



Highgate, VT ~ 2014 Annual Reports

Town Report Dedication ~ 2014
KAREN GAGNE FORTIN



For those of us who have wandered into Highgate, at first glance there does not seem to be much going on. But if you are one of those people who let first impressions sway your opinion, you may be in for a surprise. There has been a lot of hustle and bustle as of late at the Highgate Arena. Once thought to be a financial burden to our town, the Highgate Arena is making a comeback, and slowly becoming a big part of this small town. At the forefront of this movement is none other than **Karen (Gagne) Fortin**.

First getting involved only marginally with her own children, Karen slowly took on more and more responsibilities, and for the better part of 20 years, she has been a central, and pivotal member of the Missisquoi Amateur Hockey Association. She has served as secretary and scheduler for multiple teams, and not only limited to the teams her children played on. She is also the state representative for MAHA, representing the whole organization at the state level. She has also served on the Highgate Elementary School Board and the Highgate Parks & Recreation Committee.

Karen took on these responsibilities for the sole purpose of creating a community that embraced their youth and creating opportunities for those who would otherwise be without. She has been a major driving force behind creating a lot of the recreation folks can enjoy at the rink, including public skating, stick-and-puck, and the Highgate Learn to Skate Program, giving kids a chance to learn how to skate for recreation. She has also worked tirelessly to utilize the rink facility in other ways, such as having synthetic turf brought in for an indoor soccer league, and more recently, a broomball league, the first organized weekly broomball league in almost 20 years.

Many would joke that she was the Mayor of Highgate, and while that title does not exist, it does seem appropriate. However, she is not one for the limelight, nor does she seek recognition for what she does. If that position was indeed a reality, she would probably turn it down, stating she would be more valuable to the town where she is, surrounded by her extended hockey family, and the smiling faces of the youth, who give her more joy than anything or anyone. That source of gratification is what drives her to be a part of our community, and as long as that rink is running, and those kids are skating, there is going to be no shortage of motivation and gratification for Karen to do her good work. Finally, in closing, if you happen to run into her doing her hard work at the Highgate Arena, take the time to stop her in her tracks, and even if she seems busy, thank her for her time. She hates it, but it is more than deserved. Thank her for her time, her charity, and her passion for our youth, because Highgate would be a much different place without her.

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Thomas Racine, Town Treasurer	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Thomas Racine, Delinquent Tax Collector	<i>Term expires March 2015</i>
Pat McGovern, Town Moderator	<i>Term expires March 2015</i>
John Ferland, Town Agent	<i>Term expires March 2015</i>

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Steve Ploof, Tree Warden	<i>Term Expires March 2015</i>
David Desorcie, Fire Warden	<i>Term Expires June 2016</i>
Wendi Dusablon, Town Service Officer	<i>Term Expires March 2015</i>
Raymond Dixon, Animal Control Officer	<i>Term Expires March 2015</i>
Luke Choiniere, Health Officer	<i>Term Expires March 2015</i>
Christopher Yates, Deputy Health Officer	<i>Term Expires March 2015</i>

AUDITORS

Steve Scott, Auditor	<i>Term expires March 2015</i>
Ron Nye, Auditor	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>

SELECTBOARD

Andrew King, Vice Chair	<i>Term expires March 2015</i>
Luke Choiniere, Member	<i>Term expires March 2015</i>
Diana O'Hara, Member	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Jeff Towle, Chair	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Christopher Yates, Member	<i>Term expires March 2017</i>

BOARD OF LISTERS

Peter St. Germain, Lister	<i>Term expires March 2015</i>
Aimee Reynolds, Lister	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
Shirley Fecteau, Lister	<i>Term expires March 2017</i>

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

Dennis Nolan, Commissioner	<i>Term expires March 2015</i>
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>

CONSTABLES

Benjamin Lowell, 1st Constable	<i>Term expires March 2016</i>
2 nd Constable	<i>vacant</i>

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Pauline Decarreau, **Member**
Julie Rice, **Member**
Woobury Rouse Jr, **Member**
Tim Reynolds, **Member**
Rick Trombley, **Chair**

Term expires March 2015
Term expires March 2016
Term expires March 2016
Term expires March 2017
Term expires March 2017

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Claude Chevalier, **Justice**
John Ferland, **Justice**
Clarence Miller, **Justice**
Anne Harper, **Justice**
Stephen Bushey, **Justice**
Dennis Nolan, **Justice**
Patricia Rainville, **Justice**

Term expires February 2017
Term expires February 2017

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Lucie Fortin, **Treasurer**
Patty Rainville, **Trustee**
Meagan Gilmore, **Trustee**
Virginia Holiman, **Trustee**
Karen Fortin, **Chair**

Term expires March 2015
Term expires March 2016
Term expires March 2017
Term expires March 2018
Term expires March 2019

PLANNING COMMISSION

Tim Reynolds, **Member**
Julie Rice, **Member**
Luc Dupuis, **Member**
Bruce Ryan, **Member**
Woodbury Rouse, Jr., **Member**
Rick Trombley, **Chairman**
Larry Simmons, **Member**

Term expires 2015
Term expires 2015
Term expires 2016
Term expires 2016
Term expires 2017
Term expires 2017
Term expires 2017

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Richard Noel – **Appointed Member**
Appointed Member

Term expires 2015
vacant

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Evangeline LaRocque, **Trustee**
Clarence Miller, **Trustee**
John Ferland, **Trustee**

Term expires March 2015
Term expires March 2016
Term expires March 2017

AUDITORS REPORT

In 2014 we continued account reconciliations each month throughout the year, allowing for timely closure of the general ledger and annual budget preparation. A full outside audit was performed by the accounting firm Sullivan and Powers for the period ending June 30, 2014. No significant issues were identified and their report will be available on the Town's website shortly.

We have not been successful in attracting individuals to run for Town Auditor or getting community involvement in exploring the possibility of establishing a Finance Committee. A major reason is the growing complexity of the town's financial endeavors, as well as the time requirements necessary to perform adequate review. We recommend that the town move away from having Town Auditors and have an annual outside audit performed.

Respectfully, Ronald C. Nye Steven Scott

TOWN OF HIGHGATE VT MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE – 2015

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

MONTH	APPLY BY DATE	SELECTBOARD	DRB	PLANNING
JAN. 2015	SLB - Jan. 2 & 16 DRB - Dec. 29 PC - Dec. 31	Jan. 8 & 22	Jan. 15	Jan. 20
FEB. 2015	SLB - Jan. 30 & Feb. 13 DRB - Jan. 26 PC - Jan. 30	Feb. 5 & 19	Feb. 12	Feb. 17
MAR. 2015	SLB - Feb. 27 & Mar. 13 DRB - Feb. 23 PC - Feb. 27	Mar. 5 & 19	Mar. 12	Mar. 17
APR. 2015	SLB - Mar. 27 & Apr. 10 DRB - Mar. 23 PC - Mar. 31	Apr. 2 & 16	Apr. 9	Apr. 21
MAY 2015	SLB - May 1 & 15 DRB - Apr. 27 PC - Apr. 30	May 7 & 21	May 14	May 19
JUNE 2015	SLB - May 29 & June 12 DRB - May 25 PC - May 29	June 4 & 18	June 11	June 16
JULY 2015	SLB - July 3 & 17 DRB - June 29 PC - July 2	July 9 & 23	July 16	July 21
AUG. 2015	SLB - July 31 & Aug. 14 DRB - July 27 PC - July 31	Aug. 6 & 20	Aug. 13	Aug. 18
SEPT. 2015	SLB - Aug. 28 & Sept. 11 DRB - Aug. 24 PC - Aug. 28	Sept. 3 & 17	Sept. 10	Sept. 15
OCT. 2015	SLB - Sept. 25 & Oct. 9 DRB - Sept. 21 PC - Oct. 2	Oct. 1 & 15	Oct. 8	Oct. 20
NOV. 2015	SLB - Oct. 30 & Nov. 13 DRB - Oct. 26 PC - Oct. 30	Nov. 5 & 19	Nov. 12	Nov. 17
DEC. 2015	SLB - Nov. 27 & Dec. 11 DRB - Nov. 23 PC - Nov. 25	Dec. 3 & 17	Dec. 10	Dec. 15
JAN. 2016	SLB - Dec. 31 & Jan. 15 DRB - Dec. 28 PC - Dec. 31	Jan. 7 & 21	Jan. 14	Jan. 19

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

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

A. Call to Order & Roll Call

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

Highgate Selectboard Members: Henry Rainville, Chair; Jeff Towle, Vice Chair; Luke Choiniere; Steve Bushey; Andy King

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 for a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Town Meeting Guidelines

Pat stated the ground rules for the Annual Town Meeting:

- 1) Roberts Rules states two questions, per person, per article.
- 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.
- 4) (Pat asked for a show of hands of anyone who is NOT a Highgate registered voter). If you are not a Highgate registered voter, you are not able to speak or vote. If you wish to speak, you need permission to do so.
- 5) Please shut off your cell phones and / or pagers.

D. Special Presentations

- Rick Trombley presented Georgette Johnson with a plaque for 30 years of dedicated service to the Town of Highgate. She has participated on the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Transportation Advisory Board.
- Steve Bushey presented the annual Town Report Dedication plaque to his father, Bernard Wayne Bushey. Wayne has been very active in the Highgate Fire Department, Missisquoi Amateur Hockey Association and the MVU School Board.

E. Vermont House of Representatives

Chuck Pearce and Steve Beyor were present. Mr. Pearce is not a Highgate resident, there were no objections to him speaking. Mr. Pearce serves on the appropriations committee which deals with the state budget, which is up 5.2% over last year. Schools were asked to keep their budget increases at 3% or lower, the state should do the same, and he hopes to see that happen. With regard to health care, Act 48, as of today the administration has failed to provide a financial plan. There are still many unanswered questions. And with regard to transportation, the total cost of \$685 million includes infrastructure improvements throughout the state. Steve Beyor is a Highgate resident. He is involved with shoreline protection, water quality and hunting / fishing issues. Steve asked for a round of applause for our local school board who worked hard to keep our taxes down. The shoreline bill passed the house and was sent to the senate. There are some good points in the bill which was passed by the senate and will go to a committee of conference. Steve feels that local control is being taken away, and he will likely vote no. The shoreline bill is being forced on us by the EPA. Our bridge in East Highgate (Machia Road) is on track for 2017-2018 replacement. Angela Carr asked where Mr. Beyor stood on the child care unionization bill. Mr. Pearce added that it was passed in the house and is on to the senate, and they have not heard back yet. Any further questions from anyone, Steve and Chuck will be around for a while.

Pat McGovern announced that lunch will be available in the cafeteria for \$6.00 per person – turkey & biscuits – sponsored by the Highgate Historical Society.

F. Review of Articles

Article #1 – To elect the following town officers:

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

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Liza Comiskey.

- 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 Library Trustee for a term of three years
- 10) One Town Agent for a term of one year
- 11) One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of five years
- 12) One Constable for a term of two years
- 13) One Second Constable for a term of one year

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

Article #2 – Shall the Town of Highgate issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed one million three hundred thousand dollars (\$1,300,000), for the purpose of funding an estimated \$2.8 million dollar Highgate Arena Renovation Project, contingent upon a successful capital campaign project by June 30, 2015:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Ryan Maskell. Zeb noted that this is on Australian ballot and asked if the town is planning on hiring additional people to staff the arena. Steve Bushey noted that there is money in the budget to help coordinate and run a capital campaign. We need to raise 1.5 million in a capital campaign and raise 1.3 million through taxes. Zeb stated that he supports kids, and that if we are going to support 1.3 million raised in taxes, that Highgate children should get some kind of a break. David Rouse feels the arena should be given to MVU so that all three towns are paying for it. David also addressed concern about the steel trusses. John Ferland asked about a timeline. Paulette Tatro addressed David Rouse's concern regarding the trusses and the amount of weight they can presently hold. There is money built into the renovation costs that would bring the trusses up to today's standards. Paulette is a supporter of helping out Highgate residents. The MVU school board was approached and they have no interest in having the facility on the school site or managing the facility. Their focus is the educational component. Kermit Drown would like the town to sell the building to MAHA for \$1.00 and let them handle it.

Article #3 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$5,302.50 per year for five (5) years and \$1.00 per capita (estimated at \$3,535.00) per year thereafter for the purpose of joining the Northwest Solid Waste Management District:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Liza Comiskey. Zeb asked to hear from Henry Rainville on this topic, which is also on Australian ballot. Henry diverted the questions to Heidi Britch-Valenta, Highgate Town Administrator. Heidi is not a Highgate resident, there were no objections to her speaking. Heidi stated that the bottom line is that the town will be on the hook for very stringent rules that are being developed. It makes more sense than ever to join the district. Once we are over the five year hump of the buy in fee, it is \$1.00 per capita per year for anything to do with our current practices as well as future practices. It is costing us more than that now to manage two household hazardous waste days per year. The town will see benefits become more and more evident each year. There were no further questions or comments on this article.

Article #4 – To receive and act on the reports of the town officers for the past year:
Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Kathy Boumil. Richard Noel asked for clarification on last year's town meeting minutes. Mike Lambert clarified for Richard. Article #4 by voice vote – PASSED.

Recess Town Meeting and enter Town School District Meeting to transact the following business:
Motion by Kermit Drown, seconded by Scott Martin.

Article #1 – To elect from the legal voters of said town the following officers:
Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Scott Martin.

- 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 Rouse. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – PASSED.

Motion by David Roddy to nominate Nola Gilbert for School Director one year term, motion seconded by Richard Flint. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – PASSED.

Motion by Richard Noel to nominate David Roddy for School Director two year term, motion seconded by Kermit Drown. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – PASSED.

Motion by Richard Flint to nominate Connie Beyor for School Director three year term, motion seconded by Liza Comiskey. There were no other nominations, by voice vote – PASSED.

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

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Kermit Drown. Pat McGovern reminded everyone that this is still a two question, per person, per article meeting. Pat also noted that Dr. McCarthy (Superintendent), Lora McAllister (FNWSU), Marcel Choquette (Highgate Principal) and Karen Casavant (Asst. Principal) are not Highgate residents. There were no objections to any of them speaking. Paulette Tatro had questions with regard to the hot lunch program on page 87 of the town report. Lora McAllister will look into this discrepancy. Connie Beyor noted two corrections on page 98 and page 99 of the town report. There were corrected copies available on the front table. Article #2 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 to sign notes for that purpose:

Motion by Scott Martin, seconded by Zeb Maskell. There were no further questions or comments. Article #3 by voice vote – PASSED.

Article #4 – Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District approve the School Budget in the amount of \$4,686,738 necessary for the fiscal year 2015:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Kermit Drown. Connie pointed out the many exhibits on display around the gymnasium, very well done by Highgate students. There was then a power point presentation prepared by the Highgate School Board. Connie introduced Marcel Choquette, Karen Casavant, Lora McAllister and Jack McCarthy. The budget is broken down as follows; 52% educational programs, 14% special education and speech, 8% plant operations, 8% FNWSU assessments, 7% administration, 4% transportation, and less than 1% food service. Comparing us statewide, we ranked 95th out of 105 elementary schools that send students to a designated union high school, with the 105th being the school that spends the least amount of money. The proposed tax rate without proposed special articles for 2014-2015 is 0.658 which is an increase of 0.089. Connie gave kudos to the Highgate listers office, as our CLA is greater than 100%. The natural gas

conversion and HVAC have successfully been completed, they are in the process of figuring out the savings. The projected tax rate without articles is 0.658, special articles 0.007, total fiscal year 2015 tax rate 0.665. Connie added that the school board wanted to celebrate Bernadette Tremblay for her many years of service and dedication to the Highgate School District. She will be dearly missed. The floor was opened up for questions / comments / concerns. Zeb asked about computers, and if our computers include any Sylvan learning programs. Connie responded that we have three levels of instruction; direct first instruction, intervention and special education instruction. Zeb asked if we are an identified school. Yes, we are. Connie noted that virtually all schools did not make adequate yearly progress, but some did (Franklin & Montgomery). Duane Tremblay said if VT was ranked as a country we would score 7th in the world, that is what he has read. Massachusetts and Vermont are very close, apparently. Why is it we need all this additional help if we are ranked so high? Connie noted the importance of using class time well and always asking ourselves, are we doing the best we can for our kids. The NECAP has forced us to take a look at what our kids are learning, not necessarily what we are teaching them. If they are not learning, we need to do something differently. It's important that every year, they learn a year's worth of new information. Shirley Fecteau asked what the new position will be. Connie responded that they are still working on that. Shirley also asked if any child was ever refused hot lunch. Connie replied that if a student has no money, they are given a basic meal, no one is denied food. Paulette Tatro asked why student tuition is up, referring to page 89. Connie explained that students move in to our district and sometimes we cannot meet their needs here. A question was asked regarding administrative increases at the Supervisory Union. It was noted that we are the most economical Supervisory Union in our county with the second highest number of students. Dr. McCarthy is retiring, and we have completed the search for a new Superintendent. Winston Goodrich has accepted the offer and position to become our new Superintendent. Connie thanked Dr. McCarthy for his many years of service, and we will greatly miss him. Our Supervisory Union also needed new software that will allow them to operate more efficiently. The auditors have suggested we purchase Infinite Vision software for maximum efficiency. Mrs. Calderwood stated she is impressed with the school from the taxpayer angle. She estimates that if we pass all the articles that her taxes will increase by \$82. She is just making a point that this is in addition to the town budget articles. Mr. Labrie made a motion to move the question, by voice vote the question was moved. Pat McGovern asked for a show of hands for a paper ballot on the Highgate School budget vote – more than seven raised their hands. Article #4 by paper ballot YES 86 / NO 43 – PASSED.

Article #5 – Will the voters of Highgate Town School District appropriate \$55,000 for the purpose of completing the drainage project:

Motion by Liza Comiskey, seconded by Scott Martin. Motion by David Roddy to amend the amount of this article to \$25,000.00, seconded by Richard Flint. Scott Martin asked for clarification on the project and what it is. A few years ago at the white building when we had a very wet spring, we ended up requiring extensive remodeling in the basement, due to mold. This was a costly project. There is nowhere to pump water and now we have an engineer working with us on the issue. Diana O'Hara asked what happened to the \$60,000 from last year. It is still there in a capital reserve account. Lora McAllister stated we had an estimate from a local contractor and an easement from a property owner. We are requesting an additional \$25,000 for the project to be done more completely. We now have real numbers to work with. There have been no further issues with water in the basement at the white building. The board hopes this will cover the project and there will be no article next year. Mike Lambert asked about the work that has already been done. Connie finished by saying that hopefully the frost will leave the ground quickly and they have no issues this spring before the drainage project can be completed. Article #5 by voice vote for amendment – PASSED. Article #5 by voice vote for approval – PASSED.

Article #6 – Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District appropriate \$65,000 for the purpose of establishing a capital reserve fund to address items such as, but not limited to, the school roofs, parking lots, and accessibility issues:

Motion by Shirley Fecteau, seconded by Cathy Brace. Mrs. Calderwood questioned the wording “established”. Richard Flint noted that the boilers are now in and that we have some asbestos in the floors that needs to be removed. We also have a parking lot that needs some attention, and roofs that need repairs. The board felt it was better to ask for funding this year, the longer we wait, the more it will cost. Connie wanted to clarify the asbestos issue. There is some in the stage area and in the computer lab area. Both areas have passed state regulations and are monitored. Zeb asked why are they asking for \$65,000, Richard Flint thought it was a good place to start. Henry asked if this article was a unanimous decision by the board. No, it was not, it was a 4-1 vote by the board. David Rouse asked if it is the same capital fund, the article needs to be amended to remove the word “established”. Motion by David Rouse, seconded by Chris Yates to amend the article. Zeb questioned if we could legally do that, based on what the original reserve account was set up for. Connie referred to the article from last year and read it aloud (article #6 from 2013) Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District appropriate an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00, minus any and all available funds in the Capital Reserve Fund, for the purpose of addressing drainage issues on the school property. That article was specific to the drainage. Paulette Tatro added that she reads it as the account was established prior to last year. Richard Noel noted that we are not establishing the fund, it already exists. We are splitting hairs. Connie read aloud from Article #5B from 2012 Highgate Town Meeting, which covers this; Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District appropriate an amount, not to exceed \$35,000, to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of making capital improvements related, but not limited to, property drainage, and roof maintenance. Pat re-read the article as amended, taking out “establishing” and inserting “adding to existing” – Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District appropriate \$65,000 for the purpose of adding to the existing capital reserve fund to address items such as, but not limited to, the school roofs, parking lots, and accessibility issues. Article #6 by voice vote – PASSED.

Article #7 – To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered appropriate and necessary when met:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Connie Beyor. Connie thanked everyone for their support for the children in our town. She also thanked Liza Comiskey for her time on the board, and the highway crew for all they do. Connie also addressed the Selectboard and appreciates the open communication with them and Heidi for her good work on the sidewalk project(s) in town. The end result will one day be that our kids can leave the school property and safely cross Route 78 and not be in harm’s way. More thanks to the custodial staff and bus drivers. It was also noted that we are saying good bye to some folks – Dr. McCarthy, Pat Labrie, Sue Desrochers and Debbie Miller will all be retiring this year. THANK YOU ALL! David Rouse asked how long students get to eat lunch – approximately 25 minutes. He feels we should be able to do our lunch break today in that amount of time. Paulette Tatro asked about the new lunch program in Highgate. Nola Gilbert spoke to the new program with The Abbey Group. There were no more questions. Article #7 by voice vote – PASSED.

Motion by Liza Comiskey to adjourn the school portion of the meeting and break for lunch @ 12:30pm, seconded by Zeb Maskell. We will resume Town Meeting @ 1:15pm, per Pat McGovern.

Motion by Pat McGovern to enter back into Highgate Town Meeting @ 1:20pm.

Article #5 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$780,348 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund, with an estimated \$232,520 to be raised by taxes:

Motion by Mike Lambert, seconded by Shirley Fecteau. Tom walked through the budget in the same fashion he did at the information meeting. Tom brought attention to the parks and rec department, there is \$15,600 for a part time person regarding administrative work associated with the capital campaign if the arena bond vote passes. The \$13,500 is for working with a consultant, also for the capital campaign. Tom would like to amend the line item found on page 39 at the bottom under fire department. There is an amount \$18,300 that should not be there. It is Tom's error. Motion by Tom Racine to amend the amount and reduce the budget amount to \$762,048, with the amount to be raised by taxes to \$214,220, motion seconded by Chris Yates. Zeb asked for clarification on the numbers. Pat read the article aloud, as amended: Article #5 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$762,048 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund, with an estimated \$214,220 to be raised by taxes. Article #5 by voice vote – PASSED.

Article #6 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$832,273 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Department, with an estimated \$538,550 to be raised by taxes:

Motion by Scott Martin, seconded by Zeb Maskell. Zeb asked for some more explanation. Tom referred everyone to page 54 of the town report. He also drew attention to page 56 and that we anticipate to be deficit spending as we had another transfer station landslide that was unexpected and we had to come up with our own funds to deal with it. We are hoping to receive a FEMA grant to help offset some of the costs. Richard Noel asked for road materials to be broken down in the future. The line item "grants" is really "grant projects", and would be related to expenditures associated with the Class II Paving Grant and Structures Grant. Zeb asked about the PACIF insurance line item, which is our liability insurance through VLCT. Street lights have also been added into the highway budget. Richard Noel stated, in light of that, we should look into updates for lighting. Article #6 by voice vote – PASSED.

Article #7 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate appropriate \$68,750 to be raised by taxes to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Highgate Public Library:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by David Rouse. David Rouse asked if the library budget was going to be part of the general fund. Tom referred to page 69 of the town report where it was noted that the library accounting would be coming into the NEMRC software that we use in house. We anticipate the library will have its own fund and accounting done in the main office. The library had presented a budget of \$63,750.00 and \$5,000.00 was added per the footnote: Beginning July 1, 2014 the financial data for the Highgate Public Library will be incorporated into the town's fund accounting software system. For budgeting purposes we have moved \$5,000.00 from the General Fund to the proposed library budget figure for a total of \$68,750.00 which is the amount of the appropriation request for the library found in article #7 of the warning. David made a suggestion that all surplus money from the library goes into an escrow account for future development of a new building and materials. Paulette Tatro asked if the extra \$5,000.00 includes electricity – yes it does. Article #7 by voice vote – PASSED.

Article # 8 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate approve a sum of \$50,000 to be raised in taxes and transferred to the fire truck reserve account for the replacement of a Highgate Volunteer Fire Department fire truck:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Kermit Drown. David Rouse commented that he read some Selectboard minutes regarding this topic, he can't remember the month. In these minutes it read that \$50,000.00 would be used for the purchase of a new truck and the balance would come from the transfer station fund. Andy King replied that he believes David is referring to a discussion about purchasing a used truck and that is where you may have read this. Kermit Drown noted that

the approved minutes from January 9, 2014 is where it talks about the truck and includes the information that David is referring to. Zeb would like to know how much is in the reserve and what we are looking at for a truck. David Rouse spoke to this – they are looking at a custom cab which seats seven people. They are looking at a truck of this size because it will be replacing three trucks with this one. Our command unit is over twenty years old. Engine #1 only has a few years left, and the mini pumper is 25 years old. They are trying to consolidate all of these into one vehicle as much as they can. Richard Noel stated that for \$225,000.00 he found on the internet a used truck that seats eight. David has seen that truck, they have looked at it, and it has been rolled several times and is on a new frame. David would not feel comfortable with a used front line pumper if his house was on fire. With a brand new truck you will be safe and it will last. Ralph Comiskey commented that it is his opinion with a used vehicle you are buying someone else’s problem. A new truck is an investment in our community. Andy added that increasing regulations forces us to make changes not only in the fire department, but in all departments. Along with that, you have to engage thought processes that will move toward more efficiency. Having the right equipment is first and foremost, second is having people willing to do the job. Andy’s comment to the town is one of encouragement. Step up and find a way to volunteer not only for the fire department but for your town. It is worthwhile and rewarding. Keith Ploof stated that he is not opposed to the fire truck, he is opposed to the seven man cab. How many times will it leave the station with seven people in it? Steve Bushey noted that we rely on the fire department to tell us what they need. Andy agrees that never more than four are in one truck at one time. The larger cab would accommodate more equipment or people as a command center of sorts while they are on a scene and to haul gear. Richard Noel asked if they would consider a used truck, if it was what the department required – Richard Flint said yes, it would be considered. Diana O’Hara asked, with consolidating all these trucks into one truck, what will happen if another call comes in at the same time? There is another pumper available and also mutual aid. Zeb inquired if all the articles today are passed, how much will our taxes go up? Tom referred to a sheet that is circulating with current tax rates and anticipated tax rates.

	<i>2013-2014</i>	<i>2014-2015</i>
Homestead Ed & Municipal	1.4240	1.5196
Non-Res Ed & Municipal	1.5959	1.5796

Henry Rainville thanked the fire department for everything they do. Henry has been alone on the board with his perception of what is needed for a fire truck. The department is also looking for a pickup truck. His biggest problem is the \$88,000.00 difference between a custom cab and a regular cab. In all the literature that he has asked for, a regular cab is a five occupant truck and a custom cab is a six occupant truck. The custom cab has heavier axles. That is his take on what the fire department is asking of us. We do rely on them to tell us what they need. Article #8 by voice vote – PASSED.

Article #9 – Shall voters of the Town of Highgate approve a sum of \$25,000 from the General Fund surplus to be reserved for the rehabilitation of the East Highgate Bridge (B25):

Motion by Shirley Fecteau, seconded by Cathy Brace. Richard Noel represents the town on the transportation committee. The way the article is worded states “rehab” of the bridge, it should add “and / or replacement” to be accurate. Ralph Comiskey asked Pat McGovern why we can’t amend the article. Pat responded that it would be changing the article completely. Richard Noel stated we have already set aside \$200,000.00 for rehab and replacement, and we will need approximately \$300,000.00. We are asking for \$25,000.00 this year, and have a few years to come up with the rest. Steve Bushey noted that we are fortunate that the State of VT has stepped up and that B25 will be replaced. The new bridge will be a two lane bridge with 11’ lanes and 3’ shoulders. We have gotten 80 years out of the old bridge and anticipate at least that from the new one. The cost to the town is 5% of the overall cost, which is approximately \$300,000.00. This price does not include a

temporary bridge. The sacrifice for us is complete closure for twelve weeks while it is being fully replaced. Article #9 by voice vote – PASSED.

Article #10 – Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate set the final date of payment for 2014-2015 property taxes to be Monday, October 27, 2014 with payments to be received in the town office by 5pm or postmarked by October 27, 2014:

Motion by Richard Noel, seconded by Scott Martin.

Article #10 by voice vote – PASSED.

Article #11 – To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered proper and necessary when met:

Motion by Zeb Maskell, seconded by Liza Comiskey. Paulette Tatro stated that in both the school meeting and town meeting today there were amendments made, so the tax rate should come down. Tom replied yes, on the municipal side. Mike Lambert asked how some articles were able to be amended and some not. Pat McGovern explained, according to Roberts Rules. Clarence Miller asked to hear from Senator Norm McAllister. Norm spoke briefly, stating that he had not seen the budget yet. There is a lot going on in Montpelier, some of it is a little scary, but by far the biggest point to reign in is the cost of education. Norm stated that Montpelier is not doing anything and has no plans to. There is a plan to add universal pre-K. We are also seeing that over 52% of Vermonters are getting a prebate on their property taxes. It was started for low income and retirees. Something needs to change. Norm did not vote for the budget to pass last year, he feels there is a spending problem in Montpelier, and we need to change some of the faces there. Right now the State of VT is over two billion behind in funding our teachers and state workers health care plan. The way they have been funding it is taking from retirement plans and putting it into insurance. Two billion dollars is half of our entire state budget! Norm also noted that Vermont is one of the oldest states in the nation. Chris Yates asked if there is a way for VT Gas to expand into Highgate. VT Gas is a utility governed by the Public Service Board, so Norm was not sure. Angela Carr runs a registered day care in Highgate. She stated that there was someone here earlier today asking for signatures for unionized childcare. Angela wanted people to know that if this passes, the costs will be put onto VT families. She does not feel that unions belong in day cares and wants people to be aware of what they may have signed today. Steve Bushey wanted to thank Henry Rainville for his nine years on the Highgate Selectboard, today was Henry's last day on the board. Henry has a lot of passion for our town and is always very prepared. Steve asked for a round of applause for Henry. Henry spoke briefly, stating that he found it to be easy due to the people that he was able to work with – the Selectboard, Highway Department, Fire Department, Library, Listers, Town Administrator, Treasurer, Clerk, everyone! Andy King again spoke about donating your time to your town, noting that Steve Bushey is also leaving the board as of today. Steve personifies dedication and bettering your community, and asked for a round of applause for Steve also. Article #11 by voice vote – PASSED.

G. Adjournment

Motion by Scott Martin to adjourn Highgate Town Meeting 2014 @ 2:25pm, motion seconded by Paulette Tatro – PASSED.

Respectfully submitted by:
Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk

Minutes approved by:
Henry Rainville, Selectboard Chair
Patrick McGovern, Moderator

TOWN MEETING DAY VOTING RESULTS

School Articles

Article #1 - voice vote:

Moderator - Pat McGovern; School Director 1 year – Nola Gilbert;

School Director 2 years – David Roddy; School Director 3 years – Connie Beyor

Article #2 - voice vote: approved

Article #3 - voice vote: approved

Article #4 - paper ballot (school budget): approved total votes 129 yes: 86, no: 43

Article #5 – voice vote: approved (amended)

Article #6 – voice vote: approved

Article #7 - voice vote: approved

Town Articles

Article #4 – voice vote: approved

Article #5 (general fund) – voice vote: approved as amended

Article #6 (highway dept) – voice vote: approved

Article #7 (public library) – voice vote: approved

Article #8 (fire dept) – voice vote: approved

Article #9 (bridge) – voice vote: approved

Article #10 (tax due date) – voice vote: approved

Article #11 – voice vote: approved

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Article #1

Auditor	(position not filled)
Board of Listers	Shirley Fecteau (393)
Cemetery Commissioners	Heath Martel (195), Keith Ploof (212)
Delinquent Tax Collector	Tom Racine (398)
First Constable	Benjamin Lowell (377)
Library Trustees	Karen Fortin (407)
Second Constable	(position not filled)
Selectboard	Chris Yates (write-in votes 29)
Town Agent	(position not filled)
Town Moderator	Pat McGovern (394)
Trustees of Public Funds	John Ferland (401)

Article #2 – Arena Bond Vote Yes – 203 No – 224 Blank – 16 Spoiled – 1

Article #3 – NWSWD Vote Yes – 269 No – 152 Blank – 20 Spoiled - 3

TOWN MEETING WARNING

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 03, 2015 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 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.

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?

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 03, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business:

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

**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 to complete a one (1) year term;
 3. One School Director for a term of two (2) years;
 4. One School Director for a term of three (3) 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:** 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?
- ARTICLE #5:** Will the voters of the Highgate Town School District appropriate **\$25,000** to the existing **Capital Reserve Fund**?
- ARTICLE #6:** To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered appropriate and necessary when met.

Dated at Highgate Center, Vermont this **30th day of January, 2015**.

Connie Beyor
David Roddy
Richard Flint
Nola Gilbert
Liza Comiskey

**ADJOURN THE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND REENTER THE
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?
- 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?
- 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?
- ARTICLE #7:** Shall the voters of the Town of Highgate vote all municipal budgets and all public questions by Australian ballot?
- 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?
- ARTICLE #9:** To transact any other business legally authorized to be transacted, considered proper and necessary when met.

Dated at Highgate Center this **30th day of January, 2015.**

Attest: Wendi Dusablon, Clerk
Jeff Towle, Selectboard Chair
Andrew King, Selectboard Vice-Chair
Christopher Yates, Selectboard Member
Luke Choiniere, Select Board Member
Diana O'Hara, Selectboard Member

SELECTBOARD REPORT

As we reflect on the passing of yet another year, the Town of Highgate remains a busy place. Your Selectboard has continued to work diligently with other town officials and departments in 2014 to accomplish the necessary tasks to keep our town and community a safe, prosperous, and enjoyable place to live and thrive. Despite varying challenges, a demanding schedule, and several environmental obstacles, we are pleased to report that we have attained many of the goals that were set, and made confident strides in moving forward with the projects that comprise our responsibilities in serving the citizens of Highgate.

Community support is vital to the successful resolution of the obstacles presented for consideration, and this year has provided ample opportunity for concerned citizens to become involved in many different capacities. One of the aforementioned environmental dilemmas occurred immediately prior to last year's Christmas holiday; the Great Ice Storm of 2013. As a result of this monumental challenge, many rose to the occasion to lend a hand to help their fellow neighbor, demonstrating once again the immeasurable wealth of character that shines in times of need throughout our community. Not the least of which, our local Fire Department's response, coupled with the Highgate Elementary School staff's incredible motivation and assistance, was nothing short of compelling and impressive. Through this difficulty, some needs were identified to streamline the response capability of our town when Mother Nature comes blowing through. The Town of Highgate has entered into an initiative with the American Red Cross, who so effectively and efficiently provided needed shelter for residents during the Ice Storm of 2013, resulting in a plan for the future to implement a quickly deployed shelter facility, complete with manning, supplies, and equipment to ensure the safety of our residents in times of dire need. The supplies and equipment are provided by the American Red Cross, and it is our responsibility as community members to step forward and volunteer to receive shelter training, becoming part of an elite response team dedicated to deploying potentially lifesaving shelter availability when disaster strikes. As your Selectboard, we strongly encourage any willing volunteers to step forward and serve your community in this way. Simply voice your willingness to join this important team of town officials, and enjoy the personal satisfaction that only a grateful community can bestow. We encourage all citizens, in whatever capacity you are able, to find a way to volunteer to better your community. We accept that a locality is what the people make it, and we are so proud to be surrounded by willing people to step in to the many opportunities that exist to serve, such as your local Fire Department, Planning Commission, Development Review Board, Parks and Recreation Committee, Sidewalk Committee, MAHA, HART and School Board, just to name a few. That said, there are numerous openings in several departments, and we believe everyone has the ability to provide needed service in some manner. We sincerely appreciate those who already volunteer, and hold strongly the opinion that everyone can individually have an effect on the quality of life within our community simply by finding a way to give.

Throughout the course of the year, many projects were governed in the regular course of town business. One of these projects included submitting a request to the VT Agency of Natural Resources Solid Waste Division to eliminate the need to perform annual testing at the retired landfill site near the Transfer Station. The ANR Solid Waste Division granted the town a permit to change the designation from "post-closure" care to "custodial" care, thereby removing the requirement for approximately \$7000 in annual testing at the site. Another important project involves the construction of sidewalks through the

center of town and down Lamkin Street. The Lamkin Street segment is scheduled to be installed between 2015-2016, with the VT Route 78 Safety Study pending completion by the Spring of 2015. Another exciting development this summer was the paving of VT Route 78, a much needed improvement for our area.

The Selectboard has spent a substantial amount of time this year looking at and updating our Town Ordinances. Some of the additions include a No Loitering Ordinance for the Highgate Park and Ride, which with the outstanding dedication of our Town Constable, Ben Lowell, sees much less illicit and unauthorized activity. The Town Constable has proven to be a tremendous asset to our community, due largely to his unwavering dedication and judicious application of Town Ordinances. The newly adopted and updated Town of Highgate Dog Ordinance has been put to the test in abundant measure this year. Dogs and dog owners continue to occupy copious amounts of not only the Select board's time, but the Animal Control Officer, Town Clerk, and Town Constable as well. This is not effective use of the Town's resources and we strongly appeal to the citizens of Highgate to comply with the requirements of the Dog Ordinance to ensure productive and appropriate attention can be given to the remaining significant issues seen each year by your town officials.

An exciting opportunity that was presented to the Town this year came through a cell tower lease company. SBA approached the board and requested the town consider leasing a small piece of property to them in order to construct a cell tower. Through extensive negotiation and research, an agreement was made that will not only benefit Highgate citizens with enhanced cellular service, but provide another revenue stream for the town, thereby reducing the overall burden on the taxpayers. A side benefit includes the location of the town's radio antennas on the tower, increasing the effective range and clarity of our own systems. Some of the other notable projects the board has been addressing throughout the year include the Highgate Arena renovation and subsequent bond; finalizing plans to replace bridge B-25, the Machia Road bridge; overseeing the implementation of the Development Review Board, restructure of the Planning Commission, and the revision of the bylaws associated with these offices. Again, through tireless dedication from volunteers as well as appointed and elected officials alike, much was and continues to be accomplished. These are but small examples of the multitude of matters examined and acted upon by your elected board through the course of this year.

The Town of Highgate Selectboard would like to take this opportunity to express our deep and profound gratitude for the willing support and continued cooperation from the exceptional citizens of our town. We look forward to continued prosperity as we move into a future of efficiency, effectiveness, accomplishment, and progress; ultimately without sacrificing the small town charm that differentiates us from so many communities. We sincerely thank you, and are honored and delighted to serve each and every member of our unique town.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Towle, Andrew King, Luke Choiniere, Christopher Yates, Diana O'Hara

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

As we look back at 2014 we are once again surprised by the amount of work that has been accomplished by a very small group of employees. We are only able to accomplish so much because of the large amount of unpaid employees whose only reward is the satisfaction of making our community a better place. Those volunteers may not punch a clock, but the hours do add up. To our valued volunteers- we are grateful for your contribution to your community!

THANK YOU TO THE:

ALL ARTS COUNCIL- for bringing the park alive in the summer with joyful sounds.

AUDITORS-for your guidance and input on developing appropriate financial policies.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE- for caring for our ancestors.

CONSTABLE- for keeping us a little bit safer.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD- for working all year long to review development applications to support the Town's goals for growth.

FIRE DEPT. - for protecting our homes and families.

FIRE DEPT AUXILIARY- for supporting our Fire Department in their efforts.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AND LIBRARY TRUSTEES- for supporting our vibrant library and all of their great activities.

HEALTH OFFICER- for doing an extremely important and often unpleasant job.

HIGHGATE ARENA RENOVATION TEAM (HART)-for your work to save the arena.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY- for preserving our history and engaging our youth.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE- for running elections, hearing grievances and for performing marriages.

LITTLE LEAGUE- for sharing the love of the game.

MISSISQUOI AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (MAHA)-for doing a great job keeping our kids engaged in healthy activities in a safe environment.

NORTHWEST SOLID WASTE DISTRICT (NWSWD) REP- for keeping up to date on changing requirements and regulations that affect us all.

PARADE COMMITTEE- for bringing us together to honor our veterans and celebrate our youth.

PLANNING COMMISSION-for developing the regulations and plans that guide our town.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NRPC) REPS- for keeping us informed of the regional activities, initiatives and making us aware of important funding opportunities.

SIDEWALK COMMITTEE-for guiding us toward a safer Village area.

TRUSTEES- for your work to ensure the best use of public funds.

MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS- for bringing warm food and comfort to our loved ones.

SCHOOL BOARDS- for your work to inspire young minds and to create a learning community.

RECREATION COMMITTEE- for coming forward to organize all kinds of fun for our community.

SELECTBOARD- for your hours, and hours, of work to make Highgate a better place and for listening when people have a problem.

Of course there is always a need for more volunteers. We have a long list of roles that would benefit the community. If you would like to become a part of the team please let us know!

Heidi Britch-Valenta

Town Administrator

868-4697 x 203 hbvalenta@highgatevt.org

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

VITAL STATISTICS: The following certificates were added to our vault in 2014; Births 39; Deaths 19; Marriages 33; Burial Permits 16.

AT THE POLLS: There was a great deal of activity at the polls in 2014, beginning in March and ending in November. Here is a breakdown of the numbers at each election / vote for 2014;

Town Meeting Day	March 4, 2014	444 Highgate ballots cast
MVU Budget Revote	April 29, 2014	284 Highgate ballots cast
MVU Budget Revote	June 17, 2014	268 Highgate ballots cast
Primary Election	August 26, 2014	137 Highgate ballots cast
MVU Budget Revote	September 9, 2014	396 Highgate ballots cast
General Elec. & Arena Bond Vote	November 4, 2014	989 Highgate ballots cast

RECORDING OF LAND RECORDS: We continue to use and very much enjoy the Xerox / ACS land records program. All documents are digitally scanned as well as copied for the volumes located in the vault. We currently are scanned and indexed back to August of 1999 up to current. For the calendar year 2014 a total of 977 documents were recorded for a total of 3,064 pages added to our volumes. We are currently in volume # 172, with each book holding approximately 1,000 pages each.

DOG LICENSING: 2014 proved to be another busy year with dog licensing and issues related to dogs in general. A total of **784** dogs were licensed in Highgate in 2014. As a reminder, dogs can be licensed from January 1st – April 1st each year. Late fees will apply after April 1st. Beginning in 2015, any unlicensed dogs as of May 1st will also be issued a municipal ticket / fine (per dog) in addition to licensing fees. The rabies shot clinic for 2015 will be held on Saturday, March 14th from 10am – noon at the fire station. Please license your dogs in a timely manner. Proof of rabies vaccination is required and the fees are as follows;

On or before April 1, 2015	\$12 spay / neutered	\$16 not spay / not neutered
After April 1, 2015	\$18 spay / neutered	\$22 not spay / not neutered

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as your Town Clerk. We are certainly blessed in many ways to live here. It is a pleasure to see Highgate evolve and grow, yet still maintain its small town charm. 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 various spots around town and in the St. Albans Messenger, in addition to the online resources mentioned above.

Respectfully submitted,

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

TOWN TREASURER REPORT

We have successfully transitioned from a calendar year to a fiscal period of July through June. We had also contracted with Sullivan & Powers to audit that 18 month transitional period which has been completed. Since our financial records had not been professionally audited for a number of years and the audit was conducted during this time of transition the process has taken longer than anticipated and the report has not been finalized. Once the firm has been in to discuss the findings with our Selectboard we intend to make the full report available on the town's website.

As mentioned in last year's report we are in the process of restructuring our chart of accounts which, like the audit, is taking more time than anticipated. Consequently, we are a bit behind on integrating the Library and Trustees of Public Funds data in the NEMRC accounting software. Also, due to the passage of the bond vote for the replacement of the ice system at the Highgate Sports Arena facility as well as the formation of the Parks & Recreation Committee, we have begun to detail that activity within the General Fund.

The Planning Commission, with the assistance of the Regional Planning Commission, is in the process of developing a Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to be formally adopted by the Selectboard. The process will require public input which should be happening in the near future. In anticipation of adopting a CIP, the Selectboard has authorized the renaming of the Community Development Fund to the Capital Fund. We have merged the Transfer Station Fund into General Fund activity under public works and we are passing the net income and fund balance into the Capital Fund along with the reserves that existed in the General Fund. So we now are moving towards financial reporting that delineates general operations from capital planning.

This was probably the most challenging budget cycle since I began my work as Treasurer a little over nine years ago due to the aforementioned structural changes. While we are currently in a strong cash position there are many challenges ahead. It is anticipated that the work at the Arena facility will be completed by September. On the heels of that project is the first phase of sidewalk installation which will be followed by the replacement of the East Highgate Bridge. As financial systems are becoming more complex I have requested that an article be presented at Town Meeting for the elimination of elected Auditors which requires an outside firm to formally audit the Town's records annually. I also strongly suggest that the Selectboard consider the formation of a Finance Committee to assist with overall financial management.

Finally, I would like to share that this will be my last term serving the town. My wife, Laurie, has been offered a position at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Regional Office in Hadley, MA and we will be relocating to that area. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the community during the past number of years and I'm hopeful that the work that has been done will provide a useful framework for future community activities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Racine, Town Treasurer & Delinquent Tax Collector
(802) 868-4697 x 204 tracine@highgatevt.org

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT

Property Owner	Location	Amount	Property Owner	Location	Amount
ABBOTT WOOD FLOORS INC	WAUGH FARM RD	1,858.56	FACKLER DEAN C	DURKEE RD	2,065.97
AIRPORT SAND AND FILL LLC	AIRPORT RD	2,267.88	FERLAND PIERRE & DIANE	CARTER HILL RD	39.43
ALLEN DAVID & LYNDA	MONUMENT RD	2,871.13	FERREIRA DAVID & CISCO ANGELLA	FORTIN RD	2,194.67
ANGELINI CLAIRE Z LIFE ESTATE	RANDOLPH RD	1,758.43	FLANAGAN TERRANCE & SHARON	CARMAN BROOK RD	261.33
BARTON GEORGE FRANCIS	SHIPYARD BAY RD	811.34	FORTIN CLAUDE & LUCIE	ROLLO RD	299.62
BERARD JOSHUA & JAIME	ILA LANE	4,236.06	FORTIN RICHARD & CAROL	FORTIN RD	2,504.55
BERNHOLZ RICHARD	RICE HILL RD	849.32	FOSGATE DAVID	RTE 7	2,273.21
BERTHIAUME CAROL	FORTIN RD	1,017.40	FOSTER PETER A	BALLARD RD	4,308.06
BEYOR NADDA	ST ARMAND RD	309.98	FOURNIER KEVIN M & CARRIE A	ROBERTS LN	1,355.50
BLUTO TIMOTHY & RENA	TARTE RD	996.73	FOURNIER TIMOTHY	COOK RD	1,795.38
BOCKUS JENNIFER LYNN & ARNOLD R JR	HOAGUE DR	457.00	FURLOW BUCK O D & APRIL L	ST ARMAND RD	893.37
BOUCHARD ERNEST	ST ARMAND RD	4,263.48	GAGNE DENIS & KATHLEEN	GAGNE RD	3,975.18
BRICKNER DAVID J & KIMBERLY	HANNA RD	980.07	GAGNE KEVIN J & CHURCH MINDY S	DURKEE RD	3,792.26
BROW EDWARD & KRISTY	MISTY MEADOWS LANE	638.52	GAGNE MARK & JEAN	CAMPAGNA RD	6,681.66
BRUNO ROBERT & LINDA	ST ARMAND RD	3,463.45	GAGNER EUGENE & LISA	BOUCHARD RD	2,817.06
BUTTON HERBERT & KATHLEEN	HANNA RD	38.25	GREENIA JEREMY	CADIEUX LN	1,020.99
CAMPBELL JAMES & DEBORAH	FRONTAGE RD	1,815.84	GREENIA JOSEPH	LAMKIN ST	4,307.01
CAMPBELL TY & TAMMY	PLATT RD	5,993.16	GREENIA JOSEPH & CRYSTAL	RHEAUME RD	3,295.30
CANTELL RICHARD	CARTER HILL RD	814.36	GREENIA MELANIE	LAMKIN STREET	539.67
CHENEY BONNIE	CARTER HILL RD	10,395.68	GREENIA ROMAINE, ESTATE OF	LAMKIN ST	1,422.39
CHEVALIER KATHLEEN	RTE 78	886.06	GROSS JENNIFER	VIRGINIA LANE	692.17
CHEVRIER ARMAND & ERNESTINE	AIRPORT RD	1,279.74	GUTTILLA MICHAEL & CARMEN	CHARLES CIRCLE	2,750.76
CLINE SPENCER & RAMONA	PARIZO RD	792.12	GUYETTE PAUL C & CYNTHIA A	ROLLO RD	6,013.32
COMMO JOSEPH & NANCY	GAGNE RD	1,025.03	HARPER ANNE K	RTE 7	203.72
CONDIE ALLYSON	SHIPYARD BAY RD	610.88	HEALD ARTHUR A	MOREY RD	797.55
COON CHAD	DURKEE RD	489.83	HEMINGWAY NICOLE L	CARTER HILL RD	2,155.85
CORWELL MICHAEL W & ROBBIE	RTE 78	2,287.21	HEMOND PAULA	CAMPAGNA RD	2,075.80
DEMASI SAMUEL	MONUMENT RD	124.71	HIDEAWAY PARADISE ESTATES #1 INC	JEDWARE CIRCLE	117.55
DEROSIA ARLENE	FORTIN RD	3,123.85	HOAGUE LYNFORD & DORE	CAMPAGNA RD	6,297.93
DEROSIA CHARLENE C	RTE 78	3,682.89	HOAGUE RAQUEL	HOAGUE DR	1,670.93
DHL DANZAS AIR & OCEAN	WELCOME CENTER RD	217.83	HUBACHER KENNETH J	MACHIA RD	700.09
DOMINA RAYMOND R & KELLY J	CARMAN BROOK RD	823.26	HUNTER STEPHEN	HIGHGATE RD	916.46
DUDLEY MYRON C & ESTHER M	COUNTRY CLUB RD	790.37	JEDCO INC	RTE 78	3,349.64
DUPREY ROSE	RTE 78	1,238.59	JOHNSON BECKY L	BALLARD RD	554.25
ELLIOTT JOHN PAUL & ANGELA MARIE	MACHIA RD	677.01	JONES DAVID & LISA	OLD CAMP RD	147.25
ELWOOD LYNN	LAMKIN ST	353.46	KANE LUCAS	ST ARMAND RD	812.33

Property Owner	Location	Amount	Property Owner	Location	Amount
KITTELL ROBERT & MARTHA J	MUDGETT ISLAND	477.81	NICHOLS ANTHONY & KIM	HIGHGATE RD	3,718.79
LAFAR SHELLEY	LAFAR RD	32.42	NICHOLS KEVIN R & MARY BETH	TARTE RD	2,309.89
LAFRANCE FLORENCE	JEWELL AVE	899.85	NOEL SHANE	RTE 7	10.52
LAMPMAN HERBERT	LAMKIN ST	265.78	OLDS HEATHER	OLDS DR	879.65
LAPAN DAWN M	OLDS DR	652.98	OLDS LEE & LORI	MISTY MEADOWS LANE	2,518.75
LAPAN LAWRENCE JR & LAURIE	RTE 78	11,646.37	PELICAN FAYE & ERIC	OLDS DR	3,020.38
LECLAIRE DANIEL M	PARK ST	622.71	PFEIFFER ANGELA	COUNTRY CLUB RD	3,461.51
LESPERANCE RODNEY L & REBECCA A	GORE RD	582.61	PLOOF EUGENE & SHIRLEY	HIGHGATE RD	1,229.69
LETOURNEAU JEREMY W & LISA W	HILLTOP LANE	3,465.85	PRICE BRIAN	CARTER HILL RD	622.71
LOCKE BONNY	LAMKIN ST	5,724.66	PUTNAM DONALD SR	RTE 78	276.89
LOCKE KATHY	WHISPERING PINES	2,958.09	RICHARD CHARLES A	CHASE DR	850.02
LUSSIER WILFRED JR & RONALD	RTE 78	10,007.07	REYNOLDS JOHN & RHODA	LYNNLOU DR	2,084.37
MACHIA COREY	COOK RD	257.91	ROBERTS WENDELL J	ROBERTS LN	374.01
MACHIA DAVID	MOREY RD	14,977.77	ROBERTS WENDELL T & DEBRA	ROBERTS LN	2,069.25
MACKIN CHARLES W	RAMP RD	27.03	ROBINSON JONATHAN D	BROSSEAU RD	2,001.44
MANY ALLAN & THERESA	RTE 78	2,380.83	ROONEY ROBERT L	BROSSEAU RD	23.97
MARSHALL HAROLD	WILLIAM DR	588.69	SARTWELL CHARLES & KIMBERLY	DUNTON RD	3,993.18
MARTIN EDWIN H SR	DECKER RD	491.52	SARTWELL DORIS A LIFE ESTATE	MACHIA RD	2,017.53
MARTIN JANICE H	DECKER RD	704.65	SARTWELL MILES	MOREY RD	5.05
MASKELL GREGORY D	LIME KILN RD	1,126.71	SCARPINATO WILLIAM J	CARMAN BROOK RD	4,613.38
MASKELL MICHAEL & MARIE	CARTER HILL RD	772.22	SHERMAN ANSON & HOLLY	RTE 78	827.72
MCDONALD BRENDA	RICE HILL RD	2,326.20	SHOVER JOHN & ELEANOR	PARIZO RD	653.91
MCLAUGHLIN NICOLE	RAYMO DR	4,899.07	SMITH EDWIN C & BRANON MEGAN	SPOONER RD	3,495.12
MEDOR PERLEY	RTE 78	1,795.14	SPEAR GEORGE II	PENNY LANE	2,418.95
MESSECK MYRON & CHRISTIE	OLD SCHOOLHOUSE RD	3,013.16	SPRENG JULIA	PAUL'S COURT	86.30
MEUNIER LAURIE	SHIPYARD BAY RD	360.61	SWEENEY MARCIA MAE	RTE 78	2,644.12
MISSISQUOI MINING & MINERALS INC	PARIZO RD	124.75	SWOYER ROBERT & CASEY	MACHIA RD	722.39
MOREY JUDY M	DURKEE RD	1,013.54	TARDY CHRISTOPHER	LUKE ST	389.73
MORGAN SCOTT	LAMKIN ST	860.07	THE HIGHGATE COTTAGE LLC	OLD DOCK RD	170.20
MOSHER DOUGLAS & SHARON	CARTER HILL RD	2,733.30	TREMBLAY DUANE, REVOCABLE TRUST	THAK BLVD	6,025.43
MULCAHY BARBARA, CORTLEY CAROLYN	RANDOLPH RD	204.57	TREMBLAY MARY F	THAK BLVD	2,518.92
MULHERON JILL	OAK HAVEN RD	2,178.24	TURNER PAUL A & SHIRLEY J	CARTER HILL RD	1,907.18
MURRAY JASON	LYNN LOU DR	5.98	VANSLETTE DAVID & THOMPSON NICOLE	FRONTAGE RD	883.16
NADEAU DANIEL	ST ARMAND RD	4,954.90	WARD JANICE	PLATT RD	5,806.33
NADEAU DENNIS & WENDY	LAMKIN ST	5,328.52	WELLS MICHAEL & NORMA	GILBERT LN	121.66
NELSON DOUGLAS SR	WAUGH FARM RD	916.89	YOUNG RONALD BRUCE SR & SALLY	MILL HILL RD	625.96
				Total Outstanding:	<u>294,094.22</u>

FREE CHILD CARE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT TOWN MEETING

March 3, 2015

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. TV, snacks & crafts will be available for the children.

Please call the Town Office prior to March 1st @ 868-4697 x 201 to register if you will require child care at Town Meeting, so we may plan accordingly.

Thank you ☺

TOWN MEETING LUNCHEON

Lunch will be available to purchase, and will be hosted by the
HIGHGATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Turkey & Biscuits



Please stop by and have a great meal while supporting the Highgate Historical Society.

Thank you ☺



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
868-7359

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

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

BOARD OF LISTERS REPORT

Our department was very busy in 2014 updating parcels due to new construction, subdivisions and new ownership. The parcels for the town have increased. The total parcels are now 2004 and the taxable parcels are 1695.

- **BUILDING PERMITS** – 81 building permits were filed in 2014. This kept us very busy on the road taking measurements and updating the information to keep all property cards accurate. Please remember that if you remove a building or make changes to your property to let us know. This will help eliminate overcharged for items you may no longer have.
- **PROPERTY SALES** – There were 52 properties that sold between April - December. The sales are increasing and the selling values are slowly rising also.
- **GIS MAPPING** – We have been diligent in keeping the information on the GIS Mapping System up to date with changes to property cards, tax bills and updated photos. Keep in mind that this is a great tool for researching properties and available to everyone on the web at <http://www.caigisonline.com/highgatevt/>
- **HOMESTEAD DECLARATIONS** – HS-122 and HI-144 forms need to be filed *every year* by *all* Vermont residents who own and occupy a VT homestead on April 1st, even if you do not file a property tax adjustment. The forms can be obtained at the Town Office or through your tax preparer.
- **VETERANS EXEMPTIONS** – Disabled Veterans interested in getting a property tax exemption can come to the Town Office to receive an application. Veterans must be 50% disabled or higher to be accepted.

It has been a pleasure to work with everyone this year and we look forward to another year. We are always happy to help homeowners and town residents with any questions that they may have. Feel free to contact us at 868-4697 x208 or by email. Our scheduled hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30am – 4:30pm, or by appointment.

Sincerely,

Shirley Fecteau, Peter St. Germain and Aimee Reynolds
sfecteau@highgatevt.org
areynolds@highgatevt.org

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
Town of Highgate, Vermont
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
12/31/2014

Account Description	General Fund	Highway Fund	Special Funds	All Funds
<i>Assets</i>				
Cash on Hand	763,834	-	827,799	1,591,633
Due From/To Other Funds	(362,624)	196,189	166,435	0
Delinquent Taxes Receivable	294,094	-	-	294,094
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	-
Loans Receivable	-	-	-	-
Prepaid Expenses	61,261	-	-	61,261
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>756,565</u>	<u>196,189</u>	<u>994,234</u>	<u>1,946,988</u>
<i>Liabilities</i>				
Accounts Payable	71,730	-	-	71,730
Deferred Revenue	4,267	-	-	4,267
Deferred Taxes	80,000	-	-	80,000
Lease Deposit	10,000	-	-	10,000
Many Escrow	5,002	-	-	5,002
Reserves	-	-	739,650	739,650
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>170,999</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>739,650</u>	<u>910,649</u>
<i>Fund Balance</i>				
Fund Balance Prior Years	262,267	(190,984)	259,206	330,490
Fund Balance Current Year	323,298	387,173	(4,622)	705,849
<i>Total Fund Balance</i>	<u>585,565</u>	<u>196,189</u>	<u>254,584</u>	<u>1,036,339</u>
<i>Total Liabilities & Fund Balance</i>	<u>756,565</u>	<u>196,189</u>	<u>994,234</u>	<u>1,946,988</u>

SPECIAL FUNDS

Town of Highgate, Vermont

SPECIAL FUNDS

12/31/2014

Account Description	Capital Fund	Arena Fund	Reappraisal Fund	Preservation Fund	Computer Fund	All Funds
<i>Assets</i>						
Merchants Bank - Capital Fund	750,058	-	-	-	-	750,058
Merchants Bank - Arena	-	77,742	-	-	-	77,742
Due From/To Other Funds	-	(77)	114,571	43,090	8,851	166,435
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>750,058</u>	<u>77,665</u>	<u>114,571</u>	<u>43,090</u>	<u>8,851</u>	<u>994,234</u>
<i>Liabilities</i>						
Reserve - Highway Truck	140,703	-	-	-	-	140,703
Reserve - Fire Truck	223,223	-	-	-	-	223,223
Reserve - Bridge 25	225,095	-	-	-	-	225,095
Reserve - Sidewalk Proj Match	62,530	-	-	-	-	62,530
Reserve - FEMA Haz Mitg Match	57,001	-	-	-	-	57,001
Reserve - Landfill Closure	31,100	-	-	-	-	31,100
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>739,650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>739,650</u>
<i>Fund Balance</i>						
Fund Balance Prior Years	-	95,714	114,571	40,715	8,207	259,206
Fund Balance Current Year	10,408	(18,049)	-	2,375	644	(4,623)
<i>Total Fund Balance</i>	<u>10,408</u>	<u>77,665</u>	<u>114,571</u>	<u>43,090</u>	<u>8,851</u>	<u>254,584</u>
<i>Total Liabilities & Fund Balance</i>	<u>750,058</u>	<u>77,665</u>	<u>114,571</u>	<u>43,090</u>	<u>8,851</u>	<u>994,234</u>

GENERAL FUND

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2014 Actual <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
REVENUES						
<i>Property Taxes</i>						
Current Property Taxes	583,496	602,528	332,970	338,315	328,686	(4,284)
Property Tax Adjustment	5,000	14,788	5,000	12,318	5,000	-
Delinquent Property Taxes - Interest	19,000	36,100	19,000	19,000	19,000	-
Delinquent Property Taxes - Penalty	18,000	27,307	18,000	23,274	18,000	-
Subtotal - Property Taxes	<u>625,496</u>	<u>680,722</u>	<u>374,970</u>	<u>392,906</u>	<u>370,686</u>	<u>(4,284)</u>
<i>Intergovernmental Revenues</i>						
Swanton Village	300,000	364,324	325,000	358,271	340,000	15,000
Current Use	31,000	40,274	35,000	56,250	50,000	15,000
PILOT	10,000	12,410	10,000	15,519	15,000	5,000
Fish & Wildlife	1,500	1,454	1,500	1,707	1,700	200
Subtotal - Intergov Revenues	<u>342,500</u>	<u>418,462</u>	<u>371,500</u>	<u>431,747</u>	<u>406,700</u>	<u>35,200</u>
<i>Other Revenue</i>						
Investment Income - Banks	4,500	4,916	3,000	2,000	2,000	(1,000)
Waugh Farm Lease	-	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Cell Tower Lease	-	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500
Other Income	300	730	-	500	300	300
Subtotal - Other Revenue	<u>4,800</u>	<u>7,646</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>
<i>Clerk Fees</i>						
Beverage Licenses	800	940	800	800	800	-
Marriage Licenses	300	360	300	300	300	-
DMV Renewals	1,500	1,248	1,500	1,000	1,000	(500)
Recording Fees	28,124	27,295	18,750	17,000	17,000	(1,750)
Research Fees	1,125	1,145	750	600	600	(150)
Photocopies	8,250	8,653	5,500	5,500	5,500	-
Subtotal - Clerk Fees	<u>40,099</u>	<u>39,640</u>	<u>27,600</u>	<u>25,200</u>	<u>25,200</u>	<u>(2,400)</u>
<i>Public Safety</i>						
VLCT Equipment Grant	-	3,377	-	-	-	-
RC&D Dry Hydrant Grant	-	1,250	-	5,250	-	-
Civil Fines	2,500	6,896	2,500	2,500	2,500	-
Animal Licenses	10,000	13,604	5,000	8,000	8,000	3,000
Subtotal - Public Safety	<u>12,500</u>	<u>25,127</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>15,750</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>3,000</u>
<i>Public Works</i>						
Cemeteries						
Environmental Conservation Grants	2,000	4,137	2,000	-	-	(2,000)
Transfer Station - Transfer In	-	30,000	-	-	-	-
Casella Host Fees	90,000	88,206	60,000	60,000	60,000	-
Transfer In - Transfer Station	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal - Public Works	<u>92,000</u>	<u>122,343</u>	<u>62,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget (18 Months)	FY2014 Actual (18 Months)	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
REVENUES (continued)						
<i>Parks & Recreation</i>						
VLCT Dehumidifier Grant	-	300	-	17,700	-	-
Efficiency VT - Dehumidifier Project	-	-	-	8,000	-	-
MAHA - Dehumidifier Project	-	-	-	40,500	-	-
Arena Fund - Transfer In	-	-	-	18,000	-	-
Arena Facility Lease	7,500	9,000	6,000	6,000	36,000	30,000
Subtotal - Parks & Recreation	<u>7,500</u>	<u>9,300</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>90,200</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>
<i>Cultural Services</i>						
Highgate Trust Fund Distribution	-	-	-	-	75	75
Friends of the Library	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Subtotal - Cultural Service	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,075</u>	<u>1,075</u>
<i>Conservation & Development</i>						
NRPC - Municipal Planning Grants	-	7,920	-	-	-	-
Zoning Permits	12,748	13,076	4,250	4,250	5,000	750
Subtotal - Conservation & Dev	<u>12,748</u>	<u>20,996</u>	<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,250</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>750</u>
TOTAL REVENUES :	<u>1,137,643</u>	<u>1,324,236</u>	<u>857,820</u>	<u>1,026,054</u>	<u>920,961</u>	<u>63,141</u>
EXPENSES						
<i>Selectboard</i>						
Selectboard Compensation	4,875	4,750	5,250	5,250	5,250	-
Social Security Contributions	373	363	402	402	402	-
Worker's Compensation	21	21	23	23	23	-
Managerial Services	1,000	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Development	1,000	340	300	300	240	(60)
Public Access TV Services	-	405	-	1,100	1,100	1,100
Public Relations	-	400	-	-	200	200
Travel Expenses	-	122	100	100	100	-
Subtotal - Selectboard	<u>7,269</u>	<u>6,401</u>	<u>6,075</u>	<u>7,175</u>	<u>7,315</u>	<u>1,240</u>
<i>Administrator's Office</i>						
Town Admin Salary	74,797	77,319	51,406	51,406	53,976	2,570
Town Admin Assist. Wages	10,426	5,702	10,426	10,426	7,800	(2,626)
Insurance Buyout	7,403	4,800	-	-	-	-
Group Insurance	-	2,946	8,400	8,400	8,400	-
Social Security Contributions	7,086	6,718	4,731	4,731	4,726	(5)
Retirement Contributions	4,110	4,106	2,570	2,570	3,089	519
Professional Dues	-	100	100	100	100	-
Unemployment Compensation	-	-	529	529	272	(257)
Worker's Compensation	408	386	272	272	272	-

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget (18 Months)	FY2014 Actual (18 Months)	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
EXPENSES (continued)						
Professional Development	2,000	455	600	600	120	(480)
Travel Expenses	-	85	300	300	200	(100)
Subtotal - Administrator's Office	<u>106,230</u>	<u>102,618</u>	<u>79,334</u>	<u>79,334</u>	<u>78,955</u>	<u>(379)</u>
Clerk's Office						
Town Clerk's Salary	55,528	56,700	38,164	38,164	40,072	1,908
Group Insurance	12,635	12,635	8,400	8,400	8,400	-
Social Security Contributions	4,248	4,338	3,072	3,072	3,066	(6)
Retirement Contributions	2,221	2,268	1,527	1,527	1,603	76
Professional Dues	-	55	100	100	100	-
Worker's Compensation	244	249	177	177	177	-
Election Expenses	4,000	3,452	5,000	5,000	3,000	(2,000)
Professional Development	750	60	500	500	120	(380)
Travel Expenses	-	69	100	100	200	100
Subtotal - Clerk's Office	<u>79,626</u>	<u>79,826</u>	<u>57,040</u>	<u>57,040</u>	<u>56,738</u>	<u>(302)</u>
Listers' Office						
Listers' Salaries	37,645	41,309	37,440	37,440	37,440	-
Social Security Contributions	2,880	3,160	2,864	2,864	2,864	-
Professional Dues	-	-	100	100	100	-
Worker's Compensation	166	182	165	165	165	(0)
Professional Development	-	-	-	-	180	180
Professional Services - Technical	3,700	5,780	5,029	5,029	5,029	-
Travel Expenses	-	-	300	300	400	100
Subtotal - Listers' Office	<u>44,391</u>	<u>50,431</u>	<u>45,898</u>	<u>45,898</u>	<u>46,178</u>	<u>280</u>
Town Treasurer's Office						
Town Treasurer's Salary	58,346	58,325	37,830	37,830	38,776	946
Insurance Buyout	7,403	7,200	4,800	4,800	-	(4,800)
Group Insurance	-	-	-	-	8,400	8,400
Social Security Contributions	5,029	5,013	3,261	3,261	2,966	(295)
Retirement Contributions	3,287	3,276	2,532	2,532	1,939	(593)
Professional Dues	-	75	100	100	100	-
Worker's Compensation	289	288	188	188	171	(17)
Professional Development	750	65	500	500	180	(320)
Travel Expenses	-	-	100	100	200	100
Subtotal - Treasurer's Office	<u>75,104</u>	<u>74,243</u>	<u>49,311</u>	<u>49,311</u>	<u>52,731</u>	<u>3,420</u>
Delinquent Tax Collector						
DTC Compensation	20,000	22,429	14,000	14,000	14,000	-
Social Security Contributions	1,530	1,716	1,071	1,071	1,071	-
Worker's Compensation	88	99	62	62	62	(0)
Professional Development	-	-	100	100	60	(40)
Professional Services - Legal	1,000	656	400	400	400	-

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2014 Actual <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
EXPENSES (continued)						
Travel Expenses	-	-	-	-	100	100
Subtotal - Del Tax Collector	<u>22,618</u>	<u>24,899</u>	<u>15,633</u>	<u>15,633</u>	<u>15,693</u>	<u>60</u>
Auditors						
Town Auditor Compensation	2,250	1,000	1,500	1,000	-	(1,500)
Social Security Contributions	173	77	115	115	-	(115)
Worker's Compensation	10	4	7	7	-	(7)
Professional Development	-	-	250	250	-	(250)
Professional Auditing Services	8,000	2,500	6,000	8,000	12,000	6,000
Printing & Binding	3,800	3,522	1,600	1,800	1,700	100
Travel Expenses	-	-	100	100	-	(100)
Subtotal - Auditors	<u>14,233</u>	<u>7,102</u>	<u>9,572</u>	<u>11,272</u>	<u>13,700</u>	<u>4,128</u>
Town Operations						
Professional Services - Legal	10,500	15,426	7,500	20,000	12,000	4,500
Professional Services - Technical	10,500	20,447	6,125	7,033	6,000	(125)
Custodial Services	-	-	3,380	3,380	3,380	-
Buildings Maintenance	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Equipment Maintenance	-	-	1,096	1,096	1,000	(96)
Construction Service	30,000	79,327	25,000	5,000	5,000	(20,000)
Property/Liability Insurance	21,878	21,031	17,161	17,161	16,720	(441)
Communications - Telephone	7,380	7,753	5,300	5,300	6,000	700
Postage	7,500	7,471	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
Advertising	3,000	4,211	2,500	3,000	3,500	1,000
NRPC Dues	3,217	3,217	3,394	3,394	3,489	95
VLCT Dues	4,381	4,381	4,626	4,626	4,757	131
Franklin County Court Assessment	27,809	27,809	28,301	28,301	28,306	5
General Supplies	9,000	8,506	6,000	7,000	7,000	1,000
Natural Gas	12,000	12,095	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
Electricity	13,500	11,053	8,000	9,000	9,000	1,000
Street Lights	37,500	40,035	-	-	-	-
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	8,370	7,888	7,512	7,512	6,000	(1,512)
Interest Expense	3,000	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer Out - CIP Fund	175,000	369,197	131,697	160,000	62,500	(69,197)
Transfer Out - Arena Project Fund	-	90,187	-	-	-	-
Abatements	-	23	-	-	-	-
Bad Debt	2,500	-	7,000	7,000	-	(7,000)
Subtotal - Town Operations	<u>387,035</u>	<u>730,056</u>	<u>276,592</u>	<u>300,803</u>	<u>186,652</u>	<u>(89,940)</u>
Social Services Appropriations						
Home Health	5,285	5,285	5,285	5,285	5,285	-
Northwest Counseling	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	-
Independent Living	380	380	380	380	380	-
Northern Vermont RC&D	75	75	75	75	75	-
FCIDC	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2014 Actual <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
EXPENSES (continued)						
Champlain Valley Agency on Aging	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	-
Highgate Little League	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	-	(1,000)
Unit for Special Investigation	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Association for The Blind	500	500	500	500	500	-
Hi-Swans	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
Voices Against Violence	750	750	750	750	750	-
Vermont Green Up	200	200	200	200	200	-
Friends of Lake Champlain	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Green Mountain Transit Authority	3,028	3,028	3,028	3,028	3,028	-
Swanton Teen Center	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	-
Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile	500	500	500	500	500	-
Subtotal - Appropriations	<u>25,918</u>	<u>26,918</u>	<u>25,918</u>	<u>25,918</u>	<u>24,918</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>
Other Expenses						
Holiday Decorations	2,000	1,940	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Memorial Day	2,000	2,983	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Miscellaneous	392	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal - Other Expenses	<u>4,392</u>	<u>4,923</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Fire Department						
Worker's Compensation	1,530	1,592	1,052	1,052	1,332	280
Professional Development	-	886	500	-	500	-
Equipment Maintenance	3,000	5,707	3,000	2,000	3,000	-
Vehicle Maintenance	6,000	8,598	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
Property/Liability Insurance	5,687	5,912	4,240	4,240	4,274	34
Communications	9,238	7,748	10,702	7,140	7,759	(2,943)
Annual Dues	420	882	500	411	500	-
Travel Expenses	1,000	332	100	-	100	-
Gasoline	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Diesel	5,000	2,528	3,500	3,500	3,500	-
Machinery & Equipment	17,600	20,177	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Furniture & Fixtures	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Subtotal - Fire Department	<u>49,475</u>	<u>54,361</u>	<u>41,594</u>	<u>36,343</u>	<u>38,965</u>	<u>(2,629)</u>
Ambulatory Services	149,087	151,955	121,026	121,026	126,000	4,974
Police Patrol Services	82,800	79,247	56,868	56,868	58,574	1,706
Constable						
Town Constable Compensation	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Social Security Contributions	-	-	-	77	77	77
Workers Comp Insurance	-	-	-	54	54	54
Professional Development	-	-	-	-	120	120
Travel Expenses	-	-	-	100	200	200
Uniforms	-	303	-	-	-	-
Subtotal - Constable	<u>-</u>	<u>303</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,230</u>	<u>1,451</u>	<u>1,451</u>

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2014 Actual <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
EXPENSES (continued)						
<i>Animal Control Officer</i>						
ACO Compensation	4,500	5,850	3,900	3,900	3,900	-
Social Security Contributions	344	448	299	298	298	(1)
Unemployment Compensation	-	69	210	69	69	(141)
Worker's Compensation	20	315	78	210	210	132
Franklin County Humane Society	-	-	2,000	1,000	1,000	(1,000)
Professional Development	-	-	100	100	120	20
Professional Services - Legal	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Travel Expenses	-	-	-	-	300	300
<i>Subtotal - Animal Control</i>	<u>4,864</u>	<u>6,682</u>	<u>7,587</u>	<u>6,578</u>	<u>6,898</u>	<u>(689)</u>
<i>Cemeteries</i>						
Grounds Maintenance	10,000	10,672	6,600	6,600	6,600	-
Tree Removal	1,000	900	1,000	-	1,000	-
Stone Repair	5,000	3,900	-	2,236	2,000	2,000
Stone Cleaning	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Fence Installation & Repair	-	-	6,400	4,164	2,000	(4,400)
<i>Subtotal - Cemeteries</i>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>15,472</u>	<u>14,000</u>	<u>13,000</u>	<u>12,600</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>
<i>Transfer Station</i>						
Testing/Certification	11,800	15,440	-	-	-	-
HHWD - Expense	6,000	2,954	-	-	-	-
Solid Waste District Membership	-	616	3,453	3,700	3,570	117
Landfill Buy-In	-	-	1,850	1,850	1,850	-
<i>Subtotal - Transfer Station</i>	<u>17,800</u>	<u>19,010</u>	<u>5,303</u>	<u>5,550</u>	<u>5,420</u>	<u>117</u>
<i>Health Officer</i>						
Health Officer Compensation	1,000	1,000	500	500	500	-
Social Security Contributions	77	38	38	38	38	-
Unemployment Compensation	-	-	10	10	10	-
Worker's Compensation	4	4	2	2	2	-
Professional Development	-	-	100	-	120	20
Travel	-	-	-	-	100	100
<i>Subtotal - Health Officer</i>	<u>1,081</u>	<u>1,043</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>770</u>	<u>120</u>
<i>Parks Department</i>						
Parks Dept Wages	-	876	3,110	2,750	2,750	(360)
Social Security Contributions	-	67	238	210	210	(28)
Unemployment Compensation	-	-	62	62	62	-
Worker's Compensation	-	50	45	45	157	112
Buildings Maintenance	-	50	-	-	6,750	6,750
Equipment Maintenance	-	-	500	500	500	500
Gasoline	-	-	300	300	300	300
<i>Subtotal - Parks Department</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,043</u>	<u>4,255</u>	<u>3,867</u>	<u>10,729</u>	<u>7,274</u>

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2014 Actual <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
EXPENSES (continued)						
Recreation Department						
Recreation Dept Wages	-	-	15,600	-	-	(15,600)
Social Security Contributions	-	-	1,193	-	-	(1,193)
Unemployment Compensation	-	-	312	-	-	(312)
Worker's Compensation	-	-	69	-	-	(69)
Managerial Services	-	-	13,500	-	-	(13,500)
Ice System	-	-	-	1,000	-	-
Construction Service	-	-	-	87,569	-	-
Property/Liability Insurance	16,394	17,501	13,146	13,144	11,000	(2,146)
General Supplies	-	-	-	-	250	250
Basketball	-	-	-	-	750	750
Baseball/Softball	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Soccer	-	-	-	-	750	750
Other Programs	-	-	-	-	750	750
Electricity	-	-	-	-	36,000	36,000
Debt Payment	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Subtotal - Recreation Dept	<u>16,394</u>	<u>17,501</u>	<u>43,820</u>	<u>101,713</u>	<u>75,500</u>	<u>31,680</u>
Public Library						
Librarian Salary	41,620	41,620	29,380	29,380	36,750	7,370
Support Staff Wages	18,000	13,402	12,000	12,000	16,500	4,500
Group Insurance	13,650	12,278	7,140	7,242	7,756	616
Social Security Contributions	5,370	3,975	3,200	3,166	4,074	874
Retirement Contributions	1,650	1,649	1,200	1,175	1,470	270
Memberships & Dues	100	100	50	550	650	600
Unemployment Compensation	-	453	430	453	453	23
Worker's Compensation	-	242	-	182	234	234
Background Checks	150	42	100	50	50	(50)
Professional Development	600	660	400	425	450	50
Professional Services - Technical	450	1,199	600	1,000	800	200
Koha Automation	750	645	500	-	-	(500)
Computer Software	150	350	-	-	-	-
Custodial Services	2,000	2,730	1,000	1,820	1,820	820
Buildings Maintenance	2,000	3,202	1,000	1,000	1,500	500
Property/Liability Insurance	-	2,619	1,000	2,364	2,364	1,364
Telephone	600	601	400	400	550	150
Postage	1,275	1,196	850	800	850	-
General Supplies	1,200	2,885	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Special Programs	1,200	3,890	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Electricity	1,000	1,619	1,000	1,000	1,200	200
Heating Oil	3,000	5,054	1,000	3,000	2,500	1,500
Books and Periodicals	7,050	7,097	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
Furniture, Fixtures & Office Equip	-	3,355	500	503	500	-
Subtotal - Public Library	<u>101,815</u>	<u>110,863</u>	<u>68,750</u>	<u>73,510</u>	<u>87,471</u>	<u>18,721</u>

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
GENERAL FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2014 Actual <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
EXPENSES (continued)						
Historical Society Appropriation	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Summer Concert Series	3,000	6,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
<i>Planning Commission</i>						
PC Compensation	1,200	1,035	1,260	990	1,320	60
Social Security Contributions	-	-	96	96	101	5
Unemployment Compensation	-	-	25	25	25	-
Worker's Compensation	-	-	6	6	6	(0)
Professional Development	-	120	500	500	500	-
Professional Services - Technical	6,090	5,795	1,800	1,800	1,800	-
NRPC - Municipal Planning Grants	-	7,920	-	400	-	-
Subtotal - Planning Commission	<u>7,290</u>	<u>14,870</u>	<u>3,687</u>	<u>3,817</u>	<u>3,752</u>	<u>65</u>
<i>Development Review Board</i>						
DRB Compensation	675	840	1,260	990	1,320	60
Social Security Contributions	-	-	96	96	101	5
Unemployment Compensation	-	-	25	25	25	-
Worker's Compensation	-	-	6	6	6	-
Professional Development	-	-	500	500	500	-
Subtotal - Dev Review Board	<u>675</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>1,887</u>	<u>1,617</u>	<u>1,952</u>	<u>65</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES :	<u>1,218,097</u>	<u>1,587,607</u>	<u>942,800</u>	<u>1,026,053</u>	<u>920,961</u>	<u>(21,039)</u>
<i>Surplus/(Deficit)</i>	(80,454)	(263,371)	(84,980)	0	0	84,180
<i>Prior Period Carry Forward</i>					-	
<i>Adjusted Balance</i>					0	

TRUST FUNDS

HIGHGATE TRUST FUNDS

For year ended December 31, 2014

Summary of Trust Funds

St. Louis Cemetery Association	-
Highgate Center Cemetery Association	28,394
St. John's Cemetery	11,511
East Highgate Cemetery	7,029
Sherwood Cemetery	6,500
Highgate Public Library	2,300
Highgate Historical Society	1,000

Total Trust Funds: 56,735

Trustee Time Deposit

Edward Jones Bond	57,000
Peoples Trust CD	-
Peoples Trust Savings	226

Total Time Deposit: 57,226

Trustees Operating Account

Beginning Balance 01/01/2014 **106**

Deposits

Edward Jones Bond Interest	1,674
Peoples Trust CD Interest	510
Peoples Trust Savings Interest	4
Peoples Trust Savings Transfer	4,360
Edward Jones Bond Transfer	3,000
Peoples Trust CDs closed	38,000
Peoples Trust CDs Penalty	(104)

Total Deposits: 47,444

Disbursements

St. Louis Cemetery Association	977
Highgate Center Cemetery Association	612
St. John's Cemetery	248
East Highgate Cemetery	152
Sherwood Cemetery	140
Highgate Public Library	50
Highgate Historical Society	22
St.Louis Parish	45,256

Total Disbursements: 47,456

Ending Balance 12/31/14 **109**

Bequests

St.John's Cemetery

Beginning Balance	11,161
Naomi J. Wallace	300
Donald E. Proper	50

Ending Balance 11,511

St. Louis Cemetery

Beginning Balance	44,660
Paul & Ellen Boucher	100
Daniel & Judy Desorcie	400
George & Yvette Mazuzan	200

Ending Balance 45,360

Note: The Diocese of Burlington requested the return of the St.Louis Cemetery Association funds to St. Louis Parish.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Ferland, Evangeline LaRocque, Clarence Miller

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Highgate Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the tax payers, Town of Highgate Officers and the Selectboard for their continued support. We are a fully volunteer department and are proud to have provided 52 years of dedicated service.

For the safety of our firefighters and to comply with the required fire and safety standards, we will be required to replace some of our gear and equipment. With the assistance of the Capital Budget, Heidi Britch-Valenta and Tom Racine, we will strive to keep spending to a minimum.

In 2014 we responded to 72 calls, the breakdown is as follows:

4 structure fires, 4 brush fires, 10 carbon monoxide and alarm activations, 31 motor vehicle accidents, 6 medical assists, 5 mutual aid and 12 good intent.

If you would like to burn natural wood or brush, please obtain a burn permit from the fire warden. As a reminder it is illegal to burn trash. State and Municipal officials may now issue penalties to individuals who continue to burn trash. Violators are subject to monetary fines as well as performing community roadside cleanup. If violators fail to pay their fine, their driving license will be suspended for a period of ten days and they will lose their hunting and/or fishing license privileges for a period of one year.

We also take pride in staying active within the community. Our Memorial Day BBQ, Auction, Santa Day and Sliding Party continue to be popular activities. This year's Santa Day hosted over 300 children, along with our members we also received the assistance of our auxiliary to provide the children with refreshments, crafts, a gift and photo with Santa. Many thanks to James Depatie for providing the very popular hay ride and for the crafty individuals who provided hats and mittens. We continue to lead the Franklin County Field Days fire coverage and appreciate the dedication and support from surrounding fire departments.

In order for us to respond as efficiently as we can, it is crucial that your 911 address be effectively displayed. In addition, it would be extremely helpful if the address is also reflective so it can be seen at night. Some of our calls this past year have been delayed due to difficulty in locating property that was not properly marked.

We meet on Monday nights and are always looking for new members. If interested, please stop by the station and fill out an application.

Officers:

Fire Chief – Dick Souza 868-7434; Assistant Chief – David Rouse 868-2641; Captain – Tammy Rouse 868-2641; Lieutenant - Gary Greenough 868-7880; Admin. Captain – John Gale; Secretary / Treasurer – Merry Souza.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Fire Department, the Fire Auxiliary and their families for their dedicated efforts in serving the citizens of Highgate.

Respectfully submitted, Dick Souza, Fire Chief

MVR REPORT

Missisquoi Valley Rescue, Inc.
 Annual Report of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
 For the year ended December 31, 2014

	2014	2014	Proposed
Receipts:	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2015</u>
			Budget
Memorial Equipment Fund	1,135	2,500	2,500
Donations	2,451	2,000	2,000
Interest	51	100	25
Billings Received	295,508	265,000	265,000
Miscellaneous	3,706	500	500
Community Support	334,015	345,788	360,000
Community Support -Equipment Purchase	7,312	7,312	0
Total Receipts	<u>\$644,178</u>	<u>\$623,200</u>	<u>\$630,025</u>
Disbursements:			
Payroll & Payroll Taxes	384,737	394,000	382,125
Medical Insurance	2,961	0	0
Office Supplies	3,314	4,000	4,000
Advertising and P.R.	2,425	2,500	4,000
Gas and Diesel	11,131	10,000	10,000
Miscellaneous	3,317	1,000	2,000
Training	1,599	1,000	2,000
Insurance	47,285	48,000	53,000
Communications	1,582	5,000	5,000
Oxygen	1,704	2,500	2,500
Medical & Personal Protection Supplies	14,659	14,500	14,000
Equipment	14,131	12,000	15,000
Heavy Rescue & Heavy Rescue Building	1,664	1,700	1,500
MVR Quarters	9,926	8,500	8,500
Bay Rent & Utilities	5,458	5,500	6,000
Equipment Maintenance	2,423	1,000	1,000
Vehicle Maintenance	9,840	3,500	3,500
Building Maintenance & Janitorial	2,317	3,000	3,000
Telephone	3,799	3,500	3,000
Uniforms and Accessories	2,121	2,000	4,000
Professional Services	87,521	78,000	93,500
Interest Expense	7,660	4,000	4,000
Payments on Line of Credit	9,853 *	18,000	30,000
Total Disbursements	<u>631,427</u>	<u>623,200</u>	<u>651,625</u>
Net Receipts over/(under) Disbursements	<u>\$12,751</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$21,600) *</u>

Missisquoi Valley Rescue, Inc.
 Annual Report of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
 For the year ended December 31, 2014

Continued	2014	2014	Proposed
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	2015
			<u>Budget</u>
Net Receipts over/(under) Disbursements	12,751	<u>0</u>	<u>(21,600) *</u>
Beginning Account Balance	<u>89,797</u>		
Ending Account Balances	<u>\$102,548</u>		
 Account Balances at 12/31/2014			
General Business Accounts	\$74,490		
Payroll Accounts	19,015		
Savings	<u>9,043</u>		
	<u>\$102,548</u>		

* Line of Credit

In 2011 Missisquoi Valley Rescue acquired a line of credit to help cover the cost of equipment and cash shortfalls. In light of better than expected billings in 2014, the rescue squad is expecting to pay off a large portion of the line of credit in 2015. This makes our budget for 2015 appear as a negative. The amount owed on the line of credit as of 12/31/14 is \$97,014.

**Breakdown of professional services:	2014	2015
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Billing Fees	21,832	22,000
Dispatching	<u>65,689</u>	<u>71,500</u>
	<u>87,521</u>	<u>93,500</u>

***** Due to the change in Highgate's fiscal year end to that of June 30, there is a slight variance between what was budgeted and what was received during our fiscal year which follows a calendar year.**

Community Support Request

For the year ending December 31, 2015

Budgeted community support for 2015		
Highgate	35%	\$126,000
Swanton	65%	<u>234,000</u>
Total (found in 2015 budget)		<u>\$360,000</u>

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

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, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

The men and women of this office handled approximately 2,242 complaints throughout the county.

This office issued 981 tickets in 2014 with a combined fine total of \$170,109.00.

We made 310 arrests in 2014.

The following are the totals for your community:

Incidents: 413
Arrests: 31
Tickets: 93

This Office now has the ability to respond throughout Franklin County for any unusual incidents that may require a special response team and we also now 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

VT STATE POLICE REPORT

802.524.5993

802.527.1150

VERMONT STATE POLICE



St. Albans Field Station

140 Fisher Pond Road

St. Albans, VT 05478

January 5, 2015

On behalf of the Vermont State Police, St. Albans Field Station, we are providing our 2014 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 capabilities in a variety of areas to address critical needs throughout Vermont. The allocation of these resources is as follows:

- 4 - 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
- 3 - Troopers trained as Drug Recognition Experts
- 2 - Troopers on the Crime Scene Search Team
- 2 - Troopers on the Clandestine Laboratory Team

2014 Total Annual Figures & Comparison:

Total cases investigated: 5890
Total arrests: 488
Total tickets issued: 1318
Total warnings issued: 2704
Fatal Accidents Investigated: 3
Burglaries Investigated: 141
Impaired Driving Arrests 100

Local Community Report: Highgate

	Total Crashes	Total Burglaries	Total Thefts
2013	465	97	217
2014	528	141	252
Change	+13%	+45%	+16%

Total Cases: 447
Total Arrests: 37
DUI Arrests 7
Collisions w/ Damage 7
Collisions w/ Injury 4
Vandalism: 19
Alarms 19
Burglary: 17

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 John Flannigan, Station Commander

SIDEWALK COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: The Residents of Highgate
FROM: The Highgate Sidewalk Committee
DATE: January 2015
RE: Sidewalk Projects Update



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.

We are working on two projects currently to improve safety in the Village for both vehicles and pedestrians. We held a Public Concerns meeting in September to determine the focus of the Route 78 Safety Study. The topics of discussion were vehicular speed through the corridor, frequent accidents at the intersection with Route 207, and the dangers inherent in pedestrian travel. Our Consultants will be returning in the spring to present options to address these concerns. The more input we receive the better our solutions will be, so please plan to attend a meeting.

We also have been working on our Lamkin Street Sidewalk Project design and this is currently being reviewed by the Agency of Transportation. Following their approval it will come back to the Town for further review then it is anticipated construction will start in 2016/17. Grants are funding both of these project and the state has made pedestrian improvements a priority because they are a valuable investment in the health, safety and economy of Vermont. The state reports that for every \$1 dollar spent on walking-biking infrastructure, there is a return of \$2.87 in state revenue.

These projects take time and energy but their long term payback to the community is great. The benefits to our residents are reaped through improved safety, health, reduced fuel cost and overall enjoyment of our Village Area. Additionally, the pending upgrade to the Rail Trail, and to Route 35 from Quebec, hold potential for additional tourism dollars to our community. The more we can do to make our Town a place that people want to stop and explore, the greater the return.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The Sidewalk Committee

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

Questions or comments- hbvalenta@highgatevt.org or 868-4697 x 203

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department worked on several project this summer to improve the existing infrastructure. They replaced a concrete culvert on the Tarte Road to facilitate a widening of the road for improved safety, this was funded by an Agency of Transportation (AOT) grant. They also replaced a culvert on Gagne Road to improve drainage to the area that will make the road more manageable in the spring.

The Town also applied for a grant to improve a blind spot on Carter Hill Road that has been the site of serious accidents over the years. We were not awarded funding but will reapply in the next funding cycle and may be luckier this time. (AOT) funding is distributed equally to those towns that apply so towns that haven't been awarded recently receive top priority. Because it is somewhat of a lottery it is prudent to apply frequently to stay in the running. We have been lucky enough to received Class II roadway improvement grants three years in a row and this paid for the paving on the Gore Road which occurred this summer. When implementing these projects, we are complying within new state standards for hazard mitigation which demand better storm water management and larger culverts to accommodate more dramatic storms. This compliance make us eligible for a larger percentage of state funding which was valuable when we were awarded FEMA funding for work to clean up the large amount of debris following the December 2013 ice storm.

We are still working to keep our Machia Road Bridge open to the public and the Selectboard has recently adopted an amendment to the weight restriction which now includes agricultural vehicles. This is required because Agricultural vehicles are typically exempt to other road restrictions. These fines can be thousands of dollars based on the weight of the violating vehicle so all are encouraged to observe the restriction to keep everyone safe until we can get a new bridge in 2017/18.

The State will return to Highgate to finish the paving of Route 78 in the summer of 2015/16 and work will extend to the intersection with Route 105.

Other projects the Highway Department is hoping to complete this summer, pending funding, are the Durkee Road and Hanna Road intersection where a chronic erosion issue has blocked the culvert and a widening of Hanna road near Childs Road to improve safety.

The Selectboard supported two citizen petitions for speed reduction. Darlene Drive residents requested a lowering of the limit in their neighborhood. Regional Planning Commission is performing a speed study which is required to lower the limit below 40. The other request was from residents in Highgate Springs requesting a reduction in speed on route 7 from the intersection of Carter Hill Road to the intersection with Camp Road near Martin's Store. This request was forwarded to the State for review and they have agreed to lower it to 40 miles per hour.

Please share your thoughts about our work or upcoming projects for consideration with the Town Administrator at 868-4697 x 203 or with the Highway Commissioner at 309-0592.

Sincerely,

Jeff Towle, Highway Commissioner

HIGHWAY FUND

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
HIGHWAY FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2014 Actual <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
REVENUES						
Property Tax - Transfer In	553,993	554,446	538,550	538,640	540,527	1,977
Overweight Permit Fees	1,000	1,090	500	500	500	-
Driveway Permit Fees	600	520	300	300	300	-
AOT - State Aid	222,782	226,862	151,152	151,152	151,152	-
Better Back Roads	-	10,000	-	-	-	-
Class 2 Paving Grant	-	129,976	145,384	-	-	(145,384)
Class 2 Structures Grant	-	-	42,371	14,897	-	(42,371)
VLCT - Equipment Grants	-	-	-	813	-	-
Insurance Recoveries	-	-	-	6,413	-	-
	<u>778,375</u>	<u>922,893</u>	<u>878,257</u>	<u>712,715</u>	<u>692,479</u>	<u>(185,778)</u>
EXPENSES						
Foreman's Wages	61,722	62,512	40,872	40,872	41,689	817
Crew Wages	113,788	115,193	73,486	73,486	74,956	1,470
Temp Help Wages	-	1,320	3,000	3,000	3,060	60
Foreman's Overtime	13,353	14,554	8,888	8,888	9,066	178
Crew Overtime	24,618	28,415	16,313	16,313	16,639	326
Temp Help Overtime	-	1,080	-	-	-	-
Insurance Buyout	17,410	14,400	9,600	9,600	9,600	-
Group Health Insurance	20,217	19,502	11,411	11,587	11,979	568
Social Security Contributions	17,663	17,724	11,779	11,779	11,858	79
Retirement Contributions	9,236	9,287	6,039	6,039	6,200	161
Unemployment Compensation	1,048	948	681	681	681	-
Worker's Compensation	16,998	16,772	11,448	11,448	14,648	3,200
Professional Development	-	-	200	200	200	-
Project Consulting	1,000	2,533	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Vehicle Maintenance	43,500	43,530	29,000	29,000	32,000	3,000
Rental of Equipment & Vehicles	8,000	1,419	6,000	6,000	8,000	2,000
Tree Removal	4,500	900	3,000	900	3,000	-
Property/Liability Insurance	12,218	12,703	9,115	9,115	9,115	-
Communications - Radios	1,000	474	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Annual Dues	-	-	-	-	100	100
Travel	450	90	100	100	100	-
Uniforms	6,650	4,699	4,640	4,640	4,640	-
Shop Supplies	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Small Tools	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Electricity - Sand Shed	750	412	500	500	500	-
Electricity - Street Lights	-	-	26,652	26,652	26,652	-
Heating Fuel - Sand Shed	900	1,724	800	800	800	-
Gasoline	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	-
Diesel	60,000	70,519	39,000	39,000	40,000	1,000
Street Signs	2,250	3,573	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Culverts	4,500	3,271	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
Guardrails	3,150	4,589	500	6,500	6,500	6,000

The Town of Highgate, Vermont
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
HIGHWAY FUND FY2016

	FY2014 Budget <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2014 Actual <i>(18 Months)</i>	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
EXPENSES (continued)						
Stone/Gravel	100,000	88,173	50,000	50,000	60,000	10,000
Paving Material	200,000	319,825	144,000	-	220,000	76,000
Calcium Chloride	30,000	22,991	15,000	15,000	15,000	-
Winter Salt	15,000	20,201	15,000	15,000	15,000	-
Winter Sand	15,000	14,060	15,000	15,000	15,000	-
Machinery & Equipment	4,000	2,418	4,000	5,000	8,000	4,000
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	-
Transfer Out - CIP Fund	-	-	57,000	57,000	10,000	(47,000)
Better Back Roads	-	7,148	-	-	-	-
Class 2 Paving Grant	-	155,662	158,172	-	-	(158,172)
Class 2 Structures Grant	-	4,174	47,079	-	-	(47,079)
Transfer Station Landslide	-	52,575	-	-	-	-
Sidewalk Project	-	9,635	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES :	<u>808,921</u>	<u>1,149,004</u>	<u>832,275</u>	<u>488,100</u>	<u>690,984</u>	<u>(141,291)</u>
<i>Surplus/(Deficit)</i>	<u>(30,546)</u>	<u>(226,110)</u>	<u>45,982</u>	<u>224,615</u>	<u>1,495</u>	<u>(44,487)</u>
<i>Prior Period Carry Forward</i>					(1,495)	
<i>Adjusted Balance</i>					(0)	

NWSWD 2014 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. 2014 was a great year for the NWSWD. We succeeded in making our operations more convenient, consistent, and cost effective for District residents by opening up more of our Drop-off sites to accept bulky, hard-to-dispose of items like tires, appliances, and electronics, every week. Now our sites are like our old Special Collection Events every week! District Staff also worked harder to get information to residents by improving our website, joining Facebook, and getting out to community events like Franklin County Field Days and Farmer's Markets and into Schools 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 recycled 50 tons more in 2014 than in 2013!

- Collected more than 35341 pounds of paint through our permanent household hazardous waste collection site
- Increased the tonnage of recyclables processed at our Georgia Recycling Center by 7 tons
- Opened a permanent re-use facility at our Georgia Recycling Center
- We welcomed Highgate and Franklin as the newest Member Municipalities
- Worked with new schools to begin composting their food scraps
- Creation of a new recycling program for alkaline batteries and worked with others in the state to create a statewide battery recycling program
- Continued investigation and enforcement of illegal dumping and burning of trash in the District

NWSWD by the Numbers: In the NWSWD, 6 District run recycling drop-off sites in Georgia, Montgomery, Bakersfield, Fletcher, 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 2014, after recycling, reuse and composting, the average District resident generated 3.11 pounds of waste per day, which is well below the national average of 4.4 pounds per day, and is a 12% reduction from 2013! Way to go!

This year District-operated sites and events disposed of 771 tons of trash and processed 823 tons of recyclables, setting the diversion rate for District Services at 52%. Check out this list of what we were able to divert from landfills this year in Northwest VT:

- 45,738 pounds of Hazardous Waste
- 292 Freon containing appliances
- 163,560 pounds of scrap metal
- 4,357 pounds of batteries
- 1,680 tires
- 461,365 pounds of food scraps
- 685,350 pounds of blue-bin recyclables
- 164,501 pounds of electronics

For more information about the District and our services, how to reduce and recycle your waste, or how to get involved 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. You can also visit at 158 Morse Drive in Georgia (we even give tours of our Recycling Center.)

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS REPORT

We, the Highgate Cemetery Commissioners, continue to maintain all the cemeteries in Highgate. The restoration of the Platt Cemetery in Highgate Springs has been completed and a chain link fence has been installed to further protect it.

Ben Nye mows all the cemeteries on a weekly basis.

We would like to say thank you to the people of Highgate for their support, as we do not want the cemeteries to fall into disrepair.

Respectfully submitted,

Highgate Cemetery Commissioners

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



HIGHGATE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 2014

BIRTHS	<u>39</u> (17 females / 22 males)
DEATHS	<u>19</u>
MARRIAGES	<u>33</u>
BURIAL PERMITS	<u>16</u>

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With our headquarters and laboratory in Burlington and 12 district offices around the state, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. Your Health Department district office is in St. Albans and covers Franklin and Grand Isle counties. Listed below are a few examples of how we support your community.

Supported healthy communities: Franklin County Caring Communities was awarded a total of \$150,000 to promote healthy communities in Franklin County through positive youth development and substance abuse prevention. Caring Communities works with community partners to identify and implement strategies to prevent and reduce substance abuse, especially among youth and young adults, and equip individuals, families, and the community at large to create healthy, substance-free environments where everyone can thrive. Please visit their web site at <http://www.fcccp.org/>

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: From January to December in 2013 we responded to 88 cases of infectious disease in the St. Albans District area. In 2013, \$13,079,279 of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases was distributed to healthcare providers statewide; \$1,174,943 of which was in our district's area.

RISE VT: The Vermont Department of Health awarded a \$400,000 Vermont Health Care Innovation Project grant to the Community Committee on Healthy Lifestyles and its new RISE VT program. The RISE VT grant award, which will be spread over two years, supports the development of a community-wide, multi-stakeholder campaign to improve the health of Franklin and Grand Isle counties. The program will engage people of all ages in better health by offering membership for individuals, groups, and businesses, through a point system that recognizes and encourages participation in healthy habits. As participants increase their commitment to healthy lifestyles, they are rewarded with higher levels of membership.

Provided WIC food and nutrition education to families: The Vermont Department of Health serves about half of all Vermont families with pregnant women and children to age 5 with WIC (Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program). WIC provides individualized nutrition education and breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and a debit card to buy fruit and vegetables. In Highgate, 153 women, infants and children were enrolled in WIC. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST --- On January 2, 3 and 5, 2015 we will be MOVING into our new building at 27 Federal Street in St. Albans. If you are in the area, please stop by for a visit. We are proud to be part of St. Albans City Downtown Revitalization.

TOWN HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

As the Town Health Officer for the Town of Highgate, 2014 presented some challenges, and overall was a productive year. I will continue to serve as your Town Health Officer to keep our town safe and deal with issues as they arise. This position requires me to respond to instances such as improper trash disposal and septic system failures that result in leaking or leaching into our water systems. The Town Health Officer position also works closely with residents to clean up their properties that are not in compliance with town ordinances and zoning bylaws. I feel we have been successful accomplishing our goals in 2014. I will continue working to keep Highgate a safe and clean place for us all to live and enjoy.

Luke Choiniere, Town Health Officer

GMTA REPORT



Green Mountain Transit Agency Town of Highgate FY14 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
- Prescription and Shopping
- Meal site programs
- Senior Center/Adult Day Care
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Mental Health and Human Services
- Radiation and Dialysis Treatment
- Physical Therapy

FY14 Town of Highgate Individual Residents Served by Elderly/Disabled/Medicaid Service

- 43 Individual Residents Served
- 1,528 Total Trips Provided
- 28,395 Total Miles Driven

General Public Transportation Service

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.

Alburgh/Georgia Shuttle

The Alburgh/Georgia Shuttle offers weekday shuttle service between Alburgh and Georgia with service to Highgate with key stops for employment transportation to places 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.

FY14 Commuter Ridership

FY14 Ridership

- 7,148 Alburgh/Georgia Total Ridership

FY15 Trend July-October

- 37.7% Ridership Increase Alburgh/Georgia

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. The LINK also offers connecting service to CCTA's transit system offering extensive access to employment, education, shopping and medical locations. Connecting service to the LINK from Highgate is available through Alburgh/Georgia Shuttle.

Ridership St. Albans LINK Express

FY14 Ridership

- 19,928 Total Ridership
- 1,865 Highest monthly ridership

FY15 Trend July-October

- 14.2% Increase Total Ridership
- 2,116 Highest monthly ridership to date

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile for added accessibility. Connecting service through GMTA local commuter service from Highgate is available each weekday.

Ridership St. Albans Downtown Shuttle

FY14 Ridership

- 20,397 Total Ridership
- 1,999 Highest monthly ridership

FY15 Trend July-October

- 0.4% Increase Total Ridership
- 2,072 Highest monthly ridership to date

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 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.

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT



HIGHGATE PARKS & RECREATION

The Highgate Parks and Recreation Committee formed in July of 2014. The committee meets on a monthly basis to discuss programs, parks, facilities and services to meet the needs of Highgate's growing community. Meeting notices are posted on the town website (www.highgatevt.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TownofHighgateVT).

The mission of the Highgate Parks and Recreation Committee is to promote parks, recreation and program opportunities for people of all ages to gather, celebrate and engage in activities that encourage health, well-being, community and the environment. We believe community is created through people, parks and programs.

Highgate Parks and Recreation strives to develop and maintain safe and attractive parks and recreation areas, partner with other town departments and organizations to address the needs of residents in the most cost effective manner, and to support the health of our community through promotion of recreational programs and opportunities.

We've had great success with programs offered thus far which have been cosponsored with the Library and MAHA and include; girls and boys soccer, girls and boys basketball, little dribblers, yoga tots, skater tots, youth cross country, public skating, Learn to Skate, Zumba and adult yoga.

Visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/highgate.recreation) for information on current programs. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Committee if you have ideas for other programs that you would like to see offered, interested in volunteering and/or sponsoring a program.

Sincerely,

The Highgate Parks & Recreation Committee

Liza Comiskey, Chair
Danielle Pothier, Secretary
Karen Gagne-Fortin
Ty Choiniere
Katina Farnham
Greg Farnham

HART REPORT

Highgate Arena Renovation Team (HART)

Thank you to the Highgate voters for approving the Bond to replace the ice system. Your support is humbling and so appreciated. Thank you for understanding that the financial impact is worth the investment in keeping our youth (and all ages) active. For the past four and a half years, a team of volunteers has work diligently to come up with a solution for keeping the Highgate Sports Arena operational. The 36 year old Highgate Sports Arena uses the original ice system with Freon. Freon is no longer being produced and the ice system has long outlived its expected life. The \$196,000 HUD grant expires by September 2015. We were running out of time, and the Highgate voters have voted to replace the ice system. Thank you.

New Information for 2014:

- Highgate voters approved a 15 year \$990,000 bond to replace the ice system. The renovation is scheduled to begin in 2015. The renovation was scaled back to meet the necessity of replacing the ice system and repairing/upgrading the flooring as feasible. The weight room, community room, walking area, addition, locker room changes, and ice surface corners are NOT included.
- The Town of Highgate has received a \$25,000 grant from the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services to upgrading the electrical.
- We are seeking donations and support from Neighboring towns and businesses.
- A new dehumidifier was installed. It was paid for with the Northwest Regional Planning grant of \$18,000, Highgate Arena Capital Fund \$18,000 and MAHA contributed \$46,000.
- New flooring installed in the lobby & 4 locker rooms. MAHA paid \$19,500.
- For the fourth consecutive year, MAHA has operated with a net income that was reinvested into the facility. MAHA has created two separate boards: (1) MAHA Hockey board, and (2) MAHA Facility Board. The MAHA Facility Board oversees the operation, scheduling and maintenance of the facility.
- The Selectboard and MAHA Facility Board are continuing to work together for the management of the Arena.

Indoor Turf for Soccer, field hockey, baseball, softball, summer library programs

Ice for hockey, public skating, learn-to-skate, broomball, stick & puck

- 423 Youth hockey players & 42 High School hockey players
- 450 Elementary & middle school skating participants
- 125 learn to skate & preschool
- 150 Adult league players and broom ball
- Average over 125 public skaters every week (high of 172)
- 1,000 spectators weekly, 15 visiting teams per week
- 109 Highgate library program users of skater tots & girls on the run
- 30 Adult summer yoga participants
- 200 indoor soccer players
- 200 Highgate School bike safety program participants
- 46 Highgate Cross Road afterschool users

Thank you to everyone for being part of the solution for keeping the Highgate Sports Arena operational and recreational opportunities local.

Donations Needed ~ Help Renovate the Arena

Providing Community activities since 1978.

An affordable multi-generational multi-recreational facility.



The Highgate Sports Arena Renovation is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2015. Thanks to the voters of the Town of Highgate the ice system and flooring will be replaced. Sticks & Stuff has donated dasher boards and glass. The Town of Highgate was awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Vermont Department of Building and General Services towards the upgrade to the electric service.

Since 2011, completed Arena improvements include indoor turf, sound system, new furnace, upgraded locker rooms, new dehumidifier, new lobby flooring and a scoreboard. Those improvements were completed with MAHA funding \$128,000, Northwest Regional Planning Healthy Community grant of \$18,000 and Highgate Arena Capital Fund contribution of \$18,000.



Funding still needed for

- Unknown renovations repairs
- New bleachers
- New entrance and exits
- alarm systems
- new water well
- Lighting improvements
- Addition for new locker rooms

‘When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for.....Look—this is what our fathers did for us’— John Ruskin

WANT TO HELP BY DONATING?

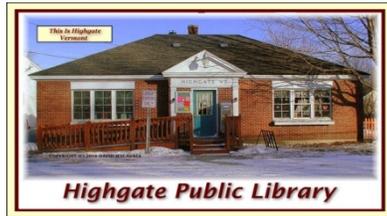
Tax deductible donations to the capital fund can be made to the town municipality 170(c)(1):

Town of Highgate—Arena Renovation Fund
P.O. Box 189
Highgate, VT 05459



More information is available at www.highgatevt.org or by calling the Town of Highgate 868-4697 ext. 201

LIBRARY REPORT



Highgate Public Library

PO Box 76 Highgate Center VT 05459

802-868-3970

www.highgatelibrary.wordpress.com

The Highgate Public Library (HPL) continues to be an activity center for the town. The 2014 usage statistics increased substantially for all categories. Patron visits were up 165%, circulation by 212%, program attendance by 189% and computer users by 139%, when compared to 2004. The goal of our programs is to promote literacy and help foster a love of reading and words, while promoting healthy lifestyles through fitness and self-awareness.

Here are some highlights from our year:

- **Highgate Public Library Fit-Kidz and Families:**

- Twenty-one girls in grades 3-6, joined the HPL Girls on the Run team. This 11-week program inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. Six dedicated members of the Highgate community gave 44 hours each as mentors and coaches. Five coaches have been trained directly through the VT Girls on the Run organization to promote the programs values and goals. The program ended at a statewide Girls on the Run 5K in Essex with 2,000 of their peers in early June. This program was partially funded through a grant from Ben & Jerry's for HPL Fit-Kidz.
- Due to a request from a third grade boy (who personally gathered a list of HES boys who wanted a program like Girls on the Run for boys) the HPL Cross Country team was born. The team consisted of 24 participants, both boys and girls, ranging in age from 6 – 12 years old. The children learned about running, the dedicated volunteer coaches taught them how to set and reach personal goals; combined with leadership skills, sportsmanship, self-respect and respect for others. On October 7th, the HPL team participated in their first Cross Country meet at MVU. Our team brought 3 out of 4 team awards back to Highgate! These are proudly on display at the Highgate Elementary School. The HPL Fit-Kidz grant provided partial funding for this program.
- **Snowshoes are available for residents at the HPL.** All you need is a library card. There are 4 adult pairs and 5 youth pairs- fully funded by the HPL Fit-Kidz grant.
- This fall we added a new collection of fitness and healthy living material to the library's collection. This includes family activity kits, books and fitness DVD's. The HPL Fit-Kidz grant fully funded the purchases.
- The HPL Fit-Kidz grant also partially funded Yoga Tots, Skater Tots and Little Dribblers.

- **Children's Literacy Summer Readers Grant**

- We provided 102 children with a fun, filled storytelling presentation in the park. Each child was given 2 new books to take home and add to their collection.
- The Summer Literacy program was made available to Crossroads, Highgate Elementary Summer School, Camp Highgate, local daycares and many residents of Highgate.
- Throughout the summer there were 254 individual children who participated in our Summer Reading Programs- culminating into 1,131 visits during June to August.

- **FGI County Building Brighter Futures**
 - The HPL's grant proposal was approved for an additional \$3,800 in program funding to provide children, ages birth to 8 years old, and their families with opportunities in the areas of: health, early childhood education and community support.
 - Two sessions per week of story time- for ages birth to 5 years old, are provided during the school year. *During the summer months, there is one story time- for this age group (Wed. Mornings at 10) and a school age library program for ages 5-10 (Tues. Mornings at 10).* Each session has approximately 25-32 children weekly.
 - Little Explorers is also funded under Building Brighter Futures. This is a hands on nature education program and is utilized by 15 Highgate children monthly (ages 3-5) throughout the year. This is a program that the HPL staff developed 3 years ago and is being used as a model to initiate other programs throughout Franklin and Grand Isle County.
 - The Born to Read Program presents all Highgate newborns with a book dedicated to the library in their honor. New families are invited to a social (held in March) at the Library to meet other families with newborns.
 - Tractor Day was held in collaboration with the Highgate Elementary School's Run for Your Life event in October. Three community members brought tractors for the kids to see up close and personal. Our HPL "Tractor Petting Zoo" has quickly become a favorite yearly event among tractor lovers of all ages. The FGI Bookmobile also attended and each child received a free book. The Highgate Volunteer Fire Department also attended with a HVFD fire truck- allowing children to see and learn: Fire safety information, meet a fire man, see their fire safety gear and explore the inside of the Fire Truck. The day was enjoyed by 125 children and adults.
 - This program also helped bring the Travelling Storyteller to Highgate, Mike and the Big Blue Trunk and Story time with Jane Napier, a librarian from Killington, VT.
 - The Gingerbread Decorating House Event, the Polar Express and several PJ Story times were also funded through FGI Building Brighter Futures.
- The 5th Annual HPL Polar Express was even bigger and brighter in 2014! There were 145 children and 205 + adults that took part in this year's program. There were 14 volunteers who gave countless hours to making this year's two night program a success. Each family brought a canned good and the food was donated to Operation Happiness -which helped feed 44 Highgate families over the holiday.
- The HPL sponsored soccer and basketball programs for children in grades 1-4 this past year, in collaboration with the newly formed Highgate Parks and Recreation Committee. In total, 135 children were provided an opportunity to participate in sports activities not offered to them elsewhere.

Partnership in 2014:

- We partnered with Channel 15 and brought Highgate its first "Movie under the Star's" event held in the park. Of the four parks in Franklin County visited (by Channel 15) -Highgate had the best attendance for Disney's "Turbo".
- The HPL collaborates with many organizations and business to bring many programs to the Highgate community. Adult yoga was offered during for 8 week programs in the winter and summer. Hunter Education in partnership with VT Fish & Wildlife Department was attended by 25 youth and their parents with 35 orange cards handed out. The American Red Cross helped us bring a babysitting course that 12 youth attended, this was fully grant funded. Missisquoi Valley Rescue also came and offered an Adult CPR class that 10 people successfully completed.
- The Halloween Gala at the library had 48 children & their parents & grandparents in attendance for some pre-Halloween fun. The Trick or Treat hours drew over 100 youth- who received packages of maple candy, which were donated and produced locally.

- The HPL Annual Salsa Garden program was supported through a teacher 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 4 – 4 week sessions.
- FC Early Childhood Programs use the HPL for group activities and individual speech and language therapy.
- Missisquoi Valley Union High School also used the library for out of school tutoring sessions.
- Northwest Counseling and Support Services used the library as a host for short-term candidates for job training.
- Other programs at the library included: two -week long summer camps through Exordium, Inc. (focusing on art and nature) and our always popular and growing- Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover event (which had 40 children participants).
- Mother Goose Programs had 40 parents that participated over 4 months. The program transforms the act of reading to children into multi-dimensional and powerful learning experiences. All the programs are standards based and include learning in math, science, social studies, environmental awareness, language and reading skills.
- The library is working to grow and expand the Highgate Book Group that meets on the first Monday of each month at 6pm in the library. Our group consists of approximately 6 to 8 people. We read a variety of genre and occasionally have guest author speakers.
- Our young adult program meets ten times a year with specific activities. The pumpkin carving, games in the park, minute to win it and movie nights are some of our most popular activities. Attendance is roughly 12 youth per event (which is half of what it was 3 years ago). We are hoping with the hiring of a Program Assistant that we would have the manpower resources to revitalize this group.
- This is our fourth year doing Caitlin's Closet (which we will rename *Cailey's Closet* in 2015), a prom dress recycle and swap event for Franklin County Families. Over 4 years we have seen more than 120 dresses recycled and given a new life, at no cost to families.
- Book deliveries are available to homebound residents of Highgate. We are working on expanding this program with Champlain Valley Agency on Aging to include books to seniors with their meals on wheels deliveries.
- **E-book** circulation is continuing to pick up in popularity. If you have an e-reader and would like access to this service, please stop in and see us and we will set you up to search titles on our database.
- **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!

In closing, I would like to take a moment to thank all those who help make our community and our little library here in Highgate shine. If you have not been in for a visit, please do make it a priority this year. We may be little, but we do BIG things here!

Sincerely, **Liza L. Comiskey**, Librarian



Highgate Public Library Usage & Growth Over The Past 10 Years

Year	Total Library Visits	Total Circulation	# Programs Offered	Program Attendance Count	Computer Users	# of Homebound Residents, Preschool & Daycare Deliveries
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



HIGHGATE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET REPORT

The Highgate Public Library (HPL) has had another busy and productive year. The activity report and growth chart in the Librarian's Report shows the growth that the library has experienced over the last ten years. The library usage is increasing at a fast pace and the Trustees feel that it is time to increase our staff and the hours that the library is open. During the 2014/15 calendar year there were 10,104 books checked out of the library. When you consider that the library has 5,100 books, each book has been taken out twice in twelve months!

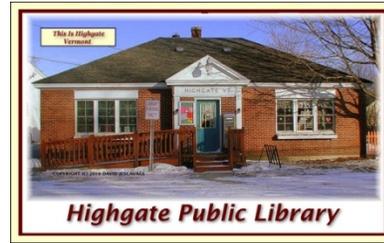
After careful consideration of the Library activities, the current budget and the volume of programming at the library, the Trustees are requesting your support in this year's budget changes. There are two proposed staff changes. The first is the creation of a part-time position for 20 hours per week for a Program Assistant. This person will facilitate programs, assist in the preparation of program materials and content and free the Librarian to concentrate on other tasks.

Secondly, the Librarian position will be increased by eight hours per week. The additional hours and the creation of an assistant position will free the Librarian to spend more time growing the library services and to obtain grant funding. These changes will also allow the staff to remain open more during the week. Over the last several years through the efforts of the Librarian, the HPL has been awarded \$14,000 annually for programming from outside funding sources. The proposed changes in the staffing positions would allow more resources to pursue additional sources.

If the position is approved at Town Meeting, the FY2014 budget provides room to hire the assistant in the support staff line item for the remaining 3 months of the current fiscal year. The annual payroll budget increase from the 2014/15 budget to the 2015/16 budget is \$11,870 after making these two proposed changes in staffing.

The membership and dues category has been combined with the automation category. The combined 2014/15 budget of \$550 was increased to \$650 for 2015/16. The building maintenance fund was increased \$2,500 at the request of the Town Treasurer. All other categories remain stable with little to no change, the total increase in those items combined is \$2,060.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



Friends of the Highgate Public Library

Friends of the Highgate Public Library is a nonprofit 501 (C) 3 advocacy organization, which was formed in 2010. 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.

Highgate sees our little library as an important asset and the heart of this community. It is where children & teens go during the after school hours, where job seekers access online employment information, where more often than not, the sound of children's laughter radiates throughout the building as they enjoy a program. It is the "people's university", because it is available to all, regardless of age, skill level or their ability to pay. It is where people of all ages can peruse self-directed learning, socialize and network. For the people of Highgate, it is their library.

Q: What is a "Friend"?

A: A "Friend" is a supporter of the library who helps to foster, encourage, sponsor, and promote the perpetuation, improvement and interest in the Highgate Public Library. This is accomplished by stimulating community awareness of the library; by supporting special collections, acquisitions and active ties for the library; by purchasing special items which cannot be bought from the operating budget; by encouraging gifts, endowments and memorials to the library for special items;

To become A "Friend" of the library, you pay a very small (\$3 for individual-\$10 for a family) annual membership fee. You can choose to be an Active or Supporting Member. Active members may be asked to volunteer their time and/or talents for various projects. Supporting members are dues-paying members only and will not be asked to volunteer and by supporting activities of the library by providing volunteer help.

Q: How Is This Different from a Library Trustees?

A: The work of the Friends is different from that of the Trustees of the Library. While the Trustees set policy for the organization, the Friends provide the "extras".

Q: What does my dues money do?

A: Friends is a non-profit organization – all dues money benefits the library. Dues are used to help advertise fund-raising events and are also used to purchase special books and equipment for the library, and or to sponsor special events for the library.

Q: How does Friends raise funds?

A: Friends of the Highgate Public Library hold three annual events:

- Book Sale, Perennial Swap & Lawn Sale Extravaganza (held the 2nd weekend in May)
- Discounted Highgate Family Ski Days at Jay Peak (for more information on ski dates, please visit the Highgate Library's website)
- Annual Fall Friends Membership Drive

Friends of the Highgate Public Library also want to remind community members, that a charitable donation can be a wonderful, meaningful way to honor a special person. Families and friends can memorialize their loved ones. Companies and co-workers can honor retirees. Gifts can also be given on behalf of "the person who has everything."

Q: How do I become a "Friend"?

A: You may print off the membership form directly from our site by clicking the membership form page (see side bar) or stop in and pick one up at the library or at the Town Clerk's Office.

Please visit the American Library Association's website at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/altaff/altaff/friend-your-library.cfm> for further information on Friends of the Library groups.

*Friends Meetings are held on a quarterly basis.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have regarding the Friends of the Highgate Public Library.

Sincerely,

Michelle Beaulieu, President

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

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.

In June, Dennis Nolan and I represented Highgate at the History Expo held in Tunbridge VT.

In August, Ryea & Sons took down the east wall of the museum, and rebuilt it.

In September, the fourth grade children visited the museum. At this same time, WCAX was on site to film a Super Senior story.

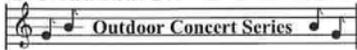
Sincerely,

Dennis Nolan & Charles T. Nye



SUMMER SOUNDS

Summer Sounds



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.



The 2014 series was our second 24th season. **Rick Davis** and **Dick Prescott**, **Jenni Johnson**, **Tammy Fletcher**, and **Towne Meeting** all returned to wow the crowd. The *Summer Sounds Surprise* was **Bob Amos & Catamount Crossing** bringing extraordinary bluegrass for their first appearance in Highgate.

Highgate businesses, many community groups, dozens of volunteers, and the Town all worked together; all the performers did a grand job. Our roster of generous local sponsors – Chevalier Drilling, Desorcie's Market, Drummac Septic Service, O. C. McCuin and Sons, and Ray's Extrusion Dies and Tubing, with special help from Mylan Technologies – joined the Town of Highgate to make the season possible. Desserts were presented by the

All Arts Council, Highgate Historical Society, Highgate Methodist Church, and St. Paul's Scholarship Fund. The All Arts Council also presented a *Summer Sounds* concert at Bay Day.

The *St. Albans Messenger* and Comcast Channel 15 covered every event and provided wonderful publicity. The volunteer videography crew produced a "front row seat" show of the *Summer Sounds* concerts and many more besides. (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 \$6,300 total 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 this year.)

We have started booking the 2015 *Quarter Century Summer Sounds* season with as many concerts of country, jazz, pops, brass, classics, and even a little rock-n-roll as we can fit in the park plus a 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!



Dick Harper, Chair, All Arts Council



BOB AMOS & CATAMOUNT CROSSING



JENNI JOHNSON AND THE JUNKETTES

PLANNING COMMISSION & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

A year ago, the Town of Highgate converted to a Development Review Board. The DRB assumed the duties of the Zoning Board of Adjustment as well as the duties of the Planning Commission.

The Development Review Board is a local land use board that holds quasi-judicial proceedings (hearings) to review land use applications. The DRB assumes all development review functions previously held by the ZBA, which includes appeals of decisions of the administrative officer, variances and conditional use permits. The DRB also conducts all land use review functions previously held by the PC, which are typically site plan and subdivision review.

The new process has proven to be a more stream-lined process saving the applicant the need to appear before two boards to obtain permits needed for a project.

The scope of the Planning Commission now focuses on the current and future needs of the Town. This past year, the PC has been working on the re-write of the Zoning by-laws. In December, the Commission started the process for a municipal and capital budget with the help of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. Other concerns being looked at are the town plan, the telecommunication tower and natural resource planning. Work is also being done on an airport over-lay map to help in development of the area. A sensitivity overlay map is being created for sensitive soil areas prone to landslides.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank previous members of the PC and the DRB for their dedication and time while serving.

Current members of the Planning Commission are: Luc Dupuis, Julie Rice, Woody Rouse, Bruce Ryan, Larry Simmons and Rick Trombley. There is 1 vacancy. Current members of the Development Review Board are: Pauline Decarreau, Tim Reynolds, Julie Rice, Woody Rouse and Rick Trombley. The board could use an alternate member to fill in as needed.

Anyone interested in serving on either of these boards should call the Town Administrator

(868-4697 x203) to obtain further information.

Rick Trombley, Chair

Planning Commission & Development Review Board

NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT



Northwest Regional Planning Commission 2014 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.

2014 Highgate Projects:

- ✧ Finalized a draft of the Land Regulations that consolidated, reorganized and revised the Town Zoning Bylaws, Subdivision Regulations, and Flood Hazard Regulations.
- ✧ Assisted the Town with its application to the state Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for property buyouts.
- ✧ Created a Hazard Mitigation Plan following FEMA guidelines.
- ✧ Began working with the Town to develop a Capital Budget and Improvement Program.
- ✧ Assisted with Ice Storm Recovery administration.
- ✧ Provided grant funds for the dehumidification system replacement for Highgate Sports Arena.
- ✧ Supported the Tri-Town Arena committee with the outreach process.
- ✧ Assisted with updates to the Basic Emergency Operations Plan.
- ✧ Updated the E-911 poster map and road map.

Highgate
Regional Commissioners:
Richard Noel & Tom Racine

Transportation Advisory
Committee:
Richard Noel

This year the Commission will complete our Healthy People, Strong Communities project to promote economic development and community health, including over \$200,000 in implementation grants to fourteen community groups. NRPC will assist communities with water quality projects, adopt a new regional plan and regional energy plan and will 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.

75 Fairfield Street St. Albans, VT 05478 Phone: (802) 524-5958 Fax: (802) 527-2948 www.nrpcvt.com

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

PERMIT UPDATE- Projects continued at a steady pace in the Zoning Department. 81 zoning permits were issued this year which is just slightly more than last year. Most permits were for additions, garages, and sheds with only 6 permits issued for new construction or replacement of mobile homes.

SHORELINE PERMITS REQUIREMENTS- There was only one permit issued within the new shoreline development regulations which requires State approval prior to approval of a local permit. This can be a complex and somewhat expensive process, so please gather all information prior to beginning your shoreline project.

STATE PERMITS- Please remember to check before you begin a project to see if you need a state or local permit. If you are uncertain, please contact the Agency of Natural Resources Permit Specialist, Jeff McMahon at (802) 879-5676 or Jeff.McMahon@state.vt.us.

STATE ENERGY STANDARDS- We are required to provide all new home construction applicants a copy of the state energy standards and it must be constructed in compliance. This isn't a program Highgate is involved in or inspects however, non-compliance on issues tends to catch up to homeowners at the time they are interested in selling or refinancing. Appraisals may reflect non-compliance and may affect market value of a home.

LETTERS OF COMPLIANCE- Many lenders now require a Letter of Compliance from the Town for mortgages or refinances. This provides the lender and buyer with verification that the property is not in violation of Town regulations prior to authorizing the loan. Please ask your lender or realtor if you will need a Letter of Compliance for your transaction and plan ahead. Depending on the time of year it can take a week or two for the request to be processed. Applications are available online or at the office. There is a \$30 fee for this letter and applications are available at the Town website or at the Town Clerk's Office.

DRB- the Development Review Board (DRB) reviewed 21 application for development at their monthly meetings. If you receive a copy of a notice in the mail this is because you are an adjoining landowner to a property under review for Site Plan, Subdivision, Waiver of Setback or Business Permits. You can protect your rights as a homeowner by attending the hearing and voicing any concerns. If an adjoining landowner is aggrieved of a decision of the DRB they can appeal to the court if they have attended a hearing to participate in the review.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFO- the Zoning Bylaws, Permit Applications and fee schedule are available at the website www.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, and Mobile 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 hbvalenta@highgatevt.org

FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORP REPORT

FRANKLIN COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TOWN REPORT

CALENDAR YEAR 2014

As the FCIDC Executive Director, I travel around the County and meet with municipal boards and I always boast that the local County economy is strong. Yes, it can always be better but there are many places that are a whole lot worse off and would be glad to trade places. I then comment that if we could get to where milk prices are at \$25.00 and gas prices were below \$3.00 the County would be sitting pretty well.

As luck would have it we did see \$25 and even higher milk prices in 2014 and at the end of the year we did see gas prices fall below \$3.00. The good news for 2015 is gas prices should continue to remain low. The bad news is milk prices are now positioned to drop into the teens early this year.

Speaking of gas the Village of Enosburg was fortunate to partner with Vermont Gas Systems to bring natural gas to the area. The heating savings for Enosburg residents could range between 20 and 40%. Those businesses and homes in the more rural parts of the County may also have a heating alternative as well. FCIDC is currently working with a company whose plan is to make compressed natural gas available to the region.

FCIDC has worked with the Enosburg Falls Economic Development Corporation (EFEDC) in an effort to complete the EFEDC Business Park. FCIDC has invested approximately \$15,000 to address permit renewals, Act 250 permit covenants and stormwater issues. The FCIDC and EFEDC were excited to see the Rick Green's Wash Facility join Vallencourt's Trucking in the Business Park.

FCIDC has also collaborated with the Georgia Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) to upgrade the Georgia Dairy Industrial Park water treatment facility. The current facility, which supplies water and fire suppression to Perrigo, Bariatrix and Med Associates, is 32 years old and obsolete. The upgrade will produce more water to allow for future growth. GIDC hopes to break ground this spring on the \$1.9 million project.

FCIDC continues to collaborate with a variety of partners as we will be organizing the 15th Annual Franklin/Grand Isle Career/Job Expo on Thursday, March 26, 2015. At last year's event 700 high school students and 650 job seekers attended the event. In addition to the Job Expo we worked with our partners to present the 1st Annual In Good Taste event held at St. Albans City Hall in January. The tasting event showcased 30 local food producers in an effort to market our food businesses and more than 500 people attended. The second Annual event will be held on Friday, January 23rd, 2015.

FCIDC has invested significant amount of time to grow the Diversified Ag sector also known as the Local Foods movement. FCIDC in conjunction with the Northwest Medical Center received grant funds from Northwest Regional Planning Commission to hire a part-time coordinator to grow the sector. FCIDC also received a grant to purchase a small refrigerated truck to assist with local distribution of the County's local Ag products.

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 9 businesses 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 2014. Please feel free to contact the office at (802)524-2194.

Respectfully,



Tim Smith
Executive Director

2014
ANNUAL REPORT



HIGHGATE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Highgate Community,

I'd like to share my gratitude with students, staff, parents/caregivers, and community members for a fantastic year at Highgate Elementary School. The children of your community are attending a school committed to "empowering all students to become lifelong learners by providing opportunities to develop strong academic, social, collaborative, and critical thinking skills necessary to meet the challenges of the future."

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school, parents/caregivers, and community members, who work together in the best interest of children. The close partnership between home, school and community is one of the exceptional strengths at Highgate Elementary School, which has been clearly demonstrated. Some of the successful events this year were Run for Your Life.....the Tractors are Coming, Soccer Jamboree, Clothes and Toys Swap, Halloween Festival, Classroom Writing Celebrations, Crossroads After-School Program, School Garden, Thanksgiving Baskets, Holiday School Dinners, Senior Citizen Dinner, Holiday Gift Shoe Boxes, King Arthur Flour Bread Baking, Friday Morning School Celebration, Student of the Month, and D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) activities. I continue to be amazed by the willingness of our community members to give their time for the benefit of our Highgate students.

Another important component of school success is our staff takes pride in demonstrating that we are "lifelong learners." Initiatives that our staff is participating with include Math Studio, working with Nancy Clements around Social Thinking, implementation of our Professional Learning Communities, and rolling out a new standards-based report card. A highlight of the year was having our own Ms. Lynn Fitzgerald selected as the FNWSU Elementary Teacher of the Year. She was honored at the Vermont Outstanding Teacher Day at the University of Vermont. Ms. Fitzgerald demonstrates a tremendous work ethic for our staff and students.

The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union was selected in 2013 to participate in a unique, four-year school transformation program called S.W.I.F.T. (School Wide Integrated Framework for Transformation). The U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education awarded a grant to the University of Kansas to conduct research and implement the SWIFT model. Three schools in our Supervisory Union, including Highgate Elementary, were selected to work with this group. Using SWIFT resources and technical assistance, we continue to focus on improving student outcomes at Highgate Elementary School.

I consider it a great honor and privilege to be able to complete my second year and serve as your principal. Thanks for your continued trust and support. Through our close school and community partnerships I am confident we can make our school an even better place for our students and adults to learn. Together, we can transform obstacles into winning opportunities.

Go Hawks!

Respectfully Submitted, Marcel Choquette Highgate Elementary Principal

SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

January 2015

Another very busy year has required the Highgate School Board to meet more often. In addition to regular responsibilities, the School Board has spent time and energy on: the successful completion of the drainage project for the White building, improvement in school security, a superintendent's search, participation in required school board member trainings and contract negotiations for both the professional and support staff.

Our administration, business manager and school board have worked diligently to produce a budget that meets the needs of our students and the needs of our taxpayers. We are very appreciative of the support Highgate voters have given us in the past and are very cognizant of the burden our present system for financing public education places on taxpayers. The budget proposal for 2015-2016 totals \$4,752,340. This amount represents a 1.4% increase over the budget approved last town meeting day.

As mandated by state law, all Special Education professional staff salaries and benefits have been transferred from the local budget to the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union. Costs at the Supervisory Union level are budgeted in the same manner as they are in the our local Special Education budget; however instead of appearing in separate budget line items, salaries and benefits are now reflected within the FNWSU assessment. All other Special Education expenses remain at the local level.

The total enrollment as of January 21, 2015 is 334 children and breaks down as follows: Preschool three and four year olds, 44; Kindergarten, 41; Grade 1, 54; Grade 2, 36; Grade 3, 45; Grade 4, 39; Grade 5, 41 and Grade 6, 34.

This past June our school said goodbye to retiring, long-time administrative assistant Debbie Miller, special education paraprofessional Pat LaBrie and math specialist Aldo Bianchi. Teachers John Lumsden and Corinne Dyke have also left the fold, John to MVU as their co-curricular director and Corinne to full time mom. This amazing group of individuals has provided our children, teachers, parents, staff and community with countless hours of commitment and dedication and a job well done. We will miss them!

On July 1, Winton Goodrich took over the reins for retiring Superintendent Dr. John McCarthy. In August we welcomed new staff members: Elizabeth Dufresne (5th grade teacher), Laura Fisher (4th grade teacher), Krista Tatro (physical education teacher), Jennifer Ormerod (student support coordinator/teacher), Tanya Caswell (math interventionist) and Paula Yandow (administrative assistant).

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

In an effort to streamline the sharing of: expertise, relevant information, and ideas from the other schools in the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union, we are field-testing carousel meetings. These meetings involve all six school boards meeting together at one of the schools in the district. One part of the meeting is devoted to Supervisory Union business by SU board members; a second part includes all school board members for a presentation or work common to all boards; and the third part is used for individual board business. Dates, times, locations and agendas are posted in the schools, on school websites and in the Messenger.

As our school continues to address the opportunities and challenges of learning in the 21st century, we would like to acknowledge and thank our community for their faithful support of our most important natural resource....our children!

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Janes Beyor, Chairperson

David Roddy, Vice Chair

Nola Gilbert, Clerk

Liza Comiskey

Richard Flint

School Directors' Terms

Connie Beyor 3 year term, expires 2017

David Roddy 2 year term, expires 2016

Nola Gilbert 3 year term, expires 2015

Richard Flint 2 year term, expires 2015

Liza Comiskey **

****As a result of the resignation of Ron Pilbin, Liza Comiskey was appointed by the Board to fill the position until Town Meeting 2015 when voters will elect someone to complete the remaining year of Ron's 3 year term.**

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

I am pleased to serve as the new superintendent of schools in the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union. I replaced the former superintendent, John (Jack) McCarthy, who had been in this role for the past 15 years. We extend our appreciation to Jack for his dedication and support for education in the Franklin, Highgate, Missisquoi Valley Union, Sheldon, and Swanton Schools.

The Franklin Northwest SU educates 2,224 PreK-12 students in five schools. FNWSU is one of 46 supervisory unions, required by Vermont law to provide efficient management services and additional resources to multiple schools and school boards within its boundaries. The role of the FNWSU is to:

- Establish and follow a supervisory union-wide curriculum,
- Receive and disburse federal and state funds,
- Provide 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 support staff contracts,
- Support school boards to develop and adopt school budgets and to oversee school operations,
- Establish a policy and procedure 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 Programming: Create an environment where students are engaged in their learning activities, 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 Boards Association and other organizations to ensure effective practices are carried out.
3. Communication Practices: Continue to build relationships and develop partnerships between schools, families, and the greater community.
4. School Environment: Ensure a safe and healthy learning environment where all students and staff 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 direction for school and SU programs.

Supervisory Union Priorities for FY2015 include:

1. Right-size school staffing so that maximum resources are allocated for student learning,
2. Moving the management of special education professionals to the FNWSU office,
3. Develop and implement strategic plans in all schools and the SU,
4. Clarify the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of school boards and administrators,
5. Review and update school board policies and administrative procedures,
6. Work with emergency responders to update all school crisis plans,
7. Transition to operating paperless board meetings.

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 Libby Bonesteel

Since the state of Vermont adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2010, FNWSU has been on a journey toward shifting our curriculum and instruction to meet these different expectations. This past year marked an important milestone in that journey. Literacy and math leaders from each of our four elementary schools spent a considerable amount of time and energy digging into the standards. Our sessions together were filled with fantastic conversations concerning clarity of each standard, real-world applications, rigor of assessments, and, most importantly, what is it that we guarantee all students will learn in FNWSU. As a result, by June of 2014 we developed a coherent curriculum map based on Common Core reading, writing, and math standards. These documents are readily available to the public via our website www.fnwsu.org

The 2013-2014 school year also marked a time where district leaders worked through visioning exercises about our future direction and how we get there. Through much conversation we began to refine data-driven first instruction and the structures needed for this to become a reality in our system. Our schools are now making a shift from each teacher being isolated in a classroom, to collaborative decision making about how best to reach all students. It is truly exciting work and our students and teachers are benefitting tremendously from our collective knowledge and problem solving approach.

Special Education Linda Chaim

Special Education supports student's achievement in the classroom environment and is governed by both federal and state rules and regulations. Special Education programs and services are designed to meet the needs of individual children; and are created by a team of educators, consultants, and each child's parents.

A comprehensive evaluation is designed to determine the student's strengths and weakness and the team considers eligibility with this information. The team asks questions (a) is there a disability as defined by Vermont regulations (b) is there an adverse effect of this disability impacting education (c) is there a need for special education? If the answer is yes for all three questions, the team may then draft an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) to address the student's needs and provide assistance so they can succeed in the regular educational environment.

After a student is evaluated and found eligible for a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), services and supports can begin as early as three years of age, and continue through the student's 21st birthday.

Every effort is made in our schools for students to learn in the general educational environment with their same age peers. There are currently 375 students receiving special education services across our five school districts.

Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union employs professional staff to provide services and supports as required by IEPs. Currently these professionals include: psychologists, and occupational therapists. Heidi Mosher provides adaptive curriculum and technology supports. Julie Rivers, Medicaid clerk, processes all claims for reimbursement of allowable expenses from these IEP services. Medicaid funds go back into the schools regular educational programs and are tied to each school's action plan.

Indian Education Jeff Benay

The FNWSU Title VII Indian Education Program continues to collaborate with area schools as we strive to provide equity of educational opportunity. In order to focus on all learners – both Abenaki and non-Abenaki – Indian Education provides a continuum of supports ranging from remediation to enrichment that encourage all area students to succeed. As the FNWSU brings together many cultures, Indian

Education promotes cultural competencies that every child can take pride in and benefit from. Sue Day provides clerical support and helps identify students who could benefit from the services of this program.

Business Office
Becky Hart and Lora McAllister

The business manager and assistant business manager work directly with school boards and administrators to develop and manage all school and SU budgets. They, along with Treasurer, Diane Bellrose, collectively manage 35 million dollars in public funds, which include many state and federal grants. The elementary and MVU budgets, and the required state forms that compare our costs 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 at the SU level are budgeted in the same manner as they are in the local Special Education budget; however instead of appearing in separate 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.

Human Resources
Pierrette Bouchard and Ryleigh Lashure

The Human Resource staff support the employment needs of 475 employees in the Supervisory Union. These services include:

- Provide background checks for all employees and volunteers,
- Administer health, dental, and long term disability insurances, and Section 125/flex plans,
- Advertise, prepare, and distribute employment ads,
- Ensure all teachers and professional staff meet state and federal licensing requirements,
- Prepare employment contracts for administrators, professional, and support staff,
- Implement new human resources/fiscal services software system.

Information Technology
George Raynak

FNWSU Information Technology continues to support and improve access to technology rich 21st century learning opportunities by providing students with creative online tools. Our goal is to integrate technology within a safe and secure learning environment and to provide students in grades 3 through 12 with access to their own school computer every day. FNWSU Information Technology is working to improve the reliability and security of our network and data systems in support of teaching and learning. In the spring of 2015 we will complete our SU-wide implementation of the new Tyler Technologies Infinite Visions, HR/financial accounting system. And finally FNWSU Information Technology is planning and preparing for the new SBAC online assessment this spring through technology readiness, staff training, and test administration. Judy Walls also performs data analysis and web site development for the SU.

Franklin/Grand Isle Bookmobile
Deb Grennon

The Franklin Grand Isle Bookmobile extends education by delivering enjoyable literary activities and useful information. Bookmobile programs for after-school, early education, childcare programs and families dovetail perfectly with school visions, missions and beliefs throughout the Franklin Northwest

Supervisory Union. Schools endorse increased access to promote a lifelong love of learning. So a priority in 2015 is for each child patron of the Bookmobile to own three new books. A second priority in 2015 steers childcare providers toward achieving higher Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS) status by increasing literacy activities, interactions, and materials in child environments. The Bookmobile is widely recognized within the Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union and nationally for its efforts, which ultimately achieved a designation of National America's Promise Places; Reading is Fundamental: Program Excellence Honors; Linking Up for Literacy and America's 100 Best Communities for Young People. In 2014 the Bookmobile added to its prestigious list, the Northwest Access Television's Best Non Profit Show. In partnership with schools, the Bookmobile generates continuous growth, strong beliefs, active learning communities, and ultimately successful stories for lifelong learners.

After-School Program Carol Lizotte

The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union After-School and Summer Programs engaged 743 students last year, which is approximately 42% of all students attending the schools in Highgate, Franklin, Sheldon, and Swanton. This is an increase from 2013 (40%) and the prior year (37%). Students experience 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 about trying new activities. With the partial funding of the Vermont Agency of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program Grant, school budgets, other grants and fundraising, after-school programs continue under the guidance and oversight of the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE). The AOE requires the elements of high-quality programming to be met and reported annually.

Early Education Program Michelle Spence

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 emphasis is on three to five year old children who are developmentally at risk or developmentally delayed. We offer a 10 hour per week early learning opportunity for all four year olds in the towns of Franklin, Highgate, Sheldon and Swanton and are also serving many three year olds in 6-10 hour a week programs. We are currently serving 198 children in the FNWSU, mostly three to five year olds.

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

Taxpayers can access additional resources for all schools and SU programs by going to the FNWSU web site at www.fnwsu.org or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Respectfully submitted,
Winton I. Goodrich
Superintendent of Schools

FNWSU AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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
EXPLORERS



January 2015

Greetings Highgate Residents,

The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union After School & Summer Programs have been awarded a 5 year 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program grant for 2014-2019.

The Vermont Agency of Education funds after school and summer programs in schools and communities throughout the state through a competitive grant process, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21C) Program. 21C grants are 3-5 five year grants with high expectations of program quality, academic connections, and student outcomes. Out of 16 grant applications that the Vermont Agency of Education office received for the 2014 grant application competition, FNWSU was one of the 10 programs awarded funding. FNWSU was awarded 20% of the total 21C funding available for new and returning applicants in 2014. This is a high achievement and reflects well on our Crossroads after school programs, that have been in operation since March 2006. Our Crossroads, Crossroads Explorers and MVU AfterHours after school programs join 148 programs in Vermont providing fun, engaging, hands on learning opportunities in a safe and supportive environment.

New research released in 2014 shows that Vermont has reached high standards and quality in after school program availability. The national Afterschool Alliance "America After 3pm" report ranks Vermont #4 in the nation for after school programming.

(http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM-2014/AA3PM_TOP_10.pdf)

Vermont 2014 research (<http://www.vermontafterschool.org/advocacy/know-the-facts/>) further reports that

- 24% of children in Vermont participate in an after school program
- 95% of parents report they are satisfied with their child's after school program
- 88% of parents support public funding for after school programs
- 81% of parents claim they gain peace of mind by having their children in an after school program
- 79% of parents agree that after school programs help working parents keep their jobs
- 62% of parents agree that after school programs can help excite children about learning
- 64% of parents agree that after school programs help children gain workforce skills, such as teamwork, leadership and critical thinking.
- 66% of parents agree that after school programs help reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors, such as commit a crime or use drugs, or become a teen parent.
- Every \$1 invested in Vermont after school and summer learning programs leads to a return on investment of \$2.18

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

The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union After School & Summer Programs administration is pleased to report for all schools, we had 743 students attending programs last year, which is approximately 42% of all students attending the schools in Highgate, Franklin, Sheldon and Swanton (of students in grades with after school programming). This is an increase from last year (40%) and the prior year (37%). 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 of 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, 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

In Highgate, the Highgate Crossroads after school program is offered for grades 2 through 6. Highgate Crossroads provides free programming 30 weeks during the school year on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:15 to 5:15pm with bus transportation home available at 5:15pm. Last year we had an average of 71 students attending daily, with a total of 129 students registered for the school year, making it 66% of the school's 2nd through 6th grade population participating. In the end of year reports sent to the Agency of Education (AOE) for last school year, it was reported that for our regular attendees (those who attended 30 days or more):



- 57% math NECAP scores improved or were maintained at upper proficiency level scores
- 79% reading NECAP scores improved or were maintained at upper proficiency level scores
- 61% had a decrease in the number of school days absent or remained at zero days absent

With our program goals of improving academic achievement and school day attendance, we are pleased that our Highgate student participants are showing these gains.

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

If you would like more information on the Highgate Crossroads After School Program, please contact me or Joyce Ashton, our Highgate Crossroads Coordinator at the school (868-4170 ext 222 or jashton@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

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 868-4967 ext 17 or wgoodrich@fnwsu.org

Carol Lizotte
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 868-4967 ext 21 or clizotte@fnwsu.org

REVENUE REPORT

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT Revenue Report July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

	Budgeted	Actuals	Variance
General Fund Balance, July 1, 2013	\$111,293	\$166,382	\$55,089
Homestead Property Taxes	\$863,436	\$863,436	\$0
Non-Homestead Property Taxes	\$1,143,278	\$1,126,711	-\$16,567
Education Spending Revenue from State	\$1,848,198	\$1,864,765	\$16,567
Special Education State Aid with adjustment from PY	\$393,146	\$369,721	-\$23,425
Transportation Reimbursement	\$72,834	\$72,735	-\$99
Interest Income	\$15,000	\$2,523	-\$12,477
Grant funding	\$102,574	\$97,532	-\$5,042
FNWSU Support - Speech & SpecEduc. Clerical & Supply	\$7,500	\$7,241	-\$259
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$35,000	\$25,920	-\$9,080
Summer School Reimbursement	\$0	\$5,911	\$5,911
Municipal Bond Savings Allocation	\$0	\$1,397	\$1,397
VT Gas Incentive	\$0	\$7,850	\$7,850
Unused Fuel/ Propane Reimbursement	\$0	\$23,103	\$23,103
Northwest Counseling Reimbursement	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
Workmans Comp. Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous Reimb./Refunds:	\$0	\$303	\$303
Subtotal - Receipts:	\$4,480,966	\$4,470,147	(\$10,819)
Minus General Fund Expenditures:		(\$4,486,532)	
Transfer to Capital Reserve		(\$30,000)	
HVAC borrowing payment (Year 1 of 3)		(\$45,000)	
Total General Fund Balance, June 30, 2014		\$74,997	
Audited Governmental Fund Balances, June 30, 2014		\$74,997	
Reported for FY15 Property Tax reduction		\$55,089	
Unreserved FY14 Fund Balance		<u>\$19,908</u>	
Special Revenue Fund Balance, July 1, 2013			
Special Revenue Receipts		\$15,656	
Special Revenue Expenditures		(\$14,682)	
Remaining FY13 Drainage Article Funds to Capital Reserve		(\$31,040)	
Remaining FY12 Flooring Article Funds to Capital Reserve		(\$1,143)	
Total Special Revenue Fund Balance, June 30, 2014		<u>\$32,244</u>	
Capital Reserve Fund Balance, July 1, 2013			
FY14 Drainage Article Capital Reserve Allocation		\$30,000	
FY14 Drainage Article Capital Reserve Expenditures		(\$8,349)	
Remaining FY13 Drainage Article from Special Revenue Fund		\$31,040	
Remaining FY12 Flooring Article from Special Revenue Fund		\$1,143	
Total Capital Reserve Fund Balance, June 30, 2014		<u>\$53,834</u>	

BALANCE SHEET

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT BALANCE SHEET

	June 30, 2013	June 30, 2014
ASSETS:		
Cash & Cash Equivalent	\$297,570	\$222,605
Total Assets:	\$297,570	\$222,605
LIABILITIES & EQUITY:		
Payroll Withholdings & Liabilities	\$67,734	\$61,530
Due to Other Funds	\$63,454	\$86,078
Fund Equity	\$166,382	\$74,997
Total Liabilities & Equity:	\$297,570	\$222,605

Fund Balance:	\$166,382	\$74,997
Unreported Fund Balance from Prior Year to reduce next year's taxes	-\$111,293	-\$55,089
Current Year's Carryover Reported to reduce next year's taxes	\$0	\$0
Unreserved Fund Balance (goes towards subsequent tax year)	\$55,089	\$19,908

A copy of the annual outside audit of the Highgate Town School District's financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, performed by Angolano & Co., Shelburne VT, is available at the Town Clerk's Office and/or the Superintendent of Schools' Office.

PROPOSED BUDGET

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT						
FY2014 Expenditures, FY2015 Estimated Expenditures, and FY2016 Proposed School Budget						
Funct/ Object Description	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
1100 INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS:						
110 Teachers' Salaries	\$1,389,580	\$1,341,671	\$1,442,129	\$1,379,409	\$1,387,788	(\$54,341)
111 Extracurricular Salaries	\$5,000	\$4,400	\$5,000	\$5,010	\$5,010	\$10
112 Behavior Management	\$24,525	\$24,116	\$50,646	\$84,701	\$61,800	\$11,154
119 Paraprofessionals' Salaries	\$115,384	\$163,415	\$163,477	\$155,077	\$148,553	(\$14,924)
120 Substitutes Salaries	\$17,000	\$38,596	\$17,000	\$37,000	\$35,000	\$18,000
121 Tutors' Salaries	\$7,500	\$7,240	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
210 Health Insurance	\$328,943	\$327,101	\$343,742	\$337,064	\$347,251	\$3,509
211 Dental Insurance	\$24,038	\$22,663	\$24,013	\$22,677	\$19,373	(\$4,640)
212 Catamount Insurance	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
220 Social Security	\$119,262	\$116,267	\$128,960	\$123,256	\$125,892	(\$3,068)
240 Municipal Retirement	\$4,615	\$5,990	\$6,539	\$9,591	\$8,414	\$1,875
250 Workers Compensation	\$10,860	\$17,432	\$11,748	\$2,809	\$12,342	\$594
260 Unemployment Compensation	\$1,500	\$3,420	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$500
300 Contracted Services	\$2,000	\$1,920	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
300.01 ESL Purchased Services	\$0	\$4,976	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
310 After School Programs support	\$42,515	\$35,097	\$31,952	\$31,952	\$37,774	\$5,822
311 Mentoring Services	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	(\$1,500)
312 Contracted Math Services	\$20,000	\$18,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
320 Purchased Services (NCSS)	\$25,581	\$40,612	\$26,780	\$51,967	\$0	(\$26,780)
430 Repair & Maintenance	\$5,600	\$3,141	\$5,600	\$5,600	\$5,000	(\$600)
440 Copier Equipment Lease	\$7,839	\$7,839	\$7,839	\$7,839	\$7,839	\$0
540 Advertising	\$2,000	\$720	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$750	(\$750)
560 Student Tuition	\$36,274	\$73,730	\$96,000	\$29,560	\$65,508	(\$30,492)
610 Instructional Supplies	\$30,000	\$16,848	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$25,000	(\$5,000)
640 Instructional Books	\$10,000	\$9,988	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
660 Manipulatives	\$2,000	\$1,498	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
670 Computer Software	\$0	\$930	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
730 Equipment	\$5,840	\$3,597	\$5,840	\$6,190	\$6,000	\$160
Subtotal - Instructional Prog.	\$2,239,856	\$2,291,507	\$2,423,765	\$2,346,202	\$2,328,294	(\$95,471)

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2014 Expenditures, FY2015 Estimated Expenditures, and FY2016 Proposed School Budget

Funct/ Object Description	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
1210 SPECIAL EDUCATION:						
110 Teachers' Salaries	\$198,954	\$198,494	\$210,004	\$211,024	\$0	(\$210,004)
115 Paraprofessionals' Salaries	\$209,962	\$172,622	\$196,408	\$187,599	\$182,415	(\$13,993)
120 Substitutes' Salaries	\$7,500	\$11,572	\$10,000	\$11,500	\$12,000	\$2,000
121 Tutors' Salaries	\$9,500	\$524	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$18,500	\$9,000
210 Health Insurance	\$80,307	\$78,913	\$80,362	\$97,573	\$46,388	(\$33,974)
211 Dental Insurance	\$3,270	\$3,271	\$3,219	\$3,583	\$0	(\$3,219)
220 Social Security	\$32,735	\$27,852	\$32,735	\$30,495	\$16,288	(\$16,447)
240 Municipal Retirement	\$8,398	\$6,667	\$7,856	\$7,504	\$7,700	(\$156)
250 Workers Compensation	\$2,995	\$0	\$2,995	\$2,990	\$1,597	(\$1,398)
260 Unemployment Compensation	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
300 Purchased Services	\$0	\$2,252	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$4,500
566 Tuition to Private Schools	\$28,774	\$29,846	\$0	\$74,745	\$62,008	\$62,008
580 Travel	\$2,500	\$100	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$750	(\$750)
610 Supplies	\$6,000	\$4,355	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0
640 Books	\$1,500	\$105	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
730 Equipment	\$2,000	\$2,273	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$500
Subtotal - Spec. Education	\$594,895	\$538,846	\$564,579	\$648,013	\$362,646	(\$201,933)
1214 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM:						
331 Assessment	\$165,874	\$165,874	\$175,573	\$175,573	\$178,679	\$3,106
Subtotal - Early Childhood Prog.	\$165,874	\$165,874	\$175,573	\$175,573	\$178,679	\$3,106
2120 COUNSELING SERVICES						
110 Counselor 's Salary	\$46,039	\$46,039	\$47,420	\$47,650	\$49,556	\$2,136
210 Health Insurance	\$12,803	\$12,355	\$12,911	\$12,911	\$13,491	\$580
210.1 Dental Insurance	\$790	\$790	\$778	\$777	\$723	(\$55)
220 Social Security	\$3,522	\$3,315	\$3,628	\$3,645	\$3,791	\$163
250 Workers Compensation	\$322	\$0	\$332	\$357	\$372	\$40
610 Instructional Supplies	\$180	\$241	\$180	\$228	\$250	\$70
640 Instructional Books	\$225	\$230	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$0
660 Manipulatives	\$250	\$154	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0
Subtotal - Counseling	\$64,131	\$63,124	\$65,724	\$66,043	\$68,658	\$2,934

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2014 Expenditures, FY2015 Estimated Expenditures, and FY2016 Proposed School Budget

Funct/ Object Description	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
2130 HEALTH SERVICES:						
110 Nurse's Salary	\$37,817	\$37,817	\$38,952	\$39,141	\$40,706	\$1,754
120 Substitutes' salaries	\$500	\$840	\$500	\$500	\$750	\$250
210 Health Insurance	\$17,164	\$16,247	\$17,307	\$17,307	\$18,086	\$779
211 Dental Insurance	\$1,217	\$1,218	\$1,198	\$1,198	\$1,114	(\$84)
220 Social Security	\$2,931	\$2,679	\$3,018	\$3,004	\$3,171	\$153
250 Workers Compensation	\$268	\$0	\$276	\$294	\$311	\$35
300 Purchased Services	\$400	\$128	\$400	\$400	\$250	(\$150)
430 Repair & Maintenance	\$125	\$0	\$125	\$142	\$0	(\$125)
610 Supplies	\$1,000	\$786	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Subtotal - Health Serv.	\$61,422	\$59,715	\$62,776	\$62,986	\$65,388	\$2,612
2150 SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY:						
110 SLP Salary	\$44,394	\$44,394	\$45,726	\$45,948	\$0	(\$45,726)
115 Paraprofessional Salary	\$10,768	\$5,987	\$6,470	\$12,506	\$12,881	\$6,411
210 Health Insurance	\$10,565	\$14,719	\$15,293	\$7,790	\$4,767	(\$10,526)
211 Dental Insurance	\$790	\$790	\$778	\$777	\$0	(\$778)
220 Social Security	\$4,220	\$3,540	\$3,993	\$4,472	\$985	(\$3,008)
240 Municipal Retirement	\$431	\$342	\$259	\$500	\$515	\$256
250 Workers Compensation	\$386	\$0	\$365	\$438	\$97	(\$268)
300 Contracted Speech Services	\$7,000	\$1,114	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	(\$7,000)
610 Supplies	\$500	\$453	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
Subtotal - Speech Pathology	\$79,054	\$71,339	\$80,384	\$79,931	\$19,745	(\$60,639)
2213 INSTR. STAFF TRAINING:						
270 Course Reimbursement (Prof.)	\$17,500	\$24,972	\$17,500	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$7,500
270.1 Staff Development (All)	\$3,000	\$66	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$13,000	\$10,000
Subtotal - Staff Training	\$20,500	\$25,038	\$20,500	\$28,000	\$38,000	\$17,500
2222 LIBRARY SERVICES:						
110 Librarian's Salary	\$57,548	\$57,548	\$59,274	\$59,562	\$61,945	\$2,671
120 Substitutes' Salaries	\$500	\$213	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
210 Health Insurance	\$6,514	\$6,285	\$6,568	\$6,568	\$6,863	\$295
211 Dental Insurance	\$418	\$418	\$411	\$411	\$382	(\$29)
220 Social Security	\$4,441	\$4,313	\$4,573	\$4,592	\$4,777	\$204

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2014 Expenditures, FY2015 Estimated Expenditures, and FY2016 Proposed School Budget

Funct/ Object Description	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
2222 LIBRARY SERVICES CONT.:						
250 Workers Compensation	\$406	\$0	\$418	\$447	\$468	\$50
430 Repair & Maintenance	\$450	\$300	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$0
449 Other Purchased Services	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$50	\$0	(\$50)
580 Travel and Conference	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0
610 Supplies	\$500	\$404	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0
640 Books & Periodicals	\$5,000	\$4,458	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
650 Audiovisuals	\$250	\$268	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0
670 Computer Software	\$2,637	\$1,475	\$2,637	\$2,637	\$2,637	\$0
730 Equipment	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
Subtotal - Library	\$81,314	\$78,182	\$83,231	\$83,567	\$86,372	\$3,141
2225 SCHOOL-WIDE TECHNOLOGY						
110 Coordinator's Salary	\$32,877	\$32,877	\$33,863	\$34,110	\$36,898	\$3,035
110.1 Community Tech Lab Coordinator	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
210 Health Insurance	\$17,164	\$16,844	\$17,307	\$17,940	\$18,748	\$1,441
211 Dental Insurance	\$540	\$555	\$540	\$540	\$540	\$0
220 Social Security	\$2,515	\$2,290	\$2,591	\$2,609	\$2,976	\$385
240 Municipal retirement	\$1,315	\$1,210	\$1,355	\$1,364	\$1,476	\$121
250 Workers Compensation	\$230	\$0	\$237	\$256	\$277	\$40
270 Coursework Reimbursement	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
320 Website	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$1,300	\$0	(\$2,500)
430 Repair & Maintenance	\$2,500	\$463	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
530 Telephone/Internet	\$500	\$328	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$400
580 Conferences and Workshops	\$1,000	\$285	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
610 Supplies	\$3,500	\$5,138	\$3,850	\$3,850	\$3,850	\$0
640 Books	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
670 Computer Software	\$5,250	\$12,970	\$7,300	\$7,300	\$7,300	\$0
730 Equipment	\$15,000	\$5,637	\$1,400	\$3,985	\$1,400	\$0
739 Computer Equipment	\$0	\$16,989	\$31,700	\$31,700	\$21,700	(\$10,000)
Subtotal - School-Wide Technology	\$84,341	\$95,586	\$107,943	\$112,254	\$102,865	(\$5,078)
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION:						
111 Board Salaries	\$3,350	\$2,700	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$0
220 Salary, Board Secretary	\$750	\$1,336	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
260 Social Security	\$314	\$309	\$333	\$333	\$333	\$0
330 Legal Services/Negotiations	\$5,000	\$6,785	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT						
FY2014 Expenditures, FY2015 Estimated Expenditures, and FY2016 Proposed School Budget						
Funct/ Object Description	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
2310 BOARD OF EDUCATION CONT.:						
610 Supplies	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$0
810 Dues [VSBA]	\$1,650	\$1,681	\$1,650	\$1,773	\$1,773	\$123
Subtotal - Board of Educ.	\$11,264	\$12,811	\$14,033	\$14,156	\$14,156	\$123
2321 OFFICE OF THE SUPT:						
331 S. U. Assessment (Central Office)	\$88,863	\$89,886	\$108,978	\$108,978	\$121,353	\$12,375
333 S. U. Assessment (SpecEduc Admin)	\$83,780	\$83,780	\$86,078	\$86,078	\$87,446	\$1,368
Transfer of SPED to SU Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$304,469	\$304,469
Transfer of Speech to SU Assessment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$52,600	\$52,600
Subtotal - Supt's Office	\$172,643	\$173,666	\$195,056	\$195,056	\$565,868	\$370,812
2410 PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:						
110 Principal & Asst Principal's Salaries	\$172,706	\$142,530	\$141,656	\$149,556	\$154,043	\$12,387
111 Substitute Coordination	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0
119 Admin Asst & Secretary's Salaries	\$63,263	\$72,139	\$56,221	\$54,720	\$56,362	\$141
120 Substitutes' Salaries	\$1,000	\$733	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
210 Health Insurance	\$26,538	\$25,607	\$25,184	\$18,377	\$18,978	(\$6,206)
211 Dental Insurance	\$2,288	\$2,588	\$2,560	\$2,019	\$1,907	(\$653)
212 Long Term Disability Insurance	\$708	\$576	\$581	\$581	\$632	\$51
220 Social Security	\$18,893	\$16,878	\$15,482	\$15,895	\$16,440	\$958
240 Municipal Retirement	\$2,931	\$2,782	\$2,389	\$2,189	\$2,254	(\$135)
250 Workers Compensation	\$1,729	\$0	\$1,417	\$1,558	\$1,612	\$195
270 Course Reimbursement	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
300 Contracted Services	\$3,217	\$6,690	\$6,191	\$6,191	\$6,223	\$32
301 Purchased Services	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
430 Repair & Maintenance	\$400	\$0	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0
530 Telephone	\$5,250	\$4,053	\$15,050	\$14,250	\$6,000	(\$9,050)
531 Postage	\$1,000	\$1,279	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$200
580 Conference/Travel	\$2,200	\$220	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0
610 Supplies	\$500	\$229	\$500	\$884	\$750	\$250
730 Equipment	\$1,000	\$410	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
810 Dues & Memberships	\$1,000	\$565	\$750	\$674	\$674	(\$76)
Subtotal - Principal's Office	\$316,623	\$287,279	\$282,581	\$281,494	\$280,675	(\$1,906)

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2014 Expenditures, FY2015 Estimated Expenditures, and FY2016 Proposed School Budget

Funct/ Object Description	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
2520 FISCAL SERVICES:						
110 Bookkeeper's Salary	\$11,250	\$11,691	\$11,250	\$11,250	\$12,523	\$1,273
220 Social Security	\$861	\$894	\$861	\$861	\$958	\$97
240 Municipal Retirement	\$731	\$782	\$731	\$731	\$877	\$146
610 Supplies	\$750	\$590	\$775	\$775	\$775	\$0
830 Interest on Current Loan	\$6,000	\$1,454	\$7,660	\$2,708	\$3,837	(\$3,823)
Subtotal - Fiscal Services	\$19,592	\$15,411	\$21,277	\$16,325	\$18,970	(\$2,307)
2540 PLANT OPERATIONS:						
110 Custodians' Salaries	\$122,599	\$125,440	\$126,320	\$128,710	\$134,916	\$8,596
120 Substitutes' Salaries	\$1,500	\$30	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
210 Health Insurance	\$55,609	\$50,603	\$51,035	\$51,514	\$53,833	\$2,798
211 Dental Insurance	\$1,620	\$1,498	\$1,620	\$1,491	\$1,620	\$0
220 Social Security	\$9,494	\$8,925	\$9,663	\$9,732	\$10,321	\$658
240 Municipal Retirement	\$4,904	\$4,744	\$5,053	\$5,148	\$5,397	\$344
250 Workers Compensation	\$7,136	\$0	\$7,263	\$7,633	\$8,095	\$832
300 Contracted Services	\$775	\$757	\$775	\$775	\$738	(\$37)
421 Disposal/ Recycling Services	\$5,100	\$5,895	\$5,500	\$5,895	\$6,072	\$572
430 Repair/Maintenance	\$38,500	\$55,437	\$38,500	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$11,500
430.1 Contracted Maintenance	\$9,015	\$4,338	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
430.2 Remediation/HVAC	\$0	\$18,067	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
521 Property Insurance	\$12,000	\$11,235	\$11,572	\$11,235	\$11,572	\$0
580 Travel / Mileage	\$250	\$934	\$300	\$934	\$950	\$650
610 Supplies	\$20,300	\$18,711	\$20,300	\$20,300	\$20,000	(\$300)
622 Electricity	\$42,000	\$38,413	\$42,000	\$40,334	\$42,000	\$0
624 Heat/Fuel [Natural Gas]	\$65,000	\$32,733	\$45,000	\$37,500	\$40,000	(\$5,000)
700 Equipment	\$5,000	\$4,700	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	(\$5,000)
Subtotal - Plant Operation	\$400,802	\$382,460	\$382,401	\$388,701	\$398,014	\$15,613
2550 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION						
513 Contracted Service	\$170,682	\$173,850	\$178,740	\$175,500	\$179,010	\$270
513.01 Non-Special Educ Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$23,175	\$20,068	\$17,500	(\$5,675)
514 Other Transportaation	\$7,500	\$33,480	\$0	\$10,000	\$22,500	\$22,500
515 Special Education Transportation	\$7,500	\$9,370	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal - Pupil Transportation	\$185,682	\$216,700	\$201,915	\$205,568	\$219,010	\$17,095

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
FY2014 Expenditures, FY2015 Estimated Expenditures, and FY2016 Proposed School Budget

Funct/ Object Description	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Estimated	FY2016 Proposed	Budget Change
2600 FOOD SERVICE						
110 Lunch Room Supervision	\$10,518	\$5,983	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
210 Health Insurance (Food Serv staff)	\$7,943	\$2,555	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
220 Social Security	\$805	\$458	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
700 Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Subtotal - Food Service	\$19,266	\$8,996	\$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	\$4,517,259	\$4,486,532	\$4,686,738	\$4,708,869	\$4,752,340	\$65,602

Increase 1.40%

REVENUES & TAX RATES

HIGHGATE TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Projected FY2016 Revenues and Tax Rates

	FY2015	FY2016
EXPENSES:		
Highgate School District Budget Proposal	\$4,686,738	\$4,752,340
Special Articles	\$90,000	\$25,000
Escrow Account Article	\$46,083	\$46,083
	<u>\$4,822,821</u>	<u>\$4,823,423</u>
REVENUES:		
Interest Earnings	\$15,000	\$5,000
Prior Year's Unreserved Fund Balance	\$55,089	\$22,892
Current Year Carryforward	\$0	\$0
Anticipated Grant Funding towards Staffing	\$131,127	\$205,237
IDEA B Funding - Clerical	\$7,500	\$0
Projected Special Education Aid:		
Mainstream Block Grant	\$111,110	\$105,161
Intensive Reimbursement	\$214,753	\$304,119
EEE Grant	\$51,137	\$41,931
Care & Custody	\$0	\$0
Projected Transportation Reimbursement	<u>\$80,437</u>	<u>\$77,530</u>
Subtotal - Revenues	<u>\$666,153</u>	<u>\$761,870</u>
EDUCATION SPENDING	<u>\$4,156,668</u>	<u>\$4,061,553</u>

PROJECTED TAX RATES BEFORE COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL ADJUSTMENT

Equalized Pupils	302.04	304.83
Spending per Equalized Pupil [educ spending ÷ eq.pupils]	\$13,762	\$13,324
<i>base spending amount</i>	\$9,285	\$9,459
District Spending Adjustment	148.22%	140.86%
<i>Base Homestead Tax Rate</i>	\$0.98	\$1.00
Projected Equalized Tax Rate - Highgate School [base rate x spending adjustment x elem student ratio]	<u>\$0.726</u>	<u>\$0.736</u>

PROJECTED TAX RATES AFTER COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL ADJUSTMENT

Based on current Common Level of Appraisal [increased to 112.62% of State value, from 112.20% in FY15]		
Homestead Tax Rate:	\$0.647	\$0.654
Non-Homestead Tax Rate:	\$0.673	\$0.712

*Each year VT statute calls for the Base Spending Amount to increase by the most recent NEEP cumulative price index; however, over the past few years the legislature has not done so. The \$9,459 figure would be in effect if this statute is followed.

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

T095
Franklin Northwest

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

Expenditures

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$4,327,553	\$4,517,259	\$4,686,739	\$4,752,340
plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$136,083	\$71,083
minus Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
Locally adopted or warned budget	\$4,377,553	\$4,592,259	\$4,822,822	\$4,823,423
plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-
plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-
Total Budget	\$4,377,553	\$4,592,259	\$4,822,822	\$4,823,423
S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	\$313,274	\$339,540	\$370,629	\$744,547
Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-

Revenues

Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$923,931	\$737,347	\$666,153	\$761,870
plus Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-	-
minus All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-
Offsetting revenues	\$923,931	\$737,347	\$666,153	\$761,870

Education Spending	\$3,453,622	\$3,854,912	\$4,156,669	\$4,061,553
Equalized Pupils (Act 130 count is by school district)	314.98	313.36	302.04	304.83

	\$10,964.58	\$12,301.86	\$13,761.98	\$13,323.99
minus Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-
minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual	-	-	-	-
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	-	-	-	-
minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils	-	-	-	-
minus Estimated costs of new students after census period	-	-	-	-
minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition	NA	-	-	-
minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools	-	-	-	-
minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015	NA	NA	NA	-
plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	-
Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	\$10,965	\$12,302	\$13,762	\$13,324
District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%) (\$13,324 / \$9,459)	125.697%	134.432%	148.217%	140.860%
	based on \$8,723	based on \$9,151	based on \$9,285	based on \$9,459

Prorating the local tax rate

Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate to be prorated (140.860% x \$1.000)	\$1.1187	\$1.2637	\$1.4525	\$1.4086
	based on \$0.89	based on \$0.94	based on \$0.98	based on \$1.00
Percent of Highgate equalized pupils not in a union school district	50.84%	50.03%	50.01%	52.27%
Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (52.27% x \$1.41)	\$0.5687	\$0.6322	\$0.7264	\$0.7363
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	108.00%	111.03%	112.20%	112.62%
Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$0.7363 / 112.62%)	\$0.5266	\$0.5694	\$0.6474	\$0.6538
	based on \$0.89	based on \$0.94	based on \$0.98	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.

Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated (140.860% x 1.94%)	2.26%	2.42%	2.88%	2.73%
	based on 1.80%	based on 1.80%	based on 1.94%	based on 1.94%
Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (52.27% x 2.73%)	1.15%	1.21%	1.44%	1.43%
	based on 1.80%	based on 1.80%	based on 1.94%	based on 1.94%
Percent of equalized pupils at Missisquoi Valley UHSD	49.16%	49.97%	49.99%	47.73%
	-	-	-	-

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

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/>

FY2014 School Level Data

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

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

School level data	Grades Offered	Enrollment	Total Teachers	Total Administrators	Stu / Tchr Ratio	Stu / Admin Ratio	Tchr / Admin Ratio
C P Smith School	PK - 5	303	22.50	1.00	13.47	303.00	22.50
Vergennes UES #44	PK - 6	304	21.00	1.00	14.48	304.00	21.00
Bennington Elementary School	PK - 5	309	17.70	2.00	17.46	154.50	8.85
Highgate Elementary School	PK - 6	320	29.90	2.00	10.70	160.00	14.95
Randolph Elementary School	PK - 6	328	25.25	2.00	12.99	164.00	12.63
Marion W Cross School	K - 6	332	23.00	1.00	14.43	332.00	23.00
Newport City Elementary Schools	PK - 6	343	34.00	2.00	10.09	171.50	17.00
Averaged SCHOOL cohort data		425.10	31.93	1.51	13.31	281.64	21.16

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.

FY2013 School District Data

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

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)
 10 out of 12

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

Bristol	PK-6	302.19	\$12,364
Randolph	K-6	302.64	\$11,495
Highgate	PK-6	316.69	\$11,106
Norwich	K-6	319.04	\$12,491
Newport City	PK-6	341.37	\$10,772
Brandon	PK-6	359.44	\$13,405

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.

Averaged SCHOOL DISTRICT cohort data

458.53 **\$11,102**

FY2015 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 Equalized Pupils	SchlDist Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	SchlDist Equalized Homestead Ed tax rate	MUN Equalized Homestead Ed tax rate	MUN Common Level of Appraisal	MUN Actual Homestead Ed tax rate
T031	Bristol	PK-6	277.95	14,567.34	1.5375	1.5668	92.24%	1.6986
T095	Highgate	PK-6	302.04	13,761.98	1.4525	1.3970	112.20%	1.2451
T162	Randolph	K-6	316.36	12,668.18	1.3371	1.4129	108.61%	1.3009
T058	Derby	PK-6	328.89	12,383.24	1.3070	1.3838	97.76%	1.4155
T040	Cambridge	PK-6	336.33	13,387.28	1.4130	1.4400	101.73%	1.4155

The Legislature has required the Department 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.

STAFF SALARIES

HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014 - 2015 Staff Salaries
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<u>Professional Staff:</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Kyle Ashton [Math Specialist]	MA	3	II	100%
Paul Bangs [Classroom Teacher]	MA+15	16	II	100%
Brandy Brown [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	5	II	100%
Leslie Byrne [Art Teacher]	BA+30	16	II	80%
Louanne Collins [Classroom Teacher]	MA	15	II	100%
Dianna Conley [Special Education]	MA	1	I	100%
Claire Dietsche [Classroom Teacher]	MA	13	II	100%
Elizabeth Dufresne [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	2	II	100%
Laura Fisher [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	1	I	100%
Lynn Fitzgerald [Classroom Teacher]	MA+30	16	II	100%
Jennifer Gagne [School Nurse]	BS/RN	4	II	100%
Lynne Hansen [Literacy Interventionist]	MA	16	II	35%
Meghan Heald [Classroom Teacher]	MA	2	II	100%
Kelly Heinlein [Classroom Teacher]	MA	10	II	100%
Diane Hemingway [Classroom Teacher]	MA+30	15	II	100%
Lisa Hess [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	13	II	100%
Edna Iannaco [Literacy Specialist]	MA	9	II	80%
Kristy Knott [Classroom Teacher]	BA	1	I	100%
Corynn Labounty [Classroom Teacher]	MA	3	II	100%
Domye LaBrusciano [Classroom Teacher]	BA	2	I	100%
Sara Laderman [Gen'l & Instrumental Music]	BA	5	II	100%
Amanda Lamb [Speech & Lang. Pathologist]	MA+30	2	Prof.	100%
Paul Legris [Classroom Teacher]	BA+45	16	II	100%
Jennifer Luneau [Special Education]	MA	9	II	100%
Marilyn McSweeney [Classroom Teacher]	MA	6	II	100%
Cynthia Newett [Special Education]	MA	5	I	100%
Ellen O'Neil [Classroom Teacher]	BA	2	I	100%
Cheryl Ostrander [Special Education]	MA+15	16	II	100%
Beth Ann Richey [Early Childhood Teacher]	MA	5	I	50%
Monica Sweet [Guidance Counselor]	MA	5	II	100%
Krists Tatro [Physical Education Teacher]	MA	6	II	100%
Christina Therrien [Classroom Teacher]	MA	6	II	100%
Kelly Thomas [Librarian]	MA	12	I	100%
Paula Whitehead [Classroom Teacher]	BA+15	11	II	100%

<u>Funded with Federal Grant Funds</u>				
Lynne Hansen [Literacy Interventionist]	MA	16	II	65%
Edna Iannaco [Literacy Specialist]	MA	9	II	20%
Amber Renaudette [Literacy Interventionist]	MA	6	II	100%

<u>Behavior Team Leader:</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Jennifer Ormerod	0	100%

**HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2014 - 2015 Staff Salaries**

Technology Coordinator:	Years of Service	FTE
Heather Larivee	8	100%

Instructional Assistants:	Years of Service	FTE
Stacey Bennett	11	100%
Dawn Britch	18	100%
Marie Bruyette	8	100%
AmyJo Bushey	5	50%
Theresa Cadieux	4	100%
Michael Daley II	0	100%
Taylor Gagne	3	100%
Joyce Lafar	14	100%
Louise Machia	13	100%
Bryanne Noel	0	100%
Carla Noel	13	100%
Sharon Rheume	19	100%
Linda Rixford	17	100%
Tammy Rouse	9	100%
Shelby Scott	2	100%
Alyssa Sweet	0	100%
Jan Sweet	17	100%
Kristy Taylor	11	100%
Priscilla Taylor	12	100%
Bernadette Tremblay	32	100%
Nicole Vanslette	0	100%
Anna-Maria Yates	0	100%

Highgate Highly Qualified Teacher Reporting for the 2013-14 School Year:

Number of Classes Taught by HQ Teachers/ Total Classes	Number 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	Number of Emergency Credentialed Teachers/Total Teachers	% of Teachers Teaching with Emergency Credentials
23/23	0/23	100%	0%	0/32	0%

SALARY SCHEDULE & INDEX

<p>HIGHGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT 2013 - 2014 Salary Schedule & Index</p>
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Step	BA/BS	BA/BS+15	BA/BS+30	BA+45	MA	MA+15	MA+30
1	1.00 \$32,885	1.05 \$34,529	1.10 \$36,173	1.15 \$37,818	1.20 \$39,462	1.25 \$41,106	1.30 \$42,750
2	1.05 \$34,529	1.10 \$36,173	1.15 \$37,818	1.20 \$39,462	1.25 \$41,106	1.30 \$42,750	1.35 \$44,394
3	1.10 \$36,173	1.15 \$37,818	1.20 \$39,462	1.25 \$41,106	1.30 \$42,750	1.35 \$44,394	1.40 \$46,039
4	1.15 \$37,818	1.20 \$39,462	1.25 \$41,106	1.30 \$42,750	1.35 \$44,394	1.40 \$46,039	1.45 \$47,683
5	1.20 \$39,462	1.25 \$41,106	1.30 \$42,750	1.35 \$44,394	1.40 \$46,039	1.45 \$47,683	1.50 \$49,327
6	1.25 \$41,106	1.30 \$42,750	1.35 \$44,394	1.40 \$46,039	1.45 \$47,683	1.50 \$49,327	1.55 \$50,971
7	1.30 \$42,750	1.35 \$44,394	1.40 \$46,039	1.45 \$47,683	1.50 \$49,327	1.55 \$50,971	1.60 \$52,616
8	1.35 \$44,394	1.40 \$46,039	1.45 \$47,683	1.50 \$49,327	1.55 \$50,971	1.60 \$52,616	1.65 \$54,260
9	1.40 \$46,039	1.45 \$47,683	1.50 \$49,327	1.55 \$50,971	1.60 \$52,616	1.65 \$54,260	1.70 \$55,904
10	1.45 \$47,683	1.50 \$49,327	1.55 \$50,971	1.60 \$52,616	1.65 \$54,260	1.70 \$55,904	1.75 \$57,548
11	1.50 \$49,327	1.55 \$50,971	1.60 \$52,616	1.65 \$54,260	1.70 \$55,904	1.75 \$57,548	1.80 \$59,193
12	1.55 \$50,971	1.60 \$52,616	1.65 \$54,260	1.70 \$55,904	1.75 \$57,548	1.80 \$59,193	1.85 \$60,837
13	1.60 \$52,616	1.65 \$54,260	1.70 \$55,904	1.75 \$57,548	1.80 \$59,193	1.85 \$60,837	1.90 \$62,481
14			1.75 \$57,548	1.80 \$59,193	1.85 \$60,837	1.90 \$62,481	1.95 \$64,125
15			1.80 \$59,193	1.85 \$60,837	1.90 \$62,481	1.95 \$64,125	2.00 \$65,770
16			1.85 \$60,837	1.90 \$62,481	1.95 \$64,125	2.00 \$65,770	2.05 \$67,414

2014-2015, 2015-2016 salary schedules are currently under negotiations.

CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET

FRANKLIN NORTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET FY2016
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	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Anticipated	FY2016 Budget	Highgate Share
Expenses:						
Administration Salaries	\$446,744	\$447,321	\$461,570	\$468,878	\$480,139	\$69,909
Support Staff Salaries	\$64,388	\$55,387	\$64,000	\$84,291	\$88,311	\$12,859
Insurance Benefits	\$85,629	\$95,339	\$123,836	\$106,906	\$118,947	\$17,319
Other Benefits	\$25,992	\$25,336	\$29,592	\$33,737	\$33,395	\$4,862
Payroll Expense	\$44,543	\$39,018	\$48,275	\$47,262	\$53,723	\$7,823
Purchased Prof. Services	\$39,600	\$46,593	\$63,750	\$34,800	\$37,600	\$5,475
Repair&Maintenance / Equipment Lease	\$5,250	\$6,457	\$5,500	\$6,760	\$7,250	\$1,056
Other Property Services	\$33,850	\$33,300	\$35,150	\$39,955	\$41,456	\$6,036
Office Expenses	\$11,000	\$9,286	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$1,602
Travel / Conference	\$10,250	\$13,243	\$10,250	\$11,001	\$10,250	\$1,492
Supplies / Software	\$8,750	\$7,034	\$8,750	\$8,500	\$8,750	\$1,274
Equipment	\$10,000	\$8,227	\$25,000	\$31,310	\$44,000	\$6,406
Dues & Fees	\$4,000	\$4,301	\$4,500	\$4,431	\$4,500	\$655
Total Expense:	\$789,996	\$790,842	\$891,173	\$888,831	\$939,321	\$136,770

Revenues:						
Federal Title I and II Funding	\$88,313	\$94,514	\$87,270	\$87,270	\$85,390	\$12,432
Other Grant receipts	\$17,450	\$11,281	\$17,450	\$10,272	\$10,250	\$1,492
Other/Miscellaneous	\$32,750	\$46,045	\$5,250	\$20,134	\$10,250	\$1,492
Total Revenues:	\$138,513	\$151,840	\$109,970	\$117,676	\$105,890	\$15,417

FY2016 ASSESSMENT AMOUNT	<u>\$651,483</u>	<u>\$658,987</u>	<u>\$781,203</u>		<u>\$833,431</u>	<u>\$121,353</u>
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EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM BUDGET

**FRANKLIN NORTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM BUDGET FY2016**

	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Anticipated	FY2016 Budget	Highgate Share
Expenses:						
ECP Administration	\$40,000	\$39,466	\$40,788	\$40,650	\$41,870	\$10,970
Teachers' Salaries	\$214,204	\$236,130	\$222,266	\$223,881	\$232,234	\$60,845
Support Staff	\$79,164	\$83,352	\$90,204	\$77,375	\$91,722	\$24,031
Speech Pathologist Salary	\$93,560	\$85,278	\$94,646	\$95,105	\$98,909	\$25,914
ECP Secretary Salary	\$25,266	\$21,351	\$26,292	\$26,292	\$27,300	\$7,153
Insurance Benefits	\$119,740	\$98,105	\$140,999	\$122,743	\$154,286	\$40,423
Payroll Expense	\$38,837	\$36,635	\$40,718	\$39,415	\$42,262	\$11,073
Other Benefits	\$5,000	\$1,341	\$6,052	\$6,052	\$6,092	\$1,596
OT/PT Services	\$12,750	\$14,404	\$12,750	\$9,932	\$12,750	\$3,341
Purchased Prof. Services	\$10,650	\$19,161	\$12,300	\$15,324	\$14,550	\$3,812
Repair&Maintenance	\$2,100	\$1,034	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$550
Office Expenses	\$33,655	\$30,432	\$38,655	\$36,993	\$38,905	\$10,193
Student Tuition & Transportation	\$750	\$255	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$197
Travel / Conference	\$7,500	\$15,206	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$1,965
Supplies & Equipment	\$9,725	\$6,783	\$8,250	\$8,251	\$8,250	\$2,162
Total Expense:	\$692,901	\$688,933	\$744,270	\$712,363	\$779,480	\$204,224

Revenues:						
Preschool Tuition Receipts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grant Funding	\$31,500	\$45,440	\$54,000	\$62,110	\$57,500	\$15,065
Carryover from Prior Year	\$45,000	\$67,399	\$40,000	\$40,128	\$40,000	\$10,480
Total Revenues:	\$76,500	\$112,839	\$94,000	\$102,238	\$97,500	\$25,545

FY2016 ASSESSMENT AMOUNT	<u>\$616,401</u>		<u>\$650,270</u>		<u>\$681,980</u>	<u>\$178,679</u>
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SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET

FRANKLIN NORTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET FY2016

	FY2014 Budget	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Budget	FY2015 Anticipated	FY2016 Budget	Highgate Share
Expenses:						
Special Education Administration	\$175,837	\$174,919	\$180,167	\$176,500	\$181,795	\$20,028
Medicaid Clerk / Clerical Support	\$38,233	\$36,685	\$39,481	\$39,481	\$40,229	\$12,471
School Psychologists	\$179,119	\$179,119	\$184,493	\$184,494	\$190,029	\$58,909
Adapted Curriculum	\$64,490	\$64,487	\$66,422	\$66,422	\$67,418	\$20,900
Occupational Therapy	\$54,140	\$45,678	\$55,761	\$55,761	\$56,597	\$17,545
Insurance & Other Benefits	\$136,680	\$125,265	\$146,233	\$141,368	\$147,987	\$38,209
Payroll Expense	\$43,349	\$39,479	\$44,550	\$44,280	\$45,413	\$10,990
Purchased Professional Services	\$5,500	\$7,848	\$6,000	\$9,750	\$7,500	\$2,325
Office Expenses	\$1,250	\$750	\$1,500	\$1,550	\$2,250	\$698
Travel / Conference	\$750	\$183	\$750	\$500	\$750	\$233
Supplies & Equipment	\$2,250	\$0	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$698
Dues & Fees	\$1,000	\$640	\$1,150	\$1,148	\$1,150	\$357
Subtotal:	\$702,598	\$675,053	\$728,757	\$723,504	\$743,368	\$183,361

Revenues:						
Medicaid Reimbursement	\$27,540	\$27,118	\$28,357	\$26,500	\$27,193	\$8,430
IDEA-B Grant Reimbursement	\$265,714	\$250,722	\$273,754	\$270,090	\$277,211	\$85,935
Other [Carry Forward from Previous Year]	\$0	-\$5,678	\$0	\$5,650	\$5,000	\$1,550
Total Revenues:	\$293,254	\$272,162	\$302,111	\$302,240	\$309,404	\$95,915

FY2016 ASSESSMENT AMOUNT	<u>\$409,345</u>		<u>\$426,646</u>		<u>\$433,964</u>	\$87,446
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Transfer of Contractual Professional Salaries/Benefits:						
Salaries					\$2,004,376	\$267,250
Benefits					\$698,665	\$89,819
Total Expense:					\$2,703,041	\$357,069

TREASURER'S REPORT

FRANKLIN NORTHWEST SUMMARY TREASURER'S REPORT July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

	Beginning Balance	FY2014		Ending Balance
		Receipts	Expenditures	
Title I Grant	-\$33,479	\$933,225	\$845,925	\$53,821
School Improvement - Green Mtn Star Coaching	\$0	\$20,000	\$9,151	\$10,849
Title IIA Grant - Teacher Quality	\$5,697	\$252,546	\$229,191	\$29,052
IDEA-B Grant	-\$9,682	\$699,427	\$569,556	\$120,189
IDEA-B Preschool Grant	\$350	\$7,150	\$15,440	-\$7,940
Early Education Initiative Grant	\$0	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Best Grant	\$2,970	\$18,790	\$14,327	\$7,433
Act 117 Coach	\$0	\$7,500	\$4,051	\$3,449
FNW Crossroads Program	\$42,333	\$182,667	\$194,388	\$30,612
Crossroads non-grant revenues	\$27,935	\$190,881	\$218,219	\$597
Program Fundraising	\$1,587	\$5,498	\$1,752	\$5,333
SWIFT Program	\$0	\$24,433	\$17,307	\$7,126
Tobacco Grant	\$1,912	\$14,791	\$13,365	\$3,338
VT Kids Against Tobacco	\$1,483	\$0	\$0	\$1,483
Standards Board	\$225	\$2,400	\$1,811	\$814
Medicaid Reimbursements (school-based)	\$439,373	\$358,719	\$315,475	\$482,617
Medicaid Reimbursements (FNWSU)	\$28,992	\$39,858	\$31,492	\$37,358
EPSDT Reimbursements	\$100,245	\$41,599	\$49,417	\$92,427
Central Office	\$45,877	\$764,949	\$790,842	\$19,984
Special Education	-\$5,678	\$435,666	\$424,331	\$5,657
Early Childhood Program	\$67,399	\$661,843	\$689,114	\$40,128

Fiduciary/Fiscal Agent Funds:				
Franklin/Grand Isle County ECP Advisory Council	\$173,404	\$541	\$16,177	\$157,768
Franklin/Grand Isle County Bookmobile	-\$19,843	\$124,500	\$96,752	\$7,905
Team FNW Tutoring Program	\$2,811	\$81,587	\$81,587	\$2,811
VEHI Pathpoints Wellness Program	\$13,887	\$3,450	\$4,302	\$13,035
Indian Education Grant	\$1	\$216,730	\$216,730	\$1
Mentoring Program	\$29,741	\$0	\$6,015	\$23,726
Technical Educ Equipment Grant (MVU)	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
SPARK Grant (Sheldon)	\$9	\$0	\$9	\$0
Team Nutrition Grant (Swanton)	-\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Carnegie Grant (MVUHS)	\$2,852	\$0	\$2,852	\$0

A copy of the Independent Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, performed by Angolano & Co., may be obtained from the Superintendent of Schools' Office.

MVU HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 2015 - 2016 BUDGET

The Missisquoi Valley Union School District Budget proposal for the 2015-2016 school year totals \$15,289,278. This amount represents a 0.39% increase over the current budget approved in September 2014.

The school administration and school board have worked diligently to reduce costs wherever possible, including the reduction of several staff positions. Department budgets have been level funded as much as possible. The budget proposal includes the implementation of busing services to Alburgh and Sheldon in order to attract more tuition students to MVU. The anticipated tuition revenue of an additional four (4) students from each town will cover the cost of the two buses.

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. In particular, English Language Arts NECAP assessment scores surpass the statewide average.

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.

Our priority this year is to implement an innovative, research-based best practice called Math Studios for all middle and high school teachers and students. Math teachers and administrators acquired new skills in a course last summer that enable teams of educators to observe teachers in action and provide direct improvement feedback.

As mandated by state law, all Special Education professional staff salaries and benefits have been transferred from all local schools to FNWSU. Costs at the SU level are budgeted in the same manner as they are in the local Special Education budget; however instead of appearing in separate budget line items, salaries and benefits are now reflected within the FNWSU assessment. All other Special Education expenses remain at the local level.

The School Board will be holding an informational meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Missisquoi Valley Union School Library. The budget will be voted by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day. Polling places and times are: Franklin Central School – open at 10:00am; Highgate Elementary School and Swanton Village Complex, both open at 7:00am. All polls close at 7:00pm.

MVUHS School Board

Denis Boucher, Chair	868-4828	Earl Fournier, V.Chair	868-7494
Robert Irish	285-2288	John Ho	318-1044
Rod Russin	868-4827	Gregg Gervais	868-9120
Lisa Letourneau	868-4391	Vickie Gratton	285-2083
Lisa Wells	868-6659		

MVU SUMMARY BUDGET

**MISSISQUOI VALLEY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
2015 - 2016 SCHOOL BUDGET PROPOSAL - SUMMARY by CATEGORY**

AREA / DEPARTMENT	FY2014 Approved	FY2014 Actuals	FY2015 Approved	FY2016 Proposed	Variance
Regular Programs	\$6,098,795	\$5,870,906	\$6,147,351	\$6,075,183	(\$72,168)
Department Budgets	\$318,554	\$271,863	\$308,041	\$307,991	(\$50)
Interscholastics	\$375,028	\$346,399	\$418,135	\$421,951	\$3,816
CoCurriculars	\$52,569	\$54,530	\$52,569	\$52,569	\$0
Registrar	\$28,063	\$25,963	\$28,809	\$41,844	\$13,035
Guidance Services	\$455,944	\$452,623	\$470,564	\$490,175	\$19,611
Student Assistance Program	\$71,515	\$69,878	\$73,219	\$75,540	\$2,321
Health Services	\$105,103	\$100,579	\$102,262	\$106,178	\$3,916
Psychological Services	\$36,045	\$16,385	\$23,610	\$22,418	(\$1,192)
Educational Support	\$91,603	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Library Services	\$149,627	\$144,645	\$150,310	\$154,162	\$3,852
School-wide Technology	\$246,516	\$249,663	\$351,270	\$356,113	\$4,843
Board of Education	\$35,125	\$42,191	\$38,227	\$38,227	\$0
Principals' Office	\$540,773	\$640,720	\$662,133	\$682,895	\$20,762
Receptionist	\$46,479	\$45,915	\$47,740	\$49,490	\$1,750
Study Hall Monitor	\$24,747	\$28,019	\$25,490	\$0	(\$25,490)
Student Management	\$321,337	\$315,392	\$328,464	\$292,983	(\$35,481)
Fiscal Services	\$124,011	\$122,411	\$130,742	\$133,920	\$3,178
Plant Operation & Maintenance	\$1,260,115	\$1,216,988	\$1,345,079	\$1,420,410	\$75,331
Safety & Security	\$12,147	\$5,218	\$12,478	\$12,478	\$0
Transportation Services	\$813,073	\$700,739	\$734,697	\$789,248	\$54,551
Debt Service	\$151,507	\$151,507	\$143,985	\$136,412	(\$7,573)
Wood Chip Boiler	\$22,500	\$9,854	\$1,750	\$0	(\$1,750)
Special Education Programs	\$3,004,221	\$2,451,829	\$2,875,192	\$1,854,304	(\$1,020,888)
Special Educ Operations Manager	\$74,142	\$72,140	\$76,011	\$78,341	\$2,330
Psychological Services (special educ)	\$108,136	\$49,154	\$70,830	\$22,500	(\$48,330)
Speech Services (special education)	\$124,141	\$114,623	\$128,177	\$7,500	(\$120,677)
FNWSU	\$425,676	\$428,180	\$483,015	\$1,666,446	\$1,183,431
BUDGET TOTAL	\$15,117,492	\$13,998,314	\$15,230,150	\$15,289,278	\$59,128

Increase: 0.39%

IMPORTANT NUMBER & WEBSITES

Town of Highgate	www.highgatevt.org	(802)868-4697
Highgate Public Library	www.highgatelibrary.wordpress.com	(802)868-3970
State Police	www.dps.state.vt.us/vtsp	(802)524-5993
Franklin County Sheriff	www.franklincountysheriff.net	(802)524-2121
Northwestern Medical Center	www.northwesternmedicalcenter.org	(802)524-5911
Missisquoi Valley Rescue	www.missisquoi-valley-rescue.angelfire.com	(802)868-2352
Casella Waste Systems, Inc.	www.casella.com	(802)651-5493
Highgate Center Post Office	www.usps.com	(802)868-2576
Highgate Springs Post Office	www.usps.com	(802)868-2106
Vermont Dept of Health	www.healthvermont.gov	(800)640-4374
FNWSU	www.fnwsu.org	(802)868-4967
MVU Middle/High School	www.mvuschool.org	(802)868-7311
Highgate Elementary School	www.fnwsu.org/highgate	(802)868-4170

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Town Clerk Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8:30am - 4:30pm

(closed noon - 1 for lunch)

State & Federal Holidays are observed

Library Hours

Monday & Thursday 2:00pm – 6:00pm

Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am – noon

Friday & Sunday – Closed

Casella Waste Transfer Station & Recycling Center Hours

Phone# 802-651-5493

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Saturday 8:00am – Noon

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL INFORMATION

Northwest Solid Waste District

158 Morse Drive

Georgia VT

Phone# 802-524-5986

Please call for an appointment to drop off your hazardous waste items
or for more information visit their website www.nswsd.org

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!"



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

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

REMINDER

2015 Dog Licenses are due by April 1st

On or before April 1, 2015

Neutered \$12.00

Non-neutered \$16.00

After April 1, 2015

Neutered \$18.00

Non-neutered \$22.00



****NOTE**** Dogs that remain unlicensed as of May 1, 2015 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 14, 2015

10:00am - Noon

Highgate Fire Station

Attending Vet: Paws For Thought 868-4300

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

DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE AT CLINIC

Questions? Please contact Wendi Dusablon, Town Clerk
868-4697 x 201 wdusablon@highgatevt.org