

Please bring this report with you to

**Town Meeting
Monday, March 1, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.**

at the Community House

Note: The School Meeting will be first this year, followed by the Town Meeting.

Pre-Town Meeting Social

Arrive at the Community House any time after 6:30 p.m. for 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 until Town Meeting ends.

Call the School at 388-2208 for more information.

Vote for town officers and other ballot items

Election Day

**Tuesday, March 2, 2010 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
at the Town Office**

Other dates to remember:

If you want to participate at Town Meeting and vote on Election Day
and you are not on the checklist,

register to vote by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 24.

If you want to vote absentee,

request an absentee ballot by 6:00 p.m. Monday, March 1.

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

TOWN CALENDAR 2010

MARCH	
TBA	School Board
1	TOWN MEETING 7:30 pm
2	ELECTION DAY
6	Coffee House
6 & 20	Recycling
8 & 22	Selectboard
9	Planning Commission
13	Fire & First Response
APRIL	
3	Coffee House
3 & 17	Recycling
5	School Board
10	Fire & First Response
12 & 26	Selectboard
13	Planning Commission
MAY	
1	Coffee House
1	GREEN-UP DAY
1 & 15	Recycling
3	School Board
8	Fire & First Response
11	Planning Commission
10 & 24	Selectboard
JUNE	
5	Coffee House
7	School Board
5 & 19	Recycling
8	Planning Commission
12	Fire & First Response
14 & 28	Selectboard
JULY	
3	Coffee House
3 & 17	Recycling
5	School Board
10	Fire & First Response
12 & 26	Selectboard
13	Planning Commission
AUGUST	
	<i>No Coffee House in August</i>
2	School Board
7 & 21	Recycling
9 & 23	Selectboard
10	Planning Commission
14	Fire & First Response

SEPTEMBER	
1	FIRST TAX PAYMENT DUE
4	Coffee House
4 & 18	Recycling
6	School Board
11	Fire & First Response
13 & 27	Selectboard
14	PRIMARY ELECTION
14	Planning Commission
OCTOBER	
2	Coffee House
2 & 16	Recycling
4	School Board
9	Fire & First Response
10	Ripton Ridge Run
11 & 25	Selectboard
12	Planning Commission
NOVEMBER	
1	School Board
2	GENERAL ELECTION
4	ALL TAXES DUE
5	TAXES DELINQUENT
6	Coffee House
6 & 20	Recycling
8 & 22	Selectboard
9	Planning Commission
13	Fire & First Response
DECEMBER	
4	Coffee House
4 & 18	Recycling
6	School Board
11	Fire & First Response
13 & 27	Selectboard
14	Planning Commission
JANUARY 2011	
1	Coffee House
1 & 15	Recycling
3	School Board
8	Fire & First Response
10 & 24	Selectboard
11	Planning Commission
FEBRUARY	
5	Coffee House
5 & 19	Recycling
7	School Board
8	Planning Commission
12	Fire & First Response
14 & 28	Selectboard

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TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 2 to 6 p.m. / Tue, Wed, Thu: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed Fridays and State holidays.
E-mail: townoffice@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: 1st Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at the Ripton School
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
Conservation Commission: Times will be posted

DIRECTORY

ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

(for Middlebury Ambulance, Ripton Fire & First Response, State Police)

Ripton Elementary School	388-2208	Road Problems: Ron Wimett	388-7346
Ripton Town Office/Town Clerk	388-2266	Dog Problems: Chris Smith	388-0337
Fire Station (non-emergency)	388-4506	Zoning Permits: Ed Hanson	453-3785
Burn Permits: Erik Eriksen	388-3629	Cemetery Info: Bonnie Swan	388-6687

Town Boards/Commissions	Name (term expires)	Phone
Selectboard	Lauren Cox, Chair (11) Ronald Wimett (12) Richard Collitt , appointed (10)	388-7820
Board Clerk	Debra Karpak	388-6853
Assistant Board Clerk	Peter Karpak	
Ripton Elementary School Directors	Carol Ford, Chair (12) Michael Hussey (11) Willem Jewett (10) Amy McGlashan (10) Connie Trudeau (11)	388-7804
Union School Director	Jerome Shedd (14)	
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission, and Historic District Commission	Warren King, Chair (11) Alison Joseph, Vice Chair (12) Jorene Doria , Secretary (11) George Phinney (11) Charles Billings (10)	388-4082
Zoning Board, Alternate Members	Marlene Harrison (10), James Kater (10) Leonard Tiedemann (10), Amy McGlashan (11)	
Board of Listers	Alison Joseph, Chair (11) Erik Eriksen (10) Bruce Malhotra (12)	388-2266

Town Boards/Commissions	Name (term expires)	Phone
Conservation Commission	Warren King, Chair (12)	388-4082
	Frank Wolf, Treasurer (11)	
	Sally Buteau, Becky Purdum (12)	
	Barry King, Jay Harrington, Martha McCaughin (10)	
	Ned Horning, Nola Kevra (11)	
Justices of the Peace	Anza Armstrong (10)	388-3646
	Joyce Dicianna (10)	388-7895
	Kim Kimler (10)	388-0083
	Warren King (10)	388-4082
	Jane Ogilvie (10)	388-3567
Town Officers/Appointees		
Town Clerk/Treasurer	Sally Hoyler (10)	388-2266
Assistant Clerks	Alison Joseph, Joyce Henderson	388-2266
Zoning Administrator	Edmund Hanson	453-3785
Road Commissioner	Ronald Wimett	388-7346
Fire and First Response Chief	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Animal Control Officer	Chris Smith	388-0337
Town Moderator	Joyce Dicianna (10)	388-7895
Delinquent Tax Collector	Sally Hoyler (10)	388-2266
Constable	Chris Smith (10)	388-0337
Town Agent	Chris Smith (10)	388-0337
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Willem Jewett (10)	388-0320
Town Grand Juror	Richard "Kim" Kimler (10)	388-0083
Health Officer	Tim Hanson	388-2266
Town Service Officer	Ceredwyn Alexander	388-7850
Emergency Management Coordinator	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Fire Wardens	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
	Roland McGlashan	388-7080
Cemetery Sexton	Bonnie Swan	388-6687
Recycling Coordinator	Warren King	388-4082
Regional Planning Delegates	Jeremy Grip; Ted Dunakin, alternate	
Regional Transportation Delegate	Marlene Harrison	
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	Perry Hanson, Jr.	

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	Harold Giard	hgiard@leg.state.vt.us	802-828-2228
Governor	James Douglas	Website: gov.state.vt.us	800-649-6825
Mail to: State House, 115 State Street, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633			

Roles of Town Officers

ELECTED OFFICERS – terms are from one to three years

Moderator: presides at Town and School Meeting by keeping the discourse on track, ruling on points of order, and otherwise making sure that the meeting runs well.

Selectboard: responsible for the roads, prepares the Town budget, sets the tax rate, appoints Town officers, authorizes expenditures, manages Town property, and other affairs of the Town. A Clerk of Selectboard (“Board Clerk”) is hired by the Selectboard to carry out administrative duties such as researching and drafting ordinances, preparing agendas, minutes and correspondence, administering grants, and preparing the budget for Board review.

School Directors: prepare the school budget, establish educational policies, approve and pay bills, hire personnel, and generally supervise the operation of the school.

Union High School Director: represents Ripton at the Union High School Board, which does for the District what local school boards do for towns.

Town Clerk: maintains public records, records land and vital records, presides over elections, administers oaths, issues licenses, serves as a Notary Public, and many other tasks.

Treasurer: collects and accounts for all Town income; makes deposits and balances accounts, pays vendors with orders from the Selectboard, collects current year property taxes.

Listers: create and maintain the Grand List, a list of Town properties and their values.

Auditors: review the books at the end of the year and produce the Town Report. (NOTE: In 2002, Ripton voted to eliminate elected auditors and hire professional auditors to review Town finances every year. In this case, Town Report is the responsibility of the Selectboard, with the assistance of the Town Clerk and Treasurer.)

Delinquent Tax Collector: collects taxes not paid by the due date.

Justices of the Peace: perform marriages and administer oaths, help at elections.

APPOINTED OFFICERS – appointed every one to three years by the Selectboard

Planning Commissioners: draft zoning regulations to be voted by the Town, prepare the Town Plan, approve site plans and subdivision plats, act as the Zoning Board of Adjustment to resolve zoning issues, and as the Historic District Commission.

Zoning Administrator: issues building and zoning permits, and investigates zoning violations.

Animal Control Officer (or “Dog Warden”): enforces the Town’s dog ordinance, keeps a list of licensed dogs, responds to local animal control concerns.

Fire Warden: gives permission for open burning, and is responsible for wildland fire safety.

Road Commissioner: inspects, proposes, and advises about roadwork.

Health Officer: makes sanitary inspections of properties where public health hazards are suspected, inspects school meal facilities and public buildings; may order hazards be removed or destroyed.

Emergency Management Coordinator: organizes emergency response by coordinating the activities of radio operators, Red Cross, Fire and Rescue Departments.

Town Service Officer: receives applications for emergency public assistance, determines eligibility, and performs duties as directed by the State Commissioner of Welfare.

Roles of Town Officers (continued)

Recycling Coordinator: schedules volunteers, distributes information, makes recommendations to the Selectboard, and otherwise organizes the Town's recycling efforts.

Various **Delegates** represent Ripton at regional offices: Regional Planning, Regional Transportation, Solid Waste Management, Addison County Transit.

“ARCHAIC” OFFICES – rarely or never used, but exist by state statute:

Town Agent: prosecutes and defends suits for the Town or School district. Today, this role is almost always delegated to the Town's attorney.

Town Grand Juror: may present offenses that in his/her judgment ought to be prosecuted, but the State's Attorney now does this job.

Constable: has the authority to arrest, perform searches and seizures within the Town, and serve criminal or civil processes, but is not encouraged to do any of these – the Sheriff or State Police are.

Fence Viewers: see that fences are intact and inspect fence lines, but do not establish property lines. They may also require that nuisance fences such as those that obstruct a view or deprive a neighbor of light and air be removed.

Inspector of Lumber, Shingles & Wood: will examine and classify the quality of lumber, shingles and wood, measure it, and issue a certificate.

Tree Warden: may remove dead or fallen limbs and propose and implement ordinances for tree planting, care and removal of trees within public ways or on public lands.

Weigher of Coal: by request, weighs all coal sold in town.

SPECIAL BOARDS AND POSITIONS:

Fire Chief: elected every other year by the members of the fire department.

Board of Civil Authority: comprised of the Selectboard, Town Clerk, and Justices of the Peace; the principal policy-making body for elections.

Board of Abatement: comprised of the Selectboard, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Justices of the Peace, and Listers; hears property tax appeals and tax abatements.

Cemetery Sexton: oversees cemetery maintenance and plot sales as part of the Ripton Cemetery Association.

Additional independent committees created for special purposes include the **Ripton Conservation Commission** and the **Ripton Alternative Energy Group**: read about their activities later in this report.

BY SPECIAL MENTION...

Legal Voters: are generally referred to as “the town” in the language of Vermont state statutes. You are a legal voter if you are registered to vote in the town in which you live. Legal voters have the right to participate in all public meetings, petition local boards to initiate special actions, appeal actions by local boards by the appeal process, vote to approve or disapprove budgets and other business presented to them, and run for Town offices. The rights and responsibilities of legal voters in Vermont are an integral part of the democratic process. Contact the Town Office or visit the Secretary of State's website at www.sec.state.vt.us for more information.

Selectboard Report for 2009

Board Change: Ripton's Selectboard saw its first change in many years when Bill Ford submitted his resignation, effective September 1. Bill had served on the Board and as its Chair for 23 ½ years, a probable record. Richard Collitt was appointed to fill out the remainder of the term. The Board would like to thank Bill for his many years of service to the Town.

Paying for the 2008 Flood: Fortunately, 2009 was kinder to Ripton than 2008. While we continued to have some damaging storms, nothing remotely rose to the level of the previous year's flooding. At the end of 2008, we had a short term loan with the National Bank of Middlebury to cover our road repairs from the flooding. Most of this was paid off by FEMA and State reimbursements, as well as by some property owners who live on private roads. To address the remainder, voters at Town Meeting authorized the Selectboard to bond up to \$400,000 over 10 years to repay the balance. By the time the actual application had to be in, we were able to determine the need to only bond for \$275,000. Some further reimbursements have left us with about \$20,000 for which we bonded but ended up not needing. We are asking voters to put this sum in an escrow account to reduce the first five years' payments, since those are the larger payments. This should mitigate the cost to taxpayers a bit, and keep the money going towards that for which it was intended: paying off the flood repairs debt.

Private Road Flood Follow-up: The Board suggests that residents living on private roads create an agreement addressing how repairs will be handled in the event of a major wash-out or similar incident. The Town was only able to help out in the 2008 events because the total damage rose to a level where the Governor could ask to have the area declared a disaster. There also were several property owners who were unable to be contacted in a timely manner, so work was done without their agreement to pay their share. Having a plan in place *before* a disaster could benefit all parties.

Flood Mitigation Project – The Town has received grant funding from FEMA and from the State's Clean and Clear initiative that will be used to hopefully mitigate future flooding in the Town's center. Two informational meetings were held to keep town residents informed. The bank towards Route 125 will be armored with large boulders, and

floodplains and a flood chute will be developed to slow the water during a flood as well as to encourage it to flow away from the highway and buildings. This project is slated to take place mid-summer 2010.

Community House: The structural integrity of this building was surveyed and found to be in good shape. Some minor repairs have been made during the year, and we hope to have the building's exterior painted this summer. Our insurance carrier has notified us that we are not fully covered for liability when the building is rented for a private event, and that renters should provide insurance coverage. We have looked into this and find that most homeowners' policies will cover your use of this building at no additional cost. If you do not have such a policy, there are programs that provide coverage for single events. The cost varies depending on the type of event, number of people, and – significantly – if alcohol is served. We have been working on a new contract for many months, and will be using it starting this spring. The insurance requirement will be a part of it. Our intention is not to make the building inaccessible, but we do need to protect the building as well as the Town.

Town Office: This building was painted during the summer and has had some minor repairs completed, as well as the replacement of a failed water heater with a small, efficient one. Some needed work on the building will be done this year, including interior painting, carpet replacement and new storm windows. There may also be some grant funding that will allow us to improve the entrance to the building, making it more accessible to people with disabilities. Bill Pierce continues as the facilities manager, and he is helping us keep up with maintenance and needed repairs for both Town buildings.

Stop Sign Ordinance: While Ripton has had multiple stop signs for many years, the Town never had an ordinance that required vehicles to stop at those signs. Addison County's Sheriff Coons informed the Board that his officers were not able to issue citations when people failed to observe these signs. We passed an ordinance in the fall of 2009 requiring vehicles to stop at stop signs and allowing drivers to be cited and fined if they do not.

Zoning By-Law: We held a public hearing for the Zoning Board's proposed Fluvial Erosion

Selectboard Report for 2009 (continued)

Hazard Zoning Bylaw and then the Selectboard passed the bylaw. It now complements the Town's zoning plan.

National Forest: TARP (the federal Troubled Assets Relief Program) monies channeled through the U.S. Forest Service will provide the Town with \$39,700 for work to be done on the Goshen, Steam Mill, and Brooks Roads. They are also working with the State to rebuild the first bridge on the Goshen Road this summer, improving it structurally and widening it. We again received full funding from them for the lands they hold in Ripton: \$52,043.

Middlebury College: Under the terms of the Town's agreement with the College, the Town was paid \$56,177 as a gift-in-lieu of taxes and \$20,098 in direct taxes, as well as a gift-in-kind amount of \$16,000 in goods, services and cash. There is a full accounting of the College gift-in-kind later in this report.

Auditing: Angolano & Company audited the Town's financial records on January 15, 2010, and their certifying letter is included in this report. Ripton Elementary School was audited by the same firm in October, 2009. As established in January, 2005, the Town has agreed to pay for both School and Town audits out of the General Fund. Copies of the complete audit reports are available for review at the Town Office.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

After the floods of 2008 we returned to routine road maintenance this year.

Better Backroads: The Town received a Better Backroads Grant for stopping erosion on a section of Wagon Wheel Road. Work was completed in October at a total cost of \$9,949, with a \$7,000 grant award applied to the cost. We have applied for but not yet received conditional approval for a Better Backroads Grant in 2010 for Pearl Lee Road.

Grants: The Town continues to consider all appropriate grants. The U.S. Forest Service, as part of the Forest Road Agreement, has awarded Ripton \$39,700 for repair work to be done on the Goshen

Road (areas not damaged during flooding of 2008), Steam Mill Road and Forest Road 92 (off Goshen Road).

General Culvert Work: After the flood damage and replacing approximately 30 culverts in 2008, Ripton has returned to the normal schedule. The Selectboard continues to gradually replace old, undersized steel culverts with corrugated plastic ones that neither rust nor rot, and are easier to de-ice. In 2009 three culverts were replaced, two on County Crossroad and one on Lincoln Road with a total cost of \$3749. The budget for 2010 has been held level at \$5,000.

Paving: In 2009 a section of the Lincoln-Ripton Road (1,400 linear feet) was paved at a cost of \$10,980. The budgeted amount for paving in 2010 is \$12,500.

Gravel Roads: The Board continues to build up the gravel base of our unpaved roads through the Summer Gravel Project. Last year we spent \$16,577 on this effort, and have budgeted \$15,000 for 2010.

Extensive Ditch Cleaning and Maintenance: The drainage ditches along County Crossroad were cleaned this past summer as were a number of different areas along North Branch Road.

Winter Work: This winter did not start as early as it has in the past couple of years which may be a positive for salt and sand purchases. A severe wind storm the second week of December 2009 brought down many trees and power lines. The final clean-up of these trees will continue this spring.

Class 4 Roads Plowing: We continued to follow the policy for the independent plowing of Class 4 roads. If such plowing needs to take place, there is a procedure that must be followed. Contact the Board Clerk if there are any questions.

Right-of-Way Mowing: Extended mowing within the Town's right-of-way was completed this year on all paved roads. This will be continued around town on a 4-year cycle, keeping the brush to a manageable level and reducing the need for cutting with a saw. This year mowing was done on the Robbins Cross Road, Chandler Hill Road and Frost Road.

Selectboard Budget Narrative for 2009

GENERAL FUND AND ROAD BUDGET

Financial Status: 2009 ended with a total combined fund balance of \$290,338 compared with \$61,904 at the end of 2008. The summary of these funds can be seen on the balance sheets that follow.

General Fund Expenses in 2009: We under spent the general fund budget by about \$20,000. This was largely due to paying less interest than anticipated on the bank loan which initially covered the cost of road repairs from the 2008 flooding, prior to our bonding for this money. Recycling costs went down due to a rate change in our favor. Since fuel costs abated to some degree, the heating of Town buildings took less of a toll, while efficiency measures undertaken for lighting have continued to show significant savings (down by over \$200 for each building since the highest figures in 2004 and 2005).

Although overall expenses were less than anticipated, there were some specific budget lines that were overspent. The Board made the decision to pay retiring Selectman Bill Ford his full stipend for the year in deference to his 23½ years of service as Chair of the Selectboard (served 9 months in 2009). We also voted to increase the hours authorized for the Board Clerk, particularly due to the extra work brought about by the FEMA paperwork that resulted from the flooding. Legal services again exceeded our estimate, and we paid for two years' worth of generator repairs within the current fiscal year in order to take advantage of a discount. While Community House maintenance and repairs came in \$942 over budget, Facilities management was under budget by \$2,865.

This year completed the accounting of our expenses and reimbursements from the summer of 2008 flooding. We were able to receive a 10 year bond for the remaining balance and paid off our line of credit with the National Bank of Middlebury. We made the final payment on the Fire Department's tanker truck. The Town Office building was painted on its exterior.

Road Expenses in 2009: The costs involved in clearing and repairing roads during and after storms continues to be difficult to predict, and line items relating to that work tended to run high. This was

balanced out by some savings or just spending less in other areas, so overall the road budget was under spent by \$385.

General Fund Expenses for 2010: It is difficult to compare the totals of the proposed budget with that of last year, since 2009 included the total costs of paying back the loan to cover flood damage. Two areas are primarily responsible for increases. One is our first payment to the bond bank for the flood costs. This will be the most costly year, and that payment is \$37,214. The actual burden to taxpayers will be reduced by \$4,000 if voters approve putting the amount over-borrowed into an escrow account paid towards the bond every year for five years. See a fuller explanation of this in the Selectboard Report under "Paying for the 2008 Flood". Additionally, we are planning to paint the exterior of the Community House at a projected cost of \$30,000. We will be putting an additional \$2,500 towards document preservation for the next two years to get all of the Town's vital records preserved. The cost of property insurance has gone up, and we determined to set the budget for legal fees closer to what it has actually been running.

Road Expenses for 2010: Last year the road budget was reduced to offset the costs related to the flooding repairs. This year we put in a modest increase - an additional \$2,500 - for resurfacing. Other areas of increase are in grading, sanding and plowing to more closely match what has actually been needed to handle the results of our weather. We are anticipating a Better Backroads grant of \$12,500, \$2,500 of which is our required match.

Laureen Cox, Chair
Ronald Wimett
Richard Collitt

Selectboard for the Town of Ripton

Combined Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balances for 2009

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Special Revenue Funds			Capital Project Fund	Debt Service Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
			Reappraisal Fund	Town Buildings Fund	Flood 2008-09	Major Project Fund		
REVENUES								
Tax-Based Income	1,043,042	112,994						1,156,036
Other Income	20,821				57,021			77,842
Insurance Reimbursement	3,854							3,854
Fed & State Aid, Other Grants	31,677	96,817			35,972			164,466
Rent Income	4,527							4,527
Interest	363		14	2		804		1,183
TOTAL REVENUES	1,104,284	209,811	14	2	92,993	804	0	1,407,908
EXPENDITURES								
General Town Expenses	176,017							176,017
Road Expenses		193,034			224,333			417,367
Voted Items	43,257							43,257
Taxes to Schools	790,509							790,509
Loans (Fire Station, Tanker Truck)								
Interest							6,027	6,027
Principal							21,297	21,297
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,009,783	193,034	0	0	224,333	0	27,324	1,454,474
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	94,501	16,777	14	2	(131,340)	804	(27,324)	(46,566)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):								
Vermont Bond Bank					275,000			275,000
Transfer From Other Funds	14,186		4,275	2,300		6,500	27,324	54,585
Transfer To Other Funds	(33,899)	(6,500)			(14,186)			(54,585)
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	74,788	10,277	4,289	2,302	129,474	7,304	0	228,434
FUND BALANCES, JAN 1, 2009	53,769	14,565	19,549	4,097	(129,474)	99,398	0	61,904
FUND BALANCES DEC 31, 2009	128,557	24,842	23,838	6,399	0	106,702	0	290,338

Note from the Treasurer: This report and the next are produced by our auditors and display our financial activity by governmental fund type according to the guidelines of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) – standards that we have been following since 2000 when we began to hire outside auditors on a regular basis. I have substituted some of the labels to maintain continuity with our usual way of naming things, such as “Taxes to Schools” instead of “School Appropriations”; otherwise, the reports are as they appear in the complete auditor’s report (which, as always, is available at the Town Office for public review). These reports will replace our usual fund balance reports because they will be more consistent and reliable going forward from year to year.

One difference you may notice in the above report is how the Flood 2008 accounting over 2008-2009 is separated as a “Special Revenue Fund” and the fact that unpaid flood expenses from 08-09 caused that fund balance to be negative. This was not accurately displayed in our 2008 Town Report so the beginning fund balances in this report will not match last year’s ending balances. Town finances have become increasingly complicated over the years and this is an example of how unusual situations (like managing two overlapping FEMA grants) can challenge our “old” and simpler way of doing things. Since we are paying for a professional audit and we need to present a professional front to financial institutions and granting agencies, we will now incorporate these key reports into our annual report.

Combined Balance Sheet for All Fund Types for 2009

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Fund	Totals (Memoran- dum Only)
ASSETS					
Current Assets:					
Cash	125,150	0	30,237	106,702	262,089
Delinquent Taxes Receivable	73,939	0	0	0	73,939
Delinquent Interest Receivable	5,597	0	0	0	5,597
Due from Other Funds		24,842	0	0	24,842
Total Current Assets	204,686	24,842	30,237	106,702	366,467
TOTAL ASSETS	204,686	24,842	30,237	106,702	366,467
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities:					
Due to Other Funds	24,842	0	0	0	24,842
Deferred Revenue (Del Tax/Int Rec'ble)	79,536	0	0	0	79,536
Total Liabilities	104,378	0	0	0	104,378
Fund Balances					
Unreserved	100,308	0	0	0	100,308
Reserved	0	24,842	30,237	106,702	161,781
Total Fund Balances	100,308	24,842	30,237	106,702	262,089
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	204,686	24,842	30,237	106,702	366,467

Middlebury College Gift-in-Kind Accounting

The Town and Middlebury College are in the seventeenth year of a twenty-year agreement which determines how the College compensates the Town for its properties in Ripton. This agreement has three components: straight taxes on some of its parcels (\$20,098.06 in 2009), a Gift-in-Lieu of Taxes (\$56,176.94 in 2009), and a Gift-in-Kind sum of \$16,000 in goods and services. Of the Gift-in-Kind amount, about \$2,000 is used for the printing and mailing of our annual Town Report, and up to \$2,000 used for the School's X-C ski program. The remainder is received as cash.

Middlebury College Gift-in-Kind 2009	
Town use	\$1,963.89
School use	\$950.00
Payment from College for remainder due	\$13,086.11
Total Gift-in-Kind received by Town & School	\$16,000.00

Federal and State Financial Assistance Received in 2009 and Estimated for 2010

Federal Assistance	Actual 2009	Estimated 2010
National Forest Funds	\$52,043.00	\$50,840.00
HAVA Funds (see Town Clerk's report)	\$3,341.00	\$0.00
FEMA Floods 2008	\$111,186.83	\$0.00
Total	\$166,570.83	\$50,840.00
State Assistance	Actual 2009	Estimated 2010
State Aid for Roads	\$44,773.56	\$42,000.00
Land Use Reimbursement	\$18,967.00	\$15,000.00
Listers' Funding for reappraisal	\$4,275.00	\$4,246.00
Listers' Funding for education	\$387.50	\$387.50
Better Backroads Grant	\$0.00	\$10,000.00

Capital Budget Statement

The Major Project Fund, established in 1999 to help pay for large road projects, has received annual payments from the Town most years since then and had a value at the end of 2009 of \$106,702.47. At the 2008 Town Meeting, the Town voted to establish a reserve fund entitled Major Building and Equipment Fund, but as yet no monies have been deposited into this fund.

Ripton Cemetery Report

The Ripton Cemetery Association holds 276.187 shares of Alliance Balanced Shares, a stock mutual fund. Value of the 276.187 shares with a net asset value of \$13.48 per share as of December 31, 2009 was \$3,723.00, an increase in value of \$597.62 which is automatically reinvested in the fund. Expenses for 2009 were \$1,250.00 for cemetery grounds maintenance.

Cemetery Bank Funds			
Beginning Balance			\$6,928.63
Receipts	Interest on Savings	\$6.51	
	Sale of Plots	\$700.00	
Total Receipts			\$706.51
Expenses (Maintenance & Fees)			(\$1,250.00)
Ending Balance			\$6,385.14

Statement of Town Indebtedness

Short-term Debt: A tax anticipation line-of-credit of \$100,000 was secured in February 2009 but was not required. Therefore, no interest expense was incurred for this as originally budgeted.

During 2008-2009, four lines of credit and one loan totaling \$1,150,000 were obtained from the National Bank of Middlebury to cover ongoing costs for the two floods of 2008. These have all been repaid and the total cost of interest to the Town was \$25,960. FEMA grant funds covered much of the total flood damage costs, property owners on private roads paid their share, and the remainder is to be repaid through a ten-year plan with the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank (VMBB) – see next.

Long-term Debt: In 2009, the Town closed out one long-term debt (Fire Tanker Truck), continued another (Fire Station), and began one anew (VMBB for 2008 flood expenses) – detailed in the charts to follow.

As final FEMA reimbursement figures were not available at the time the VMBB loan amount needed to be determined, an amount of about \$20,000 was “over-borrowed”. The Selectboard proposes to set this amount aside to pay toward the first five bond payments. Please see Article 4 in the Warning for Town Meeting later in this report. An initial payment of interest for the amount of \$2,605 was made in November 2009.

Fire Tanker Truck Loan 2005-2009					
Originally \$25,000.00, refinanced to \$18,646.50 at 3.64% interest					
	Payment Date	Principal	Interest	Payment Due	Payment Made
Original Loan Amount		\$25,000.00			
Unused Amount	2/28/06				\$6,353.75
Adjusted Loan		\$18,646.50			
	5/1/06	\$5,000.00	\$678.73	\$5,678.73	\$5,604.02
	5/1/07	\$5,000.00	\$496.73	\$5,496.73	\$5,494.24
	5/1/08	\$5,000.00	\$314.73	\$5,314.73	\$5,317.09
	5/1/09	\$3,646.50	\$132.73	\$3,779.23	\$3,778.99
	Totals	\$18,646.50	\$1,622.92	\$20,269.42	\$20,194.34
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	\$0.00
	12/22/11	\$17,650.00	\$4,201.87	\$21,851.87	\$0.00
	12/22/12	\$17,650.00	\$3,439.39	\$21,089.39	\$0.00
	12/22/13	\$17,650.00	\$2,676.91	\$20,326.91	\$0.00
	12/22/14	\$17,650.00	\$1,914.43	\$19,564.43	\$0.00
	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	\$81,420.93

Statement of Town Indebtedness (continued)

Vermont Bond Bank 2009-2019						
\$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	\$2,605.02
	5/15/10			\$3,606.95		
	11/15/10	\$30,000.00	1.391%	\$3,606.95	\$37,213.90	
	5/15/11			\$3,398.32		
	11/15/11	\$30,000.00	1.691%	\$3,398.32	\$36,796.64	
	5/15/12			\$3,144.69		
	11/15/12	\$30,000.00	1.801%	\$3,144.69	\$36,289.38	
	5/15/13			\$2,874.56		
	11/15/13	\$30,000.00	2.201%	\$2,874.56	\$35,749.12	
	5/15/14			\$2,544.43		
	11/15/14	\$30,000.00	2.651%	\$2,544.43	\$35,088.86	
	5/15/15			\$2,146.80		
	11/15/15	\$25,000.00	2.931%	\$2,146.80	\$29,293.60	
	5/15/16			\$1,780.44		
	11/15/16	\$25,000.00	3.201%	\$1,780.44	\$28,560.88	
	5/15/17			\$1,380.33		
	11/15/17	\$25,000.00	3.491%	\$1,380.33	\$27,760.66	
	5/15/18			\$943.97		
	11/15/18	\$25,000.00	3.691%	\$943.97	\$26,887.94	
	5/15/19			\$482.61		
	11/15/19	\$25,000.00	3.861%	\$482.61	\$25,965.22	
	Totals	\$275,000.00		\$47,211.22	\$322,211.22	\$2,605.02

EXPENDITURES 2009 & Budget 2010

OFFICERS	Budget 2009	Actual 2009	Variance	Budget 2010
Selectboard	\$1,950.00	\$2,275.00	(\$325.00)	\$1,950.00
Board Clerk	\$9,984.00	\$12,237.00	(\$2,253.00)	\$10,816.00
Town Clerk	\$17,680.00	\$17,680.09	(\$0.09)	\$18,034.00
Treasurer	\$11,492.00	\$11,492.00	\$0.00	\$11,722.00
Assistant Town Clerk	\$5,000.00	\$4,602.00	\$398.00	\$5,000.00
Elections	\$500.00	\$536.00	(\$36.00)	\$1,600.00
BCA Hearings	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	\$2,500.00	\$3,582.39	(\$1,082.39)	\$3,000.00
Listers ¹	\$6,500.00	\$6,968.63	(\$468.63)	\$5,000.00
Lister Training	\$1,000.00	\$65.65	\$934.35	\$1,757.00
Planning Commission	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
Zoning Administrator	\$2,100.00	\$2,863.50	(\$763.50)	\$3,934.00
Dog Warden	\$200.00	\$341.40	(\$141.40)	\$200.00
Town Report Prep	\$2,000.00	\$1,993.41	\$6.59	\$2,000.00
Officers Training	\$650.00	\$516.18	\$133.82	\$550.00
Facilities	\$4,075.00	\$1,210.00	\$2,865.00	\$4,272.00
Emergency Mngmt Coordinator	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Payroll Taxes	\$5,000.00	\$5,224.75	(\$224.75)	\$5,400.00
Total OFFICERS	\$71,481.00	\$72,338.00	(\$857.00)	\$76,485.00
TOWN OFFICE				
Office Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$1,003.14	(\$3.14)	\$1,000.00
Office Equipment & Furnishing	\$300.00	\$297.96	\$2.04	\$300.00
Photocopier	\$1,300.00	\$1,352.27	(\$52.27)	\$1,350.00
Computer	\$880.00	\$707.45	\$172.55	\$650.00
Telephone	\$1,600.00	\$1,635.43	(\$35.43)	\$1,650.00
Internet Service	\$660.00	\$1,094.40	(\$434.40)	\$1,000.00
Postage	\$1,200.00	\$1,066.84	\$133.16	\$1,200.00
Legal Notices	\$250.00	\$315.25	(\$65.25)	\$300.00
Document Preservation ²	\$1,500.00	\$1,496.19	\$3.81	\$4,500.00
State Share of Fees	\$450.00	\$459.00	(\$9.00)	\$500.00
Lister Expenses ³	\$1,200.00	\$739.33	\$460.67	\$500.00
Planning & Zoning Expenses	\$3,081.00	\$1,357.32	\$1,723.68	\$1,200.00
Total TOWN OFFICE	\$13,421.00	\$11,524.58	\$1,896.42	\$14,150.00
INSURANCE				
Health Insurance	\$4,794.00	\$4,809.15	(\$15.15)	\$4,950.00
Property Insurance	\$9,237.00	\$10,742.25	(\$1,505.25)	\$12,572.00
Worker's Compensation	\$1,338.00	\$1,219.75	\$118.25	\$1,353.00
Total INSURANCE	\$15,369.00	\$16,771.15	(\$1,402.15)	\$18,875.00

1 & 3 These Listers lines are reduced somewhat because much of the listers' work will be paid for from the Reappraisal Fund during the 2010-2011 townwide reappraisal.

2 This line includes an additional \$2,500 toward the restoration of our vital records.

EXPENDITURES 2009 & Budget 2010 (continued)

MISCELLANEOUS	Budget 2009	Actual 2009	Variance	Budget 2010
Town Report Print & Mail	\$2,000.00	\$1,963.89	\$36.11	\$2,000.00
Legal Services	\$6,000.00	\$13,434.44	(\$7,434.44)	\$10,000.00
Audit / Town & School	\$9,600.00	\$6,500.00	\$3,100.00	\$7,000.00
School Generator	\$855.00	\$1,815.00	(\$960.00)	\$960.00
Recycling	\$9,408.00	\$4,773.00	\$4,635.00	\$5,000.00
Gift-in-Kind Non-Town Use	\$2,000.00	\$950.00	\$1,050.00	\$2,000.00
Animal Damage	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Pay to Reappraisal Fund	\$4,275.00	\$4,275.00	\$0.00	\$4,294.00
HAVA Funds	\$0.00	\$1,793.99	(\$1,793.99)	\$1,547.00
ACRPC Town Plan Revision ⁴	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Total MISCELLANEOUS	\$34,388.00	\$35,505.32	(\$1,117.32)	\$35,051.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS				
Town Office Fuel	\$3,500.00	\$1,968.05	\$1,531.95	\$2,700.00
Town Office Electric	\$800.00	\$709.94	\$90.06	\$900.00
Office Maintenance & Repairs ⁵	\$12,300.00	\$13,165.50	(\$865.50)	\$15,100.00
Community House Fuel	\$4,500.00	\$3,479.11	\$1,020.89	\$3,855.00
Community House Electric	\$900.00	\$679.37	\$220.63	\$900.00
Comm House Maint & Repairs ⁶	\$1,700.00	\$2,642.44	(\$942.44)	\$37,255.00
Pay to Town Buildings Fund	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00
Public Telephone	\$645.00	\$614.49	\$30.51	\$645.00
Street Lights	\$1,800.00	\$1,566.32	\$233.68	\$1,500.00
Town Shed	\$450.00	\$514.93	(\$64.93)	\$100.00
Total BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	\$28,895.00	\$27,640.15	\$1,254.85	\$65,255.00
CONTRACTS & DUES				
Vt League of Cities & Towns	\$1,056.00	\$1,056.00	\$0.00	\$1,257.00
Regional Planning	\$596.00	\$594.30	\$1.70	\$610.00
Addison County Sheriff	\$6,790.00	\$6,216.89	\$573.11	\$6,500.00
County Tax	\$4,600.00	\$4,092.56	\$507.44	\$4,200.00
Humane Society	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance	\$1,172.00	\$1,172.00	\$0.00	\$1,176.00
Tax Map Update	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
Miscellaneous Dues	\$60.00	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$60.00
Total CONTRACTS & DUES	\$15,524.00	\$14,431.75	\$1,092.25	\$15,053.00
REPAYMENT OF LOANS				
Fire Station Loan	\$23,377.00	\$23,545.13	(\$168.13)	\$22,785.00
Vermont Bond Bank	\$0.00	\$2,605.02	(\$2,605.02)	\$37,214.00
Tax Anticipation Note Interest	\$1,416.00	\$0.00	\$1,416.00	\$0.00
Fire Tanker Truck Loan	\$3,779.00	\$3,778.99	\$0.01	\$0.00
Flood 2008 Line of Credit	\$1,198,875.00	\$20,755.21	\$1,178,119.79	\$0.00
Flood 2008 Loan	\$0.00	\$4,889.14	(\$4,889.14)	\$0.00
Total REPAYMENT OF LOANS	\$1,227,447.00	\$55,573.49	\$1,171,873.51	\$59,999.00
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,406,525.00	\$233,784.44	\$1,172,740.56	\$284,868.00

⁴ This is to cover the costs of revising the Town Plan.

⁵ & ⁶ See the Selectboard Report about planned work for the Town buildings.

EXPENDITURES 2009 & Budget 2010 (continued)

ROADS	Budget 2009	Actual 2009	Variance	Budget 2010
Summer Maintenance	\$48,868.00	\$49,464.41	(\$596.41)	\$52,100.00
Winter Maintenance	\$93,850.00	\$94,614.35	(\$764.35)	\$100,500.00
Sub-Total ROADS	\$142,718.00	\$144,078.76	(\$1,360.76)	\$152,600.00
SUMMER ROADWORK				
Major Roadside Reconstruction	\$12,500.00	\$9,010.00	\$3,490.00	\$12,500.00
Summer Gravel Project	\$14,000.00	\$16,577.27	(\$2,577.27)	\$15,000.00
Resurfacing	\$11,000.00	\$10,980.00	\$20.00	\$15,000.00
Right-of-Way Mowing	\$2,600.00	\$2,437.50	\$162.50	\$2,600.00
Major Project Fund	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
Better Backroads Grant	\$10,600.00	\$9,949.33	\$650.67	\$12,500.00
Forest Service Road Project ⁷	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,700.00
Total SUMMER ROADWORK	\$57,200.00	\$55,454.10	\$1,745.90	\$103,800.00
ROADS TOTAL	\$199,918.00	\$199,532.86	\$385.14	\$256,400.00
VOTED ITEMS				
Ripton Fire Department	\$29,500.00	\$29,500.00	\$0.00	\$23,000.00
Social Service Agencies	\$13,757.00	\$13,756.84	\$0.16	\$14,112.00
Total VOTED ITEMS	\$43,257.00	\$43,256.84	\$0.16	\$37,112.00
GRANTS & ONE-TIME PROJECTS				
Flood 2008	\$0.00	\$196,083.13	(\$196,083.13)	\$0.00
River Project ⁸	\$0.00	\$4,381.00	(\$4,381.00)	\$190,000.00
Total GRANTS & ONE-TIME PROJECTS	\$0.00	\$200,464.13	(\$200,464.13)	\$190,000.00
SUMMARY				
GENERAL FUND	\$1,406,525.00	\$233,784.44	\$1,172,740.56	\$284,868.00
ROADS	\$199,918.00	\$199,532.86	\$385.14	\$256,400.00
VOTED ITEMS & GRANTS	\$43,257.00	\$243,720.97	(\$200,463.97)	\$227,112.00
TOTAL TO SPEND ⁹	\$1,649,700.00	\$677,038.27	\$972,661.73	\$768,380.00

⁷ The U.S. Forest Service is using TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Project) funds to pay for work on Town roads.

⁸ This is the project that includes grant funds from at least two sources: the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and the Vermont Clean and Clear initiative. See under Revenues for the individual income from these sources.

⁹ The **TOTAL TO SPEND** is the sum of the total **GENERAL FUND** (\$284,868), the total **ROADS** (\$256,400), and the **River Project** grant (\$190,000). This sum is \$731,268 which is the budget total stated on the warning.

Comparative Table of Expenditures 2006 through Budget 2010

OFFICERS	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Budget 2010
Selectboard	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$2,275.00	\$1,950.00
Board Clerk	\$6,417.48	\$5,487.18	\$8,344.00	\$12,237.00	\$10,816.00
Town Clerk	\$11,700.00	\$12,500.00	\$17,680.05	\$17,680.09	\$18,034.00
Treasurer	\$9,360.00	\$10,000.00	\$11,491.98	\$11,492.00	\$11,722.00
Assistant Town Clerk	\$4,797.20	\$3,660.54	\$3,728.00	\$4,602.00	\$5,000.00
Permit Recording 2006-07	\$350.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Elections	\$1,523.39	\$521.60	\$1,671.65	\$536.00	\$1,600.00
BCA Hearings	\$72.00	\$172.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	\$2,755.83	\$3,288.85	\$2,443.48	\$3,582.39	\$3,000.00
Listers	\$6,295.00	\$6,024.00	\$5,590.66	\$6,968.63	\$5,000.00
Lister Training	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$129.00	\$65.65	\$1,757.00
Planning Commission	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Zoning Administrator	\$3,850.50	\$3,810.00	\$2,269.50	\$2,863.50	\$3,934.00
Dog Warden	\$177.06	\$165.64	\$428.61	\$341.40	\$200.00
Town Report Prep	\$1,976.50	\$1,997.50	\$2,012.46	\$1,993.41	\$2,000.00
Officers Training	\$868.97	\$1,587.38	\$575.41	\$516.18	\$550.00
Facilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,210.00	\$4,272.00
Emergency Coordinator	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Payroll Taxes (Social Security)	\$3,690.77	\$4,050.50	\$5,038.88	\$5,224.75	\$5,400.00
Total OFFICERS	\$56,534.70	\$56,665.19	\$64,103.68	\$72,338.00	\$76,485.00
TOWN OFFICE					
Office Supplies	\$899.50	\$960.60	\$944.88	\$1,003.14	\$1,000.00
Office Equipment & Furnishing	\$866.17	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$297.96	\$300.00
Photocopier	\$1,306.04	\$1,275.88	\$1,270.80	\$1,352.27	\$1,350.00
Computer	\$1,191.37	\$1,252.80	\$424.89	\$707.45	\$650.00
Telephone	\$1,504.49	\$1,636.79	\$1,592.69	\$1,635.43	\$1,650.00
Internet Service	\$198.69	\$587.67	\$650.91	\$1,094.40	\$1,000.00
Postage	\$1,207.17	\$1,043.59	\$1,005.22	\$1,066.84	\$1,200.00
Legal Notices	\$556.90	\$36.75	\$45.00	\$315.25	\$300.00
Document Preservation	\$1,831.02	\$2,169.69	\$848.00	\$1,496.19	\$4,500.00
State Share of Fees	\$414.00	\$488.00	\$472.00	\$459.00	\$500.00
Lister Expenses	\$1,060.14	\$1,054.80	\$961.45	\$739.33	\$500.00
Planning & Zoning Expenses	\$2,027.03	\$1,558.08	\$951.08	\$1,357.32	\$1,200.00
Total TOWN OFFICE	\$13,062.52	\$12,339.65	\$9,166.92	\$11,524.58	\$14,150.00
INSURANCE					
Health Insurance	\$3,160.85	\$2,977.20	\$3,823.29	\$4,809.15	\$4,950.00
Property Insurance	\$8,215.00	\$8,918.75	\$9,461.00	\$10,742.25	\$12,572.00
Workers Compensation	\$1,281.36	\$1,492.56	\$1,448.76	\$1,219.75	\$1,353.00
Total INSURANCE	\$12,657.21	\$13,388.51	\$14,733.05	\$16,771.15	\$18,875.00

Comparative Table of Expenditures 2006 through Budget 2010 (continued)

MISCELLANEOUS	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Budget 2010
Town Report Print & Mail	\$1,766.21	\$1,799.05	\$1,837.79	\$1,963.89	\$2,000.00
Legal Services	\$3,582.84	\$5,717.71	\$6,457.73	\$13,434.44	\$10,000.00
Audit / Town & School	\$4,800.00	\$5,500.00	\$2,800.00	\$6,500.00	\$7,000.00
School Generator	\$457.00	\$1,120.00	\$1,514.05	\$1,815.00	\$960.00
Recycling	\$10,011.84	\$8,879.00	\$6,218.22	\$4,773.00	\$5,000.00
Gift-in-Kind Non-School Use	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,041.00	\$950.00	\$2,000.00
Animal Damage	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Pay To Reappraisal Fund	\$4,146.00	\$4,246.50	\$4,246.00	\$4,275.00	\$4,294.00
Misc Appropriations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
HAVA Funds	\$0.00	\$1,595.96	\$569.04	\$1,793.99	\$1,547.00
ACRPC Town Plan Revision	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Total MISCELLANEOUS	\$24,763.89	\$28,978.22	\$25,783.83	\$35,505.32	\$35,051.00
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS					
Town Office Fuel	\$2,462.77	\$2,510.21	\$3,863.37	\$1,968.05	\$2,700.00
Town Office Electric	\$820.75	\$737.51	\$730.00	\$709.94	\$900.00
Office Maintenance & Repairs	\$2,041.76	\$3,100.27	\$13,511.78	\$13,165.50	\$15,100.00
Community House Fuel	\$2,665.55	\$2,952.05	\$4,593.73	\$3,479.11	\$3,855.00
Community House Electric	\$863.69	\$712.93	\$790.18	\$679.37	\$900.00
Comm House Maint & Repairs	\$2,935.62	\$2,772.57	\$6,930.93	\$2,642.44	\$37,255.00
Town Buildings	\$1,606.96	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pay to Town Buildings Fund	\$693.04	\$1,100.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00
Public Telephone	\$569.37	\$694.70	\$637.45	\$614.49	\$645.00
Street Lights	\$1,779.82	\$1,663.31	\$1,692.81	\$1,566.32	\$1,500.00
Town Shed	\$514.67	\$691.00	\$410.00	\$514.93	\$100.00
Total BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	\$16,954.00	\$18,134.55	\$35,460.25	\$27,640.15	\$65,255.00
CONTRACTS & DUES					
Vt League of Cities & Towns	\$944.00	\$969.00	\$990.00	\$1,056.00	\$1,257.00
Regional Planning	\$548.46	\$558.36	\$596.40	\$594.30	\$610.00
Addison County Sheriff	\$5,103.82	\$4,919.55	\$5,031.32	\$6,216.89	\$6,500.00
County Tax	\$4,204.53	\$4,156.76	\$6,323.69	\$4,092.56	\$4,200.00
Humane Society	\$425.00	\$425.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,172.00	\$1,176.00
Tax Map Update	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Miscellaneous Dues	\$52.00	\$69.00	\$49.00	\$50.00	\$60.00
Total CONTRACTS & DUES	\$11,277.81	\$13,597.67	\$14,240.41	\$14,431.75	\$15,053.00

Comparative Table of Expenditures 2006 through Budget 2010 (continued)

REPAYMENT OF LOANS	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Budget 2010
Fire Station Loan	\$0.00	\$33,640.22	\$24,235.58	\$23,545.13	\$22,785.00
Fire Station Constr Loan	\$107,721.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tax Anticipation Note Interest	\$390.85	\$240.42	\$1,415.40	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fire Tanker Truck Loan	\$11,957.27	\$5,494.24	\$5,317.09	\$3,778.99	\$0.00
Flood 2008 Loans	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$315.72	\$25,644.35	\$0.00
VMBB Floods 2008	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,605.02	\$37,214.00
Total REPAYMENT OF LOANS	\$120,069.31	\$39,374.88	\$31,283.79	\$55,573.49	\$59,999.00
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$255,319.44	\$182,478.67	\$194,771.93	\$233,784.44	\$284,868.00
ROADS					
Summer Maintenance	\$39,576.83	\$38,574.91	\$33,042.98	\$49,464.41	\$52,100.00
Winter Work	\$66,276.45	\$88,608.67	\$121,168.90	\$94,614.35	\$100,500.00
Major Roadside Reconstruction	\$25,091.26	\$22,442.32	\$4,973.36	\$9,010.00	\$12,500.00
Summer Gravel Project	\$9,980.77	\$15,109.12	\$12,941.44	\$16,577.27	\$15,000.00
Resurfacing	\$15,214.85	\$19,951.10	\$0.00	\$10,980.00	\$15,000.00
Right-of-Way Mowing	\$2,340.00	\$2,730.00	\$2,540.50	\$2,437.50	\$2,600.00
Major Project Fund	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Miscellaneous (including Grants)	\$0.00	\$10,592.85	\$9,927.50	\$9,949.33	\$52,200.00
Total ROADS	\$164,980.16	\$198,008.97	\$196,594.68	\$199,532.86	\$256,400.00
GENERAL FUND/ROADS TOTAL	\$420,299.60	\$380,487.64	\$391,366.61	\$433,317.30	\$541,268.00

REVENUES 2009 & Estimated 2010

SOURCE OF INCOME	Budget 2009	Actual 2009	Variance	Budget 2010
Property Taxes ¹	\$250,000.00	\$224,827.75	(\$25,172.25)	\$260,841.00
Delinquent Taxes	\$33,000.00	\$40,842.84	\$7,842.84	\$40,000.00
Delinquent Tax Fees	\$2,500.00	\$3,384.89	\$2,826.59	\$3,000.00
Delinquent Tax Interest	\$2,000.00	\$5,326.59	(\$2,000.00)	\$4,500.00
Delinquent Tax Legal Fees	\$500.00	\$0.00	(\$500.00)	\$500.00
College Gift-In-Lieu / Town	\$54,000.00	\$56,176.94	\$2,176.94	\$58,828.00
College Gift-In-Kind	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00
National Forest Payment	\$50,840.00	\$52,043.00	\$1,203.00	\$52,000.00
Land Use Compensation	\$13,700.00	\$18,967.00	\$5,267.00	\$15,000.00
State Aid To Roads	\$42,000.00	\$44,773.56	\$2,773.56	\$40,000.00
State Funds for Reappraisal	\$4,275.00	\$4,275.00	\$0.00	\$4,294.00
Lister Education Fund	\$387.50	\$387.50	\$0.00	\$387.00
Interest on Savings	\$500.00	\$364.05	(\$135.95)	\$335.00
Interest / Major Project Fund	\$400.00	\$804.20	\$404.20	\$765.00
Interest / Reappraisal Fund	\$75.00	\$14.65	(\$60.35)	\$0.00
Interest / Town Buildings Fund	\$0.00	\$2.04	\$2.04	\$0.00
Recording Fees	\$3,000.00	\$4,475.00	\$1,475.00	\$3,500.00
Copier & Vault Time	\$650.00	\$968.70	\$318.70	\$700.00
Dog License Fees	\$1,000.00	\$932.00	(\$68.00)	\$1,100.00
Liquor License Fees	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Zoning Permit Fees	\$1,350.00	\$1,860.00	\$510.00	\$1,500.00
Recycling Fees	\$3,750.00	\$3,584.04	(\$165.96)	\$3,750.00
Speeding Fines	\$1,100.00	\$1,452.00	\$352.00	\$1,200.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$500.00	\$433.00	(\$67.00)	\$500.00
Rent Upstairs Town Office	\$2,400.00	\$2,200.00	(\$200.00)	\$2,400.00
Rent Community House	\$2,200.00	\$2,327.00	\$127.00	\$2,200.00
Old Office Mortgage	\$2,304.00	\$2,304.24	\$0.24	\$2,304.00
Better Backroads Grant	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	(\$7,000.00)	\$10,000.00
HAVA Funds 2009-10	\$0.00	\$3,341.00	\$3,341.00	\$0.00
FEMA 2008	\$685,372.00	\$832,530.12	\$147,158.12	\$0.00
Flood 2008 Individuals Payments	\$75,509.00	\$57,020.81	(\$18,488.19)	\$7,827.00
Fire Dept Share of Insurance	\$3,104.00	\$3,104.00	\$0.00	\$2,802.00
Road Comm Share of Insurance	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
VT Bond Bank	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
River Project FEMA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$159,000.00
River Project VT C&C	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,000.00
Forest Service Road Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,700.00
TOTAL TOWN INCOME	\$1,260,316.50	\$1,385,621.92	\$121,920.53	\$766,833.00

¹ Included in the Actual 2009 figure is \$12,417 of education taxes from 2008 that we overpaid to the schools and so was refunded to us. Our financial year ends before the state performs a final reconciliation of grand lists which determine the amount of education taxes towns owe to schools. In March, the state sends a notice to every town with a result of this reconciliation and towns either pay or receive the difference. In past years, we have owed more education taxes as a result of this final reconciliation ranging from about \$400 to \$4,000 – last year was the first time we got a refund.

Comparative Table of Revenues 2006 through Estimated 2010

SOURCE OF INCOME	Actual 2006	Actual 2007	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Budget 2010
Property Taxes ¹	\$912,152.61	\$962,595.66	\$1,009,093.05	\$224,827.75	\$260,841.00
Delinquent Taxes	\$39,002.95	\$47,971.53	\$33,187.66	\$40,842.84	\$40,000.00
Delinquent Tax Interest	\$2,597.15	\$3,222.16	\$2,651.38	\$3,384.89	\$3,000.00
Delinquent Tax Fees	\$2,822.52	\$2,163.91	\$2,163.09	\$5,326.59	\$4,500.00
Delinquent Tax Legal Fees	\$0.00	\$67.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
College Gift-In-Lieu / Town	\$52,478.10	\$53,437.75	\$53,546.15	\$56,176.94	\$58,828.00
College Gift-In-Kind	\$12,849.25	\$27,321.29	\$15,928.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
National Forest Payment	\$32,197.00	\$32,034.00	\$50,840.00	\$52,043.00	\$52,000.00
Land Use Compensation	\$7,415.00	\$10,252.00	\$13,698.00	\$18,967.00	\$15,000.00
State Aid To Roads	\$46,733.76	\$46,633.47	\$46,541.20	\$44,773.56	\$40,000.00
State Funds for Reappraisal	\$4,161.00	\$4,246.50	\$4,246.50	\$4,275.00	\$4,294.00
Lister Education Fund	\$386.94	\$387.04	\$387.47	\$387.50	\$387.00
Interest on Savings	\$3,138.81	\$4,168.80	\$667.67	\$364.05	\$335.00
Interest / Major Project Fund	\$2,291.55	\$2,092.70	\$1,198.19	\$804.20	\$765.00
Interest / Reappraisal Fund	\$85.81	\$167.78	\$77.92	\$14.65	\$0.00
Interest / Town Buildings Fund	\$0.00	\$2.39	\$1.98	\$2.04	\$0.00
Recording Fees	\$4,308.60	\$3,789.25	\$3,412.50	\$4,475.00	\$3,500.00
Copier & Vault Time	\$682.21	\$584.81	\$783.37	\$968.70	\$700.00
Dog License Fees	\$710.00	\$878.00	\$940.00	\$932.00	\$1,100.00
Liquor License Fees	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Zoning Permit Fees	\$2,707.00	\$2,375.00	\$1,301.00	\$1,860.00	\$1,500.00
Recycling Fees	\$2,980.63	\$3,951.49	\$3,781.10	\$3,584.04	\$3,750.00
Speeding Fines	\$2,936.50	\$1,818.00	\$1,153.63	\$1,452.00	\$1,200.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,602.26	\$602.48	\$4,507.84	\$433.00	\$500.00
Rent Upstairs Town Office	\$2,400.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,400.00
Rent Community House	\$2,030.00	\$2,440.00	\$2,320.00	\$2,327.00	\$2,200.00
Old Office Mortgage	\$2,304.04	\$2,304.84	\$2,304.24	\$2,304.24	\$2,304.00
Other Grants Total	\$104,819.04	\$9,162.00	\$7,200.00	\$3,341.00	\$239,700.00
From Major Project Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,973.36	\$0.00	\$0.00
FEMA 2008	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$111,186.83	\$832,530.12	\$0.00
Flood 2008 Individuals Payments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,020.81	\$7,827.00
Fire Dept Share of Insurance	\$2,762.00	\$2,915.00	\$3,114.00	\$3,104.00	\$2,802.00
Road Comm Share of Insurance	\$1,500.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Fire Tanker Loan Unspent	\$6,353.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL TOWN INCOME	\$1,256,558.48	\$1,231,135.75	\$1,384,506.13	\$1,385,621.92	\$766,833.00

¹ Since 2009, the Selectboard has chosen to show only the municipal portion of property taxes in the budget rather than include the education taxes that we collect and then pay to the schools.



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Independent Auditors' Report

To The Selectboard
Town of Ripton, Vermont

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Ripton, Vermont, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We have also audited the financial statements of each of the Town's nonmajor governmental funds presented as supplementary information in the accompanying combining and individual fund financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Town of Ripton, Vermont's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the aggregate remaining fund information of Town of Ripton, Vermont, as of December 31, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each nonmajor governmental fund of Town of Ripton, Vermont, as of December 31, 2009, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 4, 2010 on our consideration of Town of Ripton, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 4 and 24 through 29 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise Town of Ripton, Vermont's basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Angolano & Company

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Shelburne, Vermont
Firm Registration Number 92-0000141

February 4, 2010

Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response

Officers: Erik Eriksen, Chief; Tim Price (EMT & F), Roland McGlashan (F), Assistant Chiefs; Ross Elliott (F), Captain; Ed Sullivan (EMT & F), Lieutenant

Members: Ceredwyn Alexander (EMT), Jay Harrington (F&FR), Marty Kulczyk (F), Kevin Mulholland (MD), Tim O’Leary (F), Robert Wagner (F), Eric Warren (F); Alison Joseph (Dept. Assistant), Dorothy Gelinias and William Cole (Dispatch)

Advisory Board: Tim Hanson, Retired Chief; Michael Seligmann, Chuck Martin

2009 Activity Report	Hours
Total Emergency or Assistance calls: 34	230
Medical calls: 20	77
Fire calls: 14 (5 alarms, 3 MVAA, 2 CO, 2 arson)	153
Medical training:	186
Fire training:	448
Meetings:	215
Community Service Events:	215
Volunteer hours for calls/training/meetings/events*	1,524
* administrative activities such as paperwork, purchasing, not included	

This year we lost a few members due to the economy; unfortunately our loss is another fire department’s gain. We wish them well in their new jobs!

We are in dire need of medical personnel. We must provide 24/7 coverage *all the time* and it is hard to do with only 3 medical personnel. Please step up and volunteer! We pay all training expenses.

Many organizations are using the station for meetings – which is a good thing. And you are using us as a resource for answers to many safety questions – which is very good – we are not just for emergencies.

The cadet program for 14-17 year-olds is July 11- July 17. We highly recommend this for anyone remotely interested in fire and emergency services. Registration deadline is April 1st.

Erik Eriksen, Chief

2009 Vehicle & Major Equipment Inventory	
Pumper. 1986. KME/International	Ladders. 1 roof, 2-24’, 1-8’, 1-attic
Tanker. 2005. Freightliner	Chainsaw. Jonsered
Mini-pumper. 1976. Dodge	Fan, positive pressure. SuperVac
First-Response ambulance. 1979. Ford	Fan, ventilation. GE
Pump, portable. Hale HPX400	Thermal Imaging Camera. Cairns Viper
Pump, portable. Hale HP300	Multi-gas Detector & calibration kit. Orion
Portable pond. 1,000 gallon	Air pump. Porter Cable
Portable pond. 2,000 gallon	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 500 (2)
Generator & light, portable. Honda	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 1000 (2)
Generator, station. Honda	Defibrillator. Laerdal Heartstart

Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response (continued)

Budget Report The 2009 budget was under spent and income was greater than expected. Therefore, while our budget amount for 2010 is the same as 2009, our request from the Town is \$6,500 less than the Town's 2009 payment. A one-time expense in the 2010 budget is \$2,700 for a security system for the rear door, and the front of the building where a door window was broken in 2009.

RVFD Expenditures 2009 & Proposed Budget 2010					
EXPENSES	Budget 2009	Actual 2009	Variance	Budget 2010	Change
Community Service	\$0.00	\$150.04	(\$150.04)	\$150.00	
Gear/Tools/Equipment	\$9,750.00	\$5,561.05	\$4,188.95	\$5,700.00	
Vehicle Repair/Maintenance/Fuel	\$2,700.00	\$1,731.18	\$968.82	\$2,000.00	
Adminstration/Insurance/Dues	\$4,900.00	\$4,746.29	\$153.71	\$6,000.00	
Training	\$900.00	\$617.00	\$283.00	\$700.00	
Dispatch/phone/computer	\$1,800.00	\$2,328.08	(\$528.08)	\$2,400.00	
Electricity	\$1,100.00	\$1,003.47	\$96.53	\$1,100.00	
Heat	\$3,500.00	\$3,174.74	\$325.26	\$3,000.00	
Furnishing & Equipment	\$0.00	\$199.98	(\$199.98)	\$200.00	
Maintenance & Supplies	\$550.00	\$612.89	(\$62.89)	\$500.00	
Mowing	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	
Hydrant plowing	\$0.00	\$750.00	(\$750.00)	\$750.00	
Security system	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,700.00	
Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	
TOTAL	\$31,000.00	\$26,674.72	\$4,325.28	\$31,000.00	\$0.00
INCOME					
Carryover from previous year	\$2,600.33	\$2,600.33	\$0.00	\$7,638.43	
Donations	\$600.00	\$399.50	(\$200.50)	\$350.00	
Insurance Reimbursement	\$1,802.00	\$1,802.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Interest	\$20.00	\$11.32	(\$8.68)	\$11.57	
Subtotal	\$5,022.33	\$4,813.15	(\$209.18)	\$8,000.00	
Town Payment	\$25,977.67	\$29,500.00	\$3,522.33	\$23,000.00	(\$6,500.00)
TOTAL	\$31,000.00	\$34,313.15	\$3,313.15	\$31,000.00	\$0.00

Town Clerk's Report

Land Records

Recording fees increased on July 1 from \$8.00 per page to \$10.00 per page. The intent of the Legislature for the increase was to provide towns with more income to dedicate toward computerization of land records. We made a small start on this project in 2009, and plan to make substantial headway in 2010.

Home sales were down a little in Ripton however we recorded numerous mortgages due to refinancing – a popular activity when interest rates decline.

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Property Transfers	24	18	18	26	28	50
# Pages Recorded	583	476	648	633	794	731

Vital Statistics

During 2010, the US Census Bureau will be completing their work. As it is in our best interest to have an accurate census, your cooperation is most appreciated.

Until the current census is completed, the population of Ripton remains estimated to be 586. Nine births, three deaths, and three marriages were added to our vital records in 2009. On September 1, the new Vermont marriage law took effect which replaced “marriage” and “civil union” with “civil marriage” defined as “the legally recognized union of two people”. Practically speaking, this simplifies recordkeeping at the Town Office – only one type of license to keep on hand, index, and archive! Another new law that affects marriages (effective a year earlier, July 2008) allows for anyone to officiate a marriage by obtaining a Temporary Officiant’s license from the Secretary of State’s office for a fee of \$100. The license is good only for a particular marriage and can be requested through the Secretary of State’s website at www.sec.state.vt.us.

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Births	9	7	3	4	6	5	6	10	3	13
Marriages / Civil Marriages	3	5	9	10	3	4	7	3	3	6
Civil Unions	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0
Deaths	3	4	1	4	3	4	7	0	0	3

Records Restoration

An archival specialist reviewed the records in our vault and offered some observations and recommendations. Our land records are in rather good shape, due to the steady effort to restore volumes one at a time over the years. Other permanent records, such as minutes and grand lists, require some attention which we can work on a little at a time. The records that need the most attention are our eleven volumes of vital records, including the earliest books with fading handwritten entries. The total estimate for all volumes is \$5,011, and the plan is to spread the work and cost over two years.

Town Clerk's Report (continued)

Dog Licensing

One hundred and fifteen dogs were licensed in Ripton in 2009. State law requires that all dog owners license any dog over 6 months of age with the Town Clerk between January 1 and March 31 of every year. Fees increased in 2009 so the new rates are: \$8 for neutered or spayed dogs, \$12 for dogs that are not. (The fee increase of one dollar will be added to the State's spay and neuter program fund.) We need to have a copy of your dog's rabies vaccination certificate on file to issue the license. If your dog's rabies certification expires later in the year, get your license now based on the current certification and send us a copy of the new one when you get it. Dog licenses issued after the deadline will include a late fee.

Elections

Being an odd-numbered year, the only election that took place in 2009 was our local election following Town Meeting. It was our first election to be held in the Town Office and it went very well. (The Ripton Board of Civil Authority decided in late 2008 that for low-attended elections, it is more convenient, efficient and cost-effective to conduct the election at the Town Office instead of the Community House.) In 2010, we will have three elections: Town Meeting, the fall primary, and the general. The first two are planned to be held at the Town Office, and the general election in November at the Community House.

Election Calendar 2010	Town Meeting	Primary	General
Date of election	March 2	September 14	November 2
Polling place	Town Office	Town Office	Community House
Last day to register to vote	February 24, 5:00pm	September 8, 5:00pm	October 27, 5:00pm
Last day to request an absentee ballot	March 1, 6:00pm	September 13, 6:00pm	November 1, 5:00pm

Ripton Voter Participation

Town Meeting			State & Federal Elections		
Year	Total Voters	Voted	Election	Total Voters	Voted
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%)
2003	410	140 (34%)	General 2002	412	300 (73%)
2002	375	138 (37%)	Primary 2002	381	71 (19%)
2001	390	93 (24%)	General 2000	385	305 (79%)
2000	352	174 (49%)	Primary 2000	363	123 (34%)

Ripton received another round of funds distributed through the State, originally received via the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) passed in 2003. These "HAVA Funds" (as we call them in our budget) may be requested by town clerks to be used for specific items which improve their ability to use the statewide voter checklist. Up to \$6,000 may be applied for by each town to be spent over a two-year election cycle. In 2009, we received \$3,341 for computer hardware and software, computer training, and IT support of which \$1,793 was spent in 2009 and \$1,547 is expected to be spent in 2010. Remaining unspent funds are returned to the State.

For further information about elections and election issues, contact the Town Office during office hours or the Vermont Secretary of State's website anytime at www.sec.state.vt.us.

Listers' Report

Certified Level of Appraisal (CLA)/Reappraisal: The CLA is based on property sales from April 1 of one year to March 31 of the next. For 2009 the CLA based on 2008-2009 sales is 78.27%, a slight drop from 79.01% in 2008. The 2008 figure triggered an "Order to Reappraise" and the 2009 figure meant we could not contest the order. Our Reappraisal Plan describes a schedule of research, preparation and contracting in winter/spring 2010, property visits and valuations throughout 2010, and completion for the April 1, 2011 grand list. Most of the work will be done by the elected listers, with an outside appraiser hired to review the listers' work and to prepare values for commercial and unique properties. The Reappraisal Fund, a fund accumulated through annual \$8.50 per parcel payments made by the State to the Town, will pay for the cost of the project.

Sales Data and Property Transfers

Sales data from property transfers of the past three years are used to establish values during reappraisal. Transfers with no payment are excluded, as is a foreclosed property and its resale.

2009 Sales Data						
Location	Acres	Category	Seller	Sale Price	Listed Value	Ratio
31 Burnt Hill Rd	3.4	R1	And.-Haff. Trust	189,000	133,800	71.00
2074 Natural Turnpike	10.1	R2	Shadbolt	199,900	142,500	71.00
2848 Route 125	13.0	R2	Hotte, et al	267,500	173,000	64.67
353 Billings Farm Rd	13.0	R2	Gallagher	189,000	236,000	125.00
299 County Crossroad	15.3	R2	McDaniel	205,000	142,000	69.00
2777 Route 125	1.3	V1	Reichert	169,000	123,500	73.00
2008 Sales Data						
1361 Route 125	2.0	R1	Lacey & Sturges	165,000	135,800	82.30
1049 Lincoln Rd	5.5	R1	Clark	265,000	222,000	83.77
2338 North Branch Rd	10.1	R2	Lemal	375,000	280,000	74.67
299 County Crossroad	15.3	R2	Paczowski	180,000	142,000	78.89
784 Eagles Nest Rd	10.3	V2	McEdward	200,000	71,500	35.75
4443 Lincoln Rd	18.3	MHL	Maynard	125,000	56,600	45.28
4120 Lincoln Rd	10.1	land	Manning	50,000	22,000	44.00
Dugway & N. Branch	7.0	land	Farr	27,500	27,700	100.73
2007 Sales Data						
947 Natural Turnpike	1.1	R1	McClaran	220,000	137,000	62.27
1411 Route 125	0.3	R1	Shufelt	160,000	118,700	74.19
21 Murray Lane	2.5	R1	Trask	192,000	138,100	71.93
1169 Route 125	1.1	R1	Dickerson	185,000	133,000	71.89
77 Old Town Rd	10.4	R2	Beckman	390,000	368,000	94.36
2189 North Branch Rd	20.0	R2	Lord	380,000	295,800	77.84
Route 125	1.0	land	Punderson	16,500	18,500	112.12

Listers' Report (continued)

Grand List Summary

- 25 change of appraisals due to demolition or construction; 5 grievances.
- Grand List increased by \$511,450.
- State adjusts the Education Grand List value from 522,472 to 667,540.
- Current Use Program: 36 properties including 16 homesteads. Grand list reduced \$3,530,200. Town reimbursed \$18,967 for loss of municipal revenue.
- There is an "As Lodged" grand list and an "As Billed" grand list. The tax rate is set with the "As Lodged", adjustments are made through the end of the year with the "As Billed." The "As Billed" is shown here.

2009 Billed Grand List: Form 411 – Town code: 522

Real Estate Category	Count	Municipal Value	Ed. Value Homestead	Ed. Value Non-Res.	Total Ed. Value
R-1: house, 0-6 acres	117	16,030,200	12,655,500	3,404,700	16,060,200
R-2: house, 6+ acres	120	27,180,400	21,292,100	5,888,300	27,180,400
MHU: Mobile home 0 acres	2	25,000	3,000	22,000	25,000
MHL: Mobile home & land	13	726,000	511,400	214,600	726,000
V-1: Vacation home, 0-6a	20	1,022,000	0	1,022,000	1,022,000
V-2: Vacation home, 6+a	26	1,696,200	0	1,696,200	1,696,200
Commercial	17	1,483,850	153,000	1,615,600	1,768,600
Utilities – Electric	1	723,600	0	723,600	723,600
Wood	75	2,681,200	0	2,681,200	2,681,200
Miscellaneous	11	364,300	0	364,300	364,300
Total Taxable property	402	51,932,750	34,615,000	17,632,500	52,247,500

File the HS-122 form by APRIL 15 to declare your Ripton homestead.

The homestead declaration form, **HS-122**, is in the *Vermont Income Tax Return Booklet* or online at tax.vermont.gov. If you need help filing, contact the listers at the Town Office or ripton.listers@gmail.com. Declarations were filed by 195 Ripton homesteads in 2009, down 7 from 2008.

Statement of Taxes for 2009

Statement of Taxes Collected in 2009		Tax Calculation	
Taxes Collected by 11/6/08	\$995,322	1% of Homestead Grand List	\$346,150
Year 2009 Delinquent Taxes	\$54,891	Homestead Tax Rate	2.3535
		Total Homestead Taxes	\$814,664
Tax Adjustments*	\$152,516	1% of Non-Residential Grand List	\$176,325
Grand List changes & Abatement	\$6,304	Non-Residential Tax Rate	2.2366
		Total Non-Residential Taxes	\$394,368
TOTAL TAXES	\$1,209,033	TOTAL TAXES	\$1,209,033

*In 2007, the State paid the Town the tax adjustment amounts (in previous years, it was paid to individuals as rebates), and the Town deducted the amount from individual tax bills. Beginning in 2008, the Town still deducts tax adjustments from individual tax bills, but the State does not send tax adjustment payments to the Town; instead the State reduces the Town's education tax payment to the School. The tax laws did not change from 2008 to 2009.

Tax Breakdown			
Homestead Taxes	Tax Rate	\$ of Tax Bill	% of Tax Bill
Municipal Property Tax (GF & Roads)	0.5280	\$182,767	22%
Education Property Tax	1.8255	\$631,897	78%
Total		\$814,664	
Non-Residential Taxes			
Non-Residential Taxes	Tax Rate	\$ of Tax Bill	% of Tax Bill
Municipal Property Tax (GF & Roads)	0.5280	\$93,100	24%
Education Property Tax	1.7086	\$301,269	76%
Total		\$394,368	

Percent of Taxes Billed vs. Taxes Collected by the November Due Date

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
% Collected	94.6	93.8	94.6	95.8	98.0	96.1	93.6	94.4	95.0

2009 Delinquent Property Taxes

Unpaid Taxes after November Due Date			Balance Dec 31, 2009
Year	To Collect	Collected	Balance
2009	\$54,891	\$10,134	\$44,757

Previous Years Delinquent Taxes Collected in 2009		
Tax Year	Collected	Balance Due
2005	\$289	\$0
2006	\$2,216	\$2,044
2007	\$5,877	\$9,116
2008	\$15,864	\$24,924
Total Collected	\$24,246	
Total Still Due		\$36,084

Delinquent Taxpayer List as of February 1, 2010

Property Owner	2009	2008	2007	2006	Total
Jo Billings & Malcolm Billings	\$461.71				\$461.71
Justine Billings (#10008)	\$861.71				\$861.71
Justine Billings (#10070)	\$661.31				\$661.31
Brewer Jr., George Trust, G. Brewer Jr., Trustee	\$5,711.38				\$5,711.38
Lawrence Brodeur	\$1,722.79				\$1,722.79
Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac	\$1,899.03	\$1,436.98			\$3,336.01
James Daignault	\$0.00	\$604.21			\$604.21
Barbara Davis & Frederick Ramsburg	\$2,015.77				\$2,015.77
Joseph Durante & Lisa Durante	\$859.01	\$2,931.47	\$2,733.18		\$6,523.66
Jeremy Grip	\$4,950.26	\$1,349.14			\$6,299.40
Malcolm Harding & Barbara Harding	\$542.20	\$416.36			\$958.56
George Kirchoff	\$593.42	\$1,904.70	\$1,846.53		\$4,344.65
Roger Larocque & Debra Larocque	\$2,426.56	\$2,342.77			\$4,769.33
Harris Larocque	\$1,980.11				\$1,980.11
William Manning, Life Estate & Brian Webb	\$764.42				\$764.42
Joseph Matkowski & Bette Matkowski	\$2,239.47				\$2,239.47
William Murray	\$729.69				\$729.69
John Peck Sr. / Ian Peck & Brian Peck	\$1,475.44	\$1,640.18	\$1,084.29		\$4,199.91
Christopher Poploski & Amber Poploski	\$79.08				\$79.08
Timothy Price & Michele Fay	\$3,674.72				\$3,674.72
William Randall & Pamela Randall	\$1,196.12	\$2,859.45	\$1,483.82	\$1,425.75	\$6,965.14
Heidi Stahl & Kurt Stahl	\$916.83	\$1,019.08	\$988.07		\$2,923.98
Ronald Stevers	\$470.93	\$523.51	\$507.52		\$1,501.96
James Thompson	\$1,046.46	\$1,105.52	\$1,098.94	\$394.36	\$3,645.28
Eugene Warner	\$465.17	\$593.48			\$1,058.65
Marjorie Webb	\$449.43				\$449.43
Bryan Wilson & Amy Wilson	\$430.26				\$430.26
Total tax, penalty, and interest due:					\$68,912.59

Zoning Administrator's Report

Zoning applications received and processed in calendar year (CY) 2009 are as follows:

<i>New dwellings</i>	
<i>Permanent/seasonal houses</i>	1
<i>Camps</i>	1
<i>Apartments</i>	0
<i>Mobile homes</i>	0
<i>Replacements</i>	0
<i>Renovations/additions</i>	3
<i>Accessory outbuildings</i>	5
<i>Exempt agricultural outbuildings</i>	0
<i>Ponds/dams/other land development</i>	1
<i>Temporary uses</i>	0
<i>Signs</i>	0
<i>Subdivisions</i>	
<i>Single-lot</i>	0
<i>Multiple lot</i>	1
<i>Boundary adjustments</i>	0
<i>Planned unit developments (PUDs)</i>	0
<i>Renewals of permit</i>	0
<i>Conditional uses</i>	0
<i>Certificates of occupancy</i>	2
<i>Verifications of compliance</i>	10
<i>Notices of Violation</i>	2
<i>Hearing applications</i>	
<i>Zoning Board of Adjustment</i>	
<i>Conditional uses</i>	0
<i>Variances</i>	3
<i>Appeals</i>	0
<i>Planning Commission</i>	
<i>Subdivisions/PUDs</i>	1
<i>Site plan reviews</i>	0
<i>Historic District Commission</i>	
<i>Historic District developments</i>	2

Twenty-eight applications were processed including **six** requests for hearings before the Planning Commission (**1**) for a single-lot subdivision, before the Zoning Board of Adjustment (**3**) for setback variances, and before the Historic District Commission (**2**) for additions to and renovations of district properties. The applications also included **ten** requests for verification of the compliance of the applicants' property. **Twenty-one zoning permits** were issued. The direct costs for administration and enforcement of zoning and subdivision bylaws involved a total invoiced cost of **\$4,019.63** in hours and expenses, charged against a total of **\$2,002.00** in permit application fees, resulting in a net direct cost of administration of **\$2,017.63** for the calendar year. These figures do not include the costs incurred in warning and convening hearings, nor do they include attorneys' fees, when and if the Town elects to retain their services (as, for instance, to pursue litigation in zoning violation cases). For a complete summary of the Town's officially-posted zoning and sewage administration costs, please refer to the Treasurer's Report on the General Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
E. W. Hanson

Summaries of Town Ordinances

Regulations Related to Roads and Trails

- Special Regulations Governing Obstructions to Highways: Effective October 1973. Regulates the construction of driveways that join Town roads.
- Special Regulation as to Speed of Motor Vehicles: Effective October 1973.
- 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.

Health and Sewage Ordinances

- Health Ordinance: Effective November 1983. Sets standards for septic systems.
- Sewage Ordinance: Effective April 1989. Updates the 1983 Health Ordinance. Revised 2005. (Beginning July 1, 2007, sewage permits must be applied for directly from the State of Vermont.)

Flood Related Ordinances

- Flood Hazard Ordinance: Effective September 1985. Protects public health and safety from the hazards of flooding and is required for eligibility for Federal Flood Insurance.
- Flood Plain Ordinance: Effective May 1990. Revises the 1985 Ordinance.
- Flood Erosion Hazard Overlay District: Effective October 2009. Controls development within areas depicted on the most current Fluvial Erosion Hazard (FEH) maps.

Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances

- Zoning Ordinance: Effective March 1989. Regulates development. Historic District added in 1995. Revised 2003. Revised 2006.
- Subdivision Regulations: Effective March 2003. Revised 2006.

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. Regulates the outdoor storage of junk and junk vehicles. Revised 2006.

Complete copies of all ordinances are available at the Town Office.

Permit Information

Zoning and Sewage permits are required prior to any land development or change of use.

Contact the Zoning Administrator. (Beginning July 1, 2007, sewage permits must be applied for directly from the State of Vermont. The Zoning Administrator or Town Office can provide information about this process.)

Access/Driveway permits are required before altering or building a driveway that connects to a Town road.

Contact the Selectboard Clerk.

Permits for burning brush are required when there is no snow cover. Contact the Fire Warden. (Burning trash is illegal at all times.)

Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Historic District Commission

The Planning Commission provides land use planning for the Town. The Zoning Board of Adjustment rules on applications for variances from the Zoning Bylaw and on conditional 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, Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, and State statutes guide the decisions of these commissions.

The Planning Commission prepared the text for a free-standing Fluvial Erosion Hazard Zone Bylaw and conducted a July hearing on it. Following the bylaw's approval, the Planning Commission conveyed the bylaw to the Selectboard. The Selectboard held a hearing on the bylaw and approved it on 14 September 2009. In January the Planning Commission began work on the Town Plan revision, aided by a questionnaire that went to all Ripton residents, to which the Planning Commission received 147 responses, a remarkable 56 percent of those distributed. Work on the revision neared completion by the end of 2009. The Zoning Board of Adjustment approved two setback variances. The Historic District Commission approved the external design plan for a renovation by the Ripton Methodist Church and approved a fence design in connection with a proposed child care home.

In August Richard Collitt left the Planning Commission in his 18th year of service, 8 of which as vice-chair, to fill a vacancy on the Selectboard. The Selectboard appointed Charles Billings to the Planning Commission in October to fill the remainder of Mr. Collitt's term.

Report of the Ripton Conservation Commission

The Ripton Conservation Commission participated in two activities in 2009. First, at the request of the Ripton Planning Commission, the conservation commission drafted the natural resources section of the Ripton Town Plan. Weekly meetings between February and April led to completion of the draft and its presentation to the Planning Commission on schedule.

The Conservation Commission participated in June in a daylong control session of the invasive exotic plant wild chervil from the shoulders of remote parts of the Natural Turnpike toward Lincoln. While the area being treated showed a substantial chervil population in spite of careful pulling the previous summer, almost all plants were this year's growth or at most in their second year, suggesting that control measures, if maintained annually, could control but not eradicate the infestation. Work will continue on this population in 2010, focusing on removal of flowering plants to reduce the spread of chervil seed.

Warren King, chair

Report of the Ripton Energy Coordinator

The Ripton Energy Assistance Program (REAP), an independent program started in 2008, continued in 2009 with the cutting, splitting and transporting of 5 cords of seasoned firewood. This wood and several cords of slabwood cut and stacked in 2008 are available to Ripton residents who are in need by calling Mac Cox at 388-7820 or HOPE (formerly ACCAG) at 388-3608. Financial assistance with fuel oil or propane is also available through the same contacts.

From February through April REAP collaborated with Efficiency Vermont and the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network to bring to Ripton the Vermont Community Energy Mobilization pilot project. Ripton was one of a dozen Vermont towns to seize the opportunity this pilot project affords by installing free energy-saving equipment in Ripton homes and providing a walk-through energy assessment of the heating envelope of homes visited. Home visits took up to two hours. Twenty-four Ripton volunteers received three hours of training from Efficiency Vermont. The volunteers visited 60 Ripton homes and installed 538 compact fluorescent bulbs, 8 faucet aerators, 23 low flow showerheads, 15 electric hot water heater insulating wraps, 7 programmable thermostats, and hot water pipe insulation for 41 homes. Homes receiving this equipment will experience significant energy savings over the lifetimes of the installed equipment. The walk-through assessments provided homeowners with information on home weatherization. The recommended first follow-up step is an energy audit by a certified Home Performance with Energy Star energy auditor. A list of qualified energy auditors is on the Efficiency Vermont website efficiencyvermont.com or 888-921-5990. Efficiency Vermont offers a variety of incentives for energy audits and retrofits. Income-qualifying homeowners may receive a comprehensive free weatherization by applying through the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Hinesburg office at 800-545-1084. Accepted households should expect a delay of several months because of high demand for this popular service.

Efficiency Vermont is providing a second round of this program in 2010. Ripton is participating. Call Warren or Barry King at 388-4082 for a free home visit.

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 www.acrpc.org Phone: 802.388.3141 Fax: 802.388.0038

Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2009

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) was pleased to provide the following technical assistance and planning support to the region and its member municipalities:

Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Assisted member municipalities creating, adopting and regionally approving their municipal plans.
- Assisted member municipalities creating and adopting regulations implementing municipal plans.
- Provided data and mapping products to support on-going municipal planning activities.
- Provided technical assistance concerning regulations relating to municipal government.
- Represented the region at the District 9 Environmental Commission in the Act 250 process and at the Public Service Board in Section 248 hearings

Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted an educational workshop series in conjunction with VLCT, presented at the MOMS and TOECS and hosted monthly public meetings on a wide variety of planning topics.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to help them secure grant funding.
- Hosted a monthly Educational Series on renewable energy and conservation options available for implementation in Addison County.

Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County's Emergency Planning Committee and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning efforts, including developing Basic Emergency Operations Plans.
- Planned and assisted exercises and workshops designed to increase the capacity of local responders.
- Conducted geomorphic assessments of local rivers and helped communities incorporate the results into flood and erosion planning documents.
- Worked with VEM to exercise statewide disaster plans.

Energy Planning:

- Assisted towns in implementing energy conservation and renewable energy planning, programs and projects.
- Promoted regional and statewide educational programs and grant opportunities.
- Collaborated with other organizations to organize a regional Green Energy Expo.

Transportation Planning

- Supported the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee's work on structures and regional priorities.
- Supported Addison County Transit Resources by providing funding and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to produce highway structures inventories of all local roads in the region.
- Performed traffic counts and safety inventories on unsignalized intersections.
- Assisted Towns with enhancement, park and ride, and stormwater grants.
- Developed Access Management Plans for several towns.
- Sponsored town transportation studies.
- Supported municipal capital budget development.

Natural Resources Planning

- Implemented a program to assess Brownfields within the region.
- The Natural Resource Committee is updating the Natural Resource section of the Regional Plan. Actively supported the efforts of the Addison County Watershed Collaborative.

Green Mountain National Forest 2009 Report for Town Meeting

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 green space in the state. Our desire is to achieve quality public land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people—people in your town as well as all the visitors who come every year. Below is a brief summary of what happened to your National Forest during 2009:

Land Acquisition: The Forest **grew by 469.62 acres** through the acquisition of 3 parcels of land in Jamaica and Shaftsbury. The National Forest is now approximately 397,945 acres.

Recreation and Heritage Programs: Along with the continuous support and hard work of numerous volunteers and organizations, the Recreation & Wilderness Management staff had a successful year **maintaining public recreation opportunities and wilderness areas**. Several of the Forest Service partners, such as: **Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST)**, the **Green Mountain Club (GMC)**, the **Catamount Trail Association (CTA)**, **Vermont Youth Conservation Corp (VYCC)**, the **Moosalamoo Association**, and the **Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA)** and many more, continue to help us provide a **quality recreation experience in alignment with an environmental stewardship ethic**. We wish to thank these organizations and the town volunteers who helped us.

Work done in **Ripton** included: repair of and planning for trails and facilities damaged in 2008 floods, with further repairs scheduled for 2010; with the GMC, de-brushed the Long Trail through the Breadloaf Wilderness; participating in a collaborative effort to connect the North Country Scenic Trail from NY to the Long Trail; a campsite inventory and evaluation; and mountain bike trail improvements with VMBA. The Forest conducted its annual **Passport in Time** adult volunteer program -- "Remember Me As You Pass By" -- in October. A crew of 7 spent a chilly week doing maintenance and repair on historic cemeteries, including **Ripton's Galvin Cemetery**.

In addition to this project, and in partnership with the **Vermont Archaeological Society (VAS)**, **GMC**, and **UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program**, the Forest sponsored a **prehistoric excavation** at Little Rock Pond. As part of the Beattie Timber project, a Stewardship project combined clearing encroaching vegetation from the remains of the large 19th century Beattie Farm site to help preserve the archaeological remains with stacking the cut brush into piles to create small critter habitat. The historic CCC-era picnic shelters at Hapgood Pond were re-roofed, and the CCC-built Old Job Shelter was rehabilitated, receiving a new roof, sills and floor.

Fisheries and Forest Vegetation Management: Much of the work accomplished last year was done through cooperative efforts between the GMNF and other Federal and state agencies, NGOs and private citizens including volunteers with a shared goal of enhancing or **restoring fish populations and habitat** in streams and ponds throughout the Forest. We awarded 3 **Stewardship Contracts**, and sold about 7,800 ccf of **timber in contracts and permits** (roughly equal to 4.8 million board feet); We provided **maple tapping** opportunities to 5 individual permits; we completed about 1,500 acres of **forest inventory** and 16,000 acres of **terrestrial ecological unit inventories**; we provided permits for 476 cords of **firewood** for public consumption and worked in **restoring native trees** with research partners (butternut and Am. chestnut); We partnered with State of Vermont county foresters and **Wood Warms program** assistance; we developed ARRA stimulus project, jointly with State of Vermont, Div. FP&R to monitor and **control invasive pests** and met with select boards on **stewardship projects**; and finally, we coordinated invasive insect surveys and control efforts through a "**Don't Move**" **firewood program**.

Watershed Improvement: Thirty-two projects implemented in FY2009 contributed to multiple resource objectives, one objective being watershed improvement. These watershed improvement projects were varied, including non-native invasive species (NNIS) control, household dump clean-up, fisheries habitat improvement, flood damage repair, erosion and sediment control, revegetation of bare soil areas, and stream channel restoration.

19 Teachers Participated in A Forest For Every Classroom in 2009/2010: This professional development program for teachers graduated 19 teachers from the 2009/2010 program in January. The Vermont program has been set up as a national model and is now being replicated in New Hampshire, Texas and Montana. A new set of teachers will begin in May 2011. They will attend four workshops (one in each season) concentrating on forest stewardship, conservation and place-based education. **A Forest For Every Classroom** is a partnership between the Green Mountain NF, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, Shelburne Farms and the National Wildlife Federation.

Grantwriting Workshops Attended by 18 Towns Surrounding GMNF: 75 people participated in **free Grantwriting Workshops** offered by the Green Mountain National Forest. These 2-day workshops are targeted to the 45 towns impacted by the Green Mountain National Forest. Participants came from Bennington, Brandon, Bristol, Dorset, Dover, Granville, Lincoln, Londonderry, Manchester, Middlebury, Mt. Holly, Pittsfield, Rutland, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Wardsboro, and Weston.

Recycling Report

Recycling and trash drop-off is from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the first and third Saturdays of each month at the Town Shed on Peddler's Bridge Road. The recycling charge is \$3 per load. Trash disposal is \$3-4 per bag. 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 big red 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, un reusable paper bags and egg cartons, paper-lined (no plastic liner) grain sacks, wrapping paper (except metallized paper)
- 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)
- * Plastic bags
- * 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 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 (contain trace amounts of mercury, take to Transfer Station)

In 2009 the average number of households using the recycling center each drop-off was 45.9, a decrease from 48.5 in 2008. More residents are using the recycling center during hours when it is not officially open for business, which accounts for the apparent decline in use, at least in part. If you wish to drop off materials when the center is not open, please obtain the recycling coordinator's approval beforehand, and bring your \$3 fee to the Town Clerk or to the next recycling drop-off.

Under assumptions similar to those made since 1994, Ripton's total waste stream in 2009 was 216.62 tons, a decrease from 225.6 tons in 2008. Recyclable waste comprised 50.2 percent of the total, slightly higher than 49.9 percent in 2008, a highly 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 2009 Green Up Day is Saturday, May 2nd. Contact Steve Zwicky (388-2301) or Warren King (388-4082) to find out how you can participate.
Warren King, Recycling Coordinator



ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2009 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.

District 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
4. Providing for **disposal** of remaining wastes

2009 News: The District continues to offer its successful diversion programs despite a significant decline in waste in 2009 due to the recession. Here are a few highlights:

- A household hazardous waste collection participation rate of 11%, well above the statewide average of 8.87%.
- More than 1,000 pounds of rechargeable batteries recycled.
- A per capita recycling rate for electronics among the top two in the State, with 100 tons of electronic waste recycled at the Transfer Station.
- The third highest fluorescent bulb recycling rate in the State.
- A tire recycling rate increase of 30%, with 130 tons recycled.

The District's adopted Annual Budget for the 2010 calendar year is \$2,363,773, a 15% decrease from the 2009 Annual Budget of \$2,791,077. Because of declining revenues, the District Board of Supervisors voted to increase its Transfer Station tipping fees for Municipal Solid Waste and Construction & Demolition Debris to \$125/ton, an increase of 2%, or 3 cents per 25-lb. bag, effective January 1, 2010. For a list of the new Transfer Station rates, visit the District website at www.acswmd.org.

District Office and Transfer Station 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury

Telephone: (802) 388-2333

Fax: (802) 388-0271

Website: www.acswmd.org

E-mail: acswmd@acswmd.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: T, W, Th, 8 AM–Noon & Sat, 9 AM–Noon

The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and transfers it to out-of-District disposal facilities. Other materials are accepted from District residents and businesses for reuse, recycling and composting. The District HazWaste Center at the facility is open year-round. The *Reuse It or Lose It!* sheds accept reusable household goods and building materials. A complete list of acceptable items and prices is posted at www.acswmd.org.

District Board Meetings. The Board meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the ACRPC Office, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury. The Executive Board meets eight days before the Board meetings (second Wednesday), at 3:00 p.m. at the Middlebury Town Office Conference Room, 94 Main Street. Meeting dates are subject to change, so call us at (802) 388-2333, or check the calendar at www.acswmd.org. Board meetings are open to the public.

ACSWMD TRANSFER STATION RATE SCHEDULE

Transfer Station Hours: Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Saturdays: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

HazWaste Center Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs: 8:00 AM – Noon, Saturdays: 9:00 AM – Noon

A \$1.00 admin fee is charged on all monetary transactions in addition to prices listed below.

Trash, Construction & Demolition Debris	\$125/ton
Minimum Fee -- Minimum Load Size -- 1/2 ton for regular trash only	\$62.50
Minimum Fee -- 100 lbs. or less -- mixed debris.....	\$6.25
Appliances w/ CFCs (refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner, water fountain, vending machine, dehumidifier).....	\$11/ea.
Commercial-Grade A/C Units.....	At Cost
Appliances - no CFCs (furnace, washer, dryer, hot water heater, stove, dishwasher, microwave, woodstove, etc).	\$5/ea.
Asbestos, Non-Friable (packaging requirements apply)	\$330/ton
Batteries (wet-cell, automotive).....	\$1/ea.
Batteries (Small dry-cell, household, rechargeable, button cell, lithium, lithium ion, NiMH, NiCad, etc.).....	No Charge
Books (hard and soft cover).....	No Charge
Bulky Wastes , Large (full or larger mattress & box spring, couch)	\$6/ea.
Bulky Wastes , Small (twin or smaller mattress & box spring, chair, sink, toilet).....	\$4/ea.
Clean Wood , natural wood or raw lumber/ pallets (untreated, unpainted) – Residential Customers	\$10/cu.yd.
d. Commercial Customers.....	\$50/ton
Mulch loading assistance (upon request)	\$5/load
Corrugated Cardboard (minimum fee \$2.00).....	\$2/cu.yd
Electronics (larger items or quantities may be charged by weight at the discretion of the scalehouse operator)	\$0.23/lb
Computers, whole systems (includes everything).....	\$11/ea.
Computers, by piece (monitor or CPU or printer)	\$6/pc.
Fax machine, VCR, DVD, Stereo, CD Player, Shredder (small electronics)	\$5/pc.
Desktop Photocopier.....	\$11/pc.
Arcade Video Games, Stand Alone Photocopier.....	\$0.23/lb
Televisions	\$0.23/lb
(Regular size TV)	\$7/ea.
(Console size TV).....	\$15/ea.
Mixed Bag (cords, adapters, CDs, tapes, cassettes, DVDs, chips, cards, etc. grocery bag size).....	\$5.00
Fire Extinguishers – 5 lbs or >	\$11/ea.
Fluorescent Light Bulbs – Per 2 Linear Feet or Compact Size	\$0.25/ea
8-Foot, High Intensity Discharge (HID) and Neon.....	\$1/ea.
Ultraviolet	\$1.75/ea.
Food Waste (residential only).....	No Charge
Hazardous Waste – Residential (not including latex paint or joint compound)	No Charge
(Residential latex paint or joint compound)	\$2/load
Hazardous Waste -- Business (CEG) -- Must call ahead.....	Actual Cost
Leaf & Yard Waste (grass clippings, leaves, small twigs).....	\$1/load
Light Ballasts containing PCBs	\$3/ea.
Motor Oil (uncontaminated only, drums by appointment).....	No Charge
Oil Filters	\$0.25/ea.
55-gallon drum full (crushed or uncrushed)	\$45/drum
Pressurized Cylinders – 1-lb Cylinder (small size) – Residents/Businesses.....	No Charge/\$1/ea.
20-lb Cylinder (grill size).....	\$4/ea.

Reuse It or Lose It! (for items accepted at the discretion of the scalehouse operator)

Household goods weighing <20 lbs

.....	NoCharge	
Household goods weighing 20 lbs - 50 lbs.....		\$1/ea.
Household goods weighing >50 lbs.....		\$3/ea.
Construction Materials (reusable dimensional lumber, doors, fixtures, windows, etc.).....	No	
Charge		
Scrap Metal	No	
Charge		
Tires – Passenger Tires.....		\$2/ea.
Large Truck Tires		\$6/ea.
Agricultural Tires		\$20/ea.
Earthmoving Tires, Extra Large Tires, Large Quantities of Any Tires.....		\$0.06/lb.

Contact the District Office (388-2333) if you have any questions about items not listed here.

2010 Funding Requests

The following organizations request that voters approve Town funds as stated. These requests are voted by Australian ballot on March 2, 2010. The first sixteen requests are made by petitions signed by residents; the last two requests are included by decision of the Selectboard. There is also a description of services from the Court Diversion Program which is not requesting funds, but asked that we share their information. Comprehensive descriptions, reports, and contact information for all agencies are available at the Town Office.

HOPE Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects. **Request:** Will the Town vote **\$2,750** to be given to HOPE (formerly the Addison County Community Action Group), a locally controlled, community based organization, to be used to help defray a part of the cost of providing housing, fuel, food, clothing, and other essential items, said sum to come from Town funds?

Addison Central Teens (ACT) is dedicated to the healthy development of teens of the ACSU School District. **Request:** Shall the voters vote the sum of **\$1,500** to support the staff and programs of the Teen Center & Addison Teens & Friends, Inc.?

John W. Graham Emergency Shelter provided nearly 5,000 bed nights of food, shelter and hope to more than 150 Addison County residents in 2009, helped 75 people find permanent housing, and assisted 25 families to prevent them from becoming homeless. **Request:** Will the Town of Ripton vote **\$1,400** to be used to provide shelter, food and services to homeless families and individuals, said sum to come from Town funds?

Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) is a non-profit public transportation provider whose mission is to enhance the economic, social and environmental health of the region by providing safe, reliable, accessible, and affordable public transportation services. For Ripton residents, ACTR provides an average of more than 1,500 rides annually. In addition, the Snow Bowl Shuttle provided more than 1,600 rides to or from Ripton in 2009. Ripton residents can access Middlebury, New Haven, Bristol, Vergennes, Rutland, Leicester, or Burlington via various ACTR bus services. We also deliver Meals-on-Wheels. **Request:** Shall the voters of the Town of Ripton vote to appropriate **\$1,355** for Addison County Transit Resources to be taken from Town funds for the purpose of maintaining and improving transportation services for elders, persons with disabilities and the general public?

Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) provided 8,966 hours of service in 2009 to residents of Ripton who had mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability needs. CSAC's Emergency Service, 388-7641, is available 24 hours a day. **Request:** Will the Town vote **\$1,200** to be given to the Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc. to be used to help pay part of the cost of providing mental health services to town residents, said sum to come from Town funds?

WomenSafe provided services to at least 8 Ripton residents, including the mothers of 7 children, in 2009. They offer a 24-hour hotline number, 388-4205, medical and legal advocacy, support groups, community outreach, and a supervised visitation program. **Request:** Will the Town of Ripton appropriate the sum of **\$750** to WomenSafe, Inc. to support their mission to: work toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women and their children through direct service, education and social change? Said sum to come from general funds.

Addison County Humane Society sheltered 939 animals in 2009, including 6 from Ripton, at a cost of approximately \$395 per animal. Of the 6 animals from Ripton, 4 were placed with new families and 2 were returned to their owners. Riptonites adopted 13 animals during the year. **Request:** Shall the Town of Ripton vote to appropriate the sum of **\$750** to the Addison County Humane Society, Inc. to support their mission to promote the ethical treatment of and the prevention of cruelty to all domestic animals and forms of wildlife?

Champlain Valley Agency on Aging (CVAA) provided services to 15 residents of Ripton in 2009, including 7 who participated in the Meals on Wheels Program, and 7 who worked with a Case Manager. **Request:** Shall the Town of Ripton appropriate **\$700** for Meals on Wheels, case management, transportation, and the toll-free Senior HelpLine?

Addison County Parent/Child Center provides support, infant care, transportation, and family education, and served an estimated 12 Ripton residents in 2009. **Request:** Shall the Town of Ripton appropriate **\$600** to the Parent/Child Center to support classes, transportation, infant care, and family education services used by town residents?

2010 Funding Requests (continued)

Addison County Home Health and Hospice staff made 354 visits to patients in Ripton in 2009. **Request:** Will the Town vote **\$583** to be given to Addison County Home Health & Hospice Inc. to help defray costs for providing home health care services to infants, children and adults referred by their physician, regardless of their ability to pay, said sum to come from Town funds?

Elderly Services /Project Independence is committed to providing the best possible care and support for individuals and their families. In 2009, 3 Ripton residents received 848 hours of care, 319 meals and 326 van rides valued at \$12,714. **Request:** Shall the Town of Ripton appropriate **\$500** for Elderly Services for Project Independence Elderly Day Care Center Scholarship fund, to provide care for frail elders and respite for their families?

Open Door Clinic - Community Health Services provided free health care services to 7 Ripton citizens in 2009 through 24 clinic visits and case management services. **Request:** Will the Town of Ripton vote **\$500** for the Community Health Services of Addison County - Open Door Clinic to provide free health care for services and medication assistance to the uninsured, said sum to come from Town funds?

Hospice Volunteer Services provided the following to Ripton residents in 2009: served 1 hospice or palliative patient with volunteers for one day, mailed monthly Phoenix invitations to 1 widowed person, invited 3 families to annual Service of Remembrance, facilitated discussions with 99 MUHS students, including some from Ripton. Residents of Ripton also benefited from public education and inservice events, and grief support groups. One Riptonite is an active hospice volunteer. **Request:** Will the voters vote **\$400** to Hospice Volunteer Services to be used to help pay part of the cost of providing Hospice care at home for terminally ill patients in this town, said sum to come from Town funds?

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a national volunteer management service whose 280 local volunteers gave 44,030 hours to 88 agencies serving Ripton and area communities in 2009. Specific services and items provided Ripton residents include toys from Toys for Tots, hats, mittens and scarves, income tax preparation, community meals, Meals on Wheels, and Bone Builders osteoporosis classes. **Request:** Shall the Town of Ripton vote to appropriate the sum of **\$375** to support the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in 2010?

Mary Johnson Children's Center with locations in Middlebury and East Middlebury (and summers at the Ripton School for the Bread Loaf School of English) offers pre-school care and services to area children. **Request: \$350**

Vermont Adult Learning offers education to those without a high school diploma. In 2009, 4 Ripton residents were served, and in the past five years 30 were served. **Request:** Shall the Town of Ripton vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of **\$300** for the support of adult education services of Vermont Adult Learning?

Green Up Vermont organizes Vermont's spring clean-up, May 1st this year, its 40th anniversary. **Request: \$50**

Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District holds workshops, tree seedling sales, Conservation Field Days, tours; supports a technical staff to assist area landowners, the Envirothon high school competition, scholarships to Green Mountain Conservation Camp, and a scholarship in the name of pond consultant, Robert Collins. The District installed eight rain gardens in 2009 including one in Ripton. **Request: \$48.84** (\$0.11 per resident)

Addison County Court Diversion & Community Justice Projects, Inc. provides a restorative justice response to low level crime and underage drinking. Anyone given the opportunity to participate in either the Court Diversion program or the Teen Alcohol Safety Program has a chance to take responsibility for their actions, connect with the community in a positive way and learn from the experience. Over the past five years Court Diversion averaged 123 cases annually. The Teen Alcohol Safety Program averaged 172. We currently have 63 community service sites throughout Addison County. During fiscal year 2009, 1,755 hours of community service were completed by clients of both programs and \$30,605 was paid in restitution.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MARCH 2, 2009

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to meet at the Community House in Ripton on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. to act upon articles one through seven of the 2009 Town Warning. Approximately 70 people attended.

Moderator Joyce Dicianna read an invocation, reviewed procedures, and called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Article 1: Will the Town vote the sum of **\$1,606,443.00** to pay General Fund and Road expenses for the ensuing year, and pay outstanding orders or obligations of the Town, with interest, the tax rate on the 2009 Grand List to be determined by the Selectboard, divided as follows:

Roads:	\$199,918.00
General Fund:	<u>\$1,406,525.00</u>
Total:	\$1,606,443.00

Article 1 was moved by David Disque and seconded by Warren King.

Selectboard Chair, William Ford, explained that June and August 2008 flood reconstruction expenses distort the budget. With those removed the 2009 budget is less than the 2008. He then asked for questions.

Charles Billings asked Mr. Ford to speak to the difference between what the Town hopes to receive from FEMA and State reimbursement and the 1.4 million 2009 budget. Mr. Ford replied that both floods were declared emergency disasters by the President and made eligible for reimbursement funds: 75% through FEMA and 15% through the State. It was noted that the 15% threshold is in effect because we have approved Road Standards; without standards the reimbursement is 12%. Reimbursement is for work done to bring roads to a pre-flood condition, not for upgrades. For example, if a culvert is washed out but not devalued to less than 50%, FEMA pays for that culvert to be put back in place. When an engineering study shows the need for a larger culvert, FEMA will not pay for the larger culvert. Reference was made to a table on page 11 of the *2008 Town Report* that shows total flood damage costs, the reimbursement expected from FEMA, the State, and residents of private roads that were repaired, and the balance owed. The \$336,000 balance owed is still being discussed with FEMA in hopes of settling the difference between what is approved by FEMA and what the Board believes should be approved. It is anticipated that the final figure may not be reached until mid-April. Selectboard members Ronald Wimett and Laurie Cox noted that the real difference between what is approved and what the Board believes should be approved is with the second flood, that 85% reimbursement is approved for the first flood. The Board anticipated some difference due to upgrades, such as the case of replacing an undersized culvert with a larger one. Mr. Ford further explained that the Board's intent is to use a portion of the \$99,000 Major Project Fund to offset upgrade costs, but not to deplete that fund in case of future emergency need.

Richard (Dick) Collitt asked how we are doing collecting payment from private road residents. Mr. Ford responded that the payment is in different stages. June costs are clear and residents have paid, are paying, or are being sent a second letter stating that they must have a payment plan. For the August flood those affected have been sent letters stating the worst case scenario, and will be sent letters with the final cost. The expectation is that people will pay, and if they do not, a lien may be placed on their property.

Charles Billings spoke as a resident of a private road to thank the Board for helping to make the roads passable, and in particular for accommodating those who could not pay right away. Mr. Billings expects that those on Billings Farm Road and Old Town Road will make full reimbursement. Mr. Billings expressed thanks to Representative Willem Jewett and Senator Sanders who were instrumental in getting the FEMA Category B funds that provide some relief for private property owners released. Mr. Ford also noted Willem's role. Coincidentally Mr. Jewett arrived at that time, entered the meeting to applause, and Ms. Dicianna repeated the words of thanks given him.

Richard Ruane asked if -- given the FEMA funds that may be forthcoming -- the \$1.6 million in Article 1 is a firm amount or might be less. Mr. Ford responded that it may be lower, but to keep the \$1.6 in mind. Ms. Cox noted that though the budget is greatly increased over the previous year much of the \$1.6 million will come from FEMA and State reimbursement and not be raised by taxes. Mr. Ford explained that the Board borrowed money to pay for repairs that must be repaid with interest by April 1, 2009. The interest is not reimbursed by FEMA.

Andrea Chesman asked what would happen if the voters voted no on Article 1? The Board answered that the entire amount owed by the Town would be put onto the current year's property tax. They cited their obligation to repair roads, the difficulty of repaying this large an amount in one year, and that towns may not carry over debt from one year to the next. Mr. Ford noted the relationship of this question to Article 7 of tonight's meeting: discussion of borrowing to cover repairs and improvements relating to the 2008 floods. The Moderator pointed out that only Article 1 is up for discussion at this time, and that the question is to approve this amount or not, and does not address how it is paid.

Susan White asked for an explanation of the property tax item in the REVENUES table on page 22 of the *Town Report*: is the 2009 figure an error? Mr. Ford responded that this year the municipal and education tax amounts are separated. This change from the method used in 2008 and earlier is made because of the complications of the education tax. Lawrence Miller asked for the comparable 2008 number, which was not known but estimated at \$300,000 by Ms. Cox.

Mike Hussey inquired about the increase in the National Forest payment. Ms. Cox and Mr. Ford answered that the program is now fully funded, and will be through 2012.

Timothy Hanson called the question. Joyce Henderson seconded.

Article 1 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 2: Will the Town vote the sum of \$29,500 to Ripton Fire and Rescue to help pay Fire Department and First Response expenses for the year?

Article 2 was moved by Richard Ruane and seconded by Edmund (Ed) Sullivan.

Roland McGlashan, Assistant Chief, explained that Chief Erik Eriksen was unable to attend and spoke to the Department's activities, noted on page 26 of the *Town Report*. He highlighted the amount of training members do on their own that is not necessarily included in the annual report and the damage to members' vehicles during responses to flooding this summer. On behalf of the Department, Mr. McGlashan thanked the Town for its support and encouraged residents to volunteer.

Timothy Hanson called the question. Joyce Henderson seconded.

Article 2 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 3: Will the Town have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer, with a tax due date of Thursday, November 5, 2009?

Article 3 was moved by Barbara (Barry) King and seconded by Jane Phinney.

There was no discussion. The Moderator called the question.

Article 3 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 4: Will the Town vote to elect a town clerk for the term of three years as provided by 17 V.S.A. 2646 (2), said term to begin at Town Meeting, March 1, 2010?

Article 4 was moved by Richard Ruane and seconded by Ed Sullivan.

William Pierce asked what happens if this is voted no? Sally Hoyler responded that the term would stay at one

year. Carol Ford asked the reason for changing from a one-year to a three-year term. Sally Hoyler answered that other major officer positions have three-year terms; that a three-year term recognizes the learning curve the job requires, and a little bit of time is saved at elections. Andrew McIntosh asked if the position had ever been a three-year term in Ripton. Tim Hanson replied that it was thirty or forty years ago, did not know when or why it changed, but thought the three-year term a good idea. Alice Clark asked if this would apply to other officer positions such as delinquent tax collector. Ms. Hoyler answered no, each office is treated independently, such as the office of treasurer for which a three-year term is proposed in the next Article.

The Moderator called the question.

Article 4 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 5: Will the Town vote to elect a treasurer for the term of three years as provided by 17 V.S.A. 2646 (3), said term to begin at Town Meeting, March 1, 2010?

Article 5 was moved by Carol Ford; Ed Sullivan seconded.

There was no discussion, and the Moderator called the question.

Article 5 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 6: Will the Town vote to increase the Veteran's Property Tax Exemption from \$20,000 to \$40,000?

Article 6 was moved by Barry King; seconded by Carol Ford.

Mr. Ford noted that the exemption is for disabled veterans. Alison Dickinson, one of the Town Listers, stated that the current exemption amount is \$10,000 and the article should read from \$10,000 to \$40,000 rather than from \$20,000. An amended article was proposed:

Will the Town vote to increase the disabled Veteran's Property Tax Exemption from \$10,000 to \$40,000?

The motion to amend Article 6 was moved by Barry King and seconded by Richard Ruane.

Dick Collitt asked how this exemption works, how many are eligible, and for its impact on everyone else?

Alison Dickinson said there is currently one participating property owner; others may be eligible. Sally Buteau asked why such a large increase? Laurie Cox responded that a veterans' organization requested it, that the rate was \$10,000 for a long time, and that many towns are moving in this direction. The \$40,000 is the amount allowed by the Vermont Legislature. Charles Billings asked for the value of the exemption, and went on to calculate it at a 3% tax rate as \$1,200. Jerome (Jerry) Shedd asked if the change in valuation applied to the education tax. Joyce Dicianna asked for a point of clarity, is this a property tax exemption? The answer to both, yes, was from Alison Dickinson. Mr. Billings asked, if voted, how long is this effective? The answer was until someone petitions the Selectboard to change it.

The Moderator called the question.

Article 6, as amended, was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

Article 7: Any other business proper to come before this meeting including discussion of the Town Center and an informational meeting for the purpose of explaining the factors relating to the borrowing of a sum to cover highway repairs and replacement improvements as a result of the storms of June 14, 2008 and August 6, 2008.

Article 7 was moved by Ed Sullivan and seconded by Warren King.

The Moderator invited Representative Willem Jewett to speak. In telling how things are going in Montpelier, Mr. Jewett said this is not exactly what he signed up for; it is more fun when there is more money, but despite sober

times there are things to be optimistic about. Mr. Jewett circulated his *Town Meeting Legislative Update* and spoke of the bipartisan resolve and accomplishment of the legislature.

S-13, a 70-page public safety bill known as The Sex Offender Bill demonstrated a successful bipartisan effort on an important piece of legislation. The bipartisan effort continues with the budget. In many of the towns Mr. Jewett serves there are disputes of one kind or other but people are respectful of one another. How it is done in towns is how it is done in the legislature. The support of US Senator Sanders' office with staff member Ethan Ready in helping resolve our post office and flood problems was noted.

Mac Cox asked, is anything in the works for the Sand Hill Bridge in East Middlebury? Mr. Jewett responded that the bridge itself is solid, the problems being its alignment and sides. The fix made by removing the concrete rails and installing metal guardrail is an improvement. Though there are plans, nothing is happening in the near future.

With no further questions for Representative Jewett, William Ford began discussion of the proposed borrowing for repayment of a loan used for 2008 flood repair, directing people to Article 3 shown on *Town Report* page 49 and below.

Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to bond a sum not to exceed \$400,000 for a ten-year term for the purpose of repayment of the balance of the expenses from road damage repairs as a result of the storms and floods of June 14, 2008 and August 6, 2008? This article is being separately warned pursuant to 24 VSA § 1756.

Mr. Ford explained that this Article is important for dealing with the cost of road damage and the balance of what the Town is responsible for related to the floods, and the Board appreciates that people vote on it. The Board borrowed funds in the short-term to repair the roads, but may not borrow for more than one year without voter approval. In Article 3 the Board used the words "not to exceed" and will only borrow what is needed. The Article states "to bond" but this may also mean "to borrow." If the total needed is at or near \$400,000 the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank is the most cost effective lender.

Dick Collitt asked for clarification of the terms, interest rate, and cost to the average taxpayer. Mr. Ford replied that applications to the Bond Bank are due in May, though specifics won't be known until bonds are sold in July, and the actual amount owed is resolved. For a \$100,000 property Mr. Ford stated the cost to taxpayer at about \$100 per year. During the first year of repayment the Town pays \$9,000, the second year \$50,000, and the amount decreases slightly each year through year ten.

Charles Billings asked if the Board would consider a longer repayment term to reduce the impact. Mr. Ford reported that the Board looked at 10-year and 20-year bonds and the interest for a 20-year bond is more than double the 10-year amount. Mr. Ford agreed that it is reasonable to try to ease the pain given the economy and noted that if Article 3 is voted down, all the money must be covered by 2009 taxes.

Joyce Dicianna asked for clarification that "bond" is the same as "borrow" and that though the Article says 10 years, the term could be for less than 10 years? Mr. Ford answered yes; the Board confirmed with an attorney that as long as the period is less than 10 years they can do that. Andy McIntosh asked if the Article means not to exceed 10 years and not to exceed \$400,000 and was answered, yes, by Mr. Ford. Ms. Cox added that there is very specific language required for a bond which the Board was careful to use, and that our situation is unusual; it is more common for a bond to be issued for a project before the money is spent. Richard Ruane asked to clarify: if we vote yes on Article 3 we spread repayment over a long time; if we vote no we pay it all back in November? William Ford answered, yes.

Mr. Hussey asked a question related to Articles 4 and 5 and the Warning for Australian ballot voting: did the Warning need to be amended to change the term for Clerk and Treasurer from one to three years? The Moderator responded no, the change is effective in 2010.

Mr. Ford returned to the flood topic to thank Willem Jewett, the Fire Department, Sally Hoyler, and all involved in what was a great community effort. Barry King thanked the Selectboard for their extra time and effort in dealing with the aftermath.

The Moderator initiated discussion of the Town Center. William Ford described the extent of erosion in the village area and said that concern for backyards evolved into concern for the downtown. Though tonight's meeting is not adequate time for making a decision, it is hoped to get a straw vote as to whether we should protect the downtown by seeking grants for flood chutes, armoring with large rock, and the help of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

Warren King addressed the assembly to further explain the situation. He described it as difficult, with a lot of players and no clear understanding how to proceed. He and others have put together a plan believed to be in the Town's best interest. The State River Management Program has committed \$11,000 for an engineering study. This study will assess the likelihood of success of work upstream of the village to allow more floodplain access and slow the force of floodwater entering the village. A specific area for improved floodplain access is approximately 5 acres of land between the Bridge of Flowers and Old Town Road. Along with floodplain access, the hope is for armoring, conservation easements, and a flood erosion hazard (FEH) zone. Mr. King has begun talking with landowners about easements. The State will not provide funding unless a FEH zone is passed. There will be hearings prior to adopting the FEH zone, and Mr. King will meet with affected property owners in small groups to describe the zone and answer questions. Mr. King emphasized that armoring and channeling will buy time but are not long-term solutions for the problem of flooding and erosion.

Ms. Cox added that more detailed information will be available in future meetings. Mr. Collitt noted that though the State is holding a stick, it is also a carrot. Mr. King explained that State money won't be free; there is FEMA funding with it, but the Town will have to provide a match. Ed Sullivan asked about the timeframe for this. Mr. King responded that a proposal is due by March 31, engineers may be able to start in April-May with the money already committed by the State, and further funding probably known in June-July. William Biederman asked if the Town match has to be money. Warren King thought so, noted the complexity of the situation, that information is still being learned, and limited time for discussion this evening. He proposed a public meeting in a month or so with River Management staff present to explain and explore concerns. Joyce Henderson asked if the Flood Erosion Hazard Zone would be voted before being adopted. Warren King explained that it would be warned and hearings held, but that it did not have to be voted. There is a mechanism whereby signatures can be submitted to put bylaw adoption to a vote.

Jane Phinney thanked volunteers who maintain public gardens: Mia Allen for the Bridge of Flowers, Alison Joseph Dickinson for the Town buildings/village area, and Nola Kevra for the Ripton School. Applause followed.

Warren King announced the Ripton Energy Alternatives Program (REAP) and that community volunteers are visiting homes to install energy saving devices provided by Efficiency Vermont.

In the spirit of appreciation, Lawrence Miller recognized Ron Wimett and his road crew, along with the Selectboard.

A movement to adjourn was made by Richard Ruane and seconded by Edmund Sullivan.

With a unanimous voice vote, Town Meeting of March 2, 2009 adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Joyce Dicianna announced that the meeting would reconvene at 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Town Offices to vote by Australian ballot on election of Town officers, certain allocations from the General Fund, and Articles 1-3 of the 2009 Town of Ripton Warning.

William Ford, Chair

Laurie Cox

Ronald Wimett

Selectboard for the Town of Ripton

WARNING
TOWN OF RIPTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010 AT 7:30 pm

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to meet at the Community House in Ripton on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. to transact the following business:

Article 1: Will the Town vote the sum of **\$731,268.00** to pay General Fund and Road expenses for the ensuing year, and pay outstanding orders or obligations of the Town, with interest, the tax rate on the 2010 Grand List to be determined by the Selectboard, divided as follows:

Roads, including winter work	\$ 256,400.00
General Fund	\$ 474,868.00
Total	\$ 731,268.00

Article 2: Will the Town vote the sum of \$23,000 to Ripton Fire and Rescue to help pay Fire Department and First Response expenses for the year?

Article 3: Will the Town have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer, with a tax due date of Thursday, November 4, 2010?

Article 4: Will the Town vote to have the Treasurer establish an escrow account with \$20,000.00 that was bonded in excess of the amount needed to repay the road repair loans for the 2008 flood, said amount to be used to reduce the bond payments for the first five years by \$4,000.00 per year?

Article 5: Any other business proper to come before this meeting.

The Meeting will recess until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 2, 2010 to act upon the following articles by Australian Ballot.

Polls in the Ripton Town Office will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Article 1: To elect the following officers:

Town Moderator for a one year term	Town Clerk for a three year term
Town Treasurer for a three year term	Selector for a three year term
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a one year term	Constable for a one year term
Town Agent for a one year term	Town Grand Juror for a one year term
Agent to Convey Real Estate for a one year term	Lister for a three year term

Article 2: To approve or to disapprove the following allocations from the General Fund. The total amount to be allocated is **\$14,111.84**.

Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE, formerly ACCAG)	\$2,750.00
Addison County Teens (ACT)	\$1,500.00
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	\$1,400.00
Addison County Transit Resources	\$1,355.00
Counseling Service of Addison County	\$1,200.00
WomenSafe	\$750.00
Addison County Humane Society	\$750.00
Champlain Valley Agency on Aging	\$700.00
Addison County Parent Child Center	\$600.00
Addison County Home Health and Hospice	\$583.00
Open Door Clinic	\$500.00
Elderly Services	\$500.00
Hospice Volunteer Services	\$400.00
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program	\$375.00
Mary Johnson Children's Center	\$350.00
Vermont Adult Learning	\$300.00
Green Up Vermont	\$50.00
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District	\$48.84
Total	\$14,111.84

Lauren Cox, Chair

Ronald Wimett

Richard Collitt

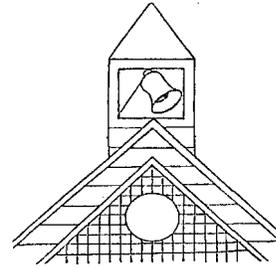
Selectboard for the Town of Ripton

ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT RIPTON, VERMONT MARCH 2, 2010

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 not more than one.</p> <p>Joyce Dicianna..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Lister for a 3 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Erik Eriksen..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Selector for a 3 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Richard Collitt..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Sally Hoyler..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Town Clerk for a 3 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Sally Hoyler..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Town Agent for a 1 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Chris Smith..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Treasurer for a 3 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Sally Hoyler..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Grand Juror for a 1 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Richard "Kim" Kimler..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Constable for a 1 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Chris Smith..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>School Director for a 3 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Willem Jewett..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Agent to Convey Real Estate for a 1 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Willem Jewett..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>School Director for a 2 year term. Vote for not more than one.</p> <p>Amy McGlashan..... <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)..... <input type="checkbox"/></p>

RIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Last year we began our School report by acknowledging some of the difficult economic times that lie ahead. The School Board continues to be committed to being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers while providing a quality education for our children. Across Vermont the number of enrollments has dropped to 90,000 students. We are not immune to this decline in the student population, but we anticipate that our enrollment will hold steady over the next year at 45 students. Our hope is to find ways to supplement our operating budget through external funding sources and increasing the number of tuition paying students. As part of this changing economic climate we will be evaluating our expenses and aligning our staff numbers with our enrollment numbers. In the current year, this will mean an additional reduction in our paraprofessional staff. The next few years will be marked by a focus on long range planning and analysis looking at how to ensure that the Ripton School continues to thrive and support our community in the years to come in an economically viable way.

Academic Highlights

We use many creative ways to focus on language and literacy development at Ripton Elementary School. The key elements of literacy include reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students are routinely engaged in multiple language and literacy opportunities. If you were to walk through the school you might see 5th and 6th graders passionately discussing why they thought a particular character in the book was a spy or part of the German resistance as they participated in a Literature Circle. You might see a 4th grader reading to a kindergarten student as part of the Reading Buddy program. You might also see students analyzing visual images improving their observation and communications skills as part of Middlebury College's 'Visual Thinking Strategies' curriculum, or you might see a student writing a poem about the night sky. Teachers routinely engage their students in a multi-faceted approach to literacy instruction providing each student with creative and engaging ways to develop their language skills. The "Foundations" program is also used for literacy skill building in grades K-3.

All School Meeting continues to be an important part of our curriculum where the fifth and sixth grade students are given the opportunity to run the meeting and incorporate student driven activities into the meeting. Students share poetry, perform magic tricks, play collaborative games, solve problems, and recognize fellow students for their contributions to the school. This weekly ritual allows students to expand their language and literacy skills and social development as they participate actively in community life.

In the interest of broadening our students' cultural knowledge of the world around them and to meet the trend of an increasing Spanish speaking population in the US, we have introduced Spanish to our curriculum. Led by an International Middlebury College student our K-6 students are given the weekly opportunity to explore the Spanish language and culture. FORS supports us in a number of programming initiatives and is underwriting the cost of this new program.

Our study of the Spanish language dovetails with our cultural theme study of Latin America. As part of our cultural theme study we plan to host an artist-in residence this spring giving students additional

opportunities to immerse themselves in a cultural study with guest artists that facilitate this fully integrated learning experience. Our Social Studies curriculum also included a study of Colonial History which culminated with our Fall Curriculum night and Thanksgiving Feast at the Ripton Community House. Our Geography theme included a Geo Bee, a trip to the Vermont International Festival and Geography Food and Games day in December.

We use the Bridges Math program for grades K-5. This elementary Math program has been selected by a number of schools throughout the state as it provides a unique blend of problem solving and skill building. The Bridges curriculum helps students develop their understanding of math concepts through the combination of whole-group, small-group and independent activities. Through exploration of math manipulatives where they can see, touch, and sketch out their ideas to test their reasoning, students are able to more fully understand and develop their mathematical thinking skills.

Throughout the year we host a number of events to celebrate our learning. In December we hosted Presentation Night. Families had a chance to listen to the band perform, and attend plays and activities about the colonial period. Publishing Night will be on March 24th. On this evening students will present varying projects about Astronomy, Latin America, and other spring curriculum areas. We also will be hosting a culminating event the week we have an Artist in Residence. We encourage community members to join us for these events and celebrate the wonderful learning that is occurring at our community school.

New Faculty/Staff

This year we welcomed two new staff to the Ripton School Community. Marta Beede the new school Principal, has her Doctorate in Education, and most recently has been working as School Director at The Bellwether School in Williston and as a Professor at Johnson State College. We are thrilled to have Michele LaFlam back at the Ripton School after completing her Elementary Education degree at Castleton State College. Wendy Rodriguez, a Middlebury College student, is new to us this year and is exploring the Spanish language and culture with students once a week.

Middlebury College Students

Middlebury College students play an important role at Ripton Elementary School. Each Friday, a number of Middlebury College hockey players from the men and women's teams descend upon the school and work as mentors to our students. Mentors connect with classroom teachers and determine if they should spend their time reading with students, playing chess, talking, or working on a school project. This one-on-one time is a highlight of the week for our students. We also had one student teacher this fall, two student teachers for January, and a new Spanish teacher for the rest of the year. We greatly appreciate the energy and talent these students bring to our school.

We would like to thank FORS and all of our community members who support our outstanding school with tax dollars, gifts, time, and energy. The Ripton Ridge Run, Thanksgiving Feast, and Community Garden are a few excellent examples of the generous support we receive from our local community. We are fortunate to live in a community that supports quality education for all its children.

The Staff and School Board of the Ripton Elementary School

FACULTY AND STAFF

Marta Beede	Principal
Michele LaFlam	PreK and Kindergarten
Charlotte Holmquist	Grades 1 and 2
Susan Ogilvie	Grades 3 and 4
Steven Lindemann	Grades 5 and 6
Lynda Burt	Learning Specialist
Cathy Clarke	Physical Education
Terry Close	Speech/Language Pathologist
Linda Kautzman	Library/Media Director
Christine Jenkins*	Art
Sarah Metcalf*	Music
Wendy Whaley-Sauder*	Guidance Counselor
Barbara Thompson-Snow*	Nurse
Jorene Doria	Special Education Paraprofessional
Sarah Harrison Lynn	Classroom and Speech/Language Paraprofessional and First Aid Designee
April Rule	Classroom Paraprofessional
Nancy Whittemore	Classroom and Title I Paraprofessional
Kathleen Angier	Meals Program Director
Wendy Leeds	Administrative Assistant
Roger Larocque	Custodian
Marty Whittemore	Bus Driver

*Shared ACSU Personnel

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
2009-2010 PreK-12 ENROLLMENT**

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Clyde Malhotra
Eric Poploski
Jacob Terrien
Jack Trudeau

KINDERGARTEN

Alyza Alger
Mollee Codding
Evelyn DiGenova
Phoebe Hussey
Natalie Steadman
Henry Swan

GRADE 1

Camille Malholtra

GRADE 2

Wren Colwell
Timothy Goettelmann
Rosemary Maheu

GRADE 3

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

GRADE 4

Ella Beattie
Treed Brooks
Alyson Chione
John David Goettelmann
Thomas Hussey
Abigail Jewett
Emma Jones
Cassandra Manning
Kayli Manning
Andre Trudeau

GRADE 5

Owain Alexander
Nick Beattie
Bryce Kowalczyk
Dustin Manning
Sully Swearingen
Hannah Williams
Indigo Woods
Claire Wulfman

GRADE 6

Keith Charbonneau
Sebastian Durante
Harlee Gero
Justin Seguin
Jesse Trudeau
Rowan Warren

GRADE 7

Jordan Codding
Jennifer Cyr
Jessica Cyr
Alec Jones
Autumn LaPlant
Eric Manning
Brendan Mulholland
Meghan Mulholland

GRADE 8

Justina Baker
Jacob Codding
Naina Horning
Peter Manning

GRADE 9

Gwynneth Alexander
Nathan Billings
Tyler LaPlant
Ashley Smith
Damian Stearns
Katelyn Williams

GRADE 10

Linus Biederman
Grace Carter
Britta Clark
Michelle DeRosier
Caitlin Duchaine
Yibekal Lacey
Peter Lewis
Cody McGlashan
Malcolm Mulholland
Eben Schumacher
Austin Wyrocki
Miles Zwicky

GRADE 11

Kyle Charbonneau
Yoann Gorostiaga
Kelsey McGlashan
Sean Mulholland
Annie Nicholson
Samantha Seguin
Mitchell Wulfman

GRADE 12

Rosa Carter
Eliza Carver
Matthew DeRosier
Sean Higgins
Kevin Jackson
Schuyler Klein
Christina LaPlant
Dylann Swearingen
Jessica Wyrocki

ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

In thinking about what I wish to share with you in this report, it occurred to me that we are never in want of interesting times.

In the past I have shared with you that we do indeed live in a global society. Just the other day a fellow superintendent told me about his son's weekly business meeting. He has weekly strategy meetings with members of his team. It just so happens that he is in Connecticut, two of his team members are in Arizona while the others are in India. These meetings occur in real time through video conferencing. They are planning and strategizing on how to move their assigned work forward in a global economy. This effort is duplicated countless times each day all over the world. So preparing our students for a global society is real and is becoming more so as technological advances occur.

We also live in interesting economic times. Our resource base has shrunk due to the economic down turn. As I write this report, all indications point to an economy that is recovering but the damage was deep. The resources that we once depended upon to help us educate our students have diminished and will not recover soon.

In 1997 the legislature established the state education fund. The state maintains the education fund as a way to help ensure each school district's ability to raise funds on an equal basis to support the education of its children. Since its establishment, the sources of revenue used to support the education fund have changed. However, the property tax has remained central to funding the education fund.

The following revenues are used to prop up the education fund: Nonresidential Education Property Tax, a portion of the Sales & Use Tax, a portion of the Purchase & Use Tax, State Lottery, Medicaid Reimbursements, Vermont Yankee, and a transfer of funds from the State's general fund. The balance of the education fund is dependent upon the homestead property tax (the school portion of your tax bill). Many of these revenues are dependent upon the economy. The current economic climate has diminished some revenue sources and this places more of a burden on the homestead property tax. As a result of this maneuver, property tax rates automatically increase by approximately 2.33%.

A fairly administered statewide property tax is dependent upon a common way to appraise property value. When the appraised value of a town's grand list falls below the state's common level of appraisal, the homestead property tax rate increases.

When the state education fund was established, property tax went from a local tax to a state tax. The state establishes the base tax rate and the base payment associated with that rate. For this budget cycle, the state has raised the base tax rate from 0.86 to .0882 without raising the corresponding base payment. This is a shift in burden from the state education fund to the homestead property tax.

Another occurrence that affects the tax rate is a decline in enrollment as property tax rates are determined by per pupil spending. Unfortunately, it is difficult for an educational program to respond to declining enrollments. Most of our programs are either required or necessary for the learning needs of our students and it is truly difficult to find a program reduction that corresponds with a drop in enrollment. We have tried, as in the past, to provide you with reasonable budgets to consider, attempting to balance the educational needs of our students with the stewardship of the public resources placed at our disposal. The

tax rate you pay is also determined by the amount your school district spends on education and the number of pupils associated with the school.

If we do not take a close look at how we do business, I believe the strain between school expenses and available revenue will continue to grow. The student population in our state has gone from 106,000 students in 1997 to 95,000 students today. The trend is downward for the next several years before we see a slight edging upward. Vermont is the 5th highest in per pupil spending in the United States. The four states in front of us rank 1, 2, 3 & 5 in per capita income while Vermont is ranked 24th. Statewide, special education costs have risen from \$62 million in 1990 to \$264 million in 2008. That is a growth that is unsustainable and we must ask if this is a product of the way we do business.

These kinds of issues cannot be addressed at the local level by local decisions. This will take a statewide effort that I believe will require legislative action, hopefully with clear thought-out guidance from the Vermont Department of Education. We need a methodical approach in addressing these concerns. A knee jerk or quick fix approach will simply become future problems.

Vermont can be proud of what we do for our students. Some studies show that if Vermont were a stand-alone country, apart from the United States, we would be among the world leaders in education. I believe the status is reflected in the schools of Addison Central Supervisory Union as well. We still struggle when it comes to the achievement of our students living in poverty but the gap between those living in poverty and those that are not is closing.

Finally, if we want to maintain the opportunities that we provide our students, we will need to engage in self-examination of how we conduct business. That examination will need to be a statewide effort with the focus on educational quality coupled with the stewardship of the resources made available to us in that effort.

Wm. Lee Sease,
Superintendent of Schools

FRIENDS OF THE 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 organize fundraising and other events at the school and in the community. This past year FORS raised funds to help pay for a variety of things such as: a week of artist in residency on Africa - this was yet another wonderful experience for the students, 5/6 class trip, 5/6 week at Keewaydin, items for the Community Garden, chairs for the library, teacher supplies, field trips, Ripton Summer Day Camp, and the opportunity to ski cross country and downhill. FORS has funded a piloted Spanish program this year, and is in the process of funding a full year program for the 2010-2011 school year.

FORS mission statement:

The Friends of Ripton School (FORS) 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 quarterly 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 any interested community member to join us.** We know that Ripton is rich with diversely talented people who might be interested in spending time at the school, and we welcome your interest and involvement at any level. Some examples of participation have included: the community garden, pottery, reading a story, helping at recess, driving for field trips, cooking, art projects, singing, dancing, and teaching martial arts. 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.**

For more information contact FORS chairperson, Lisa Whitman, at wht78vette@hotmail.com or 388-0147. For a weekly calendar of school events via email, contact Wendy Leeds at wleeds@acsu.k12.vt.us.

RIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

INDEBTEDNESS STATEMENT

<u>Amount of Original Bond</u>	<u>Indebtedness July 1, 2010</u>	<u>Principal Payment 2010-11</u>	<u>Interest Payment 2010-11</u>	<u>Balance of Unpaid Principal June 30, 2011</u>
Water Disinfection Planning - 2007				
\$4,341	\$4,341	\$0	\$0	\$4,341
Water Disinfection Construction - 2008				
\$9,721	\$9,721	\$0	\$0	\$9,721

* Water disinfection planning and construction loans are anticipated to be forgiven by the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, or the first payments would be due on July 1, 2012, and August 1, 2010, respectively.

ANNOUNCED TUITION RATES

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Elementary	\$8,400	\$8,400	\$9,000	\$9,500
Union District #3	\$10,778	\$11,025	\$11,801	\$12,713

MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT REVENUES - FY 2008-09

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, ASCU utilizes funds generated from the previous fiscal year. For example, the Medicaid money utilized in FY 2008-2009 was generated during the 2007-2008 school year. For FY 2008-2009, ACSU spent \$201,539.71 in Medicaid money on the following:

.5 Medicaid Clerk, .5 School Psychologist, a portion of a .9 Integration Consultant, a portion of a .6 English as a Second Language Teacher, transportation and facilities maintenance for the ACSU Early Education Program, some summer services, along with other services (i.e, tutoring) for at-risk students throughout the Supervisory Union. Various courses, conferences, in-service training, supplies, and travel reimbursement were also included in the overall expenditures.

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
2010-11 ESTIMATED FINANCE**

	Budget 2009-10	Proposed 2010-11	Change
<u>Estimated Education Spending:</u>			
Elementary Budget	807,279	\$763,567	-5.41%
Special Article - Playing Field Upgrade	2,000	-	
Special Article - Interior & Exterior Painting of School	17,000	-	
Special Article - Exterior Motion Activated Security Lights at School	1,500	-	
Special Article - Playing Field Fencing Barrier	-	940	
Special Article - To Capital Improvement Reserve	1,071	15,000	
Total Estimated Expenditures	828,850	779,507	
Less Anticipated Receipts			
Special Education Block Grant	16,850	14,581	
Special Education Intensive Reimbursement	12,340	16,452	
Small Schools Grant	76,000	63,552	
Interest Income	600	600	
Transportation Aid	12,472	12,816	
U. S. Forestry	21,409	22,742	
E-rate Reimbursement	2,847	3,000	
Town Audit Reimbursement	-	2,835	
Tuition	-	21,000	
Security Lights Project Balance	-	940	
Capital Improvement Reserve	18,500	-	
Prior Year Fund Balance	3,071	31,740	
Total Estimated Receipts	(164,089)	(190,258)	
Estimated Education Spending	\$664,761	\$589,249	
<u>Tax Rate Estimates</u>			
Equalized Pupils*	46.86	42.98	
Estimated Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$14,186	\$13,710	
Est. Excess Spending Penalty Above Average Statewide	0.00	0.00	
Total Estimated Education Spending Per Pupil	\$14,186	\$13,710	-3.36%
Adjustment for Spending above \$8,544/\$8,544 Base Per Pupil	166.04%	160.46%	
Base Homestead Equalized Tax Rate**	\$0.86	\$0.882	
Adjusted Total/Elementary Estimated Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$1.428	\$1.415	-0.88%
% Elementary pupils	48.21%	45.83%	
Estimated Elementary Component of Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$0.688	\$0.649	
Adjusted Secondary Estimated Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$1.456	\$1.541	5.84%
% Secondary pupils	51.79%	54.17%	
Estimated Secondary Component of Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized	\$0.754	\$0.835	
Estimated Total Homestead Tax Rate, Equalized***	\$1.442	\$1.483	2.84%
Estimated Common Level of Appraisal****	79.01%	78.27%	-0.94%
Estimated Homestead Tax Rate*****	\$1.826	\$1.895	3.81%
Base Non-Residential Equalized Tax Rate**	\$1.35	\$1.372	
Estimated Non Residential Tax Rate	\$1.709	\$1.753	2.59%

* Equalized pupils are pre-kindergarten to Grade 6 average daily membership averaged over two years and weighted for poverty factors, and English proficiency.

** As recommended by Tax Commissioner, and pending legislative action

*** 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.

**** Common Level of Appraisal, as determined by the state, adjusts for property values reported at less than fair market value.

***** Tax rate is estimated per \$100 of equalized value. One cent on tax rate equals approx. \$10 on \$100,000 value.

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

LEA: **T167**
S.U.: **Addison Central**

Enter estimated homestead base rate for FY2011. See note at bottom of page.
0.882

Expenditures	Act 68		Act 130		
	FY2008		FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
1. Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$792,398		\$812,701	\$807,279	\$763,567
2. <i>plus</i> Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	\$6,651	+	\$2,700	\$3,071	\$15,940
3. <i>minus</i> Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending	-	-	-	-	-
4. Act 68 locally adopted or warned budget	\$799,049		\$815,401	\$810,350	\$779,507
5. <i>plus</i> Prior years Middlebury UHSD #3 assessment	\$654,290	+	NA	NA	NA
6. <i>plus</i> No union elementary or junior high school assessment	-	+	NA	NA	NA
7. <i>plus</i> Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	+	-	-	-
8. <i>plus</i> Prior year deficit reduction if not included in expenditure budget	-	+	\$10,793	-	-
9. Gross Act 68 Budget	\$1,453,339		\$826,194	\$810,350	\$779,507
10. S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	\$38,586		\$39,926	\$44,760	\$48,840
11. Prior year deficit reduction (if included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-		-	-	-
Revenues					
12. Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$152,272		\$139,333	\$145,589	\$190,258
13. <i>plus</i> Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	+	-	-	-
14. <i>plus</i> Prior year deficit reduction if included in revenues (negative revenue instead of expenditures)	-	+	(\$10,793)	-	-
15. <i>minus</i> All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues	-	-	-	-	-
16. Total local revenues	\$152,272		\$128,540	\$145,589	\$190,258
17. Education Spending	\$1,301,067		\$686,861	\$664,761	\$589,249
18. Equalized Pupils (Act 130 count is by school district)	104.19		51.94	46.86	42.98
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil					
19. Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$12,487		\$13,224.12	\$14,186.11	\$13,710
20. <i>minus</i> Less net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	\$802.76	-	\$839.43	\$879.21	-
21. <i>minus</i> Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual	-	-	-	-	-
22. <i>minus</i> Less amount of deficit if deficit is solely attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed year 2008-2009 (FY2009)	-	-	-	-	-
23. <i>minus</i> Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils	-	-	-	-	-
24. <i>plus</i> Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	+	-	-	-
25. Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	\$12,487		\$13,224	\$14,186	\$13,710
26. District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%) (\$13,710 / \$8,544)	161.420%		161.073%	166.036%	160.462%
Prorating the local tax rate					
27. Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate to be prorated (Tax rates were not prorated in FY07 - FY08) (160.462% x 0.882)	\$1,404		\$1,4013	\$1,4279	\$1,4153
28. Percent of Ripton equalized pupils not in a union school district	Not applicable prior to Act 130		51.574%	48.210%	45.83%
29. Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (45.830% x \$1.42)	Not applicable prior to Act 130		\$0.7227	\$0.6884	\$0.6486
30. Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	88.11%		81.70%	79.01%	78.27%
31. Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (Tax rates were not prorated in FY2008) (\$0.649 / 78.27%)	\$1,594		\$0,8846	\$0,8713	\$0,8287
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.					
32. Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated (160.462% x 1.80%)	Not applicable prior to Act 130 based on 1.80%		2.90%	2.99%	2.89%
33. Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (45.830% x 2.89%)	2.91%		1.50%	1.44%	1.32%
34. Percent of equalized pupils at Middlebury UHSD	Not applicable prior to Act 130		48.43%	51.79%	54.17%
35. Percent of equalized pupils at Middlebury UHSD	Not applicable prior to Act 130		-	-	-

- As of 24-Nov-09, the Tax Commissioner has not yet made a recommendation for an FY2011 base education homestead tax rate. The recommendation is due to be made on 01-Dec-09. **Therefore, the rate entered is an estimate made by the school district.** The base income percentage cap is 1.80%. Final figures will be set by the Legislature and approved by the Governor.
- Additionally, preliminary equalized pupil counts are not yet available.
- The base education amount of \$8,544 was set by the by the Legislature, but could be subject to change.

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET**

	BUDGET 2008-09	ACTUAL 2008-09	BUDGET 2009-10	PROPOSED 2010-2011	Change
1100 REGULAR PROGRAMS					
110 Salaries - Teachers	202,425	201,889	197,382	199,123	(1)
112 Salaries - Aides	61,673	52,469	40,480	32,167	(2)
114 Salary - Inservice	1,255	1,166	0	0	
118 Early Separation	0	0	10,379	10,379	(3)
120 Substitutes	3,000	860	2,500	2,500	
210 Health Insurance	66,771	65,067	60,415	59,022	(4)
220 Social Security	20,529	18,536	19,182	18,679	
230 Life Insurance	302	226	262	255	
240 Municipal Retirement	2,467	2,070	1,619	1,287	
270 Course Reimbursement	3,000	2,459	3,000	3,000	
280 Dental Insurance	1,520	1,520	1,692	1,680	
290 Disability Insurance	808	614	663	656	
320 Professional Services	600	0	500	500	
321 Pre-K Contracted Services	1,129	1,129	2,452	1,275	(5)
430 Repair & Maintenance	3,200	2,427	3,200	3,200	
610 Supplies	3,500	3,468	3,800	4,000	
640 Books & Periodicals	1,500	1,109	1,500	1,500	
650 A.V. Materials	200	149	200	200	
660 Manipulatives	1,400	907	1,200	1,200	
730 Equipment	200	508	200	200	
800 Field Trips	450	450	600	600	
1100 Total	\$375,928	\$357,023	\$351,226	\$341,423	-2.8%
1102 GUIDED STUDY					
115 Salary - Guided Study	0	1,564	0	0	
220 Social Security	0	120	0	0	
1102 Total	\$0	\$1,684	\$0	\$0	
1190 SHARED PERSONNEL					
320 Shared Personnel	28,145	24,804	25,667	26,724	(6)
1190 Total	\$28,145	\$24,804	\$25,667	\$26,724	
1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION					
110 Salary - Teacher	0	13,989	0	15,129	(7)
112 Salaries - Aides	16,219	21,234	16,605	23,423	(8)

(1) This represents the salaries of 4.2 teachers; 4 classroom teachers and one .20 special area teacher.

(2) This represents the salaries of 1.6 classroom assistants, down from 2.24 in 2009-10. Title I previously funded a .70 assistant now included in this area.

(3) This is the second of three payments for the early retirement of a teacher.

(4) Health insurance rates are projected at a 4.5% increase.

(5) This represents the town's share of children in a certified Pre K program, as per state law.

(6) This represents the cost of .41 special area teachers.

(7) This represents the salary of a .30 special educator, previously included in Special Education - Shared Personnel.

(8) This represents the salaries of 1.20 special education assistants, up from .86 in 2009-10.

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET**

	BUDGET 2008-09	ACTUAL 2008-09	BUDGET 2009-10	PROPOSED 2010-2011	Change
210 Health Insurance	5,076	7,466	5,076	7,401	(9)
220 Social Security	1,241	2,121	1,270	2,949	
230 Life	0	0	0	18	
240 Municipal Retirement	649	849	664	937	
270 Course Reimbursement	100	0	200	200	
290 Disability	0	0	0	50	
320 Shared Personnel	20,139	0	24,888	0	
321 Contracted Services	0	0	700	700	
338 EEE Tuition	7,884	7,884	6,997	8,522	(10)
610 Supplies	100	125	300	300	
1200 Total	\$51,408	\$53,668	\$56,700	\$59,629	5.2%
2100 SUPPORT SERVICES - REGULAR					
322 Contracted Speech Service	2,450	0	2,450	2,250	
330 Psychological Services	300	0	300	200	
331 Occupational Therapy	300	780	300	600	
332 Physical Therapy	300	2,231	300	1,500	
2100 Total	\$3,350	\$3,011	\$3,350	\$4,550	
2105 SUPPORT SERVICES - SPECIAL					
322 Contracted Speech Services	4,550	8,400	4,550	4,550	
330 Psychological Services	300	0	300	200	
331 Occupational Therapy	300	296	300	300	
332 Physical Therapy	300	728	300	700	
2105 Total	\$5,450	\$9,424	\$5,450	\$5,750	
2120 GUIDANCE					
320 Shared Personnel	24,326	24,306	25,026	25,502	(11)
2120 Total	\$24,326	\$24,306	\$25,026	\$25,502	1.9%
2130 HEALTH					
320 Shared Personnel	13,585	13,574	14,214	14,199	(12)
430 Equipment Repair	70	0	0	70	
580 Travel	70	0	0	0	
640 Books	20	0	0	0	
730 Equipment	50	0	50	50	
2130 Total	\$13,795	\$13,574	\$14,264	\$14,319	0.4%
2220 MEDIA SERVICE					
110 Salary	18,652	18,652	19,304	19,595	(13)
210 Health Insurance	6,020	6,020	6,020	6,291	
220 Social Security	1,427	1,427	1,477	1,499	
230 Life Insurance	30	24	25	24	
270 Course Reimbursement	240	0	200	200	

(9) Health insurance rates are projected at a 4.5% increase.

(10) This represents the cost of services for at-risk students ages 3 and 4, provided outside of Ripton School.

(11) This represents the cost of a .30 guidance counselor.

(12) This represents the cost of a .20 nurse.

(13) This represents the salary of a .40 school librarian.

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET**

	BUDGET 2008-09	ACTUAL 2008-09	BUDGET 2009-10	PROPOSED 2010-2011	Change
280 Dental Insurance	0	0	0	168	
290 Disability Insurance	74	60	65	65	
430 Equipment Repair	100	0	100	50	
610 Supplies	200	214	200	200	
640 Books & Periodicals	1,500	1,200	1,600	1,600	
650 A.V. Materials	200	25	200	200	
730 Equipment	100	0	100	50	
810 Dues and Fees	120	0	0	100	
2220 Total	\$28,663	\$27,622	\$29,291	\$30,042	2.6%
2250 TECHNOLOGY					
321 Vermont Data Consortium	300	0	300	0	
430 Equipment Repair	200	0	200	200	
530 Internet Access	4,300	4,260	1,000	1,750	
600 Filtering Device	200	61	200	100	
670 Software	200	0	200	200	
730 Equipment	3,000	3,010	3,000	3,000	
2250 Total	\$8,200	\$7,331	\$4,900	\$5,250	7.1%
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION					
119 Board Salaries	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	
220 Social Security	103	103	103	103	
250 Workers' Compensation	2,432	2,674	2,618	2,508	
260 Unemployment	200	1	200	200	
310 Payroll Service	1,400	1,268	1,400	1,442	
360 Legal Fees	200	416	521	200	
370 Audit	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,835	
810 Dues & Fees	0	700	850	850	
890 Publicity	100	0	0	0	
891 Miscellaneous	200	104	200	200	
2310 Total	\$8,685	\$9,316	\$9,942	\$9,688	-2.6%
2313 TREASURER					
110 Salary	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	
220 Social Security	84	84	84	84	
610 Supplies	110	0	0	50	
2313 Total	\$1,294	\$1,184	\$1,184	\$1,234	4.2%
2320 ASSESSMENT					
331 Administration	28,840	28,840	30,090	32,765	
333 Prof. Dev./Student Assessment	736	736	739	731	
334 Technical Support	7,177	7,177	8,660	10,157	
335 Student Information System	0	0	507	534	
336 Insurance Pool	88	88	91	94	
337 Advertising Assessment	180	180	1,182	1,256	
339 Special Education	2,905	2,905	3,491	3,303	
2320 Total	\$39,926	\$39,926	\$44,760	\$48,840	9.1%

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET**

	BUDGET 2008-09	ACTUAL 2008-09	BUDGET 2009-10	PROPOSED 2010-2011	Change
2410 PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE					
110 Salary- Principal	31,899	31,899	43,035	43,447	(14)
111 Salary - Secretary	17,644	17,544	18,187	18,703	
210 Health Insurance	11,515	11,813	12,638	9,748	
220 Social Security	3,790	3,092	4,684	4,754	
230 Life Insurance	161	126	217	215	
240 Municipal Retirement	706	699	727	748	
245 Administrative Retirement	1,595	535	430	434	
270 Course Reimbursement	500	0	500	1,260	
280 Dental Insurance	256	236	252	252	
290 Disability Insurance	127	102	145	143	
295 Volunteer Criminal Check Fee:	105	0	100	100	
530 Communications/Postage	500	538	600	500	
580 Faculty/Staff Travel	150	59	150	500	
610 Supplies	70	0	70	100	
640 Books & Periodicals	40	37	40	100	
810 Dues & Fees	80	264	275	275	
2410 Total	\$69,138	\$66,944	\$82,050	\$81,280	-0.9%
2600 MAINTENANCE					
110 Salary	29,893	30,182	30,579	31,201	
210 Health Insurance	5,902	6,781	5,902	6,167	
220 Social Security	2,287	2,272	2,339	2,387	
240 Municipal Retirement	1,196	1,199	1,223	1,248	
331 E-Rate Contracted Svc	0	176	0	180	
340 Water Testing	1,600	1,038	1,200	1,200	
421 Disposal Services	350	246	350	350	
422 Snow Plowing	3,000	3,024	3,200	3,300	
424 Lawn Mowing	3,000	2,985	3,200	3,200	
430 Repairs & Maintenance	2,500	758	2,500	2,500	
490 Contract Services	200	90	200	200	
521 Property/Liability Insurance	4,531	4,188	4,523	4,283	
522 Volunteer Insurance	162	197	207	217	
530 Communication/Telephone	2,000	1,814	2,000	2,000	
610 Supplies	3,000	3,626	5,000	4,500	
622 Electricity	12,000	9,519	11,000	10,090	
623 Propane	7,200	5,888	11,000	6,500	
730 Equipment	200	0	200	100	
810 Dues & Fees	150	0	150	0	
2600 Total	\$79,170	\$73,983	\$84,774	\$79,623	-6.1%

(14) This represents the salary of a .60 principal.

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET**

	BUDGET 2008-09	ACTUAL 2008-09	BUDGET 2009-10	PROPOSED 2010-2011	Change
2700 TRANSPORTATION					
510 Contracted Services	23,584	25,054	19,031	20,673	
511 Fuel Surcharge	1,539	0	1,964	1,539	
519 Field Trips	0	586	0	500	
2700 Total	\$25,123	\$25,640	\$20,995	\$22,712	8.2%
5100 DEBT SERVICE					
830 Interest	3,600	3,600	1,200	0	
910 Principal	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	
5100 Total	\$43,600	\$43,600	\$41,200	\$0	-100.0%
5310 FOOD SERVICE					
930 Food Service Subsidy	6,500	12,141	6,500	7,000	
5310 Total	\$6,500	\$12,141	\$6,500	\$7,000	7.7%
GRAND TOTAL	\$812,702	\$795,181	\$807,279	\$763,567	-5.4%

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
2008-09 FUND BALANCE**

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

Education Spending Revenue from Town & State	686,861.00
State Aid - Small Schools Grant	81,430.00
State Aid - Transportation Aid	11,642.00
Special Education - Block Grant	18,292.00
Special Education - Intensive & Extraordinary	11,426.00
U. S. Forestry	23,741.87
Interest Income	591.48
From Capital Reserve for Painting per vote	17,000.00
E-Rate Reimbursement	3,528.00
Town Audit Reimbursement	2,700.00
Rental	3,900.00
Miscellaneous Income	100.94

Total Revenue	\$861,213.29
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GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Regular Programs	357,022.73
Guided Study/Tutorial	1,684.18
Shared Personnel	24,803.50
Special Education	53,668.13
Support Services	12,434.37
Guidance	24,306.00
Health Service	13,574.00
Media Services	27,621.51
Technology	7,330.51
Board of Education	9,316.95
Treasurer	1,184.16
ACSU Assessments	39,926.00
Principal's Office	66,944.35
Operations & Maintenance	73,982.05
Transportation	25,640.66
Debt Service	43,600.00
Food Service	12,141.44
Transfer to Capital Projects Fund for Facility Improvements	2,000.00
Interior/Exterior Painting per March 09 vote	17,000.00
FY 2007-08 Fund Balance to Capital Reserve per 3/09 vote	1,071.00
FY 2007-08 Fund Balance to Playing Fields per 3/09 vote	2,000.00

Total Expenditures	(\$817,251.54)
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Excess Revenue over Expenditures	\$43,961.75
Fund Balance - July 1, 2008	(5,721.88)
General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance at June 30, 2009	<u>\$38,239.87</u>

**RIPTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
2008-09 FUND BALANCE
Continued**

Less Reserve:

FY 2008-09 for Facility/Furnishings Upgrade,
Professional & Curriculum Development

6,500.00

Adjusted General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance at June 30, 2009 **\$31,739.87**

<u>ENTERPRISE FUND</u>	Beginning Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Balance
Food Service Program	689.23	32,825.12	(33,014.35)	500.00

<u>CAPITAL PROJECT FUND</u>	Beginning Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Balance
Capital Reserve *	67,522.57	1,071.00	(18,500.00)	50,093.57
Energy Conservation - voted 3/5/07	7,341.56	3,699.44	326.98	11,367.98
Efficiency Vermont Rebate	3,455.00	0.00	(666.98)	2,788.02
Playing Fields	5,325.00	0.00	(5,325.00)	0.00
Vt. Facilities Grant for Playing Field	1,300.00	0.00	(1,300.00)	0.00
Vt Water Construction Loan	0.00	9,721.13	(9,721.13)	0.00
VCF Fields Upgrade	0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	0.00
07/08 Facility Improvements	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00
Playing Fields-voted 3/09	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00
Security Lights	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	0.00
Playing Fields from Capital Reserve	2,700.00	0.00	(2,700.00)	0.00
Total:	\$87,644.13	\$22,491.57	(45,886.13)	\$64,249.57

<u>SPECIAL REVENUE FUND</u>	Beginning Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Balance
Library Fund	501.04	544.06	(381.22)	663.88
NC FCU Educator	150.32	0.00	(134.75)	15.57
FORS Summer Program	300.49	0.00	(300.49)	0.00
Vt. Essential Early Education	0.00	7,281.00	(7,281.00)	0.00
ACSU Medicaid	0.00	1,400.00	(1,400.00)	0.00
ACSU Consolidated Federal	0.00	11,020.00	(11,020.00)	0.00
Artist in Residence	520.13	3,791.00	(3,460.00)	851.13
VT Stars Award	0.00	1,150.00	0.00	1,150.00
Total:	\$1,471.98	\$25,186.06	(23,977.46)	\$2,680.58

* Requires voter approval to spend funds

<u>DEBT FUND</u>	Beginning Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Balance
Vt. Water Planning Loan	4,340.70	0.00	0.00	4,340.70
Vt. Water Construction Loan	0.00	9,721.13	0.00	9,721.13
USDA Bond	80,000.00	0.00	(40,000.00)	40,000.00
Total:	\$84,340.70	\$9,721.13	(\$40,000.00)	\$54,061.83

ANGOLANO & COMPANY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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LOCATED AT:
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DAVID H. ANGOLANO, CPA
HEATHER L. ANGOLANO, CPA

Independent Auditors' Report

To The School Board
Ripton School District

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Ripton School District, Vermont, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2009, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We have also audited the financial statements of each of the School District's nonmajor governmental and fiduciary funds presented as supplementary information in the accompanying combining and individual fund financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2009, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Ripton School District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and the significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Ripton School District, Vermont, as of June 30, 2009, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each nonmajor governmental and fiduciary fund of Ripton School District, as of June 30, 2009, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report on our consideration of Ripton School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on internal contract over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 5 and 32 through 37 are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise Ripton School District's basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Angolano & Company
Shelburne, Vermont
Firm Registration Number 92-0000141

**Ripton School District
Combined Balance Sheet For All Fund Types
June 30, 2009**

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Type	Totals
	General Fund	Special	Capital Project	Enterprise Fund	Agency Fund	(Memorandum Only)
		Revenue Fund	Fund			
ASSETS						
Current Assets:						
Cash	\$147,539			\$843	\$9,985	\$158,367
Accounts Receivable	3,391		509	742		4,642
Prepaid Expenses	24					24
Loan Receivable						0
Due From Other Funds		2,876	78,414			81,290
Total Current Assets	150,954	2,876	78,923	1,585	9,985	244,323
TOTAL ASSETS	\$150,954	\$2,876	\$78,923	\$1,585	\$9,985	\$244,323
LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY						
Liabilities:						
Accounts Payable	\$27,726	\$195	\$14,674	\$383		\$42,978
Security Deposit Payable	\$500					500
Due to Other Funds	80,588			702		81,290
Amt Held for Agency Funds					9,985	9,985
Deferred Revenue	3,900					3,900
Total Liabilities	112,714	195	14,674	1,085	9,985	138,653
Fund Equity:						
Fund Balance, Unreserved	31,740					31,740
Fund Balance, Reserved	6,500	2,681	64,249			73,430
Retained Earnings				500		500
Total Fund Equity	38,240	2,681	64,249	500	0	105,670
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND EQUITY	\$150,954	\$2,876	\$78,923	\$1,585	\$9,985	\$244,323

Note: Government-Wide Statement of Net Assets and balance of Audit Report are available at the Addison Central Supervisory Union office.

**ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION
PROPOSED 2010-2011 BUDGET**

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Salaries	640,387	687,926	704,582
Health Insurance	94,829	110,430	102,438
Social Security	47,519	51,099	52,704
Life Insurance	2,464	3,441	2,853
Retirement	21,490	25,547	28,636
Workers Compensation	2,832	3,005	4,106
Unemployment	1,550	563	1,612
Dental	9,949	11,047	10,440
Disability	1,994	2,294	2,305
Inservice	0	1,100	1,100
Audit	2,444	2,718	2,566
Professional Services	6,758	5,538	5,315
Technology Support	3,518	4,259	4,761
Legal	1,163	2,500	2,500
Payroll Service	4,249	4,477	4,611
CO Equipment Repairs	576	1,423	1,400
Copier Lease	6,779	6,284	6,784
Postage Meter Rental	1,034	1,125	1,025
Telephone	6,499	7,002	6,889
Postage	3,233	8,199	6,500
Advertising	373	1,500	0
ACSU Schools Report	932	1,000	1,000
Star Awards	1,288	1,200	1,300
Staff Mileage Reimbursement	6,668	11,467	7,361
Superintendent-Overnight Stays	645	1,500	1,500
Office Supplies	12,060	15,969	16,288
Books	1,215	1,760	1,500
Central Office Software	342	1,000	1,000
Central Office Equipment	2,684	5,000	5,000
Conferences & Dues	8,818	10,180	10,195
Finance Professional Services	7,968	4,300	4,350
Finance Accounting System Support	9,675	9,511	12,410
Finance Office Software	0	2,500	12,500
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed</u>

**ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION
SPECIAL EDUCATION
PROPOSED 2010-2011 BUDGET**

<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>	2008-09 <u>Spent</u>	2009-10 <u>Budget</u>	2010-11 <u>Proposed</u>
Salaries	225,077	233,564	219,866
Health Insurance	33,586	36,757	32,085
Social Security	16,592	17,868	16,820
Life Insurance	869	1,177	897
Retirement	2,493	5,909	7,157
Workers Compensation	912	969	1,378
Unemployment	5,369	150	5,584
Dental	3,350	4,342	3,907
Disability	721	785	725
Professional Services	2,708	3,246	3,047
Audit	1,247	1,982	1,309
Payroll Services	1,824	2,007	2,067
Legal	720	1,500	1,500
Equipment Repair	2,610	3,110	3,110
Liability Insurance	530	572	552
Advertising	75	500	500
Mileage Reimbursement	5,560	5,205	5,726
Office Supplies/Software	8,738	3,974	9,000
Equipment	956	2,000	2,000
Conferences & Dues	5,280	4,000	4,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$319,217	\$329,617	\$321,230

PROPOSED 2010-2011 REVENUE

Prior Year Fund Balance	0	3,000
Grants & Administration Fees*	211,578	213,054
Assessments	118,039	105,176
GRAND TOTAL	\$329,617	\$321,230

*IDEIA-B, Title 1, Diversified Occupations,
Early Childhood/EEI Grant, Regional I-Team Grant, etc.

**ESTIMATED ACSU ASSESSMENTS
BASED ON PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET**

	Professional Count	% of ACSU Budget	2010-11 ACSU Assessment	2009-10 ACSU Assessment	ACSU Incr/(decr)	2010-11 Special Ed Assessment	2009-10 Special Ed Assessment	Special Ed Incr/(decr)	Total Assess Incr/(dec)
Bridport	13.15	6.45%	\$67,305	\$67,331	(\$26)	\$6,784	\$7,805	(\$1,021)	(\$1,047)
Cornwall	12.05	5.91%	\$61,670	\$56,726	\$4,944	\$6,216	\$6,576	(\$360)	\$4,584
ID#4	41.15	20.20%	\$210,784	\$205,694	\$5,090	\$21,246	\$23,844	(\$2,598)	\$2,492
UD#3-MUHS	58.75	28.83%	\$300,837	\$289,303	\$11,534	\$30,321	\$33,535	(\$3,214)	\$8,320
UD#3-MUMS	36.50	17.93%	\$187,097	\$194,299	(\$7,202)	\$18,858	\$22,522	(\$3,664)	(\$10,866)
Ripton	6.40	3.14%	\$32,765	\$30,090	\$2,675	\$3,303	\$3,491	(\$188)	\$2,487
Salisbury	12.70	6.23%	\$65,009	\$63,632	\$1,377	\$6,552	\$7,376	(\$824)	\$553
Shoreham	12.35	6.06%	\$63,235	\$60,179	\$3,056	\$6,374	\$6,976	(\$602)	\$2,454
Weybridge	10.70	5.25%	\$54,783	\$51,054	\$3,729	\$5,522	\$5,914	(\$392)	\$3,337
TOTALS	203.75	100.00%	\$1,043,485	\$1,018,308	\$25,177	\$105,176	\$118,039	(\$12,863)	\$12,314

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2009

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton met at the Community House in Ripton on Monday, March 2, 2009, at 9:20 p.m. to act upon Articles 1-3 of the 2009 School Warning. Approximately 50 people attended.

Willem Jewett paid tribute to the School, staff and faculty, naming and thanking the Ripton residents among them: Marty Whittemore, Kathy Angier, Roger Larocque, Wendy Leeds, Susan Ogilvie, Nancy Whittemore, Jorene Doria, and Jane Phinney. The School Board presented a pewter plaque to Principal Jane Phinney, with appreciation for 20 years of dedicated and inspired service. Ms. Phinney and kindergarten teacher Susan Mock are retiring in June.

Moderator Joyce Dicianna called the meeting to order at 9:20 p.m.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the voters of the Town School District will approve the sum of **\$827,279** to defray current expenses of the Town School District for the ensuing school year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations.

Article 1 was moved by Edmund (Ed) Sullivan and seconded by Warren King.

School Board Chair, Carol Ford, explained that the Board made the budget with a provision for a full-time position, 60% principal plus a 40% teaching component, in case they could not find a qualified applicant for a part-time 60% principal position. There are now three qualified finalists interested in the part-time position. The Board believes it can amend the budget down by \$20,000 to reflect the change from budgeting for a full-time to a part-time position, and still fulfill its obligations to students. That said, the Board made a difficult decision by eliminating a paraprofessional position, and feels they are losing a valuable person. They have hired a former paraprofessional to replace the kindergarten teacher, Susan Mock, who is retiring after 22 years. Given the new teacher's past experience in Ripton, they are confident of her ability to step right into the school. Though there is a 3-year early retirement payment to be paid, that amount plus the salary of a new teacher are less than current pay for Ms. Mock.

Richard (Dick) Collitt referred to pages 55 and 54 of the School Report, commented on the low student/teacher ratio and asked if the Board considered cutting the faculty and staff by more than the one paraprofessional. Ms. Ford responded yes, but that they feel this budget fulfills our mission to our students. Jane Phinney added that two paraprofessionals are paid half-time through grants, last year one paraprofessional was cut, and that one of the positions for 2009-2010 is a one-on-one aide required by law.

Leonard Tiedeman asked if enrollment is going up or down. Ms. Ford noted the downward trend of the last few years, but that the numbers change whenever a family moves in or out. The Board still feels the need for four multi-age classrooms, and hopes to have conversations with residents about the numbers. Mr. Jewett cited the count of kids as the biggest strategic challenge for schools across the state. He stated that our local budget had a 9% loss in students this year, and that the issue of student numbers is one we need to grapple with, but not in a vacuum.

Charles Billings questioned whether someone hired at 60% salary actually works full-time. Jane Phinney responded that she has enjoyed her arrangement in a 50% position whereby she gets the vacation time she wants, and can basically not be at the school in the summer. Ms. Phinney continued that the enrollment issue is a concern, but is not as grim as the numbers show. There are two classes of two children back to

back, but next year the pre-K class is 7-8 children.

Lawrence Miller moved to amend Article 1 to a budget figure of \$807,279. Elizabeth Walker seconded. The Moderator asked for those in favor of:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the voters of the Town School District will approve the sum of **\$807,279** to defray current expenses of the Town School District for the ensuing school year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations.

The amendment of Article 1 was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Carol Ford pointed out additional items in the budget. The transportation budget decreased because the cost of transporting students to the middle and high schools is included in the Union District budget rather than the elementary school budget. Ms. Ford highlighted that this is the last year of payments for the debt service of the school construction.

Wendy Leeds spoke as a town member and fortunate employee of the Ripton School, listing reasons why small schools are important, applauding the work of the principal, citing the difficult decision made by the Board in cutting a paraprofessional position, and appealing to the voters for support of the budget.

The Moderator called for a vote on Article 1 as amended.

Article 1 as amended was passed by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to use **\$2,000** from the FY 08 Unreserved Fund Balance (of \$3,071.22) for playing field improvements.

Article 2 was moved by Richard Ruane and seconded by Elizabeth Walker.

Dick Collitt asked what improvements have been made. Michael Hussey answered that Maiden Lane Contractors was not able to do the work planned for last summer because they were busy repairing flood damage, but are expected to do it this summer. The soccer field will be made level and a berm installed to keep vehicles off the field. Mr. Hussey used a projector to show a project summary and the need for a little more money to complete the project. Warren King asked if the berm will prevent parking for the Ridge Run. Mr. Hussey said it would not, that vehicles may be driven around the north side of the School.

The Moderator called the question. 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 place **\$1,071** from the FY 08 Unreserved Fund Balance (of \$3,071.22) into the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund.

Article 3 was moved by Laurie Cox and seconded by Ed Sullivan.

The Capital Improvement Reserve Fund started when the school was built and can only be used with voter approval, explained Carol Ford. The Board asks the voters to add the unreserved balance to this fund for capital projects, such as when the roofing was replaced. Ed Sullivan asked if this question must be voted every year, with Ms. Ford and Ms. Dicianna responding, yes.

The Moderator called the question. 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 use **\$17,000** from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund (of \$67,522.57) for building interior and exterior painting.

Article 4 was moved by William Ford and seconded by Barbara (Barry) King.

Charles Billings asked if the amount requested related to a specific bid. Carol Ford answered that the Board received a bid for \$15,000 and would spend only what is needed. Mr. Billings asked if the amount could be amended. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that the money stays in the Reserve Fund, so there is no need to amend.

The Moderator called the question. Article 4 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to use **\$1,500** from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund (of \$67,522.57) for installation of motion activated security lights on school exterior.

Charles Billings inquired why this is needed. Ms. Ford reported that the parking lot is damaged by drivers doing donuts; the Board wishes to deter vandals from damaging the parking lot and playing fields. The lights are on timers that go off at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Billings asked if a gate was considered and what vehicle types are causing problems. Jane Phinney said that the area to be gated is too large, and all types of vehicles. Dick Collitt asked if security cameras are an option. Millard (Mac) Cox asked if camera costs are known. Andrea Chesman questioned whether we really need or want security cameras in Ripton. Jerome (Jerry) Shedd noted that if there is not an amendment proposed the discussion of cameras is out of order. Millard Cox proposed amending the Article. The Moderator called for a specific amount to amend, and Mr. Cox stated \$4,000.

Mac Cox moved to amend Article 1. Dick Collitt seconded.

ARTICLE 5 as amended : To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to use **\$4,000** from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund (of \$67,522.57) for installation of motion activated security lights and security cameras on school exterior.

Discussion of the amended version of Article 5 followed. Jerry Shedd asked for the amount spent repairing vandalism. Ms. Phinney knew of none as two acts of vandalism to the school building several years ago were covered by insurance. She reported that 4-wheelers seen on the school grounds during the school day were pursued by the Sheriff, and there has been damage done to the driveway and grounds. Mr. Shedd stated his opposition to the amendment given that there are no known expenditures for repairs. Jean Cherouny asked if there are signs prohibiting any activities on school grounds, and commented on school climate and communication outside the building. Susan Collitt asked who would pursue offenders caught on camera, and what the consequences would be. Mr. Jewett thought it premature for an amendment without more information.

William Biederman called the question, which was read by the Moderator:

The majority opposed the amendment.

Discussion of the original Article 5 continued. Alice Clark asked how much the School Board has really discussed this issue. Ms. Ford stated it was discussed enough, and Amy McGlashan reported that the Board's discussion led to recommending lights and berms as deterrents. Ms. Phinney commented that the motion detector lights add a safety feature, the timers don't always match when people come and go, without causing the problem for neighbors that lights always left on would. She explained that the pole lights and shed lights would be fitted with motion detector lights; others would remain on timers. Ms. Cherouny remarked that this is an improvement to the school and thereby a fitting use of the Fund.

The Moderator called the question. Article 5 was adopted by unanimous voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Ms. Ford thanked the assembly for support of the school over all these years. She reiterated Mr. Jewett's comments welcoming community input in discussions about the future of the school.

Bonnie DeGray expressed appreciation for Susan Mock's years of service to the school and children.

Mac Cox remarked upon the impending conclusion of the twenty-year bond, and thanked Ms. Ford for her instrumental role in getting the school built.

Moderator Joyce Dicianna thanked Barry King for organizing the pre-meeting social gathering, bakers for the treats, and Richard Ruane for the sound system.

Barry King moved adjournment, Pete Karpak seconded.

After a unanimous voice vote, the School Meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Joyce Dicianna announced that the Meeting would reconvene Tuesday, March 3, 2009, in the Ripton Town Office to vote by Australian Ballot on Articles 1 through 9 of the 2009 School District Warning.

Ripton School Directors

Carol Ford, Chair
Willem Jewett
Connie Trudeau
Michael Hussey
Amy McGlashan

WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010

The legal voters of the Ripton Town School District are hereby warned to meet at the Community House in said Ripton on Monday, March 1, 2010, at 7:30 P.M. to transact the following business:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the voters of the Town School District will approve the sum of **\$763,567** to defray current expenses of the Town School District for the ensuing school year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to place **\$15,000** from the FY 2009 Unreserved Fund Balance (of \$31,740) into the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the voters of the Town School District will authorize the Board of Directors to use **\$940** from the Security Light Project balance (total of \$940) for the playing field fencing barrier project.

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 2, 2010, 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

Michael Hussey

Willem Jewett

Amy McGlashan

Connie Trudeau