

*Town of
Highgate Vermont
2015 Annual Reports*



**TOWN OF HIGHGATE
TOWN REPORT DEDICATION
2015**

Stephen W. Bushey

The 2015 Town of Highgate Town Report is proudly dedicated to **Stephen W. Bushey**. Born in South Hampton, NY on November 22, 1959, Steve is the son of Bernard (Wayne) and Aleta (Cooper) Bushey. The Bushey family settled in Highgate in the early 1960's, and we are very fortunate that they did! Right from the start, Steve was very active within his school and greater community, participating in youth and high school sports including hockey, baseball and soccer at Missisquoi Valley Union High School where he graduated in 1977.

Following graduation, Steve joined the United States Air Force in March 1978. His Air Force career took him to many locations within the U.S. including Colorado, Arizona, Maine, Virginia and North Dakota. He also served outside of the U.S. at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. Chief Bushey received an Associates Degree in Aircraft Armament Systems Technology from the Community College of the Air Force in 1988. Then continuing his education, in 1996 he received a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from St. Leo's College. His military awards include four Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Force Commendation Medals and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Returning to Highgate in 1999, Steve and his family have made this their home ever since. He began his post military career with IBM, retiring in 2015. Steve's many successes in life are due, in large part, to his family and their unwavering support. He is married to Linda, who is from Perth-Andover, New Brunswick, Canada. They have one son, Brent, and a granddaughter, Rylee. Brent is also in the USAF, serving as a flight engineer on a UH-1N helicopter.

Steve's passion for his community has shown brightly on many levels. He has involved himself, as well as his family on many occasions, in several aspects of town government and volunteer efforts including; Selectboard, Planning Commission, Highgate Sports Arena Renovation & Fundraising Committees, Operation Happiness, Justice of the Peace, Solid Waste Management Committee, as well as being an avid supporter and volunteer at the Highgate Public Library. Steve has always been a solid contributor in all aspects within the Town of Highgate and the greater Franklin County region. Thank you, **Stephen W. Bushey**, for all you have done both personally and professionally for the Town of Highgate VT.

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Shelley Rainville Laroche, Town Treasurer	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Shelley Rainville Laroche, Delinquent Tax Collector	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Pat McGovern, Town Moderator	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
John Ferland, Town Agent	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Andrew King, Tree Warden	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
David Desorcie, Fire Warden	<i>Term expires June 2016</i>
Wendi Dusablon, Town Service Officer	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Vonnie Lamotte, Animal Control Officer	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Jeff Towle, Health Officer	<i>Term expires June 2018</i>
Ben Lowell, Deputy Health Officer	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Ben Lowell, Constable	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Ben Lowell, NWSWD Representative	<i>Term expires March 2017</i>
Heidi Britch-Valenta, Zoning Administrator	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>

SELECTBOARD

Jeff Towle, Chair	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Diana O’Hara, Member	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Christopher Yates, Vice-Chair	<i>Term expires March 2017</i>
Paulette Tatro, Member	<i>Term expires March 2017</i>
Randall Connelly, Member	<i>Term expires March 2018</i>

BOARD OF LISTERS

Aimee Reynolds, Lister	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Shirley Fecteau, Lister	<i>Term expires March 2017</i>
Peter St. Germain, Lister	<i>Term expires March 2018</i>

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Spears, Chair	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Charles T. Nye, Commissioner	<i>Term expires March 2017</i>
Philip Brosseau, Commissioner	<i>Term expires March 2018</i>
Keith Ploof, Commissioner	<i>Term expires March 2019</i>
Dennis Nolan, Commissioner	<i>Term expires March 2020</i>

NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (appointed)

Richard Noel, Member	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Shawn Neill, Member	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (appointed)

Julie Rice, **Member**

Term expires March 2016

Woodbury Rouse Jr, **Member**

Term expires March 2016

Tim Reynolds, **Vice-Chair**

Term expires March 2017

Richard Trombley, **Chair**

Term expires March 2017

Scott Martin, **Member**

Term expires March 2018

PLANNING COMMISSION (appointed)

Luc Dupuis, **Vice-Chair**

Term expires March 2016

Bruce Ryan, **Member**

Term expires March 2016

Woodbury Rouse Jr, **Chair**

Term expires March 2017

Larry Simmons, **Member**

Term expires March 2017

Barbara Chevalier, **Member**

Term expires March 2018

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Claude Chevalier, **Justice**

Term expires February 2017

John Ferland, **Justice**

Term expires February 2017

Clarence Miller, **Justice**

Term expires February 2017

Anne Harper, **Justice**

Term expires February 2017

Stephen Bushey, **Justice**

Term expires February 2017

Dennis Nolan, **Justice**

Term expires February 2017

Patricia Rainville, **Justice**

Term expires February 2017

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Lucie Fortin, **Treasurer**

Term expires March 2016

Meagan Gilmore, **Trustee**

Term expires March 2017

Virginia Holiman, **Trustee**

Term expires March 2018

Karen Fortin, **Chair**

Term expires March 2019

Becky Johnson, **Trustee**

Term expires March 2020

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

Clarence Miller, **Trustee**

Term expires March 2016

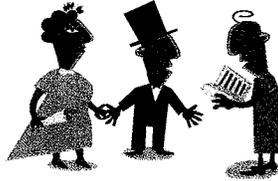
John Ferland, **Trustee**

Term expires March 2017

Evangeline LaRocque, **Trustee**

Term expires March 2018

Highgate Justices of the Peace



as of February 1, 2015

Claude Chevalier
PO Box 35
Highgate Center, VT 05459
868-4604

Anne Harper
PO Box 100
Highgate Springs, VT 05460
868-3351

Patricia Rainville
4582 Gore Rd.
Highgate Center, VT 05459
868-4703

Dennis Nolan
1264 St. Armand Rd.
Highgate Center, VT 05459
868-9974

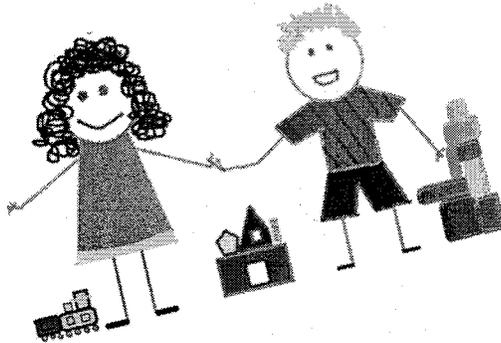
Stephen Bushey
103 Quarry Lane
Swanton, VT 05488
370-6132

John Ferland
3565 Gore Road
Highgate Center, VT 05459
868-7650

Clarence Miller
PO Box 84
Highgate Center, VT 05459
868-4192

FREE CHILD CARE
WILL BE AVAILABLE @ TOWN MEETING

March 1, 2016



Child care will be available in the Highgate Elementary School library, beginning at 9:45am. Please pick your child / children up for the lunch break, and you may bring them back if you plan to stay for the remainder of the meeting. Snacks & crafts will be available for the children.

Please contact the Town Office prior to Feb. 26
to register your child / children, so we can plan accordingly.

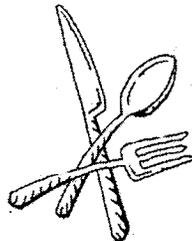
Thank you ☺ wdusablon@highgatevt.org (802) 868-4697 x1



Town Meeting Luncheon
March 1, 2016

Lunch will be available to purchase for \$ 7.00 per person and will be hosted by the
HIGHGATE PTKO Parent - Teacher - Kid Organization

Baked Ziti, Salad, Desert & Drink



Please stop by and have a great meal while supporting the Highgate PTKO!!! Thank you ☺

**TOWN OF HIGHGATE VT
APPROVED MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE
2016**

- **Selectboard** – meetings start @ 7pm
- **Development Review Board** – meetings start @ 6pm
- **Planning Commission** – meetings start @ 6pm

MONTH	APPLY BY DATE	SELECTBOARD	DRB	PLANNING
JAN. 2016	SLB – Dec. 31 & Jan. 15 DRB – Dec. 28 PC – Dec. 31	Jan. 7 & 21	Jan. 14	Jan. 19
FEB. 2016	SLB – Jan. 29 & Feb. 12 DRB – Jan. 25 PC – Jan. 29	Feb. 4 & 18	Feb. 11	Feb. 16
MAR. 2016	SLB – Feb. 26 & Mar. 11 DRB – Feb. 22 PC – Feb. 26	Mar. 3 & 17	Mar. 10	Mar. 15
APR. 2016	SLB – Apr. 1 & Apr. 15 DRB – Mar. 28 PC – Apr. 1	Apr. 7 & 21	Apr. 14	Apr. 19
MAY 2016	SLB – Apr. 29 & May 13 DRB – Apr. 25 PC – Apr. 29	May 5 & 19	May 12	May 17
JUNE 2016	SLB – May 27 & June 10 DRB – May 23 PC – June 3	June 2 & 16	June 9	June 21
JULY 2016	SLB – July 1 & July 15 DRB – June 27 PC – July 1	July 7 & 21	July 14	July 19
AUG. 2016	SLB – July 29 & Aug. 12 DRB – July 25 PC – July 29	Aug. 4 & 18	Aug. 11	Aug. 16
SEPT. 2016	SLB – Aug. 26 & Sept. 9 DRB – Aug. 22 PC – Sept. 2	Sept. 1 & 15	Sept. 8	Sept. 20
OCT. 2016	SLB – Sept. 30 & Oct. 14 DRB – Sept. 26 PC – Sept. 30	Oct. 6 & 20	Oct. 13	Oct. 18
NOV. 2016	SLB – Oct. 28 & Nov. 10 DRB – Oct. 24 PC – Oct. 28	Nov. 3 & 17	Nov. 10	Nov. 15
DEC. 2016	SLB – Nov. 23 & Dec. 9 DRB – Nov. 21 PC – Dec. 2	Dec. 1 & 15	Dec. 8	Dec. 20
JAN. 2017	SLB – Dec. 30 & Jan. 13 DRB – Dec. 23 PC – Dec. 30	Jan. 5 & 19	Jan. 12	Jan. 17

Phone: 802-868-4697

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www.highgatevt.org

Town of Highgate Municipal Offices – located @ 2996 VT Route 78, Highgate Center VT

TOWN OF HIGHGATE

Town Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2015

A. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Patrick McGovern, Town Moderator.

Highgate Selectboard Members: Jeff Towle - Chair; Andy King – Vice Chair; Luke Choiniere; Chris Yates; Diana O'Hara

Highgate Staff: Heidi Britch-Valenta, Town Administrator; Tom Racine, Town Treasurer; Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk; Patrick McGovern, Town Moderator

B. Moment of silence & Pledge of Allegiance

Pat McGovern asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

C. Town Meeting Guidelines

Pat stated the ground rules for the Annual Town Meeting:

- 1) Roberts Rules states two questions, per person, per article, unless the body decides to amend it. Pat also noted no more than 10 minutes for each one.
- 2) All questions or statements should be directed to the Town Moderator.
- 3) When you are recognized, please stand, state your name and wait for the cordless microphone.

D. Town Report Dedication Presentation

- Jeff Towle presented the 2014 Town of Highgate Town Report Dedication to Karen Gagne-Fortin. Karen is being recognized for her dedication to the Highgate Sports Arena and to the Town of Highgate. Karen is responsible for getting Jeff first involved several years ago. We appreciate all of Karen's efforts and all she does to make Highgate a better place.

E. Vermont House of Representatives

Chuck Pearce and Steve Beyor were both present. It was approved by the body for them to speak. Steve is a Highgate resident, Chuck is a resident of Richford. Chuck noted the very serious budget issues the state is having, there is a \$94.5 million dollar gap to fill. Governor Shumlin has made proposals on how to close the gap such as; * making cuts to the LIHEAP program, * closing some state libraries, * cut funding for VT interactive technology, * reducing working land funds, * cutting back on labor costs of state employees, * consolidating some of the public safety dispatch centers by closing Derby and Rutland and combining them with Rockingham and Williston, *cutting the Community High School of Vermont budget in half, and * payroll tax on businesses. There will be painful cuts and new taxes. The school consolidation bill H361 would eventually replace our current structure with fewer and larger school districts. There is still an awful lot to be debated and nothing is for certain.

Steve spoke on behalf of the Fish & Wildlife committee and also talked about the water quality bill. H35 is actually a very expensive proposition. Here in Franklin County it means a lot to us. H35 states we have to decrease the pollution going into the lake and we need to give reasonable assurances that it will be done, or they will. Here in Franklin County, at least 40% of the pollution in the lake is from farms. We have \$60 million from the federal government and that money is pointed at agriculture. Because of the mandates being put in by the EPA, municipalities, states and highway departments are going to be spending money. Everyone has had it up to their ears with taxes. H29 takes \$6 million out of the housing and conservation trust fund, Steve tried to get that into H35 as a funding mechanism, but it didn't go. There is a consideration to add ¼% to the rooms, meals and alcohol tax. This will be a tough year, Steve sees taxes and fees going up and he doesn't see any way around it. Zeb Maskell asked about the

common core and the implementation that is going on all over the country. Is that something the State of VT is also looking into? Chuck is not on the education committee, but he knows a lot of states have come up against it and are repealing it. Zeb also asked if it was true that Vermont is #1 in the country as far as education spending. Chuck believes that per pupil, we are second, but he will check on it. Henry Rainville asked if either Steve or Chuck have a position on taxes vs. fees. Steve doesn't see a difference, it comes out of your pocket either way. Steve is not in favor of either. Fees are more oriented towards the user and are supposed to pay for whatever they are set up for. Taxes are spread out over everything. Chuck, if given the choice, would go with fees. The people using the fees are the ones paying for it.

F. Review of Articles

Article #1 – To elect the following town officers:

These are all on Australian ballot and Pat McGovern read them aloud:

- 1) A Moderator for the ensuing year
- 2) One Selectboard Member for a term of three years
- 3) One Selectboard Member for a term of two years
- 4) One Lister for a term of three years
- 5) One Auditor for a term of three years
- 6) One Tax Collector for a term of one year
- 7) One Trustee of Trust Funds for a term of three years
- 8) One Library Trustee for a term of five years
- 9) One Town Agent for a term of one year
- 10) One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years
- 11) One Second Constable for a term of one year

There were no questions or comments. Article #1 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Article #2 – Shall the Town of Highgate authorize the Selectboard to appoint a First Constable, and if needed a Second Constable, in which case at least the First constable shall be appointed?

This is also on Australian ballot, and there were no questions or comments.

Article #2 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Article #3 – To receive and act on the reports of the town officers for the past year:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Henry Rainville.

There were no questions or comments. Article #3 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Recess Town Meeting and enter Town School District Meeting to transact the following business:

Motion by Scott Martin, seconded by Zeb Maskell

Article #1 – To elect from the legal voters of said town the following officers:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Heather Larivee

- 1) One Moderator for the ensuing year
- 2) One School Director for a term of one (1) year
- 3) One School Director for a term of two (2) years
- 4) One School Director for a term of three (3) years

Motion by Zeb Maskell to nominate Pat McGovern as School Moderator, motion seconded by David Roddy. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Motion by Joanne Campbell to nominate Chad Larivee for School Director one year term, motion seconded by Karen Fortin. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Motion by Zeb Maskell to nominate Richard Flint for School Director two year term, motion seconded by Scott Martin. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Motion by Liza Comiskey to nominate Nola Gilbert for School Director three year term, motion seconded by Karen Fortin. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Article #2 – To act upon the reports of the School Directors:

Motion by Scott Martin, seconded by Henry Rainville

There were no other questions or comments, by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Article #3 – Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District authorize the School Directors to borrow money to pay current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose?

Motion by Paulette Tatro, seconded by Georgette Roddy

There were no questions or comments, by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Article #4 – Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District approve the School Budget, in the amount of \$4,752,340 necessary for the fiscal year 2016?

Motion by Heather Larivee, seconded by Zeb Maskell

Connie Beyor had a power point presentation to share, and noted it had been a very difficult year to budget for a variety of reasons. The goal of the school board is to provide a high quality education at a reasonable cost to taxpayers.

Innovative Practice

- SWIFT (School Wide Integrated Framework for Transformation) – the goal is to make resources available to help all regular and special education students succeed
- Math Studio – an intense and highly effective professional development system where a team of educators use data and observation to provide direct feedback to an individual teacher
- Social Thinking – establishes common language that helps students and teachers communicate successfully
- Math Instruction – grades 3-6 each have a designated math teacher who provides all direct instruction

Centralization of Special Education Professional Staff & Benefits

As mandated by the state, all Special Education professional staff salaries and benefits have been transferred from all local schools to the FNWSU. Costs at the SU level are budgeted in the same manner as they are in the local Special Education budget line items, salaries and benefits are now reflected within the FNWSU assessments to schools. All other Special Education expenses remain at the local level for this year. Part of the strategy is to designate one person to cover the district with their skill set. In smaller schools, the special educator has to be a jack of all trades. The state has been moving for a number of years towards operation at the Supervisory Union level in an effort to spend more on learning resources and less on operations. Transportation is being moved to the Supervisory Union as well. Efficiency is the intent behind the legislation.

Declining Student Enrollment

- Vermont student population has decreased by 20% over the past decade
- Highgate Elementary School enrollment has decreased by 12 students since 2012
- School leaders considered declining enrollment in an effort to reduce cost while maintaining educational programming and meeting recommended state quality standards

Enrollment Trends

- FY2012 there were 307 students at Highgate Elementary
- FY2015 there are 295 students at Highgate Elementary. This does not take into account our pre-school and pre-K students, of which there are 44.

Total Current Staff

- Professionals Pre-K – 6 = 37.5 teachers, interventionists, student support leader, principal and assistant principal
- Support Pre-K – 6 = 7.26 office support, fiscal services, custodians and technology services

- Paraprofessionals Pre-K – 6 = 22.5 paraprofessionals

Adjustments made to create the budget

- 1 – professional staff salary and benefit reduction
- 1- support staff position reduction
- Paraprofessionals workday reduced by 30 minutes (saves approximately \$20,000.00)
- Anticipated health insurance premium increase of 4.5%
- Anticipated dental insurance premium decrease of 7%
- Reduction in computer equipment line item following FY15 investment
- Increase in professional development and staff training lines
- 30% decrease in energy costs over a three year period

FY2016 School District Budget proposed to taxpayers

\$4,752,340.00 – this is a 1.4% increase compared to FY2015, or \$65,602.00

Historical Budget Increases

FY2012 - 1.54%
 FY2013 +3.97%
 FY2014 +4.38%
 FY2015 +3.75%
 FY2016 +1.40%

Cost comparisons with similar schools

Highgate's ranking of school budget spending per equalized pupil is the 95th least expensive out of 105 Vermont school districts that are a member of a union or joint high school.

FY2015 School District Data (cited from Agency of Education)

SCHOOL DISTRICT	GRADES OFFERED	EQUALIZED PUPIL	ED SPENDING PER EQUALIZED PUPIL
BRISTOL	PK – 6	277.95	14,567.34
HIGHGATE	PK – 6	302.04	13,762.98
RANDOLPH	PK – 6	316.36	12,668.18

Projected Homestead Tax Rate – after CLA adjustment & with proposed special article

	2014-15	2015-16	INCREASE
HIGHGATE	0.0647	0.0654	7/10 of one cent 0.007

FY2016 projected rates are calculated using an estimated statewide base tax rate of \$1.00 and base spending amount of \$9,459.00 – actual tax rate billed may vary based on any action taken during the current legislative session.

Decreased Projected Education Spending

FY2015	FY2016	DIFFERENCE
\$4,156,669.00	\$4,061,553.00	Decrease of 2.3% (\$95,116.00)
	Estimated Statewide Ed Spending	Increase 4.2%

Capital Projects & Facility

- FY14 Natural Gas conversion and upgrade (continues to provide savings in energy costs)
- Successful completion of Drainage Project in FY15 – White Building (total project cost of \$69,951.00 – significantly under budget)
- Phone system upgrade in FY15 (complete with 911 compliance)
- Security and accessibility upgrades completed in FY15 (front door buzzer system, new doors and locks, additional parking spaces and curb work)

FY16 Special Article for Voter Consideration

Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District appropriate \$25,000.00 to the existing Capital Reserve Fund? The existing Capital Reserve Fund balance is approximately \$74,571.00.

What Affects the Tax Rate

- Budget – proposed by school board – decided by the tax payers
- Revenues – State and federal funds (\$761,870)
- Equalized Pupil – 2 year weighted average of students (304.83)
- Base Spending Amount – set by the legislature (\$9,459.00)
- Base Tax Rate – Set by legislature (\$1.00)
- CLA – set by listers and state (112.62%)
- Ratio of elementary to MVU students (elementary 52.27%, MVU 47.73%)

Zeb asked if we are an identified school. Yes, we are in literacy and math. Connie noted that every school in VT is an identified school as of the last NECAP testing. Every student had to be proficient and not one school made that grade, so every school is identified. A new test will be given in the spring, instead of October, and the new testing will be computer based. When you take the test, if you are successful, it will give you more challenging questions, as opposed to everyone getting the same questions. Paulette Tatro asked what percent of contribution professional staff and support staff contribute towards their health insurance premiums. Motion by Zeb Maskell to give Lora McAllister (Swanton resident / FNWSU employee) permission to address the question, as well as all staff present from FNWSU who are not Highgate residents. The motion was seconded by Heather Larivee, by voice vote – **PASSED**. Lora responded 18% for professional staff and 15% for support staff, and noted they are currently in negotiations with professional staff. Maurice Parah asked what does the 18% amount to per month? Connie is not sure, and it depends on what type of plan they have (single, two person or family). Maurice stated he is paying \$500.00 per month for insurance as a retiree. Lora looked into Mr. Parah's question and was able to find that the contribution for health insurance premiums for professional staff are; \$1,507 single, \$2,962 two person, and \$3,970 family. There was a show of hands of more than seven people to move to a paper vote on the proposed Highgate Elementary School budget FY16. Article #4 by paper ballot 84 YES / 28 NO (total number of votes = 112) – **PASSED**.

Article #5 – Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District appropriate \$25,000 to the existing Capital Reserve Fund?

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Jeff Towle

David Roddy noted that there is \$75,000.00 left in the account, and there are lots of projects that need to be done. There is no actual goal number. Zeb was looking for a shut off number for when the school would stop asking for money to add to this fund. Henry Rainville asked about policies on what the money would be used for. Connie answered that the funds are used only for capital projects, such as the parking lot which is an issue. The board does not have any projects planned for this coming year at this point. They do want to look at the windows. There were no other questions or comments on Article #5. Article #5 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Article #6 – To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered appropriate and necessary when met.

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Scott Martin

Zeb believes it is a mistake to cut the computer budget because a lot of kids don't have access at home and maybe can't get to the public library. Connie doesn't believe they are taking away, they are not replacing or buying as many new units. The school does have some older technology and we are making progress. Connie won't argue that it is important but Rome wasn't built in a day. Zeb added that he wanted to thank the Asst. Principal, Ms. Casavant, for her participation in the Duct Tape Derby a few weeks ago. The 5th graders did a great job on their bus, even though Ms. Casavant did get taken out. ☺ Article #6 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Connie noted that the VT School Board Association recognized David Roddy for 25 years of service on the Highgate School Board. It is very valuable work, and he does a great job. Connie also wanted to thank the following people / departments:

- The highway crew for all they do keeping our roads and parking lots clear and safe.
- The bus drivers for handling their incredible amount of responsibility so well.
- The Highgate School custodians for keeping the school looking great.
- Liza Comiskey for her time served on the school board and her great energy.

Motion by Pat McGovern to adjourn the school meeting and enter back into town meeting.

Article #4 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$920,961 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund, with an estimated \$328,686 to be raised by taxes?

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Paulette Tatro

We had an outside audit in 2014, the first one in many years. We are in a strong cash position in the operating account and in the capital account. Tom went through the General Fund pages of the town report, answering questions along the way. Tom noted that anything within the General Fund can be amended from the floor. Paulette Tatro had some questions regarding the debt payment of \$25,000.00 on page 33 for the arena. She feels the \$25K figure is not a good figure to use, now that we have other options for financing. Jeff Towle stated that his opinion would be to go with the Merchants Bank option to finance the project. Chris Yates would prefer to stay with the \$25K figure and if we choose to pay more we can, rather than put us in a bind if anything else gets changed today. Paulette pointed out that the longer we defer paying on the principal, the more it will cost us. Zeb added his opinion that the Town of Highgate is paying for Franklin and Swanton residents who are not part of the arena bond vote project. Franklin did put something on their ballot for today about donating, but Swanton did not. Zeb would like those who don't contribute to be charged more to use the facility. Zeb is all for the children, he always has been, and does not mind paying for our own residents. Jeff agreed, adding that the bond vote that passed in November for \$990,000.00 is a Highgate issue, and we are on the hook for it. We have reached out to other communities that are users of the arena. A different fee schedule for other towns might be in order, we will have to wait and see. Steve Bushey agreed with Chris, that if we have the ability this year to pay more than just interest due to fundraising or other sources, we should pay it down as much as possible, but it's unknown right now. Jeff noted that Sheldon and Enosburgh have also put this issue on their ballots for their residents to decide if they want to make an appropriation to the Highgate Arena. Tom added that the town will continue with a lease agreement with MAHA, it has been a great fit and worked out well for everyone. Henry Rainville asked about the electricity line item being taken out of the budget, as that will be included in the MAHA lease, and they will be paying the electricity directly. Jeff clarified that MAHA had previously been paying an annual lease of \$6,000.00. Since the passing of the bond vote, they will now be paying an annual lease of \$12,000.00 and also paying the electricity at the arena. Chris Yates proposed an amendment, changing the lease amount from \$36,000.00 (as indicated on page 28 of the town report) to \$12,000.00 and to remove the \$36,000.00 electricity line item from page 33. Motion by Zeb Maskell to accept the amendment, motion was seconded by Steve Bushey – by voice vote **PASSED**. This amendment will decrease the overall General Fund budget by \$24,000.00. The new General Fund budget number now on the floor for approval is \$896,961.00. Ty Choiniere asked about the Little League appropriation amount, which Chris clarified. Liza Comiskey asked about the Swanton Teen Center appropriation amount of \$6,000.00 and how many Highgate youth utilize the facility. Liza noted the amount is high compared to other appropriations. Chris Yates stated that the board will look into an appropriations policy going forward. Greg Farnham also brought up the LL appropriation of \$1,000.00, noting that their equipment is all old and need to be replaced. Greg spends a lot of his own

money on things, which he should not have to do. The conversation shifted back to the debt service for the arena bond vote. Motion by Paulette Tatro to amend the debt payment listed on page 33 from \$25,000.00 to \$87,115.66, and this motion was seconded by Henry Rainville. Paulette clarified that this new figure is \$66,000.00 for the first 15 years of principal payments and the interest payments that would be due on May 1st and November 1st in 2016. Zeb voiced concerns over where this extra money was coming from. Henry agrees with Paulette's reasons for amending this, which will save \$10,000.00 in interest payments, but also agrees with Zeb's point of view. Mary Roy would like to see the \$6,000.00 allocated to the Swanton Teen Center be put towards the arena. As she sees it, there are more Swanton teens coming to Highgate to utilize the arena then there are Highgate teens going to Swanton. The audience agreed with that comment, based on their applause. Chris noted that the difference we are dealing with in the General Fund budget is actually \$12,000.00, not \$24,000.00. We since have an open amendment on the floor to change the debt service amount to \$87,115.66. Paulette withdrew her amendment and by a voice vote all broke for lunch @ 12:05pm – by voice vote **PASSED**. Pat McGovern made a motion to enter back into Town Meeting after the lunch break @ 12:51pm – by voice vote **PASSED**. The motion on the floor is now to amend the General Fund Budget from \$896,961.00 to \$908,691.00 – motion by Heather Larivee, seconded by Henry Rainville – by voice vote **PASSED**. Before moving forward, Steve Bushey stepped forward and gave an overview of the arena project. Members of the committee working hard on this effort are; Steve Bushey, Paulette Tatro, Josh LaRocque, Brian Spears, Heidi Britch-Valenta, Don Gilbert, Ty Choiniere, Henry Rainville and Steve Roy (architect). With the bond vote passing in November, there was a 30 day period in which the vote could have been appealed, and that did not happen. The Selectboard formed a hiring committee for a construction manager, and through the RFP process we received seven outstanding proposals. Three companies were interviewed in January and DEW Construction Management was hired. We have the \$990,000.00 bond and the \$196,00.00 HUD grant to work with, and the HUD grant expires in Sept. 2015 if we don't use it. With the help of Senator McAllister, we also secured a state grant for \$25,000.00. Since 2006 we have done fundraising for the arena, and there is currently \$98,000.00 in that fund. We now need to select an ice system. The committee will be interviewing prospective companies on Monday night, March 9th, to decide what works for us and within our budget. Our current ice will be out by March 16th and that is when this project will really kick in. Our new ice will need to be in and functioning by October 2015 for the new ice season, without any delays. Once the boards and glass are out, we will hire a company to score the slab and cut it out in chunks, this will be done along with the help of the Highgate Highway Dept. We will need to continue to fundraise and welcome any ideas. We are currently involved in the Kraft Hockeyville USA 2015 Competition. Town Clerk, Wendi Dusablon, gave an update on that effort. This round of the competition ends on March 18th, and the top ten ice facilities in the nation will move on to the next round. Moving on to the next round guarantees the Highgate Sports Arena \$20,000.00 towards renovations, and potentially more, depending on how we do. We are currently doing very well in the nomination round and are right at the top with much larger facilities from Texas, Pennsylvania and Michigan. This is an easy way to help us raise money and it doesn't cost you anything, just a few moments of your time. If we move on, there will be a three day voting phase where you can vote by phone, text or online to keep us moving forward in the contest. Steve Bushey also touched on a number of the renovations already completed at the arena such as; indoor turf, sound system, upgraded furnace, changes within the locker rooms, dehumidification system, lobby and hallway flooring. Following the update from Steve Bushey, Pat McGovern went back to the General Fund budget numbers currently before everyone. Pat went back to Paulette Tatro who had withdrawn her earlier motion before lunch. Motion by Paulette to change the \$25,000.00 in debt payment to \$87,115.66, and the motion was seconded by Zeb Maskell. Zeb noted this will save us \$10,000.00 in interest, which is a lot of money, and will the difference be made up for in taxes – yes, it will, and Tom clarified that one cent on the tax rate equals \$38,000.00

– by voice vote it was inconclusive. By a show of hands, the YES's clearly had it – by a show of hands – **PASSED**. By amending the debt service payment, it is a difference of \$62,116.00 (rounded). The new number we are now looking at for the General Fund Budget is now \$970,807.00. Motion by Zeb Maskell to amend that the \$6,000.00 allocated for the Swanton Teen Center be instead applied towards the principal for the arena bond, motion was seconded by Eric Chevalier. Connie Beyor asked if there are any stats on how many Highgate kids use the teen center. Not all kids skate, so it is important to know. Chris Yates stated that they provide us with percentages of kids, not an actual number. Duane Tremblay added that if Swanton is unwilling to help us with the arena, why are we helping with the teen center? By voice vote, the amendment to take the \$6K from the Swanton Teen Center line item and apply it towards the arena payment – by voice vote **PASSED**. Greg Farnham made a motion to amend the line item for Highgate Little League from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00. The motion was seconded by Chris Uzell, by voice vote – **PASSED**. Pat McGovern now noted the amount we are looking at total for the General Fund Budget is now \$971,807.00. Henry Rainville asked some questions about energy costs at the municipal building and the cost associated with airing Selectboard meetings on Channel 16. We have our own site, where residents (or anyone) can view Selectboard meetings on our Vimeo channel at any time at this link; <https://vimeo.com/channels/highgate16>. It was also brought up by Rebecca Howrigan that there have been recurring problems with pipes freezing at the library, and if there was anything that could be done preventatively. Zeb agreed, and asked if repairs to pipes would need to go before the tax payers, or does the Selectboard have that authority. Connie Beyor added that those repairs could be combined with the sidewalk project on Lamkin Street. Pat McGovern ran through the numbers one more time and realized that after the lunch break the figure was miscalculated (\$908,691.00 should have been \$908,961.00) so the total figure we are now voting on for the General Fund Budget is **\$972,077.00**. The article now reads; **Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$972,077 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund, with an estimated \$379,802 to be raised by taxes?** Article #4 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Article #5 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$691,847 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Fund, with an estimated \$541,391 to be raised by taxes?

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by David Roddy

Zeb asked about machinery and equipment and if that is covered by the transfer station money. No, that money is used for the purchase of new vehicles. Steve Bushey asked if we have talked to paving contractors yet to lock in a price while fuel prices are down to get more bang for our buck. Steve Ploof will be looking in to that. Article #5 by voice vote – **PASSED**.

Article #6 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate authorize the elimination of the office of Town Auditor, with future audits to be performed by a certified public accountant, and all other auditor duties performed by others as directed by the Selectboard?

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Paulette Tatro

Zeb asked if there was savings here, or is this because we can't get auditors. There is no savings, it will cost more money. We are having trouble filling the positions. We currently have three positions, with vacancies. The work is becoming more complex and requiring more time. If we eliminate the elected auditors, by law we would need to have a yearly annual audit by a CPA firm. Maurice Parah asked if the auditors were full time, no they are not. Nancy Flint asked for the costs, which will be approximately \$12,000.00. Hopefully if we are audited annually we could contract for a longer period of time to get the costs down. Per statute, this requires a vote by paper ballot. 66 YES / 15 NO. Article #6 by paper ballot – **PASSED**.

Article #7 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate vote all municipal budgets and all public questions by Australian ballot?
Motion by Richard Flint, seconded by Zeb Maskell
Motion by Zeb Maskell to table article #7, motion was seconded by Richard Flint. Article #7 by voice vote – **TABLED.**

Article #8 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate set the final date of payment for the FY2016 property taxes to be Tuesday, October 27, 2015 with payments to be received in the town office by 5:00pm or postmarked by October 27, 2015?
Motion by Steve Bushey, seconded by Zeb Maskell
Rebecca Howrigan asked why taxes are due the 27th, which seems so random. Tom agreed, and said from an accounting standpoint we would choose the 1st or the 15th of the month, but traditionally here, it has always been the 27th he believes it was related to when farmers got their milk checks. Richard Noel confirmed this. Article #8 by voice vote – **PASSED.**

Article #9 – To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered proper and necessary when met.
Motion by Henry Rainville, seconded by Zeb Maskell
Henry asked the board in what manner they would like to receive comment on some sort of a fee scenario for the arena. Jeff's comment was to put together a recreational committee to look at fees and present it to them. Judy Vanslette asked over all, how much property taxes would go up this year. Tom answered that the projected rate of .2283 for the town based on the original budget numbers. With the changes, it will add .013 cents, so we are looking at .241 and last year was .223. Sue Cota wanted to publically thank the fire department and rescue squad. She supports them and they were there to help her when she needed them. Article #9 by voice vote – **PASSED.**

The winner of the library maple basket raffle was Nancy Flint.

Jeff Towle thanked two Selectboard members who were serving their final day today; Andy King and Luke "Farmer Luke" Choiniere. We hope they enjoy their time off before coming back to serve the town again in the future, hopefully! Jeff asked people to get involved in their community and make a difference.

Motion by Paulette Tatro to adjourn Town Meeting 2015 @ 1:50pm. The motion was seconded by Henry Rainville – by voice vote – **PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:

Jeff Towle, Selectboard Chair

Patrick McGovern, Town Moderator

2015 Town Meeting Election Results

We had 376 voters cast ballots in Highgate on 3/3/15, which is 19.7% of our checklist. There were no races on the ballot, and the results were as follows;

Board of Listers – Peter St. Germain	351 votes	
Cemetery Comm – Dennis Nolan	351 votes	
Delinquent Tax Collector – Tom Racine	334 votes	
Library Trustee – Becky Root Johnson	342 votes	
Selectboard 2 year term – Paulette Tatro	262 votes	(Josh LaRocque 58 write-ins)
Selectboard 3 year term – Randy Connelly	317 votes	
Town Agent – John Ferland	343 votes	
Town Moderator – Patrick McGovern	47 votes	(All were write-in votes)
Trustee of Trust Funds – Evangeline LaRocque	337 votes	

Australian ballot question: Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate authorize the Selectboard to appoint a First Constable, and if needed a Second Constable, in which case at least the First Constable shall be appointed ?

Yes – 276 No – 68 Blank – 32 Spoiled – 0

From the floor (town side of warning):

Article #3 – Voice Vote APPROVED

Article #4 – Voice Vote APPROVED as amended from the floor, amounts changed to appropriate \$972,077.00 to meet the expenses and liability of the General Fund with an estimated \$379,802.00 to be raised by taxes.

Article #5 – Voice Vote APPROVED

Article #6 – By Paper Ballot Yes – 66 No -15 APPROVED

Article #7 – TABLED

Article #8 – Voice Vote APPROVED

Article #9 – Voice Vote APPROVED

From the floor (school side of warning):

Article #1 – Moderator, Pat McGovern; School Director 1 year, Chad Larivee; School Director 2 year, Richard Flint; School Director 3 year, Nola Gilbert; Voice Vote APPROVED

Article #2 – Voice Vote APPROVED

Article #2 – Voice Vote APPROVED

Article #4 – By Paper Ballot Yes – 84 No – 28 APPROVED

Article #5 – Voice Vote APPROVED

Article #6 – Voice Vote APPROVED

2016 TOWN MEETING WARNING ~ HIGHGATE VERMONT

The legal voters of the Town of Highgate, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Highgate Elementary School in the Town of Highgate on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 between the hours of seven o'clock in the forenoon (7:00 A.M.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Articles of business:

ARTICLE #1: To elect the following town officers:

1. A Moderator for the ensuing year;
2. One Town Agent for the term of one (1) year;
3. One Delinquent Tax Collector for the term of one (1) year;
4. One Selectboard Member for the term of two (2) years;
5. One Selectboard Member for the term of three (3) years;
6. One Town Clerk for the term of three (3) years;
7. One Lister for the term of three (3) years;
8. One Town Treasurer for the term of three (3) years;
9. One Trustee of Trust Funds for the term of three (3) years;
10. One Library Trustee for the term of five (5) years;
11. One Cemetery Commissioner for the term of five (5) years;

The legally qualified voters of the Town of Highgate, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Highgate Elementary School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business:

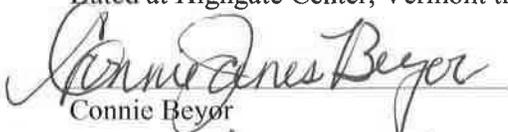
ARTICLE #2: To receive and act on the reports of the town officers for the past year.

2016 TOWN MEETING WARNING ~ HIGHGATE VERMONT

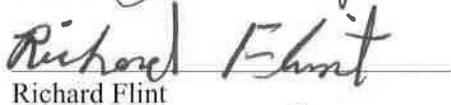
**RECESS TOWN MEETING AND ENTER TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
TO TRANSACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS:**

- ARTICLE #1: To elect from the legal voters of said Town the following officers:
1. One Moderator for the ensuing year;
 2. One School Director for the term of three (3) years;
 3. One school director for the term of two (2) years;
- ARTICLE #2: To act upon the reports of the School Directors.
- ARTICLE #3: Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District authorize the School Directors to borrow money to pay current expenditures in anticipation of taxes and to sign notes for that purpose?
- ARTICLE #4: Shall the voters of the Highgate Town School District approve the School Directors to expend **\$4,982,640**, which is the amount the School Directors have determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$12,643 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 5.1% LOWER than spending for the current year.
- ARTICLE #5: Will the voters of the Highgate School District appropriate **\$25,000** to the existing **Capital Reserve Fund** for the purpose of addressing future building and grounds improvements?
- ARTICLE #6: To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered appropriate and necessary when met.

Dated at Highgate Center, Vermont this 29th day of January, 2016.



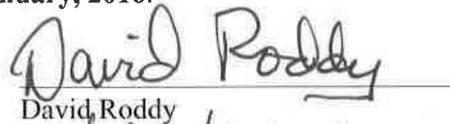
Connie Beyer



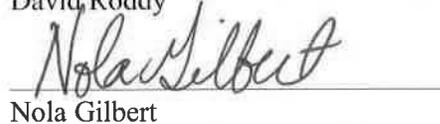
Richard Flint



Chad Larivee



David Roddy



Nola Gilbert

2016 TOWN MEETING WARNING ~ HIGHGATE VERMONT

ADJOURN THE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND REENTER THE TOWN MEETING

- ARTICLE #3:** Shall the voters designate the Town of Highgate as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District to enable participating property owners to access funding for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects and then pay back the cost as a regular municipal assessment on that property owner's property tax or other municipal bill as provided for by 24 V.S.A. Chapter 87 (Section 3261 et seq.) and authorize the Selectboard to enter into an agreement with Vermont Energy Investment Corporation d/b/a Efficiency Vermont to operate the PACE program, including the processing of all applications and regular billing?
- ARTICLE #4:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate authorize the Town of Highgate Selectboard to appoint a Collector of Delinquent Taxes pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651d?
- ARTICLE #5:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate **\$1,422,488** to meet the expenses and liabilities of the **General Fund**, with an estimated **\$854,638** (\$412,639 General Fund / \$441,999 Capital Improvement Plan) to be raised by taxes?
- ARTICLE #6:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate **\$722,089** to meet the expenses and liabilities of the **Highway Fund**, with an estimated **\$571,389** to be raised by taxes?
- ARTICLE #7:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate set the final date of payment for the FY2017 property taxes to be **Thursday, October 27, 2016** with payments to be received in the town office by 5:00pm and postmarks will no longer be accepted?
- ARTICLE #8:** To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered proper and necessary when met.

2016 TOWN MEETING WARNING ~ HIGHGATE VERMONT

Dated at Highgate Center this **29th day of January, 2016.**



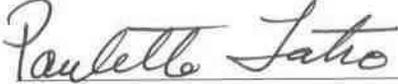
Attest: Wendi Dusablon, Clerk



Jeff Towle, Selectboard Chair



Christopher Yates, Selectboard Vice-Chair



Paulette Tatro, Selectboard Member



Randall Connelly, Selectboard Member



Diana O'Hara, Selectboard Member

Selectboard Report 2015

Major accomplishments this year were achieved in part as a result of the transition to a 5 member Selectboard. This change allowed for 'more hands for lighter work' and a more diverse set of skills and opinions among members which leads to a more thoughtful and thorough review of issues.

The Town has made many steps toward greater financial stability this year including developing a Capital Budget which has been a long term goal for the Town. The vision was to level out spending and create a more predictable tax rate by prioritizing and planning for capital expenditures. This process will be a distinct change from the way the town has planned for these expenses in the past but once the system is set in motion, it will be a more transparent way to plan for the future needs of all departments. Another important change is the development of a Finance Committee to assist in creating the budget, reviewing the audits, and creating policies to guide us on financial decisions. Read the Finance Committee's report for more info.

We have also been working on a few projects that will lead to an increased revenue stream for the Town. The cell tower has already begun to provide a steady income that will be used to offset taxes. Additionally, the Town was surprised by a land gift from Michael Jedware in lieu of back taxes in his bankruptcy settlement. The Town is working with the State to enter a limited liability program and to access Brownfields Funds for assessments and clean up. Our intent is to develop the property with a net metering solar farm to offset electrical costs for the Town. The Town has also been approached by 4 private solar developers and the projects, when realized, will lead to a dramatic increase in tax revenue as well as potential support for some municipal projects to 'make whole' the Town for any impact they create. See the Town Administrator's report for more details on this.

The Arena Renovation Project was a huge success with a project scope that expanded beyond our original goals, yet the overall cost came in well under budget. This was possible through the work and donations of a very caring community of residents and businesses. See the HART report for more details on the project.

Water quality remains a serious concern and we continue to work with the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain (FNLC) to look at projects that will reduce pollution into the bay. We have collaborated on two grant applications for projects to reduce stormwater runoff into the lake. If funded, the Town would supply equipment and labor as our match. See FNLC's report for more details.

The Town said goodbye to a few long serving, highly valued, staff in 2015. We wish former Treasurer, Tom Racine, good luck in his new life in Massachusetts. We were fortunate to have lifelong resident, Shelley Rainville-Laroche, come forward to fill his shoes. Shelley comes with the appropriate knowledge and experience to serve the town very well in this role.

The Town also wants to thank two highway crew members, Steve Ploof and Mike Bockus, for their many years of exemplary service in caring for the Town highways. A hiring committee found two very qualified and enthusiastic employees to replace them. Pat Loyer comes from a highway position in North Hero and Andrew King, Director of the department, comes to the Town with a leadership background and extensive knowledge of vehicles and technology. Together with long serving employee, Butch Brosseau, they make a great team. See the Public Work Department report for more details on their accomplishments.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Dick Souza who has served the Highgate Fire Department for 39 years, and most recently as Chief. Dick and his wife Merry, and their whole family, have given their time, energy and heart to the department and we thank them for their work. Welcome to new chief, Joe Depatie, who was elected in November. The Town is proposing to give a stipend to the Fire Department to offset their cost for attending trainings and fire events. You will notice this in the budget. We believe they deserve this support to make their efforts feasible.

Thank you for your support and interest in Town Government. We think 2016 is going to bring even better things to the Town of Highgate.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT for 2016

Highgate is a truly vibrant Town with a great deal going on. We have worked on multiple projects over the past year to enhance recreational opportunities, maintain and improve infrastructure and to generate income.

Our new cell tower is functional with just one carrier, T-Mobile, on it and the Town has started to see rental revenue. We are hopeful other carriers will follow to increase service to residents and to generate additional income. Residents are advised to contact their carrier to ask them to locate on the Highgate tower to improve service in dead spots. The more requests they get, the more likely it is to happen.

Highgate has proven to be a very attractive site for solar development because of our close proximity to the transmission lines. Recent tax incentives are driving rapid development and there are currently 4 applications in the works which will occupy more than 100 acres. This is a complex issue which holds potential for a dramatic increase in tax revenue but it also can present challenges that must be considered. The Town does not have the ability to review the projects at the local level but we are doing our best to provide the public with information. Comments on projects can be forwarded to the Selectboard and affected landowners can contact the Public Service Board directly at 828-5543 to share your concerns or support.

It has been a long standing goal for the town to utilize the second story of the municipal office. An ADA Planning Grant will pay for an assessment of the Town Offices to utilize the second story, reorganize for improved efficiency, and to potentially create a second meeting space for our busy committees. Once complete, this design will put us in a position to apply for funding for improvements at a later date.

Commuters can catch the Green Mountain Transportation Bus at the Municipal Park and Ride on Route 78 to St. Albans or Georgia Monday through Friday at 5:58am with a return to Highgate at 4:30pm. This service could be expanded if there is a demand for it. Schedules are available at their website www.gmtaride.org. The Town received a grant for bike racks from Rise VT and we hope to receive funding for a shelter for riders in the next round of Park and Ride Grants to make this a more practical and inviting space.

Following the ice storm of 2014, the Selectboard set a goal to establish our own committee on emergency shelters in the event the Red Cross cannot reach us in our time of need. Red Cross will work with us to train volunteers and provide materials but we need a committee to move the project forward. Anyone interested in participating should contact us.

Highgate's monumental first step toward improved walkability in our Village center will happen on the Gore Road in the spring. This will hopefully be the foundation of many improvements brought to fruition by the Sidewalk Committee in the upcoming years. See their report for further details on all pedestrian improvement work.

Heidi Britch-Valenta
Town Administrator 868-4697 x 203
hbvalenta@highgatevt.org

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

PERMIT UPDATE- Projects continued at a steady pace in the Zoning Department. 86 Zoning permits were issued this year which is an increase over the last few years. 12 of those permits were for new homes, 1 for a rebuild following a fire, and 6 were new or replacement mobile homes. This is more than double the amount of last year.

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN PLANNING A PROJECT-

Shipping containers- These storage units require a permit if they are larger than 50 square feet and they must be compliant with district setbacks.

Shoreline permit- If your property is on the water you will likely need to get a state shoreline permit from the state.

Stream buffers- Streams require setbacks which are determined by the size of the stream.

Demolition- Regulations require consideration of asbestos and lead prior to demolition, as well as the appropriate disposal of all materials in compliance with new solid waste regulations. Check in with the office to find out more before you start.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFO- The Zoning Bylaws, Permit Applications and fee schedule are available at the website Highgate.vt.org.

Our notices are published in the St. Albans Messenger and posted in the Town Clerk's office, at Desorcie's Market, the Post Office, Library, Martin's General Store and Irving Station. You can also view them at the website www.highgatevt.org or our face book page www.facebook.com/TownofHighgateVT.

HELP YOURSELF- Residents are invited to use the online GIS Mapping program that allows you to view your parcel map, aerial view, zoning district, parcel data, and tax bill at caigisonline.com.

Zoning Administrator, Heidi Britch-Valenta 868-4697 x 203 or hbvalenta@highgatevt.org

Town Clerk's Report ~ Year Ending Dec. 31, 2015

VITAL STATISTICS: The following certificates were added to our vault in 2015; Births **43**; Deaths **28**; Marriages **20**; Burial Permits **23**. Certified copies of births, deaths and marriages are available for \$10.00 each.

AT THE POLLS: 2015 was a quiet year at the polls, with just one day of elections and budget votes in March for Town Meeting Day. **376** people came out to vote on March 3, 2015. 2016 will be a very busy year at the polls with elections in March, August and November! Absentee voting is always an option, please contact me if you need to vote absentee during 2016.

RECORDING OF LAND RECORDS: Real estate recording picked up considerably in 2015 over the previous several years. For the calendar year 2015 a total of **1,140** documents were recorded in the land records for a total of **3,555** pages. We are currently in volume #176, with each volume holding approximately 1,000 pages. Our land records system is completely digitized as well as a hard copy of all documents being put into the books in the vault. The Xerox system we use continues to be a great investment and time saver. In 2016 I hope to get started on digitizing all of the recorded mylars (maps) that are on file. There are currently almost 800 of them, so this will be quite a project!

DOG LICENSING: This always proves to be a very time consuming piece of my job. For 2015 a total of **858** dogs were licensed in the Town of Highgate. 300+ of those were registered late, after April 1st. Late fees for 2016 have been raised, so please license your dogs on time. Thank you to Vonnie (ACO) and Ben (Constable) for their support in getting folks to license and vaccinate their dogs. It is not a popular job, but it's the law and it's important. The annual rabies clinic will be held at the Highgate Fire Station on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 10am – noon. This is the most cost efficient way to vaccinate your pets, and you can license them at the clinic also. Here are the licensing fees for 2016:

<i>On or before April 1, 2016</i>	<i>\$12 spay / neutered</i>	<i>\$16 not spay / not neutered</i>
<i>After April 1, 2016</i>	<i>\$20 spay / neutered</i>	<i>\$24 not spay / not neutered</i>

I invite you all to keep yourselves up to date with everything we have going on here in Highgate by visiting our website at www.highgatevt.org and our FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/TownofHighgateVT. Both are updated frequently with our latest news and announcements. Meeting notices and agendas are also posted at six various locations around town and in the St. Albans Messenger, in addition to the online resources mentioned above.

Thank you for the opportunity to work in the community and serve the residents of Highgate. My contact information is listed below, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk
868-4697 x 201 wusablon@highgatevt.org

Town Treasurer Report

As you may already know, Tom Racine served his last day to the Town on July 31st, 2015. I was appointed by the Selectboard in June as Town Treasurer. Tom and family are doing well in Ware, MA and he is currently working in the English Accounting Department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Prior to his departure, Tom completed the task of restructuring our chart of accounts. Integrating the Highgate Public Library and the Parks and Recreation Department into the NEMRC accounting software has also been completed. The new chart of accounts is broken out into greater detail than in past years, which you'll notice in the budget.

Accounting firm Sullivan and Powers was contracted again this year to conduct an external audit for the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. At this time the report has not been finalized. We will make the full audit report available on the town's website – www.highgatevt.org as soon as possible.

After several public hearings and working closely with Amanda Holland from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, the Selectboard recently adopted a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for our town. A spreadsheet (Table 5) of the CIP 5 year plan has been included in the town report for your review. The column "2017 Annual Payments to be Raised by Taxes" is the column we are focusing on this year. The entire CIP is available on the town's website and I highly encourage everyone to read it.

A Finance Committee was formed in October, 2015 and is made up of the Town Treasurer (Shelley Laroche), Town Administrator (Heidi Britch-Valenta), (1) Selectboard Member (Paulette Tatro), (1) Planning Commissioner (vacant), (1) Community Member (Ronald Nye). We have started out by getting the town's financial policies up to date and approved by the selectboard. We are very fortunate to have Ronald Nye on our committee as he is a former Elected Auditor of Highgate. He has brought much knowledge and previous policy writing notes to the table. Any community member is welcomed to be a part of the committee, or attend a meeting.

The delinquent tax payments have been coming in steady. I have several residents on automatic payment plans, which has proven to be a successful repayment method. My goal is to get everyone caught up and kept on track to avoid any unnecessary penalties and late fees. Everyone is welcomed to set up a payment plan to either pay off an existing or credit a future tax bill. This can be done at any time.

I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome I received as the new Town Treasurer. Although the transition had been challenging at times, I truly enjoy the job and I look forward to many years of serving the Town of Highgate as Treasurer.

Very Respectfully,

Shelley Laroche
Town Treasurer & Delinquent Tax Collector
slaroche@highgatevt.org ~ (802) 868-4697 x 204

Selectboard Finance Sub-committee

Following the March 2015 Town Meeting vote to eliminate the local auditor positions, the Treasurer and Selectboard have developed a finance committee to assist the Treasurer in creating and managing the annual budgets. The sub-committee held their first meeting on November 16th with four of the proposed five members present - Town Administrator (Heidi Britch-Valenta), Town Treasurer (Shelley Laroche), Selectboard member (Paulette Tatro), and community member (Ronald Nye). The Planning Commissioner position is awaiting appointment.

To date the Committee has worked on incorporating the Capital Budget into the annual budget and working on policies that will guide the use of public funds in the future. This is an important step forward in fiscal responsibility and the policies are intended to limit risk, ensure voter control of allocations, and create greater stability in annual expenditures.

The Finance sub-committee will also annually review the audit report and work with the Planning Commission, Selectboard, and town departments on the Capital Improvement Program and Budget. Meetings are noticed to the public and all are welcome to attend.

Board of Listers Report

2015 kept us very busy making sure that all properties were appraised fair to Vermont laws and standards. We saw an increase in total parcels for the town due to a very good year in property sales. Current Use was a big project this year with land withdrawals through the Easy Out option, new or adjusted applications, and working with Montpelier to bring everyone enrolled current for the year.

- **HOMESTEAD DECLARATIONS. PENALTIES WILL NOW BE CHARGED.**

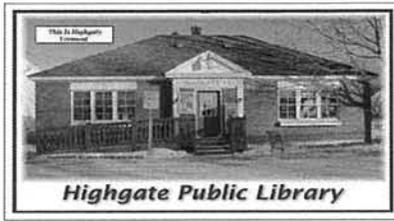
HS-122 forms must be filed *every year* by *all* Vermont residents who own and occupy a VT homestead on April 1st. All accountants should be aware of the form and can help with the process. Starting in 2016, a penalty will be applied to all tax bills where the resident has not filed their homestead declarations by April 15th. A considerable amount of people filed late this year and due to that the town takes on extra expenses for downloads from the state and preparing revised bills that need to be printed and mailed.

- **VETERANS EXEMPT** -Veterans who are 50% or more disabled can apply for a property tax exemption. This form needs to be filed every year even if you have been approved in previous years. The deadline is May 1st and you can obtain the form from the Office of Veterans Affairs. The website is www.veterans.vt.gov.
- **PROPERTY SALES** - There was a tremendous amount of properties that sold in the 2015 year. We saw a huge increase in the selling values, many sold for more than the town assessed values.
- **GIS MAPPING** - An excellent tool for property owners to view information about their homesteads. By typing in the property owner's name, address, or parcel number the property will be shown on the map. The property card and tax bills can also be viewed. The website is <http://www.caigisonline.com/highgatevt/>.
- **BUILDING PERMITS** - 85 building permits were filed in 2015. This is a great way for us to meet our town people and build relationships. Sometimes it is hard for the homeowner to meet us for inspections, due to work hours, so keep in mind that we don't require your presence for anything built outside of the home. New construction over 50 sq. ft. requires a building permit and if a permit is not obtained the fee will be doubled.

We look forward to working with everyone in 2016 and as always feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Our contact information is 868-4697 x8 or by email, sfecteau@highgatevt.org or areynolds@highgatevt.org. Our scheduled hours are Thursday and Friday 8:30 – 4:30 or by appointment.

Sincerely,

Shirley Fecteau, Peter St. Germain, & Aimee Reynolds



Highgate Public Library

P.O. Box 76

Highgate Center, Vermont 05459

(802) 868-3970

www.highgatelibrary.wordpress.com

Annual Report

The Highgate Public Library (HPL) has had a very busy year. The library has expanded the hours of operation. We are now open Monday through Wednesday 9:00-6:00, Thursday 2:00-6:00 and Saturday 9:00-noon.

As you read over this annual report, it is apparent that our library is a central town location for people to come together for community events, a diverse wealth of information sharing and family support activities. This is the new normal for libraries across the country and Highgate is no exception.

This year, we challenge every Highgate resident to utilize a service provided by the HPL that you have not previously participated. Below, is a long list of programs, services, information and educational opportunities from which you can select.

- In February, the library hosted Highgate's First Annual Duct Tape Derby with the help of the Highgate Fire Department. This event was well attended and provided an afternoon of free family fun, laughter and true Highgate community spirit.
- In April, we hosted our 5th Cailey's Closet, a prom dress re-cycle and swap event for Franklin County families. Over 200 dresses were available and 150 dresses were reused. In addition to the dresses, a community member donated a piece of Lia Sophia Jewelry for each dress and another offered free alteration services. Two other Franklin County libraries requested to participate with our library's prom dress recycle program.
- The HPL became a free summer meal site through Hunger Free Vermont. After receiving approval from the USDA, free lunches were provided two days each week for the first six weeks of summer. The HPL served 284 free meals to Highgate children under the age of 18.
- Throughout the summer 150 children participated in our summer reading programs, culminating into 1,317 visits from June to August.
- During the fall the HPL started offering monthly Healthy Alternative Workshops that were attended by adults looking for healthy life style changes.
- The 6th Annual HPL Polar Express event was enjoyed by 533 community members. The evenings was made possible, thanks to the love and dedication of the many volunteers, who gave countless hours to help make this year's three night, two weekend program a success.
 - The Polar Express Operation Happiness Food Drive contributed to the 43 food baskets given to Highgate families and to the Methodist Church food shelf.
- **Highgate Public Library Fit-Kidz and Families:**
 - During our 4th year of Girls on the Run, 26 girls in grades 3-6, signed up for the 11-week program. Girls on the Run inspires young girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Six dedicated, adult volunteers from the Highgate community who are trained mentors and coaches, donated 44 hours each of their time. The program ended at a statewide Girls on the Run
 -

Follow me and you will see, the library is fun for you and me! ~ Dr. Seuss

- 5K in Essex with 2,000 girls participating in early June. This program was partially funded through a grant from Ben & Jerry's.
 - Adult yoga was offered for two, four week sessions in the winter and summer.
 - During the fall, 23 boys and girls in grades 1-6, participated in the HPL's second season of cross country running.
 - **Snowshoes are available for residents at the HPL.** All you need is a library card. We have 6 adult sets and 9 youth sets. If you are not sure where to use them, check out the Highgate Recreation Path that surrounds the arena and elementary school.
- **Children's Literacy Summer Readers Grant**
 - Again, the library was awarded the Summer Readers Grant. In July, Vermont author Natalie Kinsey-Warnock visited the children of Highgate and told many exciting tales of growing up in the North East Kingdom. In addition to meeting Natalie, each child was given two books.
 - The Summer Literacy program was available to the Crossroads Program, Highgate Elementary Summer School, Camp Highgate, local daycares and residents of Highgate.
- **FGI County Building Brighter Futures (BBF)**
 - The HPL was approved for \$3,000 in program funding for early childhood education, community support and health issues. Children, ages birth to 8 years old and their families benefit from this program.
 - The HPL offers two sessions each week throughout the school year of story time for ages birth to 5 years old. During the summer, there is one story time for this age group on Wednesday at 10am. A school age library program, for ages 5-10, is available on Tuesday at 10am. Approximately 25 children attend these programs weekly.
 - The BBF program has also helped fund the Travelling Storyteller, Music and Movement with Ellie, Yoga Tots, PJ Story Times with Ms. Virginia, the Annual Born to Read event, Tractor Day, the Preschool & Daycare Book Express Program, Little Explorers and Skater Tots.
- **Partnerships in 2015:**
 - Hunter Education was offered by the HPL in partnership with VT Fish & Wildlife Department. This year 25 youth registered for this course.
 - The American Red Cross helped us bring a babysitting course that certified 9 local youth.
 - Six local youth received their boating safety certificates through The Vermont State Police Marine Division boating safety course held at the library in April.
 - RISEVT, a Northwest Medical Center program for people of all ages in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties to promote better health, certified the library as a RISEVT Silver Workplace in October. Now that the HPL is certified, the RISEVT program has provided the library with several mini-grants to help promote health and wellness within the community. This included additional snowshoes to add the current collection.

Follow me and you will see, the library is fun for you and me! ~ Dr. Seuss

- The HPL Annual Vegetable Soup Garden program was supported through a grant from NOFA Vermont and funding for several Dairy Story Times. The children learned about the importance of Highgate's agricultural history and farming in our community.
- Young Rembrandts, an art program for ages 6-12, used our space for six, four week sessions during 2015.
- FC Early Childhood Programs use the HPL for group activities and individual speech and language therapy throughout the year.
- Missisquoi Valley Union High School used the library for out of school tutoring sessions.
- Highgate Parks & Recreation, Highgate Little League and the Highgate Memorial Day Parade Committee have used the library for a meeting space.
- The library sponsored two, 2-week summer camps through Exordium, Inc. These were held at the HPL and focused on art and nature.
- NSCC, NFI and the Department for Children and Families use the library space as a community gathering point for local family activities and visits.

Other HPL Services:

- Book deliveries are available to homebound residents of Highgate.
- E-book circulation is continuing to pick up in popularity. If you have an e-reader and would like access to the HPL's E-book collection, stop in and see us and we will set you up to search titles on our database.
- *HeritageQuest* is an invaluable online genealogy database that you can access at the library or from home. Records include census data, family records, local histories, and more.
- Thanks to a very generous donation from several community members over the past year, the library has a large selection of Audio Books and DVD movies to check out with your library card.
- With your library card you can check out a pass from the HPL for discounted or free access to Echo, Shelburne Museum, Shelburne Farms, Vermont State Parks, Vermont Historic Sites, Birds of Vermont Museum and the Vermont Historical Museum.
- Over 500 FREE online, self-paced, continuing education courses through Universal Class and the Vermont Department of Libraries is available to you! All you need is your library card and access to a computer with internet connection. If you don't have access, stop at the library and we will get you connected
- The library has computers, fax machine and an internet access that you can use at any time.
- **Highgate Happenings- News & Events** is a monthly e-newsletter sponsored by the HPS that keeps Highgate residents in the know about all the great things happening in our community. Included are news and events from: HE School, MAHA, HPL, Parks & Recreation, Fire Department, Town Office and local Churches. E-mail lcomiskey@highgatevt.org if you would like to be added to this monthly newsletter or have something to share.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to thank all those who have helped make our community and library shine bright. If you have not been in for a visit, please do make it a priority this year.

Sincerely,

Liza L. Comiskey, Librarian

Follow me and you will see, the library is fun for you and me! ~ Dr. Seuss



Did you know that library circulation and program attendance is down statewide....NOT in Highgate! Our numbers are steadily growing. Proof that our little library is doing BIG things for our community!

Year	Total Library Visits	Total Circulation	# Programs Offered	Program Attendance Count	Computer Users	# of Homebound Residents, Preschool & Daycare Deliveries
2015	8885	10738	198	5753	2366	364
2014	8574	10104	184	5738	2256	365
2013	7373	9454	198	4393	2020	277
2012	7380	8355	116	2807	2081	200
2011	7777	5830	137	3062	2862	207
2010	6272	5300	96	3416	2299	50
2009	7014	4802	103	2869	2379	43
2008	5803	3909	124	2858	2321	55
2007	5211	3796	107	2729	1827	72
2006	4005	3170	124	2685	1985	19
2005	3743	3276		3445	1262	44
2004	3232	3238		1982	942	47

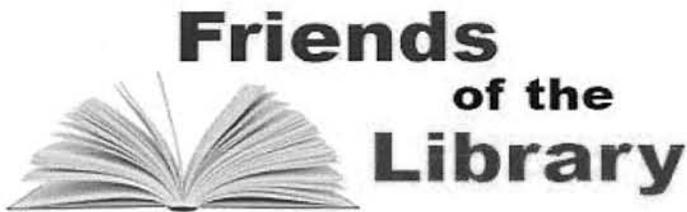


Follow me and you will see, the library is fun for you and me! ~ Dr. Seuss



Follow me and you will see, the library is fun for you and me! ~ Dr. Seuss

Highgate Public Library



Become a Friend in 2016!



Friends of the Highgate Public Library is a nonprofit 501 (C) 3 advocacy organization. Our goal is a simple one. We want to support our local public library by helping to foster, encourage, sponsor, and promote the Library through contributions (for activities and items not covered in the annual operating budget) and program enrichment.

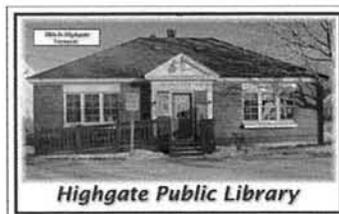


How do we raise funds?

- Annual Book Sale & Perennial Swap
- Flower Power Spring Fundraiser
- Highgate Family Ski & Ride Days at Jay Peak
- Biannual High 5 Campaign



In 2015 we provided the library with \$2,862 for programming events and equipment/supply acquisitions.



For more information on Friends of the Highgate Library, please contact

Michelle Beaulieu at swantonlibrarymichelle@gmail.com

HIGHGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Highgate Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the taxpayers, Town of Highgate Officers and the Selectboard for their continued support. We are a fully volunteer department and are proud to have provided 53 years of dedicated service.

In 2015 we responded to 101 calls, the breakdown is as follows:

6 structure fires; 11 brush fires; 20 carbon monoxide and alarm activations; 19 motor vehicle accidents; 13 medical assists; 6 mutual aid; 2 false alarms; 3 vehicle fires; 7 illegal burns; 14 good intent.

This past year we acquired a new utility truck which replaced the aging van and brush truck. With the addition of this new apparatus, it will enable us to tow the marine boat, respond more efficiently and economically to medical assist calls, brush fires and car fires. With the assistance of the Selectboard and Tim Stetson, we drafted and adopted new bylaws in 2015 to better assist with the objectives, structure and administration of the department.

The responsibilities of the fire department require continuous training of its personnel to assure the best possible chance when critical incidents occur. Members continue to complete in-house training as well as courses offered by the Franklin Lamoille Fire School and other local training resources, including training with other local fire departments.

For the safety of our firefighters, and to comply with the required fire and safety standards, we continue to be required to replace some of our gear and equipment. We strive to keep spending to a minimum.

We also take pride in staying active within the community. Examples are the Memorial Day BBQ, parade and auction, Duct Tape Derby participation, Santa Day and Sliding Party. The HVFD continues to lead the Franklin County Field Days fire coverage and we appreciate the support we get from surrounding fire departments as well.

Our meetings are held on Monday evenings at the fire station. We are always looking for new members! If you are interested, please stop by the station and fill out an application.

Officers for 2016:

Fire Chief – Joe Depatie	868-5093
Asst. Chief – Gary Greenough	310-2721
Captain – Tammy Rouse	868-2641
Lieutenant – Chris Uzell	309-5793
Lieutenant – John Gale	782-3658

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the HVFD, the fire auxiliary and their families for their dedicated efforts in serving the citizens of Highgate. I would also like to thank the Selectboard, fire department members and the community for their support during my terms as chief. I wish continued success to the department and new officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Souza, Chief



Public Works Department Report

Highgate Public Works endeavors to provide essential services to our citizens in a prompt, courteous, safe, efficient, and cost-effective manner. Public Works, through its dedicated employees, strives to plan, design, build, maintain, and operate public infrastructure in a manner that respects the environment and the ability of government to adequately preserve these assets for succeeding generations. Our mission is to provide and maintain the public services necessary for the continued growth and improvement of the quality of life for the citizens of Highgate.

In 2015, the Town of Highgate negotiated the purchase of two new trucks to replace aging equipment in the fleet. This achieved a dramatic net savings, allowing both trucks to be paid in full with existing reserve funds by utilizing favorable trade-in values due to market conditions, considering vehicles already in stock and ready for delivery, and altering our vehicle inventory by purchasing a single axle dump truck. This not only created financial gain, but increased our efficiency in maintaining roadways with the availability of more maneuverable equipment. Our adjustment is proving to decrease wear and tear as well as provide more appropriate equipment for specific road maintenance tasks.

This year has presented several projects that were addressed within our infrastructure. One such project followed a dramatic rain storm, when a large culvert failed on the Morey Road. With assistance from several state agencies, a study was conducted and an appropriate solution was designed. With funding largely attained from those sources, the culvert was restored with a long term replacement configuration sure to serve the needs of the road for many years to come. Another project moving toward completion is the construction and upgrade of our Highgate Park and Ride; which in conjunction with the state's project of renewing Route 78, has provided a welcome boost to the overall functionality and aesthetic appeal entering our village center. These are but a few examples of the tasks presented to the Public Works Department throughout this year.

Implementation of usage-based fleet management software has brought our attention to equipment to a level not yet seen in our town. The software tracks all town vehicles, including Fire Apparatus, with details in fuel usage, service procedures, maintenance requirements and schedules, and overall vehicle operation, providing necessary information to ensure longevity and value for the taxpayers of Highgate.

Town officials continue to work with state agencies maximizing opportunities with training, funding, and efficiency upgrades, while ensuring compliance with ever changing requirements. The challenges of an aging culvert inventory, erosion concerns, road inventory/classification audits, accessibility, and safety requirements are all potentially mitigated by remaining closely associated with other state and federal agencies. There is unceasing drive to access and obtain grants through programs such as Better Back Roads, Vtrans Bike and Ped Program, and AOT Class 2 Highway Upgrades to name a few.

Highgate town officials and Public Works employees wish to extend our deep gratitude to the residents of Highgate for your continued support in making our community a safe, enjoyable place to live, work, and experience.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD 2015

The Development Review Board (DRB) hears all Development Applications. This year development has been steady and continues at a brisk pace this winter. The DRB reviews appeals of decisions of the Administrative Officer, Variances and Conditional Use Permits and all land use review functions, which are typically site plan and subdivision review. This past year the Board reviewed 5 Conditional Use permits, 4 Boundary line adjustments, 2 Site Plan amendments, 2 Two lot subdivisions, 1 Waiver of Setback and 1 Variance. Efficiency has been realized since the conversion to a DRB and the newly adopted bylaws have created clearer guidelines for applicants. This clarity reduces the likelihood of confusion or frustration during the review process which supports the Board's mission of balancing the rights of landowners to develop their property to the fullest extent possible without compromising usefulness or value of neighboring properties.

The Board meets the 2nd Thursday each month. Current Board Members are Woody Rouse, Jr., Tim Reynolds, Julie Rice, Scott Martin and Rick Trombley. Thank you to the members for their dedication and important work on the board.

Richard Trombley, Chair

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT 2015

The Highgate Planning Commission now fully focuses on the current and future planning needs of the Town. This includes the Municipal plan, Capital Budget, economic and social development, historic and scenic preservation, telecom, septic and natural resource planning.

Over the past year the Commission has worked many long hours and completed a re-write of the By-laws. That being completed, a great deal of time was spent on the Capital Budget. Work is ongoing on planning the Sidewalk Projects and we are learning the review process for Public Service Board applications as there are currently 4 solar projects proposed in Highgate.

Thank you to the dedicated members of the Board - Rick Trombley, Woody Rouse, Jr., Luc Dupuis, Bruce Ryan and Larry Simmons.

For personal reasons, I was advised to cut back on some of my activities. Effective the end of 2015, I have resigned from Board. It was a great experience and I am very appreciative of the advice and support of the Board.

Richard Trombley, Chair

Highgate Cemetery Commissioners Report – 2015

We, the Highgate Cemetery Commissioners, continue to maintain all the cemeteries in the Town of Highgate. In 2015 we were also able to remove a tree and replace the fencing along the front at the Sherwood Cemetery on Gore Road.

Thank you to the Highgate taxpayers for their support as we continue to upgrade our cemeteries.

Respectfully submitted,

The Highgate Cemetery Commissioners

Kevin Spears, Charles Nye, Dennis Nolan, Keith Ploof, Philip Brosseau

Town of Highgate Vital Records ~ 2015

Births: 43

(16 Male / 27 Female)

Deaths: 28

Marriages: 20

Burial Permits: 23

 **TOWN OF HIGHGATE, VT
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER^(s)
CONTACT INFORMATION** 

Effective March 20, 2015

VONNIE LAMOTTE, ACO

868-4585_{home} 782-3974_{cell}

If you are unable to reach the ACO, please contact:

KRISTY BROW, 1st ALTERNATE ACO

868-0433_{home} 782-6293_{cell}

Highgate Historical Society Report for 2015

Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month during the months of May through October, beginning at 7pm. The museum is open the first and third Sundays of the month from 10am – 2pm during the months of May through October. For more information, please contact Dennis Nolan (President) at 868-9974 or Charles Nye (Curator) at 868-4619.

Many thanks to all who helped with our annual May lawn sale and our September bake sale. Also, we had some great donations this past year of Highgate memorabilia to add to our collection.

Our annual Christmas Dinner was held on December 2nd at The Abbey with 46 attendees.

In June 2016 we will travel to Tunbridge Vermont for the History Expo. This year's theme will be H2O.

Sincerely,
Dennis Nolan & Charles T. Nye



HART (Highgate Arena Renovation Team)

Arena project update

The goal to update the Highgate Arena has been achieved. This investment will result in a more efficient, comfortable and attractive arena for the next generation. Numerous volunteers came forward to meet weekly to keep the project on track. The project scope extended beyond the original goals to some much needed improvements including the upgrade of the well, new doors, new metal walls, new interior walls and concrete in the Zamboni room, and the cleaning and painting of the metal purlins. Despite the added work, the project still finished below budget!

What a team! Thank you to DEW, Weimann Lamphere Architects and Custom Ice for doing a stellar job and a HUGE thank you to the volunteers that made this such a successful effort.

Construction Committee- Steve Bushey, Ty Choiniere, Don Gilbert, Josh Larocque, Ryan Maskell, Brian Spears, Paulette Tatro, Chris Yates.

Fundraising Committee- Steve Bushey, Luc and Caitlyn Choquette, Wendi Dusablon, Karen Fortin, Kim Gates and Paulette Tatro

Grants from VT Dept of Buildings and General Services for \$25,000, the HUD grant for \$196,000, a Rise VT Grant for \$3,700 for a water cooler installation, and \$20,000 KRAFT Hockeyville Competition winnings.

In-kind donations from Ben and Jerrys Inc., Champlain Door, Chevalier Well Drilling, Triple P Painting, Ryan Maskell Construction, Kilbury Construction, Leduc Construction, Missisquoi Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA), O.C. McCuin & Sons, SBA Communications, St. Albans Messenger, Sticks and Stuff, Sherwin Williams, and Vermont Mechanical were a huge help.

Major cash donations from the Abbey Group, Ben and Jerry's Foundation, Bond Auto Parts, Cargill Feed, Casella Waste Systems, Richard and Phyliss Cassidy, Andy and Betty Finelli, Franklin Telephone, Franklin Town, Hugh and Cynthia Gates, Harrison Concrete, Jolley Stores, Mullen Insurance Agency, Northern Valley Eye Care, MVP Health Care, Northwestern Medical Center, Richard and Maggie Noel, Paws for Thought Veterinarian, VT Precision Tool, Raven Enterprises, Rock Tenn Company, Sheldon Town, Tyler Place and R. L. Vallee made the budget work.

The Selectboard would like to thank all of those that contributed to the project with special thanks to Kim Gates for the determination to keep the project alive till we agreed on a plan and to Steve Bushey for diligently managing the construction project. Lastly, the project would not have been possible without the support of the Highgate tax payers.

Congratulations on a job well done!

HELP OUR COMMUNITY BECOME THE NEXT
KRAFT HOCKEYVILLE™ USA!

LEARN MORE AT KRAFTHOCKEYVILLE.COM



HIGHGATE SPORTS ARENA IS BACK IN THE KRAFT HOCKEYVILLE COMPETITION FOR 2016 !!!

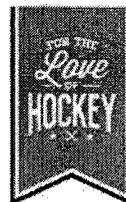


- THE NOMINATION PHASE IS JANUARY 1, 2016 THROUGH MARCH 11, 2016
- PLEASE LOG ON TO WWW.KRAFTHOCKEYVILLE.COM
- SELECT "NOMINATE MY RINK" THE FIRST TIME YOU LOG IN IT WILL ASK YOU TO QUICKLY REGISTER
- SEARCH FOR HIGHGATE SPORTS ARENA
- WRITE UP YOUR STORY, STATEMENT, MEMORIES, WHATEVER YOU WOULD LIKE, SHOWING WHY HIGHGATE SPORTS ARENA DESERVES TO BE THE NEXT HOCKEYVILLE! GIVE IT A TITLE, AND SUBMIT PHOTOS (OPTIONAL)
- CLICK ON SUBMIT MY NOMINATION

**YOU CAN SUBMIT UP TO
3 NOMINATIONS PER EMAIL ADDRESS
If you have multiple email addresses,
please use them all 3 times!**

We were a **TOP 10 HOCKEY COMMUNITY IN 2015**, let's do it again and raise more \$\$\$ for future renovations and improvements at our arena ☺

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



TO: The Residents of Highgate
FROM: The Highgate Sidewalk Committee
DATE: January 2016
RE: Sidewalk Projects Update



The Sidewalk Committee is happy to report that Highgate will get its first crosswalk in the spring. The Selectboard has approved a location on the Gore Road just north of the intersection with Route 78. This spot will maximize the work already done to create a walking path around the school and arena by linking walkers to the store and properties on the east side of the road.

Additionally, plans are being finalized by Vtrans and construction will begin in the spring on the link of sidewalk starting at the Municipal Offices and extending down Lamkin Street to St. Louis Church. By establishing this link on the south side of Route 78, we will be in a good position to get a crosswalk on Route 78 to link up with the path on the north side. These two crossing spots will be a huge boon to pedestrian traffic in the Village and into the Falls.

The Route 78 Study is nearing completion. This information will put us in place to apply for funding for recommended improvements such as pedestrian crosswalks with mid-street islands at both ends of the Village. These crosswalk islands will not only provide shelter to walkers while attempting to navigate two very busy lanes of traffic, but they also give very clear clues to drivers to slow down and respect the village limits. We believe this will make a dramatic difference in the feel and function of the Village area.

Landowners have questioned the impact of sidewalks on their property. The answer is a win-win situation because the Town does not appraise the value of sidewalks so there is no increase in property tax, however, studies indicate that properties with sidewalks are very marketable and hold greater value at sale time.

These improvements are all slow moving because they take a great deal of research and planning but if we continue to push forward we will make progress in a decade that will serve the community long into the future.

The Sidewalk Committee is a diverse group of residents and business owners representing the Selectboard, School Board, Planning Commission, Development Review Board, Library, Lister's Office, business owners, residents from the affected area and residents from outside of the Village District. Everyone is invited to participate in the planning. We look forward to hearing from you. havalenta@highgatevt.org or 868-4697 x 203

The Sidewalk Committee

Connie Beyor, Heidi Britch-Valenta, Barbara Chevalier, Liza Comiskey, Shirley Fecteau, Joey Russo, Rick Trombley, Jeff Towle, Shawn Neill

TOWN OF HIGHGATE
FY 2015-2016 DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT	TOTAL
DAVID & LYNDA	ALLEN	MONUMENT ROAD	\$ 1,658.51	
JOSEPH & PENNY	BARNEY	MACHIA ROAD	\$ 1,695.85	
DEBORAH	BENNETT	PINE HAVE DRIVE	\$ 742.23	
LEONA	BENSON	ROUTE 78	\$ 587.76	
JOSHUA & JAMIE	BERARD	ILA LANE	\$ 2,242.00	
TIMOTHY & RENA	BLUTO	TARTE ROAD	\$ 321.48	
LIONEL & CAITLIN	BOCKUS	GORD ROAD	\$ 1,252.10	
ERNEST	BOUCHARD	ST ARMAND ROAD	\$ 3,387.44	
EDWIN SMITH & MEGAN	BRANON	SPOONER ROAD	\$ 2,495.82	
ROBERT & LINDA	BRUNO	ST ARMAND ROAD	\$ 3,417.30	
JAMES & DEBORAH	CAMPBELL	FRONTAGE ROAD	\$ 2,152.41	
BONNIE	CHENEY	CARTER HILL ROAD	\$ 5,224.39	
ARMAND & ERNESTINE	CHEVRIER	HANDY DRIVE	\$ 1,286.95	
SHARON & ANDREW	CRAIG	MACHIA ROAD	\$ 979.68	
ARLENE	DEROSIA	FORTIN ROAD	\$ 3,259.47	
ROSE & LEAH	DUPREY	ROUTE 78	\$ 2,011.28	
LYNN	ELWOOD	LAMKIN STREET	\$ 1,053.61	
DEAN	FACKLER	DURKEE ROAD	\$ 494.77	
ANGELA CISCO & DAVID	FERREIRA	FORTIN ROAD	\$ 1,047.65	
TERRANCE	FLANAGAN	CARMEN BROOK ROAD	\$ 435.95	
DAVID	FOSGATE	ROUTE 7	\$ 3,058.95	
PETER	FOSTER	BALLARD ROAD	\$ 2,226.68	
KEVIN & CARRIE	FOURNIER	ROBERTS LANE	\$ 2,511.82	
TIMOTHY	FOURNIER	COOK ROAD	\$ 1,683.84	
MARK & JEAN	GAGNE	CAMPAGNA ROAD	\$ 4,355.36	
MINDY CHURCH & KEVIN	GAGNE	DURKEE ROAD	\$ 3,193.70	
EUGENE & LISA	GAGNER	BOUCHARD ROAD	\$ 3,020.36	
ROBERT & MARTHA	GRAHAM	LAMKIN STREET	\$ 1,125.99	
JEREMY	GREENIA	CADIEUX LANE	\$ 745.41	
JOSEPH	GREENIA	LAMKIN STREET	\$ 1,723.65	
JOSEPH & CRYSTAL	GREENIA	RHEAUME ROAD	\$ 1,537.77	
MELANIE	GREENIA	LAMKIN STREET	\$ 300.08	
ROMAINE	GREENIA	LAMKIN STREET	\$ 653.90	
JENNIFER	GROSS	VIRGINIA LANE	\$ 362.23	
PAUL	GUYETTE	ROLLO ROAD	\$ 4,320.97	
RICHARD	HEBERT	CAMPAGNA ROAD	\$ 587.86	
NICOLE	HEMINGWAY	CARTER HILL ROAD	\$ 3,809.11	
PAULA	HEMOND	CAMPAGNA ROAD	\$ 1,588.58	
LYNFORD & DOREEN	HOAGUE	CAMPAGNA ROAD	\$ 2,947.38	
STEPHEN	HUNTER	HIGHGATE ROAD	\$ 323.49	
BECKY	JOHNSON	BALLARD ROAD	\$ 2,513.89	
STEVEN	KENZ	ROLLO ROAD	\$ 166.15	
PETER	KIRBEY	ROUTE 78	\$ 237.22	
ROBERT	KITTELL	HEMPYARD ROAD	\$ 820.37	
ROBERT & MARTHA	KITTELL	MUDGETT ISLAND	\$ 482.98	
LEROY & PAMELA	LACEY	ROUTE 78	\$ 4,944.77	
CHRISTINE	LACROIX	CARRIER WAY	\$ 1,489.78	
BEVERLY	LAFRANCE	LAFRANCE ROAD	\$ 1,912.40	
DAWN	LAPAN	OLDS DRIVE	\$ 655.42	
LAWRENCE & LAURIE	LAPAN	ROUTE 78	\$ 4,571.68	
JANE	LAROCHE	ROUTE 78	\$ 3,193.90	
MATTHEW & JENNIFER	LAROCHE	HANNA ROAD	\$ 2,297.94	
JEREMY & LISA	LETOURNEAU	HILLTOP LANE	\$ 3,485.27	
CMB	LLC	CARTER HILL ROAD	\$ 1,798.77	
BONNY	LOCKE	LAMKIN STREET	\$ 5,095.89	
COREY	MACHIA	COOK ROAD	\$ 82.11	
DAVID	MACHIA	MOREY ROAD	\$ 5,162.38	

PAGE 1 SUBTOTAL: \$ 114,734.70

TOWN OF HIGHGATE
FY 2015-2016 DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ADDRESS	AMOUNT	TOTAL
DAVID	MACHIA	MOREY ROAD	\$ 1,804.74	
DAVID	MACHIA	WILLIAMS ROAD	\$ 3,210.03	
DUSTIN & CHAD	MACHIA	ROUTE 78	\$ 2,335.02	
ANGUS	MACKENZIE	GAZEBO WOODS	\$ 2,061.33	
CHARLES	MACKIN	RAMP ROAD	\$ 174.02	
ALLAN & THERESA	MANY	ROUTE 78	\$ 2,219.55	
HEATH & SHEREE	MARTEL	HIGHGATE ROAD	\$ 3,424.67	
JANICE	MARTIN	DECKER ROAD	\$ 1,121.23	
NORMAN	MCALLISTER	HANNA ROAD	\$ 5,397.28	
BRENDA	MCDONALD	RICE HILL ROAD	\$ 2,340.98	
MYRON & CHRISTIE	MESSECK	OLD SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD	\$ 3,542.51	
DEBRA	MESSIER-GAGNE	GAGNE ROAD	\$ 1,522.39	
RICHARD	MILLER	DUBOIS DRIVE	\$ 125.94	
WINDY	MINOR	MEADOW LANE	\$ 2,933.42	
JUDY	MOREY	DURKEE ROAD	\$ 1,207.39	
SCOTT	MORGAN	LAMKIN STREET	\$ 1,974.00	
DOUGLAS & SHARON	MOSHER	CARTER HILL ROAD	\$ 2,316.46	
DANIEL	NADEAU	ST ARMAND ROAD	\$ 3,431.32	
DENNIS & WENDY	NADEAU	LAMKIN STREET	\$ 678.92	
DOUGLAS	NELSON	WAUGH FARM ROAD	\$ 3,544.23	
ANTHONY & KIM	NICHOLS	HIGHGATE ROAD	\$ 2,820.05	
KEVIN & MARY BETH	NICHOLS	TARTE ROAD	\$ 1,102.67	
SHANE	NOEL	ROUTE 7	\$ 22.18	
TODD & CHANTAL	NOEL	ST ARMAND ROAD	\$ 1,575.14	
HEATHER	OLDS	OLDS DRIVE	\$ 858.19	
LEE & LORI	OLDS	MISTY MEADOWS	\$ 1,176.51	
NEAL & ROSE	PEASE	RAMP ROAD	\$ 18.47	
FAYE & ERIC	PELICAN	OLDS DRIVE	\$ 519.97	
ANGELA	PFEIFFER	COUNTRY CLUB ROAD	\$ 3,018.33	
EUGENE & SHIRLEY	PLOOF	HIGHGATE ROAD	\$ 1,242.97	
RHODA	REYNOLDS	LYNNLOU DRIVE	\$ 2,071.84	
JACOB	RHEAUME	PINE HAVE DRIVE	\$ 444.45	
WENDELL & DEBORAH	ROBERTS	ROBERTS LANE	\$ 713.30	
JONATHAN	ROBINSON	BROSSEAU ROAD	\$ 2,283.51	
JUSTIN	ROBTOY	PAULS COURT	\$ 207.68	
WILLIAM	SCARPINATO	CARMEN BROOK ROAD	\$ 4,165.66	
MARJORIE	SHAW	PLATT ROAD	\$ 1,111.55	
GEORGE	SPEAR II	PENNY LANE	\$ 4,823.18	
CHRISTOPHER	TARDY	LUKE STREET	\$ 370.26	
MARY	TREMBLAY	THAK BLVD	\$ 2,526.02	
PAUL & SHIRLEY	TURNER	CARTER HILL ROAD	\$ 992.51	
JANICE	WARD	PLATT ROAD	\$ 2,771.81	
MICHAEL BENOURE & KANDACE	YOUNG	SPOONER ROAD	\$ 316.93	
RONALD & SALLY	YOUNG	MILL HILL ROAD	\$ 1,215.88	

PAGE 2 SUBTOTAL: \$ 81,734.49

TOTAL OUTSTANDING DELINQUENCIES \$ **196,469.19**
(AS OF JANUARY 10TH, 2016)

To set up a payment plan please contact Shelley Laroche via email - slaroche@highgatevt.org or phone (802) 868-2741

RENEWABLE	RESOURCES	893 ROUTE 78	\$ 5,314.98
RENEWABLE	RESOURCES	893 ROUTE 78	\$ 177,574.40
JEDCO INC / RENEWABLE	RESOURCES	0 ROUTE 78	\$ 4,708.79
TOTAL JEDCO & RENEWABLE RESOURCES:			\$ 187,598.17

TABLE 5. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PAYMENT ALLOCATIONS FOR 2017 TO 2022

Capital Project or Asset	Rank	Total Capital Cost	Available Funding		Annual Payments to be Raised by Taxes					Total Cost to Town		
			Capital Reserve	Grant/Other	Resale ¹	2017	2018	2019	2020		2021	2022
General Government												
Municipal Complex ADA Modifications		\$ 200,000		\$ 75,000		\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 45,000			\$ 125,000	
Municipal Complex Roof		\$ 80,000				\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000				\$ 80,000	
Jedware Property Redevelopment		\$ 50,000		*							\$ 50,000	
Total General Government		\$ 330,000				\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 255,000	
Public Safety - Fire												
Purchase Engine		\$ 500,000	\$ 186,982		*	\$ 150,000	\$ 163,018				\$ 313,018	
Install ventilation system		\$ 40,000		\$ 35,000		\$ 5,000					\$ 5,000	
New Well		\$ 15,000									\$ 15,000	
Personal Protection Gear		\$ 30,000		\$ 15,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000			\$ 15,000	
Total Public Safety - Fire		\$ 585,000				\$ 160,000	\$ 163,018	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 348,018	
Public Works - Highway												
Replace Tandem Truck (International)		\$ 225,000			*	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000				\$ 225,000	
Replace Tandem Truck (Western Star) ²		\$ 240,000			*			\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 135,000	
Replace Grader (1991 Caterpillar)		\$ 300,000			*	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000		\$ 300,000	
Replace Loader (2001 John Deere)		\$ 200,000			*	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000			\$ 200,000	
Replace Backhoe (2004 John Deere) ²		\$ 200,000			*				\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	
Replace Highway Equipment trailer		\$ 10,000			*		\$ 10,000				\$ 10,000	
New Town Highway Garage		\$ 600,000				\$ 100,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 600,000	
Replacement of Bridge (B25)		\$ 5,284,500	\$ 225,146	\$ 5,020,275		\$ 25,000	\$ 14,079				\$ 39,079	
Transfer Station Slope Stabilization ³		\$ 227,049	\$ 57,014	\$ 170,035							\$ -	
Carter Hill Road Safety Improvements		\$ 119,993		\$ 107,994		\$ 11,999					\$ 11,999	
Route 78 Corridor Safety Improvements		\$ 400,000		\$ 320,000				\$ 80,000			\$ 80,000	
Total Public Works - Highway		\$ 7,806,542				\$ 196,999	\$ 310,000	\$ 334,079	\$ 360,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 1,701,078	
Parks & Recreation												
Arena Roof Replacement		\$ 200,000						\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000	
Modify entryway		\$ 50,000							\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	
Total Parks & Recreation		\$ 250,000				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 250,000	
Cultural Services - Library												
Library Relocation		\$ 400,000		\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000			\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 150,000	
Upgrade Computers & Server		\$ 5,000				\$ 5,000					\$ 5,000	
Total Cultural Services		\$ 405,000				\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 155,000	
Total Expenditures - All Departments		\$ 9,376,542				\$ 441,999	\$ 553,018	\$ 434,079	\$ 435,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 2,709,096	

1 - The cost of resale value will be assessed closer to the purchase date; 2 - Expected purchase in 2023; 3 - Total cost to Town shown as zero, due to the grant match met from capital reserve funds.

TOWN OF HIGHGATE, VERMONT
 COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
 NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
 JUNE 30, 2015

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Fund Transfer Station Fund	Total
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash	\$ 50	\$ 0	\$ 50
Receivables	0	11,482	11,482
Due from Other Funds	186,190	19,940	206,130
Total Assets	\$ 186,240	\$ 31,422	\$ 217,662
<u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u>			
Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	\$ 325	\$ 0	\$ 325
Due to Others	50	0	50
Total Liabilities	375	0	375
Fund Balances:			
Restricted	54,764	0	54,764
Assigned	131,101	31,422	162,523
Total Fund Balances	185,865	31,422	217,287
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$ 186,240	\$ 31,422	\$ 217,662

TOWN OF HIGHGATE, VERMONT
 COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
 NON-MAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
 JUNE 30, 2015

	Reappraisal Fund	Preservation Fund	Computerization Fund	Library Fund	Total
ASSETS					
Cash	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 50	\$ 50
Due from Other Funds	<u>131,101</u>	<u>45,401</u>	<u>9,688</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>186,190</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 131,101</u>	<u>\$ 45,401</u>	<u>\$ 9,688</u>	<u>\$ 50</u>	<u>\$ 186,240</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Liabilities:					
Accounts Payable	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 325	\$ 0	\$ 325
Due to Others	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>375</u>
Fund Balances:					
Restricted	0	45,401	9,363	0	54,764
Assigned	<u>131,101</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>131,101</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>131,101</u>	<u>45,401</u>	<u>9,363</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>185,865</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 131,101</u>	<u>\$ 45,401</u>	<u>\$ 9,688</u>	<u>\$ 50</u>	<u>\$ 186,240</u>

	Reappraisal Fund	Preservation Fund	Computerization Fund	Library Fund	Total
Revenues:					
Intergovernmental	\$ 16,530	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 16,530
Permits, Licenses and Fees	0	5,292	5,292	0	10,584
Investment Income	0	0	0	4	4
Donations	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,213</u>	<u>6,213</u>
Total Revenues	<u>16,530</u>	<u>5,292</u>	<u>5,292</u>	<u>6,217</u>	<u>33,331</u>
Expenditures:					
General Government	0	606	4,136	0	4,742
Culture and Recreation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,882</u>	<u>26,882</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>606</u>	<u>4,136</u>	<u>26,882</u>	<u>31,624</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	16,530	4,686	1,156	(20,665)	1,707
Fund Balances - July 1, 2014	<u>114,571</u>	<u>40,715</u>	<u>8,207</u>	<u>20,665</u>	<u>184,158</u>
Fund Balances - June 30, 2015	<u>\$ 131,101</u>	<u>\$ 45,401</u>	<u>\$ 9,363</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 185,865</u>

HIGHGATE TRUST FUNDS

For year ended December 31, 2015

Summary of Trust Funds

Highgate Center Cemetery Assoc.	28,394.00
St. John's Cemetery	11,561.44
East Highgate Cemetery	7,129.30
Sherwood Cemetery	6,500.00
Highgate Public Library	2,300.00
Highgate Historical Society	1,000.00

Total Trust Funds: 56,884.74

Trustee Time Deposit

Edward Jones Bond	57,000.00
Peoples Trust Savings	526.17
Peoples Trust Service Charge	(20.00)

Total Time Deposits: 57,506.17

Trustee Operating Account

Beginning Balance 01/01/2015 108.77

Deposits	
Edward Jones Bond Interest	1,445.00

Total Deposits: 1,445.00

Disbursements	
Highgate Center Cemetery Assoc.	723.77
St. John's Cemetery	294.70
East Highgate Cemetery	181.73
Sherwood Cemetery	165.69
Highgate Public Library	58.62
Highgate Historical Society	25.49

Total Disbursements: 1,450.00

Ending Balance 12/31/2015 103.77

Bequests

St. John's Cemetery

Beginning Balance	11,511.44
Marilyn Sherman	50.00

Ending Balance 11,561.44

East Highgate Cemetery

Beginning Balance	7,029.30
Lee E. Phelps	100.00

Ending Balance 7,129.30

Respectfully submitted,
 John Ferland
 Evangeline La Rocque
 Clarence Miller

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual Budget	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
<u>TOWN REVENUE:</u>						
<u>PROPERTY TAXES</u>						
Current Property Taxes - GF	871,520	930,684	926,399	926,399	1,426,027	499,628
Property Tax Adjustment	5,000	0	5,000	6,045	5,000	0
HS-122 Penalties			0	0	0	0
Delinquent Prop Tax - Interest	19,000	23,725	19,000	19,000	19,000	0
Delinquent Prop Tax - Penalty	18,000	23,122	18,000	18,000	18,000	0
Education Retention Fee	0	9,958	0	0	0	0
<u>INTERGOVERNMENTAL REV.</u>						
Swanton Village	325,000	358,271	340,000	367,382	360,000	20,000
Current Use	35,000	56,250	50,000	45,059	45,000	(5,000)
PILOT	10,000	15,519	15,000	13,503	0	(15,000)
Fish & Wildlife	1,500	3,305	1,700	0	0	(1,700)
<u>OTHER REVENUES</u>						
Interest Income	3,000	2,383	2,000	2,300	2,300	300
Insurance Recoveries			0	0	0	0
TO Sale of Surplus Equipment	0	1,650	0	100	0	0
Waugh Farm Lease	1,000	1,050	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
Cell Tower Lease	0	2,500	2,500	15,000	15,000	12,500
TO Casella Host Fees			60,000	60,000	60,000	0
Other Revenue	0	3,974	300	25,000	300	0
<u>CLERK FEES</u>						
TO Recording Fees	18,750	15,926	17,000	17,000	14,500	(2,500)
TO Research Fees	750	568	600	600	600	0
TO Photocopies	5,500	5,417	5,500	5,500	5,500	0
TO Beverage Licenses	800	510	800	800	800	0
TO Marriage Licenses	300	325	300	300	300	0
TO DMV Renewals	1,500	696	1,000	0	0	(1,000)
TO Land Postings					50	50
<u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>						
TO Civil Fines	2,500	3,577	2,500	15,000	5,000	2,500
TO Animal Licenses - New			0	500	500	500
TO Animal Licenses -Renew	5,000	9,090	8,000	7,500	7,500	(500)
<u>DEVELOPMENT FEES</u>						
TO Zoning Permit	4,250	8,421	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
TO Letter of Compliance			0	500	500	500
TO Subdivision Application			0	1,000	500	500
TO Conditional Use Review			0	1,000	500	500
TO Site Plan Review			0	500	500	500
TO Boundary Line Adjust			0	600	500	500
TOTAL TOWN REVENUE	1,328,370	1,476,921	1,481,599	1,554,588	1,993,877	512,278

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
<u>TOWN EXPENDITURES:</u>						
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>						
<u>SELECTBOARD</u>						
Selectboard Stipend	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,250	0
SB SS & Medicare			402	469	402	0
SB Workers Comp			23	0	0	(23)
SB Professional Develop			240	0	300	60
SB Professional Services			1,100	0	1,000	(100)
SB Public Relations			200	0	0	(200)
SB Annual Dues			0	0	0	0
SB Travel Expenses			100	0	200	100
<u>TOWN&ZONING ADMINISTRATOR</u>						
Town & Zoning Administrator	51,406	51,209	53,976	53,976	55,325	1,349
Public Meetings Clerk	10,426	7,865	7,800	7,800	7,800	0
TZA Group Insurance			8,400	8,400	9,000	600
TZA SS & Medicare			4,726	4,726	4,829	103
TZA Retirement Contribution			3,089	3,089	3,217	128
TZA Professional Dues			100	100	0	(100)
TZA Unemployment Comp	529	450	272	282	0	(272)
TZA Workers Comp	894	1,252	272	272	0	(272)
TZA Professional Develop			120	272	120	0
TZA Travel Expenses			200	200	200	0
<u>TOWN CLERKS OFFICE</u>						
Town Clerk Salary	38,164	38,217	40,072	40,072	41,074	1,002
TC Group Insurance			8,400	8,400	9,000	600
TC SS & Medicare			3,066	3,066	3,142	76
TC Retirement Contribution			1,603	1,603	1,643	40
TC Professional Dues			100	100	0	(100)
TC Workers Comp			177	177	0	(177)
TO Election Expenses			3,000	2,500	7,000	4,000
TC Professional Develop			120	120	300	180
TC Travel Expenses			200	200	200	0
<u>LISTERS OFFICE</u>						
Lister Salaries	37,440	27,177	37,440	27,000	37,440	0
LS SS & Medicare			2,864	2,764	2,864	0
LS Professional Dues			100	100	0	(100)
LS Workers Comp			165	0	0	(165)
LS Professional Develop			180	60	180	0
LS Technical Services			5,029	2,500	5,000	(29)
LS Travel Expenses			400	400	400	0
<u>DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR</u>						
DTC Compensation	14,000	22,337	14,000	14,000	18,000	4,000
DTC SS & Medicare			1,071	1,071	1,377	306
DTC Workers Comp			62	0	0	(62)
DTC Professional Develop			60	0	0	(60)
DTC Legal Expenditures			400	0	0	(400)
DTC Travel Expenses			100	0	0	(100)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

GENERAL FUND BUDGET (continued)	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT (con't)</u>						
<u>TOWN TREASURER OFFICE</u>						
Town Treasurer Salary	42,630	44,197	38,776	46,000	41,205	2,429
TT Insurance Buyout			0	4,800	4,800	4,800
TT Group Insurance			8,400	0	0	(8,400)
TT SS & Medicare			2,966	2,966	3,519	553
TT Retirement Contribution			1,939	1,939	1,840	(99)
TT Professional Dues			100	100	0	(100)
TT Workers Comp			171	171	0	(171)
TT Professional Develop			180	1,500	1,200	1,020
TT Travel Expenses			200	800	1,000	800
<u>COMBINED PAYROLL EXPENSES</u>						
Retirement Expense	6,629	6,621				
Social Security & Medicare	15,516	15,392				
Health Insurance	16,800	17,159				
Town Auditor Stipend	1,500	1,000				
Travel & Training	9,079	8,581				
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	250,263	246,707	257,611	247,245	268,827	11,216
<u>TOWN OPERATIONS</u>						
Election Expenses	5,000	4,950	0	0	0	0
Municipal Insurances	17,161	18,697	0	0	0	0
TO Consulting Services			0	0	0	0
TO Professional Audit	6,000	18,000	12,000	20,000	18,000	6,000
TO Legal Services	7,500	34,553	12,000	30,000	35,000	23,000
TO Technical Services	6,125	7,482	6,000	7,000	7,000	1,000
TO Custodial Services	3,380	0	3,380	3,380	4,000	620
TO Buildings Maintenance	27,000	8,334	2,000	5,000	8,000	6,000
TO Equipment Maintenance	1,096	0	1,000	1,500	1,500	500
TO Construction Service			5,000	0	0	(5,000)
TO PACIF Insurance			16,720	16,720	15,193	(1,527)
TO Workers Comp Insurance			0	0	2,000	2,000
TO Unemployment Comp			0	0	549	549
TO Communications	5,300	6,413	6,000	6,000	6,000	0
TO Postage	5,000	5,448	5,000	5,500	5,500	500
TO Advertising	2,500	5,997	3,500	5,000	5,000	1,500
TO Printing & Binding	1,600	1,585	1,700	1,700	1,700	0
NRPC Dues	0	7,784	3,489	3,489	3,606	117
VLCT Dues	4,626	4,626	4,757	5,650	6,000	1,243
Franklin County Assessment	28,301	28,301	28,306	30,095	31,385	3,079
TO General Supplies	6,000	8,024	7,000	8,000	8,000	1,000
TO Natural Gas	5,000	6,877	5,000	5,000	6,000	1,000
TO Electricity	8,000	8,488	9,000	9,000	9,000	0
TO Furniture/Equipment	7,512	7,466	6,000	6,000	20,455	14,455
TO Tax Abatement			0	260	0	0
TO Bad Debts	7,000	0	0	0	0	0
TO Other Expenses			0	2,000	500	500
Grant Expense	0	8,823	0	0	0	0
TOTAL TOWN OPERATIONS	154,101	191,848	137,852	171,294	194,388	56,536

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

GENERAL FUND BUDGET (continued)	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
<u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>						
<u>HEALTH OFFICER</u>						
Health Officer Stipend	500	0	500	500	500	0
HO SS & Medicare	50	0	38	38	38	0
HO Unemployment Comp	0	0	10	10	0	(10)
HO Workers Comp	0	0	2	2	0	(2)
HO Professional Develop	0	0	120	0	60	(60)
HO Professional Services	0	0	0	236	500	500
HO Travel Expenses	100	0	100	0	100	0
<u>AMBULATORY SERVICES</u>						
Ambulatory Services	121,026	121,026	126,000	126,000	105,000	(21,000)
Ambulatory Dispatch Fee			0	0	25,525	25,525
<u>POLICE PATROL SERVICES</u>						
Police Patrol Services	56,868	56,868	58,574	58,574	58,574	0
<u>TOWN CONSTABLE</u>						
Town Constable Stipend	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
CON SS & Medicare	0	38	77	77	77	0
CON Workers Comp			54	0	0	(54)
CON Professional Develop			120	0	60	(60)
CON Travel Expenses			200	150	200	0
CON Uniforms			0	0	0	0
<u>ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER</u>						
ACO Compensation	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	0
ACO SS & Medicare	412	298	298	298	298	0
ACO Unemployment Comp	250	68	68	0	0	(68)
ACO Workers Comp	250	210	210	0	0	(210)
ACO Professional Develop	350	0	120	0	60	(60)
FC Humane Society	2,000	550	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
ACO Travel Expense	425	218	300	300	300	0
<u>NW SOLID WASTE DISTRICT</u>						
Solid Waste Membership			3,570	3,570	3,570	0
Solid Waste Buy-In			1,850	1,850	1,850	0
TOTAL PUBIC SAFETY	186,131	184,176	199,111	198,505	203,612	4,501
<u>CULTURAL & SOCIAL SERVICES</u>						
<u>CULTURAL SERVICES</u>						
Highgate Little League	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0
Historical Society Appropriation	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
Memorial Day Appropriation	2,000	1,050	2,000	2,000	2,000	0
Summer Concert Series App	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0
Holiday Expenses	2,000	2,048	2,000	2,022	2,000	0
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS</u>						
Franklin County Home Health	5,285	5,285	5,285	5,285	7,070	1,785
Northwest Counseling SS	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	2,500	1,300
Independent Living	380	380	380	380	380	0
American Red Cross			0	0	1,000	1,000

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

GENERAL FUND BUDGET (continued)	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS con't</u>						
FCIDC	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
Champlain Valley Agency Age	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	0
Special Investigation Unit	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
Association for The Blind	500	500	500	500	500	0
Hi-Swans	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	0
Tim's House			750	750	1,000	250
Voices Against Violence	750	750	0	0	0	0
Vermont Green Up	200	200	200	200	200	0
Friends of Lake Champlain	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,500	500
Green Mountain Transit	3,028	3,028	3,028	3,028	3,028	0
FC Animal Rescue			0	0	300	300
FGI Bookmobile	500	500	500	500	0	(500)
VT Rural Fire Protection			0	0	100	100
Northern VT RC&D	75	75	75	75	0	(75)
Swanton Teen Center	6,000	6,000	0	0	0	0
Northwest Regional Planning	3,394	3,394	0	0	0	0
TOTAL CULTURAL & SOCIAL SERVICES	37,312	36,410	26,918	26,940	31,578	4,660
<u>DEPARTMENT TRANSFER OUT</u>						
Transfer Out - Fire Dept			38,965	38,965	72,802	33,837
Transfer Out - Highway	538,550	538,640	541,391	541,391	571,389	29,998
Transfer Out - Cemeteries			12,600	12,600	14,200	1,600
Transfer Out - Parks/Rec			10,729	10,729	7,561	(3,168)
Transfer Out - Library			86,396	86,396	95,121	8,725
Transfer Out - Arena			90,616	90,616	87,716	(2,900)
TOTAL DEPARTMENT TRANSFER OUT	538,550	538,640	780,697	780,697	848,789	68,092
<u>CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT</u>						
<u>PLANNING COMMISSION</u>						
Planning Commission Stipend	3,687	930	1,320	1,140	1,200	(120)
PC SS & Medicare			101	0	92	(9)
PC Unemployment Comp			25	0	0	(25)
PC Workers Comp			6	0	0	(6)
PC Professional Develop			500	0	300	(200)
PC Professional Services			0	0	0	0
PC Technical Services			1,800	1,800	0	(1,800)
<u>DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD</u>						
DRB Stipend	1,887	990	1,320	780	1,200	(120)
DRB SS & Medicare			101	0	92	(9)
DRB Unemployment Comp			25	0	0	(25)
DRB Workers Comp			6	0	0	(6)
DRB Professional Develop			500	0	0	(500)
DRB Professional Services			0	0	0	0
DRB Technical Services			0	0	1,800	1,800
TOTAL CONSERVATION & DEVELOP.	5,574	1,920	5,704	3,720	4,684	(1,020)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

GENERAL FUND BUDGET (continued)	FY 14-15		FY 15-16		FY 16-17	Total Budget Change
	Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	Proposed Budget	

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

TO Transfer Out - CIP			62,500	62,500	80,000	17,500
FD Transfer Out - CIP			0	0	160,000	160,000
PWD Transfer Out - CIP			10,000	10,000	196,999	186,999
CEM Transfer Out - CIP			0	0	0	0
PR Transfer Out - CIP			0	0	0	0
PR Transfer Out - CIP			0	0	0	0
HPL Transfer Out - CIP			0	0	5,000	5,000
Transfer to Capital Fund	75,000	75,000				
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	75,000	75,000	72,500	72,500	441,999	369,499

**TOTAL TOWN OPERATION
EXPENDITURES**

708,381 736,061 1,480,393 1,500,900 1,993,877 513,484

CEMETERY BUDGET	FY 14-15		FY 15-16		FY 16-17	Total Budget Change
	Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	Proposed Budget	

CEMETERY REVENUE

C Sale of Lots						
C Marking Lots						
C Corner Stones						
C Trust Fund Distribution						
Transfer In - General Fund			12,600	12,600	14,200	1,600
TOTAL CEMETERY REVENUE	0	0	12,600	12,600	14,200	1,600

CEMETERY EXPENDITURES

C Sexton Salary						
C SS & Medicare						
C Memberships & Dues						
C Unemployment Comp						
C Workers Comp						
C Professional Develop						
C Contracted Services	14,000	13,255	0	0	0	0
C Mowing			6,600	6,600	6,600	0
C Tree Removal			1,000	1,500	2,000	1,000
C Stone Repair			2,000	1,500	2,000	0
C Stone Cleaning			1,000	1,000	1,000	0
C Fence Install & Repair			2,000	1,500	2,500	500
C Corner Stones			0	100	100	100
TOTAL CEMETERY EXPENDITURES	14,000	13,255	12,600	12,200	14,200	1,600

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
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FIRE DEPT REVENUE

FD Insurance Recoveries						
FD Sale of Surplus Equipment						
FD Other Income						
FD Dispatching Fees - MVR						
Transfer In - General Fund			38,965	38,965	72,802	33,837
TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT REVENUE	0	0	38,965	38,965	72,802	33,837

FIRE DEPT EXPENDITURES

FD Workers Compensation	1,052	1,234	1,332	1,332	1,638	306
Fire Dept Stipend			0	0	21,750	21,750
FD SS & Medicare			0	0	1,664	1,664
FD Professional Develop	500	948	500	500	2,000	1,500
FD Personal Protective Equipment			0	0	5,500	5,500
FD Air Packs & Tanks			0	0	4,750	4,750
FD Pagers & Radios			0	3,000	1,000	1,000
FD Hose Maintenance			0	0	1,000	1,000
FD Poseidon System			0	0	500	500
FD Fire Extinguishers			0	0	1,500	1,500
FD Other Equip Maintenance	3,000	1,399	13,000	1,000	1,000	(12,000)
FD 1988 International - E			0	0	5,000	5,000
FD 1998 Freightliner - Ta			0	1,000	1,000	1,000
FD 2005 MFG Rescue Boat			0	0	500	500
FD 2005 Karavan Trailer			0	0	0	0
FD 2006 International - E			0	700	2,000	2,000
FD 2015 Ford F-350			0	0	1,000	1,000
FD Other Vehicle Maintenance	5,000	2,872	5,000	1,000	1,000	(4,000)
FD Equipment Rental			0	0	0	0
FD PACIF Insurance	4,240	4,256	4,274	6,000	6,000	1,726
FD Dispatching Fees-SAPD	10,702	7,140	7,759	7,070	7,500	(259)
FD Public Relations			0	0	0	0
FD Annual Dues	500	461	500	500	500	0
FD Travel Expenses	100	0	100	0	0	(100)
FD General Supplies		1,313	0	1,500	500	500
FD Gasoline	1,000	100	1,000	1,000	1,500	500
FD Diesel	3,500	633	3,500	3,000	3,000	(500)
FD Uniforms			0	0	0	0
FD Furniture, Fixtures &	12,000	2,411	2,000	500	500	(1,500)
FD Other Expenses	0	666	0	500	500	500
TOTAL FIRE DEPT EXPENDITURES	41,594	23,433	38,965	28,602	72,802	33,837

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET ARENA BUDGET	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
<u>PARKS & RECREATION REVENUE</u>						
Transfer In-General Fund			10,729	10,729	7,561	(3,168)
Basketball Program			0	1,215	500	500
Soccer Program			0	1,855	1,000	1,000
Other Programs			0	0	0	0
AAC Bandstand Fundraising			0	267	0	0
TOTAL PARKS & REC REVENUE	0	0	10,729	14,066	9,061	(1,668)
<u>PARKS & RECREATION EXPENSES</u>						
Parks & Rec Wages	32,210	931	2,750	2,700	2,750	0
PR SS & Medicare	1,431	71	210	211	211	1
PR Unemployment Comp	374	58	62	0	0	(62)
PR Workers Comp	114	276	157	0	0	(157)
PR Building/Grounds Maintenance			6,750	0	500	(6,250)
PR John Deere GT 235			0	0	100	100
PR John Deere ZTurn			0	700	500	500
PR Utility Trailer			0	0	0	0
PR Other Equip Maintenance	500	0	500	0	500	0
PR PACIF Insurance			0	0	0	0
PR Gasoline	300	0	300	0	0	(300)
PR Professional Develop			0	0	0	0
PR Buildings Maintenance			0	0	0	0
PR Equipment Maintenance			0	0	0	0
PR General Supplies			250	250	500	250
PR Basketball			750	500	500	(250)
Little League Base/Softball			2,000	2,000	2,000	0
PR Soccer			750	1,800	1,000	250
PR Other Programs			750	0	500	(250)
PR Electricity			0	0	0	0
TOTAL PARKS & REC EXPENDITURES	34,929	1,336	15,229	8,161	9,061	(6,168)
<u>ARENA REVENUE</u>						
Arena Facility Lease	6,000	5,500	12,000	12,000	12,000	0
Transfer In-General Fund			90,616	90,616	87,716	(2,900)
TOTAL ARENA REVENUE	6,000	5,500	0	102,616	102,616	0
<u>ARENA EXPENDITURES</u>						
Arena Snack Bar			0	0	0	0
Arena Electricity	0	1,618	0	0	0	0
Arena Buildings Maintenance	0	1,813	0	500	500	500
Arena Equipment Maintenance	0	1,000	0	6,580	600	600
Arena General Expense			0	250	500	500
Arena Fundraising Expense			0	1,000	0	0
Arena PACIF Insurance	13,146	12,290	11,000	11,000	11,000	0
Arena Bond Debt Payment			87,116	87,116	87,116	0
TOTAL ARENA EXPENDITURES	13,146	16,721	0	98,116	106,446	0
TOTAL ARENA / PARKS & RECREATION EXPENDITURES	48,075	18,057	0	113,345	114,607	0
					108,777	(4,568)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

HIGHGATE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
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LIBRARY REVENUE

HPL Building Brighter Future			0	300	2,000	2,000
HPL Summer Programs			0	250	500	500
HPL Teen Programs			0	150	300	300
Special Programs			1,000	150	1,000	0
Trust Fund Distribution - HPL			75	59	75	0
Fit Kids			0	375	300	300
E-Rate Funds			0	500	540	540
HPL State Grant Money			0	55	155	155
Transfer In - General Fun	68,750	68,750	86,396	86,396	95,121	8,725
TOTAL LIBRARY REVENUE	68,750	68,750	87,471	88,235	99,991	12,520

LIBRARY EXPENDITURES

Librarian Salary	29,380	29,380	36,750	36,750	40,000	3,250
Support Staff Wages	12,000	12,000	16,500	12,000	14,000	(2,500)
Vista Americore			0	0	6,000	6,000
Group Insurance	7,140	7,140	7,756	7,756	7,880	124
HPL SS & Medicare	3,200	3,200	4,074	4,074	4,131	57
HPL Retirement Contribution	1,200	1,175	1,470	1,470	1,600	130
HPL Memberships & Dues	50	550	650	650	650	0
HPL Unemployment Comp	430	453	453	453	600	147
HPL Workers Comp	0	182	234	250	250	16
HPL Professional Develop	400	175	450	450	900	450
HPL Background Checks	100	50	50	50	50	0
HPL Technical Services	600	1,000	800	800	900	100
HPL Custodial Services	1,000	1,820	1,820	1,820	1,800	(20)
HPL Buildings Maintenance	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,000	1,500	0
HPL PACIF Insurance	1,000	2,364	2,364	2,364	2,500	136
HPL Communications	400	400	550	1,080	1,080	530
HPL Postage	850	800	850	850	850	0
HPL Advertising			0	0	500	500
HPL Printing & Binding			0	0	0	0
HPL Annual Dues			0	0	0	0
HPL Travel			0	0	450	450
HPL General Supplies	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,250	1,250	250
HPL Building Brighter Future			0	1,800	2,000	2,000
HPL Summer Programs			0	250	500	500
HPL Teen Programs			0	1,500	300	300
HPL General Programs			1,000	1,000	1,000	0
HPL Fit Kids			0	300	300	300
HPL Special Programs	1,000	1,000	0	1,350	1,000	1,000
HPL Electricity	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	0
HPL Heating Expense	1,000	1,000	2,500	1,500	1,300	(1,200)
HPL Books and Periodicals	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
HPL Furniture Fixtures Equipment	500	503	500	500	500	0
HPL Koha Automation	500	0				0
TOTAL LIBRARY EXPENDITURES	68,750	71,192	87,471	87,467	99,991	12,520

TOTAL COMBINED GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	880,800	861,998	1,732,774	1,743,776	2,289,647	556,873
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STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

ARENA RENOVATION PROJECT: PHASE ONE	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
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ARENA REVENUE

Arena Interest Income	0	100	0	0	0
Arena Renovation Project Fundraising	0	24,850	0	0	0
Arena HUD Grant Income	0	196,000	0	0	0
Arena Rise VT Water Fountain Grant	0	3,689	0	0	0

TOTAL ARENA PROJECT REVENUE

224,639

ARENA PROJECT FUND EXPENDITURES

Architectural Services	0	4,285
Pre-Construction Services	0	0
Legal Fees	0	455
Concrete Cutting	0	0
Site Work	7,505	9,566
Chiller Fence	3,500	0
Demolition	10,890	8,168
Concrete	5,125	5,125
Structural Steel Inspection	2,052	0
Misc. Carpentry	8,625	1,772
Metal Siding/Batt Insulate	5,896	0
Rubber Flooring	37,110	0
Drywall, Paint, Tape	2,645	2,896
Rink Refrigeration System	531,470	510,756
Rink Dasher Board System	105,965	0
Rink Subcontract Insurance	8,174	0
Plumbing/HVAC	18,330	15,396
Electrical - Building	34,000	21,806
Electrical - Job Site	2,000	400
General Conditions	63,647	301,421
Refrigeration Support	15,164	0
Ground Thaw Equipment	3,000	0
Storage	1,600	0
Temp Fencing	5,000	500
Safety, Fans, Cleanup	7,500	1,500
Final Cleaning	4,762	4,762
PP Bond	10,184	0
Liability Insurance	5,600	5,600
Warranty/Warehouse	2,036	805
CM Contingency	30,543	30,543
CM Fee	19,963	988
Allowance	65,819	65,819

TOTAL ARENA PROJECT EXPENDITURES

1,018,105

992,561

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BUDGET	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
<u>HIGHWAY DEPT REVENUE</u>						
AOT - State Aid	151,152	150,978	151,152	150,000	150,000	(1,152)
PWD Sale of Surplus Equip			0	0	0	0
Overweight Permits	500	545	500	0	500	0
Driveway Permits	300	90	300	0	200	(100)
Transfer In - General Fun	538,550	538,640	541,391	541,391	571,389	29,998
Highway Grants	187,755	18,902	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Capital Fund	0	9,635	0	0	0	0
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND REVENUE	878,257	718,790	693,343	691,391	722,089	28,746
<u>HIGHWAY DEPT EXPENDITURES</u>						
PWD Crew Wages	152,159	147,936	145,410	161,400	162,978	17,568
PWD Insurance Buyout			9,600	9,600	9,600	0
PWD Group Health Insurance	11,411	11,496	11,979	9,500	7,885	(4,094)
PWD SS & Medicare	11,779	11,104	11,858	11,858	13,202	1,344
PWD Retirement Contribution	6,039	6,028	6,200	6,780	6,780	580
PWD Professional Dues			0	0	0	0
PWD Unemployment Comp	681	650	681	1,151	1,151	470
PWD Workers Comp	11,448	12,958	14,648	14,648	10,600	(4,048)
PWD Professional Develop	300	45	200	0	200	0
PWD Project Consulting	1,000	488	1,000	500	0	(1,000)
PWD Architectural Service			0	0	0	0
PWD Engineering Services			0	0	1,000	1,000
PWD Building Maintenance			0	0	0	0
PWD Welder			0	0	0	0
PWD Compressor			0	0	0	0
PWD Steam Jenny			0	0	0	0
PWD Bale Mulcher			0	0	0	0
PWD Generator			0	0	0	0
PWD Other Equip Maintenance			0	0	500	500
PWD Utility Trailers			0	0	500	500
PWD 1974 Massey Ferguson			0	0	500	500
PWD 1991 Caterpillar - Gr			0	0	6,000	6,000
PWD 2001 John Deere - Loa			0	0	5,000	5,000
PWD 2004 John Deere - Bac			0	0	5,000	5,000
PWD 2015 Ford F550			0	0	500	500
PWD 2016 International 74			0	0	1,000	1,000
PWD 2010 International -			0	0	7,000	7,000
PWD 2014 Western Star - T			0	0	2,000	2,000
PWD Other Vehicle Maintenance	30,000	26,892	32,000	0	2,000	(30,000)
PWD Rental of Equipment &	6,000	2,800	8,000	5,000	7,000	(1,000)
PWD Tree Removal	3,000	1,200	3,000	3,000	4,000	1,000
PWD PACIF Insurance	9,115	8,800	9,115	15,193	15,193	6,078
PWD Communications/Radios	1,000	0	1,000	500	1,000	0
PWD Dues			100	0	0	(100)
PWD Travel			100	0	200	100
PWD Uniforms & Runners	3,640	3,439	4,640	5,000	5,000	360

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL ~ FY2015 - 2017

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BUDGET (continued)	FY 14-15 Approved Budget	FY 14-15 Actual	FY 15-16 Approved Budget	FY 15-16 Estimated	FY 16-17 Proposed Budget	Total Budget Change
<u>HIGHWAY DEPT EXPENDITURES con't</u>						
PWD Shop Supplies			1,000	2,000	2,000	1,000
PWD Small Tools			1,000	0	2,000	1,000
PWD Electricity Sand Shed	500	319	500	0	500	0
PWD Electricity St. Lights	26,650	26,422	27,516	27,000	27,500	(16)
PWD Heat Fuel Sand Shed	800	475	800	800	800	0
PWD Gasoline			6,000	1,000	1,000	(5,000)
PWD Diesel	45,000	32,002	40,000	40,000	40,000	0
PWD Books & Periodicals			0	0	0	0
PWD Street Signs	2,000	1,369	2,000	5,000	5,000	3,000
PWD Culverts	3,000	6,451	3,000	0	4,000	1,000
PWD Guardrails	500	0	6,500	6,500	6,500	0
PWD Stone/Gravel	50,000	45,879	60,000	50,000	50,000	(10,000)
PWD Paving Material	143,000	1,351	220,000	219,000	250,000	30,000
PWD Calcium Chloride	15,000	12,725	15,000	13,000	13,000	(2,000)
PWD Winter Salt	15,000	18,661	15,000	17,000	20,000	5,000
PWD Winter Sand	15,000	18,662	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
PWD Machinery & Equipment	6,000	2,853	8,000	8,000	8,000	0
PWD Vehicles			0	0	0	0
PWD Furniture Fixture Equipment			1,000	0	1,000	0
Route 78 Scoping Study	0	21,510				0
Transfer to Capital Fund	57,000	57,000	0	0	0	0
Paving & Structures Grant	205,251	4,074	0	0		0
						0
TOTAL HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES	832,273	483,589	681,847	648,430	722,089	40,242

STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
VERMONT STATE POLICE

St. Albans Field Station
140 Fisher Pond Road
St. Albans, VT 05478

January 6, 2016

On behalf of the Vermont State Police, St. Albans Field Station, we are providing our 2015 Annual Report. This report will provide you information in regards to current staffing, specialty services and statistical information.

St. Albans Barracks Mission Statement:

The mission of the Vermont State Police St. Albans Field Station is to protect the citizens of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. We will strive to reduce crime and crashes with thorough criminal investigations and aggressive highway safety enforcement.

- ***Criminal Investigation – The St. Albans Station will make every attempt to prevent crime before it makes its way into our jurisdiction. We will accomplish this goal through an extensive intelligence network that will allow us to engage problems in the communities that we serve and by sharing investigative information with our local, county, state and federal law enforcement partners. Our priority remains to pursue those that distribute drugs and cause social harms against persons and property in our communities.***
- ***Highway Safety Enforcement – Through aggressive high visibility motor vehicle enforcement programs, our Troopers will seek out and arrest those individuals that choose to drive impaired by alcohol and/or drugs on our highways. We will continue to use timely data to locate specific areas to prevent and reduce crashes. Our Troopers will use every motor vehicle contact as an educational opportunity as well as looking beyond the traffic stop in an effort to identify criminal activity as it filters into our communities. Collaborating with local, county and federal agencies is essential to any success.***

Specialty Services provided by the St. Albans Field Station:

In addition to their field primary responsibilities, many of the Troopers assigned to the St. Albans Station are members of special response teams that provide expert response

“Your Safety Is Our Business”

capabilities in a variety of areas to address critical needs throughout Vermont. The allocation of these resources is as follows:

3 - Troopers on the Tactical Services Unit (SWAT Team)

1 - Trooper on the SCUBA Team

1 - Trooper on the Search and Rescue Team

1 - Trooper assigned a K-9

1 - Trooper on the Crash Reconstruction Team

2 - Troopers trained as Drug Recognition Experts

1 - Troopers on the Crime Scene Search Team

2 - Troopers on the Clandestine Laboratory Team

3- Troopers on the Crisis Negotiation Unit

2015 Total Annual Figures & Comparison:

Total cases investigated:	6033
Total arrests:	401
Total tickets issued:	1548
Total warnings issued:	1937
Fatal Accidents Investigated:	6
Burglaries Investigated:	106
Impaired Driving Arrests	69

	Total Crashes	Total Burglaries	Total Thefts
Average of 2013-2014	496	119	234
2015	525	106	184

Local Community Report: Highgate

Total Cases:	546
Total Arrests:	20
DUI Arrests	4
Collisions w/ Damage	8
Collisions w/ Injury	2
Vandalism:	13
Alarms	28
Burglary:	5

We will continue to make our communities safer through enforcement, directed patrols, outreach and community programs. It is our privilege to serve the citizens of your community.

Respectfully,


Lieutenant Maurice Lamothe
Station Commander

Franklin County

Sheriff's Office



Robert W. Norris
Sheriff

I would first like to thank all the townships and those residents throughout Franklin County who have continued to support this office. With your support and interaction with this office, we have been able to address many of your concerns and we look forward to working with you in this upcoming year. The men and women of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office look forward to offering continued professional law enforcement services to all residents of your community.

The following is a report of the activity of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

The men and women of this office handled approximately 2,563 complaints throughout the county.

This office made 2317 traffic stops resulting in 2384 tickets and warnings being issued.

We made 260 arrests in 2015.

The following are the totals for your community:

Incidents:	696	Arrests:	43	Tickets/Warnings:	302
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This Office has the ability to respond throughout Franklin County for any active shooter and other unusual incidents that may require a special response team and we have the ability to respond to marine search and rescue calls and patrols.

We will continue to work with all the residents of Highgate and ask that you visit us on Facebook.

Thank you,

Robert W. Norris
Franklin County Sheriff



Proudly serving Highgate and Swanton

Missisquoi Valley Rescue, Inc., was established in 1976 to provide 24 hour emergency ambulance, search and rescue, emergency patient transfer, vehicle extraction, and related services within the towns of Highgate and Swanton. The corporation is organized exclusively for charity and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954

The past year Missisquoi Valley Rescue has undergone several changes in operation. Missisquoi Valley Rescue sold their Heavy Rescue Vehicle to Sheldon Fire department; the decision to sell the rescue vehicle was a long and thought out process. We felt that we no longer had the staff to perform vehicle extrication which is now done primarily by Fire Departments. As an organization we felt that our communities would be better served by vehicle extrication being performed by the Fire Service.

Missisquoi Valley Rescue responded to total of 962 calls for service in 2015. The calls for service by town are as follows:

Town	# of Calls	Percent of Runs
Alburgh	5	.52%
Colchester	1	.10%
Franklin	3	.31%
Highgate Center	145	15.07%
Highgate Springs	17	1.77%
Sheldon	7	.73%
St. Albans	94	9.77%
Swanton	689	71.62%
Unknown	1	.10%

Missisquoi Valley Rescue tries to keep involved in the community to the best of our ability. In 2015 we participated in several community activities in Highgate and Swanton to include field day's events, sporting event standby, school presentations, National Night Out events, Highgate Sledding Party, and Santa Day. We welcome community organizers to contact us for stand by or presentation information!

Missisquoi Valley Rescue also operates an American Heart Association Training Center. Missisquoi Valley Rescue will provide public education in accident prevention, CPR, and emergency first-aid. If you are in need of CPR or First Aid Training please give us a call at 802-868-2352.

We look forward to serving the needs of the communities of Swanton and Highgate in 2016 and many years to come!

Sincerely,

Leonard Stell Administrator

Getting you where you need to go!

Green Mountain Transit Agency Highgate FY15 Annual Report

WHO WE ARE

GMTA is the public transportation provider for the northwest and central regions of Vermont, offering a variety of services to the communities in which we serve. GMTA is proud to offer traditional public transportation services like commuter, deviated fixed route and demand response shuttles, while providing essential Elderly, Disabled and Medicaid services designed around special individual needs.

OUR SERVICES

Elderly/Disabled/Medicaid Individual Service

GMTA, in partnership with Champlain Valley Agency on Aging and CIDER, provides ongoing individual medical and non-medical transportation service to those who qualify for Medicaid, Elderly and Disabled funds and/ or both. GMTA offers the scheduling and payment of rides provided through volunteer drivers, special shuttle, bus and/or cab service. GMTA also provides transportation for critical care such as radiation and dialysis treatments regardless of age or disability. Individual service offers access to:

- Medical appointments
- Meal site programs
- Senior Center/Adult Day Care
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Prescription and Shopping
- Mental Health and Human Services
- Radiation and Dialysis Treatment
- Physical Therapy

FY15 Town of Highgate Individual Residents Served by Elderly/Disabled/Medicaid Service

- 38 Individual Residents Served
- 1,870 Total Trips Provided
- 31,951 Total Miles Driven

General Public Transportation Service

For the Franklin/Grand Isle region, GMTA offers traditional public transportation services through:

- St. Albans Downtown Shuttle
- Alburgh/Georgia Commuter
- Price Chopper Shopping Shuttle
- St. Albans LINK Express
- Richford/St. Albans Commuter

For the Town of Highgate, GMTA offers traditional public transportation services through the Alburgh/Georgia Shuttle, providing affordable commuter transportation to key employment locations. GMTA also provides connecting service to the St. Albans LINK and St. Albans Downtown Shuttle for additional work and daily needs. These services directly support economic development, daily service accessibility and environmental stewardship.



Getting you where you need to go!

Alburgh/Georgia Commuter

The Alburgh/Georgia Commuter offers weekday shuttle service between Alburgh and Georgia with daily AM service to Highgate P&R, and key stops at employment centers like St. Albans Industrial Park, downtown St. Albans and Georgia Industrial Park. This route is able to deviate off route up to ¼ mile for extra accessibility. **FY15 Ridership: 10,306**

St. Albans Downtown Shuttle

The Downtown Shuttle offers hourly service Monday-Saturday within the St. Albans downtown and surrounding area, providing key access to employment, education, shopping, medical and daily services. On board and deviation service options are available by request up to ¾ mile for added accessibility. Connecting service through GMTA local commuter service from Highgate is available each weekday. **FY15 Ridership: 21,619**

St. Albans LINK Express

The St. Albans LINK Express offers weekday service during peak commute hours from St. Albans to key locations in Chittenden County. Connecting service to the LINK from Highgate is available through Alburgh/Georgia Shuttle. The LINK also offers connecting service to CCTA's transit system offering extensive access to employment, education, shopping and medical locations. **FY15 Ridership: 21,333**

Volunteer Driver Program

In addition to shuttle vehicles, GMTA uses an extensive network of Volunteer Drivers to provide coordinated and caring rides throughout our rural service area. Volunteer Drivers are essential in providing cost effective and community driven services, and are the foundation of our special services. Drivers are reimbursed for the miles they drive and provide services under the management of GMTA. GMTA would like to thank all those who volunteer their time to support the transportation needs of their friends, family and neighbors. **If you are interested in becoming a GMTA Volunteer Driver, please contact us at 802-527-2181 or info@gmtaride.org.**

Thank You

Thank you to the residents and officials of the Town of Highgate for your continued financial support of GMTA's public transportation service and for your commitment to efficient transportation solutions.

Information

Please feel free to contact us with questions or to request additional information on GMTA services at 802.527-2181 or info@gmtaride.org.





Northwest Regional Planning Commission 2015 Town Report

Northwest Regional Planning Commission is a multi-purpose governmental organization created by the municipalities of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. NRPC implements a variety of projects and programs tailored to local, regional and statewide needs. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by two locally appointed members to the Board of Commissioners.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Projects & Programs:

Municipal plan and bylaw updates and related technical assistance: Focus on predictable and effective local permitting through education and training, bylaw modernization and plan updates.

Brownfields: Complete environmental site assessments and fund clean-ups so properties can be sold, developed or re-developed to benefit the economy, create or protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.

Transportation planning: Coordinate local involvement in transportation decisions through the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and provide services such as intersection studies, corridor plans and traffic counts.

Emergency planning: Better prepare our region and state for disasters by coordinating with local volunteers and VT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on emergency planning, exercises and training.

Energy conservation and development: Implement projects to support municipal energy conservation to save energy and tax dollars, support job training programs and identify opportunities for renewable energy generation.

Watershed planning and project development: Implement water quality projects and programs to protect water resources, ensure safe water supplies, enhance recreational opportunities and address known sources of pollution.

Regional plans: Coordinate infrastructure, community development and growth at the regional level through the development, adoption and administration of a comprehensive regional plan.

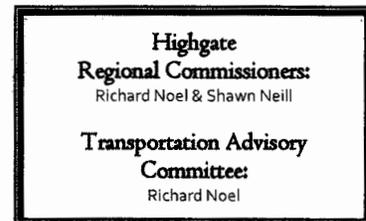
Geographic Information System Services: Provide municipalities, state agencies and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.

Special projects: Complete special projects such as downtown revitalization, recreation paths, farmland preservation, economic development and affordable housing projects.

Grants: Provide assistance identifying appropriate grant sources, defining a project scope and writing grant applications.

2015 Highgate Projects:

- ☞ Finalized a draft of the Land Regulations that consolidated, reorganized and revised the Town Zoning Bylaws, Subdivision Regulations, and Flood Hazard Regulations.
- ☞ Provided planning and zoning technical assistance.
- ☞ Created a Hazard Mitigation Plan following FEMA guidelines.
- ☞ Finalized a draft of a Capital Budget and Improvement Program.
- ☞ Provided grant funds for the dehumidification system replacement for Highgate Sports Arena.
- ☞ Updated the locally adopted Emergency Operations Plan.
- ☞ Coordinated with Department of Public Safety, State Geologist, Norwich University, UVM's Transportation Research Center and local officials on conducting landslide risk analysis for the Town of Highgate.
- ☞ Updated the E-911 poster map and road map.
- ☞ Completed a Town Plan update in coordination with the Planning Commission.
- ☞ Completed the Regional review and approval of the Town Plan.
- ☞ Provided technical assistance on brownfields issues.



This year the Commission will assist communities with water quality compliance and project implementation, complete a regional energy plan, implement our new regional plan and provide other needed services to our member municipalities. The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional activities and to provide matching funds needed for state and federal programs.

Your continued support for local and regional planning is greatly appreciated. NRPC is your resource -- please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, mapping or other needs.

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District
2015 Supervisor's Report

The Northwest Solid Waste District's (NWSWD) mission is to provide for the efficient, economical, and environmentally-sound reduction, reuse, recycling, and finally disposal of solid waste. 2015 was a great year for the NWSWD. Our efforts in recent years to make our operations more convenient, consistent, and cost effective for District residents resulted in the District's operations successfully diverting more waste from the landfill than any year before! This year the NWSWD collected more waste types, more often! District Staff also succeeded in communicating better with NWSWD residents and being active on a local, regional, and state level to manage waste better.

We invite all residents to engage in conversations about waste reduction and recycling and get information by visiting our new website, liking us on Facebook, signing up for our e-newsletter, or talk to us in person at community events like Franklin County Field Days or at our one of our sites. District Staff go into schools and the community to teach everyone the importance of the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! All this work showed in the amount of waste we diverted from the landfill this year. Some of this year's highlights include:

- **District operations diverted from the landfill 1,134 tons of waste in 2015! This is a 25% increase from 2014!!**
- Increased the tonnage of recyclables processed at our Georgia Recycling Center by 47 tons
- Held four (4) "Backyard Composting" classes for residents
- Worked with schools to educate children about the waste system, recycling, composting and waste reduction in Grand Isle, Isle La Motte, Franklin, Bakersfield, St. Albans City & Town, Fairfield, Enosburg, Grand Isle, Georgia, Sheldon, and Richford
- Launched a brand new website and doubled the size of our e-news letter

NWSWD by the Numbers

In the NWSWD, 5 District run recycling drop-off sites in Georgia, Montgomery, Bakersfield, St. Albans and North Hero, District run special events, 2 member town run sites (Alburgh and Grand-Isle), and mandatory curbside recycling by registered waste haulers allows easy access to recycling for all residents. Overall in 2015, after recycling, reuse and composting, the average District resident sent 2.88 pounds of waste per day to the landfill, which is a 7% reduction from 2014! Way to go!

At our District-operated sites and events, this year we disposed of 764 tons of trash and managed 1,126 tons of recyclables, setting the diversion rate for District Services at 40%. Check out this list of what we were able to divert from landfills this year in Northwest VT (Note: every total listed below represents an increase over 2014):

- 109,374 pounds of Hazardous Waste (over twice as much as last year!)
- 355 Freon containing appliances
- 241,640 pounds of scrap metal
- 9,075 pounds of batteries
- 556,160 pounds of food scraps
- 780,016 pounds of blue-bin recyclables
- 207,821 pounds of electronics
- 42,981 pounds of maple tubing (4 times more than last year!)

As Highgate's representative on the District Board of Supervisors, I am available to discuss District activities with town residents through the District office at (802)524-5986. For more information about the District and our services, call District staff at the above number visit us on the web at www.nswsd.org, find us on Facebook, or sign-up for our e-mail updates. More information can also be found in our Newsletter available at your Town Meeting.

Vermont Department of Health Report for HIGHGATE

Your local health district office is in St. Albans at the address and phone number above. Come visit or give us a call! At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With twelve district offices around the state, and state office and laboratory in Chittenden County, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. For example, in 2015 the Health Department:

Provided WIC nutrition services and healthy foods to families: We served about half of all Vermont families with pregnant women and children to age five with WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). WIC provides individualized nutrition counseling and breastfeeding support, home-delivered foods, and a debit-like card to buy fruit and vegetables. In Highgate, 157 women, infants and children were enrolled in WIC. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month. Families served by WIC are now able to shop for WIC foods themselves, increasing choice (a change from home delivery).

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In 2014, \$13,916,297 of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases was distributed to healthcare providers statewide, \$1,888,581 of which was in Franklin and Grand Isle counties.

Supported healthy communities: Franklin Grand Isle Caring Communities was awarded \$150,000 to support implementation of community-based chronic disease prevention strategies related to alcohol and drug abuse, nutrition and physical activity, and tobacco control.

Aided communities in emergency preparedness: In 2014/15, \$28,000 was contributed to fund training for Franklin & Grand Isle Counties Emergency Medical Services and Northwest Vermont Medical Reserve Corps. In addition, since July 2013, funding of \$60,813 supported emergency preparedness capabilities at Northwestern Medical Center.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of local groups of volunteers, with a mission to engage volunteers in activities that strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, as well as others interested in improving the health and safety of their local jurisdictions. MRC units identify, screen, train and organize volunteers, and utilize them to support routine public health activities and augment preparedness and response efforts. If you are interested in volunteering in the Northwest VT MRC, or would like more information on the MRC program in VT, please visit www.oncallforvt.org



FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TOWN REPORT
CALENDAR YEAR 2015

The mission of FCIDC is to engage in a process of building a strong and diversified market economy that serves the interest of area enterprises, municipalities, residents and to strengthen our economy through the creation and retention of jobs and build a business environment suitable to host capital investment.

During 2015 the local economy continues to remain strong in most sectors, with the exception of the dairy sector. Every spring FCIDC visits with all of the selectboards in the county and since the recession we have always thought that if gas prices were below \$3.00 (we are now looking at possibly below \$2.00) and if milk prices stabilized at \$25.00 Franklin County would be golden. So we have the gas prices we had hoped for but milk prices remain drastically low; not even close to the \$25.00. As most people know both the gas prices and the milk prices are variables outside of our local control.

What is in our control when we look at economic development are factors like infrastructure investment, workforce development, technical support and a community's willingness to welcome new business to our region. Infrastructure includes water/sewer, transportation, three phase power, natural gas, industrial parks telecommunications and quality industrial buildings. In 2015 FCIDC received a \$256,000 grant which is to be matched one to one. The grant will be used to extend the infrastructure within the St. Albans Town Industrial Park in order to access three additional lots. FCIDC in conjunction with the Enosburg Falls Economic Development Corporation expended \$22,000 to expand the infrastructure in the Enosburg Business Park.

Currently, FCIDC is overseeing a construction project for the Georgia Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC). The project is a \$2 million dollar upgrade of the 33 year old water plant which is operated by GIDC. The water plant supplies water to the three manufacturers within the Georgia Dairy Industrial Park. Perrigo Nutritionals is the largest user of the water; the company has approximately 350 employees and manufacture baby formula which is shipped worldwide.

As for workforce development the Franklin Grand Isle Workforce Investment Board (FGIWIB) under the guidance of Kathy Lavoie has created a variety of partnerships in her effort to train local individuals for better employment opportunities. The most recent partnership is that with Vermont Technical College (VTC). VTC is utilizing the FGIWIB training Center in Swanton. The Center is home to a VTC Nursing class and a VTC Mechanical Technician class. The FGIWIB works very closely with CCV and the Northwest Technical Center in an effort to grow and improve our workforce.

All of the Franklin County communities are huge supporters of economic development and the creation of quality jobs. The more rural communities understand that even though manufacturing may not be appropriate for their specific town, job opportunities in other parts of the county can be a benefit to their residents. In addition, the manufacturers of value added milk products are valuable to their dairy base.

FCIDC is also in its third year of a contract with a bi-lingual consultant that visits Quebec twice a month. The message which we share is: Vermont is a great place to expand, not move your business. This effort has generated some leads and a strong network, but no immediate success at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a very brief overview of FCIDC's activities for 2015. Please feel free to contact the office at (802) 524-2194.

Respectfully,

Timothy J. Smith
Executive Director

All Arts Council
 a Quarter Century of
Summer Sounds
 Outdoor Concert Series
 Summer of 2015

The All Arts Council's *Summer Sounds* popular, long running, outdoor series offers free concerts on warm summer Sunday evenings. Visit www.summer.allarts.org for more info.

2015 marked the 25th season of the popular free concert series so we brought back groups that had played with us in the first decade. **Anderson Gram, Lisa Brande and Easy Street on the Bayou, the Constitution Brass Quintet, Dr. Jazz and the Dixie Six, Mark LeGrand and the Lovesick Band with Sarah Munro, and IncaHOOTs** who appeared for a final show as **Branded**.

The Grand Finale was our 25th Anniversary *Summer Sounds* benefit concert that brought the community together during Childhood Cancer awareness month to support Camp Ta-Kum-Ta's year-round programs and to help Highgate build its first real bandshell. We had continuous music on two stages on the Franklin County Field Days grounds. The featured acts include **Jenni Johnson and the Jazz Junketeers, Jon Gailmor, IncaHOOTs, the Sky Blue Boys, the Summer Sounds singers**, and more.

Highgate businesses, many community groups, dozens of volunteers, and the Town all worked together. The *Summer Sounds* Benefit Music Festival had support from TimKath Productions, NMC, McKenzie, Green Mountain Coffee, the UPS Store in St. Albans, and Harper Company. The series was underwritten by Chevalier Drilling Co. Inc, Desorcie's Market, Drummac Septic Service, O. C. McCuin & Sons, and Ray's Extrusion Dies Tubing. Desserts were presented by the All Arts Council, Highgate Historical Society, Highgate Methodist Church, and St. Paul's Scholarship Fund.

The *St. Albans Messenger* and NW Access covered every event and provided wonderful publicity. (If you missed any of the concerts, the *Almost Live* series airs on Channel 15. Visit www.northwestaccess.info for the schedule.)

Highgate disbursed \$3,000 of our \$6,200 series budget. Our local sponsors contributed \$1,250 and we earned about \$200 on the 50-50 and other donations in Highgate. We had many terrific donations of goods and services as well. (If we had to pay for all that "in-kind" help, it would have cost about \$7,500 more again this year.)

In spite of all the effort for the Festival, we had cold weather and less than 50 paid attendees and raised a disappointing \$533.00. That was split evenly between Highgate Parks and Rec for the band stand and Camp Ta-Kum-Ta.

We have started booking the 2016 *Summer Sounds* season with as many concerts of country, jazz, pops, brass, classics, and even a little rock-n-roll and we may reprise the big, big, blowout Festival.

The *Summer Sounds* concerts are always on Sunday evenings, always at 7 p.m., always in a Town Park, always in the summer, and always free.

Thanks for your continuing support!



25TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT

Dick

Dick Harper, Chair, All Arts Council



2015
Annual Report



HIGHGATE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

It is with pleasure the Highgate School Board reports to you on numerous activities of the past year. Together with the school's administration, teachers and staff, and the Supervisory Union's administration and staff, we continue to work toward providing the children of Highgate, their parents and the greater Highgate community with a school system that is educationally strong, fiscally sound, responsible and sustainable.

Last year's report opened with the following: "Another very busy year has required the Highgate School Board to meet more often." This year the number of meetings has increased and includes discussions and action around: expanding pre-school opportunities, Act 46, professional and support staff contract negotiations, Superintendent evaluation, hiring interviews for an interim principal and several staff positions, Supervisory Union business, school board member development, regional and state Vermont School Board Association workshops, buildings and grounds projects, long range planning, MVU agriculture committee collaboration, town sidewalks and safe crosswalks planning, food service advisory board, as well as our regularly scheduled monthly board meetings! We have been and remain very busy!

Total child enrollment as of October 1, 2015 was 296 children and is broken down as follows: kindergarten, 39; grade 1, 44; grade 2, 50; grade 3, 37; grade 4, 44; grade 5, 42; and grade 6, 40. As of January 19, 2016 kindergarten through grade 6 enrollment is 305 students. This year the early education program (3 and 4 year olds) has grown. Having four different sessions during the school week provides the opportunity for 58 children to participate in our early education program.

We have been most fortunate to have Mr. Patrick Hartnett filling the role of interim principal as a result of Marcel Choquette's resignation in July. In using his wealth of public education knowledge and experiences, child-centered beliefs and leadership skills, Mr. Hartnett has moved our school community forward in a very positive, successful and much needed way!

This past summer's plant and maintenance department work included: replacing 3 bathroom floors in the older wing of the brick building (the material used is very strong, durable and easy to maintain), updated asbestos management training including updating the school management plan, and a phone system upgrade. In an effort to maximize taxpayer dollars we are participating in a Facility Maintenance Directors Association Buyers Group. This allows us to purchase supplies and equipment at reduced costs. Several schools have experienced savings of 20% to 40%. The drainage system for the white building, completed 2 summers ago is functioning effectively. Areas of concern that will need attention in the future are: leaks in parts of the brick building roof, security system enhancements, the safety and efficiency of the large glass windows in both buildings and improving the surface of the driveway.

We are excited about the opportunity to work together with MVU's agriculture program (under the guidance of James Messier) as we expand the usage of the "Cassidy property". The land currently is divided into 3 areas: one area for the elementary school's vegetable garden created and maintained under the direction of JoAnne Campbell working with children enrolled in Crossroads, our after-school program; another area for grazing animals and the third area for hay production, both part of MVU's AG program. Thanks go to the Flint family for providing daily access to a water supply.

Technology opportunities continue to improve as we now have almost enough computers for 1 to 1 student learning. Currently 10 classrooms have SMART Boards as well as the library, speech room and

computer lab in the brick building. To provide equity, grant money is being used to purchase 8 additional SMART Boards so every classroom will have one.

Our food service program, provided by the Abbey Group provides both breakfast (32% participation rate) and lunch (72% participation rate). Using grant funding again this year, fresh fruit and/or vegetable snacks are available to students every day.

The Board would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the Parent Teacher Kids Organization (PTKO), the School-Community Partnership and other volunteers for generously giving their time, energy and creativity to provide a wide variety of additional activities for our school community. Do you want to learn more about the school or make a difference with young people? These organizations and the school can use your help....become a volunteer!

Members of the town's highway crew together with M & C Transportation and their bus drivers ensure that every day our students travel to and from school safely! We are very grateful for their efforts. They do make a difference.

Regularly scheduled school board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6:15 pm in the school library. Each agenda includes an opportunity for citizens and staff to be heard. Most meetings are recorded and can be viewed on cable TV, channel 15. We welcome your suggestions, questions, ideas and concerns.

Balancing the needs of our school with our responsibility as a Board to exercise fiscal oversight and restraint has become even more challenging. The Board believes that the FY 2017 budget provides this balance. We would like to encourage all members of our community to become familiar with educational issues. In particular, Act 46 has the potential to significantly change the way we govern and operate schools. Please do not hesitate to ask questions, share your opinion and be involved.

The Highgate community has a long history of supporting its schools. As the Board continues to address the challenges of learning in the 21st century, we would like to acknowledge and express our sincere gratitude to our community for your faithful support of our most important natural resource....our children!

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Janes Beyor, Chair
Nola Gilbert, Vice-Chair
Chad Larivee, Clerk
Richard Flint
David Roddy

School Directors' Term Expiration	
Connie Janes Beyor	2017
Nola Gilbert	2018
Chad Larivee	2016
Richard Flint	2017
David Roddy	2016

Principal's Report

This year I have had the pleasure to serve your community as an interim principal at Highgate Elementary School. I assumed the job of principal in August of 2015, and since then have worked hard to ensure that students and staff experienced a wonderful and positive school year. I am pleased to report that you have a strong community school served by many talented and dedicated school staff.

Recognition

There are many people that I would like to recognize for their support during this interim year.

The Highgate School Board has demonstrated unwavering support for the children of your community.

Superintendent Winton Goodrich is in the midst of a multiyear effort to build a better Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union. All of his staff at the FNWSU district offices are extremely hardworking and professional, and have been a tremendous support for me this school year. Specifically I would like to highlight the work of curriculum coordinator Libby Bonesteel, human resources Pierrette Bouchard, and assistant business manager Lora McAllister.

The para-educator staff also deserves recognition. They are often an overlooked group of individuals who do some of the most challenging work. We have many veteran para-educators who serve as the glue that hold us together each and every day.

The afternoon/evening custodial crew of Sue Drown, Sandy Stone and Randy Pudvah keep our school clean and operational during and after hours.

Our school nurse Jen Gagne is simply outstanding, and keeps all children and adults healthy!

Marshall and Colette Ploof of M & C Transit and their staff transport our kids to and from school professionally and safely. They often go the extra mile and work very hard to establish relationships with their students and families.

Lastly, the front office staff of Paula Yandow-Boomhower, Jessica Paquette, Heather Larivee and Assistant Principal Karen Casavant has been an integral part of the success of a school with an interim principal. Ms. Casavant's knowledge of the students, families and community cannot be overstated. Her dedication and love of kids is quite evident.

Professional Development for Staff

Even though the school is currently in search of a permanent leader, the staff has been working diligently to provide a first rate education for students. There has been a significant amount of

professional development to help the staff meet the new and ever changing demands in this day and age of education.

Math Studio

- Many of our teachers are enrolled in a course of study called Math Studio. Math Studio is a new concept in teaching mathematics that provides the teacher with a new set of tools and routines that foster engagement and discovery in each student. The teacher learns to construct activities that place more emphasis on students developing strategies to solve problems. A signature component to the program is that teachers allow other teachers and Math Studio coaches to observe the teacher in the classroom. We hope to have more teachers join the Math Studio community for the 2016-17 school year.

Professional Learning Communities

- PLC's are a group of educators that meets regularly, shares expertise, and works collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students. This year teachers in grades kindergarten through second grade have been working with math specialist Kyle Ashton in a math PLC. Teachers in grades three through six have been working with literacy specialist Edna Iannaco.

Grant Supported School Improvement

- In the fall of 2015, three schools in the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union were awarded School Improvement Grants. Highgate School was awarded sixty thousand dollars to use towards efforts to improve as a school. The Leadership Team at Highgate chose to direct the money towards three areas. We chose to use the funds on professional development to improve instruction, professional development to improve school culture, and lastly, to supplement technology instructional tools for teachers. The area of improving school culture was identified as the greatest need, thus received the "lion's share" of the grant. We used funding to enlist the support of national school culture expert Dr. Anthony Muhammad. Through a series of speaking engagements, audits, book studies, and in-school training, we are looking critically at who we are as a staff/school and what we value.

Assessment

During the 2015-16 school year, we have also continued our work on teaching with the Common Core and preparing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium or SBAC tests slated for this spring. Even though the SBAC tests were only piloted last year, we learned that Highgate School has both reasons to celebrate as well as reasons to roll up our sleeves and improve.

Afterschool

Our commitment to education goes beyond the traditional school day with the very dynamic afterschool program Crossroads. Mrs. Joyce Ashton oversees a wonderful afterschool staff that provides children with enriching and fun activities.

Staff

This year we welcomed new staff members Jen Whitby in kindergarten, Erika Fuller in 4th grade, Allison Narkewicz and Angela Gonyea in pre-school, Michelle Melhuish as our speech and language specialist, para-educators Amber LaFar, Patty Whittemore, Josie Spears, Linda Pierce, JoAnne Campbell, Per Engstrom and Laura Martin. We also welcomed from NCSS Laura Gabert as our school-based clinician and Colleen Pastina for behavior support

PTKO

So many of the programs that enrich the educational experience and opportunities of our students are realized only because of the efforts of a handful of extremely dedicated and hard working parents. Heather Daudelin, Jaime Berard, Nola Gilbert, Penny Gallo and JoAnne Campbell are just some of the many parents who support our PTKO.

Thank you for attending town meeting and thank you for supporting your children and their education.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Hartnett

Principal

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

I am pleased to serve as superintendent of schools for the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union (FNWSU), which is required by Vermont law to provide support and management resources for the Franklin, Highgate, Missisquoi Valley Union, Sheldon, and Swanton Schools. Education services are delivered to 2,200 students by 550 teachers, administrators, and support staff. The FNWSU is governed by 25 school board members, who serve on six school boards.

FNWSU Roles:

- Establish and follow a supervisory union-wide curriculum,
- Receive and disburse federal and state funds,
- Provide/arrange professional development programs for teachers, administrators, and staff,
- Manage special education services on behalf of its member districts,
- Provide efficient financial, human resources, construction, transportation, and student data management services,
- Negotiate teacher and staff contracts,
- Support school boards to develop and adopt school budgets,
- Establish a policy development process for the SU and all schools,
- Oversee Indian Education, Early Education, After-School, and Bookmobile programs,
- Work with other supervisory unions to efficiently manage services or perform duties.

FNWSU Goals:

1. *Educational Programing:* Encourage a learning environment where students are engaged in their learning activities and work toward excellence and are supported to reach their greatest potential.
2. *School Board Productivity:* School Board members will avail themselves of trainings provided by the Vermont School Board Association to ensure effective school board practices and procedures.
3. *Communication Practices:* Increase interactions and partnerships between schools, families, and the greater community.
4. *School Environment:* Ensure safe and healthy learning environments where all parties are expected to demonstrate self-discipline, responsibility, compassion, and mutual respect.
5. *Collaborative Relationships:* Work as collaborative partners to hire, evaluate, and facilitate the work of the superintendent.
6. *Strategic Planning:* Develop a strategic plan that provides funding for District programs that support high level student achievement.

FNWSU Priority:

The top SU priority this year is responding to the Act 46 governance merger legislation. The legislative premise of Act 46 is that a single PK-12 school board, overseeing multiple schools, will increase efficiency of school management, improve education quality, and reduce costs.

Over the past decade, law makers have been discussing school governance changes. Conversations have been influenced by unsustainable property tax increases and education costs that are driven by declining student enrollment and low student/staff ratios.

Act 46, using a system of “honey and hammers,” induces school leaders and communities to study the challenges and benefits of merging school boards. The “honey” is the allure of reduced homestead tax rates for either four or five years, depending on the current governance structure within each SU. The “hammers” are state-levied options that include an annual 5% tax rate increase for SUs that don’t comply with centralization of special education or transportation management functions. Sanctions also may include State Board mandated mergers of local school boards in SUs that don’t meet Education Quality Standards and demonstrate low-cost-benefit management efficiency.

Another Act 46 “hammer” is a cap on the cost per pupil increase between the 2015-16 school year and the 2016-2017 budget. If the arbitrary percentage cap is exceeded, taxpayers will then be billed two dollars for every dollar over the “Allowable Growth Percentage” (AGP). The AGPs cost per pupil increase for FNWSU schools ranged from 2.4% to 4.1%.

Here’s the FNWSU paradox. If the governance study that will be completed by Town Meeting Day identifies possible benefits for creating a single PK-12 school board, then a more comprehensive study may be undertaken. That study would be completed sometime next fall. If the Study Committee and the State Board of Education decide that some school district unification is warranted, then voters at the 2017 Town Meeting would have the opportunity to make the final school merger decision. Tax payers in merger towns would receive a collective 20 cent reduction on homestead property taxes over the next four years.

Sheldon would continue to operate its PK-8 school and pay tuition to area high schools. Sheldon taxpayers would see no reduction in property tax rates, unless the school board, study committee, State Board, and voters agreed to pay tuition to a single high school or merge with one or more area schools that operate a similar PK-8 school.

Local school leaders are currently weighing the merits of providing substantial property tax savings with giving up local authority over schools. State bureaucrats maintain that increased efficiency of school management will reduce costs and improve quality.

FNWSU Programs and Work Domains:

The reports that follow will provide taxpayers with a deeper understanding about the type and quality of work that is underway at the Franklin Northwest SU.

Curriculum

FNWSU students and staff have experienced our first year using a common curriculum, Kindergarten-Grade 6, based on the Common Core State Standards. Teaching teams work within professional learning communities, Kindergarten-Grade 12 to define common expectations within each unit of study, design common formative assessments, and look at student results collaboratively. We are nearing our goal of having a common, viable, and guaranteed curriculum for all students at FNWSU. The curriculum leaders from each building are now working on identifying our priority standards, developing proficiency scales for each standard, and creating an assessment bank for each priority standard. This will be in place for the 2016-2017 school year.

In addition to our curriculum work, we are embarking on learning about a common instructional framework with the Marzano Research Labs. This instructional framework will be our basis for developing our professionals into the best teachers possible for the children of FNWSU. Leadership teams are currently working with a consultant to learn about the instructional framework and action plan for how to move framework forward with all school faculties.

In 2014, the Vermont Agency of Education passed the Educational Quality Standards (EQS) in which all schools are required to abide. In light of this, MVU is leading the way in creating a system where students graduate based upon their proficiency in skills rather than seat time. In particular, MVU is focusing on defining transferrable skills for each student to demonstrate proficiencies.

FNWSU has taken on a considerable amount of change this school year, and we are up for the challenge. 2015-2016 is a significant learning year. We look forward to putting our plans into action soon.

Students in grades 3 through 8 and one year in high school completed the new SBAC online assessment in English-Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics this year. In each subject area, students received a four-digit score that ranged from 2,000 to 3,000 points. This score will be used to measure student achievement gains over time.

These four standards are used to assess learning for students throughout the supervisory union:

- 4 = Exceeded Standard
- 3 = Met Standard
- 2 = Nearly Met Standard
- 1 = Not Met Standard

The SBAC assessment results, combined with other local assessments, help teachers and staff chart progress and make decisions about what additional support each student needs to be successful.

Special Education

The provision of special education programs, resources and support has been mandated by federal and state law since the mid-1970's. The FNWSU works with 384 students who receive additional learning accommodations, directed by their Individualized Education Plan or IEP. An IEP Team, comprised of teachers, administrators, parents, and often outside agency staff, craft a customized learning plan that enables each student with disabilities to overcome barriers for receiving education services.

After a student is evaluated and found eligible for special education services, support can begin as early as three years of age, and continue through the student's 21st birthday.

Every effort is made for students to learn while remaining in the general educational environment with their same-age peers. FNWSU maintains one of the highest classroom inclusion rates in Vermont, an exemplary 87%. This means that 87% of IEP students receive their education services in the regular classroom.

Beginning this school year, the FNWSU now employs all special education professionals, with the goal to deliver the services and supports as required by IEPs. Currently these professionals include: psychologists, occupational therapists, and teachers. Three additional staff members complete the Central Office Team: Heidi Mosher-Adaptive Curriculum, Emily Weaver-Technology Integration, and Julie Rivers-Medicaid Clerk.

Special education services often are considerably more expensive than regular education programs. The state and federal governments provide additional financial support to help school districts offset some of these additional costs.

Early Education

The Franklin County Early Childhood Program is a public school early education program serving children from birth to school age and their families in the Franklin Central and Franklin Northwest Supervisory Unions. The program's target population in Franklin Northwest Supervision is three to five year old children in the towns of Franklin, Highgate, Sheldon and Swanton. Beginning in the 2016/2017 school year we will be offering a 10 hour a week preschool opportunity for children in the 2 years prior to their kindergarten year. We are currently serving 188 children.

The Early Childhood Program received a four-year federal grant this year that expands the program offering from 10 hours to 30 hours per week for four year old children in the towns of Highgate and Swanton, who meet specific financial eligibility requirements.

The program is operated with funds from a variety of federal, state, and local sources. The federal government directs funds to the State of Vermont, which provides the federal money to the local school district in the form of block and incentive grants. The State Legislature appropriates an additional amount of money for the public schools each year, and parts of these funds are designated for early childhood education services. The Supervisory Union combines the block grant and local share for early childhood education from each participating school district.

Carol Reed is the office manager who anchors Early Childhood Programs and staff support at the SU.

Business Office

The business manager and assistant business manager work directly with school boards and administrators to develop and manage the school and SU budgets. Business staff members collectively manage over 35 million dollars in public, state, and federal grant funds. The elementary schools and MVU budgets, and the required state forms that compare our cost and staffing ratios to other similar schools, are included in this report.

As mandated by state law, all Special Education professional staff salaries and benefits have been transferred from all local schools to the FNWSU. Costs are budgeted at the SU level using the same assumptions previously used at the local schools; however instead of appearing in separate budget line items, salaries and benefits are now reflected within the FNWSU assessments that are billed back to schools. Next year's budgets assume that special education program expenses will also be moved to the SU and then proportionally assessed to each school. Support staff members continue to be employed by local school boards.

The SU Business Office is supported with bookkeeping, accounts payable and payroll functions by both onsite and offsite financial staff.

All FNWSU financial funds and management operations at the SU and local school districts have their fund activity audited annually.

Indian Education

The FNWSU Title VII Indian Education Program is committed to assuring equity for all students through direct intervention, systemic change, and increased parent involvement. Goals include:

- Increasing the achievement level of Abenaki students, Grades PK-12,
- Reducing the dropout rate of high school students,
- Providing cultural enrichment activities,
- Promoting active parent participation through the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

In order to focus on all learners – both Abenaki and non-Abenaki – Indian Education delivers a continuum of supports for students ranging from remediation to enrichment. As the FNWSU is a confluence of many cultures, Indian Education promotes cultural competencies that every child can learn about and take pride in.

Human Resources

The Franklin Northwest SU Office provides Human Resource services for 550 employees who work in five schools and at the SU office. Some of the services provided include:

- Provide criminal background checks for all employees and school volunteers,
- Administer benefits including: health, dental, and long term disability insurances, Section 125, 403-B plans, and Family Medical Leave, to name a few,
- Advertise, prepare, and distribute employment ads,
- Review licensing and highly qualified eligibility for professional employees and highly qualified paraprofessional status,
- Prepare and help interpret employment contracts for administrators, professional, and support staff,
- Continuing to update the human resource software to improve efficiency and streamline information, and
- Support the work of six school boards and administrators by warning board meetings, creating board minutes, and developing meeting materials.

Information Technology

In 2016, FNWSU Technology Coordinators, Technicians and Technology Integrationists continue to support and improve access to technology-rich 21st century learning, by providing staff and students with online tools for creating, communicating and collaborating in a safe and secure environment. The goal is to provide every student in grades 3 through 12 with access to their own school computer every day. Technology staff also continues to improve the reliability and security of our technology networks and data systems, all to support teaching and learning and the efficient administration of our schools. This year we completed the SU-wide implementation of the Tyler iVisions accounting and human resources software system, including new employee information portals. The IT staff also successfully provided essential support, management, and direction for the administration of the SBAC online student assessments in the spring of 2015 and continue to provide technology readiness, staff training, and test administration for the 2015-2016 school year.

After-School Program

The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union After School & Summer Programs operate in all schools; we had 830 students attending programs last year, which is approximately 45% of all the students attending the schools in Highgate, Franklin, Sheldon and Swanton. This is an increase from 743 students participating the prior year, an all-time high enrollment. Students have choice from the homework support, science, technology, math, arts and literacy enrichment programs as well as recreational opportunities and fitness challenges. In all our programming, we work to incorporate social emotional learning, daily fitness opportunities and positive attitudes in trying new things. With the partial funding received from the Vermont Agency of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant, school budgets, other grants and fundraising, these programs continue under the guidance and oversight of the Vermont Agency of Education which requires the elements of high-quality programming to be met and reported annually.

FNWSU After School & Summer Programs are geared to provide fun, inspirational, educational, experiential activities, opportunities and academic support. Keeping youth safe and providing supportive adult relationships are cornerstones of our programming.

Franklin/Grand Isle Bookmobile

Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile (Bookmobile) services to Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union (FNWSU) have increased compared to last year, despite an overall funding reduction. The truck welcomed more than 4742 visitors and delivered over 815 story time programs in our region. Story time programs facilitate the Early Childhood Program's early literacy goals and growing through play.

Children have fun learning about the world by engaging in the extensive book collection and library rituals. The Bookmobile gave away more than three new books per young patron, exceeding this year's goal. In addition to library outreach services, FNWSU childcare providers gleaned resources and training via the Bookmobile. Nine providers have increased their credentials in the Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS) by at least one star with Bookmobile programs. Furthermore the Bookmobile brought 75+ FNWSU school-aged students many advantages including author visits and Vermont Jeopardy games. The road to literacy is exciting indeed. The 2016 Bookmobile now has a certified teacher on board and a new generator, increasing cozy literacy experiences for patrons of all ages. We look forward to serving FNWSU, especially those unable to access the public library.

Thank you in advance of Town Meeting for your ongoing support of the most important community development asset, the provision of education for the next generation of parents and civic leaders.

Respectfully submitted,

Winton I. Goodrich
Superintendent of Schools

FRANKLIN NORTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION AFTER SCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMS

*Committed to enriching the lives of
Franklin, Highgate, Sheldon and Swanton students,
by providing fun, inspirational, educational, experiential
activities, opportunities and academic support.*



Crossroads
After School

CROSSROADS
EXPLORERS



January 2016

Greetings Highgate Residents,

The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union After School & Summer Programs is celebrating its 10th year anniversary THIS YEAR ! We are excited to have reached such a milestone. Please contact us if you have ideas and would like to help us create a memorable celebration for the students and community !

FNWSU After School and Summer Programs had over 818 students registered this past 2014-2015 school year. This is 51% of all students in the FNWSU schools attending the after school and summer programs, in our target grades of 2 through 12. Up from 743 the prior year, this is an all time high enrollment. Kudos goes to our After School Site Coordinators, Team Leaders and Staff for making this all happen!

The Crossroads After School Programs and extensions in the Crossroads Explorers and high school AfterHours programs, make available wonderful opportunities and offer academic support. Crossroads After School Programs are free after school programs with meals and transportation provided. Our programming is geared to provide fun, inspirational, educational, experiential activities, opportunities and academic support. Keeping youth safe and providing supportive adult relationships are cornerstones to our programming.



Our 2014-2019 Crossroads program goals are:

- Improve school day performance
- Improve school day attendance
- Improve overall health and physical well being
- Improve the level of self-esteem and social well-being
- Encourage participants to learn new skills & gain confidence, to problem solve, to try new things, and to become a responsible citizen of the local and global community
- Increase student access to, experience of and inquiry into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics) activities and opportunities

At the Highgate Elementary School, the Highgate Crossroads After School Programs are offered to students in grades 2 through 6. Highgate Crossroads provides free after school programming 30 weeks during the school year Monday through Thursday, and summer mornings Monday through Friday during 4 weeks of July,

Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union – 100 Robin Hood Drive, Suite 2 – Swanton VT 05488
Winton Goodrich
FNWSU Superintendent of Schools
868-4967 ext 17 or wgoodrich@fnwsu.org

Carol Lizotte
FNWSU After School Program Director
868-4967 ext 21 or clizotte@fnwsu.org

with bus transportation and meals provided. **Last school year our after school programs had an average of 40 students attending daily, with a total of 155 students participating during the year.** That is over 78% of the school population attending our programs last year, for our program target grades 2 through 6.

In our Highgate Crossroads end of year reports sent to the Agency of Education (AOE) for last school year, we reported that for our Highgate student regular attendees (those who attended 30 days or more) there was a 23% decrease in the number school days absent, when compared to the prior school year. We are pleased with this impact, as improving school attendance is one of our program goals.

Our after school and summer programs access the Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs which allowed the Highgate Crossroads and Crossroads Explorers program to provide 3292 free meals during the 2014-2015 school year and 950 free meals during our Highgate Summer Learning Camp. We are pleased that we can access these free meals to provide nutritious food for all our students, as part of our programs.

Our after school programs are 50% funded by the Vermont Agency of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21C) Program Grant. We are in the second year of a five year grant which goes through 2019. With the recent legislative action creating the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), our 21C after school funding has been secured to continue into the future.

The other half of our funding is provided by the Highgate and MVU School Budget, as well as additional funding from Vermont Agency of Education Child Nutrition Programs, other grants that become available, agency/business partnerships, business donations, family donations and various fundraising events we organize. If you would like to contribute, donate your time or help us organize a fundraising event, please contact the school's after school program site coordinator.

All our Crossroads After School Programs continue under the guidance and oversight of the Vermont Agency of Education which requires the elements of high-quality programming to be met and reported annually, which include:

- linkages to the school day
- high quality staff
- safe & appropriate environment
- high interest programming
- school leadership support
- regular attendees,
- instructional leadership
- flexible structures & student choice
- program leadership
- community partnerships

After school and summer programs are an investment in our communities now and for our future.

If you would like more information on

- Highgate Crossroads After School Program, please contact Joyce Ashton, our Highgate Crossroads Coordinator at the school (868-4170 ext 222 or jashton@fnwsu.org)
- MVU Crossroads or MVU AfterHours After School Programs, please contact Tessa Massett, our MVU Crossroads Coordinator at the school (868-0507 or tmassett@fnwsu.org).

You can also find more information on our FNWSU website www.afterschoolprograms.fnwsu.org.

Thank you for your continued support,

Carol Lizotte

FNWSU After School & Summer Programs Director
868-4967 ext 21 or clizotte@fnwsu.org

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Revenue Report
July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

	Budgeted	Actuals	Variance
General Fund Balance, July 1, 2014	\$74,997	\$74,997	\$0
Homestead Property Taxes	\$932,453	\$951,424	\$18,971
Non-Homestead Property Taxes	\$1,246,531	\$1,203,598	(\$42,934)
Education Spending Revenue from State	\$1,977,685	\$2,001,647	\$23,963
Special Education State Aid with adjustment from PY	\$377,000	\$446,055	\$69,055
Transportation Reimbursement	\$80,437	\$80,295	(\$142)
Interest Income	\$15,000	\$1,902	(\$13,098)
Grant funding	\$97,749	\$145,347	\$47,598
FNWSU Support - IDEA B	\$7,500	\$0	(\$7,500)
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$33,378	\$53,042	\$19,664
Municipal Bond Savings Allocation	\$0	\$796	\$796
VT Gas Incentive	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Food Service Equipment Grant	\$0	\$3,500	\$3,500
Northwest Counseling Reimbursment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Workmans Comp. Reimbursement	\$0	\$329	\$329
Miscellaneous Reimb./Refunds:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal - Receipts:	\$4,767,733	\$4,887,935	\$120,202
Minus General Fund Expenditures:		(\$4,617,627)	
Transfer to Capital Reserve		(\$90,000)	
HVAC borrowing payment (Year 2 of 3)		(\$45,000)	
Plus Technology Article Balance Due to GF		\$16,525	
Minus FY14 Special Ed Intensive Reimbursement Adjustment		(\$13,531)	
Total General Fund Balance, June 30, 2015		\$213,299	
Audited Governmental Fund Balances, June 30, 2015		\$213,299	
Reported for FY16 Property Tax reduction		\$22,902	
Unreserved FY15 Fund Balance		<u>\$190,397</u>	
Special Revenue Fund Balance, July 1, 2014			
Special Revenue Receipts		\$32,244	
Special Revenue Expenditures		\$4,434	
Remaining FY14 Funds to Capital Reserve		(\$11,551)	
Remaining FY13 Funds to Capital Reserve		\$0	
Total Special Revenue Fund Balance, June 30, 2015		<u>\$25,127</u>	
Capital Reserve Fund Balance, July 1, 2015			
FY15 Article Capital Reserve Allocation		\$53,834	
FY15 Article Capital Reserve Expenditures		\$90,000	
Remaining FY14 Article from Special Revenue Fund		(\$69,262)	
Remaining FY13 Article from Special Revenue Fund		\$0	
Total Capital Reserve Fund Balance, June 30, 2015		<u>\$74,572</u>	

**HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET**

	June 30, 2014	June 30, 2015
ASSETS:		
Cash & Cash Equivalent	\$222,605	\$553,284
Total Assets:	\$222,605	\$553,284
LIABILITIES & EQUITY:		
Payroll Withholdings & Liabilities	\$61,530	\$240,286
Due to Other Funds	\$86,078	\$99,699
Fund Equity	\$74,997	\$213,299
Total Liabilities & Equity:	\$222,605	\$553,284

Fund Balance:	\$74,997	\$213,299
Unreported Fund Balance from Prior Year to reduce next year's taxes	-\$55,089	-\$22,902
Technology Article Balance Due to GF	\$16,525	\$0
Special Education Intensive Reimbursement Adjustment	-\$13,531	\$0
Current Year's Carryover Reported to reduce next year's taxes	\$0	\$0
Unreserved Fund Balance (goes towards subsequent tax year)	\$22,902	\$190,397

A copy of the annual outside audit of the Highgate Town School District's financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, performed by Angolano & Co., Shelburne VT, is available at the Town Clerk's Office and/or the Superintendent of Schools' Office.

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2015 Expenditures, FY2016 Estimated Expenditures, and FY2017 Proposed School Budget

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Budget	FY2016 Estimated	FY2017 Proposed	Budget Change
1100	INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS:						
110	Teachers' Salaries	\$1,442,129	\$1,382,625	\$1,387,788	\$1,350,803	\$1,411,598	\$23,810
111	Extracurricular Salaries	\$5,000	\$5,150	\$5,010	\$5,010	\$5,010	\$0
112	Behavior Management	\$50,646	\$60,000	\$61,800	\$0	\$0	(\$61,800)
119	Paraprofessionals' Salaries	\$163,477	\$171,839	\$148,553	\$97,297	\$100,215	(\$48,338)
120	Substitutes Salaries	\$17,000	\$33,312	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0
121	Tutors' Salaries	\$7,500	\$2,358	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
210	Health Insurance	\$343,742	\$365,636	\$347,251	\$311,804	\$342,597	(\$4,654)
211	Dental Insurance	\$24,013	\$22,123	\$19,373	\$18,378	\$18,243	(\$1,130)
212	Catamount Insurance	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
220	Social Security	\$128,960	\$121,299	\$125,892	\$110,780	\$119,288	(\$6,604)
232	VSTRS Health Care Payment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,097	\$1,097	\$1,097
240	Municipal Retirement	\$6,539	\$6,505	\$8,414	\$3,030	\$4,009	(\$4,405)
250	Workers Compensation	\$11,748	\$16,781	\$12,342	\$1,117	\$7,797	(\$4,545)
260	Unemployment Compensation	\$1,500	\$550	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
300	Contracted Services	\$2,000	\$2,614	\$2,000	\$35,000	\$40,170	\$38,170
300.01	ESL Purchased Services	\$0	\$7,121	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
310	After School Programs support	\$31,952	\$35,860	\$37,774	\$37,774	\$37,774	\$0
311	Mentoring	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
320	Purchased Services (NCSS)	\$26,780	\$43,345	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
430	Repair & Maintenance	\$5,600	\$3,644	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
440	Copier Equipment Lease	\$7,839	\$7,839	\$7,839	\$7,839	\$7,839	\$0
540	Advertising	\$1,500	\$447	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$0
560	Student Tuition	\$96,000	\$61,708	\$65,508	\$32,902	\$0	(\$65,508)
580	Travel and Mileage	\$0	\$194	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
610	Instructional Supplies	\$30,000	\$19,119	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
640	Instructional Books	\$10,000	\$1,223	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
660	Manipulatives	\$2,000	\$1,745	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
730	Equipment	\$5,840	\$827	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$4,000
	Subtotal - Instructional Prog.	\$2,423,765	\$2,373,864	\$2,328,294	\$2,116,581	\$2,203,387	(\$124,907)

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Budget	FY2016 Estimated	FY2017 Proposed	Budget Change
1210	SPECIAL EDUCATION:						
110	Teachers' Salaries	\$210,004	\$210,464	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
115	Paraprofessionals' Salaries	\$196,408	\$158,110	\$182,415	\$245,340	\$252,390	\$69,975
120	Substitutes' Salaries	\$10,000	\$10,698	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	(\$2,000)
121	Tutors' Salaries	\$9,500	\$4,464	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$12,000	(\$6,500)
210	Health Insurance	\$80,362	\$108,177	\$46,388	\$46,115	\$58,415	\$12,027
211	Dental Insurance	\$3,219	\$4,071	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
220	Social Security	\$32,735	\$27,975	\$16,288	\$18,769	\$20,991	\$4,703
240	Municipal Retirement	\$7,856	\$5,611	\$7,700	\$7,966	\$10,096	\$2,396
250	Workers Compensation	\$2,995	\$0	\$1,597	\$1,800	\$1,262	(\$335)
260	Unemployment Compensation	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
300	Purchased Services	\$0	\$992	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$0	(\$4,500)
566	Tuition to Private Schools	\$0	\$69,377	\$62,008	\$112,831	\$0	(\$62,008)
580	Travel	\$1,500	\$301	\$750	\$750	\$0	(\$750)
610	Supplies	\$6,000	\$4,796	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	(\$6,000)
640	Books	\$1,500	\$302	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	(\$1,500)
730	Equipment	\$2,000	\$38	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	(\$2,500)
	Subtotal - Spec. Education	\$564,579	\$605,376	\$362,646	\$476,571	\$365,654	\$3,008
1214	EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM:						
331	Assessment	\$175,573	\$175,573	\$178,679	\$178,679	\$207,780	\$29,101
	Subtotal - Early Childhood Prog.	\$175,573	\$175,573	\$178,679	\$178,679	\$207,780	\$29,101
2120	COUNSELING SERVICES						
110	Counselor's Salary	\$47,420	\$47,683	\$49,556	\$49,800	\$52,241	\$2,685
210	Health Insurance	\$12,911	\$14,394	\$13,491	\$13,491	\$14,469	\$978
210.1	Dental Insurance	\$778	\$777	\$723	\$723	\$681	(\$42)
220	Social Security	\$3,628	\$3,431	\$3,791	\$3,810	\$3,996	\$205
250	Workers Compensation	\$332	\$0	\$372	\$372	\$261	(\$111)
300	Contracted Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$18,896	\$23,954	\$23,954
610	Instructional Supplies	\$180	\$228	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0
640	Instructional Books	\$225	\$192	\$225	\$301	\$300	\$75
660	Manipulatives	\$250	\$242	\$250	\$302	\$300	\$50
	Subtotal - Counseling	\$65,724	\$66,947	\$68,658	\$87,945	\$96,452	\$27,794

Funct/ Object Description		FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Budget	FY2016 Estimated	FY2017 Proposed	Budget Change
2130 HEALTH SERVICES:							
110	Nurse's Salary	\$38,952	\$39,462	\$40,706	\$41,500	\$43,815	\$3,109
120	Substitutes' salaries	\$500	\$1,411	\$750	\$750	\$1,000	\$250
210	Health Insurance	\$17,307	\$19,295	\$18,086	\$18,086	\$19,396	\$1,310
211	Dental Insurance	\$1,198	\$1,198	\$1,114	\$1,113	\$1,050	(\$64)
220	Social Security	\$3,018	\$2,836	\$3,171	\$3,175	\$3,428	\$257
250	Workers Compensation	\$276	\$0	\$311	\$311	\$224	(\$87)
300	Purchased Services	\$400	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$0	(\$250)
430	Repair & Maintenance	\$125	\$142	\$0	\$135	\$150	\$150
610	Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,024	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$200
730	Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$800	\$800
	Subtotal - Health Serv.	\$62,776	\$65,368	\$65,388	\$66,320	\$71,063	\$5,675
2150 SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY:							
110	SLP Salary	\$45,726	\$46,039	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
115	Paraprofessional Salary	\$6,470	\$10,570	\$12,881	\$13,523	\$13,930	\$1,049
210	Health Insurance	\$15,293	\$14,503	\$4,767	\$5,336	\$5,690	\$923
211	Dental Insurance	\$778	\$777	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
220	Social Security	\$3,993	\$4,161	\$985	\$1,034	\$1,066	\$81
240	Municipal Retirement	\$259	\$378	\$515	\$424	\$557	\$42
250	Workers Compensation	\$365	\$0	\$97	\$101	\$70	(\$27)
300	Contracted Speech Services	\$7,000	\$1,313	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
610	Supplies	\$500	\$501	\$500	\$500	\$0	(\$500)
	Subtotal - Speech Pathology	\$80,384	\$78,242	\$19,745	\$20,918	\$21,313	\$1,568
2213 INSTR. STAFF TRAINING:							
270	Course Reimbursement (Prof.)	\$17,500	\$27,023	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
270.1	Staff Development (All)	\$3,000	\$172	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$8,000	(\$5,000)
	Subtotal - Staff Training	\$20,500	\$27,195	\$38,000	\$38,000	\$33,000	(\$5,000)
2222 LIBRARY SERVICES:							
110	Librarian's Salary	\$59,274	\$59,193	\$61,945	\$61,420	\$64,038	\$2,093
120	Substitutes' Salaries	\$500	\$391	\$500	\$500	\$250	(\$250)
210	Health Insurance	\$6,568	\$7,322	\$6,863	\$13,491	\$14,469	\$7,606
211	Dental Insurance	\$411	\$411	\$382	\$723	\$681	\$299
220	Social Security	\$4,573	\$4,448	\$4,777	\$4,699	\$4,918	\$141

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015		FY2016		FY2017	
		Budget	Actuals	Budget	Estimated	Proposed	Budget Change
2222 LIBRARY SERVICES CONT.:							
250	Workers Compensation	\$418	\$0	\$468	\$461	\$321	(\$147)
430	Repair & Maintenance	\$450	\$0	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$0
449	Other Purchased Services	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
580	Travel and Conference	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0
610	Supplies	\$500	\$34	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
640	Books & Periodicals	\$5,000	\$4,293	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
650	Audiovisuals	\$250	\$221	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0
670	Computer Software	\$2,637	\$1,475	\$2,637	\$2,637	\$2,637	\$0
730	Equipment	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
	Subtotal - Library	\$83,231	\$77,788	\$86,372	\$92,731	\$96,114	\$9,742
2225 SCHOOL-WIDE TECHNOLOGY							
110.01	Educational Technologist	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$45,500	\$43,500
110	Coordinator's Salary	\$33,863	\$34,110	\$36,898	\$37,068	\$38,181	\$1,283
210	Health Insurance	\$17,307	\$19,929	\$18,748	\$18,748	\$33,340	\$14,592
211	Dental Insurance	\$540	\$712	\$540	\$540	\$1,221	\$681
220	Social Security	\$2,591	\$2,367	\$2,976	\$2,836	\$6,402	\$3,426
240	Municipal retirement	\$1,355	\$1,443	\$1,476	\$1,112	\$1,527	\$51
250	Workers Compensation	\$237	\$0	\$277	\$278	\$418	\$141
270	Coursework Reimbursement	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
320	Website	\$2,500	\$178	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
430	Repair & Maintenance	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
530	Telephone/Internet	\$1,600	\$1,553	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
580	Conferences and Workshops	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
610	Supplies	\$3,850	\$1,172	\$3,850	\$3,850	\$3,850	\$0
670	Computer Software	\$7,300	\$0	\$7,300	\$7,300	\$7,300	\$0
730	Equipment	\$1,400	\$3,985	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$0
739	Computer Equipment	\$31,700	\$29,642	\$21,700	\$21,700	\$10,000	(\$11,700)
	Subtotal - School-Wide Technology	\$107,943	\$95,091	\$102,865	\$100,532	\$154,839	\$51,974
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION:							
111	Board Salaries	\$3,350	\$2,700	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$0
220	Salary, Board Secretary	\$1,000	\$1,047	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
260	Social Security	\$333	\$287	\$333	\$333	\$333	\$0
330	Legal Services/Negotiations	\$7,500	\$5,535	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$6,000	(\$1,500)

Funct/ Object Description		FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Budget	FY2016 Estimated	FY2017 Proposed	Budget Change
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION CONT.:							
610	Supplies	\$200	\$238	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$0
810	Dues [VSBA]	\$1,650	\$1,773	\$1,773	\$1,773	\$1,773	\$0
	Subtotal - Board of Educ.	\$14,033	\$11,580	\$14,156	\$14,156	\$12,656	(\$1,500)
2321 OFFICE OF THE SUPT:							
331	S. U. Assessment (Central Office)	\$108,978	\$111,768	\$121,353	\$121,353	\$125,552	\$4,199
333	S. U. Assessment (SpecEduc Admin)	\$86,078	\$86,078	\$87,446	\$87,446	\$89,024	\$1,578
	Transfer of SPED to SU Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$304,469	\$304,469	\$494,501	\$190,032
	Transfer of Speech to SU Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$52,600	\$52,600	\$53,826	\$1,226
	Subtotal - Supt's Office	\$195,056	\$197,846	\$565,868	\$565,868	\$762,903	\$197,035
2410 PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:							
110	Principal & Asst Principals' Salaries	\$141,656	\$149,556	\$154,043	\$154,643	\$163,792	\$9,749
111	Substitute Coordination	\$3,500	\$3,181	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	(\$3,500)
119	Admin Asst & Secretary's Salaries	\$56,221	\$57,922	\$56,362	\$59,490	\$62,318	\$5,956
120	Substitutes' Salaries	\$1,000	\$3,519	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$0
210	Health Insurance	\$25,184	\$18,997	\$18,978	\$32,065	\$34,343	\$15,365
211	Dental Insurance	\$2,560	\$2,430	\$1,907	\$1,877	\$2,130	\$223
212	Long Term Disability Insurance	\$581	\$578	\$632	\$632	\$672	\$40
220	Social Security	\$15,482	\$16,596	\$16,440	\$16,381	\$17,374	\$934
240	Municipal Retirement	\$2,389	\$2,328	\$2,254	\$2,173	\$2,493	\$239
250	Workers Compensation	\$1,417	\$0	\$1,612	\$1,618	\$1,136	(\$476)
270	Course Reimbursement	\$2,000	\$1,240	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
300	Contracted Services	\$6,191	\$11,118	\$6,223	\$6,223	\$10,000	\$3,777
301	Purchased Services	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
430	Repair & Maintenance	\$400	\$0	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0
530	Telephone	\$15,050	\$13,999	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
531	Postage	\$1,000	\$1,179	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,300	\$100
580	Conference/Travel	\$2,200	\$753	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,000	(\$200)
610	Supplies	\$500	\$974	\$750	\$750	\$1,000	\$250
730	Equipment	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
810	Dues & Memberships	\$750	\$674	\$674	\$674	\$700	\$26
	Subtotal - Principal's Office	\$282,581	\$285,044	\$280,675	\$297,826	\$313,158	\$32,483

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015		FY2016		FY2017	
		Budget	Actuals	Budget	Estimated	Proposed	Budget Change
2520	FISCAL SERVICES:						
110	Bookkeeper's Salary	\$11,250	\$12,793	\$12,523	\$12,523	\$12,899	\$376
220	Social Security	\$861	\$979	\$958	\$958	\$987	\$29
240	Municipal Retirement	\$731	\$562	\$877	\$877	\$919	\$42
610	Supplies	\$775	\$1,298	\$775	\$775	\$1,000	\$225
830	Interest on Current Loan	\$7,660	\$2,646	\$3,837	\$1,200	\$500	(\$3,337)
	Subtotal - Fiscal Services	\$21,277	\$18,278	\$18,970	\$16,333	\$16,305	(\$2,665)

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015		FY2016		FY2017	
		Budget	Actuals	Budget	Estimated	Proposed	Budget Change
2540	PLANT OPERATIONS:						
110	Custodians' Salaries	\$126,320	\$134,291	\$126,916	\$127,206	\$131,022	\$4,106
120	Substitutes' Salaries	\$0	\$774	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
210	Health Insurance	\$51,035	\$57,224	\$53,833	\$53,833	\$57,402	\$3,569
211	Dental Insurance	\$1,620	\$1,615	\$1,620	\$1,462	\$1,620	\$0
220	Social Security	\$9,663	\$9,597	\$10,321	\$10,343	\$10,635	\$314
240	Municipal Retirement	\$5,053	\$4,606	\$5,397	\$4,342	\$5,241	(\$156)
250	Workers Compensation	\$7,263	\$0	\$8,095	\$8,112	\$6,951	(\$1,144)
300	Contracted Services	\$775	\$0	\$738	\$738	\$738	\$0
421	Disposal/Recycling Services	\$5,500	\$555	\$6,072	\$6,072	\$6,254	\$182
430	Repair/Maintenance	\$38,500	\$56,469	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$40,000	(\$10,000)
430.1	Contracted Maintenance	\$7,500	\$3,369	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$5,000	(\$2,500)
521	Property Insurance	\$11,572	\$11,235	\$11,572	\$17,043	\$17,554	\$5,982
580	Travel / Mileage	\$300	\$1,023	\$950	\$950	\$1,000	\$50
610	Supplies	\$20,300	\$19,503	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
622	Electricity	\$42,000	\$39,871	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$43,260	\$1,260
624	Heat/Fuel [Natural Gas]	\$45,000	\$35,358	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
700	Equipment	\$10,000	\$389	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$13,000	\$8,000
	Subtotal - Plant Operation	\$382,401	\$375,879	\$398,014	\$402,601	\$407,677	\$9,663

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015		FY2016		FY2017	
		Budget	Actuals	Budget	Estimated	Proposed	Budget Change
2550	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION						
513	Contracted Service	\$178,740	\$175,500	\$179,010	\$179,010	\$182,574	\$3,564
513.01	Non-Special Educ Transportation	\$23,175	\$15,742	\$17,500	\$10,000	\$1,600	(\$15,900)
514	Other Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,500
515	Special Education Transportation	\$0	\$24,148	\$22,500	\$27,125	\$23,665	\$1,165
	Subtotal - Pupil Transportation	\$201,915	\$215,390	\$219,010	\$216,135	\$215,339	(\$3,671)

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015		FY2016		FY2017	
		Budget	Actuals	Budget	Estimated	Proposed	Budget Change
2520	FISCAL SERVICES:						
110	Bookkeeper's Salary	\$11,250	\$12,793	\$12,523	\$12,523	\$12,899	\$376
220	Social Security	\$861	\$979	\$958	\$958	\$987	\$29
240	Municipal Retirement	\$731	\$562	\$877	\$877	\$919	\$42
610	Supplies	\$775	\$1,298	\$775	\$775	\$1,000	\$225
830	Interest on Current Loan	\$7,660	\$2,646	\$3,837	\$1,200	\$500	(\$3,337)
	Subtotal - Fiscal Services	\$21,277	\$18,278	\$18,970	\$16,333	\$16,305	(\$2,665)

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015		FY2016		FY2017	
		Budget	Actuals	Budget	Estimated	Proposed	Budget Change
2540	PLANT OPERATIONS:						
110	Custodians' Salaries	\$126,320	\$134,291	\$126,916	\$127,206	\$131,022	\$4,106
120	Substitutes' Salaries	\$0	\$774	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0
210	Health Insurance	\$51,035	\$57,224	\$53,833	\$53,833	\$57,402	\$3,569
211	Dental Insurance	\$1,620	\$1,615	\$1,620	\$1,462	\$1,620	\$0
220	Social Security	\$9,663	\$9,597	\$10,321	\$10,343	\$10,635	\$314
240	Municipal Retirement	\$5,053	\$4,606	\$5,397	\$4,342	\$5,241	(\$156)
250	Workers Compensation	\$7,263	\$0	\$8,095	\$8,112	\$6,951	(\$1,144)
300	Contracted Services	\$775	\$0	\$738	\$738	\$738	\$0
421	Disposal/Recycling Services	\$5,500	\$555	\$6,072	\$6,072	\$6,254	\$182
430	Repair/Maintenance	\$38,500	\$56,469	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$40,000	(\$10,000)
430.1	Contracted Maintenance	\$7,500	\$3,369	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$5,000	(\$2,500)
521	Property Insurance	\$11,572	\$11,235	\$11,572	\$17,043	\$17,554	\$5,982
580	Travel / Mileage	\$300	\$1,023	\$950	\$950	\$1,000	\$50
610	Supplies	\$20,300	\$19,503	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
622	Electricity	\$42,000	\$39,871	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$43,260	\$1,260
624	Heat/Fuel [Natural Gas]	\$45,000	\$35,358	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
700	Equipment	\$10,000	\$389	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$13,000	\$8,000
	Subtotal - Plant Operation	\$382,401	\$375,879	\$398,014	\$402,601	\$407,677	\$9,663

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015		FY2016		FY2017	
		Budget	Actuals	Budget	Estimated	Proposed	Budget Change
2550	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION						
513	Contracted Service	\$178,740	\$175,500	\$179,010	\$179,010	\$182,574	\$3,564
513.01	Non-Special Educ Transportation	\$23,175	\$15,742	\$17,500	\$10,000	\$1,600	(\$15,900)
514	Other Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,500	\$7,500
515	Special Education Transportation	\$0	\$24,148	\$22,500	\$27,125	\$23,665	\$1,165
	Subtotal - Pupil Transportation	\$201,915	\$215,390	\$219,010	\$216,135	\$215,339	(\$3,671)

Func/ Object	Description	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Budget	FY2016 Anticipated	FY2017 Proposed	Budget Change
2600	FOOD SERVICE						
300	Contracted Services	\$0	\$80	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
700	Equipment	\$5,000	\$7,100	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
	Subtotal - Food Service	\$5,000	\$7,180	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
5100	DEBT SERVICE						
830	Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
910	Principal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Subtotal - Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
BUDGET TOTAL		\$4,686,738	\$4,676,641	\$4,752,340	\$4,696,193	\$4,982,640	\$230,300

HIGHGATE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

	FY2016	FY2017
EXPENSES:		
Highgate School District Budget Proposal	\$4,752,340	\$4,982,640
Special Articles	\$25,000	\$25,000
Escrow Account Article - Approved FY14	\$46,083	\$0
	<u>\$4,823,423</u>	<u>\$5,007,640</u>
REVENUES:		
Interest Earnings	\$5,000	\$2,000
Prior Year's Unreserved Fund Balance	\$22,902	\$190,397
Current Year Carryforward	\$0	\$0
Anticipated Grant Funding towards Staffing	\$205,237	\$207,698
EPSDT	\$0	\$11,000
Projected Special Education Aid:		
Mainstream Block Grant	\$105,161	\$108,743
Intensive Reimbursement	\$304,119	\$396,469
EEE Grant	\$41,931	\$47,981
Care & Custody	\$0	\$0
Projected Transportation Reimbursement	<u>\$77,530</u>	<u>\$86,710</u>
Subtotal - Revenues	\$761,880	\$1,050,998
EDUCATION SPENDING	<u>\$4,061,544</u>	<u>\$3,956,642</u>

PROJECTED TAX RATES BEFORE COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL ADJUSTMENT

Equalized Pupils	304.83	310.98
Spending per Equalized Pupil [educ spending ÷ eq.pupils]	\$13,324	\$12,723
Property Yield [formerly base spending amount]	\$9,459	\$9,870
District Spending Adjustment	140.86%	n/a
<i>Base Homestead Tax Rate</i>	\$0.99	\$1.29
Projected Equalized Tax Rate - Highgate School [base rate x spending adjustment x elem student ratio]	\$0.729	\$0.722

PROJECTED TAX RATES AFTER COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL ADJUSTMENT

Based on current Common Level of Appraisal 110.07% [decrease from 112.62% of State value in FY16 & 112.20% in FY15]		
Homestead Tax Rate:	\$0.647	\$0.656
Non-Homestead Tax Rate:	\$0.712	\$0.782

District: **Highgate**
County: **Franklin**

T095
Franklin Northwest

Property dollar equivalent yield **9,870**
Homestead tax rate per \$9,870 of spending per equalized pupil **1.00**
Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income **11,065**

Expenditures		FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$4,592,259	\$4,686,739	\$4,752,340	\$4,982,640
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	\$136,083	\$71,083	\$25,000
3.	minus Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$4,592,259	\$4,822,822	\$4,823,423	\$5,007,640
5.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-
6.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-
7.	Total Budget	\$4,592,259	\$4,822,822	\$4,823,423	\$5,007,640
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-

Revenues		FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc.) including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$737,347	\$666,153	\$761,870	\$1,050,998
11.	plus Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-	-
12.	minus All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$737,347	\$666,153	\$761,870	\$1,050,998
14.	Education Spending	\$3,854,912	\$4,156,669	\$4,061,553	\$3,956,642
15.	Equalized Pupils	313.36	302.04	304.83	310.98

Education Spending per Equalized Pupil		FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
16.	\$12,301.86	\$13,761.98	\$13,323.99	\$12,723.14	
17.	minus Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	NA
18.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	-	-	-	NA
19.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	NA
20.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	NA
21.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	NA
22.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	NA
23.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	NA
24.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	NA	NA	-	NA
25.	Allowable growth per pupil spending threshold (secs. 37 & 38, Act 46, 2015)	threshold = \$15,456	threshold = \$16,166	threshold = \$17,103	District Threshold
26.	plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	NA	NA	NA	\$13,646.43
27.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$12,302	\$13,762	\$13,324	\$12,723.14
28.	District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	134.432% based on \$9,151	148.217% based on \$9,385	140.860% based on \$9,459	NA

Prorating the local tax rate		FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
29.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [(12,723.14 + (\$9,870.00 / \$1,000))]	\$1,2637 based on \$0.94	\$1,4525 based on \$0.98	\$1,3945 based on \$0.99	\$1,2891 based on \$1.00
30.	Percent of Highgate equalized pupils not in a union school district	50.03%	50.01%	52.27%	55.98%
31.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (55.98% x \$1.29)	\$0.6322	\$0.7264	\$0.7289	\$0.7216
32.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	111.03%	112.20%	112.62%	110.07%
33.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$0.7216 / 110.07%)	\$0.5694 based on \$0.94	\$0.6474 based on \$0.98	\$0.6472 based on \$0.99	\$0.6556 based on \$1.00

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

34.	Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(12,723.14 + \$11,065) x 2.00%]	2.42% based on 1.80%	2.67% based on 1.80%	2.54% based on 1.80%	2.30% based on 2.00%
35.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (55.98% x 2.30%)	1.21% based on 1.80%	1.34% based on 1.94%	1.33% based on 1.94%	1.29% based on 2.00%
36.	Percent of equalized pupils at Missisquoi Valley UHSD	49.97%	49.99%	47.73%	44.02%
37.		-	-	-	-

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$9,955 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$11,157 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1,538. New and updated data have changed the proposed property yield to \$9,870 and the income yield to \$11,065.
- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

Comparative Data for Cost-Effectiveness, FY2017 Report 16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2)(K)

School: Highgate Elementary School
S.U.: Franklin Northwest S.U.

A list of schools and school districts in each cohort may be found on the DOE website under "School Data and Reports":
<http://www.state.vt.us/educ/>

FY2015 School Level Data

Cohort Description: Elementary school, enrollment ≥ 300
(31 schools in cohort)

Cohort Rank by Enrollment (1 is largest)
25 out of 31

		School level data	Grades Offered	Enrollment	Total Teachers	Total Administrators	Stu / Tchr Ratio	Stu / Admin Ratio	Tchr / Admin Ratio
Smaller ->		Bristol Elementary School	PK - 6	319	24.60	1.00	12.97	319.00	24.60
		Bennington Elementary School	PK - 5	328	17.70	2.00	18.53	164.00	8.85
		Edmunds Elementary School	K - 5	335	26.55	1.00	12.62	335.00	26.55
		Highgate Elementary School	PK - 6	339	29.30	2.00	11.57	169.50	14.65
-< Larger		Newport City Elementary Schools	PK - 6	340	35.24	2.00	9.65	170.00	17.62
		Orchard School	K - 5	359	31.42	1.00	11.43	359.00	31.42
		Rick Marcotte Central School	K - 5	361	28.80	1.00	12.53	361.00	28.80
Averaged SCHOOL cohort data				424.65	30.90	1.40	13.74	302.69	22.02

School District: Highgate
LEA ID: T095

Special education expenditures vary substantially from district to district and year to year. Therefore, they have been excluded from these figures.

The portion of current expenditures made by supervisory unions on behalf of districts varies greatly. These data include district assessments to SUs. Including assessments to SUs makes districts more comparable to each other.

FY2014 School District Data

Cohort Description: Elementary school district, FY2013 FTE ≥ 300
(11 school districts in cohort)

School district data (local, union, or joint district)

Grades offered in School District | Student FTE enrolled in school district | Current expenditures per student FTE **EXCLUDING** special education costs

Cohort Rank by FTE
(1 is largest)
11 out of 11

Smaller ->		Highgate	PK-6	306.29	\$11,482	
	-< Larger		Randolph	K-6	321.87	\$11,228
			Norwich	K-6	328.04	\$12,533
			Newport City	PK-6	335.04	\$11,739
Averaged SCHOOL DISTRICT cohort data				472.75	\$11,298	

Current expenditures are an effort to calculate an amount per FTE spent by a district on students enrolled in that district. This figure excludes tuitions and assessments paid to other providers, construction and equipment costs, debt service, adult education, and community service.

FY2016 School District Data

LEA ID	School District	Grades offered in School District	School district tax rate			Total municipal tax rate, K-12, consisting of prorated member district rates		
			SchlDist	SchlDist	SchlDist	MUN	MUN	MUN
			Equalized Pupils	Spending per Equalized Pupil	Equalized Homestead Ed tax rate	Equalized Homestead Ed tax rate	Common Level of Appraisal	Actual Homestead Ed tax rate
T095	Highgate	PK-6	304.83	13,323.99	1.3945	1.3960	112.62%	1.2395
T162	Randolph	K-6	309.51	13,002.57	1.3609	1.4358	107.93%	1.3303
T040	Cambridge	PK-6	342.92	13,375.67	1.3999	1.4598	102.92%	1.4184
T026	Brandon	PK-6	345.30	12,450.33	1.3031	1.4226	103.80%	1.3705

The Legislature has required the Agency of Education to provide this information per the following statute:
16 V.S.A. § 165(a)(2) The school, at least annually, reports student performance results to community members in a format selected by the school board. . . . The school report shall include:

(K) data provided by the commissioner which enable a comparison with other schools, or school districts if school level data are not available, for cost-effectiveness. The commissioner shall establish which data are to be included pursuant to this subdivision and, notwithstanding that the other elements of the report are to be presented in a format selected by the school board, shall develop a common format to be used by each school in presenting the data to community members. The commissioner shall provide the most recent data available to each school no later than October 1 of each year. Data to be presented may include student-to-teacher ratio, administrator-to-student ratio, administrator-to-teacher ratio, and cost per pupil.

**HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2015 - 2016 Staff Salaries**

Professional Staff:	Degree	Step	Level	FTE
Kyle Ashton [Math Specialist]	MA	5	II	100%
Paul Bangs [Classroom Teacher]	MA+15	16 OS	II	100%
Brandy Brown [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	7	II	100%
Leslie Byrne [Art Teacher]	BA+30	16 OS	II	80%
Louanne Collins [Classroom Teacher]	MA	16 OS	II	100%
Claire Dietsche [Classroom Teacher]	MA	15	II	100%
Elizabeth Dufresne [Classroom Teacher]	MA	4	II	100%
Kelly Enterline [Librarian]	MA	14	I	100%
Laura Fisher [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	2	I	100%
Lynn Fitzgerald [Classroom Teacher]	MA+30	16 OS	II	100%
Erika Fuller [Classroom Teacher]	BA	4	I	100%
Jennifer Gagne [School Nurse]	BS/RN	6	II	100%
Lynne Hansen [Literacy Interventionist]	MA	16 OS	II	35%
Kelly Heinlein [Classroom Teacher]	MA	12	II	100%
Diane Hemingway [Classroom Teacher]	MA+30	16 OS	II	100%
Meghan Howrigan [Classroom Teacher]	MA	4	II	100%
Edna Iannaco [Literacy Specialist]	MA	11	II	80%
Corynn Labouty [Classroom Teacher]	MA	5	II	100%
Domye LaBrusciano [Classroom Teacher]	BA	4	I	100%
Paul Legris [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	13 OS	II	100%
Marilyn McSweeney [Classroom Teacher]	MA	8	II	100%
Sara Poland [Gen'l & Instrumental Music]	BA	7	II	100%
Beth Ann Richey [Early Childhood Teacher]	MA	7	I	50%
Monica Sweet [Guidance Counselor]	MA	7	II	100%
Krists Tatro [Physical Education Teacher]	MA	8	II	100%
Christina Therrien [Classroom Teacher]	MA	8	II	100%
Jennifer Whitby [Classroom Teacher]	MA	2	II	100%
Paula Whitehead [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	13	II	100%

Funded by FNWSU				
Lisa Hess [Special Education]	BA+15	13 OS	II	100%
Michelle Melhuish [Speech & Lang. Pathologist]	MA	1	Prof.	100%
Jennifer Luneau [Special Education]	MA	11	II	100%
Cynthia Newett [Special Education]	MA	7	I	100%
Cheryl Ostrander [Special Education]	MA+15	16 OS	II	100%

Funded with Federal Grant Funds				
Lynne Hansen [Literacy Interventionist]	MA	16 OS	II	65%
Edna Iannaco [Literacy Specialist]	MA	11	II	20%
Amber Renaudette [Literacy Interventionist]	MA	8	II	100%

Highly Qualified Teacher Data:	# of Classes Taught by HQ Teachers/Total Classes	# of Classes Taught by Non-HQ Teachers/Total Classes	% of Core Academic Classes Taught by HQ Teachers	% of Core Academic Classes Taught by Non-HQ Teachers	% of Teachers Teaching With Emergency Credentials
	26/26	0/26	100%	0%	0%

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2015 - 2016 Staff Salaries

<u>Technology Coordinator:</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Heather Larivee	9	100%

<u>Instructional Assistants:</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Dawn Britch	19	100%
Marie Bruyette	9	100%
AmyJo Bushey	6	50%
Theresa Cadieux	5	100%
Joanne Campbell	1	100%
Michael Daley II	1	100%
Per Engstrom	1	100%
Taylor Gagne	4	100%
Amber Lafar	1	100%
Joyce Lafar	15	100%
Christie Mitchell	1	100%
Carla Noel	14	100%
Linda Pierce	1	100%
Sharon Rheäume	20	100%
Linda Rixford	18	100%
Lisa Rollo	1	100%
Shelby Scott	3	100%
Alyssa Sweet	1	100%
Jan Sweet	18	100%
Kristy Taylor	12	100%
Priscilla Taylor	13	100%
Nicole Vanslette	1	100%
Patricia Whittemore	1	100%
Anna-Maria Yates	1	100%

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2015 - 2016

Salary Schedule & Index

Step	BA/BS	BA/BS+15	BA/BS+30	BA+45	MA	MA+15	MA+30
1	\$33,200	\$34,860	\$36,520	\$38,180	\$39,840	\$41,500	\$43,160
2	\$34,860	\$36,520	\$38,180	\$39,840	\$41,500	\$43,160	\$44,820
3	\$36,520	\$38,180	\$39,840	\$41,500	\$43,160	\$44,820	\$46,480
4	\$38,180	\$39,840	\$41,500	\$43,160	\$44,820	\$46,480	\$48,140
5	\$39,840	\$41,500	\$43,160	\$44,820	\$46,480	\$48,140	\$49,800
6	\$41,500	\$43,160	\$44,820	\$46,480	\$48,140	\$49,800	\$51,460
7	\$43,160	\$44,820	\$46,480	\$48,140	\$49,800	\$51,460	\$53,120
8	\$44,820	\$46,480	\$48,140	\$49,800	\$51,460	\$53,120	\$54,780
9	\$46,480	\$48,140	\$49,800	\$51,460	\$53,120	\$54,780	\$56,440
10	\$48,140	\$49,800	\$51,460	\$53,120	\$54,780	\$56,440	\$58,100
11	\$49,800	\$51,460	\$53,120	\$54,780	\$56,440	\$58,100	\$59,760
12	\$51,460	\$53,120	\$54,780	\$56,440	\$58,100	\$59,760	\$61,420
13	\$53,120	\$54,780	\$56,440	\$58,100	\$59,760	\$61,420	\$63,080
14							
15							
16							

**FRANKLIN NORTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION
CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET SUMMARY - FY2017**

	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Budget	FY2016 Anticipated	FY2017 Budget	Highgate Share
Expenses:						
Administration Salaries	\$393,420	\$405,452	\$416,084	\$417,253	\$437,205	\$63,656
Support Staff Salaries	\$154,650	\$166,853	\$152,366	\$162,178	\$171,788	\$25,012
Insurance Benefits	\$123,836	\$97,173	\$118,947	\$101,663	\$125,314	\$18,246
Other Benefits	\$29,592	\$33,219	\$33,395	\$32,880	\$36,592	\$5,328
Payroll Expense	\$48,275	\$44,892	\$53,723	\$48,699	\$51,507	\$7,499
Purchased Prof. Services	\$41,250	\$41,028	\$37,600	\$35,683	\$36,100	\$5,256
Repair&Maintenance / Equip Lease	\$5,500	\$4,687	\$7,250	\$6,882	\$7,400	\$1,077
Other Property Services	\$35,150	\$36,676	\$41,456	\$40,831	\$42,565	\$6,197
Office Expenses	\$11,000	\$9,280	\$11,000	\$11,464	\$11,000	\$1,602
Travel & Professional Development	\$10,250	\$12,788	\$10,250	\$11,527	\$12,000	\$1,747
Supplies & Acct'g / H.R. Software	\$28,750	\$46,990	\$43,750	\$42,643	\$44,250	\$6,443
Equipment	\$5,000	\$2,528	\$9,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$1,456
Ducs & Fees	\$4,500	\$4,634	\$4,500	\$4,237	\$4,500	\$655
Total Expense:	\$891,173	\$906,200	\$939,321	\$923,440	\$990,221	\$144,175

Revenues:	
Title I and II Funding	\$91,664
Other Grant receipts	\$7,500
Miscellaneous / Other	\$28,750
Total Revenues:	\$127,914

FY2017 ASSESSMENT AMOUNT	\$862,307	\$125,552
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**FRANKLIN NORTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION
SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET FY2017**

	FY2015	FY2015	FY2016	FY2016	FY2017	Highgate
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Anticipated	Budget	Share
Expenses:						
Special Education Administration	\$180,167	\$176,492	\$181,795	\$182,678	\$188,160	\$20,730
Medicaid Clerk / Clerical Support	\$39,481	\$38,178	\$40,228	\$40,192	\$41,465	\$12,854
School Psychologists	\$184,493	\$184,494	\$190,029	\$190,952	\$196,685	\$60,972
Adapted Curriculum	\$66,422	\$66,422	\$67,418	\$68,747	\$70,810	\$21,951
Occupational Therapy	\$55,761	\$62,301	\$56,597	\$57,713	\$59,445	\$18,428
Insurance & Other Benefits	\$146,233	\$139,605	\$147,987	\$148,526	\$155,917	\$40,225
Payroll Expense	\$44,550	\$41,651	\$45,413	\$44,573	\$45,917	\$11,132
Purchased Professional Services	\$6,000	\$7,544	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$2,325
Office Expenses	\$1,500	\$748	\$2,250	\$1,112	\$1,500	\$465
Travel / Conference	\$750	\$21	\$750	\$500	\$500	\$155
Supplies & Equipment	\$2,250	\$479	\$2,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$388
Dues & Fees	\$1,150	\$2,100	\$1,150	\$1,759	\$1,850	\$574
Subtotal:	\$728,757	\$720,035	\$743,367	\$745,502	\$770,999	\$190,199

Revenues:						
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$28,357	\$26,477	\$27,193	\$27,192	\$28,569	\$8,856
IDEA-B Grant Reimbursement	\$273,754	\$277,944	\$277,211	\$277,211	\$290,300	\$89,994
Other [Carry Forward from Previous Year]	\$0	\$5,657	\$5,000	\$14,854	\$7,500	\$2,325
Total Revenues:	\$302,111	\$310,078	\$309,404	\$319,257	\$326,369	\$101,175

FY2017 ASSESSMENT AMOUNT	<u>\$426,646</u>	\$424,810	<u>\$433,963</u>		<u>\$444,630</u>	\$89,024
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FRANKLIN NORTHWEST - SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF & EXPENSE TRANSFER BUDGET

	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Budget	FY2016 Anticipated	FY2017 Budget	Highgate Share
Transfer of District Spec Ed. Expenses to SU:						
SpEd Instructional Salaries			\$1,595,922	\$1,595,922	\$1,754,483	\$252,598
SpEd Instructional Benefits			\$550,742	\$550,742	\$632,188	\$91,102
Speech Services			\$513,832	\$513,832	\$569,094	\$53,826
Psychological Services			\$44,795	\$44,795	\$56,561	\$0
Tuition Expense					\$1,162,080	\$94,104
Transportation Expense					\$247,428	\$23,665
All Other Expenses (supplies/equipment, etc)			\$7,750	\$7,750	\$294,028	\$56,698
Total Expense:			\$2,713,041	\$2,713,041	\$4,715,862	\$571,993

FRANKLIN NORTHWEST SUMMARY
TREASURER's REPORT
July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

	Beginning Balance	FY2015		Ending Balance
		Receipts	Expenditures	
Title I Grant	\$53,821	\$795,492	\$835,879	\$13,434
School Improvement Grant	\$9,940	\$0	\$9,940	\$0
School Effectiveness Grant	\$0	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0
Title IIA Grant - Teacher Quality	\$29,052	\$254,783	\$245,017	\$38,818
IDEA-B Grant	\$120,189	\$566,015	\$552,660	\$133,544
IDEA-B Preschool Grant	-\$7,940	\$22,300	\$11,173	\$3,187
Early Education Initiative Grant	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Best Grant / Act 230 Grant	\$7,432	\$24,930	\$26,528	\$5,834
FNW Crossroads Program	\$30,612	\$385,803	\$385,148	\$31,267
Crossroads non-grant revenues	\$597	\$178,467	\$132,059	\$47,005
Program Fundraising	\$5,332	\$3,695	\$1,078	\$7,949
SWIFT Program	\$7,126	\$20,000	\$26,957	\$169
Homeless Grant	\$0	\$7,935	\$5,126	\$2,809
Tobacco Grant	\$3,338	\$13,506	\$16,757	\$87
VT Kids Against Tobacco	\$1,483	\$0	\$0	\$1,483
Standards Board	\$814	\$3,157	\$2,509	\$1,462
Medicaid Reimbursements (school-based)	\$482,617	\$303,101	\$338,932	\$446,786
Medicaid Reimbursements (FNWSU)	\$37,358	\$72,908	\$31,567	\$78,699
EPSDT Reimbursements	\$92,427	\$38,455	\$48,088	\$82,794
Central Office	\$19,984	\$908,323	\$906,199	\$22,108
Special Education	\$5,657	\$451,287	\$442,090	\$14,854
Early Childhood Program	\$40,128	\$695,271	\$687,704	\$47,695
Fiduciary/Fiscal Agent Funds:				
Franklin/Grand Isle County ECP Advisory Council	\$157,768	\$2,830	\$11,529	\$149,069
Franklin/Grand Isle County Bookmobile	\$7,905	\$105,595	\$88,436	\$25,064
Team FNW Tutoring Program	\$2,811	\$58,930	\$58,930	\$2,811
VEHI Pathpoints Wellness Program	\$13,035	\$3,900	\$3,732	\$13,203
Indian Education Grant	\$1	\$216,730	\$216,730	\$1
Mentoring Program	\$23,726	\$0	\$14,002	\$9,724
Technical Educ Equipment Grant (MVU)	\$0	\$9,521	\$9,521	\$0
School Improvement Grant (MVU)	\$0	\$6,345	\$34,726	-\$28,381
VDH Disease Prevention Grant (Highgate)	\$0	\$590	\$3,931	-\$3,341
Farm to School Grant (Franklin)	\$0	\$880	\$210	\$670

A copy of the Independent Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, performed by Angolano & Co., may be obtained from the Superintendent of Schools' Office.

**MISSISQUOI VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
2016 – 2017 BUDGET**

The Missisquoi Valley Union School District Budget proposal for the 2016-2017 school year totals \$15,477,560. This amount represents a 1.23% increase over the current budget approved in March 2015.

The school administration and school board have worked diligently to reduce costs wherever possible. Department budgets have been level funded as much as possible. The implementation of busing services to Alburgh and Sheldon has brought more tuition student revenue to MVU. The anticipated tuition revenue reflects an estimated forty-one (41) students from tuitioning towns.

MVU continues to improve academic opportunities for students. The use of Data Teams and Data Team Coaches has, without additional cost, made gains in all content areas.

MVU is a leader in Vermont with student grading practices. Students must master Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO) before completing each course. Failure to do so results in an “Incomplete” instead of a failing grade. Students can’t “just get by” without doing the work. Students are given more time and additional support to achieve expected learning standards.

As mandated by state law, all Special Education professional staff salaries and benefits were transferred from all local schools to FNWSU in the current 2015-16 school year. In 2016-17, all special education expenses, except the support staff salary and benefits, will move to the SU level. Costs at the SU level continue to be budgeted in the same manner as they were in the local Special Education budget; however instead of appearing in separate budget line items, costs are now reflected within the FNWSU assessments.

MVU’s football program has been very successful, competing over the past two years as a junior varsity team. The program has grown and will transition to the varsity level next fall. Private funding has maintained the program without any tax payer support. This year, in a separate ballot article, voters will be asked to contribute \$10,000 to fund the football program. The article is independent of the continuation of football, but if passed, will allow the team and families to dedicate their full energies toward supporting program goals rather than dividing allegiance with fundraising.

The School Board will be holding an informational meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Missisquoi Valley Union School Library. The budget will be voted by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 1st. Polling places are: Franklin Central School, Highgate Elementary School and Swanton Village Complex, and new this year, polls in all three towns will open at 7:00am and close at 7:00pm.

MVUHS School Board

Denis Boucher, Chair	868-4828	Earl Fournier, V.Chair	868-7494
Robert Irish	285-2288	John Ho	285-6676
Don Collins	868-7975	Gregg Gervais	868-9120
Lisa Letourneau	868-4391	Vickie Gratton	285-2083
Lisa Wells	868-6659		

MISSISQUOI VALLEY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
2016 - 2017 SCHOOL BUDGET PROPOSAL - SUMMARY by CATEGORY

AREA / DEPARTMENT	FY2015 Approved	FY2015 Actuals	FY2016 Approved	FY2017 Proposed	Variance
Regular Programs	\$6,148,350	\$5,891,379	\$6,075,183	\$6,134,327	\$59,144
Department Budgets	\$308,041	\$239,939	\$307,991	\$293,803	(\$14,188)
Interscholastics	\$418,135	\$416,300	\$421,951	\$445,924	\$23,973
CoCurriculars	\$52,569	\$55,148	\$52,569	\$54,184	\$1,615
Registrar	\$28,809	\$26,636	\$41,844	\$52,930	\$11,086
Guidance Services	\$470,564	\$471,106	\$490,175	\$474,391	(\$15,784)
Student Assistance Program	\$73,219	\$76,353	\$75,540	\$78,456	\$2,916
Health Services	\$102,262	\$103,976	\$106,178	\$109,486	\$3,308
Psychological Services	\$23,610	\$16,354	\$22,418	\$19,709	(\$2,709)
Library Services	\$150,310	\$147,447	\$154,162	\$154,151	(\$11)
School-wide Technology	\$351,270	\$303,073	\$356,113	\$337,250	(\$18,863)
Board of Education	\$38,227	\$42,029	\$38,227	\$34,939	(\$3,288)
Principals' Office	\$662,133	\$640,852	\$682,895	\$676,185	(\$6,710)
Receptionist	\$47,740	\$47,382	\$49,490	\$51,750	\$2,260
Study Hall Monitor	\$25,490	\$28,323	\$0	\$0	\$0
Student Management	\$328,464	\$317,867	\$292,983	\$300,443	\$7,460
Fiscal Services	\$130,742	\$128,996	\$133,920	\$140,941	\$7,021
Plant Operation & Maintenance	\$1,345,079	\$1,348,729	\$1,420,410	\$1,405,501	(\$14,909)
Safety & Security	\$12,478	\$9,949	\$12,478	\$12,466	(\$12)
Transportation Services	\$734,697	\$676,282	\$789,248	\$821,885	\$32,637
Debt Service	\$143,985	\$136,513	\$136,412	\$128,808	(\$7,604)
Wood Chip Boiler	\$1,750	\$1,601	\$0	\$0	\$0
Special Education Programs	\$2,875,193	\$2,416,689	\$1,854,301	\$1,194,417	(\$659,884)
Special Educ Operations Manager	\$76,011	\$73,193	\$78,341	\$81,136	\$2,795
Psychological Services (special educ)	\$70,830	\$49,061	\$22,500	\$0	(\$22,500)
Speech Services (special education)	\$128,177	\$118,413	\$7,500	\$0	(\$7,500)
FNWSU	\$483,015	\$489,732	\$1,666,449	\$2,474,478	\$808,029
BUDGET TOTAL	\$15,231,150	\$14,273,322	\$15,289,278	\$15,477,560	\$188,282

Increase: 1.23%

HIGHGATE BRUSH DEPOT



@ the Highgate Transfer Station
Transfer Station Road, Highgate VT

BRUSH DEPOT HOURS OF OPERATION:

Saturdays (April through November) 8:00am – 11:45am
or by appointment, please call Casella 802-651-5493

Available to Highgate residents only
for disposal of leaves and branches at no charge

NO LARGE LIMBS OR STUMPS

NOTICE!

THE
FOREST FIRE WARDEN
OF THIS TOWN IS

DAVID DESORCIE

(802) 868-2777

By state law, if you wish to burn natural wood or debris outdoors, you must obtain a burning permit from the Town Forest Fire Warden. The warden in your town will be able to advise you on local burning regulations and current conditions. Remember, "Only YOU can prevent forest fires!"



Dog licensing will begin on Monday, January 4, 2016

**It's Time To License Your Dog(s) Again
With The Town of Highgate**

REMINDER

2016 Dog Licenses are due by April 1st

On or before April 1, 2016

Neutered/Spay \$12.00 per dog

Non-Neutered/Spay \$16.00 per dog

After April 1, 2016

Neutered/Spay \$20.00 per dog

Non-Neutered/Spay \$24.00 per dog



****NOTE**** Dogs that remain unlicensed as of May 1, 2016 will result in a municipal ticket (fine) being issued per dog. This will be in addition to licensing fees. Please license your dog(s) on time. Thank you.

PROOF OF RABIES VACCINATION REQUIRED

Please also let us know if you no longer have your dog(s).

DOG & CAT SHOT CLINIC

Saturday, March 19, 2016

10:00am - Noon

Highgate Fire Station

Attending Vet: Paws For Thought 868-4300

Prices: Rabies \$10, Distemper \$15, Rabies & Distemper \$20

DOG LICENSES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT CLINIC—cash or check only at the clinic

DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH & CATS MUST BE IN CARRIERS

Questions? Please contact Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk

868-4697 x 201

wdusablon@highgatevt.org