

ACCOUNTING, AUDITING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING POLICY

Town of Highgate

PURPOSE. The purpose of this Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting Policy is to establish and maintain high standards for accounting practices in the Town of Highgate, thereby enabling voters, the selectboard, and the treasurer to make sound decisions in preparing and adopting the Town budget and managing Town finances.

ACCOUNTING. The accounting practices of the Town will conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for local governments as established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The treasurer will establish and maintain a system of fund accounting and shall measure financial position and results of operations using the modified accrual basis of accounting for governmental funds and the accrual basis of accounting for proprietary and fiduciary funds.

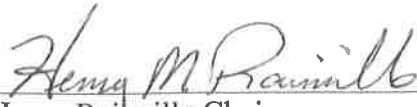
AUDITING. An annual audit will be performed by the Town's elected auditors under 24 V.S.A. § 1681.

MONTHLY AND ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING. The treasurer will prepare monthly financial reports for the selectboard's management purposes. These will consist of:

- Budget Report showing revenues collected and appropriations expended for the previous month with the variance from the budget amounts for each line item;
- Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance showing revenues and expenditures and the difference between the two, the beginning fund balance for the period and the ending fund balance; and
- Balance Sheet showing Town assets less liabilities and the fund balance.

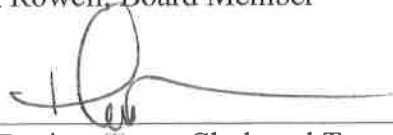
The treasurer will also prepare an annual financial report. This report should include financial statements for each of the funds of the Town, as well as appropriate additional disclosures as necessary for the complete understanding of the financial statements presented. In addition, the report should include a narrative discussion to communicate how the Town's current financial position and results of financial activities compare with those of the prior year and with budgeted amounts. This report, together with the most recent independent auditor's report and any report prepared by the Town's elected auditors under 24 V.S.A. § 1682, will be reproduced in the Town's annual report each year.

The foregoing Policy is hereby adopted by the selectboard and the treasurer of the Town of Highgate, Vermont, this day of April 15, 2010 and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.


Henry Rainville, Chair


Jeff Towle, Vice-Chair


Brian Rowell, Board Member


Tom Racine, Town Clerk and Treasurer