

Please bring this report with you to

TOWN MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Community House

Note: The TOWN portion is first this year, followed by the SCHOOL portion.

Pre-Town Meeting Social

Come to the Community House any time after 6:30 p.m. for snacks, dessert, coffee and a chance to meet your neighbors prior to the meeting.

Call Barry King at 388-4082 for more information.

Town Meeting Child Care

At the Ripton Elementary School from 6:30 p.m. until the meeting ends.

Call the school at 388-2208 for more information.

Vote for town officers and other ballot items

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, March 3, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the town office.

VOTER INFORMATION

If you wish to participate at town meeting and/or vote and are not registered to vote in Ripton, you may register to vote by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 25.

If you wish to vote absentee, you may request an absentee ballot by 6:00 p.m. Monday, March 2. Early voting may be done at the town office. If you are unable to come to the office, you may request that Justices of the Peace deliver a ballot to you.

See the Warning for Town Meeting and a sample ballot later in this report.

WARNING
TOWN of RIPTON
ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Ripton Community House

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to meet at the Community House in Ripton on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. to transact the following business:

Article 1: Will the Town vote the sum of **\$577,000.00** to pay Road and General Fund expenses for July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016, and pay outstanding orders or obligations of the Town, with interest, the tax rate on the 2015 Grand List to be determined by the Selectboard, divided as follows:

Roads, including winter work	\$294,100.00
General Fund	\$282,900.00
Total	\$577,000.00

Article 2: Will the Town vote the sum of \$38,650.00 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to help pay Fire and First Response expenses for July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016?

Article 3: Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of Thursday, November 5, 2015?

Article 4: Will the Town vote to elect a Town Clerk for the term of one year as provided by 17 V.S.A. §2646 (2), said term to begin at Town Meeting, March 1, 2016?

Article 5: Will the Town vote to elect a Town Treasurer for the term of one year as provided by 17 V.S.A. §2646 (3), said term to begin at Town Meeting, March 1, 2016?

Article 6: Any other business proper to come before this meeting.

The Meeting will recess until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

**Polls in the Ripton Town Office will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2015
to vote the following articles by Australian Ballot:**

Article 1: To elect the following officers:

Town Moderator for a one-year term	Constable for a one-year term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a one-year term	Town Grand Juror for a one-year term
Town Agent for a one-year term	Lister for a three-year term
Agent to Convey Real Estate for a one-year term	Cemetery Commissioner for a five-year term
Selector for a three-year term	

Article 2: To approve or disapprove the following allocations from the General Fund.
The total amount is **\$16,832.84**.

Requested by	Amount
Addison Central Teens (ACT)	\$ 1,500.00
Addison County Court Diversion & Community Justice Projects	\$ 170.00
Addison County Home Health and Hospice	\$ 750.00
Addison County Parent/Child Center	\$ 600.00
Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR)	\$ 1,739.00
Champlain Valley Agency on Aging	\$ 750.00
Counseling Service of Addison County	\$ 1,400.00
Elderly Services	\$ 600.00
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00
Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE)	\$ 2,750.00
Homeward Bound - Addison County Humane Society	\$ 750.00
Hospice Volunteer Services	\$ 450.00
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	\$ 1,600.00
Open Door Clinic	\$750.00
Otter Creek Child Care Center	\$ 1,000.00
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District	\$ 48.84
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	\$ 375.00
Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 300.00
WomenSafe, Inc.	\$ 1,250.00
Total	\$16,832.84

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Laureen Cox

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt

Selectboard for the Town of Ripton
January 26, 2015

WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 2, 2015

The legal voters of the Ripton Town School District are hereby warned to meet at the Community House in said Ripton on Monday, March 2, 2015, at 7:30 P.M. to transact the following business:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize its Board of Directors, under 16 VSA 562 (9), to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the voters of the Town School District will approve the sum of **\$905,614** to defray current expenses of the Town School District for the ensuing school year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to transfer a sum not to exceed **\$37,000** from the Education Reserve Fund (balance of \$58,825) to the General Fund as revenue for the 2015-16 school year.

ARTICLE 4: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Upon completion of the transaction of the aforesaid business, or upon adjournment of the aforesaid meeting for any other purpose, said meeting shall be reconvened on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, in the Ripton Town Office for the following business of the Town School District by Australian Ballot.

Polls will be open 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 5: To elect a Moderator for the Town School District for a term of one year.

ARTICLE 6: To elect one School Director for the Town School District for a term of three years.

ARTICLE 7: To elect one School Director for the Town School District for a term of two years.

RIPTON SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Carol Ford, Chair

Bryan Alexander

Perry Hanson

Giles Hoyler

Laura Murphy McIntosh

ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT
MARCH 3, 2015

Instructions to voters: To vote for a person whose name is on the ballot, mark a cross (X) in the square to the right of that person's name. To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write the person's name on the blank line in the appropriate block.

<p>Moderator (Town & School) for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Tim Hanson-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in) -----<input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Constable for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Chris Smith-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in) -----<input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Selector for a 3 -year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Ronald Wimett-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Perry Hanson-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in) -----<input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Agent to Convey Real Estate for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>_____ (Write in)-----<input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Kathleen Sullivan-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)-----<input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Town Agent for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Chris Smith-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in) -----<input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Cemetery Commissioner for a 5-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Marlene Thompson-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in) -----<input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Grand Juror for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>_____ (Write in)-----<input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Lister for a 3-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Beth Eliason-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in) -----<input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>School Director for a 3-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Carol Ford-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)-----<input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>School Director for a 2-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Perry Hanson-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)-----<input type="checkbox"/></p>

TOWN OFFICE HOURS AND MEETING SCHEDULE

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 2 - 6 p.m., Tues.- Thurs: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m, and by appointment.

Phone: 388-2266 fax: 388-0012

E-mail: townoffice@riptonvt.org website: www.riptonvt.org

MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are open to the public—you are encouraged to attend and participate.

Selectboard: 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office

School Board: Times are posted at www.acsu.org/

Ripton Fire & First Response Department: 2nd Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. at the Fire Station

Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Adjustment/Historic District Commission:

2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office

Cemetery Commission: 1st Wednesday of the month

Conservation Commission: Times will be posted



Table of Contents

	Town Meeting Information.....	1
	Warning for Annual Town Meeting 2015.....	2
	Warning for Annual School Meeting 2015.....	4
	Sample Ballot	5
	Town Office Hours and Meeting Schedule.....	6
	Table of Contents.....	7
	Town Directory.....	8
TOWN SECTION	Selectboard Report 2014.....	10
	Selectboard Budget Narrative	11
	Road Commissioner Report.....	12
	Town Clerk and Treasurer Report	13
	Selectboard Budget Report	16
	Income.....	16
	Expenses	18
	Statement of Town Indebtedness	22
	Statement of Taxes for 2014.....	23
	Delinquent Tax Collector Report.....	24
	Board of Listers Report.....	25
	Zoning Administrator Report.....	28
	Summaries of Current Town Bylaws, Ordinances and Plans	29
	Cemetery Commission Report.....	30
	Volunteer Fire and First Response Report.....	32
	Planning Commission, ZBA, & Historic District Commission Report.....	34
	Energy Coordinator Report.....	34
	Conservation Commission Report	35
	List of Ripton Birds	36
	Recycling Report	37
	Ripton Community Coffee House Report.....	39
	2015 Funding Requests.....	40
	Addison County Solid Waste Management District Annual Report.....	42
	Green Mountain National Forest Report.....	43
	Vermont Department of Health Report for Ripton	46
	Minutes of Annual Town Meeting 2014.....	47
SCHOOL SECTION	Ripton Elementary School Board Report.....	51
	Principal's Report	52
	Faculty & Staff	53
	Pre-K-12 Enrollment	54
	Friends of the Ripton School	55
	Budget Narrative.....	56
	Proposed 2015-16 Budget.....	57
	Estimated Finance.....	62
	Fund Balance	63
	Combined Balance.....	65
	Three Years Prior Comparison	66
	Indebtedness Statement.....	67
	ACSU Report of the Superintendent.....	68
	ACSU Proposed 2014-15 Budget	69
	Estimated ASCU Assessments	71
	ACSU Special Education Proposed Budget.....	72
	UD#3 District Proposed 2015-16 Budget-Composite.....	73
	Minutes of Annual School Meeting 2014.....	74
	Town Map.....	Inside back cover

DIRECTORY

ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Ripton Elementary School	388-2208	
Ripton Town Office/Town Clerk	388-2266	townoffice@riptonvt.org
Fire Station (non-emergency)	388-4506	
Burn Permits: Erik Eriksen	388-3629	
Road Problems: Ron Wimett	388-7346	
Dog Problems: Chris Smith	388-0337	
Zoning Permits: Jonathan Heppell	388-2266	zoning@riptonvt.org
Cemetery Info: Bonnie Swan	388-6687	

2014 Elected Officials	Name (term expires)	Phone
Selectboard	Laureen Cox, Chair (17) Richard Collitt (16) Ronald Wimett (15)	388-7820
Town Clerk/Treasurer	Sally Hoyler (through Jan. 15, 2015)	388-2266
Ripton Elementary School Directors	Carol Ford, Chair (15), Perry Hanson (15) Bryan Alexander (16), Giles Hoyler (16) Laura Murphy McIntosh (17)	388-7804
Union School Director	Jerome Shedd (17)	
Justices of the Peace	Anza Armstrong (16) Richard "Kim" Kimler (16) Warren King (16) Perry Hanson (16) Tim Hanson (16)	388-3646 388-0083 388-4082 388-9977 388-2546
Board of Listers	Alison Joseph, Chair (17) Erik Eriksen (16) Beth Eliason (15)	
Cemetery Commission	Bonnie Swan, Sexton (19) Charles Billings, Chair (15) Lisa Knickerbocker (16) Elizabeth Walker (17) Cheryl Larocque (18)	388-6687
Town Moderator	Tim Hanson (15)	388-2266
Delinquent Tax Collector	Kathleen Sullivan (15)	388-3471
Constable	Chris Smith (15)	388-0337
Town Agent	Chris Smith (15)	388-0337
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Willem Jewett (15)	388-0320
Town Grand Juror	Richard "Kim" Kimler (15)	388-0083

STATE OFFICIALS			
State Representative	Willem Jewett	wjewett@leg.state.vt.us	802-828-2228
State Senator	Claire Ayer	cayer@leg.state.vt.us	802-828-2228
State Senator	Chris Bray	cbray@leg.state.vt.us	802-828-2228
Governor	Peter Shumlin	www.vermont.gov/governor	800-649-6825
Mail to: State House, 115 State Street, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633			

Town Officers: Appointed and Hired

Selectboard Administrator	Alison Joseph Dickinson	388-2266
Town Clerk/Treasurer	Alison Joseph Dickinson (appointed Jan. 26, 2015)	388-2266
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	Caroline Herzog	388-2266
Assistant Clerks	Paula Scott, Irene Poole	388-2266
Zoning Administrator	Ed Hanson (through May 2014) Jonathan Heppell (appointed June 2014)	388-2266
Road Commissioner	Ronald Wimett	388-7346
Animal Control Officer	Chris Smith	388-0337
Conservation Commission	Warren King, Chair (15) Mark Nelson, Becky Purdum (15) Barry King, Jay Harrington, Martha McCaughin (16) Ned Horning, Nola Kevra, Zapata Courage (17)	388-4082
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission and Historic District Commission	Warren King, Chair (17) Alison Joseph, Vice Chair (15) Jorene Doria, Secretary (17) George Phinney (17) Charles Billings (16)	388-4082
Zoning Board, Alternate Members	Marlene Harrison (16), James Kater (16) Leonard Tiedemann (16), Amy McGlashan (17)	
Health Officer	Tim Hanson	388-2266
Town Service Officer	Ceredwyn Alexander	388-7850
Emergency Management Coordinator	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Emergency Shelter Director	Mark Nelson	388-2857
Fire and First Response Chief	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Fire Wardens	Erik Eriksen Jay Harrington	388-3629 388-2882
Recycling Committee	Warren & Barry King, Mac Cox, Steve Zwicky	
Regional Planning Delegates	Jeremy Grip; Marty Kulczyk, alternate	
Regional Transportation Delegate	Steve Zwicky	
Solid Waste District Delegates	Steve Zwicky; Jay Harrington, alternate	
Addison County Transit Delegate	Susan Prager	
Town Energy Coordinator	Warren King	
Tree Warden	Freeman Allen	
Fence Viewer	Gary Whitman	
Weigher of Coal	Richard Collitt	
Inspector/Lumber, Shingles & Wood	Mac Cox	

Selectboard Report 2014

As the year 2014 came to a close, what was most significant was the absence of Town Clerk and Treasurer Sally Hoyler from the Town Office, due to her serious illness which brought about her passing early in the new year. Sally served the town for ten years in that position, and prior to that as an Assistant Clerk. She was an important part of our town and our community, as well as our town government. Saddened by her passing, we honor her years of service to us all.

A variety of more ordinary activities and events filled out the rest of the year, although some of real importance.

College: In July, the Board and Middlebury College came to terms on a new agreement regarding college-owned properties considered exempt from taxes. This resulted in a little over a 20% increase in the payment in lieu of taxes received by the town. In future years, this amount will change based on the percentage change in the tax rate. Additionally, the agreement includes ski lessons at no charge for Ripton Elementary School students at Rikert Nordic Center and the Snow Bowl.

Town Buildings: The Community House received attention this year, as the floors were refinished and the building's interior was repainted. Additionally, the hillside behind the town buildings was ditched to divert water away from the structures. Julie Allen, who has been handling Community House rentals during recent years resigned, and Chris Bullock agreed to take on this task in 2015. Several years ago the town sold the old town office, and held the mortgage on it. This was fully paid off in 2014. We are looking into purchasing and installing a generator that could support both the Town Office and the Community House during a major power outage, so they could remain functional -- particularly the Town Office -- during storms or other major disasters.

Sand Hill Bridge: While not a town project, this year did see the completion -- long awaited -- of the bridge on Route 125 in East Middlebury. The project was finished in less time than predicted, and overall everyone seemed to manage with the detours and lane closings. The Dugway and the North Branch Road received extra traffic as people often chose those routes during the construction. The bridge opening was celebrated on a rainy July day, and we can all appreciate the wider, safer bridge in our frequent travels up and down the mountain.

Cemeteries: The Ripton Cemetery Association dissolved in 2013. At the March 2014 Town Meeting voters approved accepting the assets of the Association and established a 5-member Cemetery Commission to oversee Town cemeteries. The commissioners worked hard this year organizing the commission and planning cemetery expansion. They negotiated a donation from Middlebury College for a 1.09 acre addition to the Galvin Cemetery on Route 125 adjacent to the Bread Loaf campus. In addition, the Hanson family is helping to expand the Cook Cemetery at the top of Robbins Crossroad. The town paid for the necessary surveying of these properties.

Dogs: State law requires that all dogs be vaccinated against rabies and be licensed by the town. Licenses must be paid for by the end of March, or the fee increases. When your dog gets its rabies shot, bring a copy of the certificate to the town office, and it will be on file for the next three years. If you have a certificate on file, you can either stop by or mail in your annual fee for the year's license.

Old Centre Turnpike: Addison County Regional Planning funded a study, which the town supported, to determine the legal status of the Old Town Road and the right-of-way for the Old Centre Turnpike. The result is that the town does still own that right-of-way. The Board designated the first few yards of that road,

including the Potash Bridge, as Class 4 and the remainder as a Trail, re-routing the trail portion to skirt property boundaries. This right-of-way could be important during a natural disaster, as it offers an additional way in and out of town, but will not be opened up for any regular use.

Fiscal Year Change: 2014 was Ripton's transition year from a Jan.-Dec. budget and tax year to one that will in the future run from July-June. This necessitated a one-time 18-month tax bill for municipal taxes. As we go forward, we will be back to the more typical 12-month amount. We thank everyone for working with us as this change takes effect.

Selectboard Budget Narrative

Financial Status: Because of the change in our fiscal year, there will not be a complete end-of-year report until next year's Town Report, which will cover the period from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. In addition, some figures may not be completely up-to-date at the time this report is written, due to the sudden death of Town Treasurer Sally Hoyler. However, we are able to assert that the combined fund balance as of the end of 2014 was \$295,277.17.

General Fund Expenses 2014: We are currently two-thirds of the way through the 18-month budget that was set at last March's Town Meeting. The amount voted for General Fund expenses was \$382,625.25; the actual amount spent to date is \$273,652.63. Overall, it appears that expenses are about as projected. The costs involved in the Community House painting and floor refinishing, plus the ditching behind town buildings did run over budget, although it appears that some other line items will end up less than anticipated when we finish out this fiscal year. Because of our completed negotiations with Middlebury College, our income is more than anticipated. The College's payment-in-lieu-of-taxes is split 50/50 between the general fund and the road fund.

Road Expenses 2014: The intense ice build-up that came with last winter's thaw/freeze patterns led to significantly higher costs for thawing culverts. The amount of sand, salt, clearing storm damage and overall winter work has been up for both winters covered by this budget. Summer maintenance costs ran lower than budgeted so far, primarily because a significant amount of work was financed by grants. Much of the maintenance and reconstruction work covered in this last budget is planned for spring and early summer.

Budgeted Expenses 2015-2016: We are not anticipating any major new initiatives during this next budget cycle. The amount for the Cemetery Commission will be increasing, as they prepare to expand in two locations. We budgeted to allow flexibility for staff changes and training. We will continue to maintain and upgrade facilities at the Community House with a new floor in the kitchen as well as refrigerator replacement. The Town Office entrance may be slightly reconfigured to better avoid ice and snow run-off.

Roads 2015-2016: We are increasing the amount needed for buying and trucking sand, as our winters (and perhaps our drivers' preferences) seem to be calling for a greater amount than used historically. We have substantially added to the amount designated for paving. This is an area that has been short-changed in recent years as we recovered from the costs incurred by flooding events. Additionally, the cost of paving has risen a fair amount, so less distance can be covered with the previous dollar amount. The compensation to our Road Commissioner has been increased for the first time in over 30 years.

Laureen Cox, Chair
Ronald Wimett
Richard Collitt
Selectboard for the Town of Ripton

Road Commissioner Report

Another year has passed and a lot has happened. With the spring of 2014 came wet then freezing temps. This caused many culverts to freeze and cause problems. Some culverts were thawed as many as eight times. Also, with this type of weather more sanding was needed. We hauled approximately 700 yards more sand than usual. The hauling was done by Champlain Construction. When the weather did allow, general maintenance was done.

With monies given to the town in 2012 by the USFS, we resurfaced a large portion of the Goshen Rd., from Silver Towers south to the Goshen town line, with gravel approximately 16' wide and 3" deep. We noticed disrepair when doing spring culvert cleaning and replaced two 3' x 50' culverts on the south end of Goshen Rd. The USFS monies paid for one replacement and a Better Back Roads grant was a big help for the second.

We also replaced a couple of other culverts in town. We were awarded a VTrans Structures grant to lengthen a 5' culvert near Baker Bridge and the intersection of Pearl Lee and Lincoln Roads. This was done because of narrowness and erosion problems. A section of guard rail was replaced because of a previous accident there.

While Lafayette, the guardrail contractor, was here they also repaired guardrail on Baker Bridge, Natural Turnpike, North Branch Road and Norton Farm Bridge.

Paving was done at two areas this year: one with budgeted funds on Maiden Lane and the other at the intersection of Natural Turnpike and Peddler's Bridge Road going up the hill. This section was funded by a portion of USFS funds.

The chloride tank we lease is working great. It allows us to apply chloride right after grading which is the best time. This not only helps with dust control but with water erosion as well.

The winters are getting wetter and colder, or is it just me? With that said we are using more sand and time to keep roads safe. The ice and snow damage that happened in December will cost thousands of dollars to clean up. Hopefully FEMA will come across with some assistance. I met with them and I am hopeful; it all depends on the federal government.

This year's budget was raised in a couple of areas. One increase is to paving and another to road commission cost. We raised the paving budget approximately \$15,000 to increase the distance covered and to try to get back to a schedule which will keep up with the disrepairs. The road commission increase from \$1,200 to \$3,600 per year is to defray cost of inspection of roads. This item has not changed in 24 years.

This summer a large portion of Natural Turnpike will be resurfaced with gravel using the remaining 2012 USFS monies. Ditching and culvert work will be done on portions of other roads with budgeted monies.

We have a Better Backroads grant to complete a road inventory and are updating information in the state culvert database.

Ronald Wimett, Road Commissioner

Town Clerk and Treasurer Reports

Sally Hoyler, whose service as town clerk and treasurer began Dec. 27, 2004, left the town office on medical leave in late November 2014 and passed away January 15, 2015. She is greatly missed.



Photo credit: Sally's sister, Susan Campagna, 2004.

With appreciation to Sally, for all her skills, work and dedication.

Sally's assistant clerk/treasurer, Carrie Herzog (appointed June 2014) and assistant clerk Paula Scott (appointed Dec. 2014) stepped in during Sally's absence and carried work to and from her home. Neither currently wishes to be town clerk or treasurer but both, thankfully, are continuing as assistants. Irene Poole who served as assistant clerk/treasurer from March 2013 - June 1, 2014 returned in January 2015 as an assistant clerk. Carrie, Paula, Irene, and Beth Eliason, of the Board of Listers, pitched in to keep the town office running and work done. Thank you to the tremendous team Sally helped assemble.

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns and the Office of the Secretary of State recommended that the clerk and treasurer terms that end March 1, 2016 be filled by appointment as soon as possible. At their Jan. 26th meeting, the selectboard appointed me, Alison Joseph Dickinson, to fill the vacated terms.

I have worked for the town in various roles since 1995, including assistant clerk/treasurer (1995 -2012). It is an honor to serve the town, and I hope to help us regroup and proceed. My goals are that at least two people know every required task and to implement standardized systems with training support. Many have offered to help; thank you. If you are interested in working or volunteering at the town office, please talk with me or others.

Town clerk work of 2014 is summarized as follows.

Land Records	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Property Transfers	34	31	18	26	44	24	18	18	26
# Pages Recorded	409	697	641	494	630	583	476	648	633

Vital Records	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Births	5	2	7	5	5	9	7	3	4
Marriages / Civil Marriages	1	2	2	4	2	3	5	9	10
Deaths	5	6	4	3	4	3	4	1	4

Elections: Three in 2014 - March town meeting, August primary, and November general - thank you to all who voted and helped at the polls. For information about voting and other election issues contact the town office, visit the town website at www.riptonvt.org or the Vermont Secretary of State's website at www.sec.state.vt.us.

Ripton Voter Participation

Town Meeting			State & Federal Elections		
Year	Total Voters	Voted	Election	Total Voters	Voted
			General 2014	458	245 (53%)
2014	456	135 (15%)	Primary 2014	455	69 (15%)
2013	460	143 (31%)	General 2012	472	337 (71%)
2012	450	153 (34%)	Primary 2012	454	96 (21%)
2011	447	116 (26%)	General 2010	451	291 (65%)
2010	446	125 (28%)	Primary 2010	447	167 (37%)
2009	433	137 (32%)	General 2008	444	355 (80%)
2008	424	269 (63%)	Primary 2008	431	48 (11%)
2007	424	172 (41%)	General 2006	453	316 (70%)
2006	450	110 (24%)	Primary 2006	428	92 (21%)
2005	436	107 (25%)	General 2004	444	332 (75%)
2004	405	152 (38%)	Primary 2004	438	87 (20%)

Dog Licenses: 114 dogs were licensed in 2014. **Please license your dog before April!** State law requires that dog owners license any dog over six months of age with the town clerk on or before April 1st every year. Fees are: \$8 for neutered/spayed dogs, \$12 for unneutered/unspayed dogs. Licenses issued after the deadline include a late fee. A copy of your dog's rabies vaccination certificate must be on file for a license to be issued. If your dog's rabies certification expires later in the year, get your license by April based on the current certification and send a copy of the new certificate when received. The law also requires the town clerk to give the selectboard a list of known unlicensed dogs as of May 30th of each year. Follow-up of unlicensed dogs takes an inordinate amount of time and expense. Again, please license your dog before April. It can be done by mail or by drop-off if the office is closed.

Treasurer: The treasurer serves as the collector of current taxes. Bills are due in early November, unless voted otherwise. Please notify us of address changes or additional addresses for payment. Partial payments are accepted anytime during the year. Payments must be received at the town office by the due date and time, either inside the office or deposited in the drop box outside the door. Payments mailed and postmarked with the due date are also accepted. After the due date, taxes are collected by the collector of delinquent taxes. See the *Statement of Taxes 2014* for tax collection figures.

Carrie Herzog has done the bulk of the treasurer work (town, school, FORS, and cemetery commission accounts) the last several months. Paula Scott, who is not a signer on the accounts, does the bank reconciliations. Many thanks.

Account Balances Dec. 31, 2014

Intermediate Account (includes General Fund, Roads and Cemetery Funds)	\$138,143.85
Checking	\$4,886.37
Major Projects Fund	\$133,511.55
Reappraisal Fund	\$14,714.10
Town Building Fund	\$14,643.61
Floods Escrow Account	\$4,021.30

In 2009 voters approved 3-year terms for the clerk and treasurer. This year the selectboard has included articles in the Town Meeting Warning to vote to return to 1-year terms in the next election for these offices, March 2016.

There is no auditor’s report this year because we are 12-months into an 18-month budget. The 2014-15 audit of the 18-month budget will be done after July 1, 2015 and reported in next year’s town report.

Alison Joseph Dickinson



Sally Hoyler assisting with river work, 2010.

Selectboard Budget Report

The town budget is divided between the Road budget and the General Fund. In addition, there are voted items for the Fire Department and funding requests, and an allocation for the Cemetery Commission paid via the General Fund. The Fire Department and Cemetery Commission present their budgets later in the report.

The budget pages show 3 columns.

- The first column is the 18-month budget voted in 2104 for the January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 transition from a calendar year budget to a July 1 fiscal year budget.
- The second column is what was received and spent as of Dec. 31, 2014. It does not accurately reflect a 12-month budget because some of the income, particularly tax and payment in lieu of tax (PILOT), was paid for the full 18 months by Dec. 31, 2014.
- The third column is the budget proposed for the 12 months beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

Additional budget reports are available upon request.

Selectboard Budget Report: Income

	Jan. 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
Road Fund Income	Budget	Actual	Budget
Account code & name			
4510 · Property Taxes - Roads	135,581.00	77,584.94	101,192.00
4010 · Delinquent Taxes	0.00	9,381.59	8,000.00
4520 · National Forest Payment	106,950.00	57,148.00	57,148.00
4550 · College Payment in Lieu of Tax	105,000.00	117,750.00	79,000.00
4580 · State Aid To Roads	72,000.00	48,135.95	48,200.00
4585 · Overweight Permit Fees	250.00	285.00	250.00
4590 · Interest on Major Project Fund	90.00	58.32	50.00
4610 · Road Comm Share of Insurance	260.00	0.00	260.00
4650 · Misc Roads Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,284.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Road Fund Income	420,131.00	311,627.80	294,100.00

Notes:

#4510 State and federal aid helped fund road work in 2014. Less aid is anticipated for 2015-16.

#4550 A new PILOT base rate of \$157,000 to be split between Roads and General Fund was set in 2014. The College paid 1.5 times that for 18 months. The half share for Roads is shown in the ACTUAL column (same in General Fund).

#4650 is reimbursement for guardrail damage repair.

Road Grant Income	Budget	Actual	Awarded/Due
4805 · VTrans Class 2 Road Grant	13,189.60	13,189.60	0.00
4810 · VTrans Structures Grant	0.00	0.00	11,985.30
4811 · Better Back Roads Grant	<u>11,600.00</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>11,600.00</u>
Total Road Grant Income	24,789.60	23,189.60	23,585.30

Notes:

#4805 Project completed in 2013 and reimbursed in 2014.

#4810 Project completed in 2014, to be reimbursed in 2015.

#4811 Projected completed in 2013 and completed in 2014, and a project completed 2014 to be reimbursed 2015.

	Jan. 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
General Fund Income	Budget	Actual	Budget
Account code & name			
4001 · Property Tax	157,093.00	222,164.27	123,527.00
4010 · Delinquent Tax	30,000.00	36,245.88	22,000.00
4020 · Delinquent Tax Fees	3,000.00	1,183.71	1,200.00
4030 · Delinquent Tax Interest	1,800.00	560.09	600.00
4040 · Delinquent Tax Legal Fees	500.00	0.00	500.00
4050 · College Payment in Lieu of Tax	105,000.00	117,750.00	79,000.00
4080 · State Current Land Use Payment	19,240.00	20,524.00	20,524.00
4110 · Recording Fees	9,700.00	4,960.00	5,000.00
4115 · Copier & Vault Time	1,100.00	1,449.40	1,400.00
4120 · Dog License Fees	1,500.00	950.00	950.00
4125 · Liquor License Fees	370.00	185.00	185.00
4130 · Zoning Permit Fees	3,500.00	1,285.00	1,200.00
4135 · Recycling Donations	4,500.00	2,573.57	1,000.00
4140 · Sheriff Fines	8,000.00	12,407.00	12,000.00
4145 · Miscellaneous Income	750.00	332.62	200.00
4150 · Interest on Savings	385.00	315.55	310.76
4155 · Interest on Reappraisal Fund	7.50	6.48	7.00
4160 · Interest on Town Bldgs Fund	6.00	6.74	6.00
4185 · Listers Education Fund	738.00	387.24	387.24
4195 · State Funds for Reappraisal	8,040.00	4,028.00	4,028.00
4210 · Rent Upstairs Town Office	3,600.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
4220 · Rent Community House	3,100.00	1,475.00	1,475.00
4230 · Old Office Mortgage (paid in full)	1,702.50	1,702.50	0.00
4255 · From Town Bldgs Fund	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
4256 · From Floods 08 Escrow (will spend in full)	4,020.00	0.00	0.00
4260 · Fire Dept Share of Insurance	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total General Fund Income	382,652.00	432,892.05	282,900.00
Plus amount to raise for RVFD request			38,650.00
Plus amount to raise for funding requests			16,833.00
Total General Fund & Voted Items Income			321,550.00

Selectboard Budget Report: Expenses

	Jan. 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
Road Fund Expenses	Budget	Actual	Budget
Winter Work			
7431 Buy/Screen Sand	28,000.00	14,104.30	26,000.00
7433 Truck Sand	16,500.00	15,010.00	16,000.00
7434 Salt	6,000.00	6,113.76	7,000.00
7435 Sanding Roads	45,000.00	32,223.25	33,000.00
7436 Plowing Roads	45,000.00	34,640.75	35,000.00
7437 Winter Storm Damage	3,000.00	4,687.50	5,000.00
7438 Miscellaneous Winter Work	2,000.00	1,967.50	2,000.00
7439 Culvert Thawing	2,000.00	7,340.00	4,000.00
7440 Gravel / Spring Thaw	7,000.00	3,899.32	4,000.00
Totals:	154,500.00	119,986.38	132,000.00
Summer Maintenance			
7401 Ditching	18,000.00	3,322.50	12,000.00
7402 Grading	19,000.00	12,325.00	14,000.00
7403 Chloride	12,500.00	5,350.00	7,000.00
7404 Sweeping Roads	9,000.00	3,675.00	4,000.00
7405 Culverts	8,000.00	2,069.02	4,000.00
7406 Guardrail	1,000.00	1,603.76	1,000.00
7409 Gravel	9,000.00	1,537.64	6,000.00
7410 Storm Damage	6,000.00	3,457.50	4,000.00
7412 Road Signs	3,000.00	105.00	1,000.00
7413 Miscellaneous Summer Work	1,500.00	905.00	1,000.00
7417 Cutting Brush	5,000.00	760.00	3,000.00
7420 Mowing Roadsides	6,000.00	2,992.50	3,000.00
7425 Road Commissioner	1,800.00	1,200.00	3,600.00
7427 Training	1,000.00	105.00	500.00
7429 Class 4 Road Work	5,000.00	2,637.50	4,000.00
Totals:	105,800.00	42,045.42	68,100.00
Summer Roadwork			
7450 Major Roadside Reconstruction	25,000.00	754.80	25,000.00
7460 Summer Gravel Project	25,000.00	11,531.53	20,000.00
7470 Resurfacing/Paving	26,000.00	25,040.85	40,000.00
7480 Right-of-Way Mowing	3,600.00	2,307.00	2,500.00
7500 Pay To Major Project Fund	9,750.00	0.00	6,500.00
Totals:	89,350.00	39,634.18	94,000.00
Total Road Fund Expense	349,650.00	201,665.98	294,100.00

Grants in Progress 2013-2015	Award Amount	Amount Spent	Balance
7650 VTrans Structures Grant TH1	11,985.30	10,817.36	1,167.94
7653 Title III USFS 32	44,135.40	22,818.49	21,316.91
7653 Title III USFS 59	29,721.00	15,940.14	13,780.86
7601 Better Back Rds Grant - Inventory	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
7601 Better Back Rds Grant - TH18	10,000.00	10,003.25	-3.25

Selectboard Budget Report: Expenses

		Jan. 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
General Fund Expenses - Officers		Budget	Actual	Budget
5010	Selectboard	2,925.00	1,950.00	1,950.00
5020	Selectboard Administrator	26,000.00	16,007.75	18,000.00
5030	Town Clerk	34,969.50	23,232.28	18,000.00
5040	Treasurer	23,313.00	15,509.36	12,000.00
5050	Assistant Town Clerk/Treas.	9,000.00	5,762.26	20,000.00
5060	Elections	1,800.00	486.25	500.00
5070	BCA Hearings	300.00	0.00	100.00
5080	Delinquent Tax Collector	3,000.00	4,204.67	3,000.00
5100	Listers	13,000.00	7,639.00	8,000.00
5150	Lister Training	1,500.00	1,073.00	1,000.00
5200	Planning Commission	1,950.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
5210	Zoning Administrator	6,000.00	1,549.28	3,000.00
5300	Dog Warden	600.00	0.00	400.00
5310	Other Officers	360.00	223.50	200.00
5350	Town Report preparation	4,400.00	2,349.29	0.00
5360	Officers Training	2,300.00	896.73	2,000.00
5365	Facilities	4,000.00	1,551.00	2,000.00
5370	Emergency Management Coord.	450.00	300.00	300.00
5400	Payroll Taxes	<u>12,000.00</u>	<u>6,029.60</u>	<u>7,000.00</u>
Totals:		147,867.50	90,063.97	98,750.00

Notes: #s 5020-5050 for 2015-16 are budgeted to allow for staff changes and training. Some work formerly done by the town clerk is done by the selectboard administrator. The asst. clerk/treasurer line is increased to train a second person to run the office, also website work is currently done under this line. Town report prep #5350 has been moved to these lines.

General Fund Expenses - Town Office				
5510	Office Supplies	1,500.00	715.86	1,000.00
5515	Office Equipment & Furnishing	500.00	196.66	400.00
5520	Photocopier	2,250.00	1,506.56	1,500.00
5530	Computer (including new software)	4,000.00	1,995.80	4,000.00
5540	Telephone	1,650.00	853.81	900.00
5550	Internet Service	1,254.00	627.00	650.00
5555	Website	405.00	289.95	400.00
5560	Postage	1,650.00	862.61	1,000.00
5570	Legal Notices	450.00	16.31	250.00
5580	Document Preservation	3,300.00	648.52	2,000.00
5590	State Share of Fees	790.00	669.00	700.00
5600	Lister Expenses	1,100.00	971.42	1,000.00
5610	Planning & Zoning Expenses	<u>2,300.00</u>	<u>680.24</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Totals:		21,149.00	10,033.74	15,300.00

Notes: #5610 2015 Town Plan revision (printing, advertising, maps).

		Jan. 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
General Fund Expenses - Insurance		Budget	Actual	Budget
5710	Clerk/Treas Health Insurance	8,922.00	6,360.42	0.00
5710	Employee benefits	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
5720	Property Insurance	25,000.00	15,926.25	16,000.00
5730	Workers' Compensation	<u>1,300.00</u>	<u>804.25</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Totals:		35,222.00	23,090.92	19,000.00

Note: # 5710 as of town report benefit requirements were not entirely known.

General Fund Expenses - Services and Miscellaneous Payments				
5810	Town Report Print & Mail	2,800.00	1,339.52	1,500.00
5820	Legal & Professional Services	14,000.00	9,983.75	10,000.00
5830	Audit	4,000.00	4,000.00	8,000.00
5840	Generator Maintenance	1,200.00	1,678.89	1,868.00
5850	Recycling	13,410.00	9,597.83	12,000.00
5860	Animal Damage	300.00	0.00	200.00
5870	Pay to Reappraisal Fund	4,028.00	0.00	4,000.00
5875	Pay to Cemetery Commission	2,250.00	2,250.00	10,000.00
5880	Miscellaneous Expense	<u>750.00</u>	<u>184.26</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Totals:		42,738.00	29,034.25	47,668.00

Note: #5830 18-month budget audit, officer change and advertising will increase costs.

General Fund Expenses - Buildings & Grounds				
6010	Fuel - Town Office	4,500.00	3,507.26	3,500.00
6020	Electricity - Town Office	1,200.00	788.38	800.00
6030	Maint. & Repairs - Town Office	7,500.00	4,103.91	8,000.00
6110	Fuel - Community House	7,500.00	6,052.91	6,000.00
6120	Electricity - Community House	1,800.00	1,018.12	1,000.00
6130	Maint. & Repairs - Comm House	27,500.00	23,368.66	10,000.00
6210	Pay to Town Buildings Fund	4,102.50	0.00	2,400.00
6250	Public Telephone	810.00	495.00	500.00
6260	Electricity - Street Lights	2,760.00	1,764.75	2,000.00
6270	Electricity - Town Shed	600.00	754.15	800.00
6275	Waste disposal	<u>600.00</u>	<u>387.47</u>	<u>400.00</u>
Totals:		58,872.50	42,240.61	35,400.00

		Jan. 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015	Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
General Fund Expenses - Contracts & Dues				
6610	VT League of Cities & Towns	1,512.00	1,512.00	1,604.00
6620	Regional Planning	687.96	687.96	712.00
6330	Addison County Sheriff	15,000.00	10,045.35	11,000.00
6640	County Tax	3,000.00	2,924.94	2,920.00
6650	Animal Holding Facility	800.00	400.00	400.00
6660	Tax Map Update	950.00	475.00	950.00
6370	Miscellaneous Dues	<u>200.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Totals:		22,149.96	16,105.25	17,686.00
General Fund Expenses - Repayment of Loans				
6510	Fire Station Loan	19,564.43	19,733.17	19,802.00
6515	Vermont Bond Bank	<u>35,088.86</u>	<u>35,088.86</u>	<u>29,294.00</u>
Totals:		54,653.29	54,822.03	49,096.00
Total General Fund		382,652.25	265,390.77	282,900.00

Voted Items				
6810	Ripton Fire Department	54,500.00	54,500.00	38,650.00
6815	Funding Requests	<u>15,730.84</u>	<u>15,730.84</u>	<u>16,832.84</u>
Totals:		70,230.84	70,230.84	55,482.84

Total General Fund & Voted Items	\$ 452,883.09	\$ 335,621.61	\$ 338,382.84
Total Road Fund	\$ 349,650.00	\$ 201,665.98	\$ 294,100.00
Total Road Fund, General Fund and Voted Items	\$ 802,533.09	\$ 537,287.59	\$ 632,482.84



Statement of Town Indebtedness

Short-term debt: No short-term debt was required in 2014. **Long-term debt:** The town continues to pay down long-term loans for the Fire Station and for 2008 flood expenses – detailed below.

Fire Station Loan 2006-2016

\$176,500.00 at 4.32% interest

	Payment Date	Principal	Interest	Payment Due	Payment Made
Loan Amount		\$176,500.00			
	5/22/07	\$17,650.00	\$7,624.80	\$25,274.80	\$24,815.22
Add'l Payment 2007	12/22/07	\$8,634.38	\$190.62	\$8,825.00	\$8,825.00
	12/22/08	\$17,650.00	\$6,489.31	\$24,139.31	\$24,235.58
	12/22/09	\$17,650.00	\$5,726.83	\$23,376.83	\$23,545.13
	12/22/10	\$17,650.00	\$4,964.35	\$22,614.35	\$22,781.00
	12/22/11	\$17,650.00	\$4,201.87	\$21,851.87	\$22,018.52
	12/22/12	\$17,650.00	\$3,439.39	\$21,089.39	\$21,258.40
	12/22/13	\$17,650.00	\$2,676.91	\$20,326.91	\$20,494.43
	12/22/14	\$17,650.00	\$1,914.43	\$19,564.43	\$19,733.17
	12/22/15	\$17,650.00	\$1,151.95	\$18,801.95	\$0.00
	5/22/16	\$9,015.62	\$389.47	\$9,405.09	\$0.00
	Totals	\$176,500.00	\$38,769.97	\$215,269.97	\$187,706.45

Vermont Bond Bank 2010-2019 (for 2008 flood expenses)

\$275,000 at net 3.047251% interest cost

	Payment Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Payment Due	Payment Made
Loan Amount	7/21/09	\$275,000.00				
	11/15/09		1.391%	\$2,605.02	\$2,605.02	
	5/15/10			\$3,606.95		
	11/15/10	\$30,000.00	1.391%	\$3,606.95	\$37,213.90	\$37,212.90
	5/15/11			\$3,398.32		
	11/15/11	\$30,000.00	1.691%	\$3,398.32	\$36,796.64	\$36,796.64
	5/15/12			\$3,144.69		
	11/15/12	\$30,000.00	1.801%	\$3,144.69	\$36,289.38	\$36,289.38
	5/15/13			\$2,874.56		
	11/15/13	\$30,000.00	2.201%	\$2,874.56	\$35,749.12	\$35,749.12
	5/15/14			\$2,544.43		
	11/15/14	\$30,000.00	2.651%	\$2,544.43	\$35,088.86	\$32,544.33
	5/15/15			\$2,146.80		
	11/15/15	\$25,000.00	2.931%	\$2,146.80	\$29,293.60	\$0.00
	5/15/16			\$1,780.44		
	11/15/16	\$25,000.00	3.201%	\$1,780.44	\$28,560.88	\$0.00
	5/15/17			\$1,380.33		
	11/15/17	\$25,000.00	3.491%	\$1,380.33	\$27,760.66	\$0.00
	5/15/18			\$943.97		
	11/15/18	\$25,000.00	3.691%	\$943.97	\$26,887.94	\$0.00
	5/15/19			\$482.61		
	11/15/19	\$25,000.00	3.861%	\$482.61	\$25,965.22	\$0.00
	Totals	\$275,000.00		\$47,211.22	\$322,211.22	\$178,592.37

Statement of Taxes for 2014

Property Tax Rates for 2014	
Municipal rate (muni)	0.5038
Education homestead rate (HS-ed)	1.7727
Education non-residential rate (NR-ed)	1.5376
Total homestead rate (muni + HS-ed)	2.2765
Total non-residential rate (muni + NR-ed)	2.0414

Tax Calculation Summary		Taxable Value (less exemptions*)
Grand list (total taxable value of town property)	\$68,594,700	\$62,704,700
Homestead grand list	\$38,610,800	\$36,716,600
Non-residential grand list	\$29,983,900	\$25,988,100
1% of homestead grand list (tax rates are multiplied against 1% of grand list)	\$367,166	
Homestead tax rate	2.2765	
Total Homestead Taxes	\$835,853	
1% of non-residential grand list (tax rates are multiplied against 1% of grand list)	\$259,881	
Non-residential tax rate	2.0414	
Total Non-Residential Taxes	\$530,521	
TOTAL TAXES (before credits applied)	\$1,366,374	
VT tax adjustments (credits to taxpayers from the state)	(\$156,620)	
TOTAL TAXES BILLED	\$1,209,754	
Taxes collected by Nov. due date	\$1,143,743	
Taxes not collected (turned over to the Delinquent Tax)	\$66,011	

*Exemptions include: current use program, locally voted exemption, veteran's exemption

Tax Breakdown			
Homestead Taxes	Tax Rate	\$ of Tax Bill	% of Tax Bill
Municipal property tax	0.5038	\$184,978	22%
Education property tax	1.7727	\$650,875	78%
Total	\$2.2765	\$835,853	
Non-Residential Taxes	Tax Rate	\$ of Tax Bill	% of Tax Bill
Municipal property tax	0.5038	\$130,928	25%
Education property tax	1.5376	\$399,593	75%
Total	\$2.0414	\$530,521	

Percent of taxes billed vs. taxes collected by the November due date									
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
% Collected	96.1	93.6	94.4	95.0	94.2	93.5	96.0	95.2	94.5

Delinquent Tax Collector Report

Summary Report for Taxes Owed December 31, 2014				
Tax Year	Tax	Penalty	Interest	Total Due
2011	\$969.32	\$77.54	\$368.22	\$1,415.08
2012	\$2,688.59	\$215.07	\$699.14	\$3,602.80
2013	\$4,064.32	\$325.13	\$454.24	\$4,843.69
2014	\$24,908.80	\$1,992.53	\$462.11	\$27,363.44
Total for all years				\$37,225.01

Delinquent Taxpayer List as of December 31, 2014

Due to a law regarding confidentiality and property taxes, we are advised to show only the total tax, penalty and interest due for all years for any single property.

Property Owner	Total Due
Lawrence Brodeur	\$5,810.93
Joseph Charest/Carolyn Malzac	\$1,433.29
Barbara Davis/Frederick Ramsburg	\$1,132.40
Mary Demars	\$211.43
Ginger Dowling/Lawrence Miller	\$937.55
Gordon Drummond	\$5,185.26
Malcolm & Barb Harding	\$889.12
Lisa Knickerbocker/Joseph Durante	\$1,299.85
Harris Larocque	\$2,510.99
David & Melissa Manning	\$2,535.14
Robert Moran	\$660.18
John Peck Sr & Jr	\$184.12
Ian, Brian, John Sr. Peck	\$1,687.75
Pamela Ryan	\$4,501.57
John Sidaway	\$5,319.68
Ronald Stevers	\$812.88
James Thompson	\$1,401.29
Eugene Warner, Jr.	\$711.58
Total tax, penalty, and interest due:	\$37,225.01

Board of Listers Report

Grand List: The value of 17 taxable properties changed, 11 up and 6 down. There was one grievance of the value of additions to a camp. Vermont education funding bills created several grand list categories and different tax rates for homestead and non-residential property. The municipal and education grand lists increased 0.49%. The homestead education grand list increased 0.55% and the non-residential education grand list increased 0.39%. The 411 form on a following page summarizes grand list data.

CLA and COD: The common level of appraisal (CLA) is the ratio of the grand list value to an “equalized” 100% value determined by a state study of property sales. As of Dec. 2014, **the CLA is 98.79%**, up slightly from 98.53% the previous year. The coefficient of dispersion (COD) is a measure of equity based on the same sales as the CLA. Percentages of 15% and less are considered good. The Dec. 2014 COD is 8.61%, up from 5.31% in 2013.

Sales Data and Property Transfers: Of 32 property transfers there were 22 between family members or to a trust, 1 sale to a neighbor, 1 foreclosure, and 8 other sales, with only a few valid for the next state equalization study. All Yankee Forest property, 719 acres, was sold to The Conservation Fund.

Current Use exemptions: There are 37 parcels and 3,389 acres in the Current Use Appraisal Program. Owners saved \$124,017.00 in municipal and education property tax. The town was reimbursed \$20,524.00 for municipal revenue loss. Enrollment information is available at: <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pvrcurrentuse.shtml>.

Statutory exemptions: In 2014 listers were required to identify the statute related to each exempt property and to state an insured or assessed property value. Ripton’s 25 exempt parcels (adjacent properties under the same ownership are merged for the parcel count) were valued at an estimated \$41,290,600.

Locally voted (contract) exemptions: Voters approved two local property tax exemptions. One is for a portion of the value of the Vermont Elks Silver Towers Camp. This will be re-voted in 2016. The second exempts \$40,000 of property value for disabled veterans and surviving spouses. Taxpayers pay the state education tax for these exemptions through the municipal tax rate.

Lister education: Beth Eliason attended a 2-day course and took part in several webinars. Alison Joseph attended two 1-day seminars and also completed webinars.

Homestead Declaration: Vermont requires residents to file a homestead declaration every year. Forms are at www.tax.vermont.gov. The declaration determines property tax adjustment credit for those with incomes below approximately \$109,000. It also assigns non-residential classification for portions of a homestead used for business or rental use. Beginning in 2015, owners whose homes are rented on April 1 may file a homestead declaration if they are residents for at least 183 days of the calendar year.

The most recent homestead property tax adjustment information we have is for tax year 2013, shown below.

Number of homesteads:	185
Number of adjustments:	117
Adjustment coverage:	63.2% (% of homesteads receiving adjustment)
Average education tax adjustment:	\$1,283.20

Those with incomes below \$47,000 receive adjustments for education *and* municipal tax, called a circuit breaker adjustment.

Number of circuit breaker recipients:	25
Average circuit breaker adjustment:	\$254.37

Board of Listers:
Alison Joseph, Beth Eliason, Erik Eriksen

***** Ripton 2014 Billed Grand List
 ***** Form 411 - (Town code: 522)
 Main District

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below)

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Non-Resi Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	113	18,874,200	14,816,800	4,057,400	18,874,200
Residential II R2	122	34,638,100	24,757,500	9,880,600	34,638,100
Mobile Homes-U MHU	1	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
Mobile Homes-L MHL	13	1,161,200	850,500	310,700	1,161,200
Seasonal I S1	18	998,600	0	998,600	998,600
Seasonal II S2	26	2,364,700	0	2,364,700	2,364,700
Commercial C	20	3,053,700	372,600	2,681,100	3,053,700
Commercial Apts CA	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E UE	1	1,000,800	0	1,000,800	1,000,800
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland W	17	3,245,500	0	3,245,500	3,245,500
Miscellaneous M	66	3,254,900	0	3,254,900	3,254,900
TOTAL LISTED REAL	397	68,594,700	40,797,400	27,797,300	68,594,700
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
TOTAL LISTED P.P.	0	0		0	0
TOTAL LISTED VALUE		68,594,700	40,797,400	27,797,300	68,594,700
EXEMPTIONS					
Veterans 10K	1/1	10,000	10,000	0	10,000
Veterans >10K		30,000			
Total Veterans		40,000	10,000	0	10,000
P.P. Contracts	0	0			
Contract Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv(voted)	1/1	267,100			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
Total Contracts	1/1	267,100	0	0	0
FarmStab Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Farm Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv(voted)	0/0	0			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
Total FarmStabContr	0/0	0	0	0	0
Current Use	37/37	5,878,700	1,882,900	3,995,800	5,878,700
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total Exemptions		6,185,800	1,892,900	3,995,800	5,888,700
Total Exemptions		6,185,800	1,892,900	3,995,800	5,888,700
TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST		624,089.00			
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST			389,045.00	238,015.00	627,060.00
NON-TAX					

25 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411

The table below shows 3 years of sales data, some of which is used to determine the CLA.

Location	Acres	Category	Seller	Month	Sale Price	Grand List Value
2014 Sales Data						
Natural Turnpike	433.0	M-land	Yankee Forest LLC	5/14	317,441	615,600
Pearl Lee Road	225.0	M-land	Yankee Forest LLC	5/14	184,504	357,800
Pearl Lee Road	51.0	M-land	Yankee Forest LLC	5/14	42,078	81,600
2207 Route 125	7.5	R2	Fannie Mae	5/14	269,000	375,300
443 Hemlock Lane	10.41	S	Smith	5/14	65,000	37,600
639 Robbins Crossroad	3.5	R1	Wilson	7/14	325,000	291,300
784 Eagles Nest Road	10.7	S	Long	7/14	225,000	133,400
1465 Pearl Lee Road	104.0	R1	Campbell	8/14	600,000	516,400
599 Selden Mill Road	19.1	R2	Mulholland	8/14	250,000	318,100
Lincoln Road	4.9	M-land	Brown	8/14	11,406	18,300
2207 Natural Turnpike	14.0	R2	Caputo	9/14	170,000	167,200
77 Old Town Road	10.4	R2	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	12/14	174,900	379,800
2013 Sales Data						
Natural Turnpike	11.3	M-land	Loether	1/13	54,000	51,100
North Branch & Barker	15.1	M-land	Midd. Coll.	2/13	50,000	63,000
North Branch Rd	11.7	M-land	Midd. Coll.	2/13	27,031	52,100
North Branch Rd	40.2	M-land	Midd. Coll.	2/13	92,969	96,000
643 Lincoln Rd	11.1	R2	Kloman	4/13	210,000	223,800
2074 Natural Turnpike	10.2	R2	Brooks	5/13	209,500	199,500
Route 125	5.5	M-land	Stahl	5/13	51,400	45,800
Dugway	2.7	M-land	Doyle	6/13	26,750	38,500
Lincoln Rd	4.8	M-land	Gleason	7/13	10,500	18,300
2124 Route 125	3.6	S1	Popp	8/13	60,000	58,100
224 Reichert Lane	11.6	R2	Lazarus	10/13	100,000	110,600
Natural Turnpike	10.2	M-land	Risch	10/13	62,500	46,900
66 Murray Lane	1.2	R-1	FHMA	12/13	104,000	118,200
552 Peddlers Bridge Rd	0.5	R-1	McCormick	12/13	169,900	150,100
2012 Sales Data						
1125 Route 125	3.11	M	Schley	1/12	50,000	49,300
2812 Natural Turnpike	5.00	R1	Stiffler	2/12	135,000	133,000
Reichert Lane	9.12	M-land	Tobia	2/12	60,000	55,300
1090 Peddlers Bridge Rd	7.30	R2	Gerow	5/12	255,000	291,100
924 North Branch Rd	7.05	R2	Chicoine	6/12	150,000	161,000
289 Elzira Winter Rd	15.18	R2	Dicianna	6/12	419,000	380,600
668 Chandler Hill Rd	30.60	S2	Laroche	6/12	166,500	160,900
718 Lincoln Rd	5.0	R1	Orvis	7/12	155,000	154,300
1233 Route 125	5.9	C	Pierce	9/12	490,000	458,600
84 Ira Dow Rd	10.2	R2	Dragon	10/12	180,000	210,000
Natural Turnpike	17.7	M-land	O'Connor	10/12	105,000	61,400
905 Peddlers Bridge Rd	24.8	R2	Biederman	11/12	350,000	393,200

Key:

- Location: street address. If there is no street number, there is no building.
- Category: M: miscellaneous, MH: mobile home, R: residential, S: seasonal. Letters followed by 1 contain less than six acres; letters followed by 2 have six or more acres.
- Grand List Value: the property value in the town grand list as of April 1 of that year.

Zoning Administrator Report

SUMMARY OF 2014 PERMIT ACTIVITY

New dwellings

<i>Permanent/seasonal houses</i>	1
<i>Camps</i>	0
<i>Apartments/accessory dwellings</i>	1
<i>Mobile homes</i>	0
<i>Replacements</i>	2
<i>Renovations/additions</i>	8
<i>Accessory outbuildings/structures</i>	5
<i>Exempt agricultural outbuildings</i>	0
<i>Access drives/roads/work in right-of-way</i>	0
<i>Ponds/dams/other land development</i>	1
<i>Renewable resource uses (wind turbines, solar panels)</i>	0
<i>Temporary uses</i>	0
<i>Signs</i>	0
<i>Subdivisions</i>	
<i>Single-lot</i>	0
<i>Multiple lot</i>	2
<i>Boundary adjustments</i>	0
<i>Planned unit developments (PUDs)</i>	0

<i>Renewals of permit</i>	1
<i>Conditional uses</i>	1
<i>Certificates of occupancy</i>	9
<i>Verifications of compliance</i>	5
<i>Notices of Violation</i>	0
<i>Hearing applications</i>	
<i>Zoning Board of Adjustment</i>	
<i>Conditional use</i>	1
<i>Site Plan Reviews</i>	2
<i>Variances/Waivers</i>	0
<i>Appeals</i>	0
<i>Planning Commission</i>	
<i>Subdivisions/PUDs</i>	2
<i>Site plan reviews</i>	1
<i>Historic District Commission</i>	
<i>Historic District developments</i>	2

This was a transitional year for the office of Zoning Administrator. E.W. Hanson served to the end of his contract in April 2014. Prior to my taking the position, the work of Zoning Administrator was undertaken by Warren King and Richard Collitt. This report is drawn from information provided by all four Administrators/Acting Administrators.

Twenty-seven zoning applications were filed, received and processed, including two applications to be heard by the Historic District Commission and two minor subdivisions. Five letters of zoning compliance were issued, as were nine certificates of occupancy.

From the figures in my possession, it appears that the application fees charged by the town resulted in \$1,655 in income. This Zoning Administrator accrued just under twenty-six and three quarters hours time (billed and unbilled), resulting in direct administrative costs of \$534.40.¹

The direct administrative costs do not include costs incurred to warn and convene hearings before the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Historic District Commission, printing and copying costs incurred directly by the Town, and the cost of retaining legal counsel (and/or pursuing litigation). For a complete summary of the Town’s officially-posted zoning administration costs, please refer to the Treasurer’s Report on the General Fund in the Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan C. Heppell, Zoning Officer

¹ Any and all billing data pertaining to any of the other three persons who fulfilled the role of Zoning Administrator is not in my possession, and not reflected in this report.

Summaries of Current Town Bylaws, Ordinances and Plans

Regulations related to zoning, subdivision, flood and fluvial erosion hazard

- Ripton's first zoning bylaw was adopted in 1989.
- Town of Ripton Unified Development Bylaw (UDB) was adopted March 2013. This bylaw combined zoning, subdivision and flood and erosion hazard regulations and bylaws into a single document.
- Zoning and wastewater permits are required prior to any land development or change of use. (Wastewater permits must be applied for from the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.)

Regulations related to roads and trails

- Special Regulations Governing Obstructions to Highways: Effective October 1973. Regulates the construction of driveways that join town roads. Access/Driveway permits are required before altering or building a driveway which connects to a town road.
- Speed Ordinance: Effective December 1989. Sets a 35 mph speed limit on all town roads.
- Speed Ordinance: Effective January 1999. The town's speed limit for Route 125 is identical to the speed limit set by the state.
- Trails Ordinance: Effective November 2004. Regulates the use of town trails for the general good of the town.
- Stop Sign Ordinance: Effective November 2009. Regulates the operation and use of motor vehicles at intersections controlled by stop signs.
- School Zone Ordinance: Effective April 2012, amended 2013. Establishes a school zone for Ripton Elementary School with a reduced speed limit of 25 mph.

Other Ordinances

- Open Container Ordinance: Effective February 1988. Regulates alcohol consumption in public places.
- Dog Ordinance: Effective November 1993. Dogs running loose and causing a nuisance may be controlled by the town.
- Junk Ordinance: Effective July 2005, revised 2006. Regulates the outdoor storage of junk and junk vehicles.

Plans

- Town Plan: Adopted October 2010.
- All Hazards Mitigation Plan: Adopted August 2012, approved March 2013.
- Basic Emergency Operations Plan: Adopted April 2012.
- Local Emergency Operations Plan: Adopted April 2014.

Ripton Cemetery Commission Report

On October 10, 2013 the Ripton Cemetery Association voted to dissolve the Association and to transfer its assets to the Town. Following this vote, the Selectboard agreed that the Town vote to accept the Association's assets and establish a cemetery commission to administer Ripton's public cemeteries. At the March 2014 Town Meeting voters approved accepting the assets and establishing a 5-member Cemetery Commission. The following people were elected by Australian ballot to serve on the Cemetery Commission: Charles Billings, Cheryl Larocque, Lisa Knickerbocker, Bonnie Swan, and Elizabeth Walker.

At the first meeting in April 2014 the Commission members selected Charles Billings as Chairperson, Bonnie Swan to be Cemetery Sexton, and Elizabeth Walker as Secretary. The Town Treasurer, while not a Commission member, acts as Treasurer for the Commission. The members established that regular meetings will be held every first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Office.

Since April, the Commission has created a vision statement, defined the obligations of the Commission and the Cemetery Sexton, established policies and standards for the cemeteries, and reformed the old cemetery deed. The new cemetery guidelines have been adopted and officially recorded as the *Rules and Regulations for Ripton's Public Cemeteries*. Likewise, a *Certificate of Burial Rights*, which describes a person's rights of burial and privileges of perpetual care more accurately than a deed, was approved. Both documents may be obtained at the town office or from Bonnie Swan, Cemetery Sexton.

Ripton's diminishing cemetery burial space has been recognized for some time, and the Commission has taken steps to address this. This year the Commission approached property owners adjacent to Galvin and Cook Cemeteries about land donations.

Middlebury College agreed to donate about 1 acre of land adjacent to Galvin Cemetery if the Town would provide a survey and deed for same. At the time of this report, permits are approved, the survey is recorded and the deed signed by the College.

Cook Cemetery is the only other active cemetery in Ripton. While it still has some burial spaces, these are not sufficient to sustain the long term needs of Ripton's residents and other persons eligible to be buried there. The Commission was fortunate to have the Hanson family agree to provide some of their adjacent land for more burial space at Cook Cemetery. As of this report a survey of the existing cemetery boundaries and the land to be donated by the Perry and Timothy Hanson families is being completed by Short Surveying. Following the receipt of that survey, the Town will have its attorney prepare a contract to receive the Hanson donation. Following a boundary adjustment hearing by the Planning Commission, a transfer of land from the Hanson Family to the Town will be in order. Short Surveying will also provide a State-mandated survey to identify lots that can be sold in the existing northeastern part of Cook Cemetery.

The Cemetery Commission has an ongoing responsibility to maintain the cemetery grounds and to restore some of the infrastructure. While maintenance of gravestones/monuments is generally the responsibility of the lots' owner(s), the Commission feels a responsibility to preserve historic parts of the cemeteries, and the overall appearance and safety of the cemetery. To initiate this work the Commission has requested funds and hopes to start work to put the worst cases of foundation and monument failure into upright positions.

Charles Billings, Chairperson

Ripton Cemetery Commission Budget Proposal for July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Assets:

Funds on Account—Old Cemetery Association:	
Bank Balance Before Expenses	\$7,721
Short Surveying Retainer for Cook Lot Survey	-\$825
Balance Due Short Surveying for Cook Lot Survey	-\$1,650
Town Allocation:	
Requested funding from Town's General Fund	\$10,000
Income & Donations(18 Months):	
Estimated sale of Lots using new cost schedule	\$500
Fundraising campaign for funds to help with monument restoration	\$1,600
Estimated Total Cemetery Assets for 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016-	= \$17,346

Estimated Expenditures (18 Months):

Compensation:	
Sexton's Salary (Base rate = \$1000/year; Work not defined by responsibilities = \$2	\$1,000
Cemetery Commissioners Stipends	\$1,300
Maintenance, Restoration & Preparation of New Cemetery Lands:	
Cemetery Mowing to include field at Galvin	\$2,000
New fences for Galvin & Cook	deferred
Begin putting toppled monuments upright and on proper foundations (seek donatio	\$2,000
Estimated Costs Associated with New Cemetery Lands:	
Phelps site design mapping for donated land at Galvin, No Act 250 work	\$8,425
Start Site development at Galvin	\$2,500
Phelps site design mapping for donated land at Cook, No Act 250 work	deferred
Site development at Cook	deferred
Miscellaneous	\$121
Total Estimated 7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016 Ripton Cemetery Expenditures =	\$17,346
Balance =	\$0

Cemetery Commission Budget Report December 31, 2014

Income

Town payment from General Fund	2,250.00
Assets of Cemetery Association	<u>7,426.31</u>
Total =	9,676.31

Expenses

Survey	825.00
Mowing	1,300.00
Total	2,125.00
Balance =	7,551.31

Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department Report

This past year we had an amazing amount of training hours, both for fire and medical. Our medical officer (Ceredwyn) firmly believes that all fire fighters should be able to do advanced first aid and emergency first response, not just for Ripton but for all departments. We train often on everything so that at 0300 hours everything comes together naturally.

Our pump operators are now familiar with both pumps, the top mount and side mount, and most are comfortable with either. All vehicles have had the engine fluids checked along with filters, batteries and proper tire inflation. The pumps on each pumper are serviced and tested yearly.

Remember to change batteries in smoke alarms and CO2 detectors twice a year, burn only dry wood, have chimney inspected annually and have DNR, etc. up to date.

We appreciate the support you give us, thank you.

Erik Eriksen, Chief

Activity Report	Hours
Total emergency or assistance calls: 47	
Medical calls: 26	388.75
Fire calls: 21	183.75
Medical training	784
Fire training	843
Meetings	167.25
Community Service	410
Total hours (administrative activities such as paperwork, purchasing, not included)	2,776.75
Total dollar value of volunteer hours (estimated @ \$18.00 hour)	\$49,981.50

Officers: Chief: Erik Eriksen
Assistant Chief: Jay Harrington (F)
Captains: Ceredwyn Alexander (EMT), Ross Elliott (F), Will Mathis (F)
Lieutenant: Alison Joseph

Roster: Ceredwyn Alexander, Justin Allen (Salisbury), Jake Coddington, Ron Dragon, Ross Elliott, Erik Eriksen, Dorothy Gelinias (dispatch), Erica Godin, Jay Harrington, Alison Joseph (admin), Marty Kulczyk, Will Mathis, Emily Millard, Mark Nelson, Reid Peck (Weybridge), Chris Pike, Ed Sullivan
Seasonal Members: Gwynneth Alexander, Sophie McKibben

Executive Board: Chuck Martin, Michael Seligmann.

RVFD/TOWN PICNIC – LAST SATURDAY IN JULY – THIS YEAR JULY 25, 2015 NOON

Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department

2014 Vehicle & Major Equipment Inventory	
Pumper. 1986. KME/International	Ladders. 1-roof, 2-24', 1-8', 1-attic
Tanker. 2005. Freightliner	Chainsaw. Jonsered
Pumper. 1989. FMC with Hale pump	Fan, positive pressure. SuperVac Fan, ventilation. GE
First-Response ambulance. 1998. Ford	Thermal Imaging Camera. Cairns Viper
Pump, portable. Hale HPX400	CO monitors – 2
Pump, portable. Hale HP300	Multi-gas Detector & calibration kit. Orion
Portable pond. 1,000 gallon	Air pump. Porter Cable
Portable pond. 2,000 gallon	Compressor. Porter Cable, 3 hp
Generator & light, portable. Honda	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 500 (2)
Generator, station. Honda	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 1000 (2)
Generator, portable. Generac	Defibrillator. Laerdal Heartstart

Account Balances December 31, 2014	
Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$26,045.99
Checking	\$3,872.95
Savings	\$33,201.98
	Total \$63,120.92

RVFD Budget Report	Jan.1, 2014- June 30, 2015	Jan. 1, 2014 - Dec 31, 2014	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
	18 months	12 months	12 months
INCOME			
Donations	1,540.00	3,111.00	3,000.00
Interest	20.00	10.27	10.00
Town Payment	<u>54,500.00</u>	<u>54,500.00</u>	<u>35,640.00</u>
TOTAL	56,060.00	57,621.27	38,650.00
EXPENSES			
Community Services	75.00	15.00	50.00
Gear/Tools/Equipment	15,000.00	4,095.84	7,000.00
Vehicle Repair/Maintenance/Fuel	6,000.00	6,460.12	8,000.00
Administration/Insurance/Dues	8,000.00	2,073.28	4,000.00
Training	4,400.00	1,750.12	3,000.00
Dispatch	3,000.00	2,177.78	2,400.00
Computer & Internet	1,500.00	999.99	1,000.00
Telephone	1,500.00	989.11	1,000.00
Electricity	2,000.00	1,122.08	1,200.00
Heat	4,000.00	4,039.14	4,200.00
Furnishing & Equipment	400.00	425.19	400.00
Maintenance & Supplies	300.00	111.59	150.00
Plowing	1,500.00	750.00	750.00
Vehicle Replacement Fund	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Deficit 2013	<u>2,885.00</u>	<u>2,885.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	56,060.00	33,394.04	38,650.00

Ripton Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Historic District Commission Report

The Planning Commission provides land use planning for the Town. The Zoning Board of Adjustment rules on applications for variances from the Unified Development Bylaw, considers conditional and non-conforming use applications, and serves as an appeal body for decisions by the Zoning Administrator. The Historic District Commission provides guidance on external changes to properties in the Historic District. The Town Plan, Unified Development Bylaw, and State statutes guide the decisions of these commissions.

The Planning Commission conducted a search for a replacement Zoning Administrator. The Ripton Selectboard appointed Jonathan Heppell to a three-year term in June 2014.

In 2014 the Planning Commission held a preliminary hearing on a 2-lot subdivision of a parcel on Lincoln Road. The Planning Commission and Historic District Commission held a joint hearing for a site plan review and Historic District Permit for modifications to a structure in the Historic District. The Zoning Board of Adjustment gave final conditional use approval for an accessory dwelling on Chandler Hill Road following a hearing begun in 2013 that was continued eight times, and gave conditional use approval for a solar kiln, also on Chandler Hill Road.

The Planning Commission continued work on the five-year revision of the Town Plan begun in December 2013. The revision is scheduled for completion by October 2015.

Warren King, Chair

Energy Coordinator Report

Elementary School Solar Panels

In November 2014, on the anniversary of the first year of solar energy from the Elementary School 198-panel 50 kw photovoltaic system, the array had produced 54.1 MWh. This compares quite favorably with the 55 MWh projected by Addison Renewable Energy, llc., the company that designed and installed the system, especially in view of the fact that sunshine for the period was significantly less than the annual average. The array made 75 percent of the energy used by the school in that period. The system is running smoothly. Visit https://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/pv/public_systems/pc66270212 to see how the system is functioning on any day or month.

REAP

The Ripton Energy Assistance Program provides firewood or payments for fuel oil, kerosene or propane for households that qualify under criteria provided by HOPE. During the winter of 2013-2014 REAP filled 5 requests for firewood and 1 request for propane. REAP's woodshed, completed in November 2012 beside the Ripton Fire Station, provides dry wood when needed to qualified residents. In January, 19 residents cut, split and stacked 3 cords for the REAP woodshed. In December, 18 residents cut, split and stacked 3 cords for the HOPE woodshed in Middlebury in exchange for funds added to REAP's earmarked account with HOPE to provide oil, kerosene or propane for Ripton residents. Call Mac Cox at 388-7820 if you know of someone in need of firewood or help paying for fuel oil, kerosene or propane.

Warren King

Ripton Conservation Commission Report

CCC Camp: On 23 May, the Conservation Commission joined the Planning Commission and the Historical Society on a visit to the Ripton Civilian Conservation Corps camp on the Natural Turnpike. Accompanying the 14 residents was David Lacy, Green Mountain National Forest archeologist. Construction of the CCC camp took place in the summer of 1935. The camp was intended to house 200 men to work on a variety of construction projects in the National Forest. Aside from an initial 20-man construction crew, the site was never utilized. Remains include two massive chimneys, several large cement platforms, a cellar hole and other signs of intended use.

Ripton Bird Walk: On 24 May the Conservation Commission offered a bird walk to Ripton residents led by Becky Purdum and Warren and Barry King. The walk took place at the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail on Route 125. Fifteen residents attended. Birds identified included Alder Flycatcher, Ovenbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Red-winged Blackbird, Red-eyed Vireo and Grey Catbird.

Natural Turnpike Chervil Pull: On 23 June the Green Mountain National Forest engaged a Vermont Conservation Corps team to pull an invasive chervil population along the Natural Turnpike. The team worked a half day, pulling all chervil plants from the triangle that separates Steam Mill Road from the Natural Turnpike to Spruce Lodge in South Lincoln, protecting an important roadside Jacob's ladder population, threatened in Vermont, from being overrun by chervil. This project, begun in 2008, has had regular participation of the Conservation Commission. This year, however, timing prevented our participation. The chervil population has been sharply controlled since the project began and is now restricted to a few small sites along the Natural Turnpike.

Abbey Pond Hike: On 19 July the Conservation Commission hiked to Abbey Pond from the end of Dragon Brook Road. Abbey Pond formerly held breeding Great Blue Herons and provides habitat for two Jacob's ladder sites. The four Conservation Commission members documented the current population of one of the sites.

Letter to USFS Green Mountain National Forest on a Green Mountain Power Special Use Permit: On 5 August the Conservation Commission submitted comments on the proposed North Green Mountain Power Special Use Permit, which proposes two changes in Ripton. The first would result in installation of a new power line along the Lincoln Road to provide GMP power to a house in Ripton formerly off the grid. The line would run near a Jacob's ladder site, but not near enough to pose a threat to the site. The second would reroute a portion of the existing power line on the south side of Route 125 that includes the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail parking area with an underground line on the north side of Route 125, under the Robert Frost Wayside parking area.

Participation in Preparation of Town Plan: In response to the Ripton Planning Commission's request to participate in the process of revising the Town Plan, the Conservation Commission met in March, April, May, August and December to draft the portion of the Plan that deals with natural resources. This work will continue in 2015.

Warren King, Chair

LIST OF RIPTON BIRDS
Birds sighted in Ripton since 1991

Canada Goose	Eastern Wood Pewee	American Redstart
Snow Goose	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Cape May Warbler ²
Wood Duck	Alder Flycatcher	Northern Parula
American Black Duck	Least Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler
Mallard	Eastern Phoebe	Bay-breasted Warbler ²
Blue-winged Teal ²	Great Crested Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow Warbler
Common Merganser	Northern Shrike	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Yellow-throated Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler
Wild Turkey	Blue-headed Vireo	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Common Loon ²	Philadelphia Vireo	Palm Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe ²	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant ²	Blue Jay	Black-throated Green Warbler
American Bittern ²	American Crow	Canada Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Common Raven	Wilson's Warbler ²
Turkey Vulture	Tree Swallow	Eastern Towhee
Osprey	Barn Swallow	American Tree Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Cliff Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Boreal Chickadee	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Goshawk	Tufted Titmouse	Fox Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Broad-winged Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Lincoln's Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper	Swamp Sparrow
Killdeer	House Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Winter Wren	White-crowned Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Carolina Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
American Woodcock	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Scarlet Tanager
Ring-billed Gull	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Northern Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-billed Cuckoo ²	Eastern Bluebird	Indigo Bunting
Black-billed Cuckoo	Veery	Bobolink
Eastern Screech Owl ²	Bicknell's Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Horned Owl ²	Swainson's Thrush	Rusty Blackbird ²
Snowy Owl ²	Hermit Thrush	Common Grackle
Barred Owl	Wood Thrush	Brown-headed Cowbird
Long-eared Owl ²	American Robin	Baltimore Oriole
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Gray Catbird	Pine Grosbeak
Chimney Swift	Brown Thrasher	Purple Finch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	European Starling	House Finch ¹
Belted Kingfisher	Bohemian Waxwing	White-winged Crossbill
Red-bellied Woodpecker ²	Cedar Waxwing	Red Crossbill
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Snow Bunting	Common Redpoll
Downy Woodpecker	Ovenbird	Hoary Redpoll ²
Hairy Woodpecker	Louisiana Waterthrush	Pine Siskin
Northern Flicker	Northern Waterthrush	American Goldfinch
Pileated Woodpecker	Blue-winged Warbler ²	House Sparrow ¹
American Kestrel	Black-and-white Warbler	
Merlin	Tennessee Warbler ²	
Peregrine Falcon	Nashville Warbler	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Mourning Warbler	
	Common Yellowthroat	

¹ extirpated ten plus years ago

² rare; ten or fewer records

Compiled by Warren and Barry King, Tom Moran, Becky Purdum and Bruce Peterson, updated from 2003

2014 Ripton Recycling Report

Recycling and trash drop-off is open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the first and third Saturdays of each month at the Town Shed on Peddlers Bridge Road. Recycling drop-off is free, but a contribution of \$3 is encouraged to help offset the cost of hauling and sorting. Trash disposal is \$3-5 per bag depending on weight. Trash drop-off ends at 11:45 a.m. Please take advantage of these services. Remember: burning household waste in burn barrels is illegal. The fumes pose a serious danger to downwind neighbors. Violators are subject to a fine.

The following may be recycled in the roll-off:

- ❖ Clean metal food or beverage containers, preferably flattened, labels OK
- ❖ Aluminum foil, pie and baking tins
- ❖ Glass bottles and jars, no caps
- ❖ Plastic containers and lids with a triangular recycling symbol (any number 1-7)
- ❖ Mixed paper, including newspaper, magazines, catalogs, boxboard, paperback and telephone books, white or colored office paper, junk mail, construction paper, paper towels, unrecusable paper bags and egg cartons, paper-lined (no plastic liner) grain sacks, wrapping paper (no metallized paper or ribbon).

Into the brown dumpster outside the shed:

- ❖ Corrugated cardboard only, flattened

Elsewhere in the shed:

- ❖ Books
- ❖ Hazardous household batteries: lithium, nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, sealed lead acid and button. Alkaline batteries are not hazardous waste and should be put in the trash. Check carefully that you are not throwing away a hazardous battery. If in doubt, bring it in.
- ❖ Redeemable cans and bottles (proceeds go to Friends of the Ripton School)
- ❖ Clean brown paper bags, whole cardboard egg cartons
- ❖ Styrofoam packing peanuts (no blocks, chunks or sheets)
- ❖ Scrap metal of all shapes and sizes

We will have to reject:

- ❖ Any container with food residue
- ❖ Plastic shopping bags may be recycled at the community food stores. We will no longer take them
- ❖ Plastic containers without the recycling symbol
- ❖ Bottle and jar caps
- ❖ Sheet glass, dishware, goblets and drinking glasses, Pyrex, light bulbs
- ❖ Coated cardboard milk or juice containers, waxed, carbon or metallized paper, ribbon, plastic-lined grain sacks
- ❖ Car batteries (take to the transfer station on Route 7 South, Middlebury)
- ❖ Fluorescent bulbs, including compact fluorescents (contain trace amounts of mercury, take to transfer station)

As of July 1, 2014 Vermont Act 148 required towns to collect recyclable products separate from other solid waste at no charge. By July 1, 2015 containers will be available for mandated recyclables wherever trash containers are provided for public use, other than bathrooms. Act 148 prohibits having leaf and yard waste in the trash by July 1, 2015. We will begin accepting leaf and yard waste by then. Leaf and yard waste includes grass clippings and leaves but not branches or twigs larger around than a pencil, and must be unbagged. There may be a charge for accepting it; we are working on details of where it will go.

In 2014 the average number of households using the recycling center each drop-off was 32.7, a decrease from 2013's 39.7 and from 43.4 in 2012. After July 1 payment for recycling became a contribution, not a mandate, and can no longer be used to indicate the number of users of the recycling center. More residents are using the recycling center during hours when it is not officially open for business, which accounts for an apparent decline in use, at least in part. There has been a slight drop in the amount of materials recycled. If you wish to drop off materials when the center is not open, please obtain the recycling coordinator's approval beforehand.

Under assumptions similar to those made since 1994, Ripton's total waste stream in 2014 was 208.7 tons, a decrease from 260.2 tons in 2013. Recyclable waste comprised 47 percent of the total, slightly higher than 43 percent in 2013, a satisfactory percentage.

Ripton's residents support recycling through their use of the service and their willingness to volunteer three hours every three years to keep it running. Contact the town clerk (388-2266) or the recycling coordinator (388-4082) if you would like to help.

Green Up Day: In 2015 Green Up Day is Saturday, May 2. Contact Steve Zwicky (388-2301) or Warren King (388-4082) to find out how you can participate.

Recycling Committee

Barry King
Warren King
Millard Cox
Steve Zwicky



Ripton Community Coffee House Report

The Ripton Community Coffee House is a nonprofit concert series held at the Ripton Community House at 7:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month (except August). Concerts start with an open mike set followed by the featured performer.

We hosted eleven concerts in 2014 with an average attendance of about 110 people. Of our eleven concerts, four were by performers from Vermont. We had thirty-six open mike performances, including many from Ripton. We continue to welcome everyone interested in performing to sign up for one of the twelve-minute open-mike slots. You only need twelve minutes of talent and it might lead to a whole new career!

Our organization is completely volunteer-run. The refreshment sales at our concerts are fundraisers for nonprofit organizations. In 2014 the beneficiaries were the Friends of the Ripton School, Middlebury High School Girls Soccer, the Friends of the New Haven Library, a school trip for Harwood Union High School, Otter Creek Day Care, the Ripton Community Coffee House, and a benefit for Sally Hoyer. If you are interested in running the refreshment sales to make money for your nonprofit, please contact Andrea Chesman at 388-9782.

If you haven't been to the coffeehouse, or haven't been for awhile, please come by for a friendly, all-ages evening and hear some great acoustic music. Our website is www.rcch.org.



2015 Funding Requests

The following organizations request funds to be voted by ballot on March 3, 2015 at the town office. Names, mission, 2014 service for Ripton residents and amount requested are below. Detailed descriptions and reports are available at the town office.

Addison Central Teens (ACT). Mission: “to offer a safe, supportive, substance-free, and wholly supervised space for our teenagers to grow and mature.” Ripton teens served: 7 who made 155 visits to the drop-in hours, and 53 visits to special events. **Request: \$1,500.**

Addison County Court Diversion & Community Justice Projects. Mission: “ACCDCJP provides a community restorative justice response focusing on the “balanced approach” in meeting the needs of the victim, the community and the offender.” Programs include: Court Diversion, Youth Substance Abuse Safety, Reparative Board, Circle of Support and Accountability, Driving with License Suspended, and Community Mentor. Ripton service: 6 individuals. **Request: \$170.**

Addison County Home Health and Hospice. Mission: “From children with medical issues, to adults struggling to remain independent at home, to those approaching completion of their lives, Addison County Home Health and Hospice is here to help. Day in and day out our staff help people recover from their surgeries, manage long term chronic illnesses and advocate for those who are unable to do so for themselves.” Learn more at achhh.org or 388-7259. Ripton service: 15 residents, 834 patient visits. **Request: \$750.**

Addison County Parent/Child Center. Mission: “to provide support and education to families and assure that our community is one in which all children get off to the right start with the opportunity to grow up healthy, happy, and productive. The Center provides parenting education classes and workshops, community playgroups, home visits, pregnancy prevention programs, job training, academic classes, transportation, and childcare.” Ripton service: 26 residents. **Request: \$600.**

Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR). Mission: “All of our transportation programs enable our riders to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare services.” Ripton service: 1,236 Dial-a-Ride trips for Ripton residents and more than 1,028 rides to or from Ripton on the Snow Bowl Shuttle Bus. **Request: \$1,739.**

Champlain Valley Agency on Aging (CVAA). Mission: “committed to providing the vital services that the eldest community members need in order to remain in their own homes.” Programs include: Case Management, Meals on Wheels, Senior Community Meals, Transportation, Senior Help Line. **Request: \$750.**

Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC). Mission: provides services to those with mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability needs. “CSAC’s Emergency Service, 388-7641, is available 24 hours a day, seven days per week. We are a non-profit organization. Although we receive support from state and third party payers, almost all our funding is designated and doesn’t allow us to fully meet the many needs of the people we serve. We are committed to making our services available to people regardless of their ability to pay.” Ripton service: 11,264 hours. **Request: \$1,400.**

Elderly Services. Mission: “It is our mission to provide high-quality programs to help elders live safe and satisfying lives in their own homes and communities.” Ripton residents received a total of 345 hours of care, 136 hot meals, 136 van rides, which cost the agency \$5,311. In addition several residents participated in the ESI Lifelong Learning Center, 4 family caregivers received respite, and residents are on staff. **Request: \$600.**

Green Up Vermont. Mission: Vermont's spring clean-up, May 2nd this year. **Request: \$50** for town populations under 1,000.

Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects - HOPE. Mission: to reduce the effects of poverty in Addison County by providing low-income residents with opportunities for becoming more self-reliant through emergency, basic and enrichment programs delivered in an environment of recognition and respect. HOPE provided assistance to 63 Ripton residents in 2013. **Request: \$2,750.**

Homeward Bound - Addison County Humane Society. Mission: "to educate the community and improve the lives of animals, alleviate their suffering, and elevate their status in society." We safeguard, rescue, shelter, heal, adopt and advocate for animals in need, while inspiring community action and compassion on their behalf. Ripton service in 2014: 11 strays brought in, 4 adoptions. **Request: \$750.**

Hospice Volunteer Services. Mission: "to provide terminally ill people and their loved ones in Addison County with physical and emotional support." Ripton service: 3 hospice or palliative patients for a total of 3 visits and 3 hours of respite or care; 2 people received bereavement support for a total of 18 sessions and 15 hours; 1 family invited to Service of Remembrance; discussion with 63 MUHS students including some from Ripton; public events and support groups. **Request: \$450.**

John W. Graham Emergency Shelter. Mission: serve Addison County's homeless families and individuals, and prevent homelessness. Provided more than 10,000 bed nights of food, shelter and hope to more than 200 people at our shelter; provided transitional housing, helping people move from homelessness; helped dozens find permanent housing; provided counseling, case management and support services. **Request: \$1,600.**

Open Door Clinic. Mission: provide primary and acute healthcare services, free of charge, to those who are uninsured or under-insured and who meet financial eligibility guidelines. Ripton service: 18 residents, 27 interactions, 9 medical visits, 11 case management services, 4 outreach screening, 3 visits for VT Health Connect. **Request: \$750.**

Otter Creek Child Care Center. Mission: to provide quality, affordable early care and education to the Addison County community. **Request: \$1,000** to support need-based tuition assistance.

Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District. Mission: to furnish free technical assistance to landowners in order to bring about proper land use and treatment. Programs include workshops, Conservation Field Day, scholarships, Tree Sale, Envirothon. Twelve Ripton students attended the 2014 Conservation Field Day. **Request: \$48.84**, 0.11 per resident.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Mission: recruit, place, train and support volunteers in non-profit organizations. Ripton service: free income tax return preparation services, community meals sites, services by volunteer drivers, and Toys for Tots. **Request: \$375.**

Vermont Adult Learning. Mission: to help adults achieve their educational goals through free, confidential programs. Ripton service: 4 residents. **Request: \$300.00.**

WomenSafe. Mission: "work toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women and their children through direct service, education and social change." Programs include: 24-hour hotline, advocacy and outreach services, support groups, supervised visitation and monitored exchange, education. Ripton service: at least 5 residents including parents of at least 2 children exposed to domestic violence. **Request: \$1,250.**



ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 19 member municipalities. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of one representative and one alternate from each member municipality. The Board meets on the 3d Thursday of the month at 7PM at the ACRPC building, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury. The public is invited to attend.

Mission

To seek environmentally sound & cost effective solutions for: (1) Promoting **waste reduction**; (2) Promoting **pollution prevention**; (3) Maximizing **diversion** of waste through reuse, recycling and composting; and (4) Providing for **disposal** of remaining wastes.

District Office and Transfer Station

Telephone: (802) 388-2333

Fax: (802) 388-0271

Website: www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org

E-mail: acswnmd@acswnmd.org

Transfer Station Hours: M-F, 7 AM–3 PM & Sat, 9 AM–1 PM

Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM–4 PM

HazWaste Center Hours: M-F, 8 AM–Noon & Sat, 9 AM–Noon

The District Office, Transfer Station and HazWaste Center are located at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury. The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and single stream recyclables for transfer to out-of-District facilities. District residents and businesses may drop off a variety of other materials for reuse, recycling and composting. The **Reuse It or Lose It!** Centers are open for accepting reusable household goods and building materials. A complete list of acceptable items and prices is posted on the District’s website.

2014 Highlights

Construction Completed. Construction at the Transfer Station was completed in 2014. We now have a new Special Waste building and access road, and a new covered tip wall. The existing waste building received new lighting and translucent panels to improve visibility. The District office added two offices and a conference room. A new waste oil shed was added to the HazWaste Center. Thanks to our customers for your patience over the past year! **Act 148.** Act 148, VT’s Universal Recycling Law, took effect this year. Act 148 focuses on the “3 C’s” for organics and recyclables: consistency, convenience and cost-effectiveness. As of 7/1/14, all facilities accepting waste from residents had to begin accepting residential self-hauled recyclables at no cost. Bans on disposal of certain recyclables, leaf & yard waste and food residuals will be phased in, as will mandatory recycling and food collection by haulers and facilities. Recycling containers will be required in publicly owned places by 7/1/15. The District is in the process of amending its Solid Waste Implementation Plan and Waste Management Ordinance to conform to Act 148. In order to assist member municipalities and schools, the District created Diversion Grants for both. Please call the District for assistance with comprehending and adapting to the new law. **Product Stewardship.** As a member of the VT Product Stewardship Council, the District led efforts to adopt a new extended producer responsibility law for paint. On 7/1/14, manufacturers had to begin paying for the collection and recycling of oil and latex paint. As an official paint collection site, the District now collects eligible paint products from member towns at no charge. The Transfer Station is also a registered collection site for electronic waste and fluorescent lamps. In 2014, VT became the first state to enact an EPR recycling law for primary cell batteries. In 2016, single-use household battery manufacturers that sell or manufacture products in VT will be required to manage a battery collection program. **Recycling.** As of October, the Transfer Station received 600 tons of single stream recyclables. As a reminder, all generators - residents and businesses - are required by District ordinance to separate recyclables from their waste. A list of mandatory recyclables is posted on the District website. In 2014, 18 District municipalities had access to town or private recycling drop-off centers, and one provided a curbside recycling collection program. A list of the drop-off facilities can be found in the full *2014 Annual Report* on the District website. **Illegal Dumping.** The District contracted with the Addison County Sheriff’s Department to enforce its Illegal Dumping/Burning Ordinance. As of September, the Sheriff’s office received 24 illegal burning/ dumping complaints. The District served as County Coordinator for Green-Up Day, assisting the many town volunteers who organize collection of roadside litter. The District provided free disposal of the roadside waste: 22 tons of trash, 6.25 tons of tires, 7 auto batteries and various other abandoned wastes for a total economic benefit of \$3,500.

2015 Budget

The District’s 2015 Annual Budget is \$2,627,262, a 5.22% increase over the 2014 Annual Budget. The District Transfer Station will maintain the same rates as last year, with the exception of two changes: (1) Clean Wood: \$2.50/residential car load, \$5/load (each) residential pick-up truck or small trailer, & \$50/ton large trucks and commercial loads; and (2) Single Stream Recyclables - \$25/ton. The District Fee of \$33.40/ton for MSW/C&D and \$10/ton for soils approved for alternative daily cover will remain the same. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in 2015.** For a copy of the full *2014 Annual Report*, please call us, or visit the District website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

Green Mountain National Forest

2014 - 2015 Town Meeting Report

The report that follows is condensed for Ripton. The full report is available upon request.

Thanks to the support of many partners, volunteers, and communities surrounding the Green Mountain National Forest, we were able to accomplish a wide range projects from January 2014 to December 2014.

We are proud that the Green Mountain National Forest is part of Vermont and part of your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Our staff works hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people - people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to visit every year. Below is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

Land Acquisition

The Forest accepted a donation of 26 acres of land along the New Haven River in the Town of Bristol.

Road, Dam, & Facility Construction & Maintenance

In cooperation with local Towns, Regional Planning Commissions, VTrans, and local contractors the GMNF Engineering staff repaired and maintained many roads, bridges, trails, and other facilities. Highlights follow:

Tropical Storm Irene Recovery: All Tropical Storm Irene Recovery projects were completed this year with the opening of the Kelley Stand Road (Forest Highway 6) in the Town of Sunderland.

Forest Road Transportation Planning: Completed the travel analysis portion of the USDA Forest Service Travel Management Rule, Subpart A (36 CFR 212) for the Rochester and Middlebury Ranger Districts. This included two public meetings in June (Hancock and Middlebury). A final report is scheduled to be completed in 2015.

Forest Facility Improvements & Maintenance: Completed on-going routine maintenance and repairs of Forest buildings and other infrastructure as well as out-year planning, design, and preparation for facility improvements.

Forest Road Cooperative Aid to Towns: Completed important road improvement and maintenance projects in the Towns of Goshen and Rochester.

Forest Road Improvement Projects: Improved 0.2 miles of National Forest system roads in the Towns of Chittenden and Ripton. This work included the rehabilitation or reconstruction of two stream crossings.

Forest Road Maintenance: Maintained 83.35 miles of National Forest System roads in the Towns of Ripton, Rochester, Chittenden, Goshen, Lincoln, Hancock, Mount Tabor, Peru, Somerset, Sunderland, Woodford, Winhall, Stamford, Wallingford, and Readsboro. This work included grading, ditching, culvert cleaning, mowing, and brushing.

Road-Stream Crossing Improvements: Completed two Aquatic Organism (Fish) Passage projects in the Towns of Chittenden and Ripton. This work included the removal of deteriorated culverts that created a barrier for aquatic organisms and replaced them with large, more flood resilient structures that allowed for unobstructed passage of aquatic organisms.

Recreation Programs

The Forest Service Recreation Program acknowledges the outstanding collaborative effort exhibited between numerous partner organizations, volunteers, State and local government representatives, and local businesses to promote and enhance recreational resources on the Green Mountain National Forest. The Forest Service has been attracting more visitors to the region and engaging more local groups and individuals in contributions that promote and enhance recreational opportunities. Enabling the Forest Service to develop and provide quality recreation opportunities are the contributions of hard-working volunteers and longstanding partners such as: Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), Vermont Youth Conservation Corp (VYCC), the Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA), the Green Mountain Club (GMC), the Catamount Trail Association (CTA), and the Moosalamoo Association. In addition, new energy with a stewardship ethic is provided by developing partners, including: Rochester Area Sports Trail Alliance (RASTA), the Town of Killington, and the Killington Mountain School, Manchester and Mountains Bike Club, Williams College Outing Club, Vermont Trail Trotters, and the Swedish Ski Club. The following highlights capture a few of the successes achieved in the past year:

Forestwide: To gather information from the public the Forest Service initiated a series of open house meetings to develop a forest-wide comprehensive trail strategy for the sustainable management of non-motorized and motorized trails, review potential trail system adjustments and gather comments on specific trails on the Green Mountain National Forest. Meetings were held in August and September in Peru, Hancock, Woodford, Middlebury, Montpelier and Rutland.

Forestwide: Many snowmobile, cross country skiing and hiking trail systems across the forest were closed when a powerful, prolonged, heavy wet snowfall along with significant icing damaged trees on December 9-11, 2014. VAST and Catamount Trail Association Clubs volunteered many hours to re-open trails for the season.

Forestwide: The Green Mountain Club continued running the Caretakers' Program at high use sites on the ATLT. Caretakers were stationed at Battell Shelter, Little Rock Pond, Griffith Lake, Stratton Pond, Stratton Fire Tower and Coolidge Ridge

Runner. Additionally, the Green Mountain Club managed all privy composters and relocated several pit toilets along the AT/LT.

Goshen, VT: Due to the persistent efforts of the Foote of the Mountain Sno-Travelers VAST Club and the financial support of VAST, replaced the Goshen Dam Trail bridge.

Leicester, VT: Local VMBA volunteers and Forest Service staff completed vista openings to provide views of Lake Dunmore, Silver Lake and beyond.

Middlebury, VT: Worked with Middlebury College intern and Moosalamoo Association to complete an online, interactive map of the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. In cooperation with the Middlebury Bike Club, VMBA, and the Jolly Rovers Trail Crew, hosted a trail workshop to complete tread repairs to the Oak Ridge Trail.

Ripton/Lincoln area, VT: Installed a new bridge near Spruce Lodge and completed tread repairs/beaver removal on the Catamount Trail in cooperation with CTA, UVM volunteers, and a local contractor.

Wilderness:

A team of three Student Conservation Association members worked all summer, spreading their time between Bread Loaf, Bristol Cliffs, Joseph Battell, Big Branch, Peru Peak, Glastenbury, George D. Aiken, and Lye Brook Wildernesses. The crew accomplished work toward meeting the Chief's 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge. In 2014, all wildernesses met the 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge.

On September 28th, the GMNF alongside 20 other partners including local, state and national agencies and non-profit organizations celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act at the Middlebury Bread Loaf Campus. This free event was a day-long celebration including live bluegrass music, conservation and environmental exhibits and a special recognition ceremony.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Quality partnered with the GMNF to collect water samples for Forest's Air Quality Value Plan in Bread Loaf, Bristol Cliffs, Joseph Battell, Big Branch, and George D. Aiken wilderness areas.

Winter Sports Areas:

GMNF staff administered permits for 3 alpine ski areas and 6 Nordic ski areas on National Forest lands in the towns of Fayston, Warren, Ripton, Goshen, Killington, Chittenden, Peru, West Dover, and Woodford. Over the past few years, an average of over 600,000 visitors enjoyed outdoor activities at these areas in winter and summer.

Special Uses:

68 Land Special Use Permits were administered to standard along with 11 proposals and applications processed to a decision. 32 Recreation Special Use Permits were managed to standard.

Botany Program

Staff and volunteers monitored over 65 populations of 45 species of rare plants Forest-wide, including some populations just off National Forest lands. An SCA crew was hired and trained to monitor all trails in Wilderness, Forest-wide, for non-native invasive plants (NNIP).

As a result of grant funds received by the Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association (a collaborative group, of which the GMNF is a founding member):

- A coordinator was hired, who surveyed for NNIP along over 20 miles of town and state roads in Goshen and Rochester.
- Garlic mustard pulling events, some involving volunteers, resulted in the removal of 10 small infestations of garlic mustard in Rochester.
- Early Detection Rapid Response was employed to control 12 other infestations of NNIP, largely in Rochester.

Receipts retained from Stewardship Contracting were used to hire the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) to pull wild chervil along ten miles of Forest roads in Granville, and three miles along FR 54 in Lincoln and Ripton. Contractors were hired to treat NNIP infestations at Pine Valley Parking Lot in Woodford, Silver Lake Road in Salisbury, Rob Ford Meadows in Granville, and several locations in Dorset and Peru.

Forest Vegetation Management

2014 was another busy year for a growing timber and vegetation management on the Green Mountain National Forest. In federal fiscal year 2014, the Forest sold approximately 9,565 CCF or 6 million board feet of timber, which is approximately 20% more than in recent years. Of this volume, 7,578 CCF was sold in calendar year 2014. Below is a list of specific accomplishments:

- The GMNF awarded the Grouse Stewardship contract in Granville. This is an Integrated Resource Stewardship Contract (IRTC) intended to improve forest health and wildlife habitat. IRTCs include restoration service work items as well as timber removal. These contracts allow the Forest to accomplish restoration work while contributing to the local economies by using timber revenues to fund work through local contractors and other partners such as the Vermont Youth Conservation Corp.

- Completed sale preparation activities for the Moose Campground timber sale in Goshen and Leicester.
- Administered contracts to prepare sites for reforestation on 230 acres and stand improvement thinning on 118 acres to improve forest health of young stands forest wide.
- Provided maple tapping opportunities through six individual permits in the towns of Lincoln, Stockbridge, Pomfret, Wilmington and Mount Tabor. Tapping operations on these permits included over 4,000 taps.
- Sold permits for approximately 447 cords of firewood, 220 Christmas trees, 1 ton of conifer boughs, and 200 lbs. of mushrooms for public consumption.
- Continued working in restoring native trees, Butternut and American chestnut, with research partners. Continued efforts to locate beech trees that appear to be resistant to beech scale insects, therefore reducing damage and possible death from beech bark disease complex. A database and index of pictures of candidate trees was developed and these trees are being “challenged” through exposure to the scale insect. Genetic material from candidate trees can be collected to propagate resistant trees. In the future, these could be planted in to replace trees affected by the disease.
- Partnered with State of Vermont County foresters on a variety of natural resource management activities.
- Coordinated invasive insect surveys and control efforts through a "Don't Move" firewood program and with the forest health experts from the Durham, NH Field Office of the State and Private Forestry Branch of the USDA Forest Service.
- Worked with the State of VT, Division of Forests Parks & Recreation in planning and implementing “Ash Awareness Week” to increase public awareness of forest health risks associated with the non-native invasive insect, emerald ash borer. No infestations have been identified in the state at this time, but experts expect to detect the insect in the near future. The Forest helped to establish “trap trees” to detect the presence of the emerald ash borer in cooperation with forest health experts from the Durham, NH Field Office of the State and Private Forestry Branch of the USDA Forest Service. These sites were located at higher risk sites on the GMNF including campgrounds.

Environmental Planning

In calendar year 2014, Forest staff completed 30 site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decisions and analysis documents for multiple resource projects designed to implement the GMNF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Highlights to note include the decisions to authorize restoration of roads to a natural condition within the Breadloaf and Joseph Battell Wilderness areas in the towns of Ripton, Granville, Hancock, and Rochester; and activities to restore a stretch of the West Branch White River along highway 73 in the town of Rochester.

Watershed Improvement

- Trail relocations to reduce the risk of stream sedimentation, and erosion control were completed to improve soil conditions on the Appalachian/Long trail.
- Installed bottomless culverts at two locations on Forest Roads in Chittenden (Hayes Brook) and Ripton (Brandy Brook).
- A culvert was replaced with a bridge in Mount Tabor. Several culverts were removed and not replaced in Wilderness Areas in the Towns of Rochester and Ripton, allowing aquatic organism passage within the stream reaches in Wilderness Areas.
- Large woody debris placed in Mettawee River (Dorset), Middle Fork Middlebury River (Ripton), Hayes Brook (Chittenden), Batten Kill (Arlington), and an Otter Creek tributary (Mount. Tabor)

Fire Activities

Smokey Bear attended several events this past year to spread the wildfire prevention message and support conservation education. Smokey’s appearances included: his own 70th Birthday celebration at Fenway Park; Vermont State Fair- Kid’s Day, Rutland, VT; Harvest Festival in Pittsford, VT ; Wilderness 50th Anniversary in Ripton, VT; Home Depot, Rutland, VT; Orwell Elementary School, Orwell, VT; Green Mountain College kids exploration day, Poultney, VT.

Again, thank you for your support of your National Forest. Together, we will continue to maintain and improve this valuable treasure.

Forest Service Offices in Vermont: Offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 PM.

Dee Hines , Acting Forest Supervisor -- Supervisor’s Office Rutland Phone: 802-747-6700	
Roger Boyer , Acting District Ranger, Manchester Ranger District 802-362-2307	Chris Mattrick , District Ranger, Rochester & Middlebury Districts 802-767-4261 & 802-388-4362
/s/ Dee Hines	
DEE HINES Forest Supervisor	

Vermont Department of Health Report for **Ripton**

Your Health Department district office is in Middlebury at the address and phone number above. Come visit or give us a call! At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With our headquarters and laboratory in Burlington and 12 district offices around the state, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. For example, in 2014 the Health Department:

Supported healthy communities: Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes was awarded \$45,000 to address smoking and other tobacco use in Addison County.

Provided WIC food and nutrition education to families: We served about half of all Vermont families with pregnant women and children to age 5 with WIC (Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program). WIC provides individualized nutrition education and breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and a debit card to buy fruit and vegetables. In Addison County, 1171 women, infants and children were enrolled in WIC. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: From January to September in 2014 we responded to 95 cases of infectious disease in Addison County. In 2013, \$13,079,279.71 of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases were distributed to healthcare providers statewide; \$797,530.17 of which was in your district's area.

Facilitated discussion on opiate addiction: Following the Governor's Forum on Opiate Addiction, regional meetings took place around the state including 529 in-person participants. Locally, a group of concerned citizens and Human Services professionals have formed the Addison County Steering Committee on Opiate Addiction with four sub-committees which are: Prevention and Education, Treatment, Recovery and Transitional Supports, and Judicial and Law Enforcement. For more information about the Addison County Steering Committee on Opiate Addictions and its sub-committees, please contact Moira Cook, Middlebury Health Department District Director, at 802-388-5732.

Hosted community presentations: In 2014, we hosted community training and presentations on a variety of public health topics including skin cancer prevention, Lyme, West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) prevention and emerging infectious illnesses. If your community group is interested in a presentation on one of the topics mentioned above, please contact our office.



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting March 3, 2014

The legal voters of Ripton met at the Community House on Monday, March 3, 2014 to act upon articles 1-7 of the 2014 Town Warning; approximately 75 people attended. Selectboard members present were Laurie Cox, Ron Wimett and Dick Collitt. Moderator Timothy Hanson called the town portion of the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m.

Before the meeting proper began, State Representative, Willem Jewett, spoke to the group about Education Committee discussions in Montpelier and fielded a few questions. At 8:56 pm, the moderator proceeded with the meeting and read the first article from the town warning.

Article 1: Will the Town vote the sum of \$732,302.25 to pay Road and General Fund expenses for January 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015, and pay outstanding orders or obligations of the Town, with interest, the tax rate on the 2014 Grand List to be determined by the Selectboard, divided as follows: Roads (including winter work): \$349,650.00, General Fund Costs: \$382,652.25, Total: \$732,302.25.

The article was moved and seconded by Carol Ford and Barry King. Selectboard chair, Laurie Cox noted that the budget covers an 18-month period as we transition from a calendar budget year to a July-June fiscal year as voted at last year's town meeting. The budget is mostly level funded from the previous year, with the exception of some town building maintenance. Line items for income or expenses that occur on a regular basis are simply 1 ½ times the amount that would have been budgeted for one year. Items that occur less regularly were figured based on the number of occurrences of that income or expense in this particular 18-month period.

The selectboard is negotiating a new agreement with Middlebury College because the previous 20-year agreement expired in 2013. Charles Billings asked for specifics, and Ms. Cox said that specific items cannot be discussed while negotiations are active, but that the general tone is cordial and positive. The college pays straight taxes on some of its properties; the agreement deals with the properties that are tax-exempt. The previous agreement included payments in lieu of taxes of both cash and services. Laura McIntosh requested that the ski program that the Ripton school has participated in as part of the previous agreement continue.

Bryan Alexander asked about the sand pile being low and about the Baker Bridge study. The selectboard responded that more sand was recently purchased, and the bridge study report is available by e-mail by making a request to the selectboard clerk, Alison Joseph [at selectboard@riptonvt.org]. Wendy Leeds asked about the budget item in the comparable table of revenues called "private road repair" and it was explained that that was a temporary line item to show payments from private road residents for their share of flood damage expenses not covered by grant funds.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and Article 1 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 2: Will the Town vote the sum of \$54,500.00 to Ripton Fire and First Response to help pay Fire Department and First Response expenses for January 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015?

The article was moved and seconded by Barry King and Richard Ruane. Fire Chief, Erik Eriksen, noted the fire department budget is also an 18-month transition budget. There were a record number of calls in 2013 – 72 compared to an average of 35. 55 to 60 calls are being budgeted for 2014-15.

Mr. Eriksen named new members to the fire department and noted that volunteers are always needed for many things. He noted the upcoming "cadet fire academy" for 14-17 year olds, paid for by the fire department, with an application deadline in April.

Mac Cox asked about the location and function of fire hydrants in Ripton. There are 4 dry hydrants in ponds or rivers located on Fire Brook Road, Route 125 in the village, Robbins Crossroad, and at the Bread Loaf pond.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote and Article 3 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 3: Will the Town have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date Thursday, November 6, 2014?

The article was moved and seconded by Barry King and Richard Ruane.

Laurie Cox noted that for many years, the tax due date is set for the first Thursday in November, though if the first Thursday is within the first 3 days of the month, it may be set for the following Thursday.

Andrea Chesman asked how the penalty and interest charged for delinquent taxes is determined; she believes other towns charge differently. The selectboard and treasurer, Sally Hoyler, responded. The guidelines for charging penalty and interest are set out in state law; specifics within these guidelines or changes to them must be voted on by the town. Currently in Ripton, the delinquent tax collector charges up to the maximum allowed for the penalty, which is 8%. Interest is set at 1% per month; the law allows up to 1½%. The penalty is paid directly to the collector of delinquent taxes as her income; the interest is town income. Together these sources of income cover the cost of collecting late taxes, including possible legal fees. Some towns set a penalty maximum that is less than 8%, have a grace period or graduated penalty schedule, and may pay their delinquent tax collector by salary instead of fees. These are the types of variations that must be voted on by the town.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and Article 4 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 4: Shall the town accept and receive the assets of the Ripton Cemetery Association dissolved in 2013?

The article was moved and seconded by Barry King and Warren King.

Charles Billings and Laurie Cox explained the development of the questions in Articles 4 and 5. Town records indicate that it was attempted in the past to dissolve the Ripton Cemetery Association, but there is no particular record that documents it. Following discussions at informational meetings and regular selectboard meetings in the fall of 2013, it was decided that the association meet and vote to disband, and turn cemetery assets and management over to the town. That was done. The options are for the selectboard to manage the cemeteries or create a cemetery commission to do so, and they chose to do the latter. Mr. Billings referred to pages 20-21 in the town report for more detailed information and survey results.

Jeremy Grip asked if the assets included the actual real estate, and it was replied that the town owns the cemeteries already. Page 19 in the town report shows the cash assets to be a little under \$7,000.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and Article 4 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the Town establish a 5-member board of cemetery commissioners to oversee and manage town cemeteries?

The article was moved and seconded by Barry King and Richard Ruane.

Laurie Cox reiterated now that the town is responsible for the cemeteries, the voters are being asked to create a commission to do the job. If this article passes, 5 cemetery commissioners will be elected the following day, March 4, by Australian ballot. Five people submitted petitions to run for these positions, and are on the ballot. Laurel Coburn asked why the commission has 5 members, and Charles Billings responded that results of the survey indicated enough interest for a 5 member board.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and Article 5 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the Town of Ripton vote to add two additional selectboard members to bring the selectboard to five members with the two new members to serve terms of two years with one initial term to be one year so that the two year terms will be staggered?

The article was moved and seconded by Barry King and Richard Ruane.

Dick Collitt spoke to the article, stating that he was speaking as an individual, not as a selectboard member. He pointed out that this article came up a couple of years ago and was voted down. He noted that Ripton is a small town and feels that 95% of the work of the selectboard is very routine and does not require more than 3 members to do the job. Charles Billings asked why a larger board would be disadvantageous, and Mr. Collitt replied that more members may make the board less effective, that it would slow down their ability to deal with day to day problems with five members instead of three. He has heard that some other small towns that have increased the size of their selectboards have not had success with it. Rick Klein suggested that the success of our democracy is based in part on diversity, and with a larger board there is the opportunity for more opinions, more ideas, and more knowledge.

Richard Ruane asked how open meeting law related to board size. Open meeting law states that a quorum of board members cannot discuss town business outside of a public meeting setting, so two members of a three member board must be careful not to have conversations about town business should they run into each other in a casual setting or communicate by phone or email. The selectboard said they are aware of this and do not let it happen.

Laurie Cox commented that a 3-member board tends to force you to work for consensus, while people are more likely to accept disagreement with a 5-member board. Ron Wimett and Laurie Cox said they would like to see people coming to meetings and taking interest. Ms. Cox added that it may be fine to have two more members on the board if they are interested and eager, concluding that she is not against it but not totally for it.

Andrea Chesman agreed that the current board is doing a good job, but noted that without new members working alongside experienced board members, a great deal of institutional memory will be lost if one or more experienced members retire. Increasing the size of the board to transition in new leadership seems like a good idea. Charles Billings added that with only three members, it could be very difficult if two members left at the same time. Laurie Cox said that she and Ron Wimett have discussed this and will not intentionally leave at the same time.

Bill McKibben said that there seems to be a strong argument for the efficiency of a small board for day to day business, and that the annual town meeting could be a time for the town to come together to decide the really important questions.

Bryan Alexander noted that there was an article petition to bring this issue to a vote which proves that a lot of people want it. Jeremy Grip said that he thinks there are a lot of upsides to having a larger board - diversity, ensuring continuity by bringing new people along, more people to do the work so that all members don't have to be at every meeting – but he has not heard enough about the disadvantages. He does not see that it would be a problem to try it out, and if it doesn't work, vote to return to three.

The selectboard acknowledged that with only three members, they feel obligated to attend most meetings and miss very few. Michael Seligmann suggested that it must feel burdensome not to be able to take a vacation. Laurie Cox noted that if more than one member can't make a certain regular meeting date, they can reschedule to another time. With a 5-member board people are more likely to feel they don't have to go to all the meetings.

Barry King and Tracey Harrington commented about the difficulty in recruiting volunteers, so there may not be enough interest to fill seats on a board.

Perry Hanson said that he believes there are 5 people in Ripton who would be happy to serve on the selectboard. His experience on the school board has shown that 5 people can achieve many things, that it is good to have 5 points of view. Increasing board size is not about calling the current system bad, it's about doing things differently - having more voice and bigger conversations about the things that need to be done.

Barbara Nelson said that she has not found it cumbersome to have larger membership on boards. Term limits and rotation are important, and bringing in new members alongside experienced members is sensible and healthy.

A few logistical questions were asked and answered. If any board member resigns during his or her term, the selectboard appoints a replacement until the next election. If this article passes, the new positions are thereby created and will be filled by election at the next town meeting (in one year), or at a special town meeting in the meantime. A special town meeting can be initiated by the selectboard or by voter petition. If no one runs for the new positions, they are to be filled by appointment.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and a voice vote was indecisive. A paper ballot was requested and after approximately 12 people agreed by a show of hands, was carried out. Article 6 was defeated; the paper ballot outcome was 27 in favor and 41 against.

Article 7: Any other business proper to come before this meeting.

Laurie Cox reported that Sand Hill Bridge will be replaced this spring, and closing/reopening dates for Route 125 have been set: close Saturday, April 19 and open Monday, June 2. The recommended detour for local traffic is Upper Plains and Lower Plains Roads rather than the North Branch Road. The North Branch Road will be open, but it is situated in the construction area and delays are likely.

Ms. Cox reminded dog owners to please license their dogs by the April 1 deadline. It is distracting and time consuming for town officials to continue to chase down unlicensed dogs after the due date.

Barry King and Richard Ruane moved and seconded to adjourn; the town meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. The meeting will recess until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2013 to vote for town officers and requests for town funding by Australian ballot. Polls in the Ripton town office are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

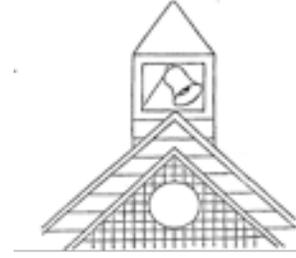
Timothy Hanson
Moderator

Sally Hoyler
Town Clerk

Laureen Cox
Selectboard Chair

RIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Board Report



The entire state faces a challenge this year, as members of the Legislature wrestle with their concerns over the high cost of education in Vermont. We don't know what changes will be made to the educational finance system, but the Ripton School Board does recognize that a small school like ours is a costly operation on a per-pupil basis. We are lucky to attract a number of tuition students to help ameliorate the tax burden on Ripton residents, but you can be sure that the Ripton School Board is always aware of the effects of our decisions on our property taxes.

The school's rooftop solar array has now been operating for more than one year. An analysis provided by Warren King and Jeremy Grip shows that the array in its first year provided 54,100 KWh of energy, just less than the 55,000 KWh originally projected. This equated to 75% of the energy used by the school during this period. Thanks again to the town for supporting this project and to Warren and Jeremy for their assistance and expertise.

The Ripton Selectboard also deserves recognition for including the Ripton Elementary School ski program in their successful negotiation with Middlebury College. Our students will continue to have the advantage of incorporating cross country and downhill skiing into their physical education program at no cost to taxpayers. We are very grateful that the Selectboard included our request in their talks with the College.

The Facilities Manager hired by the Supervisory Union has already been a benefit to the Ripton Elementary School during his first year. He has assisted us in dealing with water quality issues, installing safety locks on exterior and interior doors, and other aspect of the school building beyond our expertise. Our relatively minor investment is proving to be worthwhile.

During the 2014-15 school year our Supervisory Union has been holding a number of 'Carousel' meetings, where an ACSU Board meeting at Middlebury Union High School is followed by individual district board meetings on the same night at the same location. As a result, about half of our meetings during the year will be held in Middlebury (usually on the first Wednesday of the month), with the rest of our meetings held at the Ripton Elementary School on the first Monday of the month. Community members are welcome to join our meetings at either location. We always appreciate the input of those who support the education of children in this town.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Ripton Elementary School.

The Ripton School Board

Carol Ford, Chair

Bryan Alexander

Perry Hanson

Giles Hoyler

Laura Murphy McIntosh

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The 2014-2015 school year is off to an excellent start. We had nearly the entire Ripton Elementary staff return this year, and it continues to be a hardworking, dedicated and caring team of educators. We welcomed Amy Sears as our new Special Educator and Pam Randall as our Food Services Director. The big difference this year has been in my schedule, as I have been working two days a week at Bridport Central School as Interim Co-principal. It has been a true testament to the highly capable and experienced individuals we have at Ripton Elementary that things continue to run smoothly without an administrator. Our students in every grade continue to receive a fantastic education, rich with project based learning experiences, engaging academics, and programs of study designed to meet each student's abilities, interests and needs.

Ripton Elementary currently has 43 students, age four (pre-kindergarten) through sixth grade. Due to an increase in tuition students and a number of new Ripton families, our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten class is larger than it's been in a long time, with 16 students. We continue to serve an increasing number of families from Hancock and Granville, and tuition students have become a significant portion of our school population. Both the After School Program and the Hancock/Granville bus have contributed to this increase in tuition students, as do the high quality instruction and individualized support we provide all our students, to an extent that is unique to small rural schools.

The focus for teachers and administrators this year continues to be the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Teachers are working closely with academic programs and unit frameworks that address content and practice standards at each grade level. In addition, we are piloting an assessment tool designed to "screen" students for adequate progress towards these standards at critical points in the year (early fall, winter and spring). The assessment, FAST, is being administered in all ACSU elementary schools and is the initial step in developing a comprehensive assessment system that will provide student progress data consistent with grade-level peers in the area. We are also preparing for the first administration of the SBAC this spring, which is the formal assessment all Vermont schools will give to gauge student progress on the CCSS in grades three through six, eight and eleven. We know the transition to the Common Core and NGSS will require much dedication and hard work, however, the prospect of developing clearly articulated curricula, utilizing efficient assessment tools to obtain meaningful feedback on student progress, and incorporating supports and interventions for students not performing at the desired level, are major advantages of this work.

I want to thank all Ripton Elementary parents, neighbors and friends for their continued support of our school and the exceptional work being done to educate our students today, as well as prepare them for the future.

Tracey Harrington, Principal

FACULTY AND STAFF

Tracey Harrington	Principal
Melissa Giroux	Primary Teacher
Charlotte Holmquist	Primary Teacher
Susan Ogilvie	Intermediate Teacher
Sara Lesperance	Intermediate Teacher
Cathy Clarke	Physical Education Teacher
Christine Jenkins*	Art Teacher
Sarah Metcalf*	Music Teacher
Michael Portal*	Spanish Teacher
Alisa Breau**	Speech/Language Pathologist
Elissa Close*	School Nurse
Linda Kautzman*	Library/Media Director
Amy Sears*	Special Educator
Wendy Whaley-Sauder*	School Counselor
Joanna Doria	Classroom Paraprofessional and After School Program Assistant
Sarah Harrison Lynn	Classroom Paraprofessional and First Aid Designee
Angela Scavo	EEE Individual Assistant and After School Program Director
Nancy Whittemore	Classroom Paraprofessional
Geoffrey Booth	Custodian/Maintenance
Wendy Leeds	Administrative Assistant
Pam Randall	Meals Program Director/Cook
Marty Whittemore**	Bus Driver

*Shared District Personnel

**Contracted Service

RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
2014-2015 PreK-12 ENROLLMENT

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Maggie Hoyler
Josie Malin
Colvin Pike
Jorgen Pirrung
Otis Steadman
Wesley Terrien

KINDERGARTEN

Sophie Allen
Hayden Dunakin
Vincent Gibbs
Jack Hoyler
Liberty Kerr
Sawyer Malzac
Raphael Mitchell
Brianna Nichols
Hlodyn Sidaway
Alyssa Smith

GRADE 1

Mary Harrington
Matthew McIntosh

GRADE 2

Wyatt Bisson
Charlotte Christner
Addison Dunakin
Anika Heppell
William Maheu
Elizabeth McIntosh
Mckenna Raymond
Rhys Thomas

GRADE 3

Molly Allen
Baxter Harrington
Remy Howe
Elias Pike
Eric Poploski

GRADE 4

Maggie Christner
Goshen Corbett
Elise Heppell
Jacob Terrien

GRADE 5

Alyza Alger
Henry Black
Mollee Codding
Zoe Howe
Phoebe Hussey
Natalie Steadman
Henry Swan

GRADE 6

Henry Wagner

GRADE 7

Jadah Corbett
Timothy Goettelmann
Rosemary Maheu

GRADE 8

Tristan Durante
Nanja Horning
Justin Jackson
Ethan Poploski
Joshua Randall
Harley Williams

GRADE 9

Alyson Chione
John David Goettelmann
Krystian Gombosi
Emma Jones
Cori Kerr
Waseya Lawton
Cassandra Manning
Kayli Manning

GRADE 10

Ryan Cook
Andrew Kerr
Bryce Kowalczyk
Thomas Martindale
Hannah Williams
Claire Wulfman

GRADE 11

Keith Charbonneau
Harlee Gero
Ann Manning
Justin Seguin

GRADE 12

Oliver Clark
Jordan Codding
Jennifer Cyr
Jessica Cyr
Jesse Wulfman

GRADE 13

Jacob Codding
Jeffrey Cook
Hannah Tavis

Friends of Ripton School

Friends of the Ripton School (FORS) is a group of volunteers who work together to make the Ripton Elementary School the best it can be. We offer our assistance to the school when needed and organize fundraising and other events at the school and in the community. This past year FORS fully or partially funded a variety of activities and events including: a week of Circus Smirkus instruction during our annual Artist in Residency, the 5/6 class trip to Keewaydin, a performance from the VT Symphony Orchestra called “Symphony Reel”, a visit from author Bruce Zeman and Hobbes promoting anti-bullying and compassion, the Thanksgiving Community Luncheon, an all-school ice-skating trip, supplies for holiday gift making, teacher supplies, funding for field field trips as well as tuition assistance for the Ripton Summer Day Camp.

FORS mission statement: The Friends of Ripton School provide the Ripton Elementary School support through volunteering and funding to enhance and enrich the school environment by facilitating academic programs, extracurricular activities, events, and materials, which are designed to meet the expectations and changing needs of the school throughout and beyond the academic school year.

FORS meets every 4-8 weeks to plan events, approve funding requests, and discuss a variety of issues. Members are typically parents of Ripton Elementary School students, **however we cordially invite all interested community members to join us.**

We know Ripton is rich with diversely talented people who might be interested in spending time at the school. We welcome your interest and involvement at any level. Some examples of participation have included; helping with the community garden, reading stories, driving for field trips, cooking, helping with art projects, or



volunteering at Friday activity period. The school belongs to the community, and we warmly invite you to experience the happenings at Ripton Elementary. **Also, FORS greatly appreciates and thanks all those involved in the Ripton Ridge Run** (see report on the Ridge Run below contributed by Barry King).

For more information please contact Laura McIntosh at murphyslau@gmail.com. For a weekly calendar of school events contact Wendy Leeds at wleeds@addisoncentrasu.org.

2014 Ripton Ridge Run Report

The 2014 Ridge Run raised about \$8,700 for FORS through the efforts of nearly 75 Ripton volunteers. There were about 250 runners and walkers including many, many Ripton residents and school children. For information about volunteering (beforehand, during or after the event) or to be in the 2015 race, (Sunday, Oct. 11) go to the Ridge Run link on the Town’s website or <http://www.riptonridgerun.org>, contact Barry King at 388-4082 or talk with Wendy Leeds at school.

RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NARRATIVE 2015-2016

The Ripton School Board is proposing a budget of \$905,614 for the 2015-16 school year, a 1.25% increase over the current year. Due to a slight reduction of revenues, our Education Spending will increase about 2.1%, and our per-pupil cost will increase about 5.3% because of a further reduction in our Equalized Pupil Count.

The Board has level funded most school operations in the proposed budget for next year, but one major increase will be in salaries for our teachers. A new ACSU contract, negotiated last year, equalizes the salaries of all ACSU teachers with equivalent years of experience and education. Over the course of three years, Ripton Elementary School teachers will be brought up to par with their colleagues throughout the supervisory union. The Ripton School Board supported this contract because it is the right and fair thing to do.

1100 Regular Programs: Teachers' salaries (4.2 full time equivalent) increase by 10.4% due to the negotiated contract. There are no expected personnel changes. Aides' salaries (2.0 FTE) are seeing a reduction of 0.2, in order to keep spending increases to a minimum. Health Insurance rates will increase by 4.5%. Course Reimbursement is reduced based on staff members' plans for next year, and Dental Insurance rates will actually decrease by .1%.

1102 After School Programs (.4 FTE) and 1190 Shared Personnel (.73 FTE): No significant changes other than salaries due to the new contract.

1200 Special Education: Decrease of 12.8% due to ACSU Special Education reductions.

2100 Support Services, Regular, 2105 Support Services, Special, 2120 Guidance (.3 FTE), 2130 Health (.2 FTE), 2220 Media Service (.4 FTE), and 2230 Technology: No significant changes other than salaries due to the new contract.

2310 Board of Education: Elimination of board salaries and unemployment.

2313 Treasurer, 2320 ACSU Assessment, 2410 Principal's Office (1.6 FTE), 2600 Maintenance (1.0 FTE), 2700 Transportation, 5100 Long Term Debt, and 5310 Food Service (.6 FTE): No significant changes.

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED 2015 - 2016 BUDGET**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED	% Change
	2013 - 2014	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	
1100 REGULAR PROGRAMS					
110 Salaries - Teachers	205,332	204,055	214,240	236,460	
112 Salaries - Aides	25,997	40,676	50,865	44,079	
120 Substitutes	16,275	22,654	4,000	4,000	
210 Health Insurance	65,780	66,759	75,014	74,509	
220 Social Security	18,942	19,867	20,587	21,767	
230 Life Insurance	211	187	187	187	
240 Municipal Retirement	1,061	1,628	2,035	1,764	
270 Course Reimbursement	5,364	7,823	5,417	3,500	
280 Dental Insurance	2,044	2,061	1,966	1,841	
290 Disability Insurance	590	663	768	846	
320 Professional Services	500	0	500	500	
430 Repair & Maintenance	2,500	2,592	2,500	2,500	
610 Supplies	4,000	3,903	3,500	3,500	
640 Books & Periodicals	1,500	2,495	2,000	2,000	
650 A.V. Materials	0	18	0	0	
660 Manipulatives	800	311	300	300	
730 Equipment	500	1,108	300	300	
810 Field Trips	600	2,362	600	600	
1100 Total	\$ 351,996	\$ 379,162	\$ 384,779	\$ 398,653	3.6%
1190 SHARED PERSONNEL					
270 Course Reimbursement	0	0	0	0	
332 Shared Personnel	37,762	42,476	45,630	49,034	
580 Travel	0	0	0	0	
1190 Total	\$ 37,762	\$ 42,476	\$ 45,630	\$ 49,034	7.5%
1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION					
110 Salaries - Teacher	0	7,519	0	0	
112 Salaries - Aides	12,264	16,684	0	0	
114 Summer Salaries	200	0	0	0	
120 Substitutes	150	0	0	0	
210 Health Insurance	4,432	5,073	0	0	
220 Social Security	965	1,907	0	0	
240 Municipal Retirement	500	667	0	0	
270 Course Reimbursement	400	0	0	0	
290 Disability Insurance	0	0	0	0	
331 Special Educaton Assessment	0	0	89,066	80,358	
332 Shared Personnel	18,666	5,951	0	0	
338 EEE Assessment	7,649	7,649	13,065	8,709	
580 Travel	100	0	0	0	

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED	% Change
	2013 - 2014	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	
610 Supplies	200	225	0	0	
730 Equipment	200	0	0	0	
1200 Total	\$ 45,726	\$ 45,675	\$ 102,131	\$ 89,067	-12.8%
1400 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM					
110 Salaries	7,986	8,187	8,629	8,735	
220 Social Security	610	641	660	668	
240 Retirement	0	0	124	126	
610 Supplies	0	0	0	0	
1400 Total	\$ 8,596	\$ 8,828	\$ 9,413	\$ 9,529	1.2%
2100 SUPPORT SERVICES - REGULAR					
321 Contracted Speech Services	1,000	2,687	1,000	1,000	
322 Occupational Therapy	200	0	200	200	
323 Physical Therapy	200	0	200	200	
324 Psychological Services	200	0	200	200	
2100 Total	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,687	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	0.0%
2105 SUPPORT SERVICES - SPECIAL					
321 Contracted Speech Services	7,500	5,748	0	0	
322 Occupational Therapy	750	0	0	0	
323 Physical Therapy	750	0	0	0	
324 Psychological Services	200	0	0	0	
2105 Total	\$ 9,200	\$ 5,748	\$ -	\$ -	--
2120 GUIDANCE					
332 ACSU Shared Personnel	27,999	37,191	30,904	31,487	
2120 Total	\$ 27,999	\$ 37,191	\$ 30,904	\$ 31,487	1.9%
2130 HEALTH					
332 ACSU Shared Personnel	14,588	14,653	16,151	16,034	
730 Equipment	50	0	50	50	
2130 Total	\$ 14,638	\$ 14,653	\$ 16,201	\$ 16,084	-0.7%
2220 MEDIA SERVICE					
110 Salaries	21,782	21,994	22,654	25,026	
210 Health Insurance	7,284	6,988	7,303	7,543	
220 Social Security	1,666	1,683	1,733	1,914	
230 Life Insurance	21	12	19	19	
270 Course Reimbursement	100	0	100	100	
280 Dental Insurance	204	206	197	184	
290 Disability Insurance	66	61	85	95	
580 Travel	50	0	50	50	
610 Supplies	100	91	100	100	

		BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED	
		2013 - 2014	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	% Change
640	Books & Periodicals	1,200	1,240	1,200	1,200	
650	A.V. Materials	200	0	0	0	
730	Equipment	50	0	50	50	
810	Dues and Fees	100	0	100	100	
	2220 Total	\$ 32,823	\$ 32,275	\$ 33,591	\$ 36,381	8.3%
2230 TECHNOLOGY						
430	Equipment Repair	150	0	150	150	
530	Internet Access/Telephone	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	
670	Software	700	893	700	700	
730	Equipment	2,000	1,353	2,000	2,000	
	2250 Total	\$ 6,850	\$ 6,246	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	0.0%
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION						
119	Board Salaries	1,350	350	1,350	0	
220	Social Security	103	27	103	0	
250	Workers' Compensation	2,906	2,691	2,747	2,747	
260	Unemployment	2,000	0	1,500	0	
291	Health Care Assessment	200	0	0	0	
310	Payroll Service	0	0	0	0	
332	Audit	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	
360	Legal Fees	200	0	200	200	
810	Dues & Fees	850	630	850	850	
891	Miscellaneous	200	0	200	200	
	2310 Total	\$ 11,009	\$ 6,898	\$ 10,150	\$ 7,197	-29.1%
2313 TREASURER						
110	Salaries	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	
220	Social Security	84	84	84	84	
610	Supplies	50	0	50	50	
	2313 Total	\$ 1,234	\$ 1,184	\$ 1,234	\$ 1,234	0.0%
2320 ACSU ASSESSMENT						
331	Administration	35,108	35,108	21,891	22,466	
333	Prof Dev/Student Assessment	1,117	1,117	1,367	1,234	
334	Technical Support	13,314	13,314	8,609	9,140	
335	Student Information System	95	95	305	356	
336	Insurance Pool	144	144	87	85	
337	Advertising Assessment	915	915	310	200	
339	Special Education Admin	4,011	4,011	0	0	
	2320 Total	\$ 54,704	\$ 54,704	\$ 32,569	\$ 33,481	2.8%

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED	% Change	
	2013 - 2014	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016		
2410 PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE						
110	Salaries - Principal	47,013	47,014	48,424	49,876	
111	Salaries - Secretary	22,814	22,814	23,498	24,206	
210	Health Insurance	7,387	7,118	7,449	7,785	
220	Social Security	5,342	5,305	5,502	5,667	
230	Life Insurance	166	166	151	155	
240	Municipal Retirement	931	913	940	968	
245	Administrative Retirement	470	0	484	499	
270	Course Reimbursement	1,788	400	1,200	1,200	
280	Dental Insurance	0	0	0	0	
290	Disability Insurance	143	129	184	190	
295	Volunteer Criminal Check Fees	50	0	50	50	
530	Communications/Postage	500	387	500	250	
580	Faculty/Staff Travel	500	0	250	250	
610	Supplies	200	0	200	200	
640	Books & Periodicals	60	49	60	60	
810	Dues & Fees	500	271	250	250	
	2410 Total	\$ 87,864	\$ 84,566	\$ 89,142	\$ 91,606	2.8%
2600 MAINTENANCE						
110	Salaries	26,582	27,913	27,379	28,195	
210	Health Insurance	7,387	7,128	7,449	7,785	
220	Social Security	2,034	2,094	2,095	2,157	
240	Municipal Retirement	1,085	1,087	1,095	1,128	
316	E-Rate Contracted Services	0	177	175	175	
321	Water Testing	0	672	0	200	
332	Facility Maintenance Manager	0	0	5,324	5,477	
421	Disposal Services	750	678	750	700	
422	Snow Plowing	3,000	2,790	3,000	3,000	
424	Lawn Mowing	500	75	500	100	
430	Repairs & Maintenance	3,700	13,426	3,000	3,000	
490	Contracted Services	100	406	0	0	
523	Property/Liability Insurance	4,277	4,515	4,741	4,741	
522	Volunteer Insurance	161	34	36	36	
530	Communication	0	411	0	0	
610	Supplies	4,500	2,341	3,500	2,400	
622	Electricity	11,251	8,107	1,000	4,000	
623	Propane	10,000	13,642	10,000	10,000	
730	Equipment	100	249	100	100	
810	Dues & Fees	150	340	250	250	
	2600 Total	\$ 75,577	\$ 86,085	\$ 70,394	\$ 73,444	4.3%

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSED	% Change
	2013 - 2014	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	
2700 TRANSPORTATION					
510 Contracted Services	36,478	37,353	36,366	37,251	
511 Fuel Surcharge	1,573	847	1,579	850	
519 Field Trips	300	156	300	300	
2700 Total	\$ 38,351	\$ 38,356	\$ 38,245	\$ 38,401	0.4%
5100 LONG TERM DEBT					
830 Interest - Roof/Solar Project	0	6,574	7,816	7,816	
930 Principal - Roof/Solar Project	0	0	11,750	11,750	
5310 Total	\$ -	\$ 6,574	\$ 19,566	\$ 19,566	0.0%
5310 FOOD SERVICE					
918 Food Service Subsidy	2,850	6,740	2,850	2,850	
919 Paid Lunch Equity Subsidy	150	150	150	150	
5310 Total	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,890	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.0%
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 808,931	\$ 860,198	\$ 894,399	\$ 905,614	1.3%

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
2015 - 2016 ESTIMATED FINANCE**

	Actual 2013 - 2014	Budget 2014 - 2015	Proposed 2014-15	Change
<u>Estimated Education Spending:</u>				
Elementary Budget	\$ 860,198	\$ 894,399	\$ 905,614	1.25%
Special Article - Playground Upgrade	-	-	-	--
Special Article - Education Reserve	25,000	-	-	--
Special Article - To Capital Improvement Reserve	-	-	-	--
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$ 885,198	\$ 894,399	\$ 905,614	1.25%
Less Anticipated Receipts				
Special Education Block Grant	14,331	11,990	11,128	-7.19%
Special Education Intensive Reimbursement	12,794	30,278	28,877	-4.63%
Special Education Extraordinary Reimbursement	-	6,312	1,957	-69.00%
Small Schools Grant	64,285	63,994	63,322	-1.05%
Rentals	4,500	-	-	--
Interest Income	171	350	200	-42.86%
Miscellaneous	1,034	-	-	--
Transportation Aid	9,340	16,336	16,296	-0.24%
U. S. Forestry	16,543	18,000	16,543	-8.09%
E-rate Reimbursement	1,711	2,500	2,500	0.00%
Tuition	144,725	119,000	119,000	0.00%
Fees	-	3,453	3,453	0.00%
Transfer from Education Reserve	-	42,300	37,000	-12.53%
Prior Year Fund Balance	33,252	-	13,354	--
Total Estimated Receipts	(302,686)	(314,513)	(313,630)	-0.28%
Estimated Education Spending	\$ 582,512	\$ 579,886	\$ 591,984	2.09%
<u>Tax Rate Estimates</u>				
Equalized Pupils (A)	37.91	34.80	33.73	-3.07%
Estimated Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$ 15,366	\$ 16,663	\$ 17,551	5.32%
Estimated Excess Spending Penalty Above Average Statewide (B)	0	0	0	--
Total Estimated Education Spending Per Pupil	\$ 15,366	\$ 16,663	\$ 17,551	5.32%
Adj for FY16 Spending above \$9,151/\$9,382/\$9,459 Base Per Pupil	167.91%	177.61%	185.54%	4.46%
Base Homestead Equalized Tax Rate (C)	\$ 0.94	\$ 0.98	\$ 1.00	2.04%
Adj Total/Elementary Estimated Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$ 1.578	\$ 1.741	\$ 1.855	6.60%
% Elementary pupils	44.98%	42.79%	42.87%	0.19%
Est Elementary Component of Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$ 0.710	\$ 0.745	\$ 0.795	6.80%
Adjusted Secondary Estimated Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$ 1.599	\$ 1.772	\$ 1.859	4.91%
% Secondary pupils	55.02%	57.21%	57.13%	-0.14%
Est Secondary Component of Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$ 0.880	\$ 1.014	\$ 1.062	4.76%
Estimated Total Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized (D)	\$ 1.590	\$ 1.759	\$ 1.857	5.62%
Estimated Common Level of Appraisal (E)	99.17%	98.53%	98.79%	0.26%
Estimated Homestead Tax Rate (F)	\$ 1.603	\$ 1.785	\$ 1.880	5.35%
Base Non-Residential Equalized Tax Rate (C)	\$ 1.440	\$ 1.510	\$ 1.535	1.66%
Estimated Non Residential Tax Rate	\$ 1.452	\$ 1.533	\$ 1.554	1.39%
Percentage for Income Sensitivity	3.04%	3.25%	3.23%	-0.62%

- (A) Equalized pupils are pre-kindergarten to Grade 6 average daily membership averaged over two years and weighted for poverty factors, and English proficiency.
- (B) Amount of per pupil spending, less eligible capital debt and other exclusions, above the excess spending threshold of \$17,103
- (C) As recommended by Tax Commissioner, and pending legislative action.
- (D) Under Act 130, effective in FY 2008-09, elementary and secondary schools calculate spending per pupil and equalized education tax rates separately and are pro-rated by % of equalized pupils to towns.
- (E) Common Level of Appraisal, as determined by the state, adjusts for property values reported at other than fair market value.
- (F) Tax rate is estimated per \$100 of equalized value. One cent on tax rate equals approx. \$10 on \$100,000 value.

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
2013-14 FUND BALANCE REPORT**

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

Education Spending Revenue from Town & State	\$582,512.00	
State Aid - Small Schools Grant	64,285.00	
State Aid - Transportation Aid	9,340.00	
Special Education - Block Grant	14,331.00	
Special Education - Intensive	12,794.00	
U. S. Forestry	16,543.49	
Interest Income	171.13	
Regular Education Tuition	144,725.13	
Rental	4,500.00	
Miscellaneous Income	2,745.95	
	Total Revenue	\$851,947.70

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Regular Programs	\$430,468.62	
Special Education	51,424.27	
Support Services	2,687.01	
Guidance	37,191.00	
Health Service	14,653.00	
Media Services	32,274.68	
Technology	6,245.38	
Board of Education	3,697.83	
Treasurer	1,184.16	
ACSU Assessments	57,904.00	
Principal's Office	84,564.67	
Operations & Maintenance	86,084.76	
Transportation	38,355.74	
Debt Service	6,574.37	
Food Service Subsidy	6,889.91	
FY12 Fund Balance to Education Reserve Vtd 3/4/13	25,000.00	
	Total Expenditures	(\$885,199.40)

Excess Revenue over Expenditures	(33,251.70)
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2013	46,606.24
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2014	\$13,354.54

General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance at June 30, 2014 **\$13,354.54**

RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
2013-14 FUND BALANCE REPORT
Continued

<u>ENTERPRISE FUND</u>	Beg. Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	End. Balance
Food Service Program	\$ -	\$ 24,284.51	\$ (24,284.51)	\$ -

<u>CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</u>	Beg. Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	End. Balance
Capital Reserve*	\$ 21,953.55	\$ 53,871.72	\$ (75,825.27)	\$ -
Efficiency Vermont Rebate	2,788.02			2,788.02
Playing Fields	1,985.16		(1,985.16)	-
Playing Field Fence-voted 3/10	939.69			939.69
VCF Grant Playground Construction	-	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	-
Solar Project voted 3/13	(600.00)	191,198.36	(190,598.36)	-
Roof Replacement voted 3/13	10,579.04	120,103.43	(130,682.47)	-
Total:	\$ 37,645.46	\$ 370,173.51	\$ (404,091.26)	\$ 3,727.71

<u>SPECIAL REVENUE FUND</u>	Beg. Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	End. Balance
Education Reserve	\$ -	\$ 100,825.38		\$ 100,825.38
Library Fund	1,285.66	1,699.25	(1,371.29)	1,613.62
NC FCU Educator	15.57			15.57
Essential Early Education	-	4,990.00	(4,990.00)	-
ACSU CFP School Wide Program	-	8,808.83	(8,808.83)	-
Artist in Residence Donation	516.59	2,445.60	(2,560.00)	402.19
Ripton Tots Sumer Camp	732.00			732.00
VT Stars Award	1,150.00			1,150.00
ACSU VEHI Pathpoints	-	4,000.00	(4,000.00)	-
ACSU Act 230	-	250.00	(250.00)	-
ACSU Title II	-	710.73	(710.73)	-
ACSU Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Prgm	-	1,722.95	(1,722.95)	-
Total:	\$ 3,699.82	\$ 125,452.74	\$ (24,413.80)	\$ 104,738.76

* Requires voter approval to spend funds

AUDIT

Title 16 V.S.A. Section 323 requires the supervisory union to employ public accountants to audit the financial statements of its member school districts annually. Ripton's FY 2014 records were audited in October of 2014 and the audit report is available at the office of the Superintendent or on the Addison Central Supervisory Union website.

Ripton Town School District
 Combined Balance Sheet
 6/30/2014

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Project Fund	Debt Service Fund	Enterprise Fund	Trust Fund	Totals
ASSETS							
<i>Current Assets</i>							
Cash	\$123,163.19						\$123,163.19
Accounts Receivable	\$5,751.01	\$13,058.83			\$349.07		\$19,158.91
Inventory							\$0.00
Deferred Revenue	\$34.73						\$34.73
<i>Current Assets Total</i>	<u>\$128,948.93</u>	<u>\$13,058.83</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$349.07</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$142,356.83</u>
<i>Long Term Assets</i>							
Retirement of Debt				\$235,000.00			\$235,000.00
<i>Long Term Assets Total</i>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$235,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$235,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$128,948.93</u>	<u>\$13,058.83</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$235,000.00</u>	<u>\$349.07</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$377,356.83</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES							
LIABILITIES							
<i>Current Liabilities</i>							
Due To Other Funds	\$95,540.15	(\$91,818.76)	(\$3,727.71)		\$6.32		(\$0.00)
Accounts Payable	\$15,554.24	\$138.83			\$342.75		\$16,035.82
Deferred Revenue	\$4,500.00						\$4,500.00
<i>Current Liabilities Total</i>	<u>\$115,594.39</u>	<u>(\$91,679.93)</u>	<u>(\$3,727.71)</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$349.07</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$20,535.82</u>
<i>Long Term Liabilities</i>							
Bond Pay-VT Mun Bond Bank				\$235,000.00			\$235,000.00
<i>Total Long Term Liabilities</i>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$235,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$235,000.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$115,594.39</u>	<u>(\$91,679.93)</u>	<u>(\$3,727.71)</u>	<u>\$235,000.00</u>	<u>\$349.07</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$255,535.82</u>
FUND EQUITY							
<i>Fund Balances</i>							
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$13,354.54						\$13,354.54
Committed/Restricted Fund Balance		\$104,738.76	\$3,727.71				\$108,466.47
Retained Earnings							\$0.00
<i>Total Fund Equity</i>	<u>\$13,354.54</u>	<u>\$104,738.76</u>	<u>\$3,727.71</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$121,821.01</u>
TOTAL LIAB & FUND EQUITY	<u>\$128,948.93</u>	<u>\$13,058.83</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$235,000.00</u>	<u>\$349.07</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$377,356.83</u>

District: **Ripton**
County: **Addison**

T167
Addison Central

Statutory calculation See note at bottom of page. **9,459**
Recommended homestead rate from Tax Commissioner See note at bottom of page. **1.00**

Expenditures		FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$799,360	\$833,931	\$894,399	\$905,614
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-
3.	minus Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$799,360	\$833,931	\$894,399	\$905,614
5.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-
6.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-
7.	Total Budget	\$799,360	\$833,931	\$894,399	\$905,614
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-
Revenues					
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$213,212	\$251,419	\$314,513	\$313,630
11.	plus Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-	-
12.	minus All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$213,212	\$251,419	\$314,513	\$313,630
14.	Education Spending	\$586,148	\$582,512	\$579,886	\$591,984
15.	Equalized Pupils (Act 130 count is by school district)	40.01	37.91	34.80	33.73
16.	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$14,650.04	\$15,365.66	\$16,663.39	\$17,550.67
17.	minus Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	\$498.45	\$514
18.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual	-	-	-	-
19.	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	-	-	-	-
20.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils	-	-	-	-
21.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period	-	-	-	-
22.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition	NA	-	-	-
23.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools	-	-	-	-
24.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015	NA	NA	NA	-
25.	plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	-
26.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	\$14,650	\$15,366	\$16,663	\$17,551
27.	District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%) (\$17,551 / \$9,459)	167.947% <small>based on \$9,723</small>	167.912% <small>based on \$9,151</small>	179.466% <small>based on \$9,205</small>	185.545% <small>based on \$9,459</small>
Prorating the local tax rate					
28.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate to be prorated (185.545% x \$1.00)	\$1.4947 <small>based on \$0.69</small>	\$1.5784 <small>based on \$0.94</small>	\$1.7588 <small>based on \$0.98</small>	\$1.8555 <small>based on \$1.00</small>
29.	Percent of Ripton equalized pupils not in a union school district	45.81%	44.98%	42.79%	42.87%
30.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (42.87% x 1.86)	\$0.6847	\$0.7100	\$0.7526	\$0.7955
31.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	95.96%	99.17%	98.53%	98.79%
32.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$0.7955 / 98.79%)	\$0.7135 <small>based on \$0.88</small>	\$0.7159 <small>based on \$0.94</small>	\$0.7638 <small>based on \$0.98</small>	\$0.8052 <small>based on \$1.00</small>
<p>If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a PARTIAL homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.</p>					
33.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated (185.545% x 1.94%)	3.02% <small>based on 1.60%</small>	3.02% <small>based on 1.60%</small>	3.48% <small>based on 1.94%</small>	3.60% <small>based on 1.94%</small>
34.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (42.87% x 3.60%)	1.38% <small>based on 1.60%</small>	1.36% <small>based on 1.60%</small>	1.49% <small>based on 1.94%</small>	1.54% <small>based on 1.94%</small>
35.	Percent of equalized pupils at Middlebury UHSD	54.19%	55.02%	57.21%	57.13%
36.		-	-	-	-

- Following current statute, the base education amount is calculated to be \$9,459. The Tax Commissioner has recommended base tax rates of \$1.00 and \$1.535. The administration also has stated that tax rates could be lower than the recommendations if statewide education spending is held down.
- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
- The base income percentage cap is 1.94%.

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
INDEBTEDNESS STATEMENT**

Purpose, Date & Amount of Original Note	Indebtedness July 1, 2015	Principal Payment 2015-16	Interest Payment 2015-16	Indebtedness June 30, 2016
--	------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------

Roof/Solar Project July 30, 2013 \$235,000	\$223,250	\$11,750	\$7,699.55	\$211,500
--	-----------	----------	------------	-----------

**MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT REVENUES
FY 2013-2014**

Medicaid money is available each year as a reimbursement for some school-based services provided to students eligible for special education. The amount of money in any given fiscal year varies widely and is very difficult to project due to this variation. Because of this, ACSU utilizes funds generated from the previous fiscal year. For example, the Medicaid money utilized in FY2014 was generated during the 2012–2013 school year. For FY2014, ACSU spent \$146,000 in Medicaid money on the following:

Medicaid Claims Administration, a portion of a 1.0 FTE Integration Consultant, a portion of 2.0 FTE English as a Second Language teachers, a portion of 1.6 FTE School Psychologists, and facilities maintenance for the ACSU Early Education program.

**FEDERALLY FUNDED SERVICES
to Ripton Students
2014-2016**

<u>Service</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>Anticipated * 2015-2016</u>
Math Professional Development	3,000	3,000
Total	\$3,000	3,000

Federal Funds Include: Title IIA, IDEA-B and Medicaid

In addition to the services shown here, federal funds also pay for:

- 1) A portion of the salary and benefits of three elementary level Teacher Leaders in the areas of Math (.5 FTE), Literacy (.5 FTE), and Science (.2 FTE);
- 2) a portion of two school psychologists and a behavior specialist;
- 3) off-setting the cost of in-service training in the areas of Math, Reading, Writing and Responsive Classroom, and
- 4) off-setting the cost of two English as Second Language Teachers.

*These dollar amounts and services are anticipated. Actual amounts will not be determined until the spring of 2015 and may vary. There are a number of determining factors that come into play when allocating funds.

ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury ID#4, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Weybridge, and Union District #3

Addison Central Supervisory Union continues to thrive with the unparalleled support that we receive from the community. In all aspects of our work, I have found that behind every success is profound community engagement and a desire to provide the best possible education for our students. From board participation, community forums, and parent involvement to partnerships with agencies throughout our county, ACSU has a deeply rooted core of support.

In my second year as superintendent, we have embarked on a year-long strategic plan development, in order to assess both our current strengths along with building a vision for our future that addresses the considerable changes in our local and global contexts. We have completed new ACSU vision and mission statements that the entire community helped to build, in order to establish a foundation from which to build our future. These statements will guide our direction over the next five years through our strategic plan.

ACSU Vision Statement: All students will reach their full academic potential and be prepared for success as engaged citizens.

ACSU Mission Statement: Our mission is to provide an innovative, rigorous, and supportive educational community that inspires a passion for learning and cultivates empathy and responsibility.

We will be completing the ACSU Strategic Plan in June. This plan will provide direction for our schools for the next five years, so that we can work together, collectively, to innovate towards a model of education that meets the needs of all students. Throughout this year, and in years to come, the community will be at the center of this change. The strength of our schools is rooted in our strengths as a community.

Our work on the Common Core and preparation for the Smarter Balanced Assessment, which replaces the NECAP in math and reading, continues through a number of different initiatives. In addition, we are building a new ACSU assessment system that is articulated across all of our schools in order to meet the needs of all of our learners through an accurate and actionable assessment of learning.

ACSU staff continue to inspire our students to greatness. As part of our new 2014-2017 negotiated agreement, all ACSU teachers will reach salary equity over the course of the next three years. This change will enable us to work more integrally as a supervisory union as we build systems and connect our schools together to provide exceptional educational experiences to each and every student in ACSU.

I'd like to thank everyone in our community for your continued support of our students' futures. It does take a village to raise a child, and we are fortunate to have such impassioned support for continuing to pursue excellence in all of our schools.

Peter Burrows, Superintendent

**ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION
PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET**

	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>			
Salaries	720,105	738,668	762,811
Health Insurance	129,461	150,370	160,928
Social Security	54,410	55,908	57,476
Life Insurance	1,788	2,908	4,724
Retirement	13,504	23,934	22,940
Workers Compensation	5,003	5,197	5,983
Unemployment	0	2,000	2,000
Tuition Reimbursement	0	1,838	0
Dental	9,916	11,241	11,614
Disability	2,148	2,790	2,963
In-service	872	2,100	1,350
Audit	2,750	3,342	3,676
Professional Services	4,781	5,106	5,150
Technology Support	6,144	8,690	10,572
Legal	10,394	6,000	6,000
Payroll/Human Resources	1,073	850	1,330
CO Equipment Repairs	99	200	200
Copier Lease	5,126	5,354	5,354
Postage Meter Rental	1,558	1,603	1,604
Telephone	6,995	8,168	7,493
Postage	3,445	4,147	3,617
ACSU Schools Report	0	300	0
Staff Mileage Reimbursement	8,857	7,512	9,123
Office Supplies	7,504	7,415	7,655
Books	1,246	1,000	1,000
Central Office Software	159	1,000	1,000
Central Office Equipment	4,355	5,000	5,000
Conferences & Dues	14,731	10,465	13,103
Finance Professional Services	4,600	4,692	4,692
Finance Accounting System Support	24,150	25,629	28,129
Finance Office Server Software	14,605	14,605	14,605
Finance Office Server Equipment	11,949	11,949	11,949
Finance-Software Training/Conferences	500	4,206	3,500
Technology Professional Services	3,916	4,000	4,000
Technology Equipment Repairs	994	1,000	1,000
Technology Supplies/Replacement Parts	1,131	2,500	2,500

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Technology Office Software	3,861	2,000	2,000
Technology Books and Periodicals	0	1,000	1,000
Technology Server/ Networking Equip.	12,127	10,000	10,000
Technology Conferences	542	2,000	2,000
Miscellaneous	2,862	2,331	2,882
Contingency	0	1,000	1,000
Purchased Services	11,511	10,094	12,087
Monitoring System	222	230	230
Water & Sewer	383	490	490
Maintenance	402	1,500	1,500
Building Upgrade	0	3,000	1,000
Building Rent	4,000	4,000	4,000
Property/Liability Insurance	2,906	2,965	3,113
Furniture/Equipment	2,867	750	750
Electricity	9,731	11,014	11,014
Facilities Maintenance Manager	0	77,897	80,550
Advertising	19,276	23,000	20,000
Insurance Pool	1,001	4,500	4,500
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,149,957	\$ 1,299,459	\$1,343,157

PROPOSED 2015-16 REVENUE

Prior Year Fund Balance	46,919	39,406
Grant Administration Fees	18,000	18,000
Assessments	1,234,540	1,285,751
TOTAL	\$1,299,459	\$1,343,157

**ESTIMATED ACSU ASSESSMENTS
BASED ON PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET**

	Equalized Pupils	% of ACSU Budget	2015-16 ACSU Assessment	2014-15 ACSU Assessment	ACSU Incr/(decr)
Bridport	80.91	4.53%	63,032	56,242	6,790
Cornwall	79.73	4.46%	60,222	56,886	3,336
ID#4	415.12	23.23%	314,147	298,333	15,814
UD#3-MUHS	648.37	36.29%	437,320	423,696	13,624
UD#3-MUMS	319.34	17.87%	215,391	211,844	3,547
Ripton	33.73	1.89%	28,228	27,612	616
Salisbury	88.60	4.96%	71,278	69,243	2,035
Shoreham	75.08	4.20%	57,810	57,474	336
Weybridge	45.95	2.57%	38,323	33,210	5,113
TOTALS	1,786.83	100.00%	\$1,285,751	\$1,234,540	\$51,211

**ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION
K-12 SPECIAL EDUCATION
PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET**

Act 153 (and as amended by Act 156) states that each supervisory union board shall provide special education services on behalf of its member districts. These provisions took effect on July 1, 2014. Prior to this legislation, the supervisory union board had the option to either provide or to coordinate the provision of these services; ACSU opted to coordinate these services only. As a result of the legislation, the total cost of special education services are now budgeted at the supervisory union level. Each district is assessed a share of the total cost based on its share of equalized pupils. Services will continue to be provided based on Individual Education Programs.

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	2014-15 Approved Budget	2015-16 Proposed Budget
Direct Instructional Services:		
Salaries	\$ 2,228,050	\$ 2,035,242
Benefits	679,923	630,334
Professional Services	146,700	313,250
Contracted Services	510	510
Tuition	646,815	604,917
Supplies	17,535	8,300
Equipment	8,400	9,000
Speech Services	412,447	423,261
Psychological Services	194,395	199,901
OT Services	34,650	27,225
PT & Other Support Services	206,500	32,900
Administration	370,809	388,804
Facilities	14,000	14,000
Transportation	269,914	166,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,230,648	\$ 4,853,644
 <u>REVENUE</u>		
Local Assessment	\$ 2,101,070	\$ 2,033,978
EEE and DO Reimbursement	40,942	42,150
State Block Grant	616,441	628,012
State Intensive Reimbursement	1,571,353	1,529,766
State Extraordinary Reimbursement	327,585	103,680
Other State Reimbursement	94,000	0
Excess Cost	79,830	102,541
Grants	12,008	12,383
IDEA-B	348,891	358,170
Medicaid	38,528	42,964
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 5,230,648	\$ 4,853,644

ASSESSMENT

District	Equalized Pupils	% Allocation	Local Assessment	State Intensive Reimbursement	State Extraordinary Reimbursement	State Block Grant*	Total Assessment in District Budget
Bridport	80.91	4.53%	92,101	69,270	4,695	27,213	193,279
Cornwall	79.73	4.46%	90,758	68,260	4,626	32,207	195,851
ID#4	415.12	23.23%	472,538	355,398	24,087	152,966	1,004,989
Ripton	33.73	1.89%	38,395	28,877	1,958	11,128	80,358
Salisbury	88.60	4.96%	100,855	75,853	5,141	33,361	215,210
Shoreham	75.08	4.20%	85,465	64,279	4,356	25,315	179,415
Weybridge	45.95	2.57%	52,306	39,339	2,666	17,630	111,941
UD#3	967.71	54.16%	1,101,560	828,490	56,151	328,192	2,314,393
TOTAL	1,786.83	100.00%	2,033,978	1,529,766	103,680	628,012	4,295,436

* State distributes the Block Grant to districts based on ADM

**UNION DISTRICT #3
PROPOSED 2015 - 2016 BUDGET-COMPOSITE**

	2013 - 2014 Actual	2014 - 2015 Budget	2015 - 2016 Proposed	Change	Percent Change
MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOL					
Regular Programs					
High School	4,252,792	4,376,910	4,433,919	57,009	1.30%
Middle School	2,420,778	2,449,542	2,593,718	144,176	5.89%
Course Accounts					
High School	303,755	390,223	416,539	26,316	6.74%
Middle School	104,756	122,429	151,467	29,038	23.72%
Special Education					
High School	1,496,670	1,669,837	1,618,352	-51,485	-3.08%
Middle School	814,269	860,219	771,464	-88,755	-10.32%
Technical	23,699	19,305	19,305	0	0.00%
Athletics/Co-Curricular					
High School	575,658	650,340	679,869	29,529	4.54%
Middle School	92,366	107,552	108,591	1,039	0.97%
Support Services					
High School	33,499	0	90	90	100.00%
Middle School	139,525	12,500	0	-12,500	-100.00%
Guidance/School to Work/Prevention					
High School	552,815	574,111	603,310	29,199	5.09%
Middle School	251,730	267,991	271,287	3,296	1.23%
Health Services					
High School	133,103	142,255	136,932	-5,323	-3.74%
Middle School	83,249	88,423	88,284	-139	-0.16%
Media					
High School	154,028	162,067	139,510	-22,557	-13.92%
Middle School	106,929	110,467	110,018	-449	-0.41%
Board of Education & Treasurer					
High School	63,658	80,360	80,360	0	0.00%
Middle School	41,950	49,923	49,924	0	0.00%
Central Office Assessments					
High School	504,685	603,081	628,327	25,246	4.19%
Middle School	321,488	303,545	311,393	7,848	2.59%
Administration					
High School	490,815	553,059	551,430	-1,629	-0.29%
Middle School	430,866	398,262	421,570	23,308	5.85%
Buildings and Grounds					
High School	1,296,495	1,375,936	1,410,012	34,076	2.48%
Middle School	553,414	570,964	593,552	22,588	3.96%
Transportation	640,415	542,707	556,710	14,003	2.58%
Short and Long Term Debt					
High School	182,258	165,316	162,788	-2,528	-1.53%
Middle School	351,279	324,423	314,912	-9,511	-2.93%
Computer Services					
High School	76,291	89,533	53,377	-36,156	-40.38%
Middle School	7,438	3,500	10,000	6,500	185.71%
Support Staff Retirement	0	0	0	0	0.00%
UNION DISTRICT #3 TOTALS	16,500,673	17,064,780	17,287,008	222,228	1.30%

Minutes of the Annual School Meeting March 3, 2014

The legal voters of Ripton met at the Community House on Monday March 3, 2014 to act upon articles 1-5 of the 2014 School District Warning; approximately 75 people attended. School board members present were Carol Ford (chair), Perry Hanson, Laura Murphy McIntosh, Bryan Alexander, and Giles Hoyler. Moderator Timothy Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. He briefly explained some points of procedure regarding Robert's Rules of Order that guide the meeting, and then read the first article.

Article 1: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize its Board of Directors, under 16 VSA 562 (9), to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year.

The article was moved and seconded by Jeremy Grip and Mac Cox. Carol Ford explained that this is boiler plate language that authorizes the school board to borrow money before revenues come in should that be necessary.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and Article 1 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 2: To see if the voters of the Town School District will approve the sum of \$894,399 to defray current expenses of the Town School District for the ensuing school year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations.

The article was moved and seconded by Richard Ruane and Erik Eriksen. Carol Ford explained that next year's school budget represents a net increase of 10.6% over the current year, and described the factors influencing that change. Increases in spending are primarily affected by a state mandated change in how special education funding is paid, loss of federal funding for several services, and new bond debt for the roof/solar project. Smaller factors include small increases in salaries and health insurance. Factors that positively affect revenue are an increase of tuitioned students from 4 to 7, and a reduction in our regular ACSU assessment. This assessment, which is our share of central office costs, was previously based on our professional count and beginning next school year will be based on our equalized student count - this is a case where our low number of equalized students actually helps us. Although the change in how special education is paid has increased our special ed spending considerably, we receive an additional amount of special ed reimbursement to help offset that expense. However, the net increase is about \$15,276 over previous years.

A question from Dick Collitt clarified that the increased expense for regular salaries for aides is due to the lack of federal funding to help pay for this expense, and not because additional aides have been hired. Mac Cox asked if a change in federal standards for determining qualifying students caused the discontinuance of federal funding. Ms. Ford noted that rules regarding how federal funds may be applied can change from year to year. These particular funds were based upon the percentage of students in poverty, but she was not aware of changes in qualifying standards that caused our school to lose its qualification.

Cassandra Franklin asked how much income tuitioned students were bringing in and whether more students can be encouraged to come next year. The board responded that the present rate is \$15,500 per student and the proposed 2014-15 rate is \$17,000 per student. The school board must set this rate by January 15 of every year. After the end of the school year when actual costs are known, we may be required to refund receiving towns if our rate is 3% higher than expenses, or we may charge for costs in excess of a rate not set high enough. One reason we may have attracted students from Hancock and Granville is that these towns were charged back for tuition for several years from Rochester, so the Ripton school board attempts to set tuition rates very carefully. Running the bus over the mountain to bring students here is a likely factor in encouraging students to come to Ripton. This bus also carries middle and high school students to Middlebury, and the cost of the bus is shared with us by those schools.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and Article 2 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 3: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to close the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund (fund balance as of 1/20/14 of \$75,825.27) and transfer the balance thereof to the Education Reserve Fund for future education spending.

The article was moved and seconded by Richard Ruane and Barry King. It was noted that at last year's town meeting, it was decided to create an Education Reserve Fund, and the discussion concluded with the suggestion that a proposal to move all funds from the Capital Reserve Fund to the new fund would be included at this year's meeting. This article accomplishes that. Following questions from Charles Billings, it was further clarified that the Education Reserve Fund is more flexible than a Capital Reserve Fund regarding what the funds may be used for, though voter approval is still required before funds are spent. Unfortunately, the funds may not be used to pay down the debt for the roof project, because the debt went out to bond for which there are fixed payments that cannot be prepaid. It was further commented that over the years that we are paying down the bond, funds from the Education Reserve Fund can help with other expenses.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and Article 3 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 4: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to transfer a sum not to exceed \$42,300 from the Education Reserve Fund (fund balance as of 1/20/14 of \$25,000 plus \$75,825.27 transferred from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund) to the General Fund as revenue for the 2014-15 school year.

The article was moved and seconded by Lisa Whitman and Richard Ruane. Carol Ford explained that this article asks voter permission to use some of the funds in the education reserve to reduce education expenses in order to have 2014-15 expenses about level funded with the current year expenses. This will also keep the per-pupil spending below the threshold that would cause a penalty to be assessed and added to the tax rate.

Questions from Laurel Coburn and Dick Collitt prompted the explanation of how these funds affect the budget and estimated education spending as shown in the chart on page 64 (the "estimated finance page") of the town report. The total expenditures shown at the top of the chart are offset by the total of income sources shown below to determine our "Estimated Education Spending." This number then becomes part of the formula the State uses to figure our tax rate. Therefore, the budget as just approved is not changed – we still must meet those expenses. However, income from various sources offsets the net amount that must be raised by taxes.

Questions and comments from Jenny Izzo and Karen Goettlemann prompted discussion about short-term versus long-term solutions to controlling increasing spending. Carol Ford said that every year the board scrutinizes the budget to do what they can to address this ongoing issue. One problem is that our equalized pupil count has been in decline and this is what the state uses to determine our tax rate. On the up side, the increase of tuitioned students has created additional income to help offset estimated spending [as described above]. In this present school year \$62,000 was budgeted for tuition income, and \$93,000 has already been collected. This unanticipated revenue may then be used to build the Education Reserve Fund up again. A followup question was asked about how much the penalty was for going over the per-pupil cost and whether it may be cheaper to pay that penalty. Jerry Shedd, the union district school director for the town, said that the general answer is that for every dollar that exceeds 123% of per-pupil spending, the town pays a dollar to Montpelier. One would have to run numbers for a specific response.

The moderator asked if the group was ready to vote, and Article 4 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 5: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Laura McIntosh briefly introduced FORS (Friends of Ripton School), a fundraising organization that supplements the budget by helping to pay for trips, supplies, performances, and many other things. She described two fundraisers currently going on: garden seed sale from High Mowing Seed (with a deadline this week) and a t-shirt and sweatshirt sale (ongoing).

Bryan Alexander summarized the now completed work of the school governance study committee that researched the possibility of combining multiple school boards in the district into one regional educational district (RED) with a single board. Last year, the committee was charged with creating a proposal to present at this year's town meeting for converting us to a RED. The committee decided not to produce the proposal due to lack of popular support. Instead, they produced a report that analyzes a lot of data about our schools. That document is available at the ACSU website (addisoncentralsu.org).

Perry Hanson gave a wrap-up report on the roof/solar project. In 2013, the town approved 457K to replace a 20+ year old roof on the school with added solar photovoltaic system. Warren King and Jeremy Grip guided the process. The roof was completed in July 2013, and the solar panel installation was completed later that fall, going "live" by November 8. The project came in \$100,000 under budget, and was considered overall to have been very successful.

Warren King spoke on behalf of HOPE (Help Overcome Poverty Effects) noting that we receive a number of items of assistance for Ripton residents, such as food, shelter, medical needs, and fuel assistance. HOPE is one of many organizations that requests town funding every year voted on by Australian ballot the day following town meeting.

Warren King and Charles Billings spoke about the town plan, which is required to be revised every five years. The state now mandates that an energy plan be part of it. The planning commission is looking for a couple of residents to participate in the process of creating the energy plan, and has designed a questionnaire for all residents to complete and return to the town office by March 31, 2014.

Charles Billings said that the Ripton Historical Society needs people to join and/or participate. It has been many years since Ripton has had a functioning historical society, so a primary task is to establish what the society will look like going forward. Interested persons are welcome to come to a meeting scheduled April 5, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ripton Community Church.

Tracy Harrington asked if it is possible to move the start time of town meeting to an earlier time to make it easier for families with young children to attend. The moderator commented that he believed it is a matter to be warned and voted on at a future town meeting.

Laura McIntosh commented that it is a privilege to serve on the school board, and thanked the community for their support.

Barry King and Warren King moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting, and by unanimous voice vote the school annual meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The meeting will recess until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, 2014 to vote at the Ripton Town Office by Australian ballot for school directors and moderator, and for warned articles from the UD#3 district and Hannaford Center. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Timothy Hanson
Moderator

Sally Hoyler
Town Clerk

Carol Ford
School Board Chair