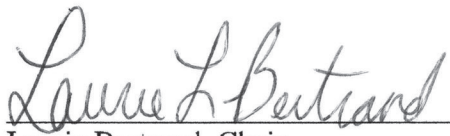
- D. School Director, Sudbury for a term of three (3) years
- E. School Director, At-Large for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term
- F. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years

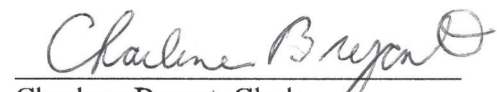
Article 8: Shall the voters of the school district approve the conveyance of +/-1.98 acres of land and permanent drainage and temporary construction, slope, drive and related easements and rights-of-way to the State of Vermont in connection with its U.S. Route 7 widening project to be located along the easterly boundary of the Otter Valley Union High School property with all construction activity to be located southerly of the school's access driveways, in exchange for Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$6,750) in accordance with an Option Agreement, dated September 1, 2021?

Article 9: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-two Million Seven Hundred Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$22,710,955) which is the amount the school board 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 \$17,048 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.72% higher-than spending for the current year.

Dated at Brandon, Vermont
January 12, 2022

Received and Recorded
January 12, 2022


Laurie Bertrand, Chair
Otter Valley Unified Union School
District No. U053


Charlene Bryant, Clerk
Otter Valley Unified Union School
District No. U053



OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
Date: February 26, 2020
Time: 6:30PM
Place: OVUHS Auditorium

Board Members Present: Bonnie Bourne, Emily Nelson, Laurie Bertrand, Angela Ouellette, Matt Philo, Bonnie Chmielewski, Barry Varian, Barbara Ebling, Greg Bernhardt, Becky Bertrand, William Mathis, Derek Larsen

Others Present: Bill Dick, Brenda Fleming, Jeanne Collins, Bill Moore, Richard Baker, Sue Gage, Doug Bailey, Deb Alexander, Jim Avery, Judi Pulsifer, Tom Fleury, Alicia Malay, Eileen Guyette

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Bill Moore - Moderator.

Bill Moore read the warning. Mr. Moore asked if there would be a motion to allow legal voters of other districts to speak.

Sue Gage motioned and Eileen Guyette seconded to allow legal voters from other districts to speak. **The motion passed.**

Article I: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until the next Annual District Meeting of 2021 following the election and qualification of their successors:

- 1. Moderator**
- 2. Clerk**
- 3. Treasurer**

Doug Bailey motioned and Bill Dick seconded to open Article I. **The motion passed.**

Jeanne Collins was appointed as the temporary Moderator.

Election of Moderator:

Jeanne Collins called for nominations for Moderator of the District. Bill Moore was nominated. No other nominations were presented and nominations were closed.

Bill Mathis motioned and Emily Nelson seconded the election of Bill Moore as Moderator of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District. **The motion passed.**

Election of Clerk:

Bill Moore called for nominations for Clerk of the District. Charlene Bryant was nominated. No other nominations were presented and nominations were closed.

Bill Mathis motioned and Barbara Ebling seconded the election of Charlene Bryant as Clerk of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District. **The motion passed.**

Treasurer:

Bill Moore called for nominations for Treasurer. William Dick was nominated. No other nominations were presented and the nominations were closed.

Richard Baker motioned and Sue Gage seconded the election of William Dick as the Treasurer of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District. **The motion passed.**

Article II: To approve the minutes from the Unified Union District meeting held on February 27, 2019.

Richard Baker motioned and Bonnie Bourne seconded to open Article II and approve the minutes from the Unified Union District meeting held on February 27, 2019, as amended below. **The motion passed.**

Laurie Bertrand corrected on the last page under Results that she is a School Director from Sudbury.

Barbara Ebling noted a correction to Frances Farnsworth's name.

Article III: To hear the Board of School Directors of the Otter Valley Unified Union School District present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.

Sue Gage motioned and Richard Baker seconded to open Article III. **The motion passed.**

Jeanne Collins and Brenda Fleming provided a presentation of the OVUU proposed budget (see Attachment). Jeanne Collins stated the budget aligns according to the district's Mission/Vision, RNESU goals, equity of opportunity for student achievement and efficiency of delivery. There are three areas the Administration has outlined for supervisory goals that include continuously improving instructional practices to meet the needs of all students, providing systematic academic and emotional interventions and literacy to be taught across the curriculum PreK-12, with the foundation of all students reading on grade level by the end of grade 2. Ms. Collins provided census information as of October 1, 2019 by school that included staffing, current and projected students. It was noted the OCA Pre-K/Childcare program is successful and continues to grow. There is a growth in student population at Neshobe and OVUHS, Lothrop's population is the same and the OCA (Otter Creek Academy) has declining enrollment that continues to be watched. Ms. Collins noted the district continues to fund After-School and Summer programs at Lothrop, Neshobe and OCA at Leicester that includes lunch for the Summer programs. There is a designated fund for the Afterschool and Summer programs. Sue Gage stated 20:1 student/teacher ratio seems to be a lot of students for one teacher at Neshobe. Jeanne Collins stated the class will be slightly less next year, but that figure was on the higher end of the Class Size policy, however, there are paras and academic interventionists that are available to help out in those classrooms. Ms. Collins outlined the proposed program budget changes to meet the supervisory union goals that included the addition of a Student Behavioral Support professional at Neshobe, increasing OVUHS staffing by 1.25 teachers for an Interventionist teacher to help those students who are having difficulty and an increase of .25 Vocational Education teacher, an increase of .45 FTE PreK added to OCA - Whiting based on enrollment which is partly funded with out-of-district students, the addition of a .30 PE teacher at Neshobe for Health Ed, the addition of a FTE Spanish teacher for the elementary schools across the district and a reduction of 1 teacher at OCA due to the reduction in enrollment. It was noted the addition of the Spanish teacher will allow the three elementary schools to have Spanish twice per week in grades 4 – 6. Ms. Collins noted the focus has been on the smaller class sizes, with Neshobe pushing the upper envelope and a focus on literacy skills. There was a focus on right-sizing the district to create new configurations and reduce some staffing and it is felt the district is at the right amount of staffing.

Brenda Fleming provided a review of the FY21 proposed budget and expenditures with the largest increases being in salaries and benefits. There is a reduction in Facilities that is a payback on the biomass and solar panels at OVUHS that has reduced electric costs. The current FY20 budget is \$19,935,847 with a proposed FY21 budget of \$20,377,427 that is an increase of \$441,000 or 2.22%. Ms. Fleming advised that 83% of the proposed budget is for direct instruction and immediate services for the students. Ms. Fleming noted many districts will classify central office as the Business Office, Curriculum and Superintendent, however RNESU includes Technology and Transportation Services for the entire district in this budget. Ms. Fleming provided information on budget trends for the past two years and the proposed budget and noted the increase in Interest & Misc. was due to excess resources in 2019 being placed in a Reserve Fund. Bill Moore asked if the Special Services includes outside services and Ms. Fleming confirmed that it does. Ms. Fleming provided an explanation of how the tax rate is calculated. She noted local revenues such as tuition into the district and monies from the Ely and Burditt funds used to offset the debt for construction projects are subtracted from the total budget to determine the net education spending which is up 2.23%. Ms. Fleming noted the average estimated spending the State has indicated is \$17,133 per pupil, however this district's proposed spending is \$14,399 per pupil. The district is significantly below the average and the year to year increase according to the State would be 5.53%, with this district's increase at 3.28%. The yield announced by the State was \$10,883 and this district spent almost 42% above that. The tax rate will increase 2 to 3 cents. FY21 is the first year without the Act 46 tax incentive that results in an increase of 2 cents. The unified tax rate is up 4.5 cents from \$1.370 to \$1.415, which is lower than the State's estimate of \$1.567. The State has the ability to set the tax rate but not change the grand list and they determine what each town's CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) will be according to the sales of properties in each town. The proposed Homestead Tax rate after CLA are: Brandon - \$1.433, Goshen - \$1.592, Leicester - \$1.419, Pittsford - \$1.455, Sudbury - \$1.268 and Whiting - \$1.362.

Sue Gage asked whether the Facilities Reserve funds were earmarked for specific things, or just to maintain a reserve for items that may come up. Laurie Bertrand stated the Facilities and Grounds Reserve funds are balances as of 7/1/2019 that each school brought forth from the consolidation that stayed with each of the schools. The OVUU Reserve Fund was developed since the consolidation and those funds go into one fund to be comingled for all schools. The district has a Facilities Master Plan that is reviewed and updated annually by the Facility Managers and Administrators to determine what needs to be done. The monies used first are those that are specific to the schools, and any additional funds would come from the OVUU Reserve fund. Brenda Fleming noted the Facilities Master Plan is reviewed and once a year around the April/May timeframe, the Board is presented with recommendations and they authorize what projects to pay for.

Eileen Guyette thanked the Board for crafting a well-balanced budget. Ms. Guyette questioned the SBAC testing results for Math noted in the Annual Report. The 9th grade reports a 6% proficiency in math and Ms. Guyette noted the numbers of students tested do not line up with the other subjects or the enrollment of the school. Laurie Bertrand advised with grades 3 – 6, there is 95% participation with the SBAC testing. In grades 7 - 9 the percentages drops. Only 54 people were tested in those grades and it is not known if the others would have been proficient or not. Ms. Bertrand stated there is the option to opt out at the high school level and students can choose to take the tests for English, Language Arts and not take the Math. Jeanne Collins stated this is a significant concern to the district and to the State. There are families in the district that choose to opt out of testing, and Ms. Collins has met with the Administrators and Curriculum Director to create a plan to increase the participation. There will be outreach to the community to help the district, recognizing participation is needed in the testing. Ms. Bertrand advised if the district does not get back to 95% participation, the district will lose federal dollars. Ms. Collins stated testing has not been a valued commodity in our communities and the district is trying to change that. Ms. Collins noted a multi-tier plan of support is being added at the high school to help serve students. Ms. Collins noted that students that are taking alternative assessments are counted as taking the assessment.

Alicia Malay asked what some of the big increases were in Administration and Direct Instruction. Laurie Bertrand advised it is mostly made up of salary and benefit increases as most of the budget is Personnel. Administration, which is part of the RNESU assessment, includes salaries and benefits for Special Services.

Article IV: To determine and approve compensation, if any, to be paid to Unified Union District Officers.

Richard Baker motioned and Bonnie Bourne seconded to open Article IV to set compensation for the Unified Union District Officers. **The motion passed.**

Bill Mathis motioned and Richard Baker seconded to set the compensation at the same amount as last year (\$150.00 per meeting for the Moderator and Clerk; \$6,000.00 per year for the Treasurer and \$1,500.00 per year for each Board member). **The motion passed.**

Article V: To authorize the Unified Union District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund or Town Tax funds by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date provided, however, that the Unified Union District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.

Richard Baker motioned and Sue Gage seconded to open Article V. **The motion passed.**

Sue Gage motioned and Bill Dick seconded to authorize the Unified Union District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund or Town Tax funds by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date provided, however, that the Unified Union District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations. **The motion passed.**

Article VI: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

Becky Bertrand motioned and Emily Nelson seconded to open Article VI. **The motion passed.**

Laure Bertrand reported this was the last meeting for three of the Board members and she wished to thank Matt Philo, Emily Nelson and Jon Rasmussen for their participation on the Board.

Richard Baker motioned and Judi Pulsifer seconded to recess the meeting at 7:27PM.

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 the public would be voting the following articles at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to Brandon Town Hall following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Brandon	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Brandon Town Hall
Town of Goshen	9:00AM to 7:00PM	Goshen Town Hall
Town of Leicester	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Leicester Town Hall
Town of Pittsford	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Pittsford Town Hall
Town of Sudbury	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Whiting Town Hall

Article VII: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until March following the election and qualification of their successors:

- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years
- B. School Director, Leicester for a term of three (3) years
- C. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years
- D. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years

Article VIII: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty Million Three Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$20,377,427) which is the amount the school board 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 \$15,399 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.86% greater than spending for the current year.

RESULTS:

- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years – Kevin Thornton
- B. School Director, Leicester for a term of three (3) years – Angela Ouellette
- C. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years – Mike Lufkin
- D. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years - Kevin Thornton

OVUU District Budget vote:

Town # of ballots (voters) - 2742

Results

Blank - 767

Yes - 1098

No - 877

THE BUDGET PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
OVUU District Clerk



**OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING**

Date: February 24, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: All in Attendance via Zoom

Board Members Present: Laurie Bertrand, Chair; Barbara Ebling, Clerk; Kevin Thornton; Mike Lufkin; Bonnie Chmielewski; Becky Bertrand; Derek Larsen; Bill Mathis; Greg Bernhardt; Angela Ouellette

Others Present: Jeanné Collins, RNESU Superintendent; Brenda Fleming, RNESU Director of Business & Finance; Bill Moore, OVUUSD Moderator; Jim Avery, OVUHS Principal; Geoff Lawrence, OVUHS Associate Principal; Judi Pulsifer, Neshobe Principal; Vicki Wells, incoming Neshobe Principal; Tim Guiles; Seth Hopkins; Patty Moore; Jenn Philo; Natalie Steen; Jean Somerset; Allie Breyer; Alicia Malay; Hannah Sessions; Maureen O'Reilly

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Bill Moore - Moderator.

Bill Moore read the Article #1 and advised that the Legislature has made it clear that no business can be done and at the end of the meeting there will be an opportunity for new business or announcements, but all Articles will be voted via Australian ballot on March 2, 2021.

Article I: To hear the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union District present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.

Bill Moore advised that the Board of School Directors will provide a presentation and handed it over to the Board Chair. Laurie Bertrand welcomed all and stated that Jeanné Collins and Brenda Fleming would provide a PowerPoint presentation.

Jeanné Collins provided an overview of the budget process noting it takes into consideration the Mission/Vision and Ends Policy of the district. Goals are also considered and it was noted the Board has expressed a desire for equity of opportunity to assure all elementary schools in the district have equal opportunities. Ms. Collins advised the presentation can be viewed on the RNESU website under the OVUU budget information. Ms. Collins reviewed the goals of the district that were developed by the Administration with a five-year plan. Ms. Collins noted part of the equity of opportunity includes looking at what each school has to offer, the class sizes, and staffing both federally and locally funded. Ms. Collins provided a review of this information by school within the district. Ms. Collins noted the Whiting School is still being used as a PreK center that also offers a private childcare program. Sudbury was not in use this year and has been used as an outdoor learning center. The Board will be discussing later this spring how to use this facility next year. At OVUHS the enrollment numbers are going down in middle school but have an increase in the high school. The district has worked hard to make elementary After-School programs as equitable as possible and the funding has remained healthy and stable.

The proposed budget is \$21,039,635 which is an increase of \$662,207. The budget changes include the addition of a primary teacher and reduction of a para at Lothrop, and the elimination of a school secretary at OCA. There is an addition of one teacher at Neshobe based on enrollment, an increase in the PreK budget for lottery tuition (which also has a revenue increase to offset this) and the addition of two OVUHS academic interventionists. This budget focuses on small primary class sizes and includes salary and benefits as approved by the OVUU Board with line by line adjustments to utilities, suppliers, and other non-program costs. Since merging, the district has focused on adjusting staffing and "rightsizing", and are now looking at a district wide pool of staffing.

Brenda Fleming provided an overview of the proposed budget by function that was broken down by direct

instruction, student support, instructional staff support, general & admin, school admin, fiscal & technology, facilities, transportation, and debt service. Ms. Fleming noted that direct instruction, student support, instructional staff support, transportation and facilities are 83% of the budget costs. The other remaining costs are technology, school admin, general admin and debt service. Ms. Fleming provided historical budget information over a three year period and noted that the major increases are in staff and benefits, with a slight increase in transportation. Ms. Fleming advised Vermont has a statewide property tax system based on spending per pupil. The proposed budget is up 3.25% and the tax burden was lessened due to less spending last year. The Board has proposed a net education spending of \$20 million which is up 1.19% from the current budget. She advised that equalized pupils is a formula based on a two year average and weighted for different factors such as grade levels, English/language learners and poverty. The equalized pupils figure has not been finalized by the Legislature, but it thought that it will not change drastically from the proposed figure of \$15,526. The Tax Commissioner has to announce a tax yield of which part of this figure is the average state spending per pupil of \$17,632. This budget is well below what the Tax Commissioner has estimated for the average spending. Ms. Fleming noted the House Ways and Means Committee has approved a yield of \$11,385. Using the current proposed figures, the tax rate would calculate to \$1.36 which is 3 or 4 cents less than the current tax rate of \$1.40. When calculating in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) the towns proposed tax rates would be: Brandon – \$1.384, Goshen - \$1.460, Leicester - \$1.407, Pittsford - \$1.440, Sudbury - \$1.247, and Whiting - \$1.295.

Jeanné Collins acknowledged the principals who have been doing a phenomenal amount of work with parents, staff, and students during this pandemic year. Ms. Collins thanked Judi Pulsifer, retiring Neshobe School Principal, for her 44 years of service with the district. Also present were Jim Avery and Geoffrey Lawrence from OVUHS. Ms. Collins welcomed Vicki Wells, the incoming Principal at Neshobe and noted that Thom Fleury is the Principal at OCA and Deb Alexander is Lothrop School's Principal.

Bill Mathis asked about the Early Ed program at Whiting and how subsidy fees are calculated and if the district is meeting the needs of the people. Jeanné Collins advised the State has indicated the school district is responsible for 10 hours of PreK education weekly and this district has had universal PreK for many years. The district recognized with the subsidy that there are many people that cannot access it due to transportation issues. When going through the merger, the district sought a childcare partner that would help address this issue. ARK at Whiting School does access the State subsidies for families and they can access the PreK plus childcare with the subsidies. The district is trying to add a program similar to this at Lothrop. Ms. Collins advised there is an effort to keep class sizes between 14 to 17 students, but if there are more students than that additional support is provided, such as a para educator. Mr. Mathis asked about psychological support with the pandemic. Ms. Collins noted the students are feeling the same anxiety as adults and particularly the students in the upper levels with missing their peers. The elementary students are in school 4 days a week and are generally doing well, but the older students are expressing that school is fine, but the isolation is bothering them.

Hannah Sessions - Brenda can you extrapolate a bit on what is tuition and assessment? And, Jeanné, what is the statewide graduation rate? I was surprised to see ours at between 80 and 88%, that seems low. Brenda Fleming stated tuition is the amount the district has to pay for the vocation cost for Hannaford and Stafford and is based on the last 6 semesters of tuition and it did increase this year. The assessments are to the central office for curriculum, technology, business office, food service, superintendent's office and transportation that was essentially level funded this year. Jeanné Collins did not have the graduation rate at this meeting but noted it is based on a 4-year cohort and if a student takes more than 4 years to graduate, it reduces the graduation rate. This does happen each year, for example for special education reasons. The district reviews annually what students do not graduate after four years in order to understand the stories. Ms. Collins is worried about the students who are disengaged from remote learning. Jim Avery advised that they are doing all they can to assist students in graduating this year. Sometimes a student needs a 5th year, but the State does not recognize that in the graduation cohort. There are daily conversations during this time to assist students to graduate.

Natalie Steen - How were financial costs related to the pandemic incorporated into the FY22 budget? Brenda Fleming advised federal funding has been provided for COVID-related costs. The district has aggressively sought the grant funds available. These types of expenses were added predominately in this fiscal year due to being removed from the in-person learning. Some of the unexpected costs due to the pandemic include 15 floating subs/POD leaders, 5 day custodians for disinfecting, a nurse at OCA for health screening, virtual improvements and supplies for disinfectant. The CRF funds started in FY20 and some costs have been repurposed for such things as salaries and benefits for delivering meals. The majority of the spending was for direct services staff, technology equipment and data plans for remote learning. A summer food service program was also provided that distributed food to open sites. There were also funds provided for supplies for remote delivery of food and services. Currently Leicester and Barstow are not creating food on their sites this year. Barstow is having meals delivered from Lothrop and due to Leicester's water issues and tight spaces their food is being delivered from Neshobe or OVUHS. There were also HVAC improvements at OVUHS with the funding. There are ESSER Funds that will provide funding this year, as the CRF funds ended December 31, 2020. The federal government has awarded more CRF funds, but it is not known what those funds will be. They will also be allocating ESSER2 funds that will be about 4 times the amount of the ESSER1 funds or \$2.5 million and the district is awaiting information on how those funds can be used. There is consideration in using funds for future costs for a nurse at OCA and summer services for those students who have had a harder time with remote learning.

Patty Moore - What is the plan for celebrating our high school students' accomplishments (example - national honors society). The kids inducted last Spring to National Honors never had a ceremony. Any plans on graduation?

Jeanné Collins noted it is too soon to know and the district is working with the State. Jim Avery stated it is so fluid and it is not known what it will look like. There is a group of faculty that is working with students to identify a number of ways to celebrate. The high school awards ceremony is being worked on and may be similar to last year in being virtual, but as things change and different guidelines are received, things could adjust. Mr. Avery has been speaking with Mr. Hull about a change with the graduation. They were not able to do the National Honor Society, but we need to continue to be flexible. Patty Moore understood it is a waiting game, but hoped that it will be in-person and suggested it would be good to have a Plan A and Plan B. She hoped other celebrations for other groups can still take place, even virtual, as the students are feeling lost. She thinks that more things need to happen to provide the social aspect, even remote.

Kevin Thornton - The discussion of CRF funds reminds me: do we have an adequate number of Chromebooks on hand for students? I've heard of students having issues with unreliable devices. Jeanné Collins stated the district now has enough Chromebooks and if anyone is having a need, they should use the Tech Support desk and put in a request. When the district put in the order in June, it was at the same time as all of the country was placing orders and the district received half by October, but currently have received all that were ordered. The district has also upgraded the Wi-Fi system as OV had significant problems that may have created a problem with the load and is in the process of upgrading the other schools. Mr. Thornton asked if the OV students should know who to contact and Ms. Collins stated they should be aware of how to contact for help as their teachers tell them and they have been given the information. Jim Avery noted that it is clear from what he has seen at OV that students know.

Bill Mathis – When planning the end of school activities, can we pay attention to the National Honor Society students to diversify this celebration and also celebrate more people in different ways. Jim Avery stated OV is looking at a lot of ways to help students to be connected. There are lots of other areas that can help connect everyone such as doing a drive-in movie night. Mr. Avery stated they are not just thinking of the National Honor Society students, but the entire group.

Alicia Malay - Why aren't salaries listed for transparency, as they have in the past with the local school boards, or as towns do in their annual reports? Jeanné Collins stated the salaries have been listed in this

manner since before she has been with the district. Brenda Fleming also advised that she has been with the district for over 25 years and it was never uniform throughout the schools; actually only Pittsford that had listed salaries and that was every other year.

Maureen O'Reilly - Could you speak to the situation with students that you say are having challenges being supported through the remote system? Are they falling behind in progress? Are there students that have been lost, and if yes, how do we find them? I am concerned that children living in poverty are falling that much more behind and not sure what plans there are to help them. Jeanné Collins advised the biggest concerns are middle/high school level due to the increased remote learning. There are 10% elementary students who are remote and 25% of high school students choosing to be remote. There are significant concerns and the elementary principals and guidance counselors are having conversations with families. The district is also working to design summer academic recovery programs, hopefully in-person, to have some small groups get some extra help. This is an issue that is happening all across the country. Jim Avery stated they review attendance on a weekly basis with students and have a variety of ways to ramp up responses that include staff driving to households and connecting with parents and going in pairs to try to create some connection with students. This is staggering on a state and national level and all possible efforts are made. Ms. Collins advised the State is going to ask the districts to write a recovery plan and with the CRF funds, the district is going to be encouraged to hire staff to help reconnect students. The recovery planning will focus on those who have been disengaged. Judi Pulsifer stated there are individual stories of children who have to be remote due to household health conditions and Neshobe does things similar to what Mr. Avery does at OV. To bring in an outside agency requires parental consent and she has sometimes done driveway meetings to try to connect. Ms. O'Reilly stated she has heard there are bad outcomes for children who are homeless and asked if students that are living in poverty are mostly affected. Ms. Collins stated some students are appreciating on-line learning as it enables them to get jobs, but it is not specifically those students in poverty. Ms. Collins did not have numbers concerning disengaged students with her but noted the enrollment numbers do not suggest a large number of lost students. Jim Avery advised OV created a document that has unexcused absences, but he did not have the information available.

Angela Ouellette - Are we also doing anything to celebrate the 2020 graduates that missed out on everything also. Jeanné Collins noted this will be taken as input.

Natalie Steen - Considering that we may be looking at hybrid learning in the fall, what support are teachers getting in helping them to develop more creative and engaging instructional online pedagogy? Jeanné Collins stated the district is hoping to not be hybrid in the fall. The district is planning to have time with teachers to identify summer training needs. There is a Curriculum Committee and coaches who are helping teachers adapt lessons that is an ongoing process. The plan is to provide training over the summer that will be done in June and August. Jim Avery stated many teachers are doing training throughout the year as well through offerings of local colleges and organizations. Ms. Steen asked who would be doing the training and noted that part of the reason that students are not engaged is because online learning is boring. Ms. Collins advised the district had worked with the Vermont Online Learning School for professional development and there are a number of organizations that can be used for the staff's professional development. There are a large number of places where teachers can access this learning and the district offered a number of workshops using the expertise of those in the district that have mastered this type of teaching.

Bill Mathis stated this has been a plight for the schools but people are continuing to upgrade their skills. Dr. Mathis stated he was glad to see the richness of discussion at this annual meeting.

Kevin Thornton - Natalie asks a great question. The online medium has severe limitations even when teachers use it with great skill.

The meeting will recess to Tuesday, March 2, 2021 for the purpose of voting the following articles at the usual

polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to the Brandon American Legion Post #55 following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be co-mingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Brandon	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Brandon American Legion Post #55
Town of Goshen	9:00AM to 7:00PM	Goshen Town Hall
Town of Leicester	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Leicester Town Hall
Town of Pittsford	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Pittsford Fire House
Town of Sudbury	10:00AM to 7:00PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00AM to 7:00PM	Whiting Town Hall

Article II: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until March following the election and qualification of their successors:

- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years
- B. School Director, Goshen for a term of three (3) years
- C. School Director, Pittsford for a term of three (3) years
- D. School Director, Whiting for a term of three (3) years
- E. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years
- F. School Director, At-Large for a term of two (2) years remaining of a three (3) year term

Article III: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until the next Annual District Meeting following the election and qualification of their successors:

- A. Moderator
- B. Clerk
- C. Treasurer

Article IV: Shall the voters approve the following compensation to be paid to Unified Union District Officers?

- A. School Directors - \$1,500 per person per year
- B. Moderator - \$150 per meeting
- C. Clerk - \$150 per meeting
- D. Treasurer - \$6,000 per year

Article V: Shall the voters authorize the Unified Union District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund or Town Tax Funds by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date provided, however, that the Unified Union District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations.

Article VI: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-one Million Thirty-nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-five Dollars (\$21,039,635) which is the amount the school board 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 \$15,526 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is .83% higher than spending for the current year.

Derek Larsen stated on the ballot, the total that is asked for is \$21,039,635 but the total on the information flyer that was mailed out was a dollar less. Jeanné Collins stated the ballot would reflect what is on the warning and the figure in the flyer is a typo.

Laurie Bertrand asked if anyone is thinking of write-in for a board seat, as there is no one running for At-Large 2-year of a 3-year term. Ms. Bertrand thanked everyone for being present for the meeting and stated the Board always welcomes questions on the Let's Talk app.

Bill Moore advised the video of the meeting will be posted on the RNESU website under the budget section.

Mike Lufkin motioned and Derek Larsen seconded to recess the meeting at 7:57 PM. **The motion passed.**

RESULTS:

ARTICLE II:

- A. School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years - **Natalie Steen**
- B. School Director, Goshen for a term of three (3) years - **William Mathis**
- C. School Director, Pittsford for a term of three (3) years – **Erik Pearsons**
- D. School Director, Whiting for a term of three (3) years - **Rebecca Bertrand**
- E. School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years – **Greg Bernhardt**
- F. School Director, At-Large for a term of two (2) years remaining of a three (3) year term – **Not Enough Write-in Votes**

ARTICLE III:

- A. Moderator – **William Moore**
- B. Clerk – **Charlene Bryant**
- C. Treasurer – **William Dick**

ARTICLE IV: The Article Passed

- A. School Directors - \$1,500 per person per year
- B. Moderator - \$150 per meeting
- C. Clerk - \$150 per meeting
- D. Treasurer - \$6,000 per year

ARTICLE V:

The Article Passed.

ARTICLE VI:

OVUU District Budget vote:

Town # of ballots (voters) - 2281

Results

Blank - 69

Yes - 1252

No - 960

The Budget Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
OVUU District Clerk





Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union

Mission and Vision

OUR MISSION

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union
August 2018

By way of the **resources invested** by our **communities**, Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union students will have the **knowledge, skills and tools** to be **prepared** for the **next stage** of their lives.

When we say this...	It means <i>THIS</i> for us...
resources invested	Funding, staffing, supplies and tools
communities	Towns that support our schools
knowledge	What students know and understand when they graduate
skills	What can students do with what they know and understand
tools	What our students use to learn or perform
prepared	Students are ready for life choices after graduation
next stage	The life choices of our students after graduation

OUR VISION

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union
August 2018

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union **empowers all** students with the **knowledge, skills and attributes** needed to be **successful and contributing members** of a **global society** through the development of **character, competence, creativity** and **community**.

When we say this...	It means <i>THIS</i> for us...
empowers	All students have a voice in what they learn and how they learn
all	All students means everyone regardless of ability, background or other characteristics
knowledge, skills and attributes	All students prepared for life after high school
successful and contributing members	All students make the world a better place for themselves and others
global society	All students are culturally knowledgeable and connected
character	All students care about themselves and others
competence	All students are able to perform in their life choices
creativity	All students appreciate creativity and use what they learn in new ways
community	All students connect with each other, their towns, and communities

OVUUSD - Global Ends

1.0 The Otter Valley UU school district exists so that all enrolled students are empowered with the knowledge, skills, and attributes needed to be successful and contributing citizens of a global society by way of the resources invested by the communities.

1.1 Dispositions for Lifelong Learners

Students demonstrate transferrable skills.

1.2 Academic Proficiency

Students actively participate and demonstrate proficiency in an academic experience that includes language and literature, math, science, social sciences, the arts and design, technology, world language, and health and wellness.

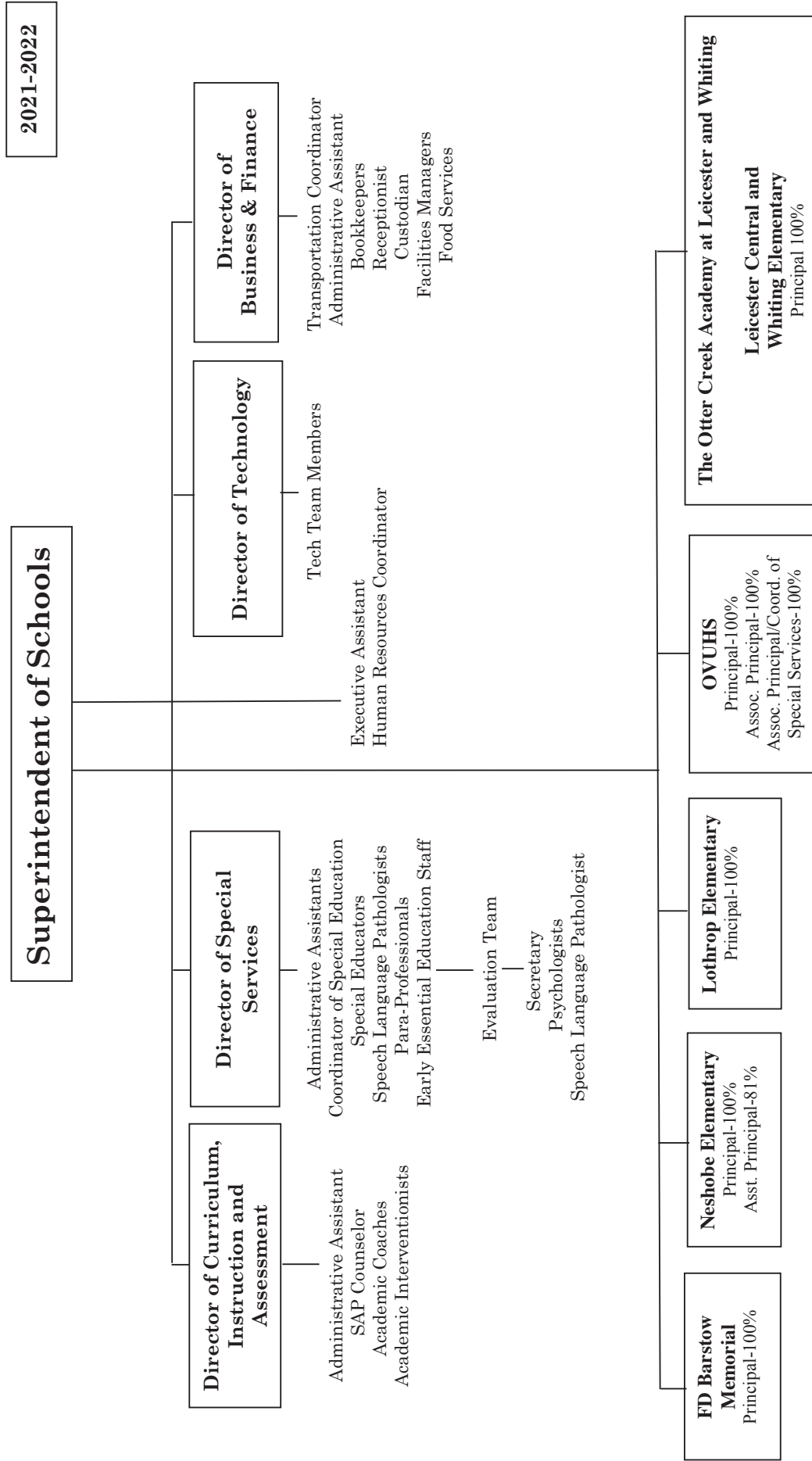
1.3 Social/Emotional & Personal Development

Students use self-awareness and interpersonal skills to effectively enhance their own performance and collaborate with others.

1.4 Citizenship

In order to participate and contribute in an informed manner in their community, students understand the impact of history, government, law and the economy on self and society.

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



RNESU Administrators

2021-2022

Alexis Blake
Director of Technology

Jeanné Collins
Superintendent of Schools

Brenda Fleming
Director of Business & Finance

Marsha Bruce
Director of Special Services

Kristin Hubert
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction and Assessment

School and Program Principals

David St. Germain
FD Barstow Memorial School
Principal

Vicki Wells
Neshobe Elementary School
Principal

James Avery
Otter Valley Union School
Principal

Thomas Fleury
Otter Creek Academy
Principal

Dan Raabe
Neshobe Elementary School
Assistant Principal

Geoffrey Lawrence
Otter Valley Union School
Associate Principal

Deborah Alexander
Lothrop Elementary School
Principal

Kristine Evarts
Otter Valley Union School
Associate Principal/
Special Ed Coordinator @ OV

Central Office Personnel

Beth Cole
Payroll Clerk/Bookkeeper

Brooke Dahlin
Human Resources Coordinator

Stephen Eaton
RNESU Facilities Manager

Jess Morse-Davis
Admin. Asst. to Curriculum Director

Pam Parker
Bookkeeper/
Special Services Admin. Asst.

Barbara Phillips
Payroll & Finance Admin. Asst.

Melinda Piper
Exec. Asst. to Superintendent

Pam Reed
Secretary

Beth Ripley
Special Services Admin. Asst./
Medicaid Clerk

Rich Vigue
Transportation Coordinator/OV
Facilities Coordinator

IT Personnel

Colby Case
Network Administrator

Whitney Christie
Systems Administrator

Rusty Mason
Technology Specialist

Dan Schmitz
Technology Specialist

Academic Coaches
Max Burman
Technology Integration Coach

Brian Crane
Proficiency Based Learning Coach

Susan Hennessey
Technology Integration Coach

James Kalb
Data Literacy Coach

Laura King
Instructional Coach

Susannah White
Equity Engagement Coach

Joanie Wisdahl
MTSS Coach

Special Services Personnel

Emme O'Rourke
Early Essential Education
Speech Language Pathologist

Alisa Breau
Speech Language Pathologist

Levi de Castro
School Psychologist

Becky Dwyer
Secretary to Evaluation Team

Katherine Milliman
School Psychologist

Susan Smiel
Early Essential Education Teacher

Michael Wood
School Psychologist

2021-2022 Barstow Unified Union School District Members

Chittenden – 2 Reps

Ethan Bodin*	3 year term (2024)
Robin Crossman^	3 year term (2022)

Mendon – 1 Rep

Jessica Quesnel*	3 year term (2022)
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At – Large Member – 2 Rep

Jacob Powsner (Chittenden)	3 year term (2023)
Brenda Hummel (Chittenden)*	3 year term (2024)

2021-2022 Otter Valley Unified Union School District Members

Brandon – 3 Reps

Derek Larsen	3 year term (2022)
Natalie Steen	3 year term (2024)
Kevin Thornton	3 year term (2023)

Goshen – 1 Rep

William Mathis	3 year term (2024)
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Leicester – 1 Rep

Angela Ouellette	3 year term (2023)
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Pittsford – 2 Reps

Erik Pearsons	3 year term (2024)
Bonnie Chmielewski	3 year term (2022)

Sudbury – 1 Rep

Laurie Bertrand*	3 year term (2022)
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Whiting – 1 Rep

Rebecca Bertrand*	3 year term (2024)
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At – Large Members – 4 Reps

Greg Bernhardt (Leicester)	3 year term (2024)
Barbara Ebling (Brandon)*	3 year term (2022)
Michael Lufkin (Brandon)	3 year term (2023)
Barry Varian (Brandon)^	3 year term (2023)

^ Appointed to the Seat in 2021

* 2021-2022 RNESU Board Members

RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
ANNUAL BOARD REPORT
January 2022

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) Board has been busy this year continuing to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Our two districts, Barstow Unified Union and Otter Valley Unified Union, have been doing everything they can to continue educating our kids during this turbulent time.



The Board voted to continue the pilot preschool lottery program that allows five of our preschoolers to attend preschools outside of our district for another year. Currently, our preschool program approval only allows our preschoolers to attend state approved preschool programs within our supervisory union. The voucher to an out of district program can be requested by a family. If more than five students request a voucher, then a lottery will pick the students who will be given a voucher.

The Board creates the budget for Special Education, Technology, Central Office, and Transportation. This year we are pleased to present a budget that reflects a moderate 2.75% increase in spending. We have made no significant changes in staffing or programming.

However, the most important work that the Board is doing, is looking for our next innovative Superintendent. Superintendent Jeanne Collins has submitted her letter of Retirement as of June 30, 2022 and we are busy with the process of finding her replacement. So far, the Board has put out two thought exchanges and held a public forum where we have asked what you are looking for in a new superintendent. We hope to select the new Superintendent before Town Meeting Day.



I would like to thank Superintendent Collins for her eight years here at RNESU. She has helped us through our Act 46 Consolidation and she has worked tirelessly during the COVID 19 Pandemic to keep our schools open and safe and continues to do so. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Brenda Hummel for her tireless work on behalf of the RNESU Board, as she is not seeking re-election. Thank you for your support of our schools, staff and students! We look forward to continuing our mission of educating life-long learners. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a board member or use the Let's Talk button on any school website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand
RNESU Board Chair



OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL BOARD REPORT
JANUARY 2022

Covid 19 continues to disrupt our education system, not to mention our daily lives. We had hoped that when the school year began, COVID would be a distant memory. I think it is probably worse than it was in 2020. We continue to remain vigilant and resilient in educating our children. It hasn't been easy, but I commend all of our students, parents, staff and administration for continuing to move forward during this pandemic. We can only hope that things will return to normal as soon as possible.



The Board has been focused on facilities and we are pleased to announce that Sudbury Country School will be used for Special Education Assessments and office space for school psychologists. We do not have an area currently where this can be done. The use of the Sudbury School will save the district money by not having to have costly assessments done out of our district that can easily be done by our own staff starting with the new 2022-23 school year. We have also

continued to study the idea of a middle school and have asked for a feasibility study of the Caverly Lands in Pittsford that the district owns. The feasibility study will tell us if a middle school is possible at the site. We hope to have the feasibility study by spring so that we can continue looking at the Enhanced Middle School and whether we should continue to explore this possibility.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Board Members, Angela Ouellette, Bonnie Chmielewski and Barry Varian for their tireless efforts on this board as they are not seeking reelection. They will be missed. We are also saying goodbye in June to Jim Avery, Geoff Lawrence and Thom Fleury, principals of Otter Valley and Otter Creek Academy thru retirement. We wish to say thank you for everything you have done for our kids during your tenures. The Otter Valley District is better for having you as part of our community. Best of luck in your future endeavors! We are also losing Superintendent Jeanne Collins to retirement as well. She has been a powerhouse, allowing OVUU to remain focused on students and learning even during this pandemic. We will miss you Jeanne!

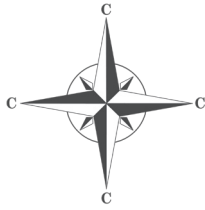


OVUU will be experiencing a lot of change in the next few months, from a new Superintendent to new principals to even new teachers. Please know that the Board will continue to stay focused on making sure that our kids have the resources they need to succeed in whatever their future is past Otter Valley High School. As always, feel free to contact a Board Member with any questions you might have, or use the Let's Talk App on any school website. We look forward to hearing from you!

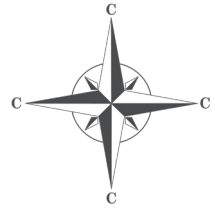
Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Bertrand
OVUU Board Chair





**RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2021**



Dear Residents of Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, & Whiting:

I am pleased to write this report to capture RNESU, Otter Valley Unified Union and Barstow Unified Union activities for 2021. It has been 6 years since merging into OVUU and BUU and we continue to work together toward achieving the vision and mission of educating every child in our eight towns.

For nearly two years, our nation, the world, and our schools have been impacted by COVID19. In March, 2020, we closed schools and moved to remote learning for the remainder of that school year. Seniors did not get to experience the rituals of senior year, with no prom, a virtual award ceremony and a creative car based graduation on the fields at OV. Barstow 8th graders and OVUU 6th graders had individual send-offs as they transitioned to their next school. We headed into that summer with a great deal of anxiety and so much unknown.

Last school year, 2020-2021, was a hybrid year. We opened with K,1,2 in school five mornings while everyone else started remotely. By early October, we settled into a routine of all K-6 graders (K-8 at Barstow) in school four days a week, with Wednesday being a remote learning day across the district. Half of OV 7-12th graders attended 2 days a week, with 3 days remote, so that we could keep social distancing measures in place. We continued to provide meals for free, delivered on Wednesdays. As we all wore masks, and classrooms were sectioned off at desks 6 feet apart and facing forward, we fielded a few cases of COVID but had clear guidelines that kept a consistent, though different, schedule for the year. We ended the year moving to three foot distancing, which allowed students to return to school four days a week at all grade levels. Teachers taught both online and in person, simultaneously, all year- an exhausting way to keep all students engaged and progressing. The conditions required we all, parents and students included, did what we could to keep our communities healthy as the virus raged through.

This fall, we had high hopes for a normal school year; however it was not to be. As the Delta variant ramped up, we returned to in person learning 5 days a week, still with masks and 3 foot distancing, yet with fewer state guidelines and many, many more cases of COVID shutting down classrooms and sports teams. Contact tracing, Test to Stay, remote learning all became standard parts of our vocabulary.

Despite all of this, we achieved many things. OVUHS refurbished its auditorium and built a new entrance that will not be undermined by the weather and will keep the school safer from unexpected visitors. The school boards approved an equity policy that will focus on ensuring all of our students receive the support and opportunities they deserve. We said goodbye to Principal Judi Pulsifer after decades of service at Neshobe School and welcomed Principal Vicki Wells and Assistant Principal Daniel Raabe at Neshobe School this fall.

The pandemic brought federal funds to our district. These funds are for three years and were committed based upon input from staff and community alike. With these funds, we were able to

- Increase custodial and nursing staff;
- Add academic coaches and interventionists to help both students and faculty;

- Offer a Virtual Learning Academy during the 2021-2022 school year to support students who were not ready to return to in person schooling;
- Offer extended 2021 summer programming to help support student mental health and wellbeing, reengagement with school and academic recovery;
- Offer credit recovery at OVUHS;
- Increase school based mental health clinicians;
- Begin an equity audit to help build the capacity of RNESU educators' universal instruction and knowledge of interventions and supports to improve student engagement and performance across all indicators, toward developing a 3-year plan; and
- Develop teacher leader teams to support staff professional development and curricular work around a multi tiered system of support throughout the district.

Another area strongly supported by federal COVID funds is educational technology. With a sudden pivot to remote learning, we provided Chromebooks to every student, some with hot spots if wifi was needed at home. This initiative supported more than 2500 students, parents/guardians and staff members. We also worked to improve our internal internet speed to accommodate the devices in school, and have been working steadily to modernize all school equipment, which should be completed by Feb. 2022. Through this, our small tech staff completed 5,269 tickets from Dec. 1, 2020-2021, with a 98% satisfaction rate. In the midst of this massive project, the state introduced a statewide data reporting system that we have begun implementing during this past year.

There are many people to thank this year, starting with students, staff and parents who have had to quickly respond to positive cases that forced classrooms to close unexpectedly. I thank all faculty and staff, for doing everything within their power to learn the technology and distance learning skills, maintain relationships, and move academic achievement forward throughout a turbulent school year. Our custodians have our gratitude for keeping our buildings clean throughout the anxious time of the pandemic and ongoing. Thank you to our bus drivers and monitors for incredible flexibility, delivering meals instead of students and driving through the winters with masks on and windows down. Our admin assistants in each school kept the motor humming, with a constant thumb on the pulse of all, and our administrators and nurses who worked tirelessly around the clock seven days a week to keep our schools open and our students healthy. Together, we are #RNESUStrong and I am proud to be part of this district.

Alas, this is the year I say farewell to RNESU. I will retire in June 2022, as my personal life has exciting changes ahead. I have enjoyed my eight years here, with the many friends and relationships made. This crew of faculty, staff and administrators are top notch, dedicated to the children of these communities and I am so thankful for the opportunity to lead with this team in place.



Respectfully,
Jeanné Collins, Superintendent
RNESU



Lothrop Elementary & Middle Level School

<http://lothrop.rnesu.org>

Community/History:

Lothrop School, is a PK-6 school which consists of the Main School Building, built in 1911, which houses grades K-6, the Town Hall Building that serves as the gym and cafeteria and the Caverly Preschool Building near the Municipal Offices.



Reprieve from the pandemic was felt at Lothrop School from the early spring through the end of the school year. Staff and learners continued to practice all health and safety precautions, but cases remained extremely low and Vermont experienced days where there were no or nearly no new cases or COVID-19 reported. We ended the year with our traditional Panther Palooza, a whole school celebration at the Pittsford Rec, Middle Level Learners were welcomed to the Mountain Top Inn for a day of kayaking, boating, swimming, outdoor games and great food and our 6th grade

graduates walked the halls of Lothrop one last time and held a graduation outside, with families under individual family tents.

Pre-K- 6 Learners returned to Lothrop and Caverly in the fall of 2021 with hopes of short lived health and safety precautions only to be faced with increasing cases of COVID-19, causing full classrooms to quarantine far more than in the past year. Fortunately, following the Thanksgiving Break, implementation of the Test to Stay Program allowed asymptomatic learners who were deemed close contacts to positive cases to remain in school as long as they passed a number of daily antigen tests provided by our Health Office and other staff members. While this past calendar year felt like safety precautions were the focus, I am proud to say that we moved our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) into full implementation. A system that provides tiered academic and social and emotional learning intervention and supports for identified learners. Along with this implementation, our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) began its implementation of Tier III supports, joining just 37 % of Vermont schools in exciting this work. Through our academic data collection and team data meetings, we identified a math problem solving goal and that, along with Morning Meetings, have been a focus for the year.



Panther TV has continued to evolve and now produces special events like chorus concerts, special messages, interviews of community members and our weekly Friday Morning Meetings. More voices of learners are present and it has truly become a part of our Lothrop Community. We look forward to our 3/4 production of “Jungle Book” this spring.

Demographics:

Lothrop serves about 190 learners in PK-6. About 12% of our students are eligible for special education services. Our free and reduced population is currently close to 41%. About 19% of our learners receive academic intervention support, an increase from past years, which can be attributed to the learning loss due to the pandemic.



Facilities Update:

Our facilities team and outside contractors continue to do necessary repairs to the school, scheduled painting and remodeling of older areas. This past calendar year, Caverly received all new windows, replicating the former paned glass, and a new rug for its play area. The Town Hall gym rubber floor was refinished and the cafeteria was painted. We finished the 3/4 wing by laying tile in the health office and carpet in the hallway. Local businesses and the Lothrop PTO organized construction of a 1/4 mile walking path. We are grateful for our generous community contributors

After School Programming Activities:

Lothrop Enrichment Afterschool Program (LEAP) remains strong, serving 25 students most days Mon-Fri from dismissal from school until 5:30 PM. The program remains in the cafeteria and continues to be an extremely positive change and has increased safety and convenience for families and the LEAP Program.

School Specific Initiatives:

- Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) - Teams collaborate to create and organize support for identified students in need of explicit first instruction and targeted and intensive intervention. MTSS also supports students in need of social and emotional support. Data guides our decisions and flexible schedules and groupings allow us to create opportunities for students to receive all that they need.
- Middle School Model for grades 5-6
- Superkids Program for Primary ELA
- Integrated Units for 3-6 ELA
- Bridges program for mathematics K-5
- Illustrative Math for grade 6
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
 - Teaching and acknowledging school wide expectations
 - Discouraging problem behaviors
- Restorative Practices
- Trauma Sensitive School
- Strong Integrated Arts Program



I am extremely grateful for the continued support from the Lothrop Families and Pittsford Community, especially during these unprecedented times.

Respectfully,

Debbie Alexander
Lothrop Principal

Neshobe School

<https://neshobe.rnesu.org/o/ns>



Community/History

Neshobe is a PK-6 school located in rural Forest Dale, Vermont, on the original Forest Dale School site built-in 1926. In 1982, the three school sites (Seminary Hill, Ayrshire Building, and Forest Dale) opened on this campus as the Neshobe School, educating the communities of Brandon, Forest Dale, and Goshen.



We Believe...

We believe in the potential of every student. We believe each student has unique needs and that we can provide a safe, supportive, yet challenging learning environment to meet those needs and foster growth. We believe all students learn better if there are strong connections with their teachers and other school staff based on positive, respectful interactions. We believe family involvement is essential to the success of our students. We encourage families to take an active role in the social and academic lives of our students. We believe it is our responsibility to provide opportunities for families to contribute to the school community. We believe connections

that are personal, educational, and family and community-oriented support the whole child. These strong connections help students feel safe, both physically and emotionally, in their school setting.

Demographics

We have 436 students PK through sixth grade, with approximately 13% of our students eligible for special education services and approximately 56% of our students eligible for free/reduced meals.



After School and Summer Programming Activities

This past summer, the S.O.A.R. Program continued its work with the Lothrop L.E.A.P. program and Otter Creek Academy (OCA) Kids Club under Nancy Bird's leadership to provide equity and consistency in all RNESU after school and summer programs. You can find more information on the Neshobe website or by contacting Nancy Bird.

In addition to S.O.A.R., this past summer we hosted students from OCA and Neshobe in our Summer Learning Program. This, combined with offerings through the Brandon Recreation Department, served well over 90 students.

Facilities Update

- Carpet replaced in the lobby area of the Forestdale Building
- Bathroom renovations in the primary classrooms in the Forestdale building
- New staff mailboxes built and placed in the staff room
- Driveway patching at the rear of the building
- Two outdoor structures are now up and ready for classrooms to use

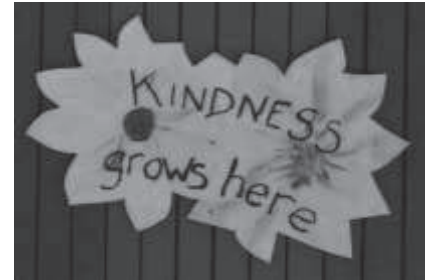


Retiree Recognition

We congratulate and extend our best wishes to our retirees: Beth Greeno, Sue Young-Walsh, Kathy Hirshberger and Tami Munford. We wish them the best in their retirement. Their dedication and commitment to the Neshobe School Community have touched their students, families, and colleagues' lives and made an immeasurable difference.

School Specific Initiatives

- Kindness Matters at Neshobe School is the framework for our expectations of Be Kind, Be Respectful, and Be Safe.
- We continue the implementation of a more comprehensive Multi-Tier System of Support for academics and social-emotional learning.
- Restorative Practices and Trauma Sensitive School
- Implementation of a social-emotional curriculum including dialogue circles each day
- Many classrooms are participating in outdoor learning.
- Implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)
- Our guidance counselor and student support counselor work together to provide individual and small group support to students. They teach classes in social-emotional development and health classes in collaboration with the school nurse.
- School-based Rutland Mental Health (RMH) case managers support students and families open to Rutland Mental Health Services.
- Bridges Math program for grades K-5 and Illustrative Math for sixth grade
- Superkids Reading Program for primary classes
- Choice-Based Art Program in Fourth through Sixth Grades.



- Four Winds Program for third and fourth grades.
- Team Discovery Middle Level for our fifth and sixth graders
- VT Everybody Wins Reading Program with community mentors. (On hold during COVID)
- Neshobe Chicken Project
- Primary Nation meets on Monday morning to build community between our Kindergarteners through second graders (on hold due to COVID).
- Spanish for third through sixth graders twice weekly
- Strong vocal and instrumental music program K-6 with a chorus, band, advanced band, and jazz band composed of our upper-grade students. (Chorus and band on hold due to COVID).
- Cross country skiing, skateboarding, and biking as part of our Physical Education program.
- A very dedicated PTO who works hard to bring opportunities to students and their families.
- Working collaboratively with Bill Moore, Brandon Recreation Director, which enables additional learning opportunities for our students and the Brandon Community through physical activities, seasonal events, and adult programs. It also ensures that Neshobe School remains a resource that benefits the community outside of school hours.



It is a pleasure to be part of the Neshobe Elementary School community. The staff, students and families have been incredibly welcoming and the spirit of kindness here truly shines.

Respectfully,

Vicki Wells, Neshobe Principal & **Dan Raabe**, Neshobe Asst. Principal





Otter Creek **Academy** **at Leicester & Whiting** <https://rnesu.org/o/oca>



Community/History

The Otter Creek Academy is a preschool – grade 6 school at two campuses for the residents of the towns of Leicester, Sudbury, and Whiting. We see ourselves as three towns yet one community. The Whiting school is home to a wonderful childcare and pre-school collaboration for children from infancy through age 4. The Leicester campus is for students in Kindergarten through grade 6. In addition to addressing the supervisory union goals of providing academic and emotional supports to improve student achievement, continuously implementing instructional practices to meet all students' needs, and teaching literacy across the curriculum with the expectation that all students will read on grade level by the end of grade 2, our two campuses strive to create a joyous yet rigorous learning environment for all students, so they can develop their character, competence, creativity, and sense of community.



Demographics

There are 23 children presently enrolled in the pre-school program at Whiting, and at Leicester, 15 in Kindergarten, 9 in grade 1, 14 in grade 2, 13 in grade 3, 8 in grade 4, 11 in grade 5, and 15 in grade 6, for a total of 85 students. Approximately one-quarter of our students receive specialized services through the special education process. About two out of three students qualify for the free/reduced priced meal program sponsored by the federal government.

Facilities Update

Providing adequate learning and work space is our school's biggest challenge. Our school was not built for the ways we currently deliver instruction and provide support. Confidential office spaces for our guidance counselor, curriculum interventionists, special educators, clinicians, music instrumental lessons, and others is lacking. Our library is in a small, cramped room and does not adequately house our book collection for all grades. A modular unit is being sought to help us meet these acute needs. The water in the area of the school is still not able to be consumed or cooked with due to high levels of P.F.A.S., so bottled water is used until a remediation plan is adopted and implemented. During this past school year, efforts to enhance security and respond to challenges presented by the Covid pandemic were implemented.





Afterschool and Summer Programming Activities

The Kids' Club Afterschool Program continues to thrive under the leadership of Mrs. Kim Hescok and Ms. Cassandra Hayes and their staff. The program provides a safe, supportive, (and fun!) environment for children during the late afternoon hours. Games, crafts, wellness activities, homework support, fieldtrips, and other activities enrich young learners during this special time together. The very successful summer program was temporarily relocated to the Neshobe School, due to the water quality issue and the anticipated construction plan for the addition of a modular unit, which was later postponed. In order to help narrow the academic learning

gap widened by the lost learning time due to the Covid virus, a summer academy was also held at Neshobe for a number of our students.

School-Specific Initiatives

Expeditionary (or project-based) Learning continues to be a cornerstone of Otter Creek Academy. Units are interdisciplinary in nature, bringing together new learning in the areas of reading, math, science, social science, physical education, and the fine arts. Celebration of Learning events showcase the creative projects on which students work so enthusiastically and which reflect a variety of learning styles.



What Does the Future Hold?

We are excited about what the future holds. Our Leicester campus is seeing an increase in enrollment. We are strengthening our "safety net" of support for students by implementing instruction to enhance their social and emotional wellness. We are also refining our educational support system to ensure that our Educational Support Team (E.S.T.) process more efficiently identifies and responds to students' academic and behavioral needs using up-to-date assessment data to guide our work. Our goal at all times is to make our buildings as safe, respectful, and welcoming as they can be. We will continue to learn as much as we can about stress and trauma, and how they affect children's learning and ability to cope, as we strive to be a trauma-sensitive environment for all who come through our doors.



Respectfully,

Thomas L. Fleury
Otter Creek Academy Principal



Otter Valley Union **Middle and High School**

<http://ovuhs.rnesu.org/>



Community/History:

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School is located in central Vermont in the town of Brandon. The school is the main high school for Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union which includes a population of approximately 9,000 residents.

The two largest villages are Brandon and Pittsford, both located on US Route 7, north of Rutland. The area is rural, with major industries being education, tourism, light manufacturing, agriculture, and a growing arts community.

Demographics:

OVUMS/HS is a public high school serving students in grades 7-12 from the communities of Brandon, Florence, Forestdale, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting. As of October 1, 2021, the student population is 542 with 14% of our students eligible for special education services and 46% eligible for free/reduced lunch.

Teaching and Learning:

Currently, OVUHS has a Proficiency Based Learning coach that continues to provide guidance and support. With this individual, OVUHS has been able to move more explicitly towards the goals of PBL in a way that makes sense for our learning community.



What became a necessity during the initial phase of COVID, has now become a school-wide expectation. Students are responsible for their devices, including charging them when necessary and being prepared to use them in class. Students also bear the responsibility to use their school devices appropriately. Similarly, teachers are responsible to maintain assignments on their Google classrooms, as well as incorporating new and up-to-date sources of information available on the devices, and using the Chromebooks to teach and communicate with students.



Building upon our previous missions and learning expectations document, the OV leadership team took on the task of drafting a Portrait of a Graduate, which will be an up-to-date visual representation of the essential skills that define and clarify teaching and learning at OVUHS. It will provide a clear vision about who our graduates are and what they are able to do, as they cross the stage at graduation. Our next step in the process is to get input from student groups, as well as families in the community.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support:

This year we have continued to make significant gains in our work towards the implementation of MTSS at Otter Valley. MTSS is a framework that uses data to help match teaching resources to each student's needs. In this system, Otter Valley educators work to ensure that the majority of students respond to initial, core instruction. Students who need additional support are identified by data

(including Edmentum Testing - three times each academic year) and provided that focused support, during flex time or homework help, with the guidance of the ELA or Math interventionist.

MTSS also helps educators to use data to continually monitor and improve the effectiveness of their work.



PRIDE:

We continue to emphasize our PRIDE expectations, which captures the core values for all of us at Otter Valley Union Middle and High School. At Otter Valley **PRIDE** represents:

Positive Attitude
Respect
Integrity
Determination
Empathy

The five expectations, developed by a team of Otter Valley teachers and administrators, are used to guide students, faculty and staff to “maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for students.”

Retiree Recognition:

Congratulations to Jim Avery, Geoffrey Lawrence, Cathy Louttit and Tina Spots who are all retiring at the end of the school year. Between them have provided 98 years of dedicated service to the students, families and community at Otter Valley.

School Specific Initiatives:

- Continuing our work as a Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) School.
- Expanding work with middle level initiatives.
- Committed to educational equity, student-centered learning and ongoing improvement.

Regards,



James Avery,
Principal



Geoffrey Lawrence,
Associate
Principal/Middle
School Leader



Kristine Evarts,
Associate
Principal/
Special Ed
Coordinator at
OV



OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL NOTICES

OVUU School Board - The school board welcomes your input on all issues. The school board meetings are held on first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM and take place on a rotating schedule at the schools throughout the OVUU School District. Due to COVID-19, a virtual participation option is also available until further notice and dial in information can be found on the calendar at www.rnesu.org. Please call the RNESU central office in advance (802-247-5757) in order to request an item on the agenda and to see if there have been any meeting changes, postponements or cancellations. This information along with all meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (RNESU) website at www.rnesu.org.

Anti-Discrimination - The RNESU ensures equal employment and educational opportunities regardless of race, color, religion (creed), ancestry, national origin, place of birth, HIV status, sex or gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, gender identity, or marital status.

Students with Disabilities - The RNESU is required by federal laws IDEA-B (Formerly EHA-B) and Section 504 and state regulations to identify and locate all persons with disabilities between the ages of birth and 21 who may be in need of regular education, special education services or accommodations in accessing public education. If you know of any individual residing in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury or Whiting who you suspect of having such needs, but who is not currently receiving them, please contact the Director of Special Services, Marsha Bruce, at (802) 247-5757 or the school principal for your town.

Records Review - As provided under federal and state laws and regulations, all parents and legal guardians are hereby notified that they have a number of rights under FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). You may inspect the educational record, request an amendment or file a complaint. If you find this necessary, please contact your school principal. You may also contact your school for a copy of the RNESU Records Policy, which outlines your rights under this law.

Asbestos - The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act [40 CFR 763.93 (g) (4)] requires that written notice be given that the following schools have Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of asbestos-containing materials found in their buildings. These Management Plans are available and accessible to the public at the administrative offices of each facility listed below. Please contact the building Principal or designated person identified below if you wish to read this plan.

<i>Site Address</i>	<i>Designated Person</i>	<i>Telephone Number</i>
Lothrop Elementary School 3447 US Rt. 7 Pittsford, VT 05763	Fred LaPlant	(802) 483-6361
Neshobe Elementary School 17 Neshobe Circle Brandon, VT 05733	Clay Williams	(802) 247-3721

Otter Creek Academy Leicester Central School 68 Schoolhouse Road Leicester, VT 05733 Sudbury Country School 31 Schoolhouse Road Sudbury, VT 05733 Whiting Elementary School 87 South Main Street Whiting, VT 05778	Stephen Eaton	(802) 247-5757
Otter Valley Union Middle/High School 2997 Franklin Street Brandon, VT 05733	Rich Vigue	(802) 247-6833
Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union 49 Court Drive Brandon, VT 05733	Stephen Eaton	(802) 247-5757

Audit Reports - Certified Public Accountants audit reports are available for public inspection. These may be found on the RNESU website at www.rnesu.org or by calling the business office at (802) 247-5757.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment Notification (PPRA) - PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys. These include the right to:

- *Inspect*, upon request and before administration or use –
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum.

Educator Quality - Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher. This information includes: whether the teacher has met the state requirements for the grade level(s) and subject area(s) they are teaching; whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency license; the college major and/or graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher; and whether their child is provided services by paraprofessionals and if so, their qualifications. During the 2019-2020 school year the following percentages of the teachers were on emergency licenses:

<i>School</i>	<i>% of Teachers on emergency license</i>
Lothrop Elementary School	0%
Neshobe Elementary School	0 %
Otter Creek Academy	0%
Otter Valley Union Middle/High School	0 %

State Assessment Results - Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, students in grades 3 – 9 are assessed annually in reading, writing and math. Science is assessed in grades 5, 8 and 11. School wide test results may be found on the State Agency of Education website at www.education.vermont.gov/data-and-reporting/educational-performance.

RNESU annually reports out on our SBAC results, as a way to share data on how students in grades 3-8 and 11 have progressed in both ELA and Mathematics. The 2021 Smarter Balanced Assessment and Vermont Science Assessment were administered in Spring of 2021 under extraordinary pandemic conditions. The difficulty of administering these federally required assessments during the 2020-21 school year, coupled with lower and uneven participation rates caused by the challenges of remote and hybrid learning mean that Vermont's 2021 Smarter Balanced and Vermont Science Assessment scores cannot be compared to prior year performance.

Educators and families worked incredibly hard last year to minimize impacts to student learning and engagement. Despite their heroic efforts, it was not possible for Vermont to conduct the Smarter Balanced and Vermont Science Assessments in the same way we had previously. The extraordinary circumstances lead to a range of factors that make this year's results statistically invalid when compared to prior years.



2021-2022

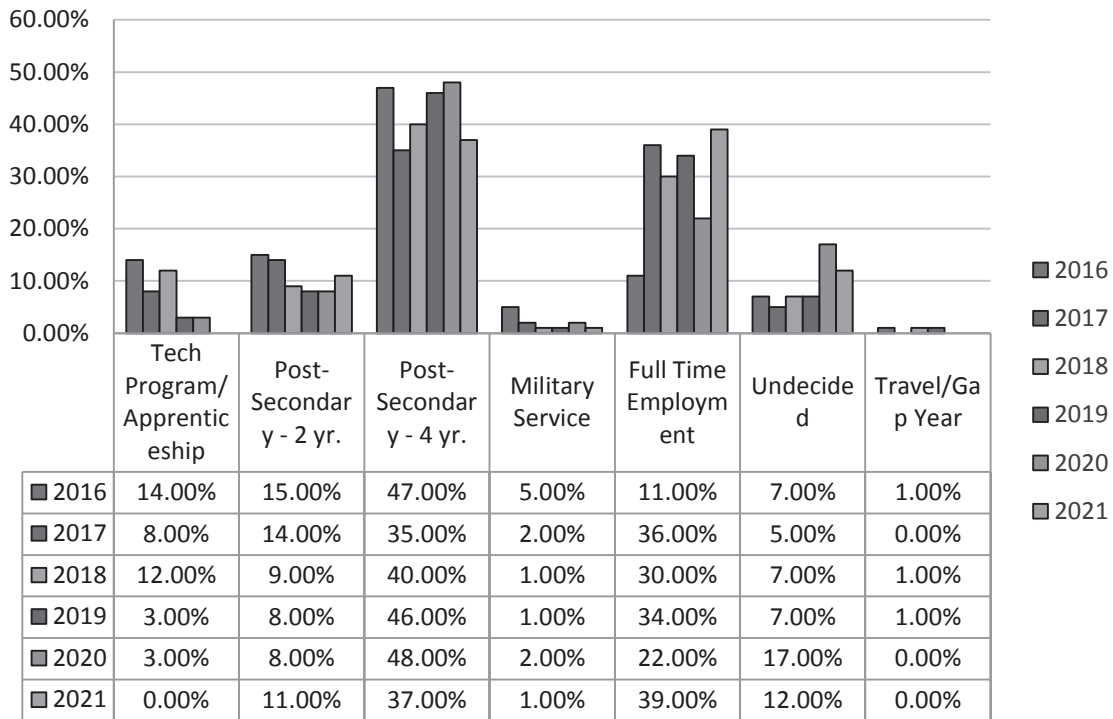
RNESU Administrative Council

Top Row: **Deborah Alexander**, Lothrop Principal **James Avery**, OVUHS Principal; **Jeanné Collins**, Superintendent; **Geoff Lawrence**, OVUHS Associate Principal; **Thomas Fleury**, Otter Creek Academy at Leicester and Whiting Principal;

Middle Row: **David St. Germain**, Barstow Principal; **Dan Raabe**, Neshobe Assistant Principal; **Kristin Hubert**, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; **Alexis Blake**, Director of Technology; **Vicki Wells**, Neshobe Principal;

Bottom Row: **Brenda Fleming**, Director of Business & Finance; **Kristine Evarts**, OV Associate Principal/Special Ed Coordinator at OV; **Marsha Bruce**, Director of Special Services;

Otter Valley Union High School



Otter Valley Union High School Graduation Rates					
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
91%	85%	80%	74%	81%	95%



Otter Valley Unified Union School District

FY2023 Proposed Budgets

FY2023 Budget Goal: Maintain and improve comprehensive equitable educational opportunities.

Budget Facts:

The board approved a budget with the following:

- Neshobe includes 11 Pre K tuitions: 5 new lottery students, 6 currently enrolled students
- Neshobe increases 2 part time K para educators to full time to meet students' needs
- OCA reallocated cleaning contracts to employee custodial position
- OCA increases 2 part time para educator to full time to meet students' needs
- OVUHS reallocates SRO contract to middle school health teacher
- OVUHS adds 1.0 vocational educator teacher to support student job placements
- OVUHS adds 1.0 para educator to meet students' needs
- OVUHS eliminates 1 out of district placement based on student's needs
- No other programmatic changes as we have already right-sized the district

The Following tables present the FY23 proposed budget in multiple formats to provide a full understanding of the budget

- By Function or department: direct instruction/facilities/debt
- By Object: salaries/benefits/supplies
- By Site: by school with a district wide services not allocated to schools

OVUUSD Function Budget:

FY21 Actual, FY22 Budget, FY23 Proposed: \$22,710,955

Function Name	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budget	FY23 Proposed	Difference
Instruction	\$ 12,122,888	\$ 12,712,980	\$ 14,296,976	\$ 1,583,996
Student Support	\$ 1,349,945	\$ 1,502,864	\$ 1,528,355	\$ 25,491
Inst Staff Support	\$ 352,721	\$ 555,031	\$ 556,388	\$ 1,357
General & Admin	\$ 70,797	\$ 142,229	\$ 142,229	\$ -
School Admin	\$ 1,115,016	\$ 1,156,638	\$ 1,231,938	\$ 75,300
Fiscal & Technology	\$ 1,510,992	\$ 1,714,489	\$ 1,783,416	\$ 68,927
Facilities	\$ 1,802,491	\$ 1,965,730	\$ 1,990,048	\$ 24,318
Transportation	\$ 664,023	\$ 744,904	\$ 607,069	\$ (137,835)
Debt Service	\$ 560,200	\$ 558,770	\$ 574,536	\$ 15,766
Transfers	\$ 427,180	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Total	\$ 19,976,252	\$ 21,053,634	\$ 22,710,955	\$ 1,657,320

OVUUSD Object Budget:
FY21 Actual, FY22 Budget, FY23 Proposed: \$22,710,955

Object	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budget	FY23 Proposed	Difference
Salaries	\$ 8,794,029	\$ 9,338,463	\$ 9,744,440	\$ 405,977
Benefits	\$ 3,025,260	\$ 3,618,551	\$ 4,352,043	\$ 733,493
Purchased Svs	\$ 218,906	\$ 378,740	\$ 345,690	\$ (33,050)
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 459,474	\$ 491,621	\$ 396,711	\$ (94,910)
Tuition, Travel, SU Svs	\$ 5,762,121	\$ 5,799,415	\$ 6,427,959	\$ 628,544
Supplies & Utilities	\$ 711,940	\$ 823,584	\$ 827,584	\$ 4,000
Vehicle Lease	\$ -	\$ 8,441	\$ 5,941	\$ (2,500)
Misc.	\$ 577,343	\$ 594,820	\$ 610,586	\$ 15,766
Debt Service	\$ 427,180	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Total	\$ 19,976,252	\$ 21,053,634	\$ 22,710,955	\$ 1,657,320

OVUUSD Site Budget:
FY21Actual, FY22 Budget, FY23 Proposed: \$22,710,955

Site	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budget	FY23 Proposed	Difference
Lothrop School	\$ 2,709,392	\$ 2,818,135	\$ 2,918,198	\$ 100,064
Neshobe School	\$ 4,087,574	\$ 4,316,156	\$ 4,640,967	\$ 324,811
Otter Valley Union	\$ 7,315,412	\$ 8,353,920	\$ 9,110,981	\$ 757,062
Otter Creek Academy	\$ 1,229,931	\$ 1,288,442	\$ 1,377,966	\$ 89,524
District Wide	\$ 4,633,942	\$ 4,276,982	\$ 4,662,842	\$ 385,860
General Fund Total	\$ 19,976,252	\$ 21,053,634	\$ 22,710,955	\$ 1,657,320

*District Wide includes the Otter Valley UU School Board costs, RNE central office infrastructure and support, special education, transportation, food services, and technology.

OVUUSD Anticipated FY23 School Enrollments

Lothrop School		
Grade	Enrollment	Projected FY23 Classroom Ratio
K	20-25	2 Teachers 1:12
1	27	2 Teachers 1:14
2	24	2 Teachers 1:12
3	28	2 Teachers 1:14
4	22	2 Teachers 1:11
5	21	1 Teacher 1:21
6	16	1 Teacher 1:16
Total	158-163	

Neshobe School		
Grade	Enrollment	Projected FY23 Classroom Ratio
K	50 - 53	3 Teachers 1:18
1	53	3 Teachers 1:18
2	57	3 Teachers 1:19
3	54	3 Teachers 1:18
4	43	3 Teachers 1:14
5	59	3 Teachers 1:20
6	45	3 Teachers 1:15
Total	361 - 354	

Otter Creek Academy		
Grade	Enrollment	Projected FY23 Classroom Ratio
K	10 - 12	1 Teachers 1:12
1	12	1 Teacher 1:21
2	9	
3	13	2 Teachers 1:13
4	14	1 Teacher 1:21
5	7	
6	12	1 Teacher 1:12
Total	77-79	

Otter Valley Union Middle/High		
Grade	Current Enrollment	Projected FY23 Enrollment
7	72	93
8	95	72
9	125	95
10	90	125
11	90	90
12	70	90
Total	542	565

Considerations of the Budget Proposal:

- The budget proposal is \$22,710,955 which is up \$1,657,320 or 7.87% from the current year budget of \$21,053,634
- Net Education Spending – (our taxable budget) is up by \$1,636,824 or 8.16%
- Estimated Equalized pupils are down by 18.41 students or 1.43% *subject to change*
- Result: Education Spending per Equalized pupils is up \$1,511 or 9.72%
 - *VT Tax Commissioner estimated the average education spending per equalized pupil to be \$18,023. OVUUSD proposed budget is BELOW the average by \$975 per pupil*

State Impact on Budget Proposal:

- Announced State Tax Yield, excluding the State Education Fund Surplus, is up \$1,620 or 14.4% per student
- Result: Anticipated Homestead Tax Rate BEFORE applying Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is \$1.318 down \$0.055 or 4.02%.
 - *VT Tax Commissioner estimated the average homestead tax rate to be \$1.40. OVUUSD proposed budget is BELOW the average by \$0.08*

Tax Calculation

The table below converts the proposed budget into an estimated homestead tax rate, including the effects of our towns' different Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) rates, which range from 91.64% to 103.53%.

	Tax Commissioner's Dec 1st announced yield excluding Education Fund Surplus \$12,937	Proposed Budget FY2023	Current Budget FY2022	Difference	Percent
	Total Budget	\$ 22,710,955	\$ 21,053,635	\$ 1,657,320	7.87%
	Less Local Revenue	\$ (1,014,045)	\$ (993,549)	\$ (20,496)	2.06%
	Net Education Spending	\$ 21,696,910	\$ 20,060,086	\$ 1,636,824	8.16%
	Equalized Pupils	1,272.70	1,291.11	(18.41)	-1.43%
	Education Spending Per Equalized Pupils	\$ 17,048	\$ 15,537	\$ 1,511	9.72%
	Yield - Announced by VT Tax Department (prior yr \$11,317)				
\$ 12,937	Unified Tax Rate Before CLA	\$ 1.318	\$ 1.373	\$ (0.055)	-4.02%
CLA	Homestead Tax Rate (Prior Yr CLA)	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Difference	Percent Change
93.03%	Brandon (98.56)	\$ 1.393	\$ 1.416	\$ 0.02	1.69%
92.53%	Goshen (93.38)	\$ 1.470	\$ 1.424	\$ (0.05)	-3.12%
93.28%	Leicester (96.90)	\$ 1.417	\$ 1.413	\$ (0.00)	-0.30%
91.64%	Pittsford (94.69)	\$ 1.450	\$ 1.438	\$ (0.01)	-0.83%
103.53%	Sudbury (109.40)	\$ 1.255	\$ 1.273	\$ 0.02	1.42%
94.85%	Whiting (105.29)	\$ 1.304	\$ 1.389	\$ 0.09	6.54%
CLA: Common Level of Appraisal					

What is Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)? How can my property taxes be changing by more than the school budget?

The CLA is used to ensure property owners are paying equitable taxes. If the properties in a town were undervalued, without a CLA correction, the residents would pay a lower tax compared to a neighboring town with more accurate assessed values.

The Tax Department determines the CLA by looking at recent sale prices and comparing these prices to the town's appraised values. If the appraised values are lower than the sale prices the town's grand list is considered undervalued and the CLA will be a percentage under 100%. Likewise, if the appraised values are higher than sale prices are above the town's grand list and is considered overvalued and the CLA will be over 100%.

Impact of CLA: To assure all property owners are paying equitable taxes, the state adjusts the individual towns' school tax rates by the CLA. If the school tax rate was determined to be \$1.44 CLA of 90% would mean a tax "correction" to \$1.60 (\$1.44/90%)
CLA of 110% would mean a tax "correction" of \$1.31 (\$1.44/110%)

Local Community Impact from Budget Proposal after State Impact and Common Level of Appraisal:

Anticipated individual Town Homestead Tax Rates, AFTER CLA

Please note CLA's vary by town resulting in different Homestead Tax Rates by town.

Brandon: +0.02 or \$20 per \$100,000 home site value	Pittsford: -0.01 or \$10 per \$100,000 home site value
Goshen: -0.05 or (\$50) per \$100,000 home site value	Sudbury: +0.02 or \$20 per \$100,000 home site value
Leicester: +0.00 or \$0 per \$100,000 home site value	Whiting: +0.09 or \$90 per \$100,000 home site value

Otter Valley Unified Union SD Reserve Balances: July 1, 2021

Facility and Grounds Reserve Funds

Leicester PFAS Water – Deficit	(\$6,408)
Goshen School District	\$8,000
Otter Valley UUSD Fund	\$2,339,868
Total	\$2,341,460

After School Reserve Funds

After School CRSSA Grant	\$1,379
OCA CERF Grant	\$4,888
Otter Valley UUSD Fund	\$601,082
Total	\$683,477

FY2021 Treasurer's Report General Fund Balance:

Beginning Fund Balance, July 1 st	\$460,000
Plus: Revenues	\$20,436,252
Subtotal Resources	\$20,896,252
Less: Expenditures	(\$19,976,252)
Ending Fund Balance, June 30 th	\$920,000

District: Otter Valley USD SU: Rutland Northeast		U053 Rutland County		Property dollar equivalent yield		Homestead tax rate per \$12,937 of spending per equalized pupil
				12,937	<--See bottom note	1.00
				15,484		Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	
1.	Adopted or warned union district budget (including special programs and full technical center expenditures)	\$19,935,847	\$20,377,427	\$21,053,634	\$22,710,955	1.
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at union district meeting	-	-	-	-	2.
3.	Adopted or warned union district budget plus articles	\$19,935,847	\$20,377,427	\$21,053,634	\$22,710,955	3.
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	4.
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	5.
6.	Total Union Budget	\$19,935,847	\$20,377,427	\$21,053,634	\$22,710,955	6.
7.	S.U. assessment (included in union budget) - informational data	\$3,958,933	\$4,141,354	\$4,143,852	\$4,529,713	7.
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (if included in union expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	8.
Revenues						
9.	Union revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, federal, etc.)	\$557,065	\$566,320	\$993,549	\$1,014,045	9.
10.	Total offsetting union revenues	\$557,065	\$566,320	\$993,549	\$1,014,045	10.
11.	Education Spending	\$19,378,782	\$19,811,107	\$20,060,085	\$21,696,910	11.
12.	Otter Valley USD equalized pupils	1,308.64	1,293.96	1,291.11	1,272.70	12.
13.	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$14,808.34	\$15,310.45	\$15,537.08	\$17,047.94	13.
14.	minus Less net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	\$433.48	\$429.46	\$431.23	\$451	14.
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$60,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	\$9.06	\$11.12	-	-	15.
16.	minus 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 eqpup)	-	-	-	-	16.
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	18.
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	19.
20.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	21.
22.	minus Costs incurred when sampling drinking water outlets, implementing lead remediation, or retesting.	-	-	-	-	22.
23.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$11,311 \$18,311.00	threshold = \$18,756 -	threshold = \$18,789 \$18,789.00	threshold = \$19,997 \$19,997.00	23.
24.	plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	2 year suspension	2 year suspension	24.
25.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$14,808	\$15,310	\$15,537	\$17,047.94	25.
26.	Union spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	139.072% based on yield \$10,648	139.211% based on yield \$10,998	136.617% based on \$11,317	131.777% based on yield \$12,937	26.
27.	Anticipated equalized union homestead tax rate to be prorated [\$17,047.94 ÷ (\$12,937 / \$1.00)]	\$1.3707 based on \$1.00	\$1.3921 based on \$1.00	\$1.3729 based on \$1.00	\$1.3178 based on \$1.00	27.
Prorated homestead union tax rates for members of Otter Valley USD		FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY22 Pe
T026	Brandon	1.3707	1.3921	1.3662	1.3178	100.00%
T081	Goshen	1.3707	1.3921	1.3662	1.3178	100.00%
T110	Leicester	1.3707	1.3921	1.3662	1.3178	100.00%
T154	Pittsford	1.3707	1.3921	1.3662	1.3178	100.00%
T201	Sudbury	1.3707	1.3921	1.3662	1.3178	100.00%
T241	Whiting	1.3707	1.3921	1.3662	1.3178	100.00%
		-	-	-	330.7678	25100.00%
		-	-	-	330.7678	25100.00%
		-	-	-	330.7678	25100.00%
		-	-	-	330.7678	25100.00%
		-	-	-	330.7678	25100.00%
28.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated from Otter Valley USD [(17,047.94 ÷ 15,484) x 2.00%]	2.23% based on 2.00%	2.26% based on 2.00%	2.25% based on 2.00%	2.20% based on 2.00%	28.
Prorated union income cap percentage for members of Otter Valley USD		FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY22 Pe
T026	Brandon	2.23%	2.26%	2.25%	2.20%	100.00%
T081	Goshen	2.23%	2.26%	2.25%	2.20%	100.00%
T110	Leicester	2.26%	2.26%	2.25%	2.20%	100.00%
T154	Pittsford	2.43%	2.26%	2.25%	2.20%	100.00%
T201	Sudbury	2.44%	2.26%	2.25%	2.20%	100.00%
T241	Whiting	2.24%	2.26%	2.25%	2.20%	100.00%
		-	-	-	552.20%	25100.00%
		-	-	-	552.20%	25100.00%
		-	-	-	552.20%	25100.00%
		-	-	-	552.20%	25100.00%
		-	-	-	552.20%	25100.00%

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$13,846 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$16,705 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.385. **THESE FIGURES USE THE ESTIMATED \$90,000,000 SURPLUS FROM THE EDUCATION FUND. I DO NOT EXPECT THAT SURPLUS WILL BE USED TO INCREASE THE YIELDS.** I would suggest using the figures provided without the surplus: \$12,937 for the property yield, \$15,484 for the income yield, and \$1.482 for the non-homestead tax rate.

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.

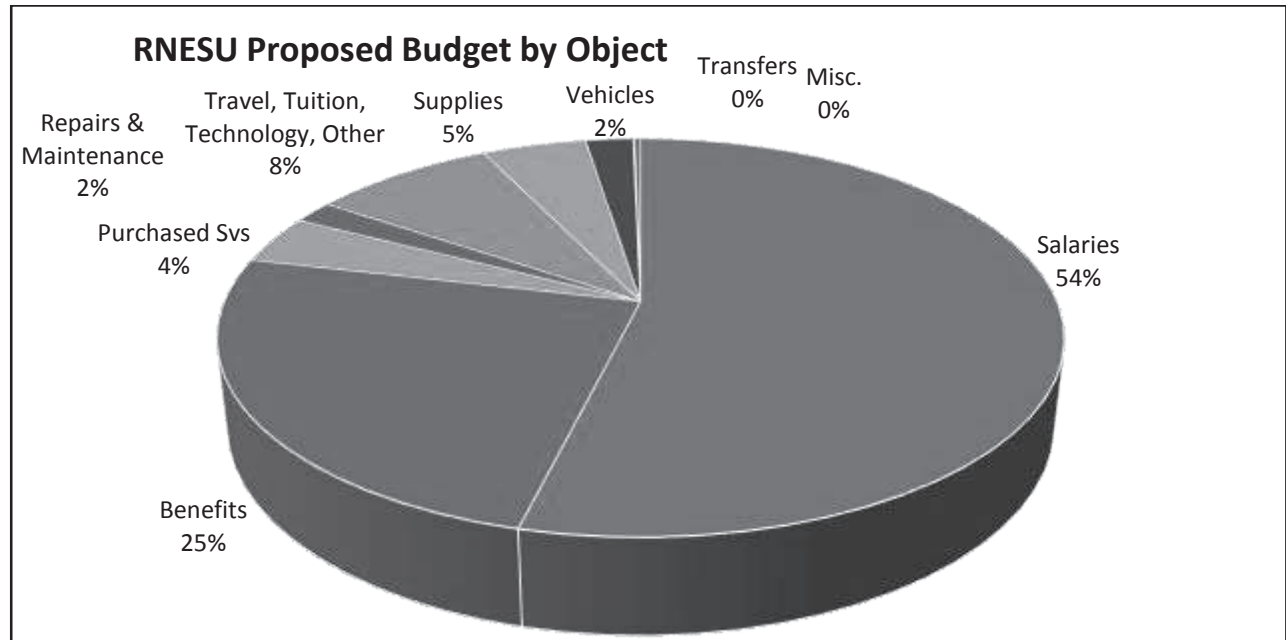
RNESU FY2023 Proposed Budgets

Special Education, Transportation, Central Office & Technology:
Assessments are included in member district budgets

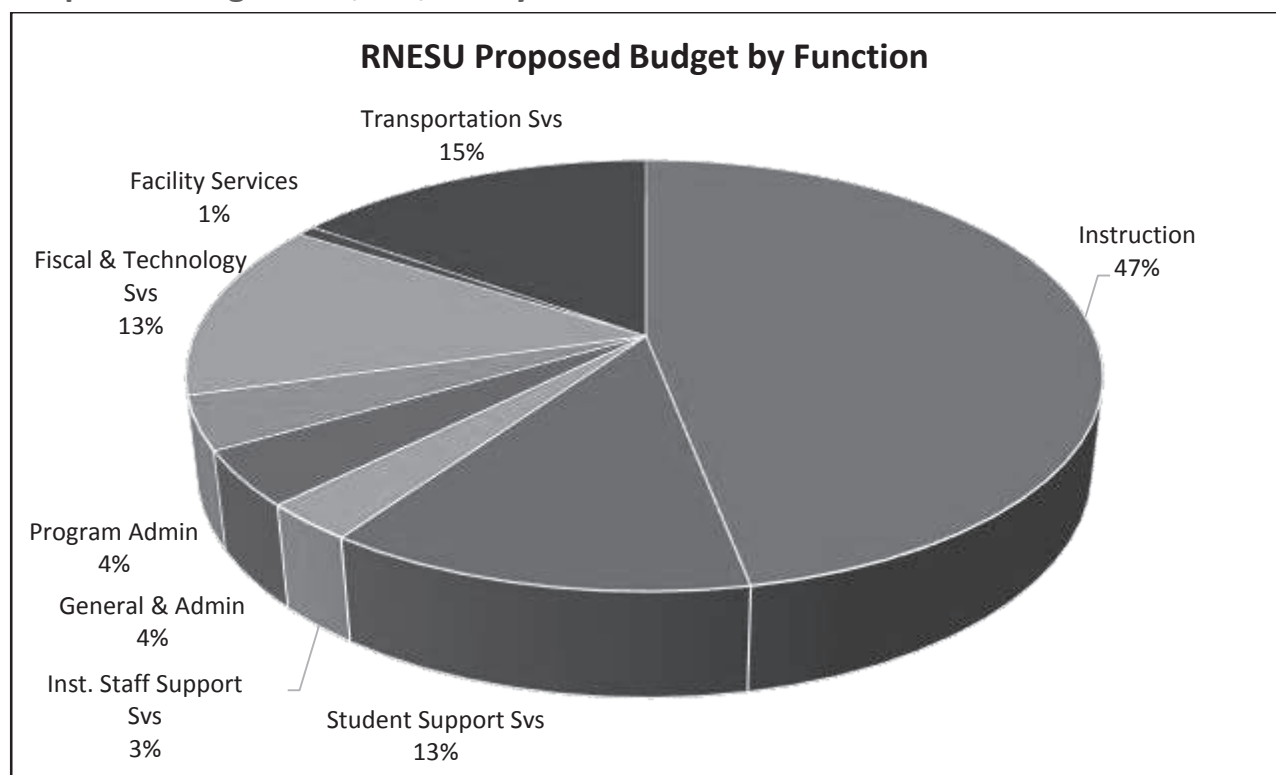
Proposed Budget \$10,733,367: expenditures, revenues and member assessments

	FY21 Actual Prior Year	FY22 Current Year Budget	FY23 Proposed Budget
Expenditures			
Direct Instruction	4,157,591	4,947,771	5,041,228
Student Support	1,143,842	1,308,364	1,362,931
Instructional Staff Support	217,918	232,704	304,309
General Admin	390,555	434,769	446,192
School/Program Admin	442,414	468,676	427,136
Fiscal & Technology Services	1,259,854	1,316,213	1,435,952
Facility Services	77,371	89,965	83,565
Transportation	1,420,550	1,647,165	1,632,054
Forest Receipts & Security Grant	22,865	0	0
<u>Grand Total Expenditures</u>	<u>9,132,960</u>	<u>10,445,627</u>	<u>10,733,367</u>
Less Revenues			
Local Revenue	81,253	603,452	718,671
State Special Ed & Transportation Reimbursements	3,618,716	4,226,048	3,793,812
Federal Grants	747,873	645,909	781,106
Other Revenue	8,132		0
<u>Subtotal Revenue</u>	<u>4,455,974</u>	<u>5,475,409</u>	<u>5,293,589</u>
<i>Net Assessments</i>		<i>4,970,218</i>	<i>5,439,778</i>
<i>Barstow UUSD</i>		826,366	910,064
<i>Otter Valley UUSD</i>		<u>4,143,852</u>	<u>4,529,714</u>
<i>Total Assessments</i>		<i>4,970,218</i>	<i>5,439,778</i>

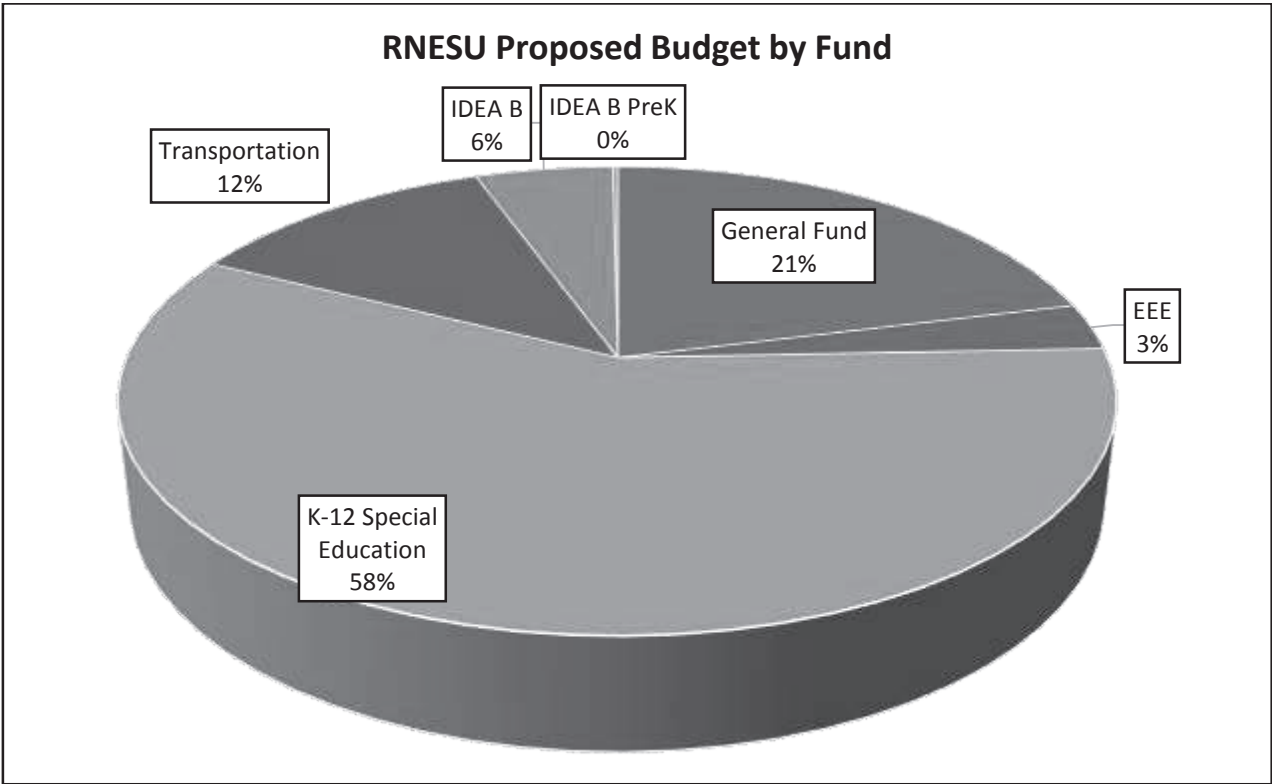
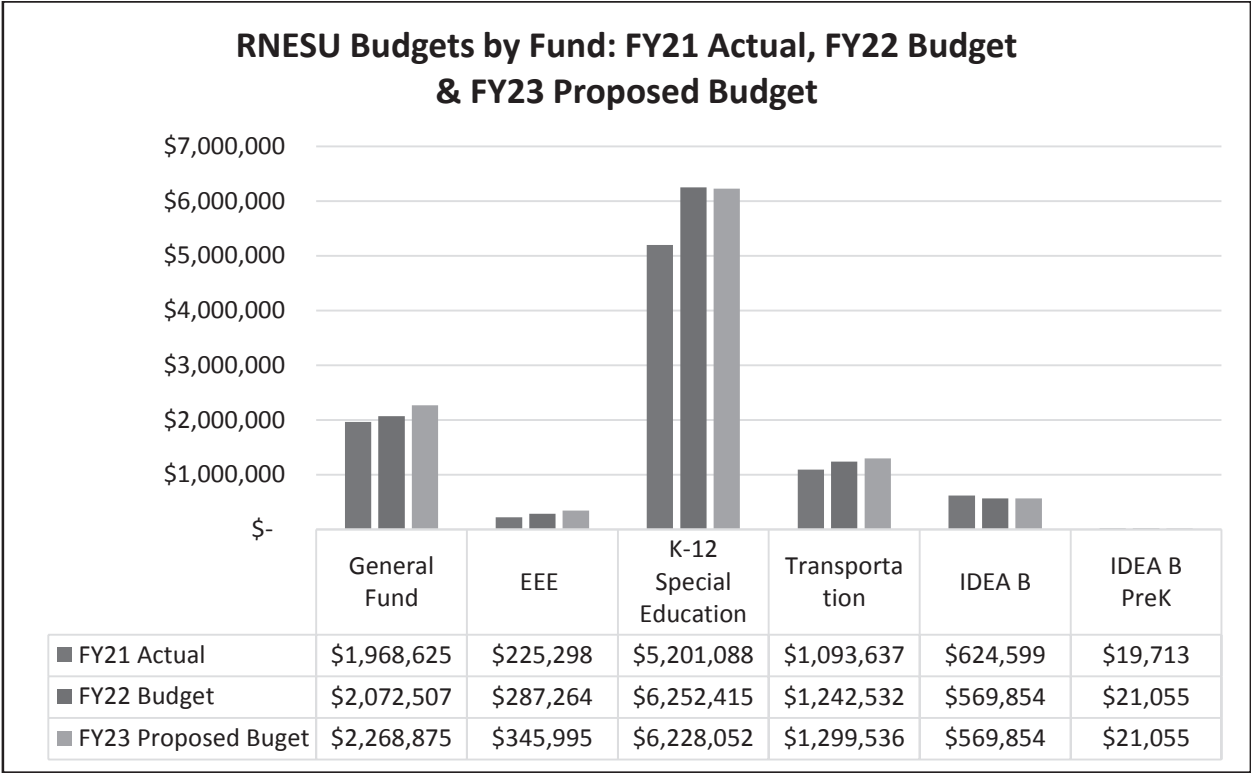
Proposed Budget: \$10,733,367 by Object – 79% of the budget is personnel



Proposed Budget: \$10,733,367 by Function



Proposed Budget: \$10,733,367 History & Proposed Budget by Fund



Budget Goal: Maintain and improve comprehensive equitable education opportunities within a reasonable cost.

Budget Facts: Proposed Budget increases \$287,740, or 2.70%

Salary and Benefits – across all units

- Salaries adjusted for retirement notifications and cost of living increases
- Health Insurance budgeted per state arbitration including 5.2% premium increase

Special Education

- No significant program changes, adjusts for graduating students, reallocates 1.0 FTE administrator to EEE coordinator, reduce HS special education coordinator to 50%, add 1.0 special educator to provide social emotional learning supports to OCA, reallocates 2.0 open para educator positions at Lothrop to 1.0 special education teacher
- Updates out of district tuition placement costs based on current placements plus 5% anticipated cost increase

Transportation:

- Reallocates elementary facility manager funds to create a combined facility/transportation manager including adding 1.0 FTE shared administrative assistant, saving \$30,500
- Replacing 3 buses to maintain a 10-year replacement schedule
- Vehicle maintenance budget is based on the last 3 year actual costs plus cost of living increases, resulting in a decrease of \$16,000
- Fuel prices budget based on current rate at \$3.25/gallon

District Wide Curriculum & Technology

- Change Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment to Assistant Superintendent of CIA
- Technology costs shift \$30,200 from district budgets to RNESU to support discretionary local preferred software applications
- Increase technology intern salaries by \$15,000 to adjust hourly rate and add more summer and vacation time
- Increase \$18,200 for software renewal projected increase averaging 12%. Note, new software for remote learning is funded with ESSER funds until 2024 then will be converted to general funds; current cost \$39,550
- Technology budget replacement chrome books/laptops/desktops & network infrastructure to standard hardware configuration without data capabilities

Board & Superintendent

- Includes board professional development resources of \$5,000
- No proposed staffing changes

Business Office

- No proposed staffing changes

FY2021 - Treasurer's Report General Fund & all Assessment Funds

	General Fund	All Assessment Funds Combined (including General Fund)
Fund Balance, July 1 st	\$81,135	\$565,745
Add: Revenues	\$1,878,628	\$8,822,227
Subtotal	<u>\$1,959,763</u>	<u>\$9,387,972</u>
Less: Expenditures	(\$1,968,625)	(\$8525,460)
Fund Balance, June 30th	<u>(\$8,862)</u>	<u>\$862,512</u>



Consolidated Federal Grant Program

The Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union was awarded \$1,113,720.81 in Consolidated Federal Grant funds for the 2021-2022 school year. This includes a carry forward amount of \$73,283.81 from prior years. The Consolidated Federal Grant Program includes the following areas:

- Title I, Part A - Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- Title II, Part A - Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals
- Title IV, Part A - Student Support and Academic Enrichment

This year one of our district's schools has a poverty level of 40% or higher and is eligible to operate as School-wide Programs. Two of our district's schools have poverty levels of 30% or higher and were granted waivers so they remain eligible to operate as School-wide Programs. By utilizing School-wide Programs we are allowed flexibility, with minor funding restrictions, to spend federal resources according to each school's Action Plan. Below is a list of CFP grant funded strategies. Funds are distributed based on child count.

SCHOOL-WIDE PROGRAMS:

Otter Creek Academy at Leicester

Literacy Interventionist (part time)

Instructional Coach*

Proficiency Based Learning Coach*

Lothrop

Two Interventionists

Instructional Coach*

Proficiency Based Learning Coach*

Neshobe

Three Math Interventionists (one full time, two part time)

Two Literacy Interventionists

Instructional Coach*

Proficiency Based Learning Coach*

STRATEGIES FUNDED WITHIN SPECIFIC FEDERAL TITLES:

Title I:

Parent Involvement Program

Homeless Program

Equitable Services**

Indirect Administration Fees

Title IV:

Equity and Engagement Coach

MTSS Coach

Tech Related Professional Development

Title II:

Brain Based Best Practices and MTSS Implementation

Instructional Coach*

Proficiency Based Learning Coach*

Indirect Administration

**Two Coaches – shared positions who work with teachers in all buildings*

*** Equitable Services - for students who live in-district and are attending out of district private schools*



PHONE DIRECTORY

General Information:

247-3635 ext. 201

Accounting:

247-3635 ext. 205

Assessor:

247-3635 ext. 214

E-911 Coordinator:

247-3635 ext. 217

Economic Development:

247-3635 ext. 213

Health Officer:

247-3635 ext. 217

Police Department:

Non-Emergency:

247-5723

Office:

247-0222

Public Works Department:

Director:

247-3635 ext. 210

Highway Garage:

247-3600

Sewer Plant:

247-6730

Transfer Station:

772-5224

Recreation Department:

247-3635 ext. 213

Rental Housing Officer:

247-3635 ext. 217

Town Clerk & Treasurer:

247-3635 ext. 203 & 204

Town Manager:

247-3635 ext. 210

Zoning Administrator

247-3635 ext. 202

Brandon Fire District #1

Water Department: 247-3311

Brandon Fire District #2

Forrestbrook: 247-4193

Brandon Area Chamber

of Commerce: 247-6401

Brandon Library: 247-8230

Neshobe School: 247-3721

Otter Valley UHS: 247-6833

RNESU: 247-5757

www.townofbrandon.com

MEETING SCHEDULES

Dates and locations may change. Some Boards and Committees are currently meeting by Zoom. It is a good idea to contact coordinator or check website to confirm.

SELECT BOARD

2nd and 4th Monday at 7:00 PM at the Brandon Town Hall

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearings are scheduled as applications are received. Check the website for time and location.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

1st Monday at 5:00 PM or as needed at the Brandon Town Hall

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st Monday at 6:00 PM or as needed at the Brandon Town Office

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BRAVO)

1st Monday at 6:00 PM at the Stephen Douglas House

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION BOARD

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 PM with alternating locations of the 1st meeting at the OVUU Schools and the 3rd meeting at the Otter Valley UHS Library

RNESU SCHOOL BOARD

3rd Wednesday at 5:15 PM at the OVUHS Library

HOURS OF OPERATION

BRANDON TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

TOWN CLERK'S

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Appointments required for researchers

The Town Office will be **closed** for the following holidays:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day
Presidents' Day
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Indigenous Peoples Day
Veterans' Day
Thanksgiving Day
Friday after Thanksgiving
Christmas Day

BRANDON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tuesday and Wednesday:

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday and Friday:

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PERMITS

BURN PERMIT

A permit is required for any outside burning. Only untreated wood products such as unpainted lumber, brush and leaves can be burned. To obtain a burn permit, please call Linwood Bovey at 236-4914 or Michael Markowski at 353-3227.

BUILDING & LAND USE

Please contact the Zoning Office to determine if a permit is required before you start any type of land use development on your property.

RENTAL HOUSING

Before a tenant moves into any rented unit, a landlord **must** obtain a Certificate of Occupancy. Owners of rental property must complete a compliance form for each unit every January. A \$25 per unit fee is due annually by January 31st.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FIRE DEPARTMENT

If you are interested in joining the Fire Department, applications are available at the Fire Station and can be picked up on Wednesdays between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

RESCUE SQUAD (BARS)

To volunteer please contact us at 247-3231.

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF *Brandon* VERMONT

49 Center Street
Brandon, VT 05733

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 9
BRANDON VT
05733



5
ways to
stay safe

-  Cover your face in public
-  Practice good hygiene
-  Monitor your health
-  Keep your distance
-  Stay informed

STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY, AND LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

www.TownofBrandon.com