



Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Town Meeting Warning	3
Dedication	4
Selectboard.....	5-6
Elected Town Officials	7
Appointed Town Officials	8-9
Appointed Full Time Staff.....	10
Town Information	11
State Information	12
Voting District Descriptions	13
Real Estate Appraisal Department.....	14-15
Community Development Department.....	16-17
Conservation Committee	18
Economic Development Commission.....	19
Essex Community Historical Society	20
Essex Fire Department.....	21-22
Essex Free Library	23-25
Essex Rescue.....	26
Health Officers.....	27
Memorial Hall Committee	28-29
Parks and Recreation Department.....	30-31
Police Department.....	32-33
Public Works Department.....	34-35
Town Clerk/Treasurer	36
Trails Committee	37
Town Manager	38-39
Capital Budget	43
Proposed FYE 2007 Budget.....	44-53
Champlain Water District	54
Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization	55
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	56
Chittenden County Transportation Authority	57-59
Chittenden Solid Waste District.....	59-60
Winooski Valley Park District.....	61
Minutes from 2005 Town Meeting.....	62-6
Telephone Directory	67

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town Meeting will be held on March 6, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Essex Community Educational Center. Voting by Australian ballot will be held Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at the Essex Community Educational Center and the Essex Middle School, 58 Founders Road from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM.



TOWN OF ESSEX VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452
Fax: 878-1353 • E-mail: manager@essex.org • Website: www.essex.org

TOWN OF ESSEX WARNING Annual Town Meeting March 6, 2006

THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX IN THE COUNTY OF CHITTENDEN ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AND WARNED TO MEET AT THE ESSEX COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006 AT 7:30 PM TO TRANSACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS AND TO ACT ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES.

ARTICLE 1. Shall the reports of the Officers be accepted?

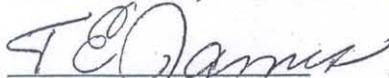
ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town adopt a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 as recommended by the Selectboard in the amount of \$8,636,755?

WHEREUPON, AFTER DISPOSITION OF SAID BUSINESS, SAID MEETING SHALL BE ADJOURNED TO THE FOLLOWING DAY, MARCH 7, 2006, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES TO BE VOTED ON BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT. THE POLLS FOR SAID BALLOT SHALL BE AT THE ESSEX COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL CENTER, ESSEX JUNCTION AND THE ESSEX MIDDLE SCHOOL, 58 FOUNDERS ROAD, AND SHALL BE OPEN FROM 7:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM AT WHICH TIME THEY SHALL BE CLOSED.

ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town of Essex increase the Capital Reserve Fund by adding one cent to the tax rate, in addition to the one-cent previously authorized, for the purpose of financing capital projects?

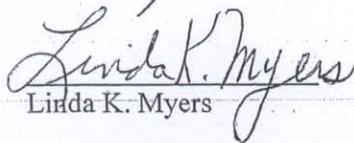
ARTICLE 4. Election of the following:
Moderator, 1 vacancy (1 year term)
Selectboard, 1 vacancy (3 year term)

Dated at Essex, Vermont this 30th day of January, 2006 by the Essex Town Selectboard


Thomas E. James, Chair


Jeffrey B. Carr, Vice Chair

Thomas W. Torti, Clerk


Linda K. Myers

Alan L. Nye

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request to the Town Offices, 878-1341, to assure that Town meetings are accessible to all individuals regardless of disability.

TOWN MANAGER	PARKS AND RECREATION	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	PUBLIC WORKS	ASSESSOR	FINANCE	TOWN CLERK	LIBRARY	POLICE
878-1341	878-1342	878-1343	878-1344	878-1345	878-1359	879-0413	879-0313	878-8331

DEDICATION

***This annual report is dedicated to
Robert A. Safford
Superintendent of Public Works***

Bob and granddaughter Kylie

Henry David Thoreau said “most men lead lives of quiet desperation.” Obviously Thoreau never met Bob. Bob began his employment with the Town of Essex on August 24, 1970. For the next 35 years Bob rose in rank from Laborer/Heavy Equipment Operator to Foreman until his having been promoted to Public Works Superintendent in August 1994.

In addition to his Public Works duties, Bob was a charter member of the Essex Fire Department which began operation in the 1973-74 fiscal year.

In many respects, Bob was one of the unsung heroes of the Town of Essex. He was an early riser who patrolled the cold, dark, winter streets of Essex between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. to determine whether or not Department employees should be called in to commence plowing or salting and sanding operations so that by 5:30 a.m. Essex residents had safe roads upon which to travel throughout winter. Essex employees and residents alike shall miss Bob even though most of us were sleeping when Bob was working. We all experienced the end product of his accomplishments which were well maintained streets all year long.

Bob Safford was born on February 2, 1945 and passed away January 14, 2006 “with a song still in him.”

SELECTBOARD
Thomas E. James, Chair

It has been a busy and productive year for the Selectboard. Some of the significant items addressed by the Essex Selectboard during the past year were:

- **Transportation Issues** – In November 2004, the Selectboard approved development of a site plan and grant application for a Park-and-Ride Facility for the Town Common. The proposed site plan would provide for improved lighting, 10 parking spaces and landscaping that was designed to continue the “feel” of an open town Green.

VT Route 15 sidewalk and path from Sand Hill Road to VT 128 intersection was approved. The construction of this project will begin in the summer of 2006.

The highway mileage added this year was 1.04 miles, bringing the total Town road mileage to 77.54 miles, 3.4 miles of which are Class IV (no state aid). Of the 74.14 miles of class 2 and 3 roads, 23.16 miles are gravel (31%) and 50.98 are paved (69%).

Circumferential Highway – In March 2005, the Selectboard adopted a Resolution in our ongoing support of the completion of the Circumferential Highway. The Board also appointed a representative from the town staff to attend public scoping meetings for the purpose of submitting comments for inclusion in the Scoping Memorandum, which state the Town’s support of and need for construction of Segments A & B of the Circumferential Highway.

- **Homeland Security** – In January 2005, the Selectboard supported the application and subsequent expenditure of funds from the Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security Unit for the purpose of providing domestic preparedness equipment for local response organizations including fire, police and emergency medical services.
- **Update of Personnel Guidelines** – Since the last update of the personnel guidelines, there have been provisions and related personnel administrative changes as a result of federal laws, insurance carriers, and contract negotiations with the Town’s unions. Also incorporated into the changes were any federal rules and regulations that needed inclusion.

- **Zoning Ordinance Amendments** – Following Public Hearings held to seek public comment on proposed changes to the Town’s Zoning Bylaws, the Selectboard approved the recommended changes. Copies of these changes are available at the Town Offices.
- **Water & Sewer Ordinances** – The Selectboard, following public hearings, approved changes to the Water and Sewer Ordinances. Copies of the Ordinances in their entirety are available at the Town offices for review by our customers.
- **Committee/Commission Appointments** – Appointments were made to fill vacancies and expired terms on a number of the Town’s Committees and Commissions. These Boards are made up of citizen volunteers who give generously of their time and expertise.

And last, but not least, the Selectboard, in conjunction with the Village of Essex Junction Trustees, formed an Ad Hoc Committee to discuss a plan of merger via a charter for a consolidated community. This committee includes representatives from the Selectboard and Trustees and members of both communities. The respective Manager’s serve in an ex officio capacity. The committee has met faithfully every Wednesday evening to discuss objectives and to create a plan to present to the legislative bodies of the Town and Village.

The Selectboard wishes to make special recognition of Bob Safford who passed away in January. He served with the Town of Essex for 35 years, and is the person to whom this Annual Report is dedicated.

The Selectboard thanks the many citizen volunteers for their time, talents and results that make our community a wonderful place to live and work. We are proud to serve with you.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

MODERATOR

Steve McQueen Expires 2006

SELECTBOARD

(3 Year Terms)

Thomas E. James, Chair Expires 2007
Jeffrey B. Carr, Vice Chair Expires 2008
Thomas W. Torti, Clerk Expires 2007
Linda K. Myers Expires 2008
Alan L. Nye Expires 2006

CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

(3 Year Term)

Bernard Lemieux Expires 2007

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(2 Year Terms)

John L. Bartlett, 39 Mansfield Avenue, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-5288
Suzanne Braunegg*, 14 Beech Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-6694
Robert Chaffee*, 7 Walnut Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-4813
Bernard Couture, 9 Redwood Terrace, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-7332
Debbie Evans*, 53 Greenfield Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-4317
Sally Fox*, 21 Weed Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-6420 (H) 865-7588 (Office)
Mary Gauthier*, 50 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-4093
Kathleen A. Hunt*, 38 Prospect Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-8406
Peter D. Hunt*, 38 Prospect Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-8406
Thomas E. James*, 370 Old Stage Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-1247
Tim Jerman*, 41 South Hill Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-2972
Stephen McQueen, 11 Saybrook Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 879-5357
Linda K. Myers*, 51 Forest Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-3514
Mary Ann Parizo, 12 Prospect Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-3859
Lawrence C. Yandow, Jr., 203 Main Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 878-5529

*Performs marriages and civil union ceremonies

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

**CEMETERY COMMISSION
(3 Year Terms)**

Jan Ellis Clements	Expires 2006
Jody Landon	Expires 2006
Ron Weston	Expires 2006
Susan Pringle	Expires 2008
Gary Tomlinson.....	Expires 2008

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
(3 Year Terms)**

Robert Paroline.....	Expires 2006
John Diego.....	Expires 2007
Suzanne Levine	Expires 2008
Benjamin Suratt.....	Expires 2008
Geoff Glaspie	Expires 2008

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
(3 Year Terms)**

Greg Morgan, Chair.....	Expires 2006
Wayne Elliott.....	Expires 2006
Sheri Larsen.....	Expires 2007
Elizabeth Poulin	Expires 2007
Paula Duke, Vice Chair	Expires 2008

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(3 Year Terms)**

Deborah Evans, Chair.....	Expires 2006
Nancy Clark.....	Expires 2006
Michelle Scilla.....	Expires 2006
Bonnie Doble.....	Expires 2007
Patricia Schmitz.....	Expires 2007
Elizabeth White	Expires 2007
Joe Casazza.....	Expires 2008

**MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE
(3 Year Terms)**

Carol Ann Greig	Expires 2006
Jan Ellis-Clements.....	Expires 2006
Patrick Scheidel.....	Expires 2007
Irene Wrenner.....	Expires 2008
Vacancy.....	Expires 2008
Vacancy.....	Expires 2008
Vacancy.....	Expires 2008

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
(3 Year Terms)**

Dick Gilmond, Chair	Expires 2006
Hugh Sweeney.....	Expires 2006
Jim Provost, Vice Chair.....	Expires 2007
Paul Bruso	Expires 2008
Hubert Norton.....	Expires 2008

APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS (Continued)

**PLANNING COMMISSION
(4 Year Terms)**

David Rogerson, Chair	Expires 2006
Mark Marsh	Expires 2006
Michael Plageman, Vice Chair	Expires 2007
Peter Lyon	Expires 2008
Jim Rose	Expires 2008
Vacancy	Expires 2008
Dustin Brusco, Clerk	Expires 2009

**TRAILS COMMITTEE
(3 Year Terms)**

Dana Baron	Expires 2006
Stuart Smith	Expires 2006
Moshe Braner	Expires 2007
Owen Jenkins	Expires 2008
Ed Ziemer	Expires 2008

OTHER APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Champlain Water District Alternate	Vacant
Channel 17/Town Television Representative	Marge Gaskins
Channel 17/Town Television Alternate Representative	Thomas E. James
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Vacant
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Alternate.....	Jeffrey B. Carr
Chittenden County Transportation Authority Representative	Todd Odit
Chittenden County Transportation Authority Alternate	Dan Maxon
Chittenden County Circumferential Highway District Representative.....	Peter Lyon
Chittenden County Circumferential Highway District Alternate	Robert McEwing
Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization Representative.....	Jeffrey B. Carr
Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization Alternate	Thomas W. Torti
2 nd Alternate.....Sheri Larson	3 rd Alternate..... Thomas E. James
CCMPO Technical Advisory Committee	Dennis Lutz
CCMPO Technical Advisory Committee Alternate	Jeffrey B. Carr
Chittenden Solid Waste District Representative.....	Alan Nye
Chittenden Solid Waste District Alternate.....	Lynn Whalen
Constable	Edward Von Sitas
Fire Warden	Larry Ransom
Grand Juror	Jerry Firkey
Health Officers	Jerry Firkey and Ken Stratton
Town Service Officer	Jim MacIntyre
Town Tree Warden & Forester.....	Charles Vile
Winooski Valley Park District.....	Mark Berry
Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee Representative	Thomas Crapo
Tri-Town Sewer Committee	John Bartlett & Dennis Lutz

APPOINTED FULL-TIME STAFF

ASSESSOR

Randy Viens, Assessor
Andrea Leo, Clerk

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Jerry Firkey, Zoning Administrator
Sharon Kelley, Secretary/Payroll Clerk
Karen Van Gilder, Planner
Shannon Lunderville, GIS Coordinator

FINANCE

Douglas Fisher, Finance Director
Shirley FitzGerald, Water/Sewer Clerk
Carolyn Gauthier, Bookkeeper

LIBRARY

Susan Overfield, Head Librarian
Anne Exler, Catalogue & Adult Programs
Sherry Somerset, Assistant Librarian
Peg Wygmans, Technical Services

PARKS & RECREATION

Mark Berry, Parks & Recreation Director
Ken Booker, Parks Maintenance Foreman
Heather Howland, Rec. Program Coordinator
Cherie McCabe, Secretary

POLICE

David Demag, Chief
Leo Nadeau, Deputy Chief
Bob LaGrow, Support Services
Robin Hollwedel, Lieutenant
Bradley LaRose, Lieutenant
George Murtie, Lieutenant
Rick Garey, Sergeant
Jason Kenwood, Sergeant
Robert Kissinger, Sergeant
Kenneth Beaulieu, Corporal
Robert Estes, Corporal
Derrick Kendrew, Corporal
Todd McCabe, Corporal
Kurt Miglinas, Corporal
Ed Piro, Corporal
Christine Ashley, Patrol Officer

POLICE (Continued)

Doug Babcock, Patrol Officer
Linda Carey, Patrol Officer
Paul Courtois, Patrol Officer
Morgan Dayvie, Patrol Officer
John Dunn, Patrol Officer
Robert Hall, Patrol Officer
Nicholas Merritt, Patrol Officer
Diana Miranowitz, Patrol Officer
John Rутtenberg, Patrol Officer
Jesse Sawyer, Patrol Officer
Michael Wootton, Patrol Officer
Howard Alden, Dispatcher
Amy Dunn, Dispatcher
Peggy McCabe, Dispatcher
Nicole Yandow, Dispatcher
Sherry Shadroy, Records

TOWN MANAGER

Patrick C. Scheidel, Town Manager
Todd Odit, Assistant Town Manager
Rick Garey, MIS Director
Ann M. Cookson, Secretary/Personnel Asst.

TOWN CLERK

Cheryl Moomey, Clerk/Treasurer
Mary Melnick, Assistant Clerk
Lynn Romero, Assistant Clerk

PUBLIC WORKS

Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer/PW Director
Todd Law, Assistant Engineer
Chris Stoddard, Secretary
Jerry Lesage, Mechanic
Eric Barkyoub, Highway Maintenance
Peter Daigle, Highway Maintenance
Robert Miller, Highway Maintenance
John Price, Highway Maintenance
Dan Roberge, Highway Maintenance
Brian Roy, Highway Maintenance
Darcy Spence, Highway Maintenance
Loren Ward, Highway Maintenance
Robert Whitten, Water & Sewer Foreman
Thomas Martin, Water & Sewer
Ernest Oakes, Water & Sewer

TOWN INFORMATION

The Town of Essex is governed by the Town Manager form of government. It has a five member nonpartisan Selectboard which is elected at large and is responsible for determining town policy. The Chief Executive Officer is the Town Manager who is appointed by the Selectboard and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Town. All residents, whether they live inside or outside the Village of Essex Junction, are residents of the Town and have the right to participate in Town activities, including the election of Town officials. There are several committees appointed by the Selectboard and all residents are encouraged to apply. Appointments are effective July 1, although vacancies sometimes occur during the year. **If you are interested in serving on a Town Committee, please write a letter of interest to: Town Manager, 81 Main Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or call 878-1341.** You may also fax us at 878-1353, e-mail us at manager@essex.org or use our Web page www.essex.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 6, 2006Town Meeting – 7:30 PM
 March 7, 2006 – Voting by Australian Ballot..... Polls Open – 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
 March 15, 20062nd half of property taxes due
 September 15, 2006 1st half of property taxes due
 March 15, 20072nd half of property taxes due
 April 3, 2006Dog licenses due

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population	18,933	
Registered Voters	13,543	
Total Area	36 square miles	
Date of Charter.....	June 7, 1763	
2005 Grand List	\$12,867,650	
	Residential	Non-Residential
Town General Tax Rate	.4440	.4440
Education Rate	2.2599	2.1531
Town Capital	.0100	.0100
Town Highway	.0800	.0800
Local Agreement Rate	.0047	.0047
Total Town Tax Rate	2.7986	2.6918

MEETINGS

Conservation Committee 2nd Tuesday – 7:00 PM
 Economic Development Commission..... 3rd Thursday – Noon
 Library Board of Trustees As required
 Trails Committee 2nd Monday – 7:30 PM
 Planning Commission 2nd and 4th Thursday – 6:30 PM
 Selectboard..... 1st and 3rd Monday – 7:30 PM and as required
 Zoning Board of Adjustment 1st Thursday – 7:00 PM

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

7:30 AM to 4:30 PM
 Monday through Friday

STATE INFORMATION

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D)

Washington Office: 433 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-4502 (202) 224-4242
Burlington Office: Court House Plaza, 199 Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 863-2525

U.S. Senator James Jeffords (I)

Washington Office: 728 Hart Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510-4503 (202) 224-5141
Burlington Office: 30 Main Street, Suite 350, Burlington, VT 05401..... (802) 658-6001

Representative Bernard Sanders (I)

Washington Office: 2135 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 05151-4501 (202) 225-4115
Burlington Office: 1 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-0697

VERMONT STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Jim Douglas (R)

109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609 (802) 828-3333

Lieutenant Governor Brian Dubie (R)

115 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-5401 (802) 828-2226

SENATORS

Jim Condos (D), 23 Victoria Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 863-4654
James P. Leddy (D), 14 Elsom Parkway, South Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 863-6613
Virginia Lyons (D), 241 White Birch Lane, Williston, VT 05495 (802) 863-6129
Hinda Miller (D), 84 DeForest Heights, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-7008
Ed Flanagan (D), 131 Main Street, #702, Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-3203
Diane Snelling (R), 304 Piette Road, Hinesburg, VT 05461 (802) 482-4382

REPRESENTATIVES

Debbie Evans (D) (District 6-1), 53 Greenfield Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 (802) 878-4317
Martha Heath (D), (District 6-3) 343 Rollin Irish Rd.,
RR 1, Box 1383, Westford, VT 05494 (802) 893-1291
Peter Hunt (D) (District 6-2), 38 Prospect Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452..... (802) 878-4806
Tim Jerman (D) (District 6-2), 41 South Hill Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452 (802) 878-2972
Linda K. Myers (R) (District 6-1), 51 Forest Road, Essex Junction, VT 05452 (802) 878-3514

VOTING DISTRICT DESCRIPTIONS

To determine your voting district, use the following list as a guide.

DISTRICT 6-1

Linda Myers and Debbie Evans – Representatives

All of the Town (excluding Districts 6-2 and 6-3)

DISTRICT 6-2

Peter Hunt and Tim Jerman – Representatives

All of the Village of Essex Junction

DISTRICT 6-3

Martha Heath – Representative

All roads north of the following boundaries:

Jericho Road – North Side (250-258)

Weed Road – North Side (Even numbers)

Brown's River Road/Route 128 – North side (Even numbers, 2-130, then all numbers)

Towers Road – North side (Odd numbers)

Towers Road Extension – (All numbers)

Old Stage Road – West side (Even numbers 14-140 and then all numbers)

Lost Nation Road – North side (odd numbers)

POLL LOCATIONS

For Town-wide issues, the polling place for District 6-2 voters is the Essex Community Educational Center.

The polling place for Districts 6-1 and 6-3 is the Essex Middle School located on Founders Road.

REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL

Randy Viens, Assessor

The mission of the Department of Real Estate Appraisal is to provide a legal and fair basis for the taxation of real property as required by the Essex Charter and Vermont Statutes and to furnish to others, access and explanations of the information gathered by the department in the course of its required duties. Due to the nature and ramifications of property assessment, “public relations” are a very important aspect of this office. Open communication is essential in order to give the public the awareness and understanding of our duties and responsibilities. In addition, the office administers Farm and Open Land tax stabilization contracts, the State Land Use Program and provides statistical reports to other departments and governmental units as well as assisting the tax department in performing the annual equalization process.

Please remember, if you are a resident of Vermont and own your home, and use it as your principle dwelling, you must declare your “Homestead” on form HS-131 with the State by April 15. The State requires you to fill out this declaration every year.

Under Act 68 there are two base tax rates; a “residential” rate of \$1.10 and a “non-residential” rate of \$1.59. The residential rate will be for a “homestead” (your home and all contiguous acreage excluding rentals etc.) All other real estate, such as commercial, rental properties and land not contiguous with the homestead will be taxed at the \$1.59 rate. These base rates can and have been adjusted by the Legislature annually.

REAPPRAISAL

The staff from the appraisal firm of Cole Layer Trumble Company will perform the Town-wide Reappraisal. The process has started and property inspections will begin in the second quarter of 2006.

We will be mailing a notification prior to inspections, letting property owners know when the data collectors will begin property visits. The inspectors will be employees of Cole Layer Trumble and will carry and be able to present a picture identification. A full inspection of properties including an exterior measurement and an interior inspection will be performed.

The Town of Essex Assessor’s office will be working very closely with Cole Layer Trumble during the reappraisal process. Following State Statute, the reappraisal will bring all properties to their current market value as of April 1, 2007. The Assessor’s office believes if the public is fully informed as to the reappraisal process and methodology, it will help everyone understand how each property value was fairly arrived at. Our office is always open to questions or concerns and welcomes inquiries from taxpayers wishing to become better informed about property assessment.

We also encourage any property owner to come into our office to see what properties are currently selling for on an individual street or in a particular neighborhood. We will gladly assist anyone in looking up sales of properties in your area. This information provides owners with an indication of what level the real estate market is in a particular part of the Town or Village.

Although the Assessor's office does not deal directly with the property taxes, we feel it is important to know that when a reappraisal occurs, both the education and municipal tax rates will decrease in the year the reappraisal is completed. In Essex this will be for the 2007-2008 tax rates.

If anyone has any questions or concerns about the Town-wide reappraisal or anything in general about property assessment, please call the Assessor's office at 878-1345.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The following information constitutes a component summary of the Department's efforts and initiatives for the 2005 Calendar Year.

Town Plan Update (Ongoing) – The five-year update to the Town Plan has thus far been forged through outstanding public participation and volunteer board reviews and input. The Town Plan received a recommendation of approval by the Town Planning Commission on November 17, 2005. This recommendation of approval was supported by a series of activities including a random citizen survey taken during 2004 to gauge general growth and development issues; three public forums to solicit citizen input; the establishment of an ad-hoc advisory committee; four Planning Commission work sessions; establishment of the draft Town Plan in October; review by the Zoning Board of Adjustment; and one subsequent public hearing by the Planning Commission before finally forwarding this blueprint for our future to the Selectboard for their consideration, and then for a citizen vote of approval. Please watch for notices on the Town website (www.essex.org) and in *The Essex Reporter* related to the Town Plan as it moves toward the target adoption.

Susie Wilson Road Transit-Oriented Design (TOD) Master Plan – Work continues in a broad-based re-examination of the Susie Wilson Road area. As a result of the *Transportation for Livable Cities* grant, the Town created the “Essex Transit-Oriented Design Master Plan” with assistance from two project consultants: ORW and RSG, Inc., completed in January, 2006. Through professional consulting services, an integrated land use and multi-modal transportation plan/design scheme for the corridor area will be developed for consideration by the Selectboard. Work products will include a visual set of sketches, perspectives, and building elevations. This effort will help create a working master plan for the area, including proposing appropriate land uses and building/site design guidelines.

Technology: The Town was awarded a \$3,000 grant to purchase valuable software for the GIS Coordinator's Office. This software will enable the Town to analyze and interpret geographical and built data as it appears on the ground, providing us with an improved understanding of how our built environment interacts with itself and the natural surroundings. The Department's improved technological capabilities allow us to look at the Town and its environment in ways we could not have done before. The Town's web site is also being continually improved with information and notices to the public made available as they become available.

Customer Service - Staff will begin assessing its customer service issues and opportunities beginning early 2006. Through a combination of process flows and systems design, we will be able to provide improvements to both the physical aspect of the Department's various functions, and to the service delivery aspects, as well. We are hoping to create a mini-conference area that allows improved, more personal interaction between the Public and Department Staff. Please bear with us during this “under construction” phase.

Departmental Permit and Review Activity – The Planning Commission participated in numerous work sessions throughout the fiscal year regarding the Town Plan, capital budget, abutting municipalities, phasing, etc. The following Community Development Services Report provides the 2005 calendar year permit activity for the Town outside the Village:

Community Development Services Report

Discretionary Review Activity	Calendar Year					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Zoning Board of Adjustment						
Conditional Use/Amendment						5/3
Variance						3
Appeal of Admin Decision	-	-	-	-	-	1
Section 24.2 Expansion	-	-	-	-	-	1
						<u>13</u> <i>subtotal</i>
Planning Commission						
Rezoning						
Discretionary Application Review.....	-	-	-	-	-	0
• BDC Signage						3
Subdivision.....					
• Sketch Plan/Extension						7/1
• Preliminary						4
• Final Plan/Plan Amendment						5/5
• Boundary Adjustment						0
• Simple Parcel Split						0
Project Review.....					
• Site Plan						5
• Site Plan Amendment						10
						<u>40</u> <i>subtotal</i>
Total Discretionary Activity	-	-	-	-	-	53

Zoning Permit Applications Received

Accessory Apartment	1	2	0	0	2	1
Apartment Unit	2	0	1	0	0	0
Condo/Townhouse	44	18	23	10	55	98
Home Occupation	2	3	9	4	4	3
Miscellaneous Permit	1	4	4	6	5	11
Mobile Home	0	0	0	1	0	0
New Agricultural Building (add/alt)	0	0	3	0	0	1
New Commercial/Industrial Building. (add/alt)	30	20	22	17	14	15
Residential Adds./Alts.	95	111	128	106	116	84
Residential Garage	3	17	16	11	10	7
Residential Storage Building	22	15	26	24	9	15
Sign Permit	8	6	17	13	15	15
Single-Family Home	24	17	7	19	24	9
Swimming Pool	5	11	10	8	14	8
Rebuild/Replace Single-Family/Mobile Home	3	2	1	2	1	3
Renewal of Permit	0	1	3	4	3	3
Use/Chang in Use/Temp Use	14	8	14	10	5	6
Septic	27	24	24	38	33	29
Subtotal, Permits Issued	280	259	308	273	310	308
Permits Denied	0	1	1	0	0	1
Applications Withdrawn/Voided	1	0	1	0	0	1
Total Zoning Permit Activity	281	260	310	273	310	310

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Benjamin Suratt, Chair

The Conservation Committee advises the Selectboard and Planning Commission on matters relating to local natural resources and conservation needs. The Town of Essex faces a number of current and future conservation challenges: The Town currently ranks 13th out of 15 municipalities in Chittenden County in open space preservation, has two major waterways on the State list of impaired waterways, and is undergoing development pressure as Chittenden County continues to expand economically. The Conservation Committee strives to identify opportunities to improve, protect, and preserve the natural resources of Essex through collaboration with the Town committees and staff, and ongoing activities in the community. In these efforts, the Committee endeavors to maintain the Town's natural heritage and exceptional quality of life.

The Conservation Committee's accomplishments covering the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005 include:

- Initial updating of the Town's Open Land inventory and efforts to identify funds to acquire parcels for preservation.
- Creation of a working proposal for zoning protection of the Town's critical buffer zones adjacent to streams and waterways.
- Collaboration with the Public Works Department in drafting ordinances to enact the Town's Stormwater Management Plan.
- Assistance in the preparation of the proposed 2006 Town Plan.
- Active participation in the development review process, highlighting important conservation and preservation issues for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- Assistance in finalizing the Town's 20-year lease of a 96-acre parcel on top of Saxon Hill for the purpose of conservation, education, and passive recreation.
- Partnering with the Essex Trails Committee and the mountain biking group, Fellowship of the Wheel, to flag and maintain a new single-track trail on the Saxon Hill parcel.

The Conservation Committee's objectives for 2005-2006 are:

Completion of the updated Open Lands Study, development of an Open Lands management plan, and establishment of an Open Lands Fund in the Town of Essex.

- Continued work on riparian buffer zone protection through zoning regulation and public education.
- Continued efforts on stormwater management, with an emphasis on community education.
- Development and implementation of a management plan for conservation and public use of the Saxon Hill Forest.
- Ongoing development review in collaboration with the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The Conservation Committee is composed of five residents of the Town, and members are appointed by the Selectboard for three year terms. The Conservation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Offices.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Greg Morgan, Chair

The Economic Development Commission is a five-member group appointed by the Selectboard responsible for promoting Essex's quality of life and assisting with the retention, expansion and development of existing business; assisting with the location and development of new industrial, commercial and business firms of Essex; planning for development to assure economic diversification and to providing the Selectboard with advice to enhance our commercial and industrial base.

In meeting its fundamental charge, the Commission completed a re-write of the Town Plan's Economic Development chapter. By updating the chapter, the Town will have a clear strategy for guiding future economic development based on current local and state conditions and constraints.

Following completion of the economic development strategy, the Commission focused the majority of its attention on regional issues. Of great interest to Essex, the commission monitored and participated in the Circumferential Highway Environmental Impact Statement process. By attending public hearings and submitting written comments, the Commission was able to provide an economic perspective and buttress the Selectboard's support of the highway.

The Commission also reviewed and provided comments on the *Draft 2006 Regional Plan*. Due to the role of the regional plan in Act 250 hearings, the Commission focused its comments on aligning regional goals and policies with Essex's goals and policies.

The Commission participated in an effort by the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation to create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that will enable municipalities and others to apply for funding from the Federal Economic Development Authority for a variety of projects tied to economic development.

Retail, industrial and commercial activity within the Town was very positive.

- In Forestdale Technology Park on Corporate Drive: two buildings were approved and constructed (one currently occupied by O'Leary/Burke Civil Associates and the other by Sheetmetal Design), while Frontline Fire & Rescue will occupy another to-be-constructed building. Approval was also given to construct an indoor rock and ice climbing facility with an outdoor ropes course on three lots.
- In the Town Center, construction began at the end of summer on buildings L and M that will house a sandwich shop, video store and bank.
- The State of Vermont has expressed interest in housing the State Crime Lab and State Health Lab in a building vacated by IBM in Forestdale Technology Park.

Looking forward, the Economic Development Commission plans to continue involvement in the Circumferential Highway Environmental Impact Statement process, monitor legislation impacting economic development and focus on the retention and expansion of Essex businesses and industry.

ESSEX COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Clinton Russell, President

Once again our Society has enjoyed a busy and successful year. The annual meeting in October was held in the Pump House at Fort Ethan Allen with a display of Fort memorabilia which William Parkinson has collected. Doug Slaybaugh, our speaker, took us on a verbal walking tour using a PowerPoint presentation of the Fort.

History Expo 2005 in Tunbridge invited our Society to participate once again. Our display this year was School Houses in Essex.

The Water Tower at Fort Ethan Allen was opened for public enjoyment in June. Many people enjoyed a spectacular view from the top as well as taking a walking tour of the Fort with Doug Slaybaugh, our guide. William Parkinson opened the Pump House to display his private Fort Ethan Allen collection.

The historical buildings within the Town were identified and photographed to update the historical aspect of the Town Plan. Our study was given to the Town of Essex Planning Commission to aid in their work. This working sub-committee is comprised of Polly McEwing and Sherry Norton.

The 1805 era schoolhouse has had replication work which will continue as money becomes available for materials. Hubert Norton is the lead carpenter of the project.

Deserving recognition for their on-going hard work and participation are Board members Lucille Allen, Eva Clough, Kathy Dodge, Ann Gray, Laurie Jordan, Barbara Mudgett-Russell, Katherine Reynolds, Clinton Russell and Tobe Zalinger. They, along with others already mentioned, lend steady hands without fan-fare on a continual basis. Special recognition and thanks are extended to the Town of Essex Selectboard, the Recreation Department, and other officials for financial support and help. Clint Russell completed photographing head stones in the four cemeteries and has given to the Town individual portfolios of each which are on record in the Town vault.

An ongoing project which Clint Russell and Barbara Mudgett-Russell are working on is identifying, researching the history, photographing, and publishing the historical homes in our village. At this time they have identified over 150 properties.

We are looking forward to another successful Sing-a-Long in December under the auspices of the Recreation Department and our Society.

With regrets we accepted the resignation of Jacqueline Carr, and appointed Ron Clapp to the Board to fill out the remainder of her term.

ESSEX FIRE DEPARTMENT
Chief Howard Rice, Jr.

The past year has been an extremely busy one for the men and women of the Essex Fire Department. In Fiscal Year 2005 we responded to 835 calls for service, a 40% increase over FY2004, and an average of 2.3 emergency calls per day. The largest increase has been in calls for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which is directly attributable to the switch to automatic response to EMS calls that occurred in late November 2003. Medical calls were up 162 calls in FY2005.

RESPONSES BY CALL TYPE

TYPE	FY03	FY04	FY05	TYPE	FY03	FY04	FY05
Car Accidents	122	101	122	Chimney Fires	7	3	3
Fire Alarms	64	58	96	Vehicle Fires	8	6	10
Medical Response	59	247	409	Power Lines Down	7	6	4
Brush Fires	27	34	28	Search and Rescue	2	3	2
Hazardous Materials	27	23	22	Electrical Fires	4	8	4
Structure Fires	15	20	26	Standbys	20	12	10
CO Calls	15	7	15	Other	28	62	72
Smoke in Building	13	8	12	TOTAL	418	597	835

Several accomplishments were attained in FY2005; below are a few of the highlights:

Emergency Medical Services: The Essex Fire Department provides Emergency First Response to all medical emergencies in the Town of Essex. By using our “neighborhood EMS” approach, where we place medical equipment in our members’ houses throughout the town, we are able to greatly enhance the response time of a trained EMS professional to calls for medical assistance. This “neighborhood EMS” approach has proven successful in the second year of operation and continues to improve as more neighborhoods are equipped with First Responders.

In January 2005 the Essex Fire Department became licensed as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) First Responder Service. By becoming an ALS service, our Emergency Medical Technicians are now able to utilize the most advanced pre-hospital EMS skills allowed in Chittenden County. Prior to the arrival of an ALS ambulance, our patients receive advanced treatment for various ailments such as diabetic emergencies, severe asthma attacks, allergic reactions, heart ailments, and others. The additional equipment needed to transition from Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support was funded by a State Homeland Security Grant awarded in early 2005. The Essex Fire Department continues to work closely with our service partners Essex Rescue and St. Michael’s Rescue to provide EMS patient care to our residents and visitors.

Grants Committee: The Grants Committee continued to explore alternative funding mechanisms in FY2005 and was once again successful in receiving two grants totaling nearly \$75,000 for new equipment. Included in a grant from Vermont Homeland Security was an all-terrain vehicle and rescue sled that is used in the remote areas of Essex, including the miles of trails and popular off-road venues such as the Indian Brook Reservoir. A Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant will provide various specialized rescue equipment and training focusing on firefighter safety and survival. Since March 2003, the department has received over \$320,000 in grants allowing the department to purchase equipment that will serve the community for years to come.

Public Education / Fire Prevention Activities: The Essex Fire Department continues to participate in various community public safety activities, including visits to schools and daycare providers to discuss

fire safety, hosting various groups at the fire station for tours and discussions, and through active participation in the Essex School / Public Safety Committee. This past year the department also teamed up with Essex Parks and Recreation to combine our annual Open House in October with the annual Touch-a-Truck event. An estimated 200 visitors came to this event which was held at the fire station. The Open House coincides with National Fire Prevention Week and offers various fire prevention activities and displays for children and adults.

Training:

Dynamic and state-of-the-art training continues to be a staple of the Essex Fire Department. We again hosted several advanced training opportunities for our members on site. In October the department hosted the Vermont Fire Academy’s new Flashover Simulator, which provides firefighters with a hands-on training evolution of live fire conditions. Also, in May the department utilized the Vermont Fire Academy’s Drager Mobile SCBA Training trailer for the second year in a row to challenge firefighters in advanced search and rescue drills through a state-of-the-art maze training trailer.

Membership:

Being a Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Dispatcher, or Safety Officer requires countless hours of training. The Essex Fire Department is proud to boast a high number of individuals who have worked hard to obtain and maintain certification in fire and EMS. The current roster includes 18 members who have completed the VT Firefighter Level 1 Certification (140 hours), and 26 members who have attained VT EMT Certification (120 hours). This past year, 12 members of EFD successfully challenged a national Pro-Board test and became certified at the level of Firefighter Level 2. This is all over and above the 2 hours of training we receive each Monday night. Ongoing training is necessary to keep us all up-to-date with new technology, techniques, and information.

The Essex Fire Department is made up of people like you. If interested in learning more about how you can be a member of the Essex Fire Department please stop by or check us out on the web at <http://www.EssexFire.com>.

OFFICERS

	Fire/EMS Chief Howard Rice, Jr.	
	Deputy Chief Al Foice	
Asst Chief Charlie Cole	Asst Chief Phil Noyes, Jr.	Captain Pete Walker
Captain Greg Conner	Lieutenant Sean Soper	Lieutenant Mike Depaul
Lieutenant Dave Sheeran	Lieutenant Colin Shea	Lieutenant Eric Lemire

MEMBERS

Peter Bearor	Dan Hill	Corey Mercy	Matt Veilleux
Craig Butkus	John Jacob	Lorrie Noyes	Mike Veilleux
Matt Cohen	Derrick Kendrew	Curtis Pollard	Sharon Veilleux
Norm Drolette	Pat Kernan	Kurt Poulin	Austin Whitaker
Cheryl Foice	Kent Koptiuch	Larry Ransom	Brian White
Barb Forsyth	Sherb Lang	Bill Reams	Jason Ziter
Jess Gagne	Pat Lucas	Tom Richards	
Tim Gauvin	Sara Matthews	Sarah Rogers	
George Henry	Lewis Meier	Clayton Snelling	

ESSEX FREE LIBRARY
Susan L. Overfield, Head Librarian

“Ignorance acknowledged is enlightenment commenced”
My Life and Adventures
Castle Freeman Jr.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS - For 20 years ago, 10 years ago and this year:

	Number of Titles	Total Circulation	AV Titles	AV Circulation	ILL*s To Others	ILL's From Others
2005	31,140	120,002	3,910	27,936	1,580	321
1995	16,326	80,486	737	2,043	418	335
1985	5,935	18,185	255	1023	0	1780+

**ILL is short for Inter-Library Loan. “From Others” indicates titles requested which we do not own that were borrowed for Essex patrons from other libraries. “To Others” are titles loaned to other libraries for use by their patrons.*

+The collection was frequently supplemented with titles borrowed from the Northwest Regional Library in Georgia before the library moved to its larger space in 1989.

Contact the library any time at essexlib@adelphia.net or by phone at 879-0313

HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 to 5 Tuesday and Thursday 10 to 9
Saturday 10 to 2

The library follows the Town holiday schedule with these exceptions:

Open on Bennington Battle day

Closed the Saturdays of these major holiday weekends—4th of July, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Labor Day

IMPROVEMENTS:

The following improvements and services were funded with the continued generosity of the Freeman Family and the library’s grant from the Vermont Public Library Foundation

1. Young Adult librarian position and programs continued through June 2005.
2. Restrooms repainted and tiled.
3. Bi-monthly Book Discussion Program with Vermont authors open to the community continued through June 2005.
4. Two doors on the rear of the building were replaced and framed.
5. Juvenile circulation desk was reconfigured and resurfaced.

Upcoming improvements to be completed are:

1. Replacement of front entry door.
2. Tile of front entry

VOL—Vermont On Line:

The library continues to contribute to the funding of VOL (Vermont on Line) in partnership with many other public libraries as well as the Vermont Department of Libraries. Patrons may access a variety of Gale databases, which include InfoTrac magazine and newspaper articles and health and wellness sites. Many of the articles are full text and may be printed either at the library or on your printer. Be sure to pick up a brochure which fully describes the data bases at the library. Follow these steps to access the site at home:

1. Go to the Town of Essex web site: www.essex.org
2. Pick the Essex Free Library on the left hand menu (fourth from the bottom).
3. Find the VOL link under the library picture
4. Call the library for the current password (these change every six months)

HERITAGEQUEST—On Line Genealogy Searching

Currently allows searching of family histories through census records, war era pension records and 1.6 million genealogy and local history articles. This service can be accessed from home or through the library's Internet computers. Introductory classes can be arranged for first time users.

LIBRARY SERVICES

1. **Materials Available** – The library circulates books, periodicals, audio books, both as cassettes and CDs, musical CD's, videos, DVDs, puzzles, children's fiction and book/tape kits.
2. **Phone Services** – Feel free to save yourself a trip (and conserve gas) by calling the library anytime for book renewals, initiate Inter-Library Loan searches, register for programs and to get answers to quick reference questions. Please call anytime you have a question about an overdue or bill notice you may have received. Messages can also be left after hours.
3. **HEMPCARD Privileges** – Essex residents have access to all Chittenden Country libraries (with the exception of the Fletcher Free Library in Burlington) when they show their valid library card. The current blue cards will be valid through the end of 2006. Family patron records can be updated at any time. While updated cards are always provided free every two years, there is a fifty cent fee for replacing cards which may be lost in the interim.
4. **Copier** – The copier is available for the public to use and the fee is 10 cents per page.
5. **Meeting Space** – Upon request, small not-for-profit groups of up to 12 people may use the activity room when there are no library programs scheduled. Please call to reserve the space well in advance. Students wishing to study as a group may also ask to use this space on a first-come first-served basis.
6. **Inter-Library Loan** – The library is happy to locate titles for patrons that are not owned in our library's collection. Libraries throughout the state cooperate to share their collections. Out of state requests are also facilitated, however some out of state libraries charge fees for loans and the time between request and arrival is usually quite lengthy .
7. **Tax Forms** – The library has State tax forms and a variety of commonly used Federal Tax Forms for the public beginning in early January. There is also a binder, which includes reproducible Federal Forms if you need one that is more obscure or our supply has run out.
8. **Internet Access** – Patrons may access the Internet from five workstations in the library for one 30 minute session each day. Printing services are available from all workstations. Please remember to sign in at the main desk and observe the time that remains!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

1. **Book Discussion groups** are invited to use the many sets available at the library. These multiple copy sets (there are over 150 of them) may be checked out by either groups or individuals. The Library Trustees support these community groups by purchasing six new sets each year. To view a list of currently owned sets, please go to the very end of the library's web site on the Town of Essex page. Suggestions for additional titles, which your book discussion group may have enjoyed, are always welcome!

2. Children's Programs:

Storytime for toddlers and pre-schoolers is held during six-week sessions throughout the school year. Daytime programs on Tuesdays and Thursday are held in the Activity Room and are by pre-registration, to keep the programs cozy and personal. Monday morning programs are open to all and do not require pre-registration.

3. Summer Reading Program offers many programs and reading incentives designed to keep vacationing students reading and visiting the library regularly. Nobody needs to be bored! Summer readers participated in the program "Air, Road, River & Rail" as they meandered their way through books as their book dots traveled along the various trails. The 6th Harry Potter and Eldest were certainly the "hot books" of the summer. It is delightful to get to meet so many of the community's enthusiastic readers during the summer's lazy days.

4. Language Classes were offered with the financial generosity of the Friends and Trustees of the Library and Saxon Hill School. Two week-long, half-hour sessions were offered in German, French and Spanish. Pre-schoolers were introduced to the same three languages in three day sessions.

STAFF CHANGES– Susan Keeler left the library in March for a full-time position at VSAC and Matthew Martens added Young Adult services to his existing cataloguing tasks. Love and money drew Matthew to Massachusetts in September and Anne Exler graciously returned to resume her previously held position as cataloguer.

ESSEX RESCUE
Karen Danaher, President

Over the past year, Essex Rescue has been very busy developing new programs that will better serve the community of Essex. On behalf of the men and women who serve with Essex Rescue, I wanted to extend my thanks and appreciation to the citizens, businesses, elected officials and municipal management of Essex & Essex Junction for their continued support of this organization and our new programs.

The commitment that is required for a person to remain an active member in this organization requires a great deal of sacrifice, dedication, and time. Not only are members required to answer more and more calls each year, they are also required to put in many hours of training to maintain their knowledge and skill level. Essex Rescue continues to explore new levels of membership, recruitment, and retention ideas to keep our membership strong. We have proven how effective this cohesive team of individuals is for Essex and Essex Junction. We are excited to have this group of highly qualified and committed men and women providing such an important service to the community. It is important to remember that we work as a “team” to progress with the ever changing needs of Emergency Medical Services.

We also wanted to acknowledge the Essex Dispatchers that have worked together to address the crucial needs within the dispatch center to become more effective and efficient for the communities we serve. It is important to remember how critical it is to have highly trained and proficient dispatchers that are customer service oriented. We all know the success of any emergency call starts with the dispatchers. These individuals often go unrecognized but are a vital part of our response.

Essex Rescue is proud to provide every member and visitor to our community with the highest level of Emergency Medical Service available in our area. We have recently added an additional Emergency Response Vehicle (4X4 Utility) to assist our new program of staffing a second ambulance. We have also formed an experienced truck committee for the specifications of our third ambulance planned to play a major role in assisting response within our service area. Essex Rescue has also played an active roll providing the community with public education. We will continue to work with all our service area communities in an effort to improve services, while reducing cost.

We have received over \$80,000 in grant funding from State and Federal sources which has provided our organization with a keyless entry card access system for security and interoperability with our Fire Departments. We have received a vehicle exhaust system for our (3) bays where the toxic diesel vapors will be eliminated allowing our own members to train and operate in a safer environment. Essex Rescue is also pleased to announce the addition of (2) Cardiac Monitors, and additional portable defibrillators allowing the state of the art technology for our patients. Communication equipment, medications, and other general supplies were also part of this grant funding.

Essex Rescue continues to provide prompt response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We currently have 59 volunteer members. If you are interested in volunteering in some capacity with Essex Rescue, please do not hesitate to contact us at (802) 878-4859.

HEALTH OFFICERS
Jerry L. Firkey, Health Officer
Kenneth Stratton, Deputy Health Officer

The Health Officers' mission is to make citizens aware of potential health hazards and to respond to public complaints or requests for assistance in correcting any health violations and/or hazards that exist.

One of the most common housing code complaints is the presence of mold and mildew, which is caused by dampness, most common to basements and bathrooms. Simple clean-up measures can be taken by the tenants. Preventative measures, such as better ventilation and dehumidifiers should be employed to reduce the potential for mold and mildew to grow.

Landlords and tenants have a resource available to them called **Vermont Tenants, Inc.** Vermont Tenants has produced a handbook describing the responsibilities related to rental housing. You can contact their office by calling 864-0099.

Regular inspections and water testing of the Town and Village swimming pools, as well as the Indian Brook Reservoir swimming area, were done during the swimming season. All testing came back normal. Regarding Indian Brook Reservoir, the public must always pick up after their animals, including horses. These measures will protect the Reservoir.

All dogs, cats and ferrets are required to have rabies shots on a regular basis. Dogs must also be licensed with the Town Clerk on an annual basis.

Animal bites continue to be reported and investigated by the Health Officer and Essex Police, and, if applicable, he/she must ensure the animal is properly quarantined, registered with the Town and have proof the animal is current with the rabies vaccination. The rabies virus is still quite active amongst the wild animal kingdom. Remember to stay away from wild animals. For information about rabies, call 1-800-472-2437.

Continue to take safeguards regarding the West Nile Virus, as it is active in Vermont.

An inquiry was made to the Vermont Health Department regarding the status of the Avian Flu in Vermont. It was reported there is no immediate threat to Vermont, but this flu remains one that requires our individual attention.

Finally, we urge the public to take advantage of the low cost flu shots available during each fall season.

If anyone has any questions regarding health issues of any kind, or if you have any complaints, questions, or need assistance, please call the following numbers: 7:30 a. m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays - Community Development Office at 878-1343. Nights, weekends and holidays - Police Department at 878-8331.

The State of Vermont Department of Health is located at 108 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont and their website is www.healthyvermonters.info/.

MEMORIAL HALL
(1871 – Present)
Carol Ann Greig

Memorial Hall has served the community of Essex for 135 years. Organizations, town leaders and volunteers have helped this structure escape the fate that has become way too common place in today's society. In digging through years of old notes, I found this poem that I wrote when contemplating ways to save this building.

Return to the Vermont Common, looking forward all the way..
Use existing buildings, give residents a say...
Take a walking tour, include the "Boards and Staff."
Examine the locations, avoid the "local" wrath.
Prepare your facts and figures, use pictures, dream your dreams.
Hold meetings of information, until you have a team!
A group of caring folks, with honor, will and want
Restore, re-use good buildings, the backbones of Vermont.

Enjoy these random (not in any chronological order) notes and quotes from over the years:

1965-1985 Town leased the Hall to Essex Community Players for \$1.00 per year

Memorial Hall was built as the Essex Town Hall a few years before the Plaque was added making it Memorial Hall.

In grateful remembrance of the brave soldiers of Essex who lost their lives in service of their country during the war for the preservation of the Union (1861-1865).

Alpha M. Austin, Truman W. Blood, Henry S. Bradley, Magna Campbell, Thomas Valeri, Harrison Cisco, Joshua I. Day, William J. DeMag, John Flemming, Hosea M. Gorton, Amos Greeley, Mortimer Lister, Ruel B. Mellen, Henry T. Moseley, James B. Nicholas, John B. Page, George W. Page, William Prior, Branscom Perrigo, George E. Parker, Alexander Renoul, James Ryan, Edward D. Sands, Oscar A. Scribner, Albert F. Sawyer, Rollin S. Sherman, Hannibal Tichout, Norman Woodworth, Albert Whitcomb, Warren B. Whitcomb, R & A Austin, Norman A. Baker

The voters of the Town of Essex in 1989 directed the Town to preserve and maintain Memorial Hall for the benefit of the community. The heating system was changed and windows and slate roof repaired.

Volunteers painted the lower interior of the Hall in "Vintage Wine" and "Vintage Violet", colors appropriate to the times. The small budget, through the Town, paid for the paint and professionals to paint the tin ceilings and high areas.

1986 – The people of Essex spoke out at the Annual Town Meeting. The Selectboard and Town Manager listened. They appointed a committee to study and provide specific information on the old buildings located at the Essex Common (corner of Rte. 128 and Rte. 15). This committee met weekly from July 1986 to February 1987. Members serving were: Nancy Abernathy, Kenneth Copeland, Roger Dodge, Carole Ann Greig (Chair), Robert Marcotte, James McIntyre, Alan Overton, Harriet Powell, Tyler Scott and David Stifler.

In the early 1900s, the Hall fell to disuse except for basketball games played. The ceiling was high, it was good. Years later, a group of boy scouts laid a new floor to improve the Hall. As schools began to have gymnasiums, this use ended.

I have a vague memory of Martin Powell, Sr. wielding a gavel, moderating a meeting, my first chance to vote in Essex.

McDonough Masonic Lodge #56 (1870s-1883) met upstairs (now an area unusable for safety reasons). For a short time, the Essex Center Chapter of the Grange met in this Masonic Room.

The tower on top of Memorial Hall was removed in 1954.

In the 1960s the Essex Players used the hall to put on a play. They soon over the maintenance and general use of the building.

In the 1980s, insurance concerns and building deterioration which prompted a citizens' call for a bond vote to restore the Hall.

A \$4,000 grant from the State Division of Historic Preservation, with matching funds from the Town, was used to repair the windows.

Between 1986 and 2001, maintenance of the building and grounds has occurred as resources have allowed.

The Historical Society and concerned citizens have added value to this historic asset.

Kevin Kittell, George Clapp, Janet Powell, Dick Somerset, Harry Landon, Pat Scheidel, Dennis Lutz, Mark Berry, Jan Ellis-clemment, Dawn Francis, the staff of Public Works, the staff of Parks and Recreation, Board of Directors (present and past), Essex Community Players and many other volunteers have been faithful supporters of this building.

Fiscal Report 2001 to date: Residential Renters:

Essex Community Players (plays, rehearsals, auditions, meetings) 124 reservations

Julie Baker-Alright (Art Classes) 16 reservations

Individuals (piano recitals, birthday celebrations, meetings) 18 reservations

Non-Residential Renters 1 birthday celebration

Parks and Recreation Programs 63 reservations

Jazzercise, Dance Lessons, Dog Training, Hunter Safety, Toy Library, Camps, Pre-School arts and crafts and many more

Removal of old seats and a gift (with a little help from Pat Scheidel) of new comfy seats from the Essex Cinema at Lang Farm.

There are times when our municipal government (our taxes) can not meet the needs of a community and we as citizens must take time to step up and volunteer to improve our community. The return that Memorial Hall has provided to us as it is used to meet our needs is incredible. The ongoing vision for Memorial Hall is to fill in the gaps of our lives with programs, learning, recreation, and live theater which has been such an integral part of its life for well over 40 years. I give thanks as this building continues to serve us. May we feel challenged to offer our gifts and talents that Memorial Hall will stand and serve another 135 years.

Mark Berry, Director

The Parks and Recreation Department serves the community through people, parks and programs. Our mission is to *Advance Parks and Recreation Efforts That Enhance The Quality of Life For The Community of Essex.*

RECREATION

In 2004, the Parks and Recreation Department conducted a comprehensive community wide Recreational Needs Assessment. Based upon the results of the assessment the department has increased programming in the area of exercise and fitness, nature and outdoor education. With a growing senior population the department will be increasing senior programming. The after-school and teen segments are two additional areas where the department will be increasing program offerings.

Volunteers are the heart of our community:

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to work with a number of volunteer boards that administer various youth sport organizations throughout Essex. Each group is guided by the goal of providing a safe, fun atmosphere in which skill development is taught. Without the dedication and tireless effort of these volunteers, Essex would not enjoy such diverse and successful youth sports programs. Those programs include Babe Ruth Baseball, Essex Youth Football, Essex Youth Lacrosse, Essex Youth Soccer, Adult Basketball, Little League Baseball and Softball. Kudos to you all!

Accomplishments:

- The Parks and Recreation Department will be the first department in the State to offer on-line registration. On-line registration began in September of 2005.
- Increased the number of recreation programs offered to the community

PARKS

The Parks and Recreation Department continues its endeavor to provide the highest quality parks and park experience to the community. This past summer over 10,000 visits were recorded at Indian Brook. In addition, the parks department maintains eleven parks, 34 acres of athletic fields which hosted over 500 games, a 55 acre reservoir, 25 meter swimming pool, the Town Green, roadsides, and more than 1,000 acres of trails and open space.

Accomplishments:

- Developed a plan with Fellowship of the Wheel to build a non-motorized multi-use trail at Saxon Hill property. The trail was constructed in the fall of 2005.
- Received a Recreation Trails Grant to develop a Recreation & Trails Guide for Essex. The guide will be available in the spring of 2006.
- Continued replacing trees at Ethan Allen Park through a grant from the Department of Forest Parks and Recreation.
- Worked with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to build a new trail at Indian Brook.

Future Plans:

- Develop a management plan for Ethan Allen Park
- Continue replacing trees at Ethan Allen Park
- Offer on-line renewal for Indian Brook passes

POOL

During the summer months, Sand Hill Pool is open seven days a week from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for open swim. During the weekday the swim team trains from 6:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and public swim lessons are held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Future Plans:

- Proposed renovations to the pool include replacing the kiddy pool with a spray park (a play area with fountains, sprinklers and other water attractions)

SENIOR VANS

The senior vans provide transportation, free of charge, within the Town and Village to residents age 60 and over and to physically challenged individuals. Transportation is provided Sunday through Friday. Reservations are required one day ahead.

Accomplishments:

- For the fiscal year 2005, the senior vans transported 4,707 seniors.
- Through a partnership with the CCTA the Town received funding to replace one of the senior vans. The new van is scheduled to arrive in the spring of 2006.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

David E. Demag, Chief

The men and women of the Essex Police Department continue to do an excellent job in utilizing a community policing philosophy in meeting the needs of the community. This philosophy is turned into action by forming partnerships to identify and solve community problems.

Members of the community are generous in volunteering their time to support the police department. The Department wishes to recognize the following volunteer groups that play a significant role in assisting the police in carrying out our mission: Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, School Public Safety Committee, Essex Community Justice Center, CHIPS, Essex Alliance Emergency Relocation Committee, Chittenden Emergency Response Team CERT, Citizen Radar Speed Monitoring Program, Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont, Vermont State Guards, Essex Teen Center, Village and Town Fire Departments, Family Connections Program, Domestic Violence Task Force, Women Helping Battered Women, Just Youth, Essex Rescue, the parents and teachers that support Project Northland, and the numerous number of citizens that support the Department on a day to day basis throughout the year. Our agency would not be able to provide the high quality of police services without this citizen support.

The crime statistics for this year are relatively even compared to previous years; however, criminal investigations that are cleared by arrest have increased by nine percent (9%). This increase is reflected by 569 court cases in 2004 as compared to 620 in 2005.

The Department continues to place a significant emphasis on enforcement and education of illicit drugs within our community. The education component is carried out through Project Northland, where officers work closely with the schools in grades 6 through 8 in providing resistance to alcohol, drug abuse and negative peer pressure. The department's drug enforcement component consists of a team approach toward drug investigations. Officers from all divisions including patrol, detective and management, work collectively to develop, document and communicate drug information and intelligence. Information used to develop lower level cases can ultimately lead to involvement of resources such as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Taskforce.

The reorganization of the department continued this year to maximize our resources to carry out our mission in a more effective manner. The most significant change was establishing Captain Leo Nadeau as a Deputy Chief so that this position can provide a team coordinated approach throughout the agency. The Agency's reorganization and new rank structure is designed to develop officers, reward merit, and to provide two career paths consisting of a generalist and management approach. This structure provides career goals for all officers as well as establishing a highly competent management pool to position the department for the future.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was formed which consolidated many former grant funding opportunities. Grant funds are used to support the department's task of providing basic community security as well as meeting the technical demands of Homeland Security. Grants have financed equipment purchases, threat assessments, mitigation studies, provided training opportunities and have allowed for emergency drills to be conducted. Additional revenue has been received from the Governor's Highway Safety Program, the Vermont Department of Public Safety, and other Federal programs such as

Equitable Sharing Funds. Department resources have been reallocated to meet these needs and continues to influence our operation on a daily basis.

Resources allocated by the Department of Homeland Security have placed additional strains on our existing police facility. The police facility at 81 Main Street, with only 1770 square feet, plus the off-site leased space for the detectives, is not sufficient to accommodate the 33 full-time employees and the equipment needed to meet the needs of the community. Future facility changes would alleviate the proximity of suspects to juveniles, and victims, and increase department effectiveness and collaboration.

The Police Department's website at www.epdvt.org, gives citizens the opportunity to stay abreast of current crime issues and statistics. The site also provides access to forms for citizen use, provides links to department personnel and other Town departments.

REPORTED CRIME ACTIVITY

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0
ROBBERIES	1	2	1	0	4
BURGLARIES	76	101	98	92	75
ASSAULTS	45	46	51	54	50
SEX OFFENSES	24	28	29	29	29
DRUG OFFENSES	74	67	129	81	77
LARCENIES	469	439	366	408	462
VANDALISM	337	317	239	197	158
STOLEN VEHICLES	14	4	7	9	12
SUICIDES / ATTEMPTS	8	6	11	6	5
MISSING PERSONS	82	52	63	54	31
BAD CHECKS / FRAUD	139	147	183	216	204
D.U.I.	96	193	110	90	80
COURT CASES	543	748	543	569	620
ACCIDENTS	740	553	542	574	555

There were 3,849 tickets written for traffic and parking violations, of which 1,436 were Vermont Traffic Citations.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Dennis E. Lutz, P.E.

Town Engineer/Public Works Director

The high cost of fuel coupled with the resulting increased prices for material and severe flooding in the fall of 2004 prevented the Department from meeting many of its objectives in FYE 2005. Costs were contained within budget limits through the use of federal and state grant monies and a reduction in the planned summer road paving and reconstruction programs. The delay in making needed road improvements creates a greater backlog of unmet paving needs that has the potential to affect future budgets.

HIGHWAY

Town Projects completed include re-construction and re-surfacing of Lamell Avenue and Richard Street, rehabilitation and repaving of .95 miles of Weed Road between VT 128 and Naylor Road and repaving of the hill section on Weed Road, repaving of a section of Susie Wilson Bypass with an 80% State paving grant; reconstruction of 900 feet of roadway at the end of Greenfield Road, overlaying the Greenfield Road Extension, repaving a portion of Frederick Road, construction of new sidewalks on Pioneer Street between Blair Road and Stearns Avenue, Lamell and Richard Streets and a paved path on VT128 between Thomas Lane and Irene Avenue, blasting of ledge to improve safety on sections of Osgood Hill and Lost Nation Roads, crack-sealing and spot repairs on many Town roads, road maintenance and winter plowing on 23.16 miles of gravel and 49.94 miles of paved roads with 10 highway employees and one mechanic.

Work in Progress: The path project connecting Sand Hill Road to the VT15/VT128 intersection, improvements to the Town Green and construction of a ten car park-and-ride lot are combined into a single construction project that will be done in the summer of 2006. The VTRANS project involving the upgrade of traffic signals at the Four Corners intersection for full pedestrian service is in the right-of-way acquisition process with construction scheduled for 2006 or 2007. Designs are in progress for an improved intersection with traffic signals at the Sand Hill Road/ VT117 intersection (VTRANS project) and the David Drive intersection on Susie Wilson Road. A scoping study for installation of a traffic signal at VT15/Sand Hill Road has been requested from the MPO. The Susie Wilson Road project will also involve the completion of traffic signal interconnection within the corridor and other improvements to aid both through traffic and accessibility from adjacent properties. Design plans are being developed for an 8-foot wide paved walkway along VT15 from Saybrook Road to Sunset Drive. With approval of the budget for FYE 2007, the following roads are planned for paving/repaving: Ronald Court, The Commons (Town Green), Button Drive, Oakwood Lane, Douglas Road, Bluestem Road, and sections of Greenbrier Drive, Baker Street and Pinewood Drive. If the Capital Plan is approved as submitted, work will also be done on sections of Essex Way, Weed Road, Billie Butler Drive, Rustic Drive, Linden Lane, Cypress Lane and Woodlawn Drive.

STORM-WATER

Projects completed include compliance with the second year requirements of the community-wide NPDES Phase II Storm-water Permit; Town acceptance of permit responsibilities for twelve older permits in non-impaired watersheds previously issued to home-owner's associations or developers; development and Selectboard approval of a comprehensive storm water

ordinance; completion of new storm-water facilities at the Town Highway complex involving the fuel pumping and associated protection system as well as a new storage building for selected chemicals and vehicles; negotiated resolution with other Towns of the Conservation Law Foundation NPDES Phase II permit lawsuit; 100% inventory of all culverts and 100% checks of all catch basins, extensive catch basin cleaning; street sweeping on all roads at least twice during the year; active participation in the regional storm-water education program; coordination of storm water actions with the Town Conservation Commission.

Work in Progress: Preliminary designs of storm-water offset facilities to enable new construction to occur in the impaired watersheds is underway; resolution of permit issues in the impaired watersheds is being sought and increased emphasis is being directed towards identification of illicit discharges and with Town-wide compliance under the new storm water ordinance adopted by the Town.

WATER AND SEWER

Projects completed include conceptual plans for providing sewer service for portions of Pinecrest Drive, Pioneer Street, Ira Allen Drive, Susie Wilson Road and Blair Road. retirement of the original Town sewer bond and changes to the rate structure to eliminate the 20 year bond payment charges.

Work in Progress: Design of replacement pumps at the Town's primary sewage pumping station on River Road has been initiated; designs are underway for a waterline interconnect in the area of lower Sand Hill and VT117 to improve water quality and to provide a back-feed loop for many area residents; and designs are underway for sewers in specific areas of Painesville as identified in the final approved concept plan.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Work in Progress: The exterior building siding at the Town offices, 81 Main Street, has deteriorated to the point where it must be replaced. Once the siding is removed, it is anticipated that some sheathing, framing and insulation will need replacement.

SUMMARY

The Public Works Department is dedicated to meeting the objectives of providing quality, responsive service, addressing community infrastructure needs and protecting the public health and safety of the Community. We look forward to meeting the challenges of the coming year.

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER
Cheryl Moomey, Town Clerk and Treasurer

The following is the Town Clerk's Office activity summary:

Fish and Wildlife Licenses

Total Collected..... \$5,751
 Remitted to Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department..... \$5,208

Marriage Licenses

Total Collected..... \$3,763
 Remitted to State Treasurer \$2,175

Dog Licenses

Total Collected..... \$10,477
 Remitted to State Treasurer \$3,897

Liquor and Tobacco Licenses \$44,020

Recording of Land Records \$180,022

Vault Time \$4,036

Copies and Certified Copies..... \$19,595

Green Mountain Passes \$74

Department of Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals..... \$2,772

The Clerk's Office recorded 35 volumes of Land Records and 804 Vermont Property Transfer returns for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005.

Vital records recorded in the Town of Essex from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005:

Births: 220 Marriages: 135 Deaths: 38 Civil Union: 10

The Annual Town Meeting election was held on March 1, 2005. The following officers were elected by Australian ballot:

Moderator: (One-Year Term)	Steve McQueen
Selectboard: (Three-Year Term)	Jeffrey B. Carr
Selectboard: (Three-Year Term)	Linda K. Myers

At a Special Town Meeting held on April 12, 2005, voters were asked to vote on the following article.

Article 1: Shall the Town of Essex Selectboard and the Village of Essex Junction Board of Trustees be advised to prepare and approve a plan of merger between the Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction pursuant to a single charter?

Number of votes in favor: 2051 Number of votes opposed: 788

Services available at the Town Clerk's Office:

Record Land Records	Dog Licenses	Certified Copies of Vital Records
Pay Property Taxes	Marriage Licenses	Green Mountain Passports
Pay Water & Sewer Bills	Civil Union Licenses	Motor Vehicle Registration Renewals
Notary Public Service	Fish & Wildlife Licenses	Genealogy Research
Liquor Licenses		

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Dana Baron, Chair

In reporting the 2005 Recreational Needs Assessment results, Consultant Betsy Orselet noted that the top priority for recreation among those who responded to the survey was for more trails: hiking trails, biking trails, skiing trails, etc. The survey results indicated that many taxpayers would be willing to pay more taxes to obtain more and better trails.

The Town Trails Committee has been working for over five years to make the wishes of the taxpayers a reality. This year some of this work has born fruit. The committee can point with pride to new trails in the Saxon Hill area, and a new trail brochure about to be published as two ways the committee has helped improve access to trails in the town. Below is a more complete list of the committee's successes for 2005:

- Worked with the Fellowship of the Wheel to construct mountain bike trails around the Saxon Hill area.
- Helped improve trail access and visibility by installing trail signs at many trailheads in the town.
- Worked with the Town Recreation Department to design and produce a trail map brochure highlighting trails throughout the town.
- Continued support of the successful Trail Caretaker program.
- Worked with Town Forester Chuck Vile in identifying areas in the Mathieu Town Forest where logging would help improve access to trails.
- Reviewed major portions of the Draft 2006 Town Plan for issues related to trails.
- Worked with the Planning Commission to capture trail easements and other rights of way in the development process.

The Trails Committee saw quite a turnover in membership this year. During 2005, Tom Barnes, Priscilla Kimberly, and Gregg Lyon all departed the committee as their terms expired. The committee is tremendously grateful for all the hard work these three committed to trails in the town during their tenures.

New committee members Ed Ziemer, Owen Jenkins, and Stuart Smith have joined incumbents Moshe Braner and Dana Baron to bring the committee up to full strength.

If you have ideas or would like to help with a favorite trail, let us know! The Trails Committee meets the second Monday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Town Offices building.

TOWN MANAGER

Patrick C. Scheidel

Like last year, this one has been marked by the departure of long-standing employees of the Town of Essex. Lilianne Lemieux retired February 25, 2005 after 18 years of quality service. Bob Safford passed away after 35 years of dedicated service to the Town of Essex. The institutional memory and exceptional accomplishments of both employees will be missed as much as the individuals themselves. Other vacancies also occurred. In the Town Manager's office, the MIS Director resigned and the Office Secretary/Personnel Assistant position was vacated twice, as was the position of Community Development Director.

The Town Manager's Office has been kept busy above and beyond routine matters by staffing and attending the Merger Task Force meetings which occur every Wednesday evening. Assistant Town Manager Todd Odit has provided excellent work in providing research assistance to the Managers and members of the Task Force. The Town and Village Managers serve as ex officio members of the Merger Task Force.

It is anticipated that the work of the Task Force will be accomplished the spring of 2006. The finished product will be presented to the Trustees and the Selectboard respectively and, depending upon their review and approval of the work product, they may prepare a ballot item for a vote.

Budget

In part, the proposed budget reacts to external demands which come from the federal and state government through unfunded mandates. These mandates have been consistent such as compliance with Stormwater regulations which in 2007 represents a proposed expense of \$165,219. In addition to unfunded mandates, the local voters demanded that we study the merger proposition once again. Consequently, there is a \$60,000 budgetary increase that is directly attributable to the merger task force endeavor.

The proposed budget shows an increase of \$634,348 or 7.9 percent over last year. Salaries are budgeted at approximately 4 percent excluding premium pay such as longevity, steps or overtime. Cost of living is expected to increase between 4 and 4.5 percent.

Gasoline, insurance and personal services costs increased. Other than these operating costs, one driving issue for FYE 2007 budget growth is merger. If the aforementioned merger expenses were removed, the proposed budget would show a 7.2 percent increase.

Revenue

Revenues are projected realistically. The receipts of filing fees experienced by the Town Clerk's office are practically gone. The Town loses \$97,000 from IBM each year. The current approximate one half of one percent Grand List growth generates \$37,600 in tax revenue which compared against the lost IBM contribution, shows a net decrease of \$59,400 this year. The Grand List has been reduced by about 25 percent as a result of phasing out M&E; it will not recover in value until after a revaluation occurs. Scheduled work for the revaluation commences in February 2006 and will be complete for FYE 2008. For the FYE 2007 budget there will be an

insufficient amount in unrestricted fund balance to continue the practice of applying \$100,000 of it as a budgeted revenue source.

Beginning in FYE 1994, the Town had been able to budget \$100,000 of fund balance as a revenue source. In essence, the budget showed a \$100,000 deficit each year with the confidence that there was a surplus in the unrestricted fund balance to cover it. Furthermore, each year when the tax rate had been set, the Town funded the cost of the Farm and Open land contracts and the HDI tax stabilization contract with the use of fund balance (an additional \$60,000 deficit). This practice of funding the contracts with fund balance was stopped for the current year (FYE 2006) with the implementation of the local agreement rate of \$.0047.

Since the turnaround in the Town's financial position between FYE 1992 and 1993, through FYE 2003, we have been fortunate enough to end those fiscal years with surpluses in spite of budgeting deficits as previously discussed. These surpluses resulted from stronger than expected revenues (e.g., recording of legal documents) and no unforeseen or detrimental impacts on the expenditure side of the budgets.

Beginning with FYE 2004, the Town experienced a slowdown in the revenues that were driving the previous surpluses as well as a number of expenditure items that exceeded the budget for various reasons beyond our control (e.g., high fuel prices and increases in insurance costs). Increasingly conservative budgets left little room for unexpected expenses. Necessary unbudgeted expenditures, approved by the Board over these fiscal include roller shelving in the vault and data processing costs associated with the conversion to NEMRC.

Capital

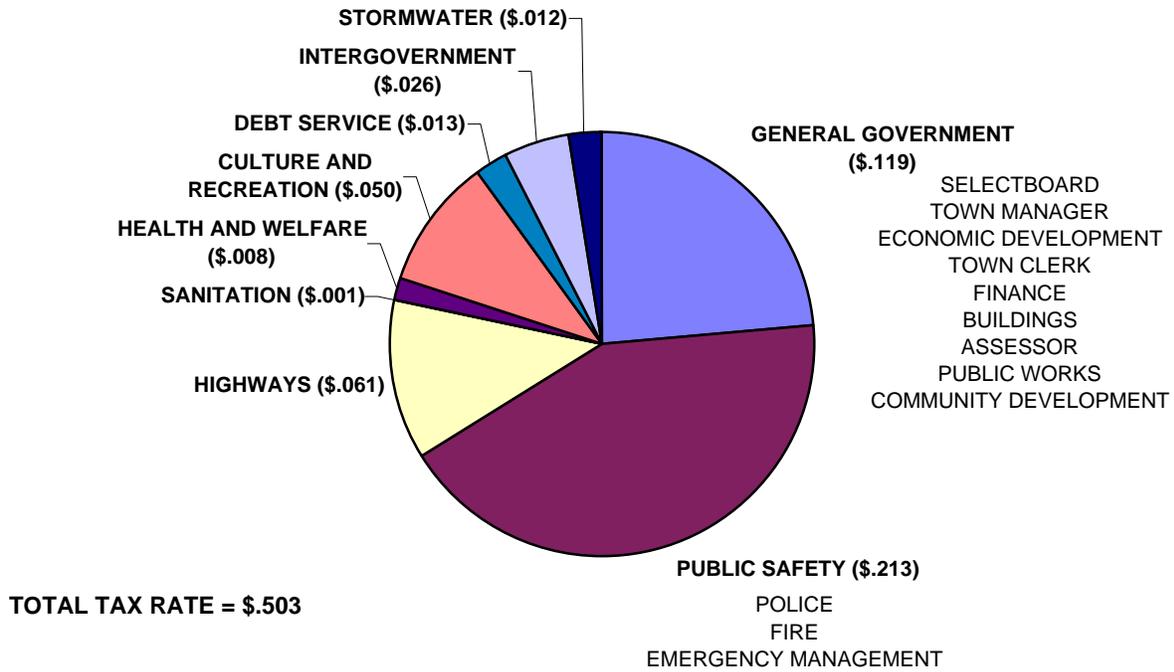
The capital budget for FYE 2007 is discussed in January. The project list on page 42 for review totals \$1,540,923; funding sources vary. During the past two years, the focus was on the expected budgetary impact on the tax rate as budgets were prepared; hence, budget requests were made for only the required building improvements, maintenance items and capital projects. This year the Town has felt the negative effects of revenue loss and the inability of the capital penny to generate enough money to meet even our smallest capital projects. Therefore, an additional \$0.01 for capital expenditures will be requested to finance growing capital needs. In 1994 when the concept of a capital penny was approved, it was stated that it probably wouldn't remain at one penny. Approximately 12 years later, the capital financing plan is generating one hundred thousand dollars less than initially projected. Rising costs of capital projects further argue for an additional penny. One cent on the current grand list generates approximately \$128,000.

Conclusion

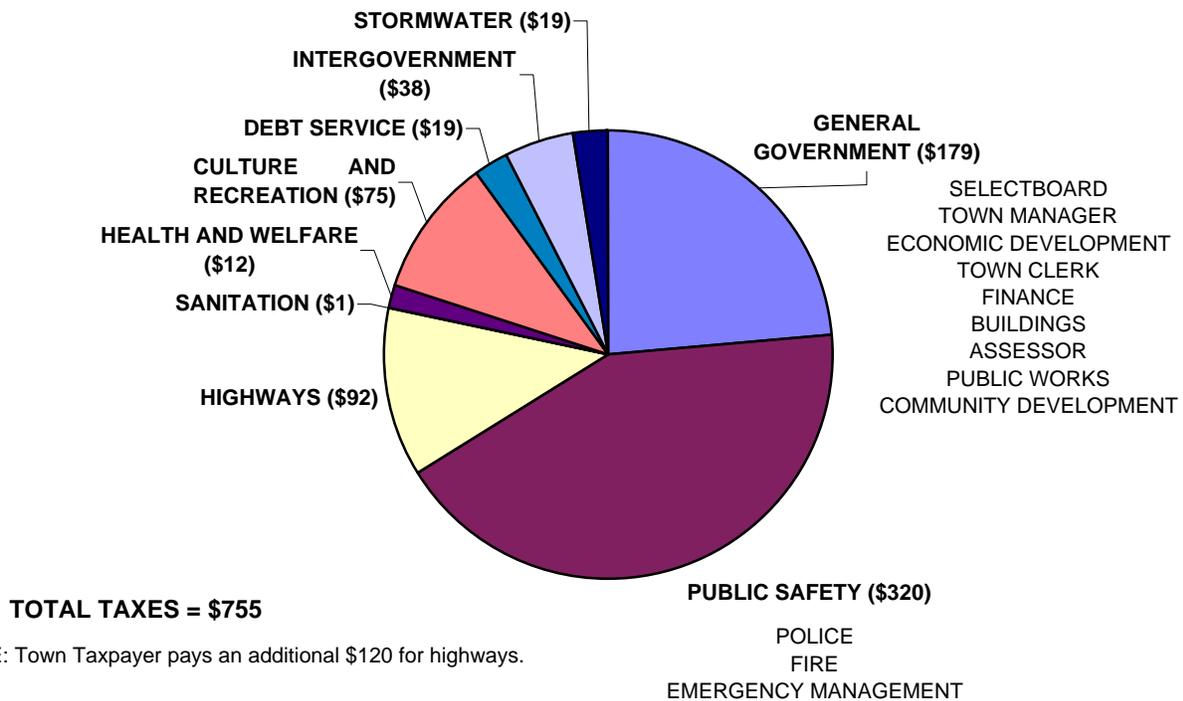
Financial attention to needed capital issues and infrastructure repairs are demanded more than ever now. Last year, high gasoline prices prevented us from accomplishing budgeted road maintenance. If we continue to defer maintenance, roads that could have been saved with repaving will have to be reconstructed at four times the cost. Moreover, unfunded mandates only exacerbate the problem. This year it is incumbent upon us to make difficult financial decisions in the unchanging world of less and less revenue available to government. The uncertainty of merger necessitates planning for additional costs and to focus on capital projects that maintain Town infrastructure.

GENERAL FUND FOR FYE 6/30/2007

ESTIMATED TAX RATES BY CATEGORY

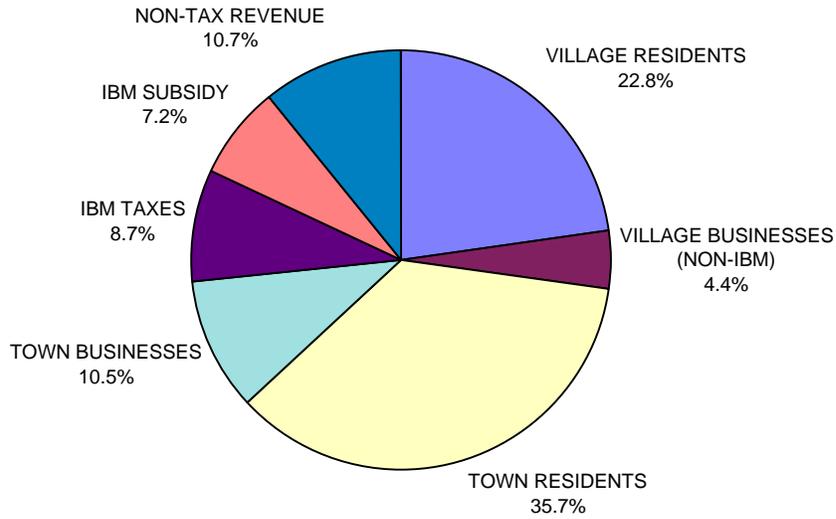


ESTIMATED TAXES ON \$150,000 HOME



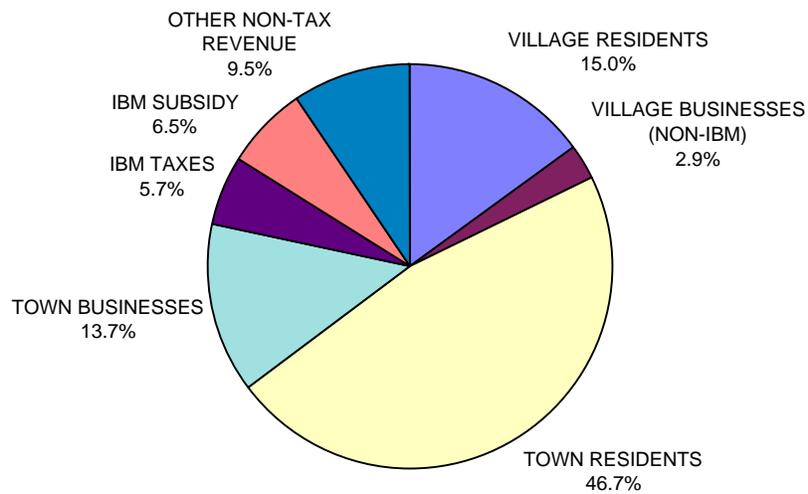
PROJECTED REVENUE SOURCES FOR FYE 6/30/2007

TOTAL REVENUES



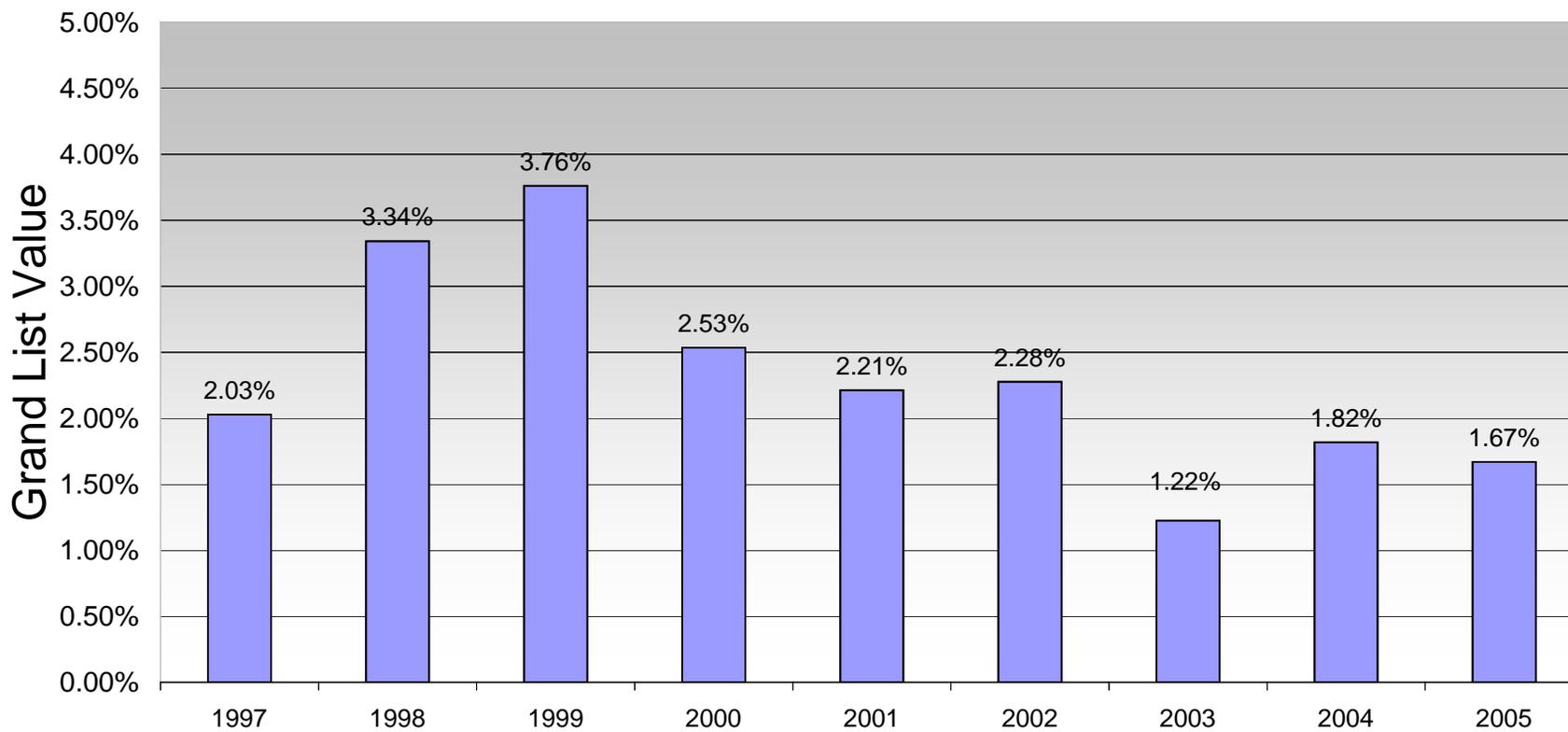
VILLAGE TAXPAYERS = 27.2% TOWN TAXPAYERS = 46.2% IBM = 15.9%

HIGHWAY REVENUES



VILLAGE TAXPAYERS = 17.9% TOWN TAXPAYERS = 60.4% IBM = 12.2%

REAL ESTATE GRAND LIST ANNUAL GROWTH 1997-2005



CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM
FYE 2007 - FYE 2011

PROJECT	TOTAL COST	FYE 6/07	FYE 6/08	FYE 6/09	FYE 6/10	FYE 6/11	POST FYE 6/11
BUILDINGS							
NEW TOWN OFFICES	\$4,300,000			3,800,000			\$500,000
VAULT EXPANSION	\$50,000	\$50,000					\$0
POLICE STATION FACILITY / RENOVATION	\$575,000			\$575,000			\$0
HIGHWAY GARAGE EXPANSION	\$402,000						\$402,000
LIBRARY DEFERRED MAINTENANCE & EXPANSION	\$95,000						\$95,000
TOWN GREEN IMPROVEMENTS	\$0	\$0					\$0
MEMORIAL HALL RENOVATIONS / ADDITION	\$395,000						\$395,000
RECREATION PROGRAM SPACE FEASIBILITY STUDY	\$65,000		\$65,000				\$0
HIGHWAYS							
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS	\$616,000	\$142,200	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$113,800	\$0
ALLEN MARTIN PARKWAY	\$2,333,000						\$2,333,000
PARK & RIDE LOTS	\$80,000						\$80,000
SUSIE WILSON / DAVID DRIVE TRAFFIC LIGHTS	\$215,000	\$215,000					\$0
WATERLINES							
LOWER SANDHILL	\$60,000	\$60,000					\$0
PINECREST DR TO VILLAGE RT 2A	\$125,000						\$125,000
DOUGLAS TO WILLOUGHBY	\$165,000						\$165,000
SEWERS							
PAINESVILLE AREA	\$430,000		\$380,000				\$0
CEMETERY RD	\$36,000						\$36,000
ALDER BROOK PUMP STATION UPGRADES	\$205,000	\$20,000	\$185,000				\$0
HEAVY EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES							
HIGHWAY - EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES	\$1,352,721	\$108,757	\$128,917	\$192,847	\$135,300	\$198,100	\$588,800
PARKS - EQUIPMENT / VEHICLES	\$256,588	\$22,235	\$48,716	\$15,728	\$7,272	\$18,681	\$143,956
SENIOR BUS	\$48,000				\$48,000		\$0
FIRE APPARATUS - RESCUE / PUMPER	\$400,000		\$400,000				\$0
PARK FACILITIES							
SKATE PARK	\$32,000	\$7,000					\$25,000
WOODLANDS PARK & PATH	\$40,000		\$40,000				\$0
PARK ASSETS REPLACEMENT	\$281,059	\$42,000	\$36,260	\$55,175	\$25,680	\$0	\$121,944
SAND HILL PARK KIDDIE POOL - "SPRAYGROUND"	\$123,000		\$123,000				\$0
FOSTER ROAD PARK PLAYGROUND	\$30,000	\$30,000					\$0
FOSTER ROAD PARK FIELD IMPROVEMENTS	\$50,000				\$50,000		\$0
INDIAN BROOK - EURASION MILFOIL MITIGATION	\$40,825						\$40,825
INDIAN BROOK - EMERGENCY DAM ACTION PLAN	\$40,000	\$40,000					\$0
RECREATION PROPERTY SURVEY AND APPRAISAL	\$10,000	\$10,000					\$0
FOUNDERS ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENTS	\$50,000				\$50,000		\$0
ATHLETIC FIELDS, BALL COURTS AND RECREATION LAND	\$216,000						\$216,000
PATHS & WALKS							
ROUTE 15 - SAYBROOK TO SUNSET	\$95,611	\$95,611					\$0
ROUTE 15 - CIRC TO GOLF COURSE	\$5,000		\$5,000				\$0
ROUTE 15 - SAND HILL TO VT128	\$483,000	\$483,000					\$0
ROUTE 2A - FROM OLD COLCHESTER ROAD & PINECREST	\$483,000						\$483,000
REAPPRAISAL							
	\$500,000	\$162,725	\$44,975				\$0
CEMETERY COLUMBARIUM							
	\$52,395	\$52,395					\$0
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$14,736,199	\$1,540,923	\$1,576,868	\$4,758,750	\$436,252	\$330,581	\$5,750,525
FUNDING SOURCES							
VEHICLE / EQUIPMENT FUND		\$130,992					
DONATIONS / CONTRIBUTIONS		\$108,011					
GRANTS STATE / FEDERAL / OTHER		\$496,600					
REAPPRAISAL RESERVE		\$162,725					
RECORDS PRESERVATION FUNDS		\$50,000					
WATER / SEWER RESERVE FUNDS		\$74,000					
PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED CAPITAL FUNDS		\$185,000					
UNDESIGNATED CAPITAL FUNDS		\$333,595					
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS		\$1,540,923					

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE2006	PROPOSED FYE2007
REVENUES					
PROPERTY TAXES	\$5,746,830	\$5,688,721	\$6,297,542	\$6,307,542	\$7,079,808
LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$44,150	\$51,246	\$44,900	\$44,900	\$45,100
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$150,990	\$323,836	\$171,700	\$171,700	\$176,050
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$1,364,562	\$1,359,055	\$1,246,264	\$1,261,264	\$1,198,796
FINES	\$77,000	\$79,095	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$76,000
MISCELLANEOUS	\$101,067	\$157,036	\$66,001	\$66,001	\$61,001
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,484,599	\$7,658,989	\$7,902,407	\$7,927,407	\$8,636,755
FUND BALANCE INCREASE (DECREASE)	(\$100,000)	(\$168,425)	(\$100,000)	(\$213,094)	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,584,599	\$7,827,414	\$8,002,407	\$8,140,501	\$8,636,755
EXPENDITURES					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
SELECTBOARD	\$47,155	\$34,139	\$51,697	\$71,697	\$115,994
TOWN MANAGER	\$329,002	\$360,533	\$333,828	\$337,828	\$368,166
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$16,250	\$16,349	\$16,250	\$16,250	\$16,255
ELECTIONS	\$13,000	\$14,543	\$8,300	\$8,300	\$17,500
FINANCE	\$305,176	\$323,972	\$331,095	\$354,095	\$369,374
TAX COLLECTION	\$4,000	\$3,566	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$4,400
LEGAL SERVICES	\$18,000	\$59,333	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
TOWN CLERK	\$177,572	\$181,634	\$189,977	\$189,107	\$202,459
BUILDINGS AND PLANT	\$178,450	\$240,671	\$209,530	\$266,840	\$270,530
R/E APPRAISAL	\$145,987	\$143,617	\$154,223	\$154,223	\$164,980
PUBLIC WORKS	\$88,151	\$92,916	\$95,086	\$96,699	\$97,694
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$313,016	\$305,911	\$324,861	\$298,192	\$343,747
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$1,635,759	\$1,777,184	\$1,738,847	\$1,837,731	\$2,011,099
PUBLIC SAFETY					
POLICE	\$2,634,039	\$2,617,410	\$2,814,484	\$2,817,082	\$2,986,586
FIRE	\$154,738	\$158,643	\$154,609	\$154,609	\$163,143
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$31,653	\$30,916	\$33,152	\$33,152	\$35,130
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$2,820,430	\$2,806,969	\$3,002,245	\$3,004,843	\$3,184,859
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS	\$1,408,771	\$1,549,896	\$1,475,664	\$1,468,954	\$1,594,274
STORMWATER	\$142,022	\$107,785	\$155,009	\$153,009	\$165,219
SANITATION	\$13,000	\$11,517	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
HEALTH AND WELFARE	\$113,417	\$111,828	\$119,646	\$119,646	\$124,912
CULTURE AND RECREATION					
RECREATION	\$295,890	\$316,577	\$312,925	\$336,725	\$341,520
PARKS	\$133,302	\$134,271	\$128,351	\$127,634	\$163,504
POOLS	\$77,516	\$65,639	\$80,051	\$78,890	\$80,278
SENIOR BUS	\$42,109	\$44,277	\$58,518	\$58,518	\$48,840
LIBRARIES	\$289,712	\$295,999	\$298,218	\$315,928	\$323,885
CONSERVATION	\$11,900	\$7,871	\$18,400	\$18,000	\$17,900
TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION	\$850,429	\$864,634	\$896,463	\$935,695	\$975,927
DEBT SERVICE	\$257,000	\$258,543	\$253,000	\$256,432	\$197,700
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$343,771	\$339,058	\$348,533	\$351,191	\$369,765
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$7,584,599	\$7,827,414	\$8,002,407	\$8,140,501	\$8,636,755

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007	
REVENUES - DETAIL						
PROPERTY TAXES						
1	GENERAL TAX REVENUE	\$5,223,830	\$5,157,208	\$5,766,042	\$5,766,042	\$6,537,808
2	HIGHWAY TAX REVENUE	\$523,000	\$531,513	\$531,500	\$541,500	\$542,000
	TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES	\$5,746,830	\$5,688,721	\$6,297,542	\$6,307,542	\$7,079,808
LICENSES AND PERMITS						
3	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	\$3,800	\$4,020	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$4,000
4	BUILDING STRUCTURES	\$30,000	\$34,473	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
5	HUNTING AND FISHING	\$400	\$543	\$500	\$500	\$500
6	MARRIAGE LICENSES	\$900	\$1,588	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
7	ANIMAL LICENSES	\$6,000	\$7,776	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
8	GREEN MTN PASSPORT	\$50	\$74	\$100	\$100	\$100
9	DMV REGISTRATIONS	\$3,000	\$2,772	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
	TOTAL LICENSES AND PERMITS	\$44,150	\$51,246	\$44,900	\$44,900	\$45,100
INTERGOVERNMENTAL						
10	STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS	\$128,000	\$134,954	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$134,000
11	RAILROAD TAX	\$1,400	\$1,526	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
12	PILOT REVENUE	\$5,500	\$6,388	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,300
13	CURRENT USE / HOLD HARMLESS	\$9,000	\$11,483	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
14	STORM WATER GRANT	\$0	\$6,315	\$0	\$0	\$0
15	STATE HIGHWAY GRANTS	\$0	\$18,236	\$0	\$0	\$0
16	FEMA FLOOD GRANT	\$0	\$108,813	\$0	\$0	\$0
17	TLC GRANT	\$0	\$11,709	\$0	\$0	\$0
18	ACT60 REVENUE	\$7,090	\$7,264	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,250
19	ACT 68 REVENUE	\$0	\$17,148	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
	TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$150,990	\$323,836	\$171,700	\$171,700	\$176,050
CHARGES FOR SERVICES						
22	IBM PAYMENT FOR SVCS - GENERAL	\$760,319	\$760,319	\$668,446	\$668,446	\$576,574
23	IBM PAYMENT FOR SVCS - HIGHWAY	\$45,063	\$45,063	\$39,618	\$39,618	\$34,172
24	USE OF VAULT	\$5,000	\$4,036	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,500
25	RECORDING OF LEGAL DOCS	\$240,000	\$180,022	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
26	ZONING HEARING FEES	\$1,000	\$1,600	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
27	SUBDIVISION FILING FEES	\$4,000	\$11,621	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
28	ZONING ORDINANCE PAMPHS	\$250	\$673	\$250	\$250	\$500
29	C.O. REINSPECTIONS	\$3,500	\$2,641	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,000
30	SITE PLAN AMENDMENTS	\$500	\$1,025	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
31	PRINTING / DUPLICATION SVCES	\$14,000	\$13,325	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
32	SALE PUBLIC WORKS SPECS	\$600	\$1,352	\$600	\$600	\$1,000
33	SALE OF MAPS	\$500	\$692	\$600	\$600	\$700
34	SALE OF CERTIFIED COPY	\$5,500	\$6,270	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
35	SALE OF CHECKLISTS	\$30	\$52	\$50	\$50	\$50
37	SPECIAL POLICE SERVICES	\$75,000	\$88,375	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$95,000
38	HEALTH / INSPECTION FEES	\$2,000	\$2,320	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,300
39	ANIMAL CONTROL / SHELTER	\$1,000	\$1,230	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
40	SWIMMING POOL FEES	\$33,800	\$24,447	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
41	AUDITORIUM USE FEES	\$5,000	\$5,554	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$6,000
42	INDIAN BROOK FEES	\$28,000	\$25,715	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$25,000
43	PROGRAM REGISTRATION FEE	\$118,500	\$157,525	\$135,000	\$150,000	\$172,500
44	AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$21,000	\$25,198	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$22,000
	TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$1,364,562	\$1,359,055	\$1,246,264	\$1,261,264	\$1,198,796

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007
FINES					
50	\$42,000	\$40,163	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
51	\$35,000	\$38,932	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
TOTAL FINES	\$77,000	\$79,095	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$76,000
MISCELLANEOUS					
60	\$40,000	\$43,483	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
61	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$1,001
62	\$10,000	\$15,841	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
63	\$5,000	\$11,293	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
64	\$20,066	\$31,161	\$0	\$0	\$0
65	\$25,000	\$54,257	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$101,067	\$157,036	\$66,001	\$66,001	\$61,001
TOTAL REVENUES	\$7,484,599	\$7,658,989	\$7,902,407	\$7,927,407	\$8,636,755
FUND BALANCE INCREASE (DECREASE)	(\$100,000)	(\$168,425)	(\$100,000)	(\$213,094)	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$7,584,599	\$7,827,414	\$8,002,407	\$8,140,501	\$8,636,755

EXPENDITURES - DETAIL

SELECTBOARD					
100	\$5,000	\$5,414	\$5,414	\$5,414	\$5,414
101	\$13,000	\$402	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$30,000
102	\$4,300	\$5,152	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$4,400
103	\$11,000	\$8,599	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
104	\$13,855	\$14,572	\$14,483	\$14,483	\$15,180
105	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$50,000
TOTAL SELECT BOARD	\$47,155	\$34,139	\$51,697	\$71,697	\$115,994
TOWN MANAGER					
110	\$229,593	\$238,573	\$211,439	\$211,439	\$218,727
111	\$80,009	\$103,774	\$101,489	\$101,489	\$119,579
112	\$500	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
113	\$200	\$188	\$200	\$200	\$200
114	\$4,000	\$8,603	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$4,000
115	\$1,500	\$486	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
116	\$5,900	\$6,247	\$5,900	\$5,900	\$5,900
117	\$1,300	\$305	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
118	\$1,800	\$989	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$2,760
119	\$150	\$135	\$150	\$150	\$150
120	\$250	\$310	\$250	\$250	\$250
121	\$3,800	\$923	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$3,800
TOTAL TOWN MANAGER	\$329,002	\$360,533	\$333,828	\$337,828	\$368,166
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
131	\$5,000	\$6,089	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
132	\$510	\$25	\$500	\$500	\$500
133	\$500	\$0	\$475	\$475	\$475
134	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
135	\$3,240	\$3,235	\$3,275	\$3,275	\$3,280
TOTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$16,250	\$16,349	\$16,250	\$16,250	\$16,255

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007	
ELECTIONS						
141	VOTER REGISTRATION	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,500
142	ELECTIONS / TOWN MEETINGS	\$12,000	\$14,543	\$7,300	\$7,300	\$15,000
	TOTAL ELECTIONS	\$13,000	\$14,543	\$8,300	\$8,300	\$17,500
FINANCE						
150	SALARIES	\$75,013	\$77,947	\$77,633	\$77,633	\$80,734
151	BENEFITS	\$32,813	\$32,164	\$36,112	\$36,112	\$40,290
152	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,000	\$900	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
153	AUDIT	\$10,000	\$13,670	\$10,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
154	TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$2,000	\$1,460	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
155	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$20,000	\$6,289	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
156	INSURANCE	\$130,000	\$157,556	\$150,000	\$165,000	\$173,000
157	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,500	\$1,279	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
158	DATA PROCESSING	\$30,000	\$30,951	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
159	TRAVEL	\$500	\$31	\$500	\$500	\$500
160	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$350	\$492	\$350	\$350	\$350
161	MACHINERY	\$0	\$1,233	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL FINANCE	\$305,176	\$323,972	\$331,095	\$354,095	\$369,374
TAX COLLECTION						
165	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$1,500	\$1,061	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$1,900
166	POSTAGE	\$2,500	\$2,505	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
	TOTAL TAX COLLECTION	\$4,000	\$3,566	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$4,400
LEGAL SERVICES						
167	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$18,000	\$59,333	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
	TOTAL LEGAL SERVICES	\$18,000	\$59,333	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
TOWN CLERK						
170	SALARIES	\$106,001	\$109,394	\$110,828	\$110,828	\$119,231
171	BENEFITS	\$44,071	\$40,860	\$49,519	\$49,519	\$55,548
172	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$100	\$90	\$100	\$100	\$100
173	ADVERTISING	\$0	\$965	\$730	\$730	\$730
174	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$900	\$120	\$900	\$30	\$500
175	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$14,050	\$21,925	\$15,450	\$15,450	\$14,050
176	TRAVEL	\$450	\$29	\$450	\$450	\$300
177	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$12,000	\$8,251	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
	TOTAL TOWN CLERK	\$177,572	\$181,634	\$189,977	\$189,107	\$202,459
BUILDINGS AND PLANT						
180	WATER/SEWER	\$1,300	\$1,151	\$1,240	\$1,140	\$1,200
181	R & M SERVICES	\$20,500	\$18,659	\$20,500	\$20,500	\$20,500
182	R & M SUPPLIES	\$2,800	\$2,948	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,300
183	TELEPHONE	\$8,320	\$22,245	\$20,750	\$22,000	\$23,430
184	POSTAGE	\$17,000	\$20,861	\$17,000	\$19,000	\$22,000
185	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$4,730	\$6,705	\$4,840	\$5,500	\$5,500
186	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$24,000	\$32,662	\$24,800	\$28,000	\$30,000
187	ELECTRICITY	\$20,400	\$21,291	\$20,400	\$23,000	\$24,700

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007	
BUILDINGS (CONTINUED)						
188	HEATING	\$8,800	\$8,705	\$8,700	\$9,400	\$9,200
189	GASOLINE	\$60,000	\$94,194	\$74,300	\$115,000	\$117,000
190	MACHINERY	\$6,600	\$9,642	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,200
191	MEMORIAL HALL REPAIRS	\$4,000	\$1,608	\$5,500	\$11,800	\$5,500
TOTAL BUILDINGS & PLANT		\$178,450	\$240,671	\$209,530	\$266,840	\$270,530
REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL						
200	SALARIES	\$91,164	\$92,401	\$94,201	\$94,201	\$97,960
201	BENEFITS	\$50,408	\$49,722	\$55,857	\$55,857	\$62,830
202	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$1,790	\$135	\$1,790	\$1,790	\$1,810
203	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$600	\$134	\$600	\$600	\$600
204	ADVERTISING	\$100	\$87	\$100	\$100	\$100
205	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,125	\$1,097	\$1,125	\$1,125	\$1,130
206	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$500	\$9	\$250	\$250	\$250
207	TRAVEL	\$100	\$4	\$100	\$100	\$100
208	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$200	\$28	\$200	\$200	\$200
TOTAL R/E APPRAISAL		\$145,987	\$143,617	\$154,223	\$154,223	\$164,980
PUBLIC WORKS						
210	SALARIES	\$56,752	\$60,423	\$58,650	\$58,650	\$60,962
211	BENEFITS	\$22,249	\$23,172	\$24,386	\$24,386	\$27,082
212	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$100	\$252	\$100	\$100	\$100
213	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$1,700	\$1,332	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,500
214	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$800	\$619	\$800	\$800	\$800
215	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$2,100	\$2,199	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,400
216	TRAVEL	\$1,000	\$1,105	\$900	\$1,000	\$900
217	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$600	\$652	\$500	\$500	\$500
218	MACHINERY	\$2,600	\$2,813	\$5,300	\$6,813	\$3,000
219	FURNITURE & FIXTURES	\$150	\$210	\$350	\$350	\$350
220	OTHER OBJECTS	\$100	\$139	\$100	\$100	\$100
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS		\$88,151	\$92,916	\$95,086	\$96,699	\$97,694
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT						
230	SALARIES	\$181,181	\$179,545	\$186,181	\$175,000	\$186,222
231	BENEFITS	\$78,215	\$73,177	\$80,488	\$65,000	\$96,708
232	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$25,000	\$17,773	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$29,000
233	TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$500	\$88	\$500	\$500	\$500
234	R & M SERVICES	\$4,596	\$3,630	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
235	ADVERTISING	\$5,000	\$8,421	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,500
236	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$2,000	\$588	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,500
237	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$3,000	\$4,923	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$4,925
238	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$5,640	\$8,229	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$0
239	TRAVEL	\$2,000	\$3,906	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$3,200
240	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$1,000	\$1,615	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$2,500
241	MACHINERY	\$4,884	\$4,016	\$11,192	\$11,192	\$4,692
TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		\$313,016	\$305,911	\$324,861	\$298,192	\$343,747

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007	
POLICE						
250	SALARIES	\$1,711,000	\$1,709,833	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,871,419
251	BENEFITS	\$659,217	\$642,396	\$743,757	\$743,757	\$841,487
252	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$10,000	\$8,114	\$9,731	\$9,731	\$9,000
253	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$4,000	\$4,623	\$7,600	\$7,600	\$5,000
254	ADVERTISING	\$1,500	\$2,207	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
255	TELEPHONE	\$29,000	\$18,986	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000
256	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$3,500	\$5,217	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$4,000
257	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$1,500	\$2,076	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
258	RENTALS	\$1,750	\$2,010	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250
259	DATA PROCESSING	\$18,000	\$16,006	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$18,000
260	UNIFORMS	\$29,500	\$28,355	\$31,100	\$31,100	\$31,000
261	REGISTRATIONS, FEES & LIC	\$150	\$90	\$290	\$150	\$290
262	TRAVEL	\$8,000	\$6,700	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
263	CRIME PREVENTION	\$6,000	\$5,701	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
264	POLICE TRAINING	\$12,000	\$10,477	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
265	POLICE COMMUNICATIONS	\$17,000	\$20,362	\$18,950	\$18,194	\$18,950
266	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$1,500	\$2,432	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
267	R & M SUPPLIES - BLDGS	\$200	\$107	\$200	\$200	\$200
268	R & M SERVICES - BLDGS	\$5,000	\$4,959	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500
269	UTILITIES	\$4,500	\$4,883	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,850
270	BUILDING & IMPROVEMENT	\$500	\$1,283	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
271	R & M SUPPLIES-VEH & EQUIP	\$5,000	\$14,242	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
272	R & M SVCES - VEH & EQUIP	\$14,000	\$18,087	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000
273	RENT	\$29,222	\$29,304	\$30,106	\$33,600	\$35,140
274	BUYING & MAINT VEHICLES	\$62,000	\$58,960	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$61,500
	TOTAL POLICE	\$2,634,039	\$2,617,410	\$2,814,484	\$2,817,082	\$2,986,586
FIRE						
280	SALARIES	\$58,120	\$56,629	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$66,380
281	BENEFITS	\$4,446	\$4,311	\$4,819	\$4,819	\$5,078
282	PRINTING & BINDING	\$250	\$150	\$250	\$250	\$250
283	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$900	\$1,487	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,735
284	COMMUNICATIONS	\$3,200	\$3,047	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$3,300
285	TRAVEL	\$150	\$332	\$125	\$125	\$125
286	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$2,152	\$2,228	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,150
287	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$4,225	\$6,514	\$4,685	\$4,685	\$5,200
288	UNIFORMS	\$13,000	\$13,263	\$12,925	\$12,925	\$13,825
289	MACHINERY	\$7,825	\$8,225	\$7,625	\$7,625	\$8,125
290	FIRE PREVENTION	\$900	\$477	\$900	\$900	\$900
291	FIRE TRAINING	\$6,610	\$4,977	\$6,580	\$6,580	\$7,250
292	TRAINING / MEDICAL	\$1,600	\$480	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600
293	FIRE COMMUNICATIONS	\$14,000	\$14,022	\$12,750	\$12,750	\$13,725
294	R & M SERVICES	\$15,450	\$20,273	\$16,200	\$16,200	\$19,450
295	R & M SUPPLIES	\$900	\$999	\$500	\$500	\$500
296	R & M SERVICES - BUILDINGS	\$1,650	\$1,727	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$2,000
297	R & M SUPPLIES - BUILDINGS	\$690	\$613	\$850	\$850	\$850
298	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$505	\$743	\$500	\$500	\$600
299	WATER / GAS	\$8,550	\$7,390	\$8,550	\$8,550	\$8,000
300	BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$9,615	\$10,756	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,100
	TOTAL FIRE	\$154,738	\$158,643	\$154,609	\$154,609	\$163,143
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT						
310	SALARIES	\$21,103	\$21,032	\$21,632	\$21,632	\$22,403
311	BENEFITS	\$10,000	\$9,617	\$10,970	\$10,970	\$12,177
312	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$150	\$150
313	COMMUNICATIONS	\$300	\$267	\$300	\$300	\$300
314	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100
	TOTAL EMERGENCY MGMT	\$31,653	\$30,916	\$33,152	\$33,152	\$35,130

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007	
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS						
320	SALARIES	\$420,949	\$428,534	\$437,164	\$437,164	\$462,388
321	BENEFITS	\$194,482	\$205,963	\$231,650	\$231,650	\$262,621
322	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$3,500	\$2,651	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
323	R & M SVCES - VEHICLES	\$15,000	\$27,292	\$15,500	\$19,000	\$19,500
324	R & M SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	\$51,000	\$44,908	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000
325	R & M SVCES - BUILDINGS	\$5,500	\$7,078	\$6,980	\$7,000	\$7,300
326	R & M SUPPLIES - BUILDINGS	\$2,500	\$866	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,800
327	RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	\$450	\$146	\$400	\$400	\$300
328	COMMUNICATIONS	\$3,100	\$2,637	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,220
329	ADVERTISING	\$600	\$1,679	\$1,000	\$1,100	\$1,100
330	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$1,900	\$1,938	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900
331	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$15,000	\$10,724	\$16,000	\$7,000	\$6,600
332	TRAVEL	\$1,000	\$1,634	\$1,300	\$1,500	\$1,300
333	TAXES / LICENSES / REGISTNS	\$340	\$25	\$340	\$340	\$340
334	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$1,800	\$1,833	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800
335	UNIFORMS	\$9,500	\$10,936	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$11,300
336	OP SUPPLIES - BLDGS	\$4,200	\$6,355	\$5,000	\$6,200	\$6,200
337	OP SUPPLIES - VEHICLES	\$3,200	\$3,507	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$3,200
338	ELECTRICITY	\$11,000	\$8,756	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500
339	NATURAL GAS	\$9,600	\$8,402	\$8,600	\$10,000	\$9,670
340	MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	\$4,000	\$5,872	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
341	VEHICLES	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$115,000
342	FLOOD EXPENSE	\$0	\$108,813	\$0	\$0	\$0
343	SUMMER CONST - RENTALS	\$1,700	\$3,650	\$1,900	\$2,200	\$2,300
344	SUMMER CONST - PURCH SVCES	\$160,000	\$146,631	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$175,420
345	SUMMER CONST - SUPPLIES	\$54,000	\$45,156	\$53,430	\$54,000	\$61,925
346	TRAFFIC CNTRL - PURCH SVCES	\$7,100	\$13,776	\$7,100	\$9,000	\$9,350
347	TRAFFIC CNTRL - SUPPLIES	\$7,900	\$4,568	\$7,900	\$8,000	\$8,240
348	SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS	\$16,500	\$22,359	\$31,900	\$16,500	\$40,500
349	WINTER MAINT - PURCH SVCES	\$5,300	\$4,351	\$5,300	\$5,300	\$5,700
350	WINTER MAINT - SUPPLIES	\$148,000	\$177,253	\$155,000	\$160,000	\$165,000
351	BRIDGES AND VIADUCTS	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,500
352	STORM DRAINS - PURCH SVCES	\$22,250	\$22,885	\$21,600	\$25,000	\$22,800
353	STORM DRAINS - SUPPLIES	\$13,400	\$7,528	\$14,900	\$14,900	\$16,000
354	ELECTRICITY - STREET LIGHTS	\$98,000	\$96,190	\$99,000	\$98,000	\$98,000
TOTAL HIGHWAYS & STREET		\$1,408,771	\$1,549,896	\$1,475,664	\$1,468,954	\$1,594,274
STORMWATER						
360	SALARIES	\$27,793	\$32,341	\$28,940	\$28,940	\$35,858
361	BENEFITS	\$16,229	\$11,253	\$18,069	\$18,069	\$20,361
362	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$10,000	\$11,736	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
363	REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	\$27,000	\$31,152	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000
364	CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES	\$40,000	\$10,779	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
365	ADVERTISING	\$6,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
366	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$5,000	\$3,492	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
367	TAXES / LICENSES / REGISTNS	\$10,000	\$2,960	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$6,000
368	VEHICLES	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
369	STORMWATER ASSISTANCE GRANT	\$0	\$4,072	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL STORMWATER		\$142,022	\$107,785	\$155,009	\$153,009	\$165,219
SANITATION						
370	LANDFILL MONITORING	\$13,000	\$11,517	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
TOTAL SANITATION		\$13,000	\$11,517	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007	
HEALTH AND WELFARE						
PUBLIC HEALTH						
380	PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER	\$7,309	\$6,540	\$7,564	\$7,564	\$7,867
381	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$125	\$100	\$125	\$125	\$125
382	DOG CONTROL	\$18,912	\$18,911	\$19,858	\$19,858	\$20,553
383	ANIMAL CONTROL / SHELTER	\$1,225	\$936	\$1,225	\$1,225	\$1,300
WELFARE AND OTHER						
384	HUMAN SERVICE GRANTS	\$75,846	\$74,981	\$79,874	\$79,874	\$86,367
385	DONATION ESSEX RESCUE	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$5,200
386	CEMETERIES - PURCH SVCES	\$2,000	\$2,360	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,000
387	E.C. HISTORICAL MUSEUM	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
TOTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE						
		\$113,417	\$111,828	\$119,646	\$119,646	\$124,912
RECREATION						
390	SALARIES	\$133,313	\$137,156	\$137,902	\$137,902	\$154,021
391	BENEFITS	\$56,802	\$48,137	\$62,613	\$62,613	\$70,754
392	PROFESSIONAL SVCES	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$3,120	\$3,000	\$2,565
393	COMMUNICATIONS	\$150	\$341	\$220	\$360	\$360
394	ADVERTISING	\$200	\$1,560	\$200	\$400	\$450
RECREATION (CONTINUED)						
395	PRINTING AND BINDING	\$4,800	\$4,689	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800
396	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$700	\$1,585	\$1,645	\$1,800	\$1,660
397	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$70,000	\$85,777	\$70,000	\$85,000	\$70,000
398	TRAVEL	\$575	\$211	\$1,075	\$1,450	\$1,760
399	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$3,700	\$6,118	\$3,700	\$6,000	\$6,000
400	MACHINERY	\$200	\$259	\$300	\$300	\$300
401	YOUTH SOCCER	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
402	MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
403	HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION	\$600	\$489	\$600	\$600	\$600
404	FOOTBALL - ESSEX LEAGUE	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
405	LITTLE LEAGUE/SOFTBALL	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
406	LACROSSE	\$750	\$4,389	\$750	\$5,000	\$750
407	BABE RUTH LEAGUE	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
408	AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$16,500	\$17,866	\$16,500	\$18,000	\$18,000
409	TRANSFER FOR REC FACILITIES	\$0	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
TOTAL RECREATION						
		\$295,890	\$316,577	\$312,925	\$336,725	\$341,520
PARKS						
420	SALARIES	\$66,240	\$69,469	\$67,388	\$67,388	\$72,333
421	BENEFITS	\$23,711	\$23,153	\$26,057	\$26,057	\$29,296
422	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$3,600	\$4,575	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
423	R & M SUPPLIES	\$10,700	\$12,404	\$9,770	\$9,770	\$10,000
424	COMMUNICATIONS	\$425	\$349	\$400	\$385	\$425
425	ADVERTISING	\$50	\$298	\$100	\$200	\$200
426	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$250	\$223	\$400	\$400	\$600
427	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$11,056	\$8,467	\$10,376	\$10,376	\$11,290
428	TRAVEL	\$200	\$0	\$400	\$400	\$600
429	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$1,718	\$1,809	\$3,808	\$3,808	\$3,808
430	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$500	\$300	\$500	\$500	\$500
431	UNIFORMS	\$1,452	\$612	\$1,452	\$650	\$1,452
432	UTILITIES	\$3,400	\$2,768	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$4,000
433	MACHINERY	\$6,000	\$5,844	\$0	\$0	\$0
434	TRANSFER FOR VEHICLES	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
TOTAL PARKS						
		\$133,302	\$134,271	\$128,351	\$127,634	\$163,504

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007	
SWIMMING POOLS						
440	SALARIES	\$55,459	\$50,284	\$57,400	\$57,400	\$59,696
441	BENEFITS	\$4,242	\$3,542	\$4,391	\$4,391	\$4,567
442	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$700	\$394	\$700	\$700	\$700
443	R & M SUPPLIES	\$500	\$370	\$500	\$500	\$500
444	RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	\$150	\$211	\$225	\$225	\$225
445	COMMUNICATIONS	\$950	\$557	\$850	\$600	\$625
446	ADVERTISING	\$75	\$1,978	\$100	\$200	\$200
447	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$550	\$735	\$550	\$636	\$550
448	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$3,020	\$1,516	\$3,285	\$3,285	\$3,365
449	TRAVEL	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
450	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$3,620	\$1,991	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
451	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	\$1,150	\$100	\$1,150	\$1,150	\$1,150
452	UNIFORMS	\$700	\$86	\$700	\$700	\$700
453	ELECTRICITY	\$6,200	\$3,875	\$6,200	\$3,900	\$4,000
454	MACHINERY	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,203	\$0
	TOTAL POOLS	\$77,516	\$65,639	\$80,051	\$78,890	\$80,278
SENIOR CITIZEN BUS						
460	SALARIES	\$34,727	\$35,216	\$41,285	\$41,285	\$42,550
461	BENEFITS	\$2,657	\$2,694	\$3,158	\$3,158	\$3,255
462	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200
463	COMMUNICATIONS	\$525	\$559	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$560
464	ADVERTISING	\$50	\$1,110	\$125	\$125	\$125
465	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$150	\$198	\$150	\$150	\$150
466	VEHICLE	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
	TOTAL SENIOR BUS	\$42,109	\$44,277	\$58,518	\$58,518	\$48,840
LIBRARIES						
ESSEX FREE LIBRARY						
470	SALARIES	\$149,975	\$147,861	\$148,704	\$145,500	\$150,225
471	BENEFITS	\$58,815	\$58,605	\$44,900	\$72,678	\$89,647
472	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCES	\$13,175	\$10,865	\$17,412	\$15,000	\$15,328
473	DUES / SUBS / MEETINGS	\$865	\$818	\$860	\$790	\$790
474	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	\$1,952	\$4,198	\$3,972	\$1,920	\$1,920
475	TRAVEL	\$150	\$145	\$120	\$150	\$150
476	GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$5,955	\$5,258	\$6,000	\$5,050	\$5,550
477	ELECTRICITY	\$6,025	\$6,888	\$7,200	\$7,750	\$8,000
478	NATURAL GAS	\$1,760	\$1,948	\$2,000	\$2,190	\$2,375
479	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$31,500	\$29,479	\$32,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
480	IMPROV OTHER THAN BUILD	\$1,050	\$510	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$2,000
481	MACHINERY	\$2,690	\$2,587	\$750	\$500	\$1,900
482	SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$800	\$808	\$800	\$900	\$1,000
483	FREEMAN GRANT	\$0	\$11,029	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL ESSEX FREE LIBRARY	\$274,712	\$280,999	\$268,218	\$285,928	\$308,885
BROWNELL LIBRARY						
484	CONTRIBUTION	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$15,000
	TOTAL BROWNELL LIBRARY	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$15,000
	TOTAL LIBRARIES	\$289,712	\$295,999	\$298,218	\$315,928	\$323,885

PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL FOR FYE 6/30/2007

	BUDGET FYE2005	ACTUAL FYE2005	BUDGET FYE2006	ESTIMATED FYE 2006	PROPOSED FYE2007	
CONSERVATION						
485	TREE CARE	\$11,900	\$7,871	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$17,900
486	TRANSFER TO W/S - AGRICULTURE	\$0	\$0	\$400	\$0	\$0
TOTAL CONSERVATION		\$11,900	\$7,871	\$18,400	\$18,000	\$17,900
DEBT SERVICE						
PRINCIPAL						
490	LIBRARY / MEMORIAL HALL	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
491	INDIAN BROOK	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
492	7 TOWERS ROAD	\$10,900	\$10,900	\$0	\$0	\$0
494	FIRE TRUCK - WATER SUPPLY/HOSE	\$46,000	\$47,250	\$48,500	\$48,500	\$0
495	FIRE STATION	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
INTEREST						
496	LIBRARY / MEMORIAL HALL	\$11,973	\$11,973	\$9,619	\$9,619	\$5,617
497	INDIAN BROOK	\$9,189	\$9,210	\$6,564	\$6,564	\$3,939
498	7 TOWERS ROAD	\$436	\$286	\$0	\$0	\$0
499	INTEREST - SHORT-TERM	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
501	FIRE TRUCK - WATER SUPPLY/HOSE	\$3,780	\$2,854	\$1,940	\$1,940	\$0
502	FIRE STATION	\$10,690	\$10,720	\$9,080	\$9,080	\$7,470
503	TRANSFER TO CAP RESERVE FUND	\$41,532	\$45,350	\$54,797	\$58,229	\$58,174
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		\$257,000	\$258,543	\$253,000	\$256,432	\$197,700
INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPENSE						
510	COUNTY TAX	\$98,886	\$93,637	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$105,000
511	CCTA	\$179,857	\$179,857	\$185,253	\$187,911	\$193,019
512	WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DIST	\$46,000	\$46,000	\$48,100	\$48,100	\$49,900
513	C.C.R.P.C.	\$13,822	\$13,822	\$14,151	\$14,151	\$14,435
514	M.P.O.	\$5,206	\$5,742	\$6,029	\$6,029	\$7,411
TOTAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL		\$343,771	\$339,058	\$348,533	\$351,191	\$369,765
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$7,584,599	\$7,827,414	\$8,002,407	\$8,140,501	\$8,636,755

The firm of Kittell, Branagan and Sargent has been engaged to audit the financial statements of the Town of Essex for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. Copies of the audit report are on file at the Town office and can be obtained by calling (802) 878-1359.

CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT
Peter L. Jacob, Chair, CWD Board of Water Commissioners
Jim Fay, CWD General Manager

The Champlain Water District remains committed to fulfilling the recommendations of its Twenty Year Master Plan reported by Dufresne & Associates in September of 2002. This past fiscal year accomplishments from the Initial Five Year Capital Investment Plan are as follows:

- CWD coordinated construction of a twin 850,000-gallon water storage tank on Water Tower Hill funded by a served water systems' Interlocal Agreement.
- Initiated construction of reliability improvements to both primary and secondary electrical supply at the water treatment plant site.
- Initiated construction to replace the water treatment plant's aged dehumidification system, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.
- Completed final design to switch from free chlorine disinfection to a combined chloramine disinfection approach to further optimize public health protection.
- Began the Phase I upgrade to CWD's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that monitors and controls the water treatment and transmission of water throughout the Chittenden County Service area.
- Completed a federally mandated delineation update to CWD's Source Protection Plan that was approved by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.
- Continued research on water quality in Shelburne Bay to identify the location for a future drinking water intake location with Dr. Tom Manley of Middlebury College.
- Continued study and preliminary engineering to construct an emergency pressure relief system at the CWD Water Treatment Plant site.
- The American Water Works Association's Research Foundation (AWWARF) completed a study and report to enhance mixing within the largest water storage tank operated by CWD.
- Completed recoating of the interior of one of CWD's 500,000-gallon lake water storage tank at the treatment plant site.
- Managed projects for the South Burlington Water Department to augment local storage and improve distribution pipe looping.
- Initiated a pilot program of hosting New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) training at the CWD Facility site to study the feasibility of becoming the NEWWA Vermont Training Center in the future.
- A 30' x 50' Cold Storage Building was constructed at the plant site for inventory control and storage.

We thank our employees and elected officials for their effort and support in allowing CWD to be proactively managed and operated to supply a drinking water product protective of public health. As always, we welcome groups of any size to tour our facility. Please call 864-7454 to arrange a tour, or if you have questions, or need further information on the Champlain Water District.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Robert H. Penniman, Chair

The CCMPO serves as a cooperative regional forum for the development of transportation policies, plans and programs that address transportation issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. CCMPO plans, prioritizes, and coordinates the use of all federal transportation funds in Chittenden County.

CCMPO is a federally mandated agency to undertake transportation planning, but it is locally controlled. CCMPO is responsible to all citizens of the region to ensure the implementation of the best transportation plan for Chittenden County. The CCMPO Board is composed of appointed officials from each of the 18 county municipalities, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Vermont Transportation Authority (VTA) and air and rail representatives. These officials are accountable to their respective constituencies. The implementation of the transportation plan is primarily carried out by VTrans and the municipalities.

In January 2005 CCMPO adopted the 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the county. The Transportation Plan was based upon the Regional Plan that was adopted by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission in 2001. The transportation plan was developed based upon a forecast of over one billion dollars of federal funds to be spent within the county by the year 2025. More than half of these funds are to be used for maintaining our present transportation system.

CCMPO approved the Federal Fiscal Year TIP for 2006 through 2008 in July 2005. It is a prioritized multi-year list of transportation projects in Chittenden County. To receive federal funds, each transportation project, program or operation must be authorized through the TIP. During the period of this TIP, more than \$130 million in federal dollars are slated for transportation projects within the county during this time period.

CCMPO provides a wide variety of technical and planning service to its membership. Some samples of this include the following:

- Aerial Orthoimagery Program
- Infrastructure Management System
- Regional Public Transportation Initiative
- Route 15 Corridor Improvement Plan
- Implemented the Safe Routes to Schools Pilot Project
- Approved Regional Intelligent Transportation System Plan to improve traffic flow with technology
- Implemented Signal Optimization
- Started Sidewalk Program
- Undertook 12 scoping projects which is the first step to make a concept into a project.
- CCMPO made four TLC (Transportation for Livable Communities) Grants were made to municipalities.

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Penrose Jackson, Chair

Created by Chittenden County municipalities in 1966, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a 24-member board consisting of one delegate from each of Chittenden County's 19 municipalities and five at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, conservation/environment, industrial/business, socio-economic/housing and transportation. CCRPC provides planning leadership in both policy guidance and technical analysis. Member communities benefit from the expertise of staff through its professional and technical assistance services.

In 2005, several CCRPC projects benefited all member communities:

- Pre-disaster Mitigation Planning (required by Federal Emergency Management Agency)
- Homeland Security Planning and Exercise Projects
- An analysis of the state of agriculture in Chittenden County
- Start-up of a brownfields assessment program
- Preparation of the initial draft of the *2006 Chittenden County Regional Plan*

CCRPC also provided a wide variety of technical support to its member communities, especially the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services such as:

- Cartographic Services
- Data Development
- Regional Build-Out Analysis (provides an understanding of development potential)
- Decision Support System (DSS - used to examine the relationship between transportation and land use)

In addition, **Essex** also has benefited from the following special CCRPC projects:

- Participation on Circ-Williston Technical Advisory Committee
- Delivery of AssetGIS data and setup to the Town Public Works Department for asset management
- Mapping support for the Browns River Corridor Planning Project
- As part of a Metropolitan Planning Organization project, identification of marketable parcels adjacent to rail rights-of-way

CCRPC reviews municipal plans as part of the statutory requirement to confirm municipal planning processes. In addition, CCRPC regularly reviewed development applications governed by *Act 250* for compliance with the *2001 Chittenden County Regional Plan*.

Maintaining a balanced built and natural environment involves continued cooperation. CCRPC appreciates the opportunity to work with its member municipalities to plan appropriately for the region's future to protect the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County.

Chittenden County Transportation Authority
Chris Cole, General Manager

The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) is greater Burlington's full-service public transportation provider. The mission of CCTA is to provide efficient, safe, accessible, reliable, clean, and affordable transportation services to the residents and visitors of Chittenden County. Our services include local fixed-route bus service; park and ride, supermarket, and school shuttles; inter-regional commuter routes; county-wide ridesharing; transportation for Medicaid recipients; and contracted ADA Para transit service for those who are unable to ride the bus. In addition, CCTA leases the Town of Essex two vans to support their senior transportation program.

CCTA's annual operating and capital match expenses in Fiscal Year 2005 were \$7,131,159 (un-audited), up from \$6,491,689 in Fiscal Year 2004. This increase is largely due to expenses from the Link Express Commuter route, planning expenditures, and CCTA's management of other Vermont public transit organizations. Equal or greater revenues offset the expenses from these activities. CCTA is governed by a 10-member Board of Commissioners with two Commissioners representing each of the following communities: Burlington, Essex, Shelburne, South Burlington, and Winooski. Essex's CCTA Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2005 were Dan Maxon and Todd Odit.

Increased Ridership

CCTA is pleased to report that ridership increased by 5 percent in Fiscal Year 2005, which represents an additional 87,405 riders for a total ridership of 1,887,104. CCTA attributes much of the ridership increase to programs aimed at attracting new riders and enhancing services for current riders.

Improved Information and Amenities

CCTA undertook several projects to improve the flow of information to passengers and to make the use of our bus system easier and more enjoyable:

- Replaced all CCTA bus stop signs on all routes, which has given CCTA bus stops a more consistent and noticeable appearance throughout the area and has made it easier for riders to know where to catch the bus;
- Installed schedule holders at many stops throughout the system and at all bus shelters. The schedule holders contain a bus schedule and map, detailing what time the bus will arrive at the particular stop and where the bus will travel from there. Having this information at the stop increases riders' ability to use the bus system efficiently and confidently;
- CCTA continues to add to and enhance the quality of the bus shelters in Chittenden County. Bus shelters provide protection from inclement weather and allow riders to sit down while waiting for the bus, making for a more enjoyable experience. In Fiscal Year 2005, fourteen new shelters were constructed. All new bus shelters have a durable and attractive timber frame and metal roof and meet ADA accessibility requirements.

LINK Express Commuter Routes

In October, 2004, CCTA began operating a commuter bus between Burlington and Middlebury, the 2nd LINK route to provide commuter transit services outside Chittenden County, which reduces local congestion and improves air quality. Ridership on this service has grown steadily throughout Fiscal Year 2005, averaging about 40 boardings per day. CCTA's Montpelier LINK Express also continued to grow, recording more than 24,000 boardings for the year.

Route 15 Service Development

The CCTA Board of Commissioners has identified the Essex Junction Route (Route 1) from the Village of Essex to Burlington as having the greatest potential for increased ridership. CCTA is actively working to secure funding from the state to support increased service in the Route 15 corridor. In addition, CCTA continues to work to improve the existing Essex Junction Route in an effort to provide Essex residents, shoppers and workers with efficient, reliable transportation service.

Regional Transportation District

CCTA and the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization have established a task force to pursue the creation of a Regional Transportation District, which would be funded by a mix of local, state, and federal dollars. In Fiscal Year 2005, task force representatives visited area communities to present this regional transportation solution and collected feedback on various transportation options.

Contact CCTA for Route and Schedule Information

802-864-CCTA	(Phone)
info@cctaride.org	(E-mail)
www.cctaride.org	(Web)

CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Thomas Moreau, General Manager

ADMINISTRATION:

CSWD owns and oversees 12 solid waste or recycling facilities in Chittenden County for its 18 member municipalities. A Board of Commissioners, who sets policy and oversees financial matters, governs CSWD. One Commissioner is appointed by each member community. Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month, typically at the South Burlington City Hall. The audited FY '05 General Fund expenses were \$5,801,906 which is a 4.4% decrease from the FY '04 General Fund expenditures.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES/EVENTS:

Two significant solid waste reports, Emcon's Landfill Economic Model and R.W. Beck's Waste Acquisition study were completed.

- CSWD hired Shaw/Emcon Engineers to design and permit the proposed regional landfill.
- The revised Solid Waste Management Ordinance went into effect on January 18, 2005.

ONGOING OPERATIONS:

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OFFICERS include: Chairman William Leach of Westford; Vice Chair Bert Lindholm of Jericho, and Secretary/Treasurer Mike Coates of Williston. **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS** include: Leach, Coates, Ken Nolan of Milton, Paul Stabler of South Burlington, and Steve Goodkind of Burlington.

DROP-OFF CENTERS located in Burlington, Essex, South Burlington, Milton, Williston, Richmond, Colchester and Hinesburg are available to District members who prefer to self-haul their trash and recyclables. Drop-Off Centers collected 3,196 tons of recyclables, a decrease of 1.6% from FY '04, and 6,738 tons of household trash during FY '05, a 4.4% decrease from FY '04.

The **MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY** in Williston is owned by CSWD and is privately operated by Casella Waste Management, Inc. In FY '05, 32,706 tons of recyclables were collected, sorted, baled and shipped to markets. This represents a 10.5% increase from the previous year. The average sale price for materials was \$83.09, which is an 18.7% increase over last year's average.

The **WOOD & YARD WASTE** Program processed 7,251 tons of clean wood waste and brush in FY '05. This amount is up 9.4% from the previous year. Wood chips are sold to the McNeil Generating Station, where the chips are used to generate electricity. Chips are also sold for use in wood kilns and in creating a colored mulch product.

The **ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOT** and the **ROVER** are CSWD's hazardous waste collection facilities for residents and businesses. In FY '05, 8,085 households and 584 businesses participated in the program. 546,020 pounds of waste were collected and processed at these facilities. This included 32,170 pounds (3,217 gallons) of latex paint re-blended and sold as "Local Color", 11,000 pounds of waste given away through the "Hazbin" reuse program and 68,970 pounds (6,897 gallons) of latex paint processed for recycling in Canada.

CSWD brokered 14,568 wet tons of **BIOSOLIDS** for our member communities in FY '05, up slightly from the previous year.

CSWD's **MARKETING CAMPAIGN** included promotion of the Burlington Drop-Off Center, the expanded Electronics Recycling Program, the Rover household hazardous waste collection schedule, the Spring Move Out Project, the Waste Reduction Award, Green Up Day, school waste prevention, the Tire and Appliance Round Ups, Merry Mulch, Local Color recycled paint, Pedals for Progress, business recycling, the Creative ReUse Showcase, and the revised Solid Waste Management Ordinance.

A variety of **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** are available to assist residents, institutions, and businesses to reduce and properly manage their wastes. The **CSWD HOTLINE (872-8111)**, **WEBSITE:** (www.cswd.net), school programs, workshops, informational pamphlets, free recycling bins and signage, and waste assessments for businesses are part of this positive community outreach.

One hundred fifty-seven businesses and institutions representing over 2,700 employees, over 1,600 residents of residential complexes, and over 1,000 students, volunteers, and clients were impacted by the **BUSINESS OUTREACH PROGRAM**. One hundred thirty-two school presentations, equipment loans, and facility tours, reached over 4,600 students through the **SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM**.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT efforts, which have dual goals of reducing the amount of waste generated and landfilled along with making programs more convenient and cost-effective, focused in FY '05 on recycling performance; marina shrink wrap recycling; management of fats, oil, and grease; mixed construction and demolition debris recycling; organics diversion by large generators; electronics reuse and recycling; and ordinance revisions.

CSWD provides funding and staff time to support **GREEN UP DAY** efforts in Chittenden County. In May 2005, 61 tons of litter were collected, including 1,334 tires and 35 cubic yards of scrap metal. CSWD also contributed \$4,100 to Green Up Vermont on behalf of its member municipalities.

The fall and spring **TIRE AND APPLIANCE ROUND UPS** brought in 1,013 major appliances and 7,366 tires at no charge from 2,465 households.

The **COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND** helps members keep their communities clean and litter free throughout the year. In FY '05, over \$12,300 was distributed to fourteen of CSWD's member municipalities through this program.

WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT

Jennifer Ely, Executive Director

The Winooski Valley Park District's mission is to preserve natural areas that are a short walk or bike ride from where 220,000 people live and work. Our 17 parks offer 28 miles of trails, picnic and gardening spots, canoe and fishing access, and more than 12 miles of shoreline. Visit WVPD.org to learn more. Mark Berry is Essex's representative on our Board of Trustees. Highlights of the year follow:

HEALTHY AMERICAN CHESTNUT DISCOVERED

Imagine our surprise upon finding a healthy, mature American chestnut tree at one of our parks. Untouched by the fungal blight that claimed nearly all the chestnut trees that once covered 25% of the eastern forest, this "mother tree" may help seed a new generation of viable chestnut trees, thanks to our new partnership with the American Chestnut Foundation.

"NO HUNTING IN PARKS" TO BE DECIDED BY VT SUPREME COURT

In 2003 the Superior Court ruled that our parks do not have to allow hunting. This ruling was appealed, however. Fortunately, the firm of Roesler, Whittlesey, Meekins and Amidon has offered to defend us for free.

HANDS-ON FUN AND LEARNING AT THE PARKS

Fifteen day campers from Essex Parks & Recreation learned about orienteering at the Ethan Allen Homestead, and then returned another day to examine field and wetlands insects. During the school year, hundreds of students learned hands-on history lessons about Ethan Allen and his times.

PARKS USED AS OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS BY AREA TEACHERS

One of our goals is for local teachers to feel comfortable using the parks on their own with their classes. This year, teachers from five communities, including Essex, asked for our free Activity Guides for the park closest to their school. A summer geology camp from UVM led field trips for 20 kids at the Homestead. Several of the local Parks and Recreation Departments brought children to enjoy the parks this summer. We are seeing more children from after school programs at the parks too.

**TOWN OF ESSEX
2005 TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2005**

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS: Thomas James, Chair, Thomas Torti, Jeffrey B. Carr, Linda Myers and Alan Nye.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Patrick C. Scheidel, Town Manager; Todd Odit, Assistant Town Manager; Cheryl Moomey, Town Clerk; David Demag, Police Chief; Howard Rice, Fire Chief; Herbert A. Durfee, III, Community Development Director; Douglas Fisher, Finance Director; Dennis Lutz, Town Engineer/Public Works Director; Mark Berry, Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Ellis, Town Attorney.

MODERATOR: Steve McQueen

Mr. McQueen introduced himself at 7:30 p.m. He called attention to the State Representatives present: Martha Heath, Debbie Evans, Tim Jerman and Linda K. Myers and the Village Trustees present: Tim Jerman and John Lajza. He explained that one of the reasons why the representatives were there was to answer questions after the meeting was adjourned, so if anyone had questions for the elected representatives they could ask them at that time.

Next Mr. McQueen explained the rules governing the Essex Town Meeting. The public had no questions regarding the rules.

Mr. McQueen introduced Essex Selectboard Chair, Thomas James, who in turn introduced those people sitting at the head table.

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. McQueen called the 2005 Town of Essex Town Meeting to order. He led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

THOMAS JAMES MOVED AND PAULA DUKE SECONDED A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES BY REQUIRING A MAJORITY VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A PAPER BALLOT FOR THIS MEETING.

Alison River asked the reason behind suspending the rules. Mr. McQueen replied the reason was so that a majority could decide instead of just 7 individuals, whether to go through the process of going to a paper ballot. Normally 7 individuals would determine whether the body would go to a paper ballot and this Motion was requiring that a majority vote was needed to authorize a paper ballot just for this meeting.

THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

ARTICLE 1: SHALL THE REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS BE ACCEPTED?

DAVE KEENAN MOVED AND PAULA DUKE SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE I.

Bob Marcotte referred to the minutes of the 2004 Town Meeting and a comment he made regarding the Community Development Department Report that year. He had a concern with the Zoning and Subdivision amendments adopted the year before, specifically the regulation stating that the Town of Essex couldn't build any more than 88 houses in any one fiscal year. Prior to that it had always been an "average" of 88 homes per year. The new amendment technically meant that the Town can never go over the 88 units per year instead of using an average of 88 in one year. He's received opinion from several different attorneys, and Mr. Marcotte stated for the record that it should be changed to read an "average of 88 units per year."

Mr. Marcotte's second concern was that the Town had wasted \$100,000 going after the vote for a new Town Office Building. Last year during Town Meeting he suggested that the question on merger should go to both the Village and Town before any office was considered.

THE MOTION TO PASS ARTICLE I PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Article II: Shall the Town adopt a budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 as recommended by the Selectboard in the amount of \$7,987,407.

PAULA DUKE MOVED AND DIANNE CLEMENTS SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE II.

Joyce Stannard asked if there was any money in the budget to study merger between the Town and Village and if so, where she could find it. Mr. Scheidel replied that there was no money in the budget to study a merger.

Angie Chapple-Sokol, the Chair of the Brownell Library Board stated that the Brownell Library had a \$15,000 shortfall this year. This shortfall would affect children and adult programming. For the patrons of the Brownell Library, it is an excellent resource for books, Internet access, videos and story-time for adults and children, etc. Individuals and businesses in this community and surrounding communities believe that the Brownell Library is a precious and important community resource. It's an institution that enhances property values for individuals and businesses.

The Brownell Library Budget is about \$520,000 to which the town budget annually contributes \$15,000 which represents 81-cents per capita for all Essex residents. Every Essex Junction resident pays about \$38 through their Village contribution, plus 81-cents of Town contribution towards the Brownell Library annually. The Library Board is interested in seeing more money from Essex Town this year to give greater support to Brownell. They would like to further request that the Brownell Library be included in the Budget process of the Town on an annual basis. This year they would like to request that the Town increase its contribution to the Brownell Library from \$15,000 to \$30,000. A \$15,000 increase this year would mean a total contribution of \$1.61 per capita because the increase would be spread over 18,000 people, the total population of the Town and Village combined.

ANGIE CHAPPLE-SOKOL MOVED AND FRED NORTON SECONDED A MOTION TO INCREASE THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2005 TO JUNE 30, 2006 FROM \$7,987,407 TO \$8,002,407 WITH THE RECOMMENDATION TO THE SELECTBOARD TO INCREASE THE BROWNELL LIBRARY CONTRIBUTION FROM \$15,000 TO \$30,000.

Irene Turvey stated that although she was a resident of Essex Town, she frequented the Brownell Library. She felt the \$15,000 was a relatively small amount compared to the Town's large budget. She strongly encouraged residents to consider the increase stating that both Brownell

Library and Essex Free Library were incredible attributes to the Town and Village, and benefit the children tremendously as they contribute to an early love of books and learning.

Alison Wermer of Essex Junction stated her children used the Brownell library quite often and asked how the Town decided the allocation of funds for the Libraries. Mr. James replied that the Essex Free Library has a budget put together by the Director and Trustees. They do this on the basis of the Selectboard's and Town Manager's direction. This year the Board identified to all departments that they wanted to stay as close as possible to a level budget. They knew there would be a large increase due to salaries and benefits and wanted to offset that to some degree. They also knew they had nearly \$100,000 less to work with relative to the IBM agreement. He said the 2005 Budget for Essex Free Library was \$274,000 last year and for this year's proposed FYE 2006, it was listed at \$268,000. This was a drop of \$6,494. The drop was a result of the Library Trustees and Director taking it upon themselves to scrub their budget at which time they discovered the position of a young adult coordinator added to the Essex Free Library back in time wasn't being utilized like they anticipated, so on their own they removed the position. In response to Ms. Wermer's question, there is a whole process the Selectboard goes through and they look at each line item after the department heads and Town Manager have gone through it. After reviewing this budget, the Board found there was very little discretionary money and as a result, finding \$6,000 in that fashion was very much appreciated.

Ms. Wermer appreciated Mr. James explanation but wondered how the Town decided to contribute money between the two libraries since one seemed to be getting more money from the Town. Mr. James replied that the Essex Free Library was under the management and governance of the Selectboard and the Brownell Library was under the governance of the Trustees. The Town has for some time given \$15,000 and he wasn't quite sure where that amount came from. He further clarified that the Town Selectboard does not plan the budget for the Brownell Library and that the Selectboard in fact would like to see the two libraries together because together they could probably do a better job.

Phil Kolvoord spoke up in favor of the Brownell Library being a great asset to the community. He believed the community couldn't afford not to continue to support these assets and he believed the Brownell Library was one of the strongest Libraries in the community. He felt it would be great if the Selectboard had an opportunity to look at both Libraries and split them equally. However at the present time, \$15,000 to one and several hundred thousand to the other, simply didn't make sense, therefore he was in support of increasing the amount by \$15,000 and hoped that everyone would vote in favor of the amendment.

Dawn Hill-Fleury believed that the Village contribution to the Brownell Library was \$500,000. She clarified that if that were the case, the Village gives \$500,000 to Brownell and the Town gives \$268,000 to the Essex Free Library, yet the Village was asking for an additional \$15,000. She felt if people really wanted the Libraries to be equal, the Brownell Library would have to operate under the same budget as the Essex Free Library.

Bernard Lemieux asked how much the Village contributed. John Lajza, a Trustee of the Village stated that the last time he checked the entire Village as a whole contributes 42% of the budget of the Essex Free Library so that would mean the Village taxpayers contributed over \$100,000 of the \$268,000 budget for the Essex Free Library.

THE MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE II BY INCREASING IT BY \$15,000 PASSED BY A COUNTED VOTE WITH 70 IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT AND 63 OPPOSED.

STEVE MCQUEEN CLARIFIED THAT *ARTICLE II AS AMENDED NOW READS: SHALL THE TOWN ADOPT A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2005 TO JUNE 30,*

2006 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTBOARD AND AMENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,002,407.

Mr. Marcotte explained that this year was the first year in four years that Williston was contributing \$130,000 to the CCTA program. In the past few years Williston has paid nothing and the Town of Essex has been paying \$196,000 until a couple of years ago when it dropped to \$178,000. Since CCTA was getting an extra \$130,000 he believed Essex's share should decrease therefore he was recommending a decrease in the budget of \$100,000. His second reason for reducing the budget by \$100,000 was that in March of last year he strongly stated that any attempt of the Town to build a new building anywhere without getting consensus from the Village as to whether they wanted to merge or not was improper. Instead the Selectboard chose to spend \$100,000 on designing and choosing a site for the building, which got defeated in November.

BOB MARCOTTE MOVED AND BOB STANNARD SECONDED A MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE II AND REDUCE THE BUDGET BY \$100,000.

Mr. James replied that he couldn't see a logical way for Essex to get the money back from CCTA for the money Williston had not paid in the past. In reference to the \$100,000 that was approved in last year's Budget for a building effort, Mr. James noted it was inferred that \$100,000 was spent. He explained that only \$12,000 of the \$100,000 was spent in the efforts to locate and design a municipal building to put before the community for a vote.

Mr. Torti responded that the year Williston received the CCTA money it was through a State and Federal Grant for a Federal program. The Federal money went to the State and the State gave it to Williston and Williston gave it to CCTA to pay for the program. That grant program ended so Williston is facing losing the service or putting out money. They are choosing to put out the money in their Warning. It wouldn't be an additional \$100,000 going to CCTA, it would simply be claiming local money instead of using State and Federal Grant money.

Hans Mertens believed that Mr. Marcotte raised an important issue for everyone to think about. The community has a much greater opportunity to save money and in the spirit he believed Mr. Marcotte raised the resolution to reduce the budget by \$100,000, Mr. Mertens asked that everyone consider supporting him in a fashion. If the communities were one, he suspected they could reduce \$100,000 of savings and the fact that there is no incentive for the Selectboard or Trustees to save \$100,000 he suggested everyone support the amendment to send a message to the Selectboard and Trustees to in fact go find such savings and take whatever funds can be achieved through merger savings and put it into resources such as the Brownell Library. He believed that right now the Town and Village were very inefficient and there didn't seem to be any incentive to save money between the communities. He believed Mr. Marcotte was inferring not to spend money on \$100,000 studies for failed office buildings, but to spend it wisely. Last year, Mr. Marcotte encouraged the Selectboard to do that, but they had a different plan, which resulted in a defeat of the building. Perhaps if the \$100,000 were reduced from the budget, it would be the impetus to get the two governing boards together and take action.

Mr. James clarified that the Selectboard did not spend \$100,000 for the design of the building but in fact only spent \$12,000.

THE MOTION TO AMEND ARTICLE II BY REDUCING THE BUDGET BY \$100,000 FAILED BY VOICE VOTE.

STEVE MCQUEEN CLARIFIED THAT *ARTICLE II AS AMENDED READS: SHALL THE TOWN ADOPT A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2005 TO JUNE 30, 2006 AS*

RECOMMENDED BY THE SELECTBOARD AND AMENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,002,407.

Jason Heath asked the reason for the large increase in the Police Budget for 2005-2006. Mr. James replied that the biggest contributor to the increase was in salaries and benefits. There were a variety of other things, but generally speaking it was line items 250 and 251 in the budget on page 44. Mr. Heath asked if there were any additional people hired. Mr. James replied there were no additional people hired, but there were people on board that came from the COPS Program where over the last three years, 1/3 of their salary was paid by the Town, then 2/3's, and now 100% became local. That was reflected in the increase as well.

THE MOTION TO PASS ARTICLE II AS AMENDED PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

AT 8:20 P.M., CHARLES COLE MOVED AND CLINT RUSSELL SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING UNTIL 7:00 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY, MARCH 1, 2005. THE MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.

Respectfully submitted,

June M. Campbell

June M. Campbell
Recording Secretary

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2005.

(See minutes of this date for corrections, if any).

Thomas W. Torti, Clerk, Selectboard

(THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE NEXT SELECTBOARD MEETING)

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire (Outside Village)	911	878-4300 (Administrative)
(Inside Village)	911	878-3315 (Administrative)
Police	911	878-8331 (Administrative)
Ambulance	911	878-4859 (Administrative)

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY OF TOWN SERVICES

<u>For Information Regarding</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Number</u>
Bicycle Registration	Police Department	878-1333
Birth & Death Certificates	Town Clerk	879-0413
Building & Zoning Permits	Zoning Administrator	878-1343
Burning Permits	Police Department	878-1333
Chittenden Central School District	Superintendent	878-1370
Detectives	Police Department	879-4923
Dog Complaints	Police Department	878-1333
Elections (Town & General)	Town Clerk	879-0413
Essex Town School District	Superintendent	878-8168
Health Complaints	Community Development	878-1343
Library	Essex Free Library	879-0313
Licenses (Hunting, Fishing, Marriage, Dog)	Town Clerk	879-0413
Planning & Subdivisions	Community Development	878-1343
Public Works/Streets	Public Works	878-1344
Parks & Recreation	Parks & Recreation	878-1342
Recycling/Drop Off Center	Chittenden Solid Waste District	878-1342
Senior Center Bus	Senior Center	878-6940
Swimming	Parks & Recreation	878-1342
Tax Maps/Assessments	Assessor/Real Estate Appraisal	878-1345
Tax Collections	Finance	878-1359
Town of Essex	Town Manager	878-1341
Village of Essex Junction	Village Manager	878-6944
Voting Registration	Town Clerk	879-0413
Water/Sewer Services	Public Works	878-1344
E-Mail Address		Manager@essex.org
Web Site		www.essex.org

NOTES: