

Annual Report

Town of Chester, Vermont
Calendar Year 2016

ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TOWN OF

CHESTER, VERMONT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2016

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BREAKDOWN OF GRAND LIST

Total Education Listed Value	\$417,436,640
Total Listed Value of Real Estate for Taxation	\$443,113,700
Total Listed Value of Nonresidential Real Estate for Schools	\$225,294,040
Total Listed Value of Homestead Real Estate for Schools	\$192,142,600
Cable Company	\$892,900
Veterans Exemptions (18 x's \$40,000)	\$720,000
Current Use Exempt Amount (180 Properties)	\$21,995,000

There are 4 Properties that are 5 year voted exemptions and 47 properties that are tax exempt per Vermont law.

ANNUAL GRAND LIST INCREASE

2011	4,158,567
2012	4,177,428
2013	4,172,950
2014	4,164,907
2015	4,204,923
2016	4,174,366

COMPARATIVE TAX RATE TABLE

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Homestead School Tax Rate	\$1.2611	\$1.3228	\$1.3898	\$1.2365	\$1.2001
Nonresidential School Tax Rate	1.3248	1.3823	1.4753	1.3530	1.8906
Municipal Tax Rate	.6934	.6900	.6359	.5976	.5828

ELECTIVE TOWN OFFICES - 2016

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>		<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
MODERATOR		AUDITORS	
William E. Dakin, Jr.	2017	E. W. Spaulding	2018
		John H. Cable, resigned	2017
TOWN CLERK		unexpired two year term	2019
Deborah J. Aldrich	2017		
		CTSD DIRECTORS	
LISTER		Marilyn Mahusky	2018
Wanda C. Purdy, Chairman	2018	Alison DesLauriers	2019
Sarah Purdy	2017	Michael Leonard, resigned	
Open position	2019	Heather Chase, appointed	2017
SELECTBOARD		CAES DIRECTORS	
Ben Whalen	2017	Marilyn Mahusky	2018
Arunas "Arne" Jonynas	2017	Jacob Arace	2019
Heather Chase	2018	Tonia Fleming	2017
Dan Cote	2019	Gary King	2017
John DeBenedetti, Chairman	2017		
		GMUHS DIRECTORS	
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS		Deb Brown	2018
Shirley A. Barrett	2018	Alison DesLauriers	2019
Erron J. Carey	2019	Jeff Hance	2019
Sandar K. Walker	2017	Bruce Parks	2017
TOWN GRAND JUROR		BUDGET COMMITTEE	
John DeBenedetti	2017	Open positions	
TOWN TREASURER		JUSTICES OF THE PEACE	
Deborah J. Aldrich	2017	Kenneth D. Barrett	
		Patricia G. Benelli	
AGENT TO DEFEND SUITS		Patricia Budnick	
Jo-Anne DeBenedetti	2017	Robert Crawford	
		Ruth Douglas	
TRUSTEES OF WHITING LIBRARY		Tom Elgan	
Mariette Bock	2019	Cheryl LeClair	
David A. Lord	2019	Bruce Parks	
Mary Lou Farr	2017	Colleen Truax	
Kathy Pellett	2017	Heather Chase	
John Holme	2018	Susan Kibbe	
Charlene Huyler	2018		
Carrie King	2018		

OFFICERS APPOINTED

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>		<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER		PLANNING COMMISSION:	
Chief of Police	March, 2017	Thomas Bock, Chairman	March, 2018
		Naomi Johnson	March, 2018
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD		Claudio Veliz	March, 2019
Amy O'Neil, Vice Chairman	June, 2018	Tom Hildreth	March, 2017
Carla Westine, Chairman	June, 2018	Randall Wiggin	March, 2017
Don Robinson (Deceased)	June, 2018		
Harry Goodell	June, 2019	POUND KEEPER:	
Philip Perlah	June, 2019	Chief of Police, Richard Cloud	March, 2017
Ken Barrett, Alternate	June, 2018		
Mark Curran, Alternate	June, 2018	REGIONAL PLANNING REP:	
Frank Bidwell, Alternate	June, 2019	Thomas Bock	March, 2017
		Derek Suursoo alternate	March, 2017
CEMETERY SEXTON			
Jeffrey Sheldon	March, 2017	ROAD COMMISSIONER:	
		Town Manager, David Pisha	March, 2017
CLERK TO SELECTMEN			
Arunas "Arne" Jonynas	March, 2017	SECRETARY TO SELECTMEN:	
		Julie Hance	March, 2017
CONNECTICUT RIVER TRANSIT AUTHORITY		BOARD OF WASTEWATER DISPOSAL Board of Selectmen	
SENIOR SOLUTIONS - COUNCIL ON AGING		SOLID WASTE DISTRICT REP:	
Linda Stowell	March, 2017	Derek Suursoo	March, 2017
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		TOWN MANAGER:	
Town Manager, David Pisha	March, 2017	David Pisha	August, 2018
FENCE VIEWERS:		TOWN SERVICE OFFICER:	
Frank E. Balch	March, 2017	David Pisha	March, 2017
J. Leon Spaulding	March, 2017		
Tony Weinberger	March, 2017	TRANSPORT. ADVISORY COUNCIL REP.	
		Arne Jonynas	March, 2017
FIRE WARDEN:		TREE WARDEN:	
Jeffrey Holden	June, 2019	Joseph Epler	March, 2017
FIRST CONSTABLE:		WATER COMMISSIONERS:	
Jeffrey Holden	March, 2017	Board of Selectmen	
GREEN UP DAY CHAIRMAN		WEIGHER OF COAL	
Frank Kelley	March, 2017	Tony Weinberger	March, 2017
INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES AND WOOD AND WOOD		ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	
Tony Weinberger	March, 2017	Michael Normyle	March, 2017

APPOINTED BY TOWN MANAGER

Police Chief - Richard H. Cloud
Fire Chief - Matthew S. Wilson
Ambulance Coordinator - Daniel J. Cook
Public Works Director - Graham D. Kennedy
Water/Sewer Superintendent - Jeffery C. Holden
Recreation Director - Matthew McCarthy

APPOINTED BY STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Health Officer - Leslie Thorsen (term expires: 03-16)

ELECTED BY DIRECTORS OF TWO RIVERS SUPERVISORY UNION

Superintendent of Schools - A. Bruce Williams

OFFICERS' SALARIES

	2015	2016
TOWN MANAGER		
David Pisha	\$ 76,180.29	\$ 78,838.32
TOWN CLERK		
Deborah J. Aldrich	\$ 48,192.28	\$ 49,638.12
TOWN TREASURER		
Deborah J. Aldrich	\$ 2,997.17	\$ 3,087.26
SELECTMEN		
Tom Bock, Vice Chairman	\$ 1,100.00	\$
Heather Chase	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,500.00
John DeBenedetti, Chairman	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,500.00
Arunas "Arne" Jonynas	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,500.00
William Lindsay	\$ 1,100.00	\$
Dan Cote		\$
Ben Whalen		\$ 1,500.00
LISTERS		
Wanda C. Purdy	\$ 11,113.13	\$ 13,260.90
Deborah Trent	\$ 3,783.77	\$
Carol Balch	\$ 205.00	\$
Barry Fowler	\$ 770.00	\$
Sarah Purdy		\$ 5,180.00
AUDITORS		
John H. (Jack) Cable	\$ 1,205.22	\$ 568.50
Phyllis A. Jewett	\$ 1,171.11	\$ 443.43
E. W. Spaulding	\$ 1,259.23	\$ 545.76
HEALTH OFFICER		
Leslie Thorsen	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00

Report of the Select Board

The past year once again proved a productive one for the Town. The long awaited Water Project construction started with the installation of new water mains along Route 103 south of Route 11, as well as along Breezy Lane. As of this writing, the Town is in the process of finalizing approval from the Act 250 review for the new Water Tank and transmission lines to connect to the water system. The successful completion of the entire water project will enhance the safety, reliability, and sustainability of our water system for years to come, and continue to provide part of a viable infrastructure to support economic growth opportunities in the Town.

On an exciting and happy note, The Town celebrated it's 250 year birthday in 2016. A committee of dedicated citizens planned, fund raised, advertised, and "made happen" a Town-wide celebration that went on over several days. Events included barbeques, games, music, and tours of the Town. Thanks to all who made this event a success.

The Town received a substantial grant to review a Master Plan for the Village Center, as well as surrounding areas. SE Group, from Burlington Vermont, was hired to analyze and guide a program to enhance the economy, culture and presence of the Town. Several citizens volunteered for appointment to an official committee to assist in this process. With guidance from the SE Group, this committee will help gather and coordinate information from multiple workshops that will ultimately be analyzed and used to create a new Master Plan for the Town.

The Bonding programs established in the last year's budget have facilitated purchases of much needed equipment, as well as the start of a comprehensive paving plan for our roads. Thanks to efforts of our Town Manager, David Pisha, and his interaction with the Vermont Bond Bank, the Town now has a program to address both the equipment and paving while easing the tax burden over a number of years.

As in the past, the Board continues to review policies established for the Town. This past year, a Conflict of Interest policy was developed for all elected and appointed officials, and the Cemetery Policy was reviewed and amended. In the future, a Funds Balance Policy, as recommended by the outside auditor will be established. In addition, the current Purchasing Policy, as well as the Personnel Policy will also be reviewed.

Construction of the new communications tower by VELCO (Vermont Electric Company) has started adjacent to the site of the current tower at the Pinnacle. Once completed, the Town will have not only better communication facilities, but the ability to keep the current rentals already in place, and allow additional users on the tower, yielding potential additional revenues. Once the new tower is completed, the old tower will be removed as part of this project.

In closing, the Board once again would like to thank the Planning Board and the Development Review Board for all their hard work. We would also like to thank all the elected and appointed officials, and our dedicated police, fire and ambulance workers who serve the Town. And finally, thank all the Town employees for their continued hard work and dedication.

John DeBenedetti, Chairman
Arne Jonynas
Ben Whelan
Dan Cote
Heather Chase

MANAGER'S REPORT FOR 2016

I usually like to update the citizens on the projects the Town and its employees have completed as part of my report. This year is no exception; and there is a long list of what has been accomplished.

The recreational opportunities have been expanded at the Pinnacle. Due to Gary King recommending we investigate opening a disc golf course, one has been established. It has proven popular since it opened and draws players from throughout the area.

A new ice rink was also constructed at the Pinnacle. Its large size has made it an ideal site for families to enjoy skating or a game of hockey. I want to thank Darin Bradley and his father for their considerable help in the rink's construction and maintenance.

The swimming pool is in the midst of a major upgrade. A new liner was installed and a new vinyl deck has been added as well. Leaking pipes were fixed under the diving board. In the coming year, new pumps will be installed. These upgrades mean the pool will be an important asset for years to come.

The first phase of the multi-million dollar water project was finished. Over 3,000 feet of new mainline was installed. This should greatly reduce leakage while bringing the department up to a great level of efficiency.

In the coming year, a new water tank and connecting link to the main line should be finished. This means all the Town's fire hydrants will move up to a higher standard of service. Water pressure throughout the system will be better since water will be supplied from two directions at once; water will be supplied from the current tank and the new one that will be built.

Paving work completed with bond proceeds includes Popple Dungeon and High Street. Savings in the Public Works department also allowed for paving in the Mountain View neighborhood. I urge you to read the Public Works section in this report. It includes pictures of the work Town employees did this past summer. Not only is it very impressive, but their skill saved Chester residents thousands of dollars.

This year a large culvert on Popple Dungeon will be replaced and bank stabilization work will commence along a stretch of Rte. 35 with proceeds from the bond that is being proposed in this year's budget. Even with the additional bond, the amount of money being transferred into the Capital & Bond plans remains unchanged and will therefore have no effect on the tax rate this year.

A new ambulance employee was hired full time and a cooperative agreement is being put into place with Ludlow. This agreement allows for Chester to have a greater availability of personnel since Ludlow and Chester supplement each other's staff as needed.

The Selectboard also approved making a part-time position at Town Hall into a full-time one. The workload justified the move. In fact, this change just returned the office staff to the level it was five years ago.

I would also encourage you to read the Police report. There have been two new officers hired in the past year. They replace individuals that have left for other opportunities.

Both the General Fund and Public Works ended the year with a surplus which in turn has helped keep the tax increase to approximately 1%; a mild winter was especially helpful to the Public Works budget.

As always, I want to thank the staff for their tremendous initiative they bring to their work. Chester is a great town, in part, because of their dedication.

David Pisha

Chester Town Manager

Chester, VT 250th Report (1766 – 2016)

The town of Chester celebrated its' 250th anniversary in 2016. A talented, dedicated group of people and businesses came together to organize a four-day celebration of our community in July, 2016. A quick summary of events:

Presentation on the history of the railroad in Chester.

Presentation on Astronomy at the time of the settling of Chester.

Performance by Gypsy Reel – a local band with music from Americana, Ireland and Scotland on the green.

Chester churches opened for visitors with an interest in architecture and church history.

Chester's Public Tomb and newly-restored Hearse House opened for visitors.

Activities at the Pinnacle Recreation Area- Games and children's activities, dedication of Chester Disc Golf Course. Rotary BBQ.

Activities at the Chester Festival Fairgrounds on Rt. 103 South – BBQ, Vintage snowmobiles, motorcycles, chain saws, tractors, and more. Fireworks at dusk.

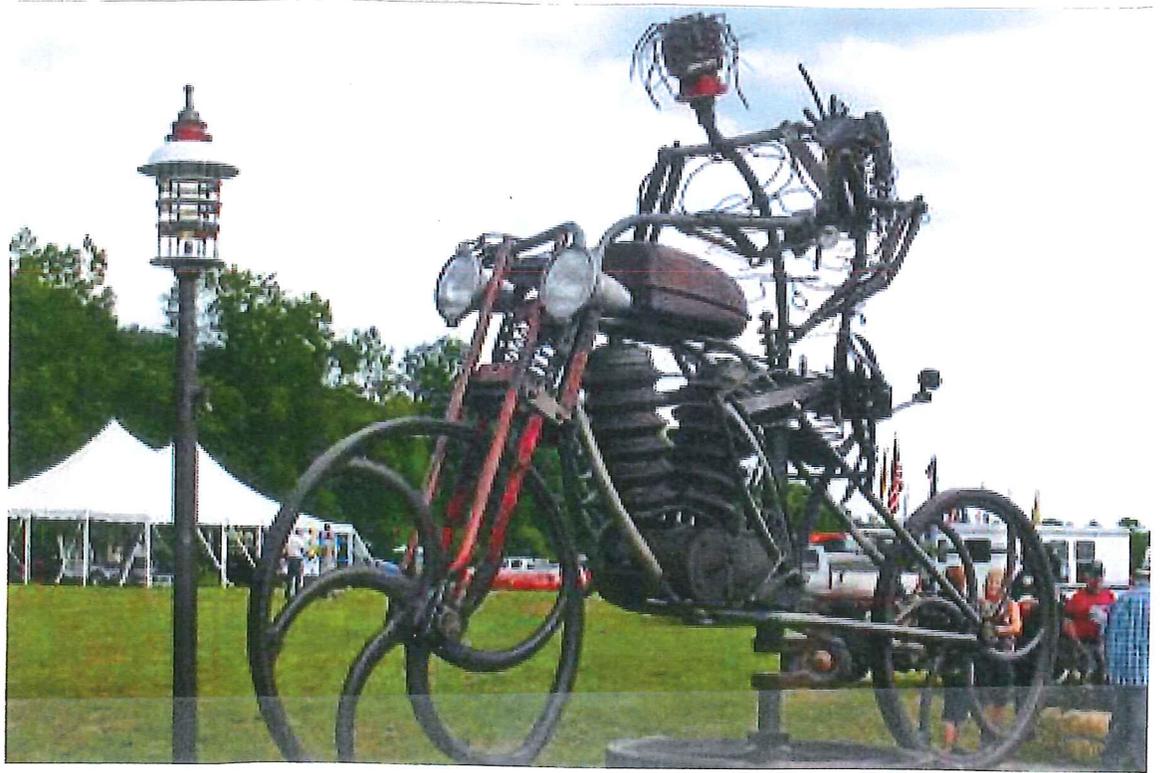
Activities at the Railroad Station in Chester Depot. - Dedication of state historical marker and train rides.

Activities in the Stone Village - GMUHS students present the origins of the masons in the Stone Village and their building techniques. Tours were conducted as well.

Activities by the Chester Historical Society – Tour of the Historical Society and a tour of Brookside cemetery that included graves of Chester's early settlers and Revolutionary War participants.

It was truly a pleasure to see over 5,000 residents and visitors learn about our history, share great food, music, games and fireworks; see old friends, meet new ones, and just appreciate the beauty of our great little town. So, on behalf of the entire Chester VT 250th Planning Committee, we want to say "thank you" to all who made our historical celebration something special to remember.

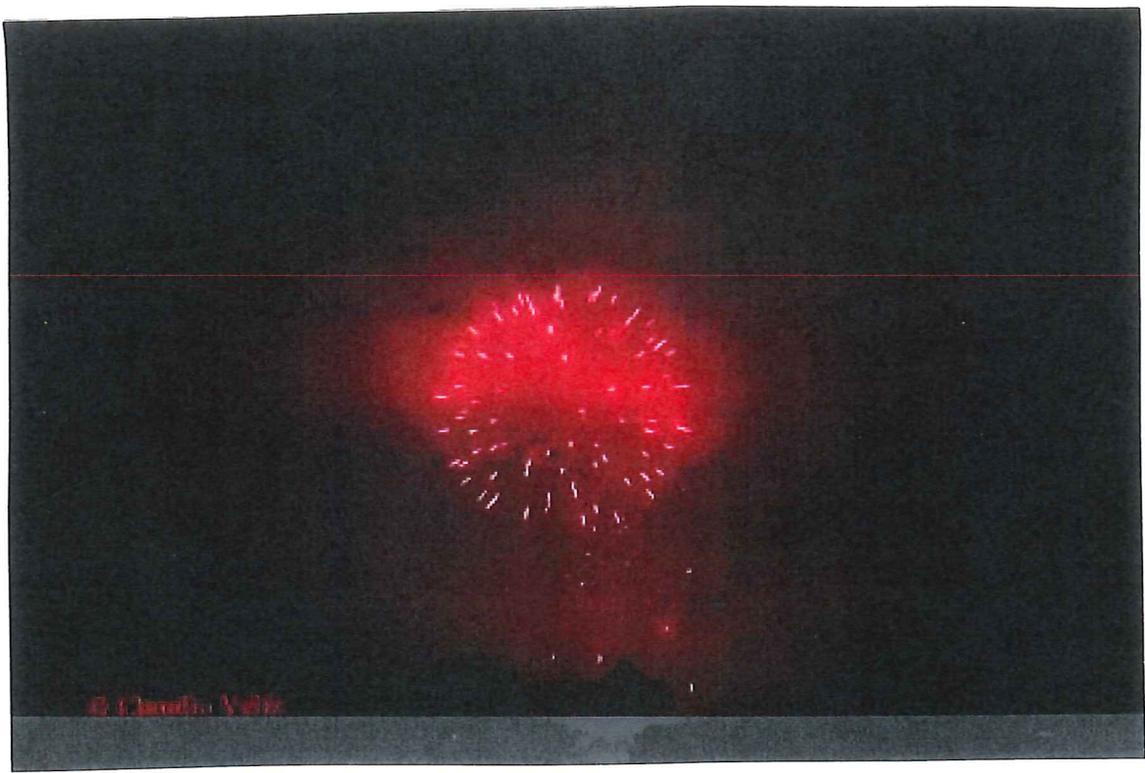




Statute at Festival Grounds

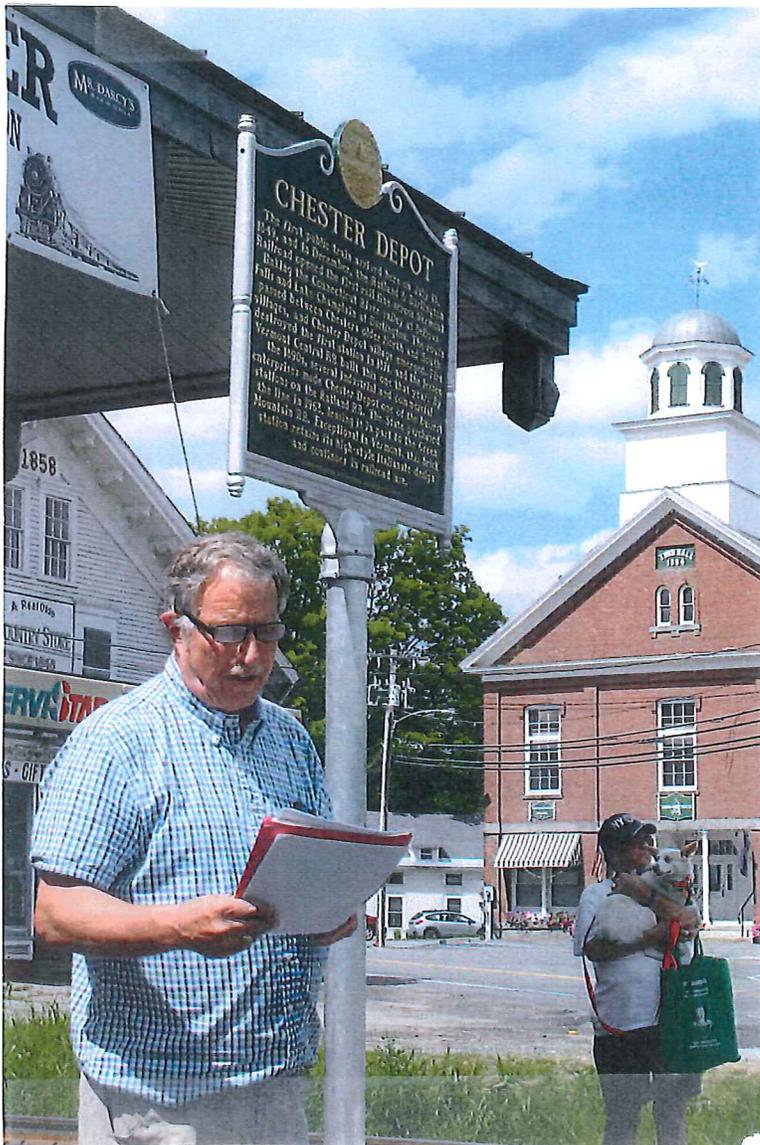


Frank's Strong Men



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CHESTER DEPOT HISTORIC MARKER

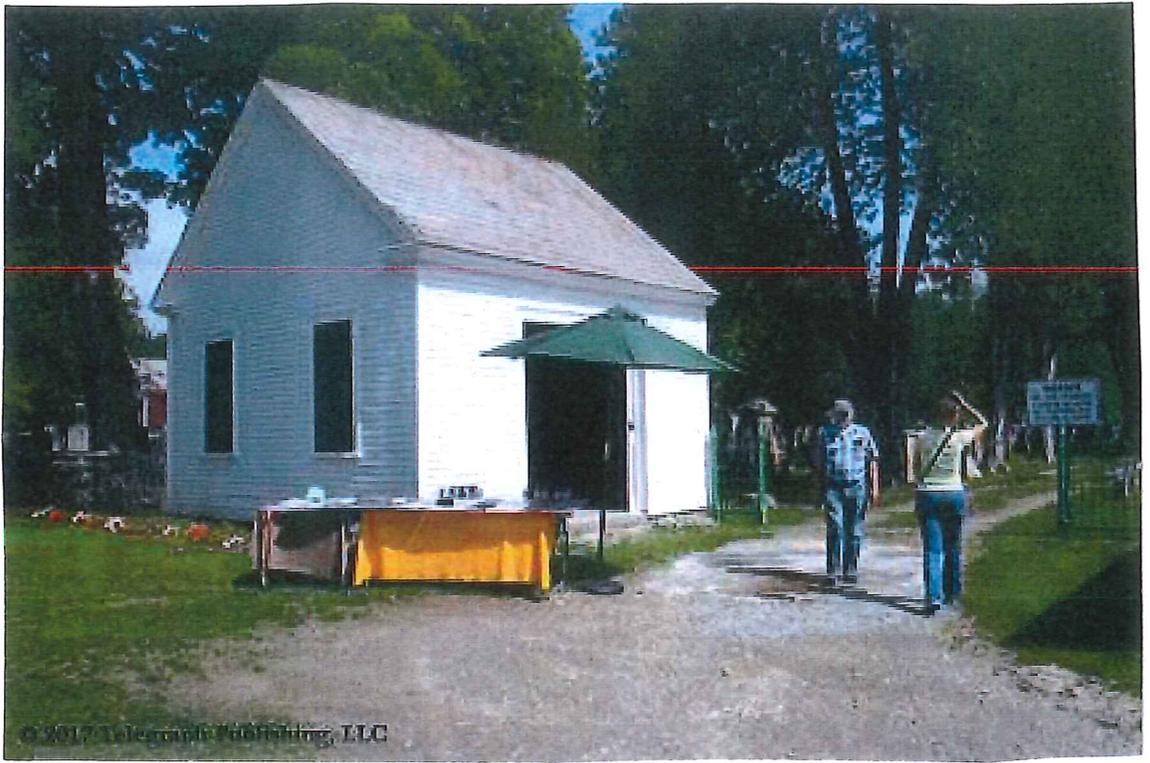


PARTY
AT THE
PINNACLE





OLD
FASHIONED
SACK
RACE



Hearse House



TRAIN DEPOT

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PLAN

Revenues	2017	2018	2019	2020
Beginning Balance	\$103,565.02	\$84,493.96	\$162,848.52	\$161,792.53
General Fund Transfer In	\$318,107.67	\$330,000.00	\$222,271.45	\$180,448.75
Public Works Transfer In	\$49,553.16	\$52,878.56	\$52,696.56	\$51,962.95
Interest	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Library Trustees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grant Fund Contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Andover Contribution	\$485.00	\$485.00	\$485.00	\$485.00
Total Funds	\$471,760.85	\$467,907.52	\$438,351.53	\$394,739.23

Expenditures	2017	2018	2019	2020
Public Works	\$125,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$135,000.00	\$160,000.00
Other Public Works	\$124,600.00	\$73,559.00	\$96,059.00	\$38,000.00
Sidewalks	\$54,166.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emergency Equip	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00
Police	\$45,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$0.00	\$52,000.00
Sewer Plant				
Recreation/Cemetery		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operating Facilities	\$20,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Historic Facilities			\$7,000.00	\$22,000.00
Total Expenses	\$387,266.89	\$305,059.00	\$276,559.00	\$310,500.00
Carry-Forward	\$84,493.96	\$162,848.52	\$161,792.53	\$84,239.23

* The sidewalk expense was approved in 2016 but will be spent in 2017

Purchases by Year of Acquisition and Type of Payment

Capital Plan				
Public Works	Dump Truck	Dump Truck	Dump Truck	Dump Truck
Other PW	Loader Lease \$49.6K Pick-Up Truck \$20K Excavator Loan 55K	Loader Lease 38K Excavator Loan 55K	Loader Lease 38K Pick-Up Truck \$22.5K Excavator Loan 55K	Loader Lease 38K <i>Backhoe</i>
Sidewalks	Sidewalks			
Emergency Equip	Air Paks	Air Paks	Air Paks	Air Paks
Police	Cruiser	Cruiser		Cruiser
Sewer Plant				
Recreation				
Current Facilities	Town Hall 20K	Library Renovation 20K Town Hall 15K	Library 20K	Ongoing Maintenance

CAPITAL AND BOND PLANS

The Bond Plan was new last year, and has been demonstrated, works much like the Capital Plan which has been used successfully for years. The Capital Plan takes a long-term look into the future and schedules large equipment and other infrastructure projects, like sidewalks, during each year. Costs are projected so surprises are minimized.

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
\$84,239.23	\$74,102.00	\$57,819.46	\$9,690.33	\$76,880.51	\$67,153.44
\$180,866.61	\$189,559.13	\$172,618.94	\$296,932.50	\$298,087.50	\$300,000.00
\$95,961.16	\$51,123.33	\$50,216.93	\$49,222.68	\$48,150.43	\$0.00
\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$485.00	\$485.00	\$485.00	\$485.00	\$485.00	\$485.00
\$361,602.00	\$315,319.46	\$281,190.33	\$356,380.51	\$423,653.44	\$367,688.44

\$145,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$155,000.00	\$170,000.00	\$160,000.00	\$165,000.00
\$38,000.00		\$65,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00
\$54,000.00	\$56,000.00	\$0.00	\$58,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$62,000.00
				\$85,000.00	\$85,000.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
\$12,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
\$287,500.00	\$257,500.00	\$271,500.00	\$279,500.00	\$356,500.00	\$363,500.00
\$74,102.00	\$57,819.46	\$9,690.33	\$76,880.51	\$67,153.44	\$4,188.44

Dump Truck					
Loader Lease 38K					
Air Paks					
Cruiser	Cruiser		Cruiser	Cruiser	Cruiser
				Plant Upgrade	Plant Upgrade
Ongoing Maintenance					

Most items are purchased for cash, however there are some exceptions when a particular purchase is so large, it would have an effect on the tax rate. In that case, the item has been leased or a loan has been taken out over a three year period. Loan and lease payments has been included in the Capital Plan.

The Bond Plan is similar to the Capital Plan in that it also looks into the future and schedules various projects and equipment for purchase. The Bond Plan is used for larger purchases. The Town has the option of delaying the repayment of principal for up to three years. It can also choose the number of years the bond is issued. These two features allows the repayments to be smoothed out so the tax rate is not unduly affected in any given year.

BOND PLAN

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Revenues				
General Fund Transfer	\$11,892.33	\$0.00	\$122,728.55	\$169,551.25
Public Works Transfer	\$50,120.39	\$54,805.00	\$74,696.56	\$73,962.95
Sewer Transfer	\$1,751.31	\$10,231.70	\$21,478.05	\$21,165.32
Water Transfer	\$1,103.32	\$13,703.32	\$13,531.18	\$13,334.14
Total Revenues	\$64,867.35	\$78,740.02	\$232,434.34	\$278,013.66
Expenses				
Bond Bank Series 1	\$10,870.90	\$10,771.08	\$129,588.84	\$126,091.71
Bond Bank Series 2	\$953.98	\$3,239.92	\$38,298.48	\$38,108.54
Fire Dept Pumper	\$3,489.31	\$11,850.46	\$11,850.46	\$61,850.46
Bond Bank Paving	\$48,092.37	\$47,917.40	\$47,735.40	\$47,001.79
Route 35/Popple Dungeon	\$1,460.79	\$4,961.16	\$4,961.16	\$4,961.16
Total Expenses	\$64,867.35	\$78,740.02	\$232,434.34	\$278,013.66
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Bond Amount	Bond Bank		Interest	Interest
\$269,900.00	Bond Bank Series 1			
\$500,000.00	Fire Pumper Bond			Interest
\$220,000.00	Paving/Bridges 1		1st Payment	2nd Payment
\$235,000.00	Popple Dun/ Rte 35		Interest	Interest

SERIES 1		Series 2 Bond	Capital Plan	
Recreation	Pool & Pumps	\$25,000.00		
Fire	Air Paks	\$3,490.00	\$18,500.00	Annual Upgrade
Highway	Dump Truck		\$125,000.00	Trade-in Rotation Cycle
	Excavator		\$55,000.00	First Payment
	Loader Lease		\$49,600.00	Regular Payment
	Pick-Up Truck		\$20,000.00	Trade-in Rotation Cycle
	Tractor/Leaf Blower	\$110,000.00		
	Library Renovation		\$20,000.00	Payment
Police	Cruiser		\$45,000.00	Trade-in Rotation Cycle
Sewer				
Town Hall	Ramp	\$50,000.00		
Water				
		\$188,490.00	\$333,100.00	

The individual items and projects to be either purchased outright or acquired by the use of loans and leases are shown under the Capital Plan financial chart. The items to be purchased with bond proceeds are shown under the Bond Plan. This year there is no increase in the transfer going into the combined plans from the previous year.

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
\$169,133.39	\$165,440.87	\$182,381.06	\$58,067.50	\$56,912.50	\$55,671.34
\$117,961.16	\$73,123.33	\$72,216.93	\$49,222.68	\$48,150.43	\$0.00
\$20,813.00	\$20,423.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$13,112.20	\$12,866.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$321,019.75	\$271,853.83	\$254,597.99	\$107,290.18	\$105,062.93	\$55,671.34
\$126,157.90	\$122,998.05	\$107,926.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$37,873.99	\$37,609.75	\$37,317.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$61,026.70	\$60,122.70	\$59,137.40	\$58,067.08	\$56,911.80	\$55,671.34
\$44,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$51,961.16	\$51,123.33	\$50,216.93	\$49,222.68	\$48,150.43	\$0.00
\$321,019.75	\$271,853.83	\$254,597.99	\$107,289.76	\$105,062.23	\$55,671.34
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.42	\$0.70	\$0.00

1st Payment	2nd Payment	3rd Payment	4th Payment	5th Payment	
Interest	Interest	1st Payment	2nd Payment	3rd Payment	4th Payment
3rd Payment	4th Payment	5th Payment	2nd Payment	3rd Payment	4th Payment
Interest	Interest	1st Payment	2nd Payment	3rd Payment	4th Payment

How is that possible, you may well ask? While the plans are separate, they are still coordinated. In past years, the Town transferred \$330,000 into the Capital Plan. Now that a Bond Plan has been added, this same amount is allocated between BOTH plans. There is NOT additional money raised from taxes to fund the Bond Plan.

The Water & Sewer departments and Public Works also transfer money into the Bond Plan. The amounts they transfer is equal to each department's share of the overall cost of the items they have requested.

Use of the Bond Plan further helps smooth out the cash-flow. The president of the Vermont Bond Bank has said he wished more Vermont towns would take advantage of this type of financing. He cautioned they should only do it if they have a long-term plan for the use of the money and how it will be paid back. I believe that Chester's Capital Plan and Bond Plan both fit his vision for their use.

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
DECEMBER 30, 2016**

General Fund

REVENUES

Taxes	\$7,604,074.40
Licenses/Fees	\$12,415.09
General Government	\$43,278.41
Public Safety	\$197,189.34
Public Works	\$371,945.65
Culture & Recreation	\$28,881.73
Other Income	\$108,646.92
TOTAL REVENUES	\$8,366,431.54

EXPENDITURES

Selectmen/Manager	\$87,895.93
Administration	\$299,566.75
Listers	\$23,614.75
Taxes	\$12,224.93
Planning	\$35,264.79
Insurance	\$736,860.28
Police	\$464,853.21
Fire	\$134,015.64
Ambulance	\$124,041.43
Communications	\$31,653.30
Highway	\$929,400.85
Solid Waste	\$25,125.00
Health & Welfare	\$1,000.00
Recreation Programs	\$63,307.01
Parks & Cemeteries	\$51,160.50
Library	\$94,283.33
Town Hall	\$31,286.53
Academy Building	\$4,392.70
Recreation Facilities	\$35,941.88
Capital Expenditures	\$330,000.00
County Tax	\$28,440.94
Voted Articles	\$41,590.00
CTSD Assessment	\$4,499,989.79
Grant Fund Transfer	\$38,490.13
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,124,399.67

Excess of Revenues over Expenses	\$242,031.87
Public Works Surplus	(\$129,794.00)

General Fund Surplus	\$112,237.87
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BUDGET SUMMARY**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Revenues		
2016	2017	
\$252,250.00	\$306,900.00	
Expenses		
\$1,160,776.50	\$1,310,847.50	
Net		
<u>(\$908,526.50)</u>	<u>(\$1,003,947.50)</u>	

PUBLIC SAFETY

Revenues		
2016	2017	
\$178,600.00	\$172,600.00	
Expenses		
\$760,265.00	\$798,365.00	
Net		
<u>(\$581,665.00)</u>	<u>(\$625,765.00)</u>	

PUBLIC WORKS

Revenues		
2016	2017	
\$378,301.00	\$379,532.00	
Expenses		
\$1,088,800.00	\$1,119,840.78	
Net		
(710,499.00)	(740,308.78)	

CAPITAL & TRANSFERS

Revenues		
2016	2017	
\$0.00	\$0.00	
Expenses		
\$330,000.00	\$330,000.00	
Net		
(\$330,000.00)	(\$330,000.00)	

CULTURE & RECREATION

Revenues		
2016	2017	
\$30,980.00	\$28,395.00	
Expenses		
\$287,587.40	\$296,663.20	
Net		
<u>(\$256,607.40)</u>	<u>(\$268,268.20)</u>	

GRANTS

Revenues		
2016	2017	
\$0.00	\$0.00	
Expenses		
\$35,000.00	\$46,675.00	
Net		
(\$35,000.00)	(\$46,675.00)	

HEALTH, OTHER & VOTED ARTICLES

Revenues		
2016	2017	
\$2,200.00	\$62,500.00	
Expenses		
\$39,900.00	\$38,801.00	
Net		
(\$37,700.00)	\$23,699.00	

SUMMARY OF CONTINUING OPERATIONS

Revenues		
2016	2017	
\$842,331.00	\$949,927.00	
Expenditures		
\$3,702,328.90	\$3,941,192.48	
Surplus/Deficit		
\$13,472.23	\$114,763.37	
Pre Surplus Total		
(\$2,859,997.90)	(\$2,991,265.48)	
To Be Collected		
(\$2,846,525.67)	(\$2,876,502.11)	1.05%
Difference		
\$12,252.15	\$29,976.44	

TOWN CLERK/TREASURER'S OFFICE REPORT

The Town Clerk/Treasurer's Office had another busy year in 2016. We made significant progress with the project of putting our land records into our computerized record system and will continue with this in 2017. We also will be continuing with putting cemetery records, and birth, death and marriage records into our computerized records system. Other projects for 2017 will include organization and cataloging documents in the basement and creating, organizing and cataloging a map room, on the Second Floor of Town Hall.

In 2017, the Treasurer's office will be making a change in their accounting software. We will be switching from Quickbooks to the NEMRC Fund Accounting Software. While this change will be cumbersome at the beginning, the switch will create huge amounts of efficiency thereby saving staff considerable amounts of time.

The 2017 budget sets forth the creation of a full time position for the Town Clerk's Office. This involves the current part time position being converted to full time. This is necessary for many reasons. First, eight years ago there were 3.5 employees (3 full time, 1 part time) working in the front office. As of this date there are 1 ½ employees dedicated to the front office. The Bookkeeper and the Executive Assistant to the Town Manager fill in when needed. However, they are very busy in their own duties. There are many things to get accomplished in the Town Clerk's office over the coming years. Converting this position to full time not only helps provide coverage for the front office, but it will provide support to get these projects completed. This position is needed in order to continue providing quality service to the residents of Chester.

This year with our restoration money we had several books restored: 1800's Land Records Index, Mortgage Book Volume 3, Mortgage Book Volume 4 and Town Records (Marriages) Book D.

Last year, Secretary of State Jim Condos announced the launch of VT's new Elections Management Platform. This streamlined the elections administration process, providing voters with greater access to voter specific information. Over 25,000 Vermonters registered to vote online in 2016. For the November General Election, nearly 6,500 Vermonters requested an absentee ballot through the My Voter Page.

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- Check registration status;
- View information on upcoming elections;
- Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours;
- View a sample ballot;
- Request and track an absentee ballot;
- and much more.

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page to learn more.

Registered Voters can log in at: <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>

Online registration can be found at: <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>

All dogs must be registered by April 1, 2017. The costs are as follows: Neutered/Spayed = \$9.00, Non Neutered/Spayed = \$13.00. After April 1: Neutered/Spayed = \$11.00, Non Neutered/Spayed = \$17.00. There will be a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, March 11, 2017, from 10:30 to 12:00, at the Chester Highway Garage. Dog licenses will be available at the Rabies Clinic.

Some of the things that are available at the Town Clerk's Office are: Dog Licenses, which are due by April 1st, Motor Vehicle Renewals, accompanied by the renewal form that you receive from the State and we can do the current month and two previous months, Fish & Game Licenses, which are now computerized, Springfield Recycling Center tickets, Civil Marriage Licenses and Voter Registration. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. However, staff is available outside of these hours if prior arrangements are made.

Property taxes will be due September 15, 2017 and Water/Sewer billing is done quarterly.

If you have any questions please give us a call at the Town Office. (875-2173)

I would like to thank our Office Staff, Amie O'Brien, Assistant Town Clerk; Cil Mathews, Bookkeeper; Julie Hance, Executive Assistant and David Pisha, Town Manager, Highway and Water/Sewer Departments, Police Department and Fire and Ambulance Services and the citizens of Chester for your dedication and hard work to the Town of Chester.

Deborah J. Aldrich, Town Clerk/Treasurer

LISTER'S REPORT

IT HAS BEEN A QUIET YEAR FOR THE LISTERS. WE ADDED A COUPLE OF NEW HOUSES, SEVERAL DECKS AND PORCHES, THE NEW DOLLAR GENERAL STORE, THE NEW JIFFY MART BUILDING AND A NEW SOLAR FARM. WE NOW HAVE 3 LARGE COMMERCIAL AND ONE SMALL PRIVATE SOLAR FARMS.

THE TOWN OF CHESTER WAS SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE A LETTER FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT TELLING US THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO DO A TOWN WIDE REAPPRAISAL. WE STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED A LETTER, AS YET, THIS YEAR SO WE EXPECT WE WILL RECEIVE ONE IN 2017 IF OUR PERCENTAGES OF MARKET DO NOT CHANGE OR GET WORSE.

THE STATE HAS CHANGED THE RULES ON HOW THE LISTERS FIGURE CURRENT USE EXCLUDED LAND AND MARKET VALUE OF WITHDRAWN LAND. THIS HAD AN IMPACT ON SEVERAL PROPERTY OWNERS THIS YEAR ALONG WITH EXTRA TIME THE LISTERS HAD TO SPEND REFIGURING A LOT OF THE ALLOCATIONS.

THE LISTERS WILL HAVE TWO OPENINGS THIS YEAR. ANYONE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR THESE POSITIONS CAN COME INTO THE OFFICE AND SEE WHAT THE JOB ENTAILS. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SIT DOWN WITH YOU AND EXPLAIN HOW THIS OFFICE WORKS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

WANDA C PURDY, CHAIRMAN

SARAH E PURDY

Zoning Department

The Zoning Administrator's (ZA) position remains a part time role here in Chester, with office hours on Tuesday from 8am – 5pm. I am often available other times of the week by appointment, and the Ladies in the Town Hall know how to contact me as needed. The ZA has a very unique role working with the applicants, the Development Review Board and the Planning Commission.

As a reminder, all public hearings are open to the public. It was good to see new faces come to a few of these public hearings, and we encourage more attendance. Hopefully this will confirm that there are checks and balances in place to ensure the public's welfare is being considered and balanced against development.

As our Grandmothers told us, when in doubt be sure to ask. This office is here to assist in the process, and we will work with you to correct or confirm assumptions and dispel the rumors about what and what does not need a permit.

The Proposed Amendments to the Unified Development By-Laws (UDBs) have been a topic of numerous public meetings. It was good to see viewpoints expressed by many citizens and we encourage MORE involvement moving forward.

Coordination with the Planning Commission as they work on the new Town Plan This has been a very interesting process, and we once again encourage more of *your input!* You cannot sit back and complain if you do not get involved, ask questions and have a better understanding of at least some of the keys factors involved.

A few quick notes on the activity in 2016 There were 44 building permits, including 3 new homes. In addition there was 1 boundary line adjustment and 5 conditional use applications.

Enforcement The Select board and Town Manager have fully supported these efforts, and this office has spent more time this year reviewing properties and documenting good and bad examples of sign, lights setback conditions, etc. The process has been slower than expected, yet I want to assure you that we are working on violations.

The agendas for upcoming meetings, along with the Development Review Board decisions are being posted on the new Chester web site for your information. You may also review the current Unified Development By-Laws via the new www.chestervt.gov. In my absence from the office, the various forms may be picked up Monday through Friday from 8am -4pm.

Thank you,

Michael Normyle
Chester Zoning Administrator
875-2173 · mnormyle@vermontel.net

GENERAL GOVERNMENT**REVENUES**

Taxes		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1-318-01	Railroad Taxes	\$1,900.00	\$1,105.64	\$1,900.00	\$1,200.00
1-318-02	Tax Sale Redemption	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-318-03	Land Use	\$135,000.00	\$151,587.00	\$135,000.00	\$155,000.00
1-318-06	Pilot Program	\$2,500.00	\$9,587.57	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
1-319-02	Penalties/Interest	\$70,000.00	\$112,565.43	\$70,000.00	\$95,000.00
		\$209,400.00	\$274,845.64	\$209,400.00	\$256,200.00
Licenses, Permits & Fees					
1-321-01	Liquor Licenses	\$1,300.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
1-321-03	Fish & Game	\$250.00	\$133.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
1-321-04	Dog Lic	\$1,500.00	\$1,191.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
1-321-05	Other Lic	\$1,850.00	\$1,536.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00
1-321-06	Rabies	\$1,300.00	\$1,370.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
1-321-07	Motor Vehicle	\$500.00	\$293.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
		\$6,700.00	\$5,723.00	\$6,700.00	\$6,700.00
Planning & Zoning					
1-321-02	Permits	\$5,000.00	\$6,692.09	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
General Government					
1-341-11	Recording Fees	\$25,000.00	\$28,749.08	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
1-341-12	Admin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-341-17	911 House Numbers	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
1-341-19	Misc.	\$700.00	\$2.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
1-341-41	Tax Sale	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
1-341-51	Interest	\$1,000.00	\$725.70	\$1,000.00	\$650.00
1-341-53	Interest	\$0.00	\$1,401.63	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
1-341-61	Audit	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
01-341-70	Solar Field Rent	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
01-341-73	Payroll Reimb	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$31,150.00	\$45,278.41	\$31,150.00	\$38,000.00
Total General Gov		\$252,250.00	\$332,539.14	\$252,250.00	\$306,900.00

General Government 2016 (Continued)

Listers

	2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-416-10 Salary	\$25,500.00	\$18,186.49	\$25,500.00	\$25,500.00
01-416-21 General Expenses	\$7,000.00	\$4,387.40	\$7,500.00	\$8,000.00
01-416-22 Training	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
01-416-23 Equipment	\$100.00	\$18.79	\$100.00	\$100.00
01-416-74 Travel	\$2,000.00	\$752.07	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
01-416-75 State Training	\$0.00	\$270.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$36,100.00	\$23,614.75	\$37,100.00	\$37,600.00

Taxes

	2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-417-20 Tax Billing	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-417-21 General Expenses	\$0.00	\$575.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-417-22 Abtment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-417-24 State Appeals	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
01-417-30 Tax Sale Service	\$500.00	\$379.11	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-417-33 Advertising	\$2,500.00	\$11,270.82	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
01-417-56 Legal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$6,500.00	\$12,224.93	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00

Planning & Zoning

	2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-418-10 Salary	\$12,500.00	\$14,821.26	\$13,500.00	\$21,400.00
DRB Salaries	\$2,600.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
01-418-21 Notices	\$2,500.00	\$1,512.18	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00
01-418-22 Grant Funding	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-418-23 Enforcement	\$5,000.00	\$494.14	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
01-418-38 Town Plan/Zoning	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$3,000.00
01-418-56 Legal	\$6,000.00	\$11,665.71	\$6,000.00	\$10,000.00
01-418-62 Printing	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
01-418-64 Training	\$500.00	\$240.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-416.65 Computer	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-418.66 Regional Planning Dues	\$3,942.50	\$3,942.50	\$3,942.50	\$3,942.50
01-418.95 Economic Development	\$0.00	\$589.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
	\$34,142.50	\$35,264.79	\$38,642.50	\$43,542.50

Insurance & Deductions

	2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1-419-15 Social Security	\$108,500.00	\$108,590.90	\$108,500.00	\$108,500.00
1-419-16 Unemployment	\$2,600.00	\$839.98	\$2,700.00	\$2,600.00
1-419-17 Workers Comp	\$47,500.00	\$92,454.31	\$76,000.00	\$120,000.00
1-419-18 Medical	\$207,509.52	\$290,395.85	\$290,500.00	\$266,500.00
1-419-19 Life	\$3,400.00	\$2,540.40	\$2,500.00	\$3,400.00
1-419-20 Retirement	\$60,000.00	\$68,161.70	\$65,000.00	\$60,000.00
1-419-50 Property/Casualty	\$78,915.00	\$93,445.00	\$85,000.00	\$95,000.00
1-419-52 Co-Insur	\$120,000.00	\$80,432.14	\$62,500.00	\$135,500.00
	\$628,424.52	\$736,860.28	\$692,700.00	\$791,500.00

Total General Government	\$1,055,612.02	\$1,199,820.11	\$1,160,776.50	\$1,310,847.50
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE – 2016

Officers of the Chester Police Department have worked diligently dealing with burglary issues in and around our community during 2016. Heavy saturation patrols on the back roads have reduced the burglaries.

STATISTICS

In 2016, Officers from the department responded to 1,298 calls for service. Arrests totaled 37 bookings of 37 offenders, who committed a total of 85 criminal offenses. These incidents involved 37 cases. Officers issued 435 Vermont Civil Violation Complaints and 329 Traffic Warnings.

This affects a decrease of 293 calls; a decrease of 69 arrests, an increase of 55 traffic violations and a decrease of 162 traffic warnings compared to prior year 2015. Officers investigated 112 traffic hazards and motor vehicle crashes of which 16 crashes involved injuries, 69 involved property damage and 27 involved traffic hazards. Investigations of 120 Suspicious Person/Circumstances and 15 Burglaries brought results to the area wide thefts.

TICKETS / TRAFFIC CONTROL

Of the 435 Vermont Civil Violation Complaints (VCVC) issued, 179 were speed related infractions. The 329 Written Traffic Warnings comprised of 161 speed related infractions, 49 conditions of vehicle warnings along with various warnings to include delinquent registration and inspections. The Community Oriented Radar Enforcement (C.O.R.E.) Program remains in effect having an increase from prior year. Of the 435 tickets issued, 21 were C.O.R.E.; of the 329 warnings issued, 6 were C.O.R.E. Staffing was a major factor for the overall decrease issuing traffic tickets. Revenue from the Judicial Bureau for paid VCVC tickets totaled \$16,583.00, an increase of \$1,595.50 from prior year 2015. The Department is now back up to full staff as of January 1, 2017.

Chester Officers continue to assist Okemo Mountain Resort with traffic control. Their efforts help the flow of traffic into and out of the area during the peak travel times on weekends, vacations and holidays during the ski season of December through March. This is a paid service by Okemo, based on a state mandated police officer traffic control.

TRAINING

Chester Police Officers are required to attend a minimum of 25-30 training hours annually. Their training included crash investigation, domestic violence, REID Technique of Interviewing & Interrogation, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, hazardous materials, active shooter response, firearms training, death scene investigations, and alcohol and drug enforcement. Officers received first-aid and AED-CPR refresher training and blood borne pathogen training.

STAFFING

Chester Police Department currently staffs five Full-Time Officers and three Part-Time Officers. Staffing changes occurred during 2016. The following officers have left employment with Chester Police Department: Part-Time Officer John S. Cenate; Full-Time Officer Caleb Currie and Full-Time Detective

Matthew Wilson. Police Department personnel and Town Office personnel wish them well in their future endeavors.



Photo at left is Detective Andrew Brothers

Detective Andrew Brothers joined the force in October 2016. Det. Brothers has substantial police background having previous employment with Ludlow Police Department, Springfield Police Department and Windham County Sheriff's Department. For those of you who recognize Det. Brothers.....YES, Andy was previously employed part-time with the Chester Police Department back in 2013.

Photo at right is Part-Time Officer Timothy Worth

Officer Timothy Worth joined Chester Police in September 2016. He filled the vacant part-time position. Ofc. Worth brings his policing experience from prior employment with the Windham County Sheriff's Department.



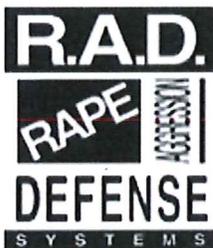
Photo at left is Officer Todd Mayer

Officer Todd Mayer filled the vacant 5th Full-Time Officer position January 2017. Ofc. Mayer came to Chester Police Department from Bellows Falls Police Department.

The remaining Officers employed at Chester Police Department are Chief Richard Cloud; Sergeant Mark Phelps; Officer Adam Woodell and Part-time Officers Jeffery Holden and Jillian Cenate.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Chester Police Department continues to manage a FaceBook Page. Look for us at ***Chester, VT Police Department*** and LIKE us to receive police updates and notifications about your community.



Chief Cloud orchestrated training for area residents back in April 2016. The R.A.D. (Rape/Aggression/Defense) certified training provides educational opportunities to create a safer future for participants. R.A.D. trainers' mission statement is "to challenge society to evolve into an existence where violence is not an acceptable part of daily life." Should another training class be organized, notification will be sent out through the Chester Police Facebook page and posted at the Town Hall. If interested, you may always contact the department for intended scheduling.

Chester Andover Elementary School (C.A.E.S.) 5th grade students participate in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) training provided by Chester Police Department. Students learn more than just drug prevention education; it teaches students good decision making skills to help them avoid high-risk behavior to ensure they grow up healthy, safe and secure. Chester Officers also accompany the C.A.E.S. students to a Dartmouth Hockey game each year.





Are you holding onto old medications? Don't forget there is a secure MedReturn drug collection unit located in the hallway just outside the Police Department in the Town Hall building. Unused and unwanted prescriptions may be deposited. Please note that there are restrictions. Not Allowed are needles, ointments, liquids, aerosols and inhalers. Please check with your physician for disposal of these restricted items.

GRANT FUNDING / DEPARTMENT UPGRADES

Chester Police Department had the opportunity to acquire a SAFRAN MorphoTrak thanks to its availability by the Vermont State Police. Chester Police Department needs only to maintain a lease agreement and maintenance for usage. This digital identity system now enables Chester Police personnel to process fingerprints and mug photos of offenders at time of their arrest and processing. It is the department's intention to process Civilian fingerprints in the future.



This is the MorphoTrak fingerprint machine.

As always, I welcome questions, comments or suggestions and look for feedback on how members of the Chester Police Department can improve the quality of life for the residents of Chester. Feel free to drop by and visit the police department during office hours.

Our efforts will not stop and we will continue working toward a safer community.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard H. Cloud
Chief of Police
Chester Police Department

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Emergency: 911
875-2233
Office: 8am – 4pm Mon-Fri.
875-2035

Public Safety Revenues & Expenses 2016

POLICE

Revenues

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-342-11	Court Fees	\$30,000.00	\$15,403.21	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00
01-342-12	Ski Payroll Reimbur	\$21,000.00	\$15,210.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
01-342-13	Other Payroll	\$0.00	\$33,782.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-342-15	Other	\$1,500.00	\$1,195.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
01-342-19	START	\$4,250.00	\$934.44	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00
	Total	\$56,750.00	\$66,525.15	\$52,500.00	\$41,500.00

Expenses

1-421-10	Payroll	\$345,000.00	\$333,794.23	\$340,000.00	\$346,500.00
1-421-11	Overtime	\$20,000.00	\$25,000.76	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
1-421-14a	2014 Storm	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-421-12	Ski Traffic	\$19,000.00	\$12,617.28	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
1-421-13	Traffic Control	\$0.00	\$20,807.42	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-421-15	CORE	\$5,000.00	\$736.35	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
1-421-16	SIU PR	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1-421-19	GHSP Payroll	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-421-2	Special Detail	\$0.00	\$219.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-421-20	Supplies	\$7,000.00	\$7,695.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
01-421-22	START Payroll	\$2,000.00	\$811.68	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
1-421-23	Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$8,739.30	\$8,000.00	\$17,500.00
1-421-24	DARE	\$750.00	\$1,315.15	\$750.00	\$1,200.00
1-421-25	Equipment Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-421-34	Telephone	\$5,000.00	\$4,135.14	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
1-421-36	Training	\$5,500.00	\$5,432.69	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
1-421-40	Police Asso	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
1-421-68	Vehicles	\$19,000.00	\$23,201.65	\$19,000.00	\$15,000.00
1-421-69	Gasoline	\$22,000.00	\$9,447.30	\$17,500.00	\$15,000.00
1-421-74	Travel	\$3,500.00	\$1,469.23	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
1-421-75	Uniforms	\$4,000.00	\$5,228.28	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
01-421-76	Attorney	\$1,500.00	\$967.30	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
01-421-77	MDC	\$3,000.00	\$2,919.95	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
01-421-78	Watch Guard	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
	Finger Print Machine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
	Totals	\$472,250.00	\$464,837.71	\$462,750.00	\$477,200.00

REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF

The Chester Fire Department responded to the following calls in 2016:

Structure Fires Chester	2	Swift Water/Flooding/Ice Rescues..	0
Structure Fires Andover	1	Snow / ATV Woods Rescue/Recov..	2
Structure Fires Mutual Aid	13	Landing Zones (DHART).....	0
Rekindle Fires	0	Missing/Lost Person	0
Room/Contents Fires	0	Public Services	5
Building Electrical Fires	0	Fireworks Detail	1
Chimney Fires	5	Fire Safety Education	2
Vehicle Fires	4	Storm Crews	0
Appliance Fires	1	Natural Disasters	5
Oven Fires	2	Power lines down	18
Oil/Wood/LP Burner Fires	0	Power Transformer Fires	2
Trash/Rubbish Fires	0	Assist CPD / VSP	4
Dumpster Fires	0	Medical Assist	2
Gas Grill Fires	0	Cover Assignment / Mutual Aid	4
Illegal Fires	9	Smoke Alarms	3
Forest/Brush/Grass Fires	14	Fire Alarms	25
Brush/Grass Fires Mutual Aid ..	7	Smoke Investigations	1
Water Leak Hazards	1	(LP) Propane Leaks	3
Motor Vehicle Crashes	44	Carbon Monoxide Calls	3
Low/High Angle Rescues	0	Hazmat Incidents	6
		<u>Total Calls 189</u>	

Chester Fire Department continued to get busier this year as call volume went up however hours were down slightly as we did not have any multi-day events this year.

Our firefighters continue to train at a minimum of 3 times a month, in addition to multiple weekend classes and for some of our firefighters week-long classes. I am very grateful for our men and women that sign up for these weekend and week-long classes as they are not being paid by the town to attend these classes and in most cases going without pay or using vacation time from their full-time jobs. This kind of dedication is essential in our continued effort to provide the Town of Chester and Andover the best services we can.

Chester Fire Department has continued to climb the ladder of respect with other towns and in a lot of cases we are the first due engine to surrounding towns. In common terms this means when another town is requesting help we are the first to get called. This is attributed to our upgrade in training and safety which allows us to provide an excellent service with very knowledgeable and trained crews. Chester Fire Department was also selected by the State of VT to host a Firefighter 1 class which is a tough task to get selected. I attribute this to the dedication and training of my men and women.

This year with funds voted in last year we have been able to replace all of our fire hose. The hose was delivered in October and all old hose has been taken out of service and the new is on the trucks. We have also replaced our Thermal Imager which is a huge safety feature for our men and women and helps us provide a better service for both Fires and for Rescues. Our new Washer and Dryer that is specifically made for Firefighting Gear has been delivered and installed. This will provide a much needed safety precaution in our battle to prevent cancer to our men and women and to prolong the life of our gear. One ventilation saw and two chainsaws were replaced this year. The ventilation saw was 20 years old and significantly overdue to be replaced.

This year we will be asking for support from the community in replacing Engine 2 which is a Class A Pumper. This truck is 20 years old and due to be replaced. In a lot of cases throughout the country fire departments are not keeping trucks this long as safety features and technology keeps rapidly changing, but we hope to continue a 20 year rotation for as long as possible.

This year we raised money to buy Harnesses for Bailout Kits which are utilized for Rescue and most importantly self-rescue if something goes wrong and a firefighter can't get out of a burning building. These items allow us to jump out of a window with little to no injury. We were able to raise enough money to buy the harnesses and hope to raise another \$20,000.00 this year to buy the Bailout kits.

We hope to do this through donations in order to avoid interfering with our normal operating budget.

I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Deputy Chief Robert MacAllister who celebrated his 25th year on the Fire Department this year.

I would like to thank the Yosemite Engine Company which is our private organization made up of current and past members of the fire department that raise money to buy and donate equipment to the Fire Department to help keep the cost of business lower for tax payers. I would also like to thank the newly formed Chester Fire Department Auxiliary which is made up of the significant others of current firefighters. They are newly formed but have hit the gate running already providing amazing assistance to us.

Most importantly I would like to thank all my Firefighters and their families. Robert MacAllister, Ben Whalen, George Niesuchouski, Andrew Sheere, Steve Vertefeuille, Eric Richarson, Mark Verespy, Bruce Savery, Amber Wilson, Timothy Tassinari, Matthew Goyette, Daniel Lamson, Taylor Wilson, James Ravlin, Nicholas Trask, Lucas Trask, Jamie Klezos and our three new members Larry Edwards, Chad Carey Jr. and Molly Verespy. These men, women and children give up so much to make all homes and lives safer in this town. You are all truly heroes.

I would like to end this year's annual report by asking for your consideration in supporting a new Fire Station. We are definitely working in a facility that no longer works for us, and we cannot fit our equipment. Anyone wishing to take a tour of our current facility can reach out for me at any time and I would be happy to show you around. Thank you for your consideration and thank you all for your ongoing support of the Chester Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew S. Wilson
Chester Fire Chief

Chester Fire Department Color Guard



9/11 Memorial Service



Couple of our Fire Responses



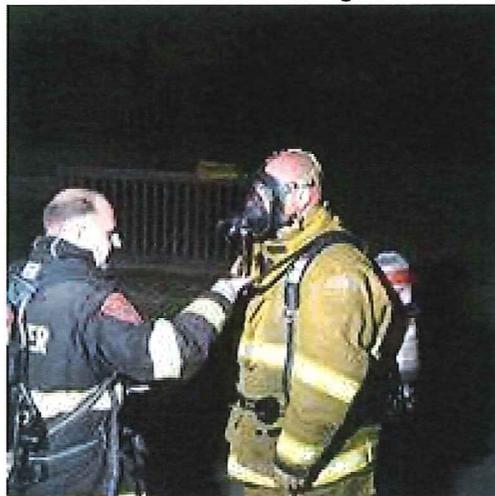
Ascutney Fire Providing Ladder Training for Us



Water Rescue Training



Air Pack Training



Chester Fireworks



Report of the Chester Ambulance Service

The ambulance service responded on 353 calls out of a total 386 dispatched during 2016 resulting in 360 patients being seen within the towns of Chester (263), Andover (34), Ludlow (45), Cavendish (11), Rockingham (6) and Proctorsville (1) as a result of the following incidents:

213 Medical Emergencies 44 MVC's (Motor Vehicle Crashes including motorcycle, ATV and snowmobile)

79 Traumatic Incidents by other cause 7 Stand-By at fire scenes, etc. 10 Public Assists

As a result of the ever growing problem experienced with gaining volunteers that especially affected our weekday coverage, a decision was made by the Board of Selectmen to add a full time employee to our staff instead of contracting with an outside service for that Monday through Friday coverage. This decision was based on costs and loss associated with each option and an additional consideration of response times also being weighed. During May 2016 this position came into effect with the addition of Meghan (Austin) Greene as our full time Administrative Assistant to the Ambulance Service Coordinator. Meghan is an EMT that has been with us for 10 years. She is an American Heart Association CPR Instructor; she is State Certified as an Emergency Medical Services Instructor/Coordinator and also holds the position of Training Officer for Vermont EMS District 11 Board of Representatives which governs EMS within our surrounding area.

Since being hired, Meghan has taken on billing; she has held many CPR courses; has worked with both schools on awareness; has organized our supply storage and restock system; has spent time on recruitment and is currently teaching an Emergency Medical Technician course that completes during March with licensure exams and a possible result of 8 EMT's being added to our staff. She has also recruited three others that are currently attending an Emergency Medical Responder Course being held in a separate location that should further add to our licensed medical force when all is complete.

Another significant change that has been in discussion for a while, but has actually become reality during 2016 is the fact that we now work more close with Ludlow Ambulance. As they have been experiencing the same volunteer difficulties as us, we each now have the ability to request one person as assistance to complete a legal transport crew rather than requesting mutual aid in general which has on many occasions used unnecessary resources within the area. In addition and since Ludlow staffs three Paramedics, Chester has recently been granted State Licensure to operate at the Paramedic level to accommodate their skills as needed. We are still working out exact details for policy and procedure at this point, but the overall results witnessed to date have been remarkable.

Call volumes continue increase as in comparison of 2016 numbers stated earlier and the numbers for 2015 at 353 dispatched with responses at 294. We had 59 missed calls during 2015 due to lack of personnel available and during 2016 that number dropped to 33 with most of those happening prior to May and the addition of our full time position.

As volunteerism is ever revolving, we do continue our pursuit new members and especially individuals that may be available days. If interested, please contact Dan Cook at 875-3134(H), 802 558-9972(C) or Meghan Greene at 802 875-2211 and you can email either at tcambulance@vermontel.net

At this time we would like to recognize members that retired from service during 2016: Drivers: Paul Gustafson and Mary Tyrell; Emergency Medical Technician, Ken Markwell and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Jeff Holden. Together they accounted for many years of dedication and we truly miss each of them.

We would like to thank all town departments of Chester and Andover including all officials and Select Boards; the members of the Chester Volunteer Rescue Squad, Chester Fire Department and Yosemite Engine Company, Springfield Fire Department, Hartford Dispatch, the emergency room staff at Springfield Hospital and all surrounding mutual aid organizations. It is with continued support from all, including the taxpayers of Chester and Andover that enables us to continue operation at our current level of care.

Report of the Chester Ambulance Service

I would also like to extend my personal deepest appreciation to all members of our service as well as thank their respective loved ones for gracious acceptance of any subsequent loss of family time throughout the year. They are an incredible group of individuals with dedication that preserves our ability to continue.

Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians: Jeff Knisely, Eric Martens, Rebekah Martens and Eric Richardson

Emergency Medical Technicians: Mary Ann Bonneville, Elizabeth Brothers, Laurie Cloud, Meghan Greene, Irwin Post, Hannah Potter and Meghan Thomas.

Emergency Medical Responders: Rachel Cote and Michael Randzio (both in training to advance to EMT)

Drivers: Greg Gomo and Bruce Savery

EMT Trainees: Robert Carlock, Brianna Dyer, Amanda Johnson, Kiana Laplante, Dominic Lord and Laurie Perry

EMR Trainees: Rebecka Delbove, Greg Messer and Marissa Stack

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Cook, Coordinator

FIRE**Revenues**

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-342-22	Andover Income	\$14,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$21,500.00
01-342-21	Other Income	\$500.00	\$2,425.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
01-342-24	Hazmat Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$14,500.00	\$21,425.00	\$19,500.00	\$22,500.00

Expenses

1-422-10	Salary	\$48,750.00	\$64,987.58	\$67,500.00	\$67,500.00
1-422-22	Physicals	\$2,000.00	\$1,676.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
1-422-23	Equipment	\$15,000.00	\$19,283.86	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00
1-422-24	Ipad/Data Link	\$750.00	\$95.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
1-422-36	Training	\$4,000.00	\$5,444.35	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
1-422-37	Contract Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-422-40	Assoc Dues	\$1,600.00	\$1,936.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
01-422-56	Legal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-422.67	Building Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$3,308.95	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
1-422-68	Vehicle Maint	\$4,500.00	\$7,108.80	\$5,500.00	\$6,500.00
01-422-76	Utilities	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
01-422-69	Fuel	\$2,500.00	\$1,508.46	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
01-422-70	Radio Maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$2,166.14	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
	Foam	\$0.00	\$4,725.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00
	Uniforms	\$0.00	\$1,775.50	\$1,500.00	\$1,750.00
1-422-79	Transfer to Water	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
01-422-81	Hazmat Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
		\$102,350.00	\$134,015.64	\$133,650.00	\$139,400.00

AMBULANCE**Revenues**

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-342-31	Service Fees/ Reimburse	\$70,000.00	\$72,639.19	\$70,000.00	\$72,000.00
01-342-33	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-342-34	Andover	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
		\$76,000.00	\$78,639.19	\$76,000.00	\$78,000.00

Expenses

		2015 Budget	30-Dec	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1-423-10	Salary	\$80,000.00	\$68,837.39	\$97,500.00	\$75,000.00
01-423-11	Adm Assistant	\$0.00	\$19,215.54	\$0.00	\$34,000.00
1-423-21	Supplies	\$6,000.00	\$8,780.25	\$6,000.00	\$8,000.00
1-423-22	Medical Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$422.99	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
1-423-23	Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$9,979.59	\$8,000.00	\$10,000.00
1-423-24	Intercept	\$2,000.00	\$5,375.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
1-423-36	Training	\$5,000.00	\$4,354.48	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
1-423-68	Veh. Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$2,482.32	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
01-423-69	Fuel	\$2,500.00	\$1,060.42	\$1,500.00	\$1,250.00
01-423-70	Billing/Office Expense	\$3,500.00	\$3,533.45	\$3,500.00	\$6,500.00
		\$109,500.00	\$124,041.43	\$126,000.00	\$147,250.00

COMMUNICATIONS

Revenues

		2015 budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1-343-21	Andover Dispatch Fee	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
1-343-20	Tower Rent	\$27,600.00	\$27,600.00	\$27,600.00	\$27,600.00
	V-Tel Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		<u>\$30,600.00</u>	<u>\$30,600.00</u>	<u>\$30,600.00</u>	<u>\$30,600.00</u>

Expenses

		2015 budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1-426-10	Dispatching	\$10,405.50	\$19,051.50	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00
1-426-34	Telephone	\$2,750.00	\$2,034.44	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
1-426-35	Radio Maint	\$2,750.00	\$1,022.88	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
1-426-36	Cell Phones	\$5,250.00	\$9,544.48	\$11,350.00	\$8,000.00
		<u>\$21,155.50</u>	<u>\$31,653.30</u>	<u>\$37,850.00</u>	<u>\$34,500.00</u>

Town Constable

01-427-36	Training	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
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Total Public Safety	Revenues	<u>\$177,850.00</u>	<u>\$197,189.34</u>	<u>\$178,600.00</u>	<u>\$172,600.00</u>
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	Expenses	<u>\$695,770.50</u>	<u>\$754,563.08</u>	<u>\$760,265.00</u>	<u>\$798,365.00</u>
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Highway Department Report for 2016

The Chester Highway Department had a very busy year in 2016. I would like to thank the Highway Crew for their hard work during this past year. Thank you also to the town folks for their patience and cooperation during this past year, not only during the winter months at the beginning of the year, but during the many construction projects that took place. As of January 5, the town crew plowed 9 times and sanded/salted 20 times.

Since 2005, the Highway, Fire and Ambulance building has been heated with an outdoor wood boiler approximately 45 cord of wood is burned. The town has only purchased wood once in 2005 with an average savings of approximately \$20,000.00 a year in heating oil.

During the storms of 2014, there were 3 large culverts that were severely compromised in the west end of Chester. The town has received an Emergency Highway Grant through the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation to fund the engineering and construction of these large structures. In 2016, 2 of the large culverts were replaced with the third being constructed this spring.



Stacked Excavators on Reservoir Road



Excavator working on Farrar Road

The Highway Department continued its paving efforts this year. The town reclaimed and repaved approximately 3100 feet on Popple Dungeon Road and 3500 feet on High Street. In addition, a skin coat was put on at the Mountain View Development. The town anticipates paving Coach Road in 2017.

Popple Dungeon Road gave us a surprise this fall, with the large culvert failing. The Highway Department and the engineers responded quickly. Arrangements were made the State of Vermont to rent a temporary bridge to get us through until a permanent bridge could be installed. Thanks to the skills and abilities of Chester's highway department, the temporary bridge was able to be installed by the town, drastically minimizing the costs. The town has applied for a Transportation Enhancement Grant which, if received, will pay for 80% of the costs, leaving the town with approximately \$100,000 to pay.



Temporary Bridge installation on Popple Dungeon Road

The State Legislature has adopted and enacted Act 64 which is a Clean Water Act throughout the State of Vermont. This Act requires towns to perform various erosion control measures throughout the town. Through the Better Backroads Grant, the Regional Planning Commission and the town updated the town's bridge and culvert inventory. At this time, the town identified its high, medium and low risk erosion control needs. Through the receipt of \$40,000 from the Better Back Roads Grant, the Highway Department was able to repair a large erosion area along Smokeshire Road where the road was sliding into the river. In addition, the town was able to stone line ditching in several erosion sites in Smokeshire.



stone retaining wall along Smokeshire Road

The Highway Department was also involved in the repairs at the town pool by doing the excavation work around the pool so that the filter lines could be replaced. In the addition, the prep work for the new skating rink was completed.

2017 proves to be a busy year as well for the Highway Department. We are anticipating the final completion of the sidewalk renovation project which should take place this summer. There is a large section of Route 35 that is being reconstructed with stone staked retaining walls put in place. This project is being funded through a Large Structures Grant from the Agency of Transportation. This project is going out to bid in the early spring with construction taking place this summer. The final culvert on Potash Brook Road is scheduled for replacement this summer as well. This project is going to bid in early spring as well. In addition, should the town receive the Transportation Enhancement Grant, a new bridge will be installed on Popple Dungeon Road. The Highway Department will also continue its erosion control efforts required under Act 64.

Graham Kennedy
Public Works Director

SNOWFALL

Snowfall is presently measured at Dian Circle, elevation 760 feet above sea level. Some areas of town exceed 1,800 feet in elevation; therefore, snow totals there may be higher. Steadman Mountain at 2,300 feet is the highest elevation in Town while the Missing Link Road, between Peck Road and Green Mountain Turnpike, at 530 feet above sea level is the lowest elevation in Town.

Shown in Inches

SEASON	OCT.	NOV	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL	TOTAL
1984-85	0	10	16.25	7	11	13	5	62.25
1985-86	0	11.5	14.5	27	18	8.5	8.5	88
1986-87	0	18	23	54.5	1	9	4	109.5
1987-88	4	11	15	19	36	7.5	1	93.5
1988-89	0	0	9.5	7.5	15.5	9	6	47.5
1989-90	0	5	15.5	38	27	6	0	91.5
1990-91	0	1	13.5	21	10.5	8.5	0	54.5
1991-92	0	2	20.5	5.5	8.5	5	7.5	49
1992-93	0	3	5.5	26.5	40	26	7	108
1993-94	0.5	0	13.5	46	13	22	0	95
1994-95	0	5	6	7	15	4	0	37
1995-96	0	8	29.5	32	9.5	22.5	11	112.5
1996-97	0.5	4	19.75	30	22.75	22	8	107
1997-98	0	19	13	25.5	7	15	0	79.5
1998-99	0	1.5	6	34	9.5	19	0	70
1999-00	0	0.5	2.5	20.25	26.5	15	1	65.75
2000-01	0.5	1	16	6	27.5	53	0	104
2001-02	0	0	8	30.5	5.5	20.5	2	66.5
2002-03	7	18.75	31.5	27.5	17.5	5	15.5	122.75
2003-04	0.5	5	30.75	10	14.5	12.25	0	73
2004-05	0	0	11	29.75	16.25	22	0	79
2005-06	1	4.5	17.5	21.5	13.5	0	0	58
2006-07	0	0	4	4.25	24.25	25.25	18.75	76.5
2007-08	0	2.5	40	17.5	38	12	1	111
2008-09	0	2	35	35	13.5	6.5	0	92
2009-10	0	0	22	13	31.25	0	0	66.25
2010-11	0	Trace	16	34.5	37.5	10	2.2	100.2
2011-12	8.75	10	2	15.25	3.5	15	0	54.5
2012-13	0	0	22	9.75	25	15.75	0	72.5
2013-14	0	0.75	24.75	12.5	34	12.5	0	84.5
2014-15	0	9.75	13	17.25	38.25	3.5	1	82.75
2015-16	0	0	5	4.5	8	0	2.5	20
2016-17	3.5	0	25.25					
AVERAGE	0.80	4.66	16.58	22.24	19.96	13.72	3.29	79.19

PUBLIC WORKS

REVENUES

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-344-11	Diesel Sales				
	Ambulance	\$2,000.00	\$1,060.42	\$1,500.00	\$1,250.00
	Fire	\$2,500.00	\$1,508.46	\$2,000.00	\$1,750.00
	Police	\$20,000.00	\$9,357.72	\$17,500.00	\$15,000.00
	School	\$55,000.00	\$26,598.61	\$45,000.00	\$35,000.00
	Sewer	\$2,000.00	\$687.18	\$1,250.00	\$1,000.00
	Water	\$2,000.00	\$1,256.27	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
	Other Income	\$0.00	\$681.60	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-344-13	State Aid	\$194,488.00	\$194,200.13	\$194,488.00	\$194,488.00
01-344-29	Prior Year Surplus		\$115,312.00	\$115,313.00	\$129,794.00
01-344-30	Insurance Reimb	\$0.00	\$21,283.26	\$0.00	\$0.00
		<u>\$277,988.00</u>	<u>\$371,945.65</u>	<u>\$378,301.00</u>	<u>\$379,532.00</u>

EXPENSES

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-431-10	Payroll	\$455,000.00	\$428,508.74	\$420,000.00	\$432,600.00
01-431-12	Overtime	\$0.00	\$25,454.18	\$50,000.00	\$47,500.00
01-431-20	Equipment	\$6,500.00	\$4,602.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,500.00
01-431-21	Supplies	\$8,500.00	\$9,931.83	\$8,500.00	\$10,000.00
01-431-23	Tools	\$6,500.00	\$2,678.45	\$5,000.00	\$6,500.00
01-431-24	Salt	\$75,000.00	\$60,340.85	\$75,000.00	\$70,000.00
01-431-25	Sand	\$65,000.00	\$30,176.00	\$65,000.00	\$60,000.00
01-431-26	Gravel	\$80,000.00	\$67,132.39	\$80,000.00	\$70,000.00
01-431-27	Hot Mix	\$5,000.00	\$2,047.04	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
01-431-28	Paving Transfer	\$95,000.00	\$49,800.58	\$46,000.00	\$50,120.39
01-431-29	Cal Chloride	\$15,000.00	\$7,951.57	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
01-431-30	Culverts	\$5,000.00	\$3,408.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
01-431-31	Rip Rap	\$6,000.00	\$3,616.97	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
01-431-32	Bridges	\$5,000.00	\$2,717.82	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
01-431-34	Communications	\$1,500.00	\$2,079.81	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
01-431-36	Training	\$500.00	\$320.25	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-431-37	Contract Services	\$13,000.00	\$4,546.03	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
01-431-38	Mower Transfer	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,500.00	\$567.23
01-431-40	Truck Replacement	\$0.00	\$16,938.52	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-431-55	Sidewalk Transfer	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$49,553.16
01-431-66	Blades/Chains/Plows	\$20,000.00	\$13,302.94	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
01-431-67	Diesel/Gasoline	\$130,000.00	\$93,389.27	\$115,000.00	\$100,000.00
01-431-68	Vehicle Maintenance	\$55,000.00	\$55,619.27	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
01-431-69	Street Lights	\$23,500.00	\$27,115.35	\$23,500.00	\$26,000.00
	Road Sign Replacement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
01-431-75	Uniforms	\$9,000.00	\$7,855.19	\$7,500.00	\$9,000.00
01-431-76	Garage Utilities	\$9,500.00	\$5,554.62	\$6,500.00	\$7,500.00
01-431-77	Garage Water	\$3,000.00	\$1,444.02	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
01-431-78	Fuel	\$1,250.00	\$125.52	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
	Truck Replacement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00	\$0.00
01-431-79	Garage Maintenance	\$15,000.00	\$2,743.64	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
		\$1,124,750.00	\$929,400.85	\$1,062,550.00	\$1,088,590.78

SOLID WASTE**EXPENSES**

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-432-37	Eager Beaver	\$1,050.00		\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
01-432-38	Transfer Station	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00
01-432-39	Green Up Day	\$200.00	\$125.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
		\$26,250.00	\$25,125.00	\$26,250.00	\$31,250.00

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS AND SOLID WASTE

EXPENSES	\$1,151,000.00	\$954,525.85	\$1,088,800.00	\$1,119,840.78
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2016 Chester Recreation Dept. Town Report

During the 2016 Fiscal year, many of the Chester Recreation Department facilities had major repairs and upgrades. The biggest project was the Chester Town Pool. The town dug up around the pool for new jet and new skimmer pipes that run all the way into the filter house. After that work was done a new liner was put in and a new decking was put down.



New decking at town pool



Crew working on new piping and decking

More projects were also on the agenda for 2016. The outside basketball courts were refurbished as well. The court was painted and the cracks were filled. New backboards and rims also replaced the old ones.

One of the other big projects was the new outdoor ice rink that is now at the Pinnacle. The old one has been at Cobleigh for many years, but with the use and size it was time for an upgrade. We received a 50 percent grant through the State of Vermont to build a new rink. The rink at the Pinnacle is 120' x 70' and has lights so it can be used at night. Darin Bradley has volunteered numerous hours working on and keeping the rink in tip top shape.



Ice Skating Rink at the Pinnacle

The new disc golf course at the Pinnacle is also a great attraction to both locals and non-residents. This 9 hole course is a great addition to the area. Resident, Gary King, was a huge help in getting this project started and he has done a tremendous job with the upkeep of the course.



Gary King trying out the new Disc Golf course

The Cobleigh Field project was also finished in 2016. In 2015 a new infield was put in and this year a metal fence was put up the first and third base sides for safety and a better playing environment for our softball program.

The 2016 Winter Carnival was the first time the Chester Recreation Dept. sponsored the event. It was very successful despite the frigid temperatures on the Saturday of the Carnival. The Smokeshire Hilltop Farm sleigh rides with their horses was a big hit on Saturday. We also had the “Dinner and a movie” for the elementary school age children on Friday night. Saturday also included; The American Legion Auxiliary breakfast, sledding, cross-country skiing, disc golf, snow sculpture and the night ended with a bonfire and skating. On Sunday we kept our tradition of the broom hockey tournament. Thank you to all those who volunteered and put time in the keep the Winter Carnival going in Chester. I would also like to thank the Winter Carnival board of Christine Anderson, Scott Blair and Kelly Burton.



Brook Hockey Champions!

I would once again like to thank the workers at the Chester Town Garage for always being there when the Recreation Dept. needs a helping hand. They go above and beyond. Also, a huge thank you to all the volunteer coaches that help our youth have a great experience in all of our team activities and camps.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. McCarthy, Recreation Director

Matthew A. McCarthy Recreation
Director Town of Chester, VT (802) 875-3603

<http://www.chestervt.gov/recreation.html>

Join us on Facebook: Chester, VT Recreation Dept.

Recreation Revenues & Expenses 2016
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Revenues		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
	Non-Program Revenues				
01-346-09	Town of Andover	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00
01-346-23	Pool Income	\$3,500.00	\$4,560.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
01-346-27	Donations	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
01-346-28	Food Commission/Sales	\$1,800.00	\$301.50	\$1,200.00	\$600.00
01-346-29	Pavilion Rental	\$225.00	\$75.00	\$225.00	\$150.00
01-476-33	Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
01-346-36	League Fees	\$425.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-346-35	Men's Basketball	\$1.00		\$0.00	
	Non-Program Revenues	\$9,851.00	\$8,886.50	\$8,825.00	\$8,150.00
	Seasonal Sports & Camps Revenues				
01-346-10	Smart Start Camps	\$160.00	\$230.00	\$160.00	\$200.00
01-346-11	Sports for Squirts	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
01-346-12	Spring Baseball	\$2,000.00	\$2,490.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
01-346-13	Black Fly Baseball Camp	\$1,200.00	\$480.00	\$1,200.00	\$500.00
01-346-15	Spring Softball Camp	\$200.00	\$345.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
01-346-16	Fall Soccer	\$1,800.00	\$2,160.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
01-346-17	Fall Flag Football	\$210.00	\$15.00	\$150.00	\$120.00
01-346-29	Tennis Camp	\$150.00	\$30.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
01-346-17	Soccer Camps	\$1,750.00	\$1,220.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,000.00
01-346-18	GM Sports Camp	\$1,000.00	\$650.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
01-346-19	Winter Basketball	\$1,200.00	\$1,070.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
01-346-20	Dance Camp	\$270.00	\$1,230.00	\$270.00	\$500.00
01-346.20	Hip Hop Dance	\$0.00	\$695.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
01-346-21	Golf Camp	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
01-346-22a	Basketball Camp	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
01-346-24	Baseball Camp	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-346-25	Summer Program	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
01-346-26	Skateboard Camp	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
01-346-30	OWLS Adventure Camp	\$600.00	\$175.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
01-346-33	Babe Ruth Baseball	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
01-346-51	Climbing Team Camp	\$0.00	\$570.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Sports & Camps Revenues	\$17,290.00	\$11,480.00	\$11,705.00	\$9,795.00
	Total Revenues	\$27,141.00	\$20,366.50	\$20,530.00	\$17,945.00

Expenses	Programs	2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
Non-Program Expenses					
01-451-10	Payroll	\$46,680.00	\$47,551.56	\$48,080.40	\$49,550.00
01-451-13	Veh. Expense	\$3,800.00	\$3,610.76	\$3,800.00	\$4,000.00
1-458-22	Concession Expense	\$1,300.00	\$146.30	\$1,000.00	\$400.00
01-451-11	Seasonal Payroll	\$500.00	\$65.00	\$500.00	
01-451-78	Pavilion	\$0.00		\$0.00	
01-451-16	League Fee	825	\$427.00	\$825.00	\$400.00
01-451-41	Weight Room		\$0.00	\$500.00	
01-451-35	Men's Basketball	\$1,000.00		\$0.00	
Non-Program Expenses		\$54,105.00	\$51,800.62	\$54,705.40	\$54,350.00
Seasonal Sports & Camps Expenses					
01-451-14	Smart Start Camps	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$80.00
01-451-15	Sport for Squirts	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
01-451-37	Spring Baseball	\$1,600.00	\$1,656.94	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
01-451-36	Black Fly Baseball Camp	\$1,000.00	\$414.80	\$1,000.00	\$400.00
01-451-38a	Spring Softball Camp	\$160.00	\$95.88	\$160.00	\$100.00
01-451-40	Fall Soccer	\$1,400.00	\$1,215.66	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
01-451-17	Fall Flag Football	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$100.00
01-451-39	Tennis		\$0.00		
01-451-42	Soccer Camps	\$1,600.00	\$684.39	\$1,600.00	\$1,000.00
01-451-18	GM Sports Camp	\$800.00	\$345.50	\$800.00	\$400.00
01-451-44	Winter Basketball	\$900.00	\$980.46	\$900.00	\$900.00
01-451-23	Dance Camp	\$220.00	\$390.00	\$220.00	\$350.00
01-451-20	Hip-Hop Dance	\$320.00	\$620.00	\$320.00	\$500.00
01-451-21	Golf Camp	\$320.00			
01-451.43a	Basketball Camp	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$100.00
	Summer Program	\$4,500.00	\$0.00		
01-451-45	Skateboard Camp	\$0.00		\$0.00	
01-451-30	OWLS Adventure	\$500.00	\$160.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
01-451-12	Babe Ruth Baseball	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
01-451-51	Climbing Team Camp	0	\$435.00		\$260.00
01-451-52	Winter Carnival		\$4,654.06	\$2,000.00	\$2,750.00
Sports & Camps Expenses		\$14,290.00	\$11,652.69	\$11,170.00	\$10,790.00
Total Expenses		\$68,395.00	\$63,453.31	\$65,875.40	\$65,140.00

Other 2016 Recreation Expenses

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-451-77	Pool Water & Sewer	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
1-458-11	Lifeguards	\$16,000.00	\$13,504.33	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
1-458-20	Pool Improvement	\$0.00	\$131.76	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
1-458-21	Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$4,827.21	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
1-458-41	Skating Rink Maint	\$300.00	\$520.47	\$300.00	\$300.00
01-458-43	Disc Golf	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
01-451-46	Tennis Court	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
1-458-68	Pool Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$10,240.37	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
1-458-75	Water & Sewer	\$1,000.00	\$877.60	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1-458-76	Utilities	\$4,500.00	\$4,513.84	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
01-458-77	Equipment Repair	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-458-78	Facility Repair	\$1,000.00	\$630.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
		\$31,700.00	\$35,795.58	\$31,700.00	\$36,700.00

REPORT OF THE CHESTER CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

The Chester Cemetery Department consists of a two person team to mow, trim, and maintain 7 cemeteries which includes: Pleasant View off High Street; North Street Cemetery in the Stone Village, Brookside Cemetery on Main Street; Simmsbury Cemetery off Adams Road; Spoonerville Cemetery off Trebo Road; Smokeshire Cemetery off Cemetery Road; Popplar Grove off Popple Dungeon Road. We also maintain the grounds at the Pinnacle Recreation Area, Cobliegh field, behind the Chester Academy Building, in front of the Chester Academy Building, the Green, the Whiting Library, the park across from the Soapshed Laundromat, the Town Garage, the Town Hall, and a piece of property off of First Avenue where the old apple tree is. In addition, we take care of the trash receptacles placed at certain areas in Chester's Village. We are responsible for the selling of lots, placement of markers, and installation of cornerstones which are mandatory for all new lots. We prepare all burials, whether full or cremation. We try to maintain the old stones that have fallen or broke due to age or the elements. In the fall we pick up the leaves from each area that we maintain in the summer.

This past summer (2016) we had 12 burials, 5 of which were full burials and the rest cremations. There were 5 new monuments installed, 4 sets of corner markers placed, and ten new lots sold.

During the summer of 2017, we are looking forward to breaking ground in the field behind the Chester Academy Building. It is in the process of being surveyed as well as the land behind the river to bring in people not only to hike but observe and pay their respects as well. The new section of cemetery will have walking paths so not to disturb the lots as well as roads to meander through the cemetery.

I want to thank the Highway Department for helping to prepare for Memorial Day and helping to tear down the broken down chain link fence behind the Chester Academy building.

As a reminder to the owners of the lots in all of Chester's cemeteries, please remove all summer seasonal arrangements from lots by October 31 and fall/winter arrangements by April 15. Please note that flower pots and plastic arrangements will be disposed of by the Cemetery Department on or about November 1st. Also the planting of trees and shrubs is not allowed in the cemetery lots.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Sheldon, Cemetery Sexton



Parks & Cemeteries

	Revenues	2015 Budget	216 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1-347-21	Sale of Lots	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
1-347-22	Grave Preparation	\$4,500.00	\$4,778.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
1-347-23	Cemetery Funds	\$2,400.00	\$3,817.23	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
1-347-25	Perpetual Care	\$1,500.00	(\$2,000.00)	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
1-347-26	Other Income	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
1-347-40	Town Hall	\$500.00	\$420.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-347-41	Town Hall; Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$10,450.00	\$8,515.23	\$10,450.00	\$10,450.00

Parks & Cemeteries

	Expenses	2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1-452-10	Payroll	\$49,440.00	\$39,052.57	\$49,440.00	\$50,923.20
1-452-21	Supplies	\$4,000.00	\$2,856.73	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
1-452-23	Equipment	\$8,000.00	\$1,996.90	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
1-452-38	Contract Labor	\$1,000.00	\$1,665.30	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1-452-39	Trees	\$6,672.00	\$4,280.00	\$6,672.00	\$8,000.00
1-452-40	Perpetual Care	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
01-452-45	Survey	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1-452-76	Water	\$300.00	\$360.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
1-452-77	Memorial Day	\$700.00	\$774.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
1-452-82	Power on the Green	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$71,512.00	\$51,160.50	\$67,512.00	\$70,323.20

Library

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
1-455-20	Architectural Service	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1-455-21	Library Expense	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$75,000.00
1-455-68	Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$14,047.36	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00
1-455-76	Utilities	\$2,500.00	\$4,741.70	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
1-455-77	Water/Sewer	\$1,000.00	\$666.68	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1-455-78	Fuel	\$8,000.00	\$2,827.59	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
		\$89,500.00	\$94,283.33	\$89,500.00	\$95,000.00

Town Hall

		2015 Budget	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-456-11	Cleaning Service	\$5,500.00	\$5,670.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,000.00
1-456-21	Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$623.89	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
1-456-68	Repair/Maint	\$6,000.00	\$5,350.42	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
1-456-76	Utilities	\$8,500.00	\$665.26	\$8,500.00	\$2,000.00
1-456-77	Water/Sewer	\$1,000.00	\$819.84	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1-456-78	Fuel	\$7,500.00	\$6,923.27	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00
1-456-79	Trash	\$3,000.00	\$11,233.85	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
		\$33,000.00	\$31,286.53	\$33,000.00	\$29,500.00

Other income & Expenses**Other Income**

	2015 Cash	2016 Cash	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
01-349-11 Poor Funds	\$486.23	\$232.72	\$500.00	\$500.00
01-350-12 Cyprus Minerals	\$1,083.88	\$2,023.36	\$1,200.00	\$2,000.00
01-389.15 VLCT Refund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-432-15 Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
01-350-13 School Refund	\$79,338.47	\$105,447.46	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
01-350-14 Land Purchase Loan	\$410,000.00	\$943.38	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-350-15 State Payment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-350-16 Net FEMA Payment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0
Total	\$490,908.58	\$108,646.92	\$2,200.00	\$62,500.00

Other Expenses

01-450-15 School Refund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
01-475-61 County Tax	\$28,827.79	\$28,440.94	\$29,900.00	\$27,801.00
Land Purchase	\$409,077.29	\$3,490.13	\$10,000.00	10000
Total	\$437,905.08	\$31,931.07	\$39,900.00	\$37,801.00

O - Capital	
O3 - Fund Transfers	
01-470-90 Capital Plan Fund	330,000.00
01-470-91 Grant Fund	35,000.00
Total O3 - Fund Transfers	<u>365,000.00</u>
O4 - Capital Projects	
01-473-34 Land Purchase	3,490.13
Total O4 - Capital Projects	<u>3,490.13</u>
Total O - Capital	<u>368,490.13</u>
P - Other Govt. Expenditures	
01-475-61 County Tax	28,440.94
Total P - Other Govt. Expenditures	<u>28,440.94</u>
R - Transfer Accounts	
01-480-28 CTSD Assessment	4,499,989.79
Total R - Transfer Accounts	<u>4,499,989.79</u>
S - Voted Articles	
01-481-21 Visiting Nurses	13,807.00
01-481-22 Health Care & Rehab	3,044.00
01-481-23 Council on Aging	1,200.00
01-481-25 CT River Transit	2,250.00
01-481-26 Meals & Wheels	2,700.00
01-481-27 Family Center	3,000.00
01-481-28 RSVP	400.00
01-481-32 Windsor County Partne	800.00
01-481-34 SEVCA	3,040.00
01-481-36 Women's Freedom Cente	900.00
01-481-87 Community Cares	1,800.00
01-481-89 SRDC	8,649.00
Total S - Voted Articles	<u>41,590.00</u>

2017 Grant Budget

Grant Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award Amount	Town Match Required
Grants that have been awarded:			
DeFoe Buyout	\$ 222,400.00	\$ 222,400.00	\$ -
Rosati Buyout	\$ 170,200.00	\$ 170,200.00	\$ -
Storm Damage, July	\$ 619,536.00	\$ 561,990.00	\$ 57,546.00 Capital
Sidewalk Grant	\$ 343,450.00	\$ 274,760.00	\$ 68,690.00 Capital
Route 35 Construction	\$ 274,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 100,000.00 Bond
Master Plan	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Asset Management Grant	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
Library Grant	\$ 119,820.00	\$ 41,900.00	\$ 77,920.00 Capital
Total Grants Received	\$ 1,839,406.00	\$ 1,529,250.00	\$ 311,156.00
Grants applied for - awaiting award:			
Popple Dungeon Culvert	\$ 435,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 135,000.00 bond
Academy Building Windows	\$ 38,350.00	\$ 19,175.00	\$ 19,175.00
Total Grants Applied For	\$ 473,350.00	\$ 319,175.00	\$ 154,175.00
Seed Money for Potential Grants:			
PACIF	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Better Backroads	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$6,000.00
Municipal Planning Grant	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$0.00
Brookside Trail/Bridge	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$5,000.00
Recreation	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Total Seed Money:	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 71,500.00	\$28,500.00
Grand Totals	\$ 2,412,756.00	\$ 1,919,925.00	\$493,831.00
Total Town Match		\$ 492,831.00	
Previous Year Award		\$ 7,000.00	
Less grants paid from other sources:		\$ 439,156.00	
Net to raise in Taxes		\$ 46,675.00	

Municipal Grants Managed
during 2016

Type of Grant	Purpose	Amount	Year Awarded	Current Status
Municipal Planning	Town Plan Review and Rewrite	\$ 9,313.00	2014	Work is completed
USDA	Library Restoration	\$ 41,900.00	2014	Construction is complete
Emergency Highway	Storm Damage from July	\$ 561,990.00	2014	Two projects have been completed; there is 1 culvert remaining
Vtrans	Sidewalk upgrades	\$ 274,760.00	2012	Project rebid; Construction in 2017
Dept. of Forest & Park	Replacement of Pool Liner	\$ 25,000.00	2015	Pool renovations completed
Vtrans	Engineering of repairs to Route 35	\$ 36,000.00	2015	Engineering completed
Vtrans	Construction of Route 35	\$ 175,000.00	2016	Bids are being opened in February, 2017
Better Back Roads	Drainage along roads	\$ 35,970.00	2016	Construction completed
Vt. Emergency Mgmt.	Property Buyouts with FEMA	\$ 382,600.00	2015	Scheduled to close in February, 2017
Clean Water Fund	Storm Drain Survey	\$ 20,000.00	2016	Survey is currently taking place
	TOTAL	\$ 1,562,533.00		

Town of Chester - General Fund
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

	Dec 31, 16
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
01-101-11 General Fund	-968,558.88
01-101-11 Payroll	-13,611.52
01-101-11 Sweep Account	1,305,593.04
Petty Cash	215.00
Total Checking/Savings	323,637.64
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	-162.00
Total Accounts Receivable	-162.00
Other Current Assets	
03-101-11 Due from Water	-100.57
Health Equity Deposit	11,000.00
Return Check	150.00
Total Other Current Assets	11,049.43
Total Current Assets	334,525.07
TOTAL ASSETS	334,525.07
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
01-101-11 Due to Others	-0.03
01-101-12 General Funds Loans	
01-101-15 Bond Anticipation Not	-71,679.00
Total 01-101-12 General Funds Loans	-71,679.00
01-211-00 Retirement	47.61
01-215-00 Health Equity (FSA)	4,551.34
01-216-00 Office Child Support	-315.36
03-101-11 Due to Water	-102.31
06-101-11 Due to Reappraisal	-19.00
AFLAC Liability	-445.41
Due to/from Grant Fund	-100,000.00
Payroll Liabilities	
Direct Deposit	-10.58
Payroll Liabilities - Other	-51.22
Total Payroll Liabilities	-61.80
Total Other Current Liabilities	-168,023.96
Total Current Liabilities	-168,023.96
Total Liabilities	-168,023.96
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	-555,899.76
Retained Earnings	791,564.56
Net Income	266,884.23
Total Equity	502,549.03
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	334,525.07

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

Tax Year	Principal	Interest	Penalty	Total Due
2010	\$ 270.94	\$ 247.69	\$ 21.68	\$ 540.31
2011	\$ 287.33	\$ 215.49	\$ 22.99	\$ 525.81
2012	\$ 4,898.91	\$ 3,037.14	\$ 391.92	\$ 8,327.97
2013	\$ 6,218.43	\$ 2,985.16	\$ 498.15	\$ 9,701.74
2014	\$ 22,548.72	\$ 7,864.55	\$ 1,803.94	\$ 32,217.21
2015	\$ 74,737.42	\$ 14,570.88	\$ 5,979.09	\$ 95,287.39
2016	\$ 301,042.23	\$ 10,558.42	\$ 24,171.54	\$ 335,772.19
Total:	\$ 410,003.98	\$ 39,479.33	\$ 32,889.31	\$ 482,372.62

PROCEDURES FOR TAX SALE

The tax sale process for Chester was amended this year due to increasing delinquencies. Taxes are due September 15 of each year. If taxes are not paid, or a payment arrangement made by December 1, the tax sale process will begin. Typically, the town holds two tax sales per year. The first one in April and the second one in August/September. The fall tax sale is usually for those individuals who have not kept up on their payment arrangement.

A tax sale is a remedy available to a municipality to ensure collection of its local property tax. The right to sell real estate to satisfy taxes is a wholly statutory right. The first step is to have the Tax Collector "extend" his Warrant on the property in question.

The next step is to advertise such property for sale at public auction, both publicly on the notice board and in a local newspaper. In addition, Notices of Tax Sale are sent directly to the property owner by registered mail. All mortgage and lien holders are sent the same notice.

After three successive weeks of advertising, and at least ten day from the last advertisement, the property is sold at public auction if the taxes remain unpaid. The owner of a property may redeem the property within one year by paying to the Tax Collector the tax due, together with 1% interest per month plus all associated charges. The Tax Collector then returns the funds to the purchaser and releases the property from the Tax Sale Lien.

When the time for redemption (i.e. one year) has passed, and the property has not been redeemed, the Tax Collector will execute and deliver to the purchaser a Quit Claim Deed.

The Town of Chester may become the purchaser at a Tax Sale, if a bid equal to the tax and costs is not made at such Sale. Property so acquired may be held, leased, sold and conveyed like other real estate belonging to the Town of Chester. The redemption period of one year also applies to the Town.

2016 PROPERTY TAXES DUE
September 15, 2017

After this date, all Delinquent Taxes have an 8% penalty plus interest of 1% per month for the first 3 months and 1 1/2% per month thereafter.

TOWN NOTES

GENERAL FUND

Line of Credit:

TAN Current Expense Note/Line of Credit
Dated 01/08/16 People's United Bank \$ 1,200,000.00 Due 10/16/2016

Borrowed/Paid:

TAN Current Expense Note/Line of Credit \$ 1,030,000.00 Paid 09/22/16
dated 01/08/16 People's United Bank

2016 Series 1 Bond (Capital, Paving, Land Purchase)

Capital and Paving Bond as voted on March 1, 2016
Water Bond as voted on September 28, 2015

No	Date	Principal Payment	Interest	Total Payment	Remaining Balance
	11/1/2016	\$ -	\$ 5,583.70	\$ 5,583.70	\$ 900,009.26
1	11/1/2017	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 15,344.52	\$ 59,344.52	\$ 856,009.26
2	11/1/2018	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 14,688.48	\$ 58,688.48	\$ 812,009.26
3	11/1/2019	\$ 164,613.00	\$ 14,006.04	\$ 178,619.04	\$ 647,396.26
4	11/1/2020	\$ 164,613.00	\$ 11,255.36	\$ 175,868.36	\$ 482,783.26
5	11/1/2021	\$ 164,613.00	\$ 8,307.14	\$ 172,920.14	\$ 318,170.26

Hurricane Irene Flood Damage Fund
Statement of Revenues Expenditures
January through December 2015

SUMMARY

Earned Income 2016	\$87,286.56
Incurred Expenditures 2016	\$8,083.26
	\$79,203.30

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	\$15,567.91
Due from General Fund	\$0.00
Total Current Assets	\$15,567.91

TOTAL ASSETS	\$15,567.91
---------------------	--------------------

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities	
Due to General Fund	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Retained Earnings	-\$63,635.39
Net Income	\$79,203.30
Total Equity	\$15,567.91
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$15,567.91

RECONCILIATION OF CASH

Hurricane Irene Fund Balance January 1, 2016	\$ 864.61
Cash Receipts - Cavendish Road Culvert	\$ 87,286.56
Due to General Fund	\$ (64,500.00)
Expenses - Annual Payment of #3 of 3	\$ 8,083.26
Hurricane Irene Fund Balance Dec 31, 2015	\$ 15,567.91

Report of the Water/Wastewater Departments

I am sure that everyone knows that it was a very busy summer this year, especially for the water and Wastewater departments. As everyone knows the new Dollar General and the new Jiffy Mart were constructed and opened to business. These businesses have added to the town's tax base and infrastructure and have added many new jobs to the community without adding undue stresses to these departments.

We also started our project list for the Water Department finally by replacing our leaking 10 AC (Asbestos Cement) water main from south Main Street near the Sunoco River crossing to Green Mountain Union High School. The 10 AC main was left in service while we, the contractor, S.U.R. West placed a 12 inch Ductile Iron main next to it. This procedure saved us time and money for the project cost by allowing us **not** to first install a temporary water service. We also found that the existing 10 inch water lines that were under the river were of newer style Cast Iron that was Cement lined and therefore we were able to tie into it and save the cost of boring under the river. This allowed us to save anywhere from 250 to somewhere over 400 **thousand** dollars on this project, as the cost for the boring was from 650 to 1000 dollars per foot, depending on the material that they may have run into. This cost savings will allow us to do another section that is in serious need of replacement. Our intent is to use the savings to replace about 800 feet of old 6 inch cast that is on the end of coach road, and add another 800 feet to upgrade it to 8 inch Ductile Iron pipe and continue the loop down to First avenue to tie into the 8 inch that was installed there about 15 years ago. This connection will discontinue 2 sections of dead-end lines and will improve flows and the quality of the water by doing away with sections in the main that may be stagnate and will greatly improve the fire flows in that area. This project has been designed and is ready to go but was delayed due to Permitting and it has become too late in the construction season to start and not end up into the winter season.

Permitting also delayed our other projects such as the **Transmission Main** to the new Water Tank sight that is located up behind Drew's All Natural on the south end of our water system. The new **330,000 gallon Water Tank**, some **Hydrant replacements, cleaning and repainting** of our existing **Water Tank** that is located on Reservoir road and the required **Electrical Controls upgrades** at the Jeffery Well Station. I am very hopeful that, with the permitting issue out of the way, we can accomplish all of these projects in 2017. This will greatly improve the efficiency, viability and fire flows for the whole Water System.

In the Wastewater department there have been several changes this year. Barry Goodrich has retired and Dwayne Nichols, our former Assistant Chief Operator has stepped up to the Chief Operators position at the plant. We have also hired a new operator, Christopher Hughes and he is quickly training up to fill the Assistant Operators position for both Wastewater and Water departments.

Wastewater has had many issues this year for break downs as well as many operational issues. Starting with valve and waste pump failures in the aeration tanks. This is no small or quick fix. We have to go onto single tank operations. Pump down the tank that the issue is in and enter the tank to repair it. Some parts had to have fabricated as they were built special for this plant. One of our sludge pumps quit due to electrical failure and had to be pulled out for repairs. These issues caused us to be on single tank operation for a couple of weeks. At which time many of the normal operation had to be performed

manually to keep things operating. During this time personnel are tied up and are unable to do other tasks.

We have had two sewer service backups this year, one was due to a water service repair where the sewer service was crushed during that repair and was not noticed for some time. When found was required to be repaired immediately on a Saturday morning. The other one was due to illegal discharges of rags and mop heads that were flushed down a toilet. These items plugged one of our syphoned river crossings and caused a backup into a vacation home. This was not noticed for some time and did it cause several thousand dollars damage to the residence. This was in cleanup costs and carpet replacement. **Please do not discharge these items into the system.** Next time you may be the resident with the unpleasant surprise. These also cause undue wear with our pumps and cutter heads in our pump stations and at the Treatment Plant. These are very expensive items to replace, and ultimately the cost will be passed on to all of the users.

Also Drew's All Natural has started up their new pretreatment system which will help us greatly at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in maintaining a regular, consistent treatment of the waste. This should lower our treatment cost, via fewer chemicals used, less aeration, less wasting and sludge disposal. And will ensure that our discharge is well within the parameters of our discharge permit.

We have started a pump station up grade at the Pleasant Brook pump station at this time. This will involve replacing two grinder pumps, upgrading the motor controls and moving them to a pedestal outside of the wet well and adding a rags removal system in the wet well. This should increase the efficiency of the station and cut down on required maintenance. There will also be a base for a crane installed for a small crane that will assist us when we do have to pull the pumps for maintenance. This will greatly improve the safety and the ease of removal of the pumps when it is needed.

We still are working on plans for ground water separation project, which is required by new State and Federal Regulations that are designed to prevent most ground water from entering the wastewater system. Also still have plans for GIS mapping of all of our underground utilities, Water and Wastewater, to include all manholes wastewater lines, water mains, valves, hydrants and services. This will help us quickly locate and identify our entire underground infrastructure.

I have included in this report, the Consumer Confidence Report from 2015. Unfortunately the 2016 results will not arrive until April, 2017, but will be included in the spring water/sewer billing.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who assist me by keeping the areas clear around the fire hydrants that are near their residence. This is a great assistance to me, the water department, as we have over 118 hydrants in the system at this time.

Respectfully submitted

Jeff Holden Water/Wastewater Superintendent

CHESTER WATER DEPT – VT0005318

Consumer Confidence Report – 2015

This report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided in 2015. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. To learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings which are held:

1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (date/time) at Chester Town Hall (location).

The person who can answer questions about this report is: (print) David Pisha

Telephone: (802) 875-2173 and/ or Email dpisha@vermontel.net

Water Source Information

Your water comes from

Source Name	Source Water Type
JEFFREY WELL	Groundwater

The State of Vermont Water Supply Rule requires Public Community Water Systems to develop a Source Protection Plan. This plan delineates a source protection area for our system and identifies potential and actual sources of contamination. Please contact us if you are interested in reviewing the plan.

Drinking Water Contaminants

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include surface water (streams, lakes) and ground water (wells, springs). As water travels over the land's surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals. It also picks up substances resulting from the presence of animals and human activity. Some "contaminants" may be harmful. Others, such as iron and sulfur, are not harmful. Public water systems treat water to remove contaminants, if any are present.

In order to ensure that your water is safe to drink, we test it regularly according to regulations established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Vermont. These regulations limit the amount of various contaminants:

Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife

Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Pesticides and herbicides, may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity

Organic contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past year. It also includes the date and results of any contaminants that we detected within the past five years if tested less than once a year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily show that the water poses a health risk.

Terms and abbreviations - In this table you may find terms you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

Maximum Contamination Level Goal (MCLG): The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contamination Level (MCL): The “Maximum Allowed” MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of disinfectants in controlling microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. Addition a disinfectant may help control microbial contaminants.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile: Ninety percent of the samples are below the action level. (Nine of ten sites sampled were at or below this level).

Treatment Technique (TT): A process aimed to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): (one penny in ten thousand dollars)

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l): (one penny in ten million dollars)

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): a measure of radioactivity in water

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU): NTU is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA): The average of sample analytical results for samples taken at a particular monitoring location during four consecutive calendar quarters.

Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of 4 consecutive quarters (when on quarterly monitoring); values in table represent the highest RAA for the year.

Detected Contaminants CHESTER WATER DEPT

Disinfection Residual	RAA	Range	Unit	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
Chlorine	0.500	0.400 - 0.600	mg/l	4.0	4.0	Water additive to control microbes

Microbiological	Result	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2015				

Chemical Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Barium	06/08/2015	0.04	0.04 - 0.04	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	06/08/2015	0.0067	0.0067 - 0.0067	ppm			
Nitrate	06/08/2015	0.2	0.2 - 0.2	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Combined Radium	07/07/2014	0.929	0.929 - 0.929	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha	07/07/2014	0.23	0.23 - 0.23	pCi/L	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-226	07/07/2014	0.476	0.476 - 0.476	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Radium-228	07/07/2014	0.453	0.453 - 0.453	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection ByProducts	Monitoring Period	LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
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No Detected Results were Found

Lead and Copper	Date	90 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Copper	2011 to 2013	0.11	0.19	0.027 - 0.26	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2011 to 2013	4	10	0 - 16	ppb	15	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Violation(s) that occurred during the year

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The below table lists any drinking water violations we incurred during 2015. A failure to perform required monitoring means we cannot be sure of the quality of our water during that time.

Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
MONITORING (TCR), ROUTINE MAJOR	Failure to Monitor	COLIFORM (TCR)	02/01/2015 - 02/28/2015

Health information regarding drinking water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. CHESTER WATER DEPT is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Public Notice - Uncorrected Significant Deficiencies: The system is required to inform the public of any significant deficiencies identified during a sanitary survey conducted by the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division that have not yet been corrected. For more information please refer to the schedule for compliance in the system's Operating Permit.

Date Identified	Deficiency	Facility
09/10/2015	Inadequate Water Pressure (Under Normal, Peak, or Maximum Flow Conditions)	DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The Town of Chester has bonded for a large water system project which will begin construction this summer..

Distribution information

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place and distributing copies by hand or mail.

03-101-11 Water Fund
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

	<u>Dec 31, 16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
03-101-11 Water Fund	196,256.62
06-101-16 Water Reserve	31,344.72
Total Checking/Savings	<u>227,601.34</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>227,601.34</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>227,601.34</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Long Term Liabilities	
Water Project Bond	776,800.60
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>776,800.60</u>
Total Liabilities	776,800.60
Equity	
Retained Earnings	89,778.04
Net Income	-638,977.30
Total Equity	<u>-549,199.26</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>227,601.34</u>

WATER

	2015 Budget	2016 budget	2016 Cash	2017 Budget
03-311-01 Water Fees	\$150,000.00	\$160,000.00	\$155,442.23	\$165,000.00
03-311-02 Delinquent	\$22,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$29,132.62	\$22,500.00
03-311-03 Penalty	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,352.16	\$3,000.00
03-311-05 Connection	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
03-311-07 Interest	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$126.64	\$100.00
03-311-06 Hydrant Fees	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
03-311-09 Other Income	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$1,891.00	\$0.00
Total Income	<u>\$195,700.00</u>	<u>\$203,200.00</u>	<u>\$209,944.65</u>	<u>\$213,100.00</u>
03-411-10 Labor	\$66,950.00	\$69,000.00	\$56,748.48	\$69,000.00
03-411-15 Benefits	\$12,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$12,710.21	\$12,000.00
03-411-23 Tools	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$610.04	\$2,500.00
03-411-24 Meters	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$4,381.30	\$2,500.00
03-411-25 Collection System	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,044.04	\$3,500.00
03-411-28 Paving	\$2,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
03-411-29 Chemicals	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$11,280.95	\$13,000.00
03-411-32 Hydrants	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
03-411-36 Training	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$288.00	\$750.00
03-411-37 Contract Serv	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$703,836.61	\$3,500.00
03-411-38 Well Repair	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$662.35	\$3,000.00
03-411-39 Testing	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,275.07	\$2,000.00
03-411-50 PACIF Insurance	\$3,060.00	\$3,060.00	\$0.00	\$3,060.00
03-411-56 Legal Services	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$723.00	\$1,500.00
03-411-58 Computer	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
03-411-59 Audit	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
03-411-60 Serv Charge	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$939.34	\$1,100.00
03-411-61 State Fees	\$2,100.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,942.22	\$3,000.00
03-411-68 Veh Maint	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$939.78	\$1,500.00
03-411-69 Gasoline	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,256.27	\$2,000.00
03-411-76 Utilities	\$22,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$19,155.49	\$20,000.00
03-411-77 Telephone	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
03-411-78 Gas	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Loan Interest	\$8,902.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loan Repayments	\$0.00	\$1,140.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Land Purchase	\$0.00	\$530.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
03-411-94 System Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00
03-411-95 Water Bond Reimbur	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$177,412.00</u>	<u>\$174,130.00</u>	<u>\$822,743.15</u>	<u>\$161,960.00</u>
Net	<u>\$18,288.00</u>	<u>\$29,070.00</u>	<u>(\$612,798.50)</u>	<u>\$51,140.00</u>

SEWER

	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	2016 Cash	2017 Budget
04-311-01 Sewer Fees	\$425,000.00	\$435,000.00	\$362,816.53	\$390,000.00
04-311-02 Delinquent Fees	\$57,500.00	\$50,000.00	\$65,801.07	\$50,000.00
04-311-03 Penalty & Interest	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,981.89	\$6,000.00
04-311-05 Connection	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
04-311-07 Interest	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$48.56	\$100.00
04-311-08 Excess BOD Charge	\$2,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$12,719.75	\$2,000.00
04-311-08 Fines	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
04-311-09 Other Income	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.02	\$1,000.00
04-311-25 VLCT Insur Payment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
04-344-25 FEMA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenues	\$504,600.00	\$501,600.00	\$451,367.82	\$451,600.00

FT=1.5

04-411-10 Payroll	\$103,000.00	\$106,000.00	\$97,861.79	\$100,000.00
04-411-15 Benefits	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$57,996.08	\$40,000.00
04-411-20 Sewer Line Repair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Generator	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pumps	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
04-411-21 Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,360.55	\$500.00
04-411-23 Tools	\$1,250.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,425.40	\$1,500.00
04-411-24 Lab Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,292.75	\$1,500.00
04-411-25 Plant Maint	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,033.69	\$5,000.00
04-411-26 UV Disinfection	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,696.79	\$1,200.00
04-411-28 Sludge Disposal	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$20,406.00	\$25,000.00
04-411-29 Chemicals	\$9,000.00	\$13,500.00	\$12,865.00	\$14,000.00
04-411-32 Pump Stations	\$15,000.00	\$12,500.00	\$7,565.49	\$13,000.00
04-411-35 Training	\$750.00	\$500.00	\$1,051.86	\$750.00
04-411-36 Collection System	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$695.08	\$6,000.00
04-411-37 Contracted Serv	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$8,481.03	\$8,500.00
Line Flushing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
04-411-38 Engineering	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
04-411-39 Testing	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,835.00	\$3,500.00
04-411-40 Uniforms	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
04-411-50 PACIF Insurance	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00
04-411-56 Legal	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
04-411-58 Computer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
04-411-60 Serv. Charge	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$952.90	\$1,000.00
04-411-61 State Fees	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$525.00	\$1,000.00
04-411-68 Veh Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$750.00	\$440.76	\$1,000.00
04-411-69 Gasoline	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$687.18	\$1,500.00
04-411-76 Utilities	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,410.37	\$43,000.00
04-411-77 Audit	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
04-411-78 General Fund Loan	\$64,244.00	\$64,244.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
General Maintenance		\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
04-411-79 Interest		\$0.00	\$693.18	\$0.00
04-411-97 Capital Plan Transfer	\$136,000.00	\$136,000.00	\$132,763.82	\$135,991.10
	490,344.00	496,294.00	407,639.72	424,041.10
Net	\$14,256.00	\$5,306.00	\$43,728.10	\$27,558.90

10:33 AM
01/20/17
Cash Basis

04-101-11 Sewer Fund
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

	<u>Dec 31, 16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
04-101-11 Sewer Fund	3,406.71
04-411-12 Sewer Reserve	10,030.47
Total Checking/Savings	<u>13,437.18</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>13,437.18</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>13,437.18</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	-29,616.79
Net Income	43,053.97
Total Equity	<u>13,437.18</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>13,437.18</u>

2016 - SEWER DEPARTMENT NOTES

Sewer Bonds (Wastewater Treatment Plant)

In December 2011 the two 20 year bonds held by the USDA for the Wastewater Treatment plant were combined and transferred to the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank at a lower rate of interest of 3.93%, to be retired in 2026. The payment schedule for 2016 and 2017 is listed below.

No	Date	Principal Payment	Interest Payment	Total Payment	Remaining Balance
7	4/15/2016	\$0.00	\$22,624.33	\$22,624.33	\$1,070,527.31
8	10/16/2016	\$90,742.64	\$19,396.95	\$110,139.59	\$979,784.67
9	5/15/2017	\$0.00	\$20,841.14	\$20,841.14	\$979,784.67
10	11/15/2017	\$94,308.83	\$20,841.14	\$115,149.97	\$885,475.84

Expense Note General Fund Loan - This loan paid in full as of 12/31/16

2013 Sewer Fund borrowed \$92,000 from General Fund; 2014 Sewer Fund borrowed \$47,000 from General Fund. Both of these loans were to finance the Sewer Bond payment due. The Sewer Department paid the General Fund back over 9 quarterly payments at 1.65% completed at the end of 2016. The 2016 payment schedule is shown below.

No	Date	Principal Payment	Interest	Total Payment	Remaining Balance
6	3/15/2016	\$16,338.86	\$271.26	\$16,610.12	\$49,422.08
7	6/15/2016	\$16,406.25	\$203.87	\$16,610.12	\$33,015.83
8	9/15/2016	\$16,473.93	\$136.19	\$16,610.12	\$16,541.90
9	12/15/2016	\$16,541.90	\$68.24	\$16,610.14	\$0.00

2016 - WATER DEPARTMENT NOTES

None at this time

DELINQUENT WATER/SEWER REPORT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

	CURRENT	OVER 30	OVER 60	OVER 90	OVER 120	TOTAL
SEWER	\$ 12,143.28	\$ 130.10	\$ -	\$ 5,133.57	\$ 5,325.20	\$ 22,732.15
WATER	\$ 5,184.19	\$ 81.81	\$ -	\$ 2,429.61	\$ 2,484.65	\$ 10,180.26
TOTAL	\$ 17,327.47	\$ 211.91	\$ -	\$ 7,563.18	\$ 7,809.85	\$ 32,912.41

The town has adopted a stricter delinquent water and sewer collection procedure. Once a billing is sent out, it is due in 30 days and becomes delinquent in 31 days. The account will be allowed to be delinquent for 30 days before the shut off process begins. At that time, the user has the opportunity to make a payment arrangement with the requirement that all future current billings remain current. Should this not occur, shutoff will occur with further charges being assessed. We are hopeful that this stricter collection policy will help reduce the delinquencies in these funds, thereby reducing the need for rate increases.

ACADEMY FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	3,505.75
Interest - 2015 & 2016	\$	5.64
Income	\$	-
Expenditure	\$	-
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	3,511.39

LISTER TRAINING FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	2,686.34
State Payment	\$	-
Expense	\$	-
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	2,686.34

CAPITAL BUDGET RESERVE		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	118,660.97
Interest	\$	27.12
General Fund Transfer	\$	330,000.00
Bond Plan - Capital transfer	\$	151,977.39
Bond Plan - Paving transfer	\$	210,827.50
Expenditures	\$	(345,124.98)
Bond Plan Capital Expenditures	\$	(158,977.39)
Bond Plan Paving Expenditures	\$	(220,262.61)
Expenditures	\$	-
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	87,128.00

POLICE COMMUNITY RESOURCE		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	1,432.64
Interest	\$	0.72
Donations	\$	20.00
Fund Transfer	\$	-
Expenditure	\$	-
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	1,453.36

CDBG-DR Fund		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	43.94
Due to General Fund	\$	1,062.00
Cavendish Gulf Road Expense	\$	(1,105.94)
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	-

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	11,621.98
Donations	\$	-
Interest	\$	21.85
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	11,643.83
Money Mkt Balance 12/31/16	\$	5,709.29

CHESTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	3,339.44
Interest	\$	1,271.93
Loan Payments Received	\$	7,429.86
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	12,041.23
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	299,860.79
Investment Income	\$	6,002.91
Gain/Loss	\$	9,311.38
People's Investment Balance 12/31/16	\$	315,175.08

REAPPRAISAL FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	205,191.21
Interest	\$	325.90
2015 State of Vermont Payment	\$	15,886.50
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	221,403.61

EMS BUILDING FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	31,254.61
Interest	\$	31.20
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	31,285.81

RECREATION DONATION FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	5,953.19
Interest	\$	-
Donations	\$	3,921.17
Fund Transfer	\$	-
Expenditure	\$	(3,697.76)
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	6,176.60

FORFEITURE FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	12,764.60
Interest	\$	-
Income	\$	-
Expenditure	\$	(257.48)
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	12,507.12

SAM ADAMS POOR FUND		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	1,611.72
Interest	\$	1.73
Income	\$	674.97
Fund Transfer	\$	-
Expenditure	\$	-
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	2,288.42

HEARSE HOUSE DONATIONS		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	18,900.00
Donations	\$	1,900.00
Expenditure	\$	(20,800.00)
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	-

250th Celebration		
Balance January 1, 2016	\$	-
Donations	\$	4,969.35
Expenditure	\$	4,872.13
Balance December 31, 2016	\$	97.22

TOWN OF CHESTER LAND AND BUILDING ASSETS

DESCRIPTION	ACREAGE	VALUATION
Adams Family Aquifer	30.53	\$ 90,800
Bouchard Land, (Smokeshire Road)	.12	19,200
Cemeteries:		
Adams Road	1.00	6,500
Brookside	3.80	44,900
North Street	5.74	46,500
Pleasant View	8.90	93,400
Poplar Grove (Poppel Dungeon Road)	.42	2,700
Smokeshire	.49	1,200
Spoonerville (Trebo Road)	.28	1,800
Colbeth Land (Grafton Road)	.12	16,200
Dodge Land (Reservoir Road)	9.08	57,200
Emergency Services Land	4.04	95,400
Flamstead Acres (Lot 45)	.11	13,600
Green, The	1.50	57,500
Hadley Land (Main Street)	14.10	66,300
Hammond Park (Depot Street)	.55	41,000
Historical Society Building	3.86	481,800
Jeffrey Well Site (Rt. 103 North)	17.0	834,900
Library Building	.43	623,300
McNally Land (Rt 11 West)	2.00	12,000
North Street Bridge Field	.50	32,000
Parizeau Land	1.3	24,800
Peck Land (Reservoir Road)	4.00	42,000
Perry/Pierce Land (Reservoir Road)	501.35	855,900
Quimby Land (School Street)	1.10	25,800
Recreation Area (The Pinnacle)	37.28	739,200
Salt Shed, Henry Land	.63	28,300
Suojanen Land (Reservoir Road)	.20	700
Town Garage	6.12	717,000
Town Hall	.41	580,900
Wastewater Treatment Plant	13.45	2,752,900
Water Tank Site (GMUHS)	1.00	20,000
Weatherby Farm Land (Reservoir Road)	40.00	105,000
Well Site (Canal Street)	3.00	125,800
Wiley Land (Cobleigh Street)	3.00	73,600
TOTAL	715.01	8,733,700

TO: Windsor County Town Clerks
RE: Windsor County News for inclusion in this year's Town Report
DATE: January 16, 2017

Please include this article in your Town Meeting Report. Thank you.

Windsor County Update
Assistant Judges Jack Anderson & Ellen Terie

FY 2017-18 Budget

The Assistant Judges held the preliminary budget meeting at 5 PM on Wednesday, December 14. The final budget calls for \$ 441,711 to be raised by taxes, a decrease of \$7,702 from the current FY 16-17 budget. The new budget calls for \$ 557,734 in total spending, a slight decrease of \$2,656 from the current FY budget.

According to the Vermont Department of Taxes, the Equalized Grand List for the entire county grew by \$136,620,400. That lowered the tax assessment used by the county a small amount. The county tax rate in 2016 was .005072178; for 2017 it will be .00490418. That's 4.9 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value.

Pursuant to Title 24 Sect. 134, the County Treasurer shall issue warrants on or before March 1 requiring the tax to be paid in two installments on or before July 5 and on or before November 5 (2017).

Courthouse Renovation Bond

2017 marks the fourth year of the \$2 million bond repayment. The bond is for ten years at 2.83%. This year, the amount to be billed to the towns will be \$242,324 (\$200,000 principal; \$42,324 interest). This billing is NOT part of the county budget, but a separate assessment.

Accomplishments Over the Past Year

Maintaining the two county properties – the former jail at 62 Pleasant Street and the 1855 Court House at 12 The Green – remains an important responsibility for the Assistant Judges. The courthouse is home to the Vermont Superior Court, Civil and Probate Divisions; the former jail is home to the County Sheriff and the Windsor County Offices.

Last summer the county installed central air conditioning in the civil and probate offices, including the probate hearing room/jury room, on the first floor at the courthouse. Seven historic 1855 windows were rehabilitated and conserved at the courthouse. The interior storm windows performed well last winter; oil usage was cut by thousands of gallons over the heating season.

At 62 Pleasant Street, the County installed a new floor in the workroom/kitchen of the Sheriff's office, and repaired the former porch on the east west end of the building.

A regular schedule of exterior painting and maintenance was carried out at both buildings.

REPORT OF THE TOWN OF CHESTER FIRE WARDEN

I am happy to report that we had another good year with only one incident of under 1 acre of brush fire in the Town of Chester for the year of 2016.

Considering that it was a very dry fire season this year. With most people getting it and understanding the dangers and calling to make sure that the conditions are favorable to burn.

There was one ticket issued for burning of Hazardous Materials, and two verbal warnings given for burning without a permit.

I issued somewhere around 115 verbal permits, turning down about 15 permits due to conditions.

I would like to thank all of the citizens of Chester for calling for permits to burn. This is the main reason that we have had a good year, with only one unnecessary Fire Department response to a permitted burn.

I would also request that people continue to call in the winter to burn legal materials so that I can keep track of where the fires are and continue to avoid unnecessary Fire Department responses. This will continue to be a cost savings to the tax payers by avoiding unnecessary responses.

I would like to remind everyone that you may call for a permit any day of the week on my cell at 802-384-3001.

Respectfully submitted
Jeff Holden
Town of Chester Fire Warden

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY AND BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

In the year 2016 the Board of Civil Authority had no business to come before it. There were no appeals as a result of property assessment grievances to the Listers.

There were only two appeals to the Board of Tax Abatement in 2016. A request for abatement of taxes based on inability to pay was denied, after the appellant failed to prove inability to pay to the full satisfaction of the Board. An abatement was granted to a property owner for loss by fire during the tax year.

The Boards of Civil Authority and Tax Abatement thank the Listers for their hard work and expertise in setting assessments and handling grievances. Their dedication makes our work much easier. Also, the small number of abatement requests reflects an awareness of how few grounds for abatement are permissible under Vermont law.

There were three elections in 2016, namely the Town Meeting Election in March, the State Primary Election in August and the General Election in November. The only election in 2017 will be the Town Meeting Election on March 7. PLEASE GET OUT AND VOTE! Your vote concerning local candidates and budgets is important! There are other options for voting besides coming to the polling place (Town Hall) on March 7. Please call the Town Office, 875-2173, for other voting options such as absentee, early voting or home delivery of ballots.

Your Boards of Civil Authority and Tax Abatement thank the Town Office staff and Listers for doing all the preparation and work that makes our job so much easier.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Barrett, Chairman
Board of Civil Authority and Tax Abatement

Chester Conservation Committee Report - 2016

The Chester Conservation Committee (CCC), established in 2006, is an informal group of volunteers whose purpose is to foster awareness and stewardship of Chester's rich heritage of natural resources. The CCC creates opportunities for local citizens and visitors to enjoy these resources through outdoor activities and offers free public programs for all ages on a variety of topics including natural history, outdoor recreation and land management. The CCC has also served as a contact or liaison for groups who have projects or concerns which affect Chester's natural resources.

Outdoor Recreation

The CCC is actively involved in developing and maintaining outdoor recreation opportunities for Chester residents and visitors. Currently, the CCC maintains two established hiking trails on town land in Chester: the Lost Mine Trail, located within the Town Forest on Reservoir Road, and the Green Mountain Nature Trail situated adjacent to Green Mountain Union HS on Two Rivers Supervisory Union property. Trail maps can be downloaded at: www.ourchester.org, www.chestervt.gov/recreation, www.chestertelegraph.org and www.yourplaceinvermont.com.

The CCC is in the process of developing the Butternut Hill Trail, a spur trail off of the Lost Mine trail to the summit of Butternut Hill. The CCC has also been investigating the possibility of an "in-town" hiking trail located directly behind the Brookside Cemetery (near the Village Green) and across Lovers Lane Brook.

It is important to note a recent economic impact study released by the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council. The study confirmed that Vermont's trail network has a direct economic impact on communities in Vermont. As we continue to maintain and develop trails in Chester, it is gratifying to know that we may be contributing an economic benefit to local businesses.

In addition to developing and stewarding local hiking trails, the CCC supported the development of a nine hole disc golf course, in conjunction with a group of volunteer enthusiasts, at the Pinnacle Recreation Area on Lover's Lane. The course features an informational kiosk, professional baskets and tee boxes and winds its way through hilly, wooded and previously under-utilized town property. The Chester Disc Golf Course represents a new outdoor recreation activity for Chester residents as well as out-of-town visitors interested in playing this increasingly popular sport.



Environmental Projects

The CCC is actively involved in several on-going volunteer projects focused on improving and monitoring environmental activities in Chester.

Vermont Green-Up Day: The CCC recruits and coordinates volunteers and resources for the annual VT Green-Up Day activities in Chester, focused on removing trash and other abandoned materials from roadways and neighborhoods.

Williams River Water Quality Monitoring project: Working in collaboration with the Southeastern VT Watershed Alliance (SeVWA), the CCC recruits and coordinates volunteers to collect water samples from seven different Chester locations during July and August. The samples are tested for various nutrients, silt and E. coli, with results being uploaded to the SeVWA Website (www.sevwa.org/water-monitoring), providing the public with detailed water quality data for the Williams River Watershed.

Chester Public Tree Inventory: In collaboration with the Vermont Community Forestry Project, CCC members were actively involved in conducting a tree inventory in “downtown” Chester in August. The inventory is designed to be a tool to inform decision making about tree management and care in the heart of Chester. A summary report is available at www.vtcommunityforestry.org on the Public Tree Inventories page.

Rainbow Rock Swimming Hole: The CCC is currently supporting the efforts of the Vermont River Conservancy in assessing the viability of maintaining public access to the Rainbow Rock Swimming Hole on the Williams River.



Public Outreach and Education Programs

The CCC has sponsored a variety of public education programs over the past 10 years. Our most recent programs included topics such as invasive exotic plants, solar for your home, forestry for woodland owners and the Williams River Watershed. In the past, the CCC has produced the storytelling event called “The Enchanted Forest” in the woods and fields behind GMUHS.

The CCC also leads a series of guided hikes every spring on the Lost Mine and GMUHS Nature Trails to introduce hikers and recreationalists to these incredible town assets.

Since 2012, the CCC has provided tuition-matching scholarships to students from Chester-Andover Elementary School and GMUHS to attend a weeklong session of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Green Mountain Conservation Camp.

The CCC participates annually in the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival and Chester Fall Festival, providing attendees with information related to Chester's natural resources and recreational opportunities.

Join Us

The Chester Conservation Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Chester-Andover Elementary School. If you have an initiative or activity that will foster awareness or stewardship of Chester's natural resources come and share your ideas.

Please join us! We welcome new members and new ideas. For more information about the CCC, contact Mary Beth Adler at [802.875.2418](tel:802.875.2418) or Melissa Post at [802.875.4102](tel:802.875.4102).

Report of the Chester Historical Society

2016 was another good year for the Chester Historical Society. We made gains in archiving and scanning our collections. We received several donations of artifacts from as far away as Arizona. Membership grew at a faster rate in 2016 than we have seen in several years.

This past year Chester Historical Society participated in Chester's 250th birthday with new exhibits and a very well attended cemetery tour of Brookside cemetery. In August we celebrated our 50th year as an organization in Chester. The evening event was catered under tent. Peter Farrar gave an in-depth talk on Chester's earliest history and Erik Johansson entertained us with his music and Vermont humor.

Julie Hance, assistant to the Town Manager has applied for a grant to restore all of the windows in the Academy Building. The current windows have rotted sashes, missing putty or broken panes. We are hopeful this major restoration will happen in 2107.

Respectfully submitted Ron Patch



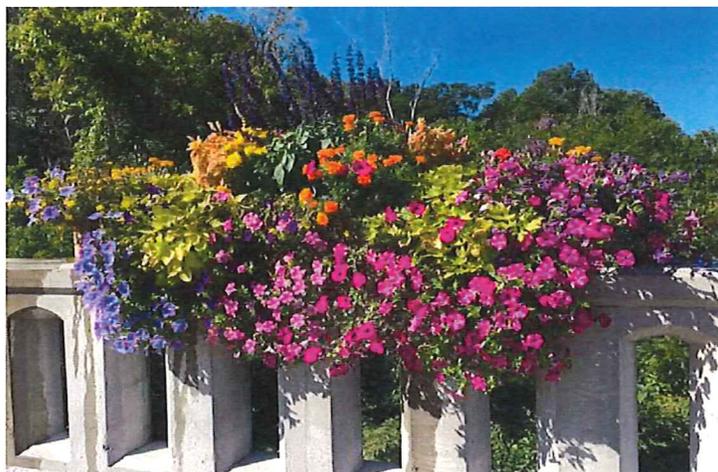
FOR 2016 TOWN OF CHESTER ANNUAL REPORT

CHESTER TOWNSCAPE

2016 was a year of continued accomplishments for Chester Townscape [CT], an all-volunteer organization dedicated to enlisting public and private resources both to enhance the natural, historic, and architectural features of the town and to further Chester's environmental and cultural vitality. CT's broad spectrum of projects included seasonal landscaping and decorations for public buildings and properties, continued improvements on the Hearse House and Public Tomb, and promotion of Chester's historical appeal through CT's walking tour brochure of the central village.

Chester Beautification. Daffodils, planted for several years in the Hearse House/Public Tomb/Brookside Cemetery area, began the beautification of the town in the spring. Those flowers were followed by impatiens that bloomed all summer into fall. CT volunteers again planted and watered the impatiens and the flower pots that graced public locations. New flower boxes were installed on the Route 103 south bridge, as well as the swing bridge in town. Four large hanging baskets were added to the Pinnacle gazebo. The foundation plantings at the Chester/Andover Family Center were replanted and new flower beds of colorful annuals added near the street. Fall displays of giant mums, pumpkins, and corn husks celebrated that season in public pots and planters. In early December evergreen wreaths were positioned in public places to celebrate Christmas and winter.

Additional beautification projects, in conjunction with the Town, resulted in the roof repair and painting of the two gazebos and the pruning of trees in the Village Green area.



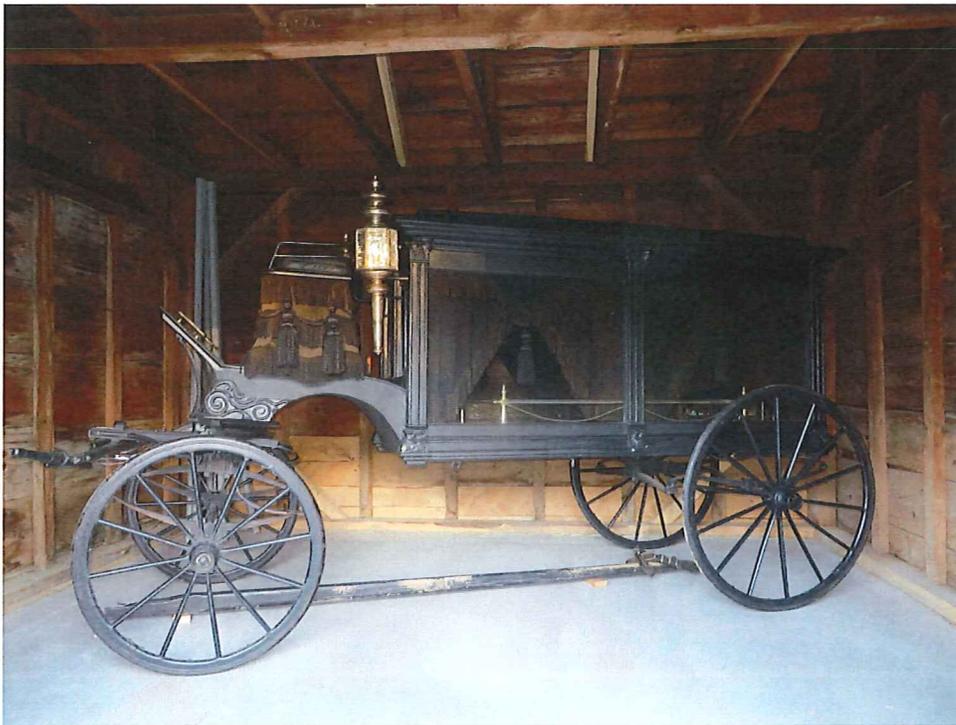
Boxes on town bridges, such as those on the Route 103 North bridge, as well as planters all over town, provided a glorious display all summer long.

Hearse House/Public Tomb Restoration. Smaller finishing details on the Public Tomb were completed, with missing trim added and painted, the metal door painted, and replicas for the only key in existence created by a metal worker. One of the new keys has been given to the Adams

Funeral Home. Another will be given to the Town, and the original will be on display when the educational foyer is created at the Hearse House.

The foundation of the Hearse House was repaired, its frame realigned, all rotted wood inside and outside replaced, roof slates replaced, a new reinforced concrete floor laid, electricity brought in, and the building painted. On September 21, 2016, the handsome Town hearse was swiftly and easily rolled up the street and into its new home by town workers. A replacement track above the doorway and stoppers on the floor were installed to allow the doors to move safely within a restricted position. Replacement door handles that mimic the previous broken one were installed. Construction of the educational foyer, the last phase of the renovation, is scheduled to start in January 2017. A grand opening of the mini museum with its hearse display and information on funeral customs will be planned for spring 2017. Since there is still time for additional materials to be added, the public is encouraged to contact Hearse House Committee members Suzy Forlie (875-3634) or Lillian Willis (875-1340) with information, pictures, and mementos to augment the information that will be included.

In addition, the historic cast-iron fence between the two buildings that had been removed for repair and new paint over last winter was reinstalled on June 2, 2016.



The Town Hearse now sits in its renovated Hearse House, adjacent to the Public Tomb and the Brookside Cemetery.

CT's Walking Tour of the Central Village. "Take a Walk along Main Street in Historic Chester Village" – the self-guided historic-building tour of central Chester edited by Nancy Chute, with graphic design by Lew Watters, and dispensed by local retailers, inns, and restaurants – continues to be generously printed by NewsBank. Thousands of free copies have furthered appreciation of Chester's history and character and encouraged visits about the town by historians, artists, and scenic travelers.

Community Support. To enhance appeal during the Christmas holiday and winter season, Chester Townscape donated \$400 to the Overture to Christmas Committee to purchase additional lights and \$100 to buy four Christmas trees from the Fire Department for the Town Green. CT's

fall bulb campaign again raised funds to help cover the costs for those projects, as well as for the flower planters and evergreen wreaths.



The renovated Hearse House and Public Tomb, in addition to other public buildings, were decorated with evergreen wreaths for Christmas

Continued Appreciation. Chester Townscape is again grateful to several groups and individuals for specialized help: John Donarum, School-to-Work Coordinator at Green Mountain Union High School, and students from the Opportunities Program who dug trenches that sped up the bulb-planting process; Instructor John Harmer and horticulture students from River Valley Technical Center in Springfield for multiple pruning sessions to trees in the Village Green area; Town of Chester workers for removing prunings and for landscape improvements; Steve Mancuso of Chester Electric for electrical work on the Hearse House; Chris Conway of CGC Construction for labor on the gazebo roofs; Evan Parks for his repair work on three benches in the Village Center; and NewsBank for all it does to help Chester Townscape improve the community.

For Information. The Chester contacts for the flower and beautification program, bulb sales, the walking map, and Hearse House restoration may be found on the Town of Chester website at www.chestervt.gov/chester-townscape. Support for CT's projects comes from private donations and grants. Contributions to Chester Townscape, a subcommittee of the tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) Chester Community Alliance, Inc. [CCA], may be sent to CCA at PO Box 561, Chester, VT 05143, with the pertinent Chester Townscape project noted in the memo line.

Respectfully submitted,
Chester Townscape Committee

Mariette Bock, Nancy Chute, Jane Davis, Suzy Forlie, Carol Gilbert,
Cheryl LeClair, John McAweeney, Chris Meyer, Nancy Rugg,
Lynn Russell, Rosann Sexton, Tory Spater, Barb Westine, Lillian Willis

YOSEMITE ENGINE COMPANY REPORT

2016 was yet again another successful year for the Yosemite Engine Company. Our fund raising efforts have all gone very well which allows us to give back to the town and community. Our fundraising efforts this year allowed us to give back approximately \$18,283 worth of rescue equipment, as well as renovations to our training room.

We continued to have great success at the Chester Fall Festival with our sales of food and fire department shirts. Even with the rainy weather on the second day this year, we still managed to have our second best weekend since we started participating at the festival. Christmas tree sales were also very good this year, we sold a total of 472 trees in thirteen days. We have continued to keep our costs the same, and we encourage the honor system when we aren't manning the trailer. I ask anyone who can't afford a tree, or knows of someone in need to privately reach out to me, or send a message to the Chester Fire Department on Facebook. We recently sent out our second donation letter in the past three years. So far the letter has turned out very fruitful, and we will have more on those numbers next year.

As we start 2017 we look forward to what is to come. We are in the midst of a calendar raffle, and also have start talking about some new fundraising ideas. One new fundraiser this year will be a "Firefighter Calendar" for 2018, we hope to have it printed, and start selling in later summer. We also hope to try and do a duck race at the fall festival this year. There will be more on all of this as the year goes on.

On behalf of everyone at the Yosemite Engine Company, I want to personally thank the entire community, as well as all others who have assisted, and supported us in our cause. It is your support of the fire department as a whole that allows us to thrive, and be the great group that we are. Anyone wishing to make a donation may do so by sending cash or check to The Yosemite Engine Company, P. O. Box 631, Chester VT 05143.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Whalen, President



RABIES ALERT

Rabies is a disease that can kill animals and people.



- *Vermont law requires rabies shots for all CATS and DOGS.
- *Rabies shots help protect pets and pet owners from rabies.
- *Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance. Remember, rabid animals have been found in all Vermont counties.



Questions? Call the Vermont Rabies Hotline
1-800-4-RABIES (472-2437)

Vermont Department of Health • Health Surveillance Division
P.O. Box 70, Burlington, VT 05402 • 863-7240 or 1-800-640-4374

2017 DOG AND CAT RABIES CLINIC CHESTER, VERMONT

Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Chester Town Garage

Licenses are available for Chester residents only

Reminder to renew dog licenses by April 1

Neutered: \$9; Non-Neutered: \$13

After April 1

Neutered: \$11; Non-Neutered: \$17

DEFEAT RABIES - Fight with Facts

Rabies Kills

animals and people!



Vermont

25-50 animals/year positive for rabies

Around the world

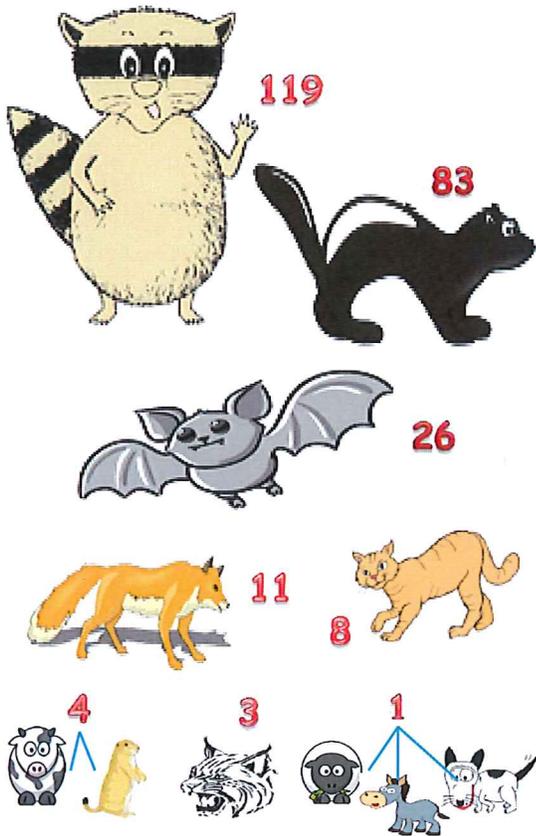


Rabies kills 1 person every 10 minutes

RECOGNIZE RABIES

PREVENT RABIES

VT rabies cases since 2011:



Vaccinate your animals!

Avoid any weird-acting animals - then tell an adult!

TALK to your doctor if you get bitten by an animal or wake up to find a bat in your house.



"Partnering to make recycling strong through economic and environmentally sound solutions"

Northeast Resource Recovery Association, 2101 Dover Road, Epsom, NH 03234
 Telephone: (603) 736-4401 or 1-800-223-0150 Fax: (603) 736-4402
 E-mail: info@nrna.net Web Site: www.nrra.net

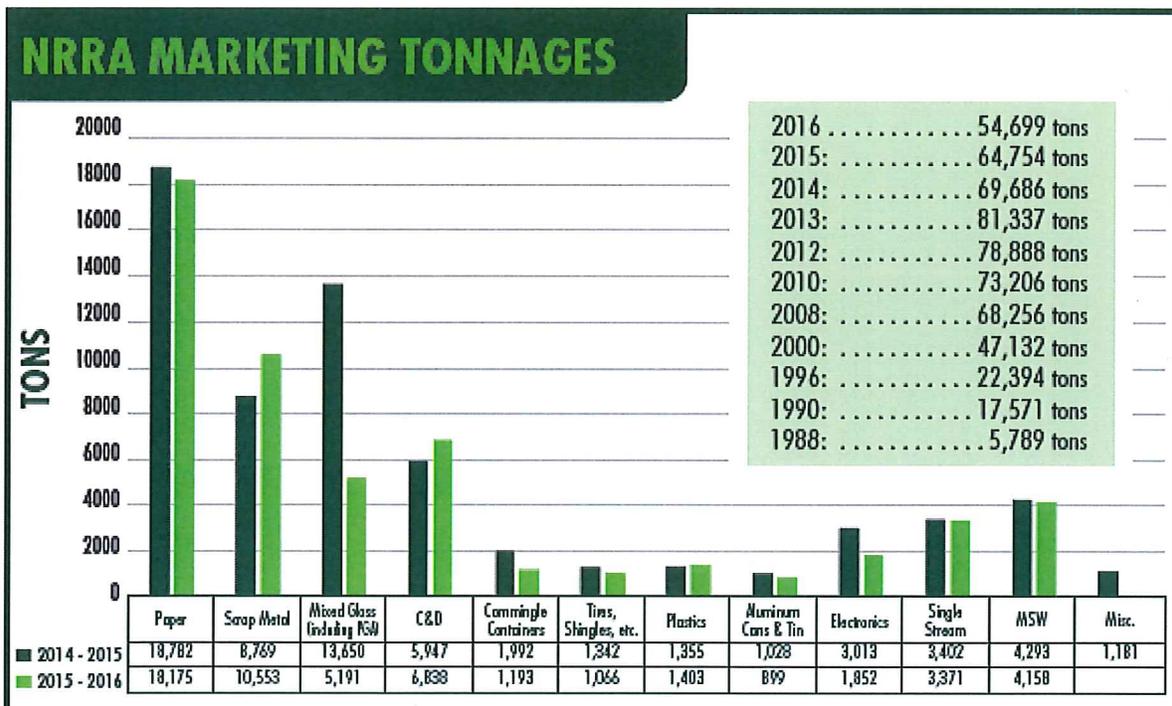
Dear NRRA Member,

As a member of Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA), your community has access to all the services of this first in the nation, 36-year old recycling cooperative. Your member-driven organization provides you with:

- Up-to-date **Technical Assistance** in waste reduction and recycling including solid waste contract negotiations;
- **Cooperative Marketing** to maximize pricing and **Cooperative Purchasing** to minimize costs;
- Current **Market Conditions** and Latest **Recycling Trends, both regionally and nationwide;**
- **Innovative Programs** (i.e. Dual Stream, Consolidation and Single Stream);
- **Educational and Networking Opportunities** through our Annual Recycling Conference, our Monthly "Full of Scrap" email news, monthly Marketing meetings, **members' only website**, workshops and Fall Facility Tours;
- **School Recycling Club** - a program to assist schools to promote or advance their recycling efforts;
- **NH DES Continuing Ed Credits;**
- **NH the Beautiful Signs, Grants, Bins and Recyclemobiles.**

NRRA membership has grown to include more than 400 municipalities, businesses and individuals in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine. NRRA, as a non-profit organization, is unique in that we do not charge a "brokerage fee" or work to maximize profit gains, but rather has a minimal "Co-op" Fee" which is re-invested to further your recycling programs and solid waste reduction efforts in schools and municipalities.

Through your continued support and dedication, NRRA has assisted our members to recycle over 54,699 tons in fiscal year 2015-2016!



Please contact NRRA at 800-223-0150 / 603-736-4401 or visit our website at www.nrra.net



Benefits of NRRA Municipal Membership

- *Voting privileges at NRRA annual/special member meetings
- *Free subscription to NRRA's E-Newsletter-"Full of Scrap"
- *Access to all of NRRA's cooperative marketing programs, providing consistently high value revenue, consistent movement for all recyclables, and the entire waste stream including MSW
- *Access to NRRA's monthly pricing guide
- *Access to NRRA Members' only section of website
- *Access to NRRA's cooperative purchasing programs
- *NRRA monthly/quarterly/annual activity reports
- *Annual NRRA environmental impact reports
- *Discounts to NRRA award winning annual conference
- *Discounts to NRRA workshops, bus tours, other events
- *NRRA SWAT team assistance as needed on site
- *Technical assistance from NRRA's member services team
- *Attendance at NRRA's member's only "M.O.M". meetings
- *Opportunities for NH DES credit towards operator training
- *Free NRRA membership for all K-12 schools in your municipality
- *Discounts on all NRRA School CLUB recycling programming
- *Grant processing assistance for any NH the Beautiful Bins/Grants/Signs
- *Financing assistance for recycling infrastructure - NRRA will assist with the purchase of balers, skid steers, trailers and storage containers, both with NHtB grant applications and with commodity payments over time

Membership Fee is .07/capita (\$ 100 minimum/\$ 1,800 maximum)

Municipal dues year runs from April 1 through March 31*

(option for July 1 thru June 30 available upon request)

*Municipal membership fees can be prorated for new members



"Partnering to make recycling strong through economic and environmentally sound solutions"

Northeast Resource Recovery Association, 2101 Dover Road, Epsom, NH
 03234 Telephone: (603) 736-4401 or 1-800-223-0150
 Fax: (603) 736-4402

E-mail: info@nrna.net

Web Site: www.nrra.net

Town of Chester, VT

Congratulations for being such active recyclers!

Below please find information on the positive impact your recycling has had on our environment.

The recyclable materials listed below were sent to market to be remanufactured into new products through your non-profit recycling organization, the Northeast Resource Recovery Association.

Recyclable Material	Amount Recycled In 2016	Environmental Impact!
Steel Cans	5.5 gross tons	Here is <u>only one</u> benefit of recycling materials rather than manufacturing products from virgin resources Conserved enough energy to run a 60 watt light bulb for 321,360 hours!

Avoided Emissions:

Recycling uses much less energy than making products from virgin resources, and using less energy means fewer greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

By recycling the materials above, you have avoided about **11 tons** of carbon dioxide emissions
 This is the equivalent of removing **2 passenger cars** from the road for an entire year

SPRINGFIELD TRANSFER STATION AND RECYCLING CENTER

Vermont's Universal recycling law, Act 148, and its list of items that have been banned from disposal in state landfills, have been included in my past reports. The second phase of Act 148 outlawed print and packaging materials and clean/ untreated wood from landfill disposal. As of July 1, 2017 food waste and other similar organics will be prohibited from landfill disposal. The amount of recyclables in need of handling at the transfer station has increased on all fronts. So far, with some luck and sustained effort, we have successfully managed the increase of recyclables. More dry storage space and another baler would be helpful. It would cut down on time spent double handling the material, and would also provide options on those days when things run amuck. However, with the prices of recycled materials at an all-time low and without the knowledge of what future recycling processes will be using we will continue to operate as best we can. I'm not overly optimistic about a financial recovery any time soon, so please, let's not lose sight of the value in reuse when compared to the true cost of disposal.

Textiles, by way of example, have been reused forever. They were once a big thing in the world of recycling, now, not so much. Over the past year, we have lost two textile outlets and currently have none.

In this economy many people rely, if not depend, on Andrea's 2nd chance store. Her little thrift shop sends out for local reuse, or bales for recycling; well over a ton of textiles every month.

Some customers choose to assert their individualism by not conforming to the norm by; driving the wrong way through the gates, putting things where they clearly don't belong or by not abiding with our scheduled hours of operation. We do not encourage this for any number of reasons, but it happens and would appreciate if everyone would abide by our rules.

One thing that didn't get much ink during 2016 is a state wide battery program. Now we can recycle almost any battery from button to boat, including alkaline, so bring them on in.

Last year Springfield and our Waste Management District collected over 40 sewing machines for a program called Pedals 4 Progress. Have a look at www.p4p.org. If you have an older, working machine, no longer in use, please bring it in any time.

CERTAIN AND POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES

During July of 2017 we have to start collecting food waste and other similar organics, but it won't be banned from disposal in your trash until July 2020. There will be a cost for us to handle this material and the current plan is for it to be identically handled by all five of the transfer stations in Waste Management District. It's not too soon to think about how your household is going to manage this resource; a back yard composter will work for some.

We anticipate to start requiring all transfer station users to have stickers to access the facility. Free stickers will be provided to Springfield and Chester residents (they already pay to use the facility). Residents from all other locations will have to purchase a sticker. The cost for us to dispose of solid waste at the landfill continues to increase; consequently we anticipate a rate increase for individual's solid waste disposal at the transfer station. During 2017, we will likely stop weighing individual's solid waste and switch over to a fixed fee for each bag disposed of at the transfer station.

Please keep bringing your stuff!

Dan Farrar
Recycle Coordinator.

2016 Report of the Health Officer

Dear Fellow Chester Residents,

Another year has come and gone and am hoping it was a good one for all. The Chester Town Health officer is a multifocal job that presents me with some interesting situations. One of my main jobs seems to be resolving landlord and tenant situations, and I want everyone to know that there are defined rules a landlord must follow. This past year I dealt with a heating insufficiency situation that affected more than one apartment. Through multiple conversations and referencing Vermont law that situation was resolved to the satisfaction of the tenants.

I also like to mention a health tip or lifestyle change that could impact your life for the better. In the past I have spoken of walking more, eating less high fructose corn syrup etc. As we start the new year pff, I cannot emphasize enough that now is the time to take small steps to improve your health. In this uncertain health care future that we cannot control, it is imperative that we take measures to be as healthy as we can be. Here are some suggestions.

One ten minute walk averages .6 miles. After work, or before if you walk for 10 minutes 4 times a week you will have walked 2.4 miles per week or about 150 miles a year. Easy!! Another important health tip is to eat a good salad once a day. The dark green leafy lettuces provide iron and antioxidants as well as promotes normal digestion. If you bring the lettuce home from the store and cut it up and place in water, you can drain it really well with a salad spinner or dry with a paper towel and place in a bag in fridge, it will last much longer and is ready to go if you want to bring some for lunch or use for dinner salad. You can add sunflower seeds, apples, peppers, or any other vegetable you have in fridge and you can make some tasty interesting salads. This type of clean eating eliminates processed food choices, and really aids in your normal digestion. If you are a smoker, start eliminating one cigarette a day for a week. The following week eliminate another cigarette a day. You can slowly wean down from all that tar and nicotine. I know how difficult it is to quit, but it is perhaps one of the most harmful things you can do to your body. Cutting down the amount you smoke has value. And finally, try and get more sleep at night. These are all simple steps we can all practice for better health.

Make your own strategy to live a more fitful healthy lifestyle. You will feel better and improving your fitness and nutrition will benefit your happiness!!! Here's to the start of a healthy New Year!!As usual if you have any questions or comments for me you can call me at home. Thanks!

Respectfully Submitted

Leslie M. Thorsen RN BBA

REPORT OF TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS 2016

Our annual meeting of the Trustee of Public Funds was held in January 2017 to discuss the economic condition of our 2016 investments .

The wealth management officers of Peoples Bank presented a report of our assets held in mutual, real asset, and equity funds.

There were no requests for disbursement from the Trustee of Public Funds for the year 2016. As these funds are restrictive, they can only be used as specified by the original donor. If anyone is interested in donating to the Town of Chester for a special project or gift, a letter is required with your instructions for disbursement for the life of the funds. The fund could also be named for the donor .

Respectfully Submitted.

Shirley Barrett

Erron Carey

Sandra Walker

**STATEMENT OF TRUST FUNDS
HELD BY TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

<u>Investments</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Net Income 2016*	\$ 5,267.02
Principal Money Market Fund	\$ 40,626.19
Mutual Funds: Fixed Income	\$ 267,750.97
Equity	\$ 341,200.64
Real Assets	\$8,665.65
Total Investments	<u>\$ 663,510.47</u>

*\$ to be disbursed January 2017

**TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
PAYABLES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016**

Due Town of Chester	\$ 4,432.07
Due Chester Town School District: Abbie Ingalls School Fund	\$ 10.71
Due Chester Schools: Williams School Fund	<u>\$ 824.24</u>
TOTAL	\$ 5,267.02

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS 2016

	Receipts		Disbursements			Invested
	Income	Principal	To Town	To Schools	To Cemetery	Principal
Cemetery Fund	\$ 1,713.43		\$ 1,713.43			-
Campbell for Poor	140.17		140.17			
Samuel Adams Cemetery	0.43		0.43			
Howe-Peabody	810.92		810.92			
Fullerton Cemetery	6.98		6.98			
Samuel Adams Poor	437.61		437.61			
Salter Poor Fund	10.71		10.71			
Cyprus Minerals	1,311.83		1,311.83			
Abbie Ingalls School	10.71			10.71		
Williams School Fund	824.24			824.24		
Capital Gains Distributions		3,938.84				\$3,938.84
	<u>\$ 5,267.02</u>	<u>\$ 3,938.84</u>	<u>\$ 4,432.07</u>	<u>\$ 834.95</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$3,938.84</u>
Inc MMkt Bal 12/31/16	\$ 5,267.02					

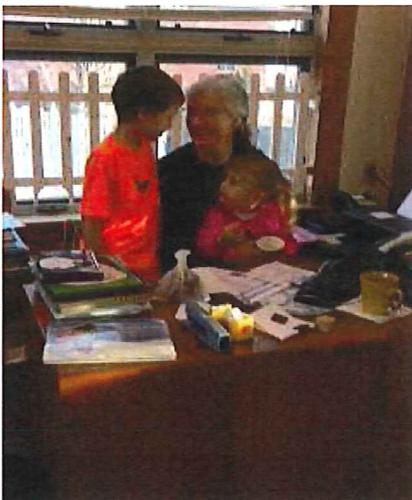
12/31/2016 Year- End Market Value	Contribution Amount	Total
\$663,510.47	\$ 2,000.00	\$665,510.47

	Old %		New %
Cemetery Fund	32.320%	\$215,848.21	32.53%
Campbell for Poor	2.670%	\$17,657.90	2.66%
Samuel Adams Cemetery	0.010%	\$53.69	0.01%
Howe Peabody	15.450%	\$102,155.39	15.40%
Fullerton Cemetery	0.130%	\$879.20	0.13%
Samuel Adams Poor	8.330%	\$55,128.07	8.31%
Salter Poor Fund	0.200%	\$1,349.01	0.20%
Cyprus Minerals	24.990%	\$165,256.71	24.91%
Abbie Ingalls School	0.200%	\$1,349.01	0.20%
Williams School Fund	15.700%	\$103,833.27	15.65%
	100.00%	\$663,510.46	100.00%

Each day the Library is open, we are visited by eighty-eight people who find room for meetings or quiet study, up-to-date computers and printers and Wi-Fi access; they listen to stories, enjoy crafts, and learn a new skill. Patrons leave with books, magazines, movies, cake pans, tools, art supplies, even a telescope. Each month around 1700 items are circulated and sixty-three new things arrive to add to the collection of over 15,000.

Each year the Library is opened for around 200 days, circulating materials, answering questions, offering computer help and hosting programs for children and adults. More than one hundred programs are offered to children and twenty-four programs for adults. This year monthly book groups enjoyed Gilead by Marilynne Robinson, Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid by Bill Bryson, Life of Pi by Yann Martel, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll, The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein, Lifeboat by Charlotte Rogan, Sudden light by Garth Stein, and Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline.

The Vermont Humanities Council-Vermont READS Program explored the Shackleton expedition with two books, Shipwreck at The Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong and Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition by Caroline Alexander. David Lord shared his vast knowledge of sailing vessels and open ocean navigation which enriched our understanding of this heroic tale. A dramatic film of the expedition was shown, popcorn and cider included. Frank Kelley and his students at CAES shared the program's resources; the children drew wonderful scenes and shared thoughts about Shackleton.



Early in the year the “fiber-obsessed”, enthusiastic crew from Six Loose Ladies offered Learn to knit, Knit your first hat, and Felting a flower. In celebration of National Library Week we had fun with “Blind Date with a Book” and a chance for children to read “Tales to tails” with Oreo. Cheryl Wilfong, Master Gardener and Master Composter presented “Well controlled garden-not” in the spring as we inaugurated a seed library (thanks to the encouragement of Mr. Pisha) giving away sixty-six packages of seeds and thirty-two tomato plants along with information for growing and saving seed. Passport to VT Libraries over the summer encouraged discovery of the state's other libraries. Susan Powers Bourne's workshop found poetry among the stacks. Local

artists displayed their talents and brightened the walls: Bill Reed's waterfalls, Wendy Hayward's watercolor paintings of Scotland, Betsy Boundy's watercolors – her first show, Carl Mitchell's paintings, Lew Watters' prints and Wendy Schwarz's new works.

We are distributing free copies of the US Constitution. And before year's end we will host the National Archive traveling exhibit celebrating the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, two more book discussions, a dozen more children's programs, and two more poetry workshops. "Mardi Gras" quilt, donated by the Chester Quilters will also be raffled.

In addition to our two annual fundraising appeal letters, we raffled a doll generously donated by Bonnie Bundles, six donated porcelain dolls and conducted a silent auction of collectable books, with an on-line bid feature thanks to the skills of Jeff Ladd. Free fun raffles happened year-round - a ceramic spring village, tee shirts, and jelly bean and candy corn guessing games. The Fall Foliage Festival book sale was our best ever! The new Library website came on-line with a PayPal donation button for ease of giving.

Repair and restoration of the Library began using the USDA grant and loan awarded June 2014. David Bruce, Tom McLoughlin, Brian Moser, Mark Mitchell and Peter Moore painted, varnished, calked, re- pointed, replaced and repaired inside and out. Tom Keefe oversaw the work to assure historic accuracy and harmonious results. Chester Townscapes kept the grounds blooming. The building was also challenged by a pressure leak in the fire protection system, faulty elevator switch, and soggy carpet due to excess rain, with no lasting damage thanks to the fast action of Julie Hance and ServPro.

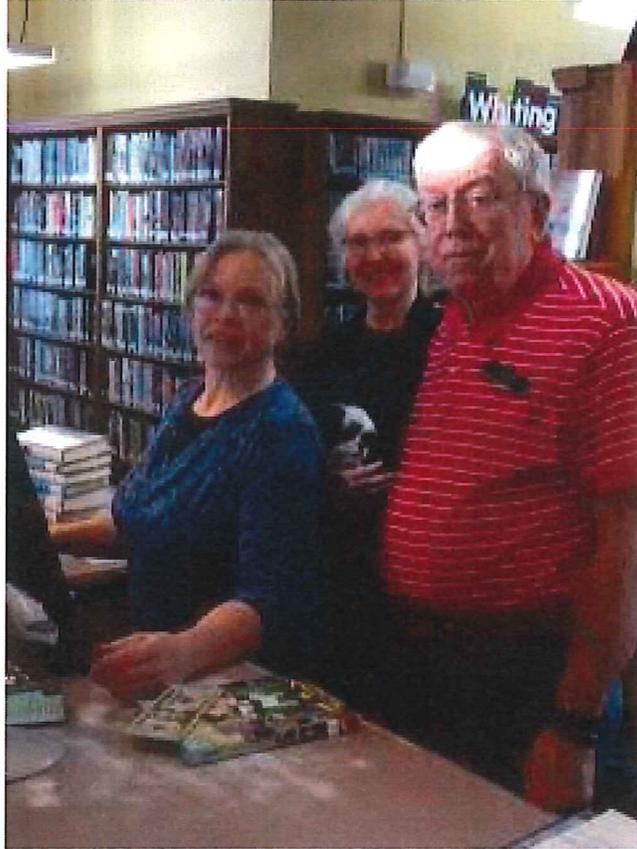




After many attempts to improve Vermont Library's inter-library loan system, we took part in the first trial of a state-wide courier system for delivery of books between participating libraries paid in part by a LSTA grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services. This proved a great success, and it is hoped that it will continue in place of mailing.

Our community members continued to encourage us with their generosity and support. Jack Carlock and St Luke's annual Lego contest gave their annual donations for the children's library, and we were honored to be a beneficiary of Marjorie Cross, and to make Newsbank databases available. Our volunteers were feted in June, and continued to give sixteen to twenty hours each week of their time and talents. Many, many thanks to Jonne Adler, Chris Blodgett, Jessica Buchanan, Caitlin Cavanaugh, Cindy Collins, Betsy Frenchman, Daryl Gustafson, Cathy Hasbrouck, Doris Hastings, Joan Houghton, Carol Hoyt, Elizabeth Moulton, Arlene Mutshler and Oreo, Mark Tanzer, Jeanne Waldren, and John Donorum's School to Work students. We greatly appreciate the continued, essential support of David Pisha, Deborah Aldrich, Cil Matthews, Julie Hance and Amie O'Brien.

Whiting Library is grateful to the Kyrias Foundation for continued, generous support. This year's Summer Reading Program included three on-site programs led by environmental educator Rachel Brown from The Nature Museum. The programs focused on the characteristics, habitats and behaviors of three different animal groups including bats, amphibians and reptiles, with a discussion of local species. Forty-one children and seventeen adults enjoyed games, songs, artifacts, stories, art projects and healthy snacks. The Summer Reading Program also included incentives for reading which culminated in prize drawings. Prizes included binoculars and a bird book, a Crayola Art Set, a Lego Chain Reactions book/kit, Squeezable Sand and a Bug Hunter Set for observing insects. Sixty-two children participated in the incentive program and read a total of 570 picture books and 247 chapter books! Children's librarian Karin Fischer also hosted weekly programs in July for the Chester Andover Elementary School's summer program, serving an average of twenty-two children and four adults each week. She cheerfully visits Chester Pre-school as a guest reader each month.



Staff of the Library: Sharon Tanzer, director, Karin Fischer, youth services, assistants Will Wilcox and Rich Hoffmann.

Board of Trustees: Kathy Pellett, chair, Mariette Bock, treasurer, David Lord, secretary, MaryLou Farr, Charlene Huyler, Carrie King, John Holme.

WHITING LIBRARY'S OPERATING BUDGET

REVENUES	2015 Cash	2016 Cash	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET
Interest	727.95	206.84	175	0
Chester, Town of	72,000	72,000	72,000	75,000
Andover, Town of	2,200	2,200	2,200	3,000
Fund Raising Drive	14,471.95	11,605.24	15,000	15,000
Donations	3,366.65	2,188.79	2,200	800
Grants/Programs	213.9	382.5	200	200
Book Sales	2,760.11	3,959.99	2,400	2,400
Lost Items	319.84	206.30	300	300
Copier	803.61	648.32	800	800
Fines	1,820.79	1,461.41	1,800	1,800
Raffles	0.00	482.15	0	200
Non-Resident Fees	375.00	314.59	255	300
Check Acct Draw	6,022.22	4,944.33	4,073	5,580
Total Revenues	105,082.02	100,600.46	101,403	105,380

EXPENDITURES	2015 Cash	2016 Cash	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET
Payroll	70,766.43	68,419.14	69,431	72,100
Payroll Benefits	6,078.85	6,109.95	5,902	6,130
Administration	640.47	827.66	800	800
Bank Charges	-41.64	101.57	0	100
Books & Materials	10,887.08	9,549.47	10,000	11,000
Supplies	4,085.85	3,420.09	3,700	3,500
Fund Raising Expense	1,378.06	1,161.09	1,500	1,500
Programs Expense	1,120.43	1,228.59	1,500	1,500
Postage	1,161.02	1,329.57	1,200	1,000
Telephone	891.78	828.24	900	900
Copier	839.64	1,319.97	720	1,100
Prof. Development	65.00	154.89	100	100
Travel	314.18	102.09	150	150
Equipment & Tech	647.51	1,716.49	1,000	1,000
Repairs & Maint	6,247.36	4,331.65	4,500	4,500
Total Expenditures	105,082.02	100,600.46	101,403	105,380

05-101-11 Library
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

Dec 31, 16

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

05-101-11 Library - People's 77,122.13

Petty Cash Account 200.00

TD Bank Money Market 30,589.56

Total Checking/Savings 107,911.69

Other Current Assets

People's Bank/Wealth Management 121,992.07

Total Other Current Assets 121,992.07

Total Current Assets 229,903.76

TOTAL ASSETS 229,903.76

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Fund Balance - Whiting Library 87,277.27

Opening Bal Equity 50,424.79

Retained Earnings 82,471.81

Net Income 9,729.89

Total Equity 229,903.76

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 229,903.76

2016 Adult Programs

Jan/Feb	Waterfall paintings Gilead Shipwreck at the bottom of the world	Art Show Book Discussion VT READS book discussion	Bill Reed Staff
Mar/Apr	Scotland watercolors Learn to knit Knit your first hat Endurance Endurance Spring village Felting Life & times of the Thunderbolt Kid Jelly bean guessing Tee shirts Blind date with a book	Art Show workshop workshop VT READS book discussion movie free raffle felted flower workshop Book Discussion free raffle free raffle program	David Lord Wendy Hayward Suellen Slater Suellen Slater Staff Staff Staff Jen Leak Staff donation donation Staff
May/Jun	Floral Paintings doll Well controlled garden-not Seed Library doll Life of Pi	Art Show raffle program passive program raffle Book Discussion	Betsy Boundy donation Cheryl Wilfong Staff donation Staff
July - Aug	Seasons by Carl Mitchell doll Passport to Vt Libraries Alice's adventures in wonderland Art of racing in the rain doll	Art Show raffle passive program Book Discussion Book Discussion raffle raffle Book Discussion	Carl Mitchell donation Staff Staff Staff donation donation Staff
Sep/Oct	doll Lifeboat Lew Watters in Print candy guessing Sudden Light / Stein Free copies of the Constitution	raffle Book Discussion Art Show passive program Book Discussion passive program	donation donation Staff Lew Watters donation Staff Staff
Nov/Dec	Orphan Train Redbird Christmas Bill of rights display Quilt Raffle Bonnie's Bundles Doll	Book Discussion Book Discussion traveling exhibit community quilters raffle	Staff Staff National Archives donation donation

Whiting Library

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
<i>Open Days</i>	197	200
<i>Public Computer Usage</i>	1550	1300
<i>Patron Visits</i>	15230	16500
<i>Circulation</i>		
Check-outs	14960	16500
ListenUp Service	1630	2200
<i>Total</i>	16590	18700
<i>Programs</i>		
Children's Programs	70	130
Attendees Children	370	1130
Attendees Adult	175	500
Adult Programs	25	36
Attendees Adult	220	290
<i>Home Delivery</i>	0	15

**Chester Town School District
Proposed Budget
FY 2018**

	Budget FY 2016	Actual FY 2016	Budget FY 2017	Proposed FY 2018
EXPENDITURES				
Pre-school Collaborative	121,114	121,114	134,212	154,991
Special Education				
EEE Assessment (now net of Grant)	62,784	69,270	75,132	36,376
EEE Purchase Services	3,500	2,973	3,500	12,500
Supervisory Union Assessment	14,664	14,664	15,053	17,553
Bank Charges	35	0	25	25
Bank Interest	0	0	0	0
School Directors	75	75	75	75
Clerk Treasurer	500	500	500	500
Supplies	100	69	100	100
Audit Fee	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	202,772	208,665	228,597	222,120
REVENUES				
Prior Year Surplus (Deficit)	4,791		4,784	(9,486)
Abbie Ingalls Fund	0	17	16	17
Williams Fund	0	1,271	1,250	1,260
Interest	125	35	125	40
EEE State Grant (now at SU level)	26,550	26,550	30,194	0
Merger Tax Incentive (one time)	0	0	0	0
Prior Year Assess't Refund	0	0	0	0
Education Spending Revenue	171,306	171,306	192,228	230,289
TOTAL	202,772	199,179	228,597	222,120
Revenue minus Expense	0	(9,486)	0	0
Equalized Pupils	16.22	16.22	16.97	19.19

**Two Rivers Supervisory Union
FY 2018 Budget Summary**

	Budget FY 2016	Actual FY 2016	Budget FY 2017	Budget FY 2018	Percent Change
Central Office (Equalized Pupil)					
General Administration	445,897	470,298	347,736	366,482	
Finance	228,548	224,833	248,087	261,580	
Bookkeeping	182,883	184,202	184,108	200,082	
Operations & Maint	106,580	91,838	106,503	101,559	
SU Technology	101,728	104,972	114,827	112,849	
Curriculum Implementation	0	0	33,213	37,658	
English as a 2nd Language	12,919	25,947	26,809	27,209	
Sub Total	1,078,555	1,102,090	1,061,283	1,107,419	4.35%
Revenue Offsets					
Medicaid and MAC Reimbursement	28,193	38,611	35,921	27,508	
Fund Surplus	15,000	0	0	12,000	
Bank Interest ERate & Misc Revenue	4,000	10,160	14,000	17,000	
Federal Indirect Reimbursement	0	0	0	20,000	
Sub Total	47,193	48,771	49,921	76,508	53.26%
Central Office Total	1,031,362	1,053,319	1,011,362	1,030,911	1.93%
Tech School Support (EqPup)					
Two FTE's and ENA; Various Programs	259,338	219,876	268,400	185,836	
Less: E-Rate Reimbursement	91,200	55,846	91,200	0	
Tech Support Total	168,138	164,030	177,200	185,836	4.87%
Transportation (New, req'd by State)	0	0	0	427,656	
Special Education (Child Count)					
K-12th Grade (net expense)	2,577,375	2,721,808	2,733,811	1,233,708	
K-12th Grade (reimbursed expense)	0	0	0	1,833,605	
Early Essential Education in Schools	114,285	125,643	119,247	123,692	
Early Essential Collaborative*	117,435	130,879	125,140	139,405	
Special Ed Total	2,809,095	2,978,330	2,978,198	3,330,410	11.83%
Preschool Collaborative*	238,005	236,597	262,552	324,151	23.46%
*Preschool/EEE shared by Andover, Balt., Cavendish, Chester (and other towns when necessary)					
Grants (Estimates)					
IDEA-B	322,000	359,754	340,000	350,000	
Title I	438,084	496,343	438,084	450,000	
Title IIA	127,016	190,684	127,016	175,000	
21st Century Grant (After School)	80,000	90,234	86,000	176,515	
Grant Total	967,100	1,137,015	991,100	1,151,515	16.19%
Summary					
Net TRSU FY17 Proposed Budget	5,213,700	5,569,291	5,420,412	6,450,479	
Offsetting Revenues	138,393	104,617	141,121	76,508	
Grand Total of Expense for Approval	5,352,093	5,673,908	5,561,533	6,526,987	17.36%

Contact Christopher Adams, TRSU Finance Director, for budget details upon request at:
chris.adams@trsuo.org or by phone at 802 875-3365

District: **Chester**
County: **Windsor**

LEA: **T047**
S.U.: **Two Rivers**

1. Local budgeted expenditures including any separate articles		222,120	1.
2. Act 144 expenditures (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-		2.
3. Obligation to a regional technical center school district if any	-		3.
4. Obligation to repay a deficit per 24 V.S.A. § 1523(b)	9,486		4.
5. Obligation to repay difference between allowable and announced tuition	-		5.
6. Total Expenditures net of Act 144 dollars	(lines 1 + 3 + 4 + 5) - line 2	231,606	6.
7. Offsetting revenues (do NOT include revcode 3114, the on-behalf payment)	*	1,317	7.
8. Act 144 dedicated revenues	-		8.
9. Act 144 expenditures to raise locally	line 2 - line 8	-	9.
10. Offsetting revenues less Act 144 revenues	line 7 - (lines 8 + 9)	1,317	10.
11. Initial Education Spending	line 6 - line 10	230,289	11.
12. Capital debt hold-harmless aid	line 16, "CDaid" page	-	12.
13. Education Spending	line 11 - line 12	230,289	13.
14. Equalized pupils		19.15	14.
15. Education spending per equalized pupil	line 13 / line 14	12,025.54	15.

Excess Spending Calculation			
15. Aggregated exclusions	-		15.
16. Aggregated exclusions per equalized pupil	-		16.
17. Per pupil figure to use for Excess Spending	line 15 / line 16	12,025.54	17.
18. Per equalized pupil spending threshold for FY2018		17,386.00	18.
19. Per pupil spending above the threshold	line 17 - line 18	NA	19.

20. Per pupil figure used for calculating District equalized tax rate	line 15 + line 19	12,025.54	20.
21. Property Tax Yield per \$1.00 of tax rate		10,076.00	21.
22. Equalized homestead tax rate to be prorated	12,025.54 / 10,076 (lines 20 & 21)	1.1935	22.
23. Percent of Chester equalized pupils not in a union school district		4.77%	23.
24. Portion of equalized homestead tax rate to be assessed by town	lines 22 x line 23	0.0569	24.
25. Common level of appraisal		120.10%	25.
26. Estimated actual homestead tax rate of district to be assessed	lines 24 / line 25	0.0474	26.
27. Equalized homestead rate from Green Mountain UHSD #35	MANUAL →	0.7726	27.
28. Percent of Chester equalized pupils at Green Mountain UHSD #35		51.93%	28.
29. Prorated equalized rate from Green Mountain UHSD #35		0.4012	29.
30. Estimated actual rate from Green Mountain UHSD #35 to be assessed	lines 29 / line 25	0.3341	30.
31. Equalized prorated rate from Chester - Andover UESD #29	MANUAL →	0.6559	31.
32. Percent of Chester equalized pupils at Andover UESD #29		43.30%	32.
33. Prorated equalized rate from Andover UESD #29		0.2840	33.
34. Estimated actual prorated rate from Chester - Andover UESD #29	lines 33 / line 25	0.2365	34.

2. Total equalized homestead rate for Chester	lines 24 + 29 + 33	0.7421	2.
3. Total estimated actual homestead rate for Chester	lines 26 + 30 + 34	0.6180	3.
4. Equalized non-residential tax rate		1.550	4.
5. Estimated actual non-residential tax rate	lines 4 / line 25	1.2906	5.

6. Education spending	line 13	230,289	6.
7. Tech FTE's		-	7.
8. Base education amount for tech FTE's, paid on behalf of district (This is not a local revenue. It reduces the education spending a district is owed.)	line 7 x 9,588 x 87%	-	8.
9. Adjusted education spending due the district from Ed Fund	lines 6 - 8	230,289	9.

10. Amount to raise locally for Act 144 (Manchester & West Windsor only)	line 9	-	10.
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11. Per pupil figure used for calculating District Household Income Percentage	line 20	12,025.54	11.
12. Income Yield per 2.0% of household income		11,875	12.
13. Chester household income percentage to be prorated	12,025.54 / 11,875 x 2.00% (lines 11 & 12)	2.03%	13.
14. Prorated income cap percentage for Chester education property tax if eligible	4.77% x 2.03% (lines 23 & 13)	0.10%	14.
15. Income percentage from Green Mountain UHSD #35	"FY18EstUnion", line 18 (%)	1.31%	15.
16. Prorated income cap percentage from Green Mountain UHSD #35	51.93% x 1.31% (lines 28 & 15)	0.68%	16.
17. Spending adjustment from Chester - Andover UESD #29	"FY18EstUnion", line 18 (%)	1.11%	17.
18. Prorated income cap percentage from Chester - Andover UESD #29	51.93% x 1.11%	0.58%	18.
19. Estimated income cap percentage for Chester education property tax		1.36%	19.

District: Chester County: Windsor		T047 Two Rivers				Property dollar equivalent yield 10,076	Homestead tax rate per \$10,076 of spending per equalized pupil 1.00
						11,875	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
Expenditures		FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018		
1.	Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 14 expenditures)	\$205,389	\$202,772	\$228,597	\$222,120		
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-		
3.	minus Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-		
4.	Locally adopted or warned budget	\$205,389	\$202,772	\$228,597	\$222,120		
5.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-		
6.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	\$9,486		
7.	Total Budget	\$205,389	\$202,772	\$228,597	\$231,606		
8.	S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data	-	-	-	\$17,553		
9.	Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	\$9,486		
Revenues							
10.	Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$33,318	\$31,466	\$36,369	\$1,317		
11.	plus Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	-	-	-	-		
12.	minus All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Windsor only)	-	-	-	-		
13.	Offsetting revenues	\$33,318	\$31,466	\$36,369	\$1,317		
14.	Education Spending	\$172,071	\$171,306	\$192,228	\$230,289		
15.	Equalized Pupils	15.85	16.22	16.97	19.15		
This town belongs to two unions and the Local Education spending is attributed to these equalized pupils per Business Manager							
16.	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$10,856.21	\$10,561.41	\$11,327.52	\$12,025.54		
17.	minus Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	-	-	-		
18.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-		
19.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-		
20.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-		
21.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-		
22.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-		
23.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-		
24.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	NA	-	-	-		
25.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$16,166 \$16,166.00	threshold = \$17,103 \$17,103.00	Allowable growth \$11,035.62	threshold = \$17,386 \$17,386.00		
26.	plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	-		
27.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$10,856	\$10,561	\$11,328	\$12,025.54		
28.	District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	116.922% based on \$9,285	111.655% based on \$9,285	116.767% based on yield \$9,701	119.348% based on yield \$10,076		
Prorating the local tax rate							
29.	Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30) [\$12,025.54 + (\$10,076.00 / \$1.00)]	\$1.1458 based on \$0.98	\$1.1054 based on \$0.99	\$1.1677 based on \$1.00	\$1.1935 based on \$1.00		
30.	Percent of Chester equalized pupils behind local SD costs	3.75%	3.98%	4.15%	4.77%		
31.	Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (4.77% x \$1.19)	\$0.0430	\$0.0440	\$0.0485	\$0.0569		
32.	Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	102.69%	111.05%	115.87%	120.10%		
33.	Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (0.0569 / 120.10%)	\$0.0419 based on \$0.98	\$0.0396 based on \$0.99	\$0.0419 based on \$1.00	\$0.0474 based on \$1.00		
If the district belongs to a union school district, this is only a PARTIAL homestead tax rate. The tax rate shown represents the estimated portion of the final homestead tax rate due to spending for students who do not belong to a union school district. The same holds true for the income cap percentage.							
34.	Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(\$12,025.54 + \$11,875) x 2.00%]	2.10% based on 1.80%	2.01% based on 1.80%	2.08% based on 2.00%	2.03% based on 2.00%		
35.	Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (4.77% x 2.03%)	0.08% based on 1.80%	0.08% based on 1.80%	0.09% based on 2.00%	0.10% based on 0.00%		
36.	Percent of equalized pupils at Chester Andover USD #29	45.76%	43.90%	44.26%	43.30%		
37.	Percent of equalized pupils at Green Mountain UHSD #35	50.49%	52.12%	51.59%	51.93%		

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$10,076 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$11,875 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.550. New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and the income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.
 - Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
 - The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

SIZE OF THE TWO RIVERS SUPERVISORY UNION

<u>SCHOOL BOARDS:</u>	<u>DIRECTORS</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
Andover Town	3	1
Baltimore Town	3	1
Chester Town	3	1
Plymouth Town	3	1
Black River Middle High School	6	3
Cavendish Town Elementary School	5	3
Chester-Andover Elementary School	5	3
Green Mountain Union High School	7	3
Ludlow Elementary School	5	3
Mount Holly Elementary School	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	45	22

The Chester-Andover Elementary School Board has representation on the Supervisory Union Board in accordance with the Vermont Statutes.

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS AND PROGRAMS

Please see the Chester-Andover and Green Mountain Annual Reports

CONTINUED COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

Agendas and Minutes of the Two Rivers Supervisory Union School District Board meetings are posted at the respective Town Offices.

They can also be viewed on the school website.

The Approved Budget FY 2017-2018 and the Audit Report FY 2015-2016 can also be viewed on the school website.

su.trsu.org

The public is invited and encouraged to attend meetings.

***Two Rivers Supervisory Union School Boards meet regularly
each month.***

Please call Two Rivers Supervisory Union to confirm: 802-875-3365

**SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILD FIND NOTICE
TWO RIVERS SUPERVISORY UNION**

Two Rivers Supervisory Union is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to locate, evaluate and identify all persons with disabilities between the ages of birth through 21 who may be in need of special education related services or accommodations in order to access a free appropriate public education and to provide such needed services for those ages 3 through 21. Services for children birth to 3 years are provided in conjunction with Part H Services of the Family, Infant and Toddler Project of Vermont. If you know of a person residing in the towns of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Mount Holly, or Plymouth you believe has such needs but is not currently receiving services, please contact the Director of Special Services at (802) 875-6428.

NON-DISCRIMINATION DISCLAIMER

The School Board recognizes its obligation to respect the legal rights of all students, parents, employees, and applicants, for admission or employment and those conducting business with the district. The Board will comply with all applicable federal and state non-discrimination laws including *Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act*, and will not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, handicapping condition and/or disability or sexual orientation. A process of referral, evaluation and placement of handicapped students exists in accordance with Section 504. The Superintendent shall notify appropriate persons of this policy and of the grievance procedure whereby claims of discrimination may be processed including the right to contact the Human Rights Commission in Montpelier and the Regional Office of Civil Rights in Boston. Information on these and other sources of assistance is contained in the grievance procedure.

ENROLLMENT

The following is the Chester Town School District K-12 grade enrollment of students attending Chester-Andover Elementary School and Green Mountain Union High School as of October 14, 2016:

	Pre K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total:
CAES	47	21	28	18	24	28	23	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	161
GMUHS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	21	32	36	27	35	179
Total															340

Chester Rod and Gun Club

End of Year Report

We are open to members every Sunday for Trap and Skeet shooting. During the warmer months we are also open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. From the 3rd. Saturday in October to December 31st. each year we open the range to Chester residents free of charge for sighting in their rifles.

We offer to 2 area youth each year scholarships to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Conservation Camp. We sponsor an annual fishing derby at the Chester Reservoir for area youth.

We sponsor a spring and a fall Hunter Safety course to satisfy the State of Vermont's requirement to purchase a hunting license. We hope to offer a Bow Course in 2017.

We have hosted a program for women, Women on Target, for the safe use of firearms

Local law enforcement use the range free of charge for organized training sessions.

We are perusing the availability of grants or funds to use to protect our river bank from more erosion therefore protecting our facilities.

Sincerely,

Troy Rietta

President of Chester Rod and Gun Club

OLIVE BRANCH LODGE #64

Olive Branch Lodge #64, located on the green in, Chester, VT of Vermont Free and Accepted Masons has continued in 2016, as in previous years to donate and contribute to various worthy causes in Chester and the surrounding area. This also includes our annual presentation of college scholarships for Green Mountain High School Graduates. With the continued support of our membership and the community we anticipate the ability to once again continue this tradition as the Masons in Chester have done since the founding of our Olive Branch Lodge #64 in town in 1865.

Monetary Donations for 2016 totaled \$5220

March

CARE (Masonic Charities of Vermont) \$100

Chester Andover Elementary school-Camp scholarship fund \$50

April

Apple Blossom cotillion \$50

May

Chester Townscape \$170

June

Whiting Library \$50

July

Chester Fireworks \$2300

August

2- GMUHS scholarships \$2000

November

Springfield Hospital \$100

December

Chester Andover Family Center \$100

Chester Rescue Squad \$100

Yosemite Fire Dept. \$100

Community Cares Network \$100

Respectfully the Members of Olive Branch Lodge #64, Chester Freemasons, Chester VT

Board of Directors
Green Mountain Softball League Inc.
PO Box 151
Chester, VT 05143
January 9, 2017

Town of Chester
556 Elm Street
Chester, VT 05143

The Green Mountain Softball League (GMSL) is a non-profit 501(c)4 organization requesting tax exemption for the years 2017 through 2022 on parcel ID 615034.

Our facilities, Mackenzie Fields, are mainly used for recreational sports activities. We have an ASA certified softball league, and a local volleyball league.

The GMSL welcomes the use of our softball fields to the Green Mountain Union High School at no charge to the school.

We also allow the public to use the facilities as well.

Thank you,

Board of Directors
GMSL

Pennies for the Playground

Pennies for the Playground is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity whose mission is to raise funds to support the renewal of the Chester Community Playground at Chester Andover Elementary School (CAES).

Pennies for the Playground asks that Chester voters consider a \$3,000 article to be included on the 2017 Town Budget to support the renovation of Chester Community Playground at Chester Andover Elementary School. The Playground not only serves children at CAES, but is a cherished resource for the greater Chester community and is a unique town icon. The committed members of both the Playground Subcommittee and Pennies for the Playground are working hard to honor the legacy of the current structure. During this project, we hope to bring the community together once again. We want to hear from you and hope you will support the proposed article.



Several years ago, Jim Spaulding (CAES Maintenance Director) reported that the beloved 25 year old playground is deteriorating and that the structure is no longer able to be maintained and hold repairs. Jim's call to action was first responded to by the CAES Parent-Teacher Group (PTG) and the project to renew the playground began. In these early days of work, \$10,000 was raised by the PTG and designs were researched. In the spring of 2016 a public meeting to discuss playground design resulted in the formation of a group to explore alternative and natural playground designs. As the summer of 2016 came to a close, the CAES School Board along with CAES Principal Katherine Fogg formalized everyone's efforts and the Playground Subcommittee of the CAES School Board was formed.

In just a short time, the Playground Subcommittee has created a framework for the project processes, analyzed funding and budgets, devised a fundraising strategy, and met with various players (including Two Rivers Supervisory Union Directory of Finance Chris Adams and Two Rivers Supervisory Union grant writers). The Subcommittee has also engaged local landscape designers, researched and consulted with a variety of playground equipment manufacturers and a playground restorer, and established Pennies for the Playground to serve as the community non-profit fundraising entity.

With the close support of the Playground Subcommittee, Pennies for the Playground has been and will continue to offer a series of fundraising events which began this fall with a successful 5k Fundraiser. This particular event attracted 74 runners and 15 volunteers from the community and raised \$2,400! In addition, a formal capital campaign is scheduled for the end of 2017, and grant writers are beginning to research grant opportunities. These efforts will continue until the project breaks ground, tentatively summer 2018. Today, over \$15,000 resides in the Pennies for the Playground account. The goal is to raise over \$100,000 for the playground project.

The Playground Subcommittee is composed of people from various aspects of the Chester community and includes Katherine Fogg (CAES Principal), Elise Lisle (CAES Physical Education Teacher), Monika Olesky (CAES School Board Member), Jake Arace (CAES School Board Member), Jim Spaulding (CAES Maintenance Director), Raven Norlander-McCarty, Jill Bruning, Jamie Maloof, Christine Anderson, and Chris Meyer. Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month, at 3:30 p.m. in the CAES conference room. Anyone is welcome!

Respectfully submitted by,
Pennies for the Playground Board of Directors
Christine Anderson, Chris Meyer, Laurie Birmingham, Jamie Maloof, and Jessica Buchanan

Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission

The Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC) is an organization that serves the ten towns in the Southern Windsor County Region, including Chester. The activities and programs of the SWCRPC are governed by a Board of Commissioners that are appointed by each member town. The primary function of the SWCRPC is to assist member towns with their planning and other community related activities, and to promote cooperation and coordination among towns.

During FY16, the dues from member towns contributed about 3% of the SWCRPC's annual budget of \$813,565. The town dues assessment of \$3,943 was determined on a \$1.25 per person based upon 2010 Census data. The remaining revenues were derived from federal, state and other funding sources.

The SWCRPC offers member towns a broad range of services, including assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, water quality, emergency management, data, mapping and other planning activities. In FY16, the SWCRPC provided the following services to the Town of Chester:

- Assisted to update both the Local Emergency Operations Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Worked with the Chester Planning Commission to prepare updates to the Town Plan.
- Assisted the Highway Department with a wide variety of transportation planning efforts.
- Provided support in preparing the successful Strong Communities, Better Connections grant application for the village master planning effort.

We would like to thank town appointed representatives Tom Bock, Derek Suursoo and Arne Jonynas who have served on the SWCRPC Board and Committees this past year.

Thank you for your continued support of local and regional planning. For more information about the SWCRPC, call us at (802) 674-9201, visit our website at www.swcrpc.org, or look us up on Facebook.

Thomas Kennedy, AICP
Executive Director

SPRINGFIELD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TOWN REPORT 2016
January 2017

On behalf of SRDC, our Board and our members, I want to extend many thanks for the continued support from the Town of Chester. It has been a pleasure to be of service in 2016.

A challenge we have spent a lot of time on this past year is workforce development. SRDC completed a Business Climate survey, which included direct input from key companies in Chester. One of the top concerns was the difficulty in attracting, and retaining, skilled employees. A parallel Workforce Study showed that 60% of businesses that participating felt that “there was not a sufficient supply of employees for their businesses”.

SRDC has been involved with direct business support as well as planning efforts in the region, and the community, to help make Chester a place where people want to live and work. We organized a local focus group meeting with area artists that helped inform the East Central Vermont Economic Development District report about the importance of the Creative Economy in the region.

In all, we have worked with 15 clients in Chester over the past year, including the larger employers as well as small companies, community organizations and folks looking to start or purchase a business. This includes our Small Business Development Center and Procurement Technical Assistance Center staff.

We also have provided assistance to the Town of Chester’s “Stronger Communities” grant project to develop a master plan for the village center area. This includes participation in the steering committee as well as working with the project consultants on research material on Chester and the region.

SRDC remains closely involved in the River Valley Technical Center with the Executive Director currently serving as the Board Chair of RVTC and Co-Chair of the Workforce Investment Board. SRDC has been very active with facilitating Vermont Training Program grants for the area as well as promoting career awareness activities in our area schools. A new advanced manufacturing training program with Vermont Technical College will be launching at the Howard Dean Education Center in the coming months.

SRDC is always grateful and appreciative of our relationship with the community. We work very closely with Chester Economic Development Corporation and are pleased to have Barbara Lemire of Peoples Bank and Dale Williamson of Newsbank as members of the SRDC Board.

As always, we are ready and anxious to talk to any existing company or anyone looking to start a business venture. If you would like to know more about SRDC, please feel free to contact me at our offices at 14 Clinton Street, Springfield, 885-3061 or bobf@springfielddevelopment.org. You can also learn more about SRDC through our web site at www.springfielddevelopment.org or on our Facebook page!

Again, many thanks for your continued support. Working together, we will ensure that “Great Things Happen Here” for many years to come.

Bob Flint
Executive Director



Chester-Andover Family Center

Our Mission: Providing a helping hand to persons and families in need

P. O. Box 302
908 VT Route 103 South
Chester, VT 05143

Telephone: (802) 875-3236
Email: cafc302@gmail.com
Website: www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org

The Chester-Andover Family Center is a 501(C)(3) Non-profit.

Board of Directors

- Mariette Bock
- Georgia Ethier
- Nancy Lindsay
- Stephanie Mahoney
- Nena Nanfeldt
- Delores Robinson
- Ginger Roper
- Suellen Slater
- Derek Suursoo
- Sandra Vincent
- Sherry Willumitis

Officers-2016

- President—Delores Robinson
- Treasurer—Derek Suursoo
- Secretary—Georgia Ethier

- **History:** 31 years of providing relief from hunger and financial stress to the most vulnerable residents of Chester and Andover. Four years in our new building. Staffed by volunteers.
- **Partners:** Neighborhood Connections—offering our recipients counseling, assistance with budgeting, and referral to other sources of assistance; Vermont Foodbank; Healthy Harvest Network; Hunger Council of the Windham Region; and other hunger relief and service organizations.
- **Thrift Shop:** Quality clothing and household goods at low prices. Thrift Shop income supports the Food Shelf, the Emergency Financial Assistance Program, and operational expenses.
- **Food Shelf:** 150+ households are enrolled to receive nutritious, supplemental food. Food is purchased from the Vermont Foodbank, area grocery stores, and local growers. Individuals and organizations donate money, shelf-stable food, and fresh produce.
- **Emergency Financial Assistance Program:** Provides monetary help with utility and heating bills, rent, and transportation (gas cards). Total assistance provided in 2015 was \$20,261.
- **Gratitude:** Thank You to our Board of Directors and our many Volunteers who donate countless hours and energy; Thank You to the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who have donated gifts of time, material, food, and money.

Thank you to the residents of the Town of Chester for your continued support of our mission of providing a helping hand to persons and families in need.

Sincerely and with Gratitude,
CAFC Board of Directors



Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to enable people to cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Home Repair, Family Services / Crisis Resolution (fuel & utility, food, & housing assistance), Micro-Business Development, Individual Development Accounts (asset building & financial literacy), Income Tax Preparation, VT Health Connect Navigation, and Thrift Stores.

In the community of Chester we have provided the following services during FY2016:

Weatherization: 4 homes (7 people) were weatherized at a cost of \$55,506

Emergency Heating System Replacement: 7 homes (16 people) received furnace repairs or replacements at a cost of \$19,033

Head Start: 19 families (81 people) received comprehensive child development and family support services valued at \$182,012

Tax Preparation: 6 households (13 people) received tax credits and services totaling \$15,091

VT Health Connect Navigation: 8 households (32 people) received assistance with enrolling in the Vermont Health Exchange, valued at \$1,199

Family Services: 57 households (118 people) received 377 services (including crisis resolution, financial counseling, nutrition education, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services) valued at \$2,879

Fuel & Utility Assistance: 38 households (105 people) received 57 assists valued at \$24,022

Housing Assistance: 1 household (1 person) received 1 assist valued at \$1,256

Jobs for Independence: 5 people were recruited, screened and referred to enhanced employment services, valued at \$3,442

Thrift Store Vouchers: 7 households (19 people) received goods and services valued at \$470

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but increase and improve service. We thank the residents of Chester for their support.

Stephen Geller, Executive Director
Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)
91 Buck Drive
Westminster, VT 05158
(800) 464-9951 or (802) 722-4575
sevca@sevca.org
www.sevca.org



*Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont
38 Pleasant St, Springfield, VT 05156*

ANNUAL REPORT

Senior Solutions-- Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont offers support services to elders and their families. Our mission is to promote successful aging. This is a summary of services provided to **Chester** in the last year (7/1/2015-6/30/2016).

Information and Assistance: Our toll-free Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 answered **263** calls from your town. Callers were assisted with applying for benefits, health insurance problems, housing needs, fuel assistance and many other services. Extensive resources are also detailed at www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org

Health Insurance: We helped **51** residents with Medicare Part D or Advantage Plan enrollment, or other Medicare-related questions.

Senior Nutrition: **11,221** meals were delivered to **44** seniors at home in partnership with Springfield Meals and Wheels. (We pass through to them federal and state funds that support the meals.) Our Registered Dietician is able to offer nutritional counseling when appropriate. Congregate community meals are held nearby in Springfield and Bellows Falls.

Transportation: Special arrangements are made for non-Medicaid seniors who require medical transportation.

Social Services: We provided **46** elder residents with **351.75** hours of in-home case management or other home based services to enable them to remain living safely in the setting they prefer. Often minimal services can prevent premature institutionalization.

Special Assistance: We provide assistance to **3** residents through flexible funds that include respite assistance for care givers of those diagnosed with dementia and assistance with needs not covered by other funding. **8** residents received Options Counseling and **1** resident received home based Elder Care Services from our Elder Care clinician.

Your contribution generates Federal matching funds to support our services. We do not charge for any of our services. Your town's support is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Carol Stamatakis, Executive Director

*(802) 885-2655 Fax (802) 885-2665 Toll Free (866) 673-8376
Senior HelpLine (800) 642-5119*

VISITING NURSE AND HOSPICE FOR VT AND NH
Home Health, Hospice and Maternal Child Health Services in Chester, VT

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is a compassionate, non-profit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home health and hospice services to individuals and their families. VNH provides care for people of all ages and at all stages in life, and delivers care to all, regardless of ability to pay.

VNH services reduce costs associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, VNH made 3,906 homecare visits to 162 Chester residents. This included approximately \$140,130 in unreimbursed care to Chester residents.

- **Home Health Care:** 2,617 home visits to 121 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Long-Term Care:** 476 home visits to 17 residents with chronic medical problems who need extended care in the home to avoid admission to a nursing home.
- **Hospice Services:** 716 home visits to 21 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.
- **Maternal and Child Health Services:** 97 home visits to 3 residents for well baby, preventative and palliative medical care.

Additionally, residents made visits to VNH wellness clinics at local senior and community centers throughout the year, receiving low- and no-cost services including blood pressure screenings, foot care, cholesterol testing, and flu shots.

Chester's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

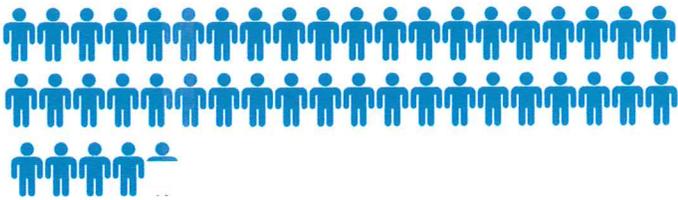

Jeanne McLaughlin, President & CEO (1-888-300-8853)

OUR AGING POPULATION

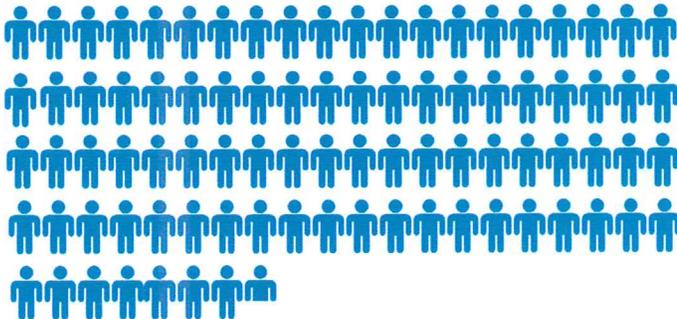
The ever-increasing need for home and health care services provided by Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH)

A GROWING DEMOGRAPHIC

In 2014 there were **46.2 MILLION** Americans aged 65 or older



There will be **88.5 MILLION** by the end of 2050



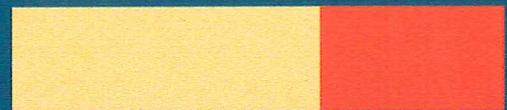
By 2030 **1 in 5 PEOPLE** will be 65 or older



Senior dependents will increase by

68%

2010 → 2050



Youth dependents increase only by

6.7%

2010 → 2050



Seniors that want to stay in their own homes as they age

\$1,805



Average cost per day in hospital

MEDICARE PART A & PART B AVERAGE PAYMENT

\$373



Average cost per day in skilled nursing facility

\$145



Average cost per home healthcare visit

**COMMUNITY CARES NETWORK
OF
CHESTER/ANDOVER, INC.**

Community Cares Network of Chester/Andover, Inc. (CCN,INC.) celebrated our 20th year of serving the Senior Citizens of Chester and Andover. Founded in 1996 by a group of community-minded citizens in our area, CCN,INC., continues its on-going work of helping to keep our Seniors in their homes safely longer. Our dedicated volunteers give of their time and energy to help others who do not have the resources they need to live on their own, without assistance.

For instance, this year CCN,INC., was contacted by the family of a Senior Citizen who had a series of appointments for therapy at a hospital, three days a week, for eight weeks. Because this person did not have access to a car, and because her family members were working during the day, she could not have made it to her appointments without our assistance. Our volunteers were able to provide her with transportation throughout the eight-week period, so that she could make every appointment.

In addition to providing transportation to doctors and hospital appointments, we also help with such services as grocery shopping, record keeping, friendly visiting and check-ins, Library book delivery, and odd jobs. We have helped many clients get to the Chester/Andover Family Center Food Shelf.

We also help with referrals to other agencies. We have worked closely throughout our history with Senior Solutions (formerly the Council on Aging for Southeast Vermont). We work with the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vt. And NH, and also the Adult Protection Agency. We cooperate with the Chester/Andover Ministerium to get help for people that are in need.

CCN,INC. , continues its on-going low-impact exercise group for Seniors, which has been very successful in helping Seniors to become more physically fit. Also, since we believe that social health is as important as physical health in improving the quality of life for Seniors, we have sponsored numerous social activities to enhance the lives of our Seniors.

Here is a note from one of our clients: " I can't thank you enough for all the rides, chats, the warmth and care of each and every one of you. I've made such wonderful friends and my heart is filled to the brim with true kindness. Thank your from the bottom of my heart."

This past year we have served over 400 clients with over 800 services.

Respectfully submitted by
The Community Cares Network of Chester/Andover, Inc. Board

MEALS & WHEELS OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD, INC.
139 Main Street – Springfield – Vermont – 05156
Phone: 802-885-5879

Chester Annual Report – January 2017

Meals & Wheels of Greater Springfield, Inc. has been serving meals to the elderly since 2000. The program serves the communities of Andover, Baltimore, Chester, Springfield and South Weathersfield. A hot meal is provided Monday through Friday with frozen meals available to those who qualify for weekends and holidays. We also have a cold breakfast option for those who qualify that we deliver along with the noon time meal.

During the past fiscal year, October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016, volunteers from Meals & Wheels of Greater Springfield delivered nutritious hot meals, breakfast, and frozen meals to approximately 30 private homes around the Chester area for approximately 8,000 meals provided to those in need in the community.

All this work was done with the help of 1 part-time and 1 full-time employee and many volunteers. Over the past year, Meals & Wheels engaged about 75 volunteers who came to us from community programs such as RSVP, the Springfield Schools, Lincoln Street, Mental Health Services and other community members who just want to volunteer out of the spirit of good will. Volunteers serve on our Board, deliver meals, wait on tables, assist in the kitchen, provide entertainment at the congregate meal site and help with fund raising. We strongly believe that our program gives back to our volunteers, as much as they give to the program. We provide an opportunity to be a part of a vital service and a chance for volunteers to connect with others and to become part of the community.

The most important role of our program goes far beyond meeting the nutritional needs of the seniors in the community. For many, the meal delivery volunteer may be the only contact they have for the day and seeing a friendly face can be the highlight of their day. At Meals & Wheels, we do our part in providing a safety net for many isolated seniors in our community.



Town Report for Chester FY17 – Request for FY18

The Current has been southern Windsor and Windham County’s public transit provider since 2003. Our mission is to provide a safe, reliable and efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and quality of life for the communities we serve.

In 2015 The Current combined with Deerfield Valley Transit Association (DVTA), The MOOver, based in Wilmington to become Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc. (SEVT). This has strengthened both companies and built a stronger foundation to improve transit service in southeastern Vermont. It has leveraged the strengths of each organization to improve service delivery and customer service; reduced duplicate tasks; and produced a stronger, more financially sustainable regional system.

In 2015 SEVT was awarded management of an earmark to build a park & ride facility off Exit 6, and to use the balance on an expansion to The Current’s transit facility. The park and ride was completed in the fall of 2016, and the building addition is expected to be completed in late December 2017. This request, and all town appropriations requests, will not be used as match for this project, but rather to provide annual operating support for our routes.

The Current operates fixed route, Elderly and Disabled, and non-emergency medical transportation services through its fleet of 36 buses and network of over 70 volunteer drivers. Last year The Current provided 968,068 rides, over the course of 136,798 hours and 3,415,496 miles for a total cost of \$4,798,842.

Chester residents received 8,270 rides at a cost of \$149,569. **Chester** is served by a Dial-A-Ride service which includes medical rides for the elderly, disabled and /or children and families who receive Medicaid and fixed route bus service to Ludlow and Springfield connecting to other regional routes.

We operate on a blend of federal, state, and local funding. **Chester’s** \$2,250 contribution in 2016 was critical to providing the town our services because local funding allows us to draw down federal funds. We are asking **Chester** to please consider a \$2,250 contribution for FY18.

All existing Current services and routes will operate as they are now. There will be no change to **Chester’s** service levels or the variety of transportation options The Current provides. **Chester’s** contribution will stay local to support its residents and visitors. Guaranteed.

We thank the town for their previous support, and hope that you will support our 2017 funding request. Please contact us by email (rgagnon@crtransit.org); phone (802) 460-7433 x 201; or visit us at www.crtransit.org to let us know how The Current may improve service in your community.



We Provide the Ride!

706 Rockingham Road Rockingham, VT 05101 tel 802-460-RIDE toll-free 1-888-869-6287 fax 802-460-1004 www.crtransit.org

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District

Andover • Athens • Baltimore • Cavendish • Chester • Grafton • Ludlow • Plymouth
Reading • Rockingham • Springfield • Weathersfield • West Windsor • Windsor

www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org

The District was chartered in fourteen Vermont towns. Each town appoints a representative and the Board of Supervisors. Derek Suursoo.



1981 and currently serves Each member municipality an alternate to serve on the Chester's representative is

In late 2015, the Town of Athens, population 442, joined the District and the District submitted its five-year Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) to the Agency of Natural Resources, which approved it for 2015-2020.

Twenty-six Chester residents attended the household hazardous waste (HHW) collection in September 2015 and twenty-two attended in May 2016. The HHW events in 2017 will be held on Saturdays, May 13 and September 9 at the Springfield Transfer Station. Locations have yet to be determined for the collections on May 20 and September 16.

The District works with towns and transfer stations within its region to implement state laws. Vermonters have responded enthusiastically to the law which enables free recycling of alkaline batteries, in addition to rechargeables. The pounds of batteries collected at the Springfield Transfer Station has more than tripled since January 1, 2016.

In 2016, the District sold 60 composters and 38 kitchen pails - a 22% increase over 2015. Food scraps will be banned from the landfill in 2020.

Last year, the Transfer Station collected 43 working but unwanted sewing machines to ship overseas with the Sewing Peace program – a 44% increase over the previous year's total. The goal for 2017 is 100 machines. Transfer stations also collect natural corks – about 13,500 so far. They're ground up and reused in a variety of applications by reCork.

Ham Gillett has been giving presentations about recycling and composting to schools, businesses and groups, 674-4474.



Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Kennedy District Manager
Mary T. O'Brien Recycling Coordinator

Ham Gillett
Outreach Coordinator



Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) is a non-profit organization founded in 1987, serving the residents of Windham and southern Windsor County. We provide housing for residents of low and moderate incomes, preserve and revitalize neighborhoods, help residents acquire their own homes, and generally improve the social, economic, and cultural health of communities of Windham and southern Windsor County.

WWHT's mission is *to strengthen the communities of Southeast Vermont through the development and stewardship of permanently affordable housing and through ongoing support and advocacy for its residents.*

Homeownership Center

The **Home Repair Program** provides low cost loans to low and moderate income homeowners throughout Windham and Windsor counties to make critical home repairs. These include repairs necessary to bring a home up to code and make it a safe place to live. Our rehabilitation specialist inspects the home, determines which repairs are necessary, and works with the homeowner to plan and finance the project. We assisted 23 homeowners in 2016 with home repair projects.

One-to-one Counseling helps renters and homeowners understand and navigate their options and make smart financial decisions. The program is available to all residents in both counties. We provide homebuyer education, financial literacy training and credit counseling. In 2016, 56 of our clients were able to purchase a home.

The **Shared Equity Program** provides grants to income-eligible homebuyers to subsidize the purchase of single-family homes. Grants are used toward the purchase price of the land underneath the home, lowering the cost to the homebuyer. Windham & Windsor Housing Trust retains ownership of the land and ensures long-term affordability through special ground lease provisions. 134 homes are in the shared equity program.

Rental Housing Development Program-In order to meet the diverse housing needs of a community, WWHT develops affordable rental housing opportunities. This takes the form of both rehabilitation of existing housing and the construction of new apartments. WWHT works with towns to plan for meeting local affordable housing and community development needs. In 2016, we renovated 37 apartments, 29 of which were substantial rehabs of historic properties, and 8 of which were part of an energy efficiency pilot program.

Rental Housing Management Program-WWHT owns 667 rental apartments with over 1000 tenants. We manage the rental properties in and near Brattleboro and contract with Stewart Property Management Services for the properties in northern Windham and Windsor Counties. WWHT takes pride in the appearance of our multi-family housing and is committed to providing the staff and financial resources necessary to ensure long-term health and safety for our residents as well as preservation of property values. Although WWHT is a non-profit, we pay local property taxes on our rental properties and our shared-equity homeowners pay property taxes to the Towns and Villages.

For more information, please visit us on the web at www.w-wht.org

68 Birge Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
Ph/TTY: 802 254 4604 FAX: 802 254 4656



90 Main Street, Springfield, Vermont 05156
Ph/TTY: 802 885 3220 FAX: 802 885 5811

www.w-wht.org



An Invitation to Serve your Community

Serving Bennington, Windham and Windsor Counties
160 Benmont Ave., Suite 90 Bennington, VT 05201
802-772-7875 | caliberti@svcoa.net | rsvpvt.org

Proudly Sponsored by Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Chester Annual Town Report FY 2016

Green Mountain RSVP, part of the Corporation for National and Community Service- Senior Corps, is a nationwide program for people age 55 and older who want to contribute to their communities through volunteering. Volunteers donate their skills and knowledge, and provide meaningful services to programs and nonprofits in the local area. Green Mountain RSVP believes that our senior population is our most valuable asset in keeping our communities strong.

Green Mountain RSVP helps local non-profit and civic organizations by recruiting and matching volunteers to meet vital community needs. Our goal is to ensure that volunteers contribute their time and talents to programs that have a significant, positive impact on the quality of life in Windsor County. They address community concerns that are vital for our senior population and their neighbors they include: supporting Healthy Futures and Aging in Place through food pantry support, meal delivery, and transportation. In our companionship & wellness programs we offer 11 Bone Builder classes throughout Windsor County serving over 500 seniors around Southern Vermont.

Chester/Andover has 6 Volunteers serving in three workstations. The Bone Builder Class in Andover serves an average of 10 men and women and has been meeting for over ten years. The Chester Andover Family Center has RSVP volunteers in their Thrift Store and the Food Pantry. CAFCC has been serving the community since 1985 and relies heavily on volunteers to fulfill their mission. RSVP volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels to Chester seniors and serve on the Board of Directors of the Springfield MOW Program. The current Board Chair and Treasurer are Chester residents. Green Mountain RSVP volunteers from Windsor County generously donated 7075 hours this past year. Over 1,000 hours were served by Chester volunteers. The estimated value of the volunteers' service to the community is \$161,239. RSVP will continue to build programming around support of Aging in Place and Healthy Futures in Windsor County in the upcoming year. We always welcome new volunteers.

You are welcome to contact Corey Mitchell in our Windsor office at (802)674-1742 or speak to me directly in the Bennington Office at (802) 772-7875. We are more than happy to attend a town meeting to discuss the changes in our program and answer any questions that you may have. Thank-you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Cathy Aliberti
Green Mountain RSVP Director

RSVP is
Supported in part by The Corporation for National and Community Service
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Health Care & Rehabilitation Services
Narrative Report for FY16 for Town of Chester

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) is a comprehensive community mental health provider serving residents of Windsor and Windham counties. HCRS assists and advocates for individuals, families, and children who are living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. HCRS provides these services through outpatient mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment program, community rehabilitation and treatment program, developmental services division, and alternatives and emergency services programs.

During FY16, HCRS provided 17,236 hours of services to 131 residents of the Town of Chester. The services provided included all of HCRS' programs resulting in a wide array of supports for the residents of Chester.

Anyone with questions about HCRS services should contact George Karabakakis, Chief Executive Officer, at (802) 886-4500.

**Women's Freedom Center's
Statement of Services
And
Report to the Town of Chester**

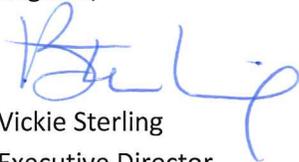
The mission of the Women's Freedom Center is to work to end physical, sexual and emotional violence against the women and children of Southern Windsor and Windham County. The Freedom Center works to fulfill its mission by educating the community regarding the root causes of violence against women, challenging the systems that help keep it in place and by providing support and services, including shelter and safe housing, to women and their children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Since our beginnings in 1977, we have provided support to the survivors of these crimes, as well as consultation and educational activities to a wide range of community groups to help create a community in which violence is not tolerated.

Emergency support such as shelter, safety planning, financial assistance, and information and referral is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Ongoing individual and group support for women and children; legal, medical, housing and social services advocacy; and cooperative work with other agencies are provided during the week. Due to the rural nature of Southern Windsor County and the isolation inherent in many abusive relationships, we are committed to meeting with women wherever we may do so safely. Sometimes this means assisting her to get to us and other times it means us going to her, somewhere safe in her community.

During the fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, the Freedom Center worked with a total of 524 survivors and their 471 children and responded to 1,622 crisis telephone calls, figures that include 16 survivors and their 13 children from Chester. In addition, we provided access to legal representation, community education, school presentations and workshops, outreach, and emergency advocacy throughout Southern Windsor County.

The Women's Freedom Center is a private, non-profit organization relying heavily on community support to provide our free and confidential services. We thank you for your Town's contribution to the Freedom Center and hope you will look at it as an investment in creating a future free from violence, something we all deserve.

Regards,



Vickie Sterling

Executive Director

Women's Freedom Center



Windsor County Partners

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES THROUGH YOUTH MENTORING

PO Box 101, 54 Main Street, Windsor, VT 05089 • 802-674-5101
windsorcm@outlook.com • www.wcpartners.org

Town Narrative - Chester For July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

Windsor County Partners is in its 5th decade of building healthier communities through youth mentoring. Evidence shows that youth in quality mentoring programs such as ours are 52% less likely to skip school and 46% less likely to use drugs. As these mentored youth mature, they are 81% more likely to participate in sports than their peers without mentors and 130% more likely to hold leadership positions. Mentored youth learn life skills, provide community service and participate in cultural and athletic activities.

Windsor County Partners (WCP) provides mentoring across the county. WCP creates partnerships where mentors are matched with a school-aged mentee. These mentoring partnerships then meet 2 hours a week at least a year, with many partnerships continuing on for years. Mentored children range in age from 7 – 18. Last year, WCP served and supported 28 community-based partnerships from 9 of the towns in Windsor County. Collectively, these partners spent over 2000 hours together.

Let's Do Lunch (LDL), our school-based program, serves youth ages 5-18 in the Springfield district, with expansion planned to other districts. LDL mentors meet with students to do crafts and play games or sports. In the most recent school year, 14 LDL partnerships spent more than 400 cumulative hours together.

Financial support from Windsor County helps ensure the well-being of children and their families. For more information on our mentorships, find us on Facebook, visit our website www.windsorcountypartners.org or contact us at ProgramsWC@outlook.com 802-674-5101. WCP thanks the voters of Chester for their support for the children of Windsor County.

Jennifer Grant
Executive Director

2016 VITAL STATISTICS

Federal regulations (Intelligence Reform Law and the Real ID Act) have been issued and one of the areas affected is accessibility to vital records. These regulations have resulted in a more stringent protocol for obtaining certified copies and a tracking system for those who request certified copies. States have been required to implement new security standards regarding accessibility to birth and death certificates.

With fraud and identity theft on the increase and for the protection of the public, statistical information only will be printed.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please feel free to give us a call or stop by the office.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Aldrich
Town Clerk

Statistical information for 2016:

Civil Marriages - 22
Births - 20
Deaths - 35
Burials - 13

TOWN OF CHESTER AND CHESTER TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Moderator William E. Dakin, Jr. called the Chester Town School District Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moderator Dakin asked the voters if there was any objection to non-voters speaking, if asked to. There was no objection.

Moderator Dakin introduced the Chester Town School Directors: Allison DesLauriers, Marilyn Mahusky and Heather Chase. Moderator Dakin then read the Chester Town School District Warning.

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT are hereby notified and warned to meet at Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, February 29, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. to act on the following Articles. Voting on Articles 1, 2 and 3 will be by Australian Ballot on March 1, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1: To elect Town School District Officers for the ensuing year (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 2: To elect Directors for Chester-Andover Elementary School for the ensuing year (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 3: To elect Directors for Green Mountain Union High School for the ensuing year (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town School District will vote to raise \$228,597.00 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 15, 2016, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's Indebtedness. Julie Hance moved Article 4 as printed. Seconded by Sandra Walker. Allison DesLauriers explained that this money is Pre-K students, Early Essential Education students, which are early education programs, and children under five years old with special education needs. Article 4 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town School District will authorize the Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's Indebtedness. Allison DesLauriers moved Article 5 as printed. Seconded by Charlie Baker. Article 5 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 6: To authorize the Town School District to accept payment from the State Department of Taxes under Act 68. Julie Hance moved Article 6 as printed. Seconded by Sandra Walker. Article 6 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 7: To act on the reports of the Town School District Officers for the year ending December 31, 2015. Julie Hance moved Article 7 as printed. Seconded by Mark Verespy. Allison DesLauriers explained that the reports of the Chester Town School District can be found on pages 86 – 92. Article 7 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business deemed proper when met. Allison DesLauriers gave an update on Act 46, the Consolidation Bill. Allison DesLauriers explained that there will be a forum in about a month to explain and answer any questions that people may have, with a vote in November. She also explained that the education tax rate is estimated to go down six cents this year. Julie Hance made a motion to adjourn the Chester Town School District Meeting. Seconded by Sandra Walker. Chester Town School District Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Moderator Dakin explained that the Select Board would now take their seats.

Moderator Dakin called the Town Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He then asked the voters if there was any objection to non-voters speaking, if asked to. There was no objection.

Moderator Dakin then introduced the Select Board: John DeBenedetti, Tom Bock, William Lindsay, Heather Chase and Arne Jonynas, Town Manager David Pisha and Town Clerk Deborah Aldrich.

Moderator Dakin then read the warning.

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, February 29, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2 and 3 will be by Australian ballot on March 1, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont and citizens to serve on the Budget Committee (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 2:** Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$269,900.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing the following capital items: \$8,500.00 for the purchase of a mower for the Cemetery Department; \$45,400.00 for the replacement of the pool decking for the Recreation Department; \$40,000.00 for the purchase of replacement hose for the Fire Department; \$18,500.00 for the purchase of two air paks for the Fire Department; \$11,000.00 for the purchase of washer/dryer unit for the Fire Department; \$15,000.00 for the purchase of a thermal camera for the Fire Department; \$70,000.00 for the upgrades to an existing pump station on Elm Street for the Sewer Department; \$30,000.00 for the purchase of a pickup truck for the Sewer Department; and \$31,500.00 for the replacement of fire hydrants for the Water Department. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 3:** Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$220,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of paving approximately 5,300 feet of roadway. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to accept gifts and trust funds for perpetual care of cemetery lots in accordance with conditions of said gifts and trusts as follows: Joyce A. Daniels, \$250.00; Gordon and Gloria Snide, \$250.00; Michael and Christine Copping, \$250.00; Dolores Robinson, \$250.00; Gail Stewart, \$250.00; Donald R. Farrar Estate, \$250.00; Paul F. and Norma J. Ippolito, \$500.00. Sandra Walker moved Article 4 as printed. Seconded by Melissa Post. Article 4 voted in the affirmative.

Representative Leigh Dakin explained some of the projects being worked on in Montpelier.

- ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$2,847,925.67 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 15, 2016, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness. William Lindsay moved Article 5 as printed. Seconded by Sandra Walker. Moderator Dakin explained that David Pisha, Town Manager, would now make a presentation on the budget. (copy attached). Charlie Baker asked what level of certification the new EMS person would have. Dan Cook explained that the new person would be EMT level certified. Charlie Baker asked when the State was going to finish the paving by Lisa's Market. David Pisha explained that is supposed to be done in the spring along with fixing the railroad tracks. Arne Jonynas explained that Route 103 South from Rockingham to Rutland is supposed to be paved in the next couple of years. Charlie Baker asked if there was any money in the budget for the Police

Department to get Go Pro Cameras. Chief Rick Cloud advised that the laws for those have not been settled on yet, but if they get cameras they will more than likely be Watch Guard Cameras; because that is the equipment they use now. Charlie Baker Inquired about the washer/dryer unit for the Fire Department and how did the gear get cleaned before. Fire Chief Matt Wilson replied that Standards now say the gear has to be cleaned and that they have to be cleaned internally. Article 5 voted in the affirmative.

David Plsha thanked the Milanesi/Huffer family for their donation of land for the Popple Dungeon Road project.

ARTICLE 6:

To see if the Town will vote to expend from the Capital Budget Reserve Fund, \$452,323.89 to be allocated as follows: \$6,500.00 for the purchase of fencing for Cobleigh Field for the Recreation Department; \$10,000.00 for the resurfacing and repainting of the basketball court for the Recreation Department; \$8,000.00 for the refurbishing of the Compressor at the Fire Department; \$7,500.00 for the purchase of pagers for the Fire Department; \$85,111.00 for the lease payment for the Fire Truck; \$133,000.00 for the purchase of a dump truck for the Highway Department; \$49,046.00 for the payment of the loader lease for the Highway Department; \$20,000.00 for the purchase of a pickup truck for the Highway Department; \$54,166.89 for the payment of sidewalk renovations; \$20,000.00 for the first payment for the renovations to Whiting Library; \$20,000.00 for Improvements to the Town Hall building; and \$39,000.00 for the purchase of a Cruiser for the Police Department all as indicated on the Capital Budget Program schedule and less any grant funds that may be received. Kathy Pellett moved Article 6 as printed. Seconded by Allison DesLauriers. Tom Hildreth asked if the replacement truck for the Highway Department was for the truck that was totaled in the accident. David Plsha explained no, that truck has already been replaced with insurance money. The truck to be replaced is one of the trucks in the normal rotation. Nancy Lindsay asked if the fence for Cobleigh Field was replacing an existing fence. David Plsha explained no it is not. Cobleigh Field is being improved for girls' softball. There has been improvements, done by donations, of labor and materials at Cobleigh Field. Article 6 voted in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 7:

To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Chester Rod & Gun Club, Inc. Robert Pelletier moved Article 7 as printed. Seconded by Amber Wilson. Bruce Parks asked if someone had to be a member of the Rod & Gun Club to use the facility. Robert Pelletier replied yes. Dues are \$35.00 per year. These dues cover costs at the Club. Phillip Perlah asked how much the taxes were on the Rod & Gun Club property. Wanda Purdy advised that the assessment is \$261,100.00 and the taxes are \$3,609.19 per year. Susie Forlle asked how many members the Rod & Gun Club has. Harry Goodell replied just over 200. Arne Jonynas stated that he understood that it is not open to the public and people have to leave if they are not a member. Robert Pelletier advised that people from out of state were trashing the premise so the Rod & Gun Club Board decided to charge a small fee to discourage this. Also, the flooding that has occurred at the property has cost them a lot of money. Robert Pelletier explained that the local and state police and the military use the Club for practice and they offer hunter safety courses at no charge. Scott Bonneville made a motion to amend Article 7 from a period of five years to a period of one year. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. Moderator Dakin explained that the voters would now vote on the amendment. To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of one year, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Chester Rod & Gun Club, Inc. Amendment to Article 7 voted in the affirmative. Article 7, as amended, voted in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Green Mountain Softball League. Ruth Douglas moved Article 8 as printed. Seconded by Charlie Baker. Robert Pelletier asked what the value of this property is. Wanda Purdy advised that the assessment is \$110,300.00 and the taxes are \$2,285.75 per year. Ben Whalen asked if the Green Mountain Softball team plays on this field. Allison DesLauriers replied not at this time, but they are hoping to start using the field again. Philip Perlah asked if this was a continuation of a previous exemption. Ruth Douglas replied yes it is a continuation. Robert Pelletier made a motion to amend Article 8 from a period of five years to a period of one year. Seconded by Marilyn Mahusky. Moderator Dakin explained that the voters would now vote on the amendment. To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of one year, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Green Mountain Softball League. Amendment to Article 8 voted in the affirmative. Article 8, as amended, voted in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Olive Branch Lodge. Ron Patch moved Article 9 as printed. Seconded by Tom Amsden. Tom Amsden explained that he is the Sitting Master of the Olive Branch and there is two units, the Eastern Star and the Masons. He explained that the Eastern Star and the Masons work with charities and read a list of organizations that they donate to. Philip Perlah asked what the taxes were on this property and if this is a continuation of a previous exemption. Wanda Purdy advised that the assessment is \$431,300.00 and the taxes are \$8,937.83 per year. Deborah Aldrich, Town Clerk, advised that yes this exemption is a continuation. Ron Patch explained that this is the oldest organization in Chester. Matt Prescott asked for the total donations made in 2015. Ron Patch advised \$9,000.00 to \$10,000.00. Frank Bidwell asked if there were membership fees. Ron Patch advised that they have about 65 members and dues are \$51.00 per year. Article 9 voted in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$8,649.00 to the Springfield Regional Development Corporation. Kathy Pellett moved Article 10 as printed. Seconded by Allison DesLauriers. Bob Flint, from Springfield Regional Development Corporation, advised that their report is on page 95 of the Annual Report. Article 10 voted in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 11: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH. This article is by petition. Tony Weinberger moved Article 11 as printed. Seconded by Charlie Baker. Tony Weinberger explained that the Visiting Nurse's report could be found on page 99 of the Annual Report. Article 11 voted in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc. This article is by petition. Jim Bartley moved Article 12 as printed. Seconded by Richard Pease-Grant. Jim Bartley explained there was 17,000 hours worked in 2015 to 136 Chester residents for different programs. Article 12 voted in the affirmative.

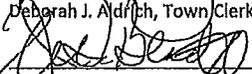
- ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need. This article is by petition. Gladys Collins moved Article 13 as printed. Seconded by Nancy Davis. Gladys Collins explained that she has been on the Board for SEVCA for the past five years and their report could be found on page 97 of the Annual Report. Article 13 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town. This article is by petition. Karl Storm moved Article 14 as printed. Seconded by Kelly Arrison. Karl Storm explained that in 2014 and 2015 the Women's Freedom Center helped 479 women and 438 children, of which 16 women and 17 children were in Chester. They have a hotline and they also support men. Article 14 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home. This article is by petition. Melissa Post moved Article 15 as printed. Seconded by Irwin Post. Melissa Post explained that she has been with Council on Aging for 30 years. The Council on Aging has many offerings to 46 people in Chester. Their report can be found on page 50 of the Annual Report. Article 15 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,700 (two thousand seven hundred dollars) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot and cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Chester. This article is by petition. Maria Contro moved Article 16 as printed. Seconded by Nancy Lindsay. Maria Contro thanked everyone for their support. Lynne Reed advised that she wanted to recognize Maria for all her work with the Meals on Wheels Program. Article 16 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 17:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the Current operated by Connecticut River Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester. This article is by petition. Cynthia Whitney moved Article 17 as printed. Seconded by Tom Hildreth. Bruce Parks advised that when he was on the Board for the Current he had suggested that they improve their service to Chester. He suggested that they reroute the bus that goes from Bellows Falls to Springfield on Route 5 to go through Chester to Springfield. Phyllisa Jones-Prescott advised that the Current gives rides to people for appointments only if you are on Medicaid. Article 17 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Partners, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County. This article is by petition. Karl Storm moved Article 18 as printed. Seconded by Matt Prescott. Karl Storm advised that Windsor County Partners is in need of volunteers for youth mentoring for Chester and their report can be found on Page 106 of the Annual Report. Article 18 voted in the affirmative.

- ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service. This article is by petition. Maria Contro moved Article 19 as printed. Seconded by Penny Benelli. Article 19 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely. This article is by petition. David Armstrong moved Article 20 as printed. Seconded by Erron Carey. David Armstrong advised that the Community Cares report could be found on page 100 of the Annual Report. Article 20 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need. This article is by petition. Sandra Vincent moved Article 21 as printed. Seconded by Georgia Ethler. Delores Robinson, Chairman of the Board of the Chester Family Center, thanked the Town for the dedication of the Annual Report to Georgia Ethler. The Chester-Andover Family Center report can be found on page 96 of the Annual Report. Article 21 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness. Lynne Reed moved Article 22 as printed. Seconded by Charle Baker. Article 22 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 23: To act on the reports of the Town Officers for the year ending December 31, 2015. Allison DesLauriers moved Article 23 as printed. Seconded by Richard Pease-Grant. Article 23 voted in the affirmative.
- ARTICLE 24: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not including the expenditures of Town Funds or other business acted upon in the preceding Articles. David Walker made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Julie Hance. Meeting adjourned at 8:26.

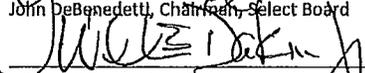
A true record.



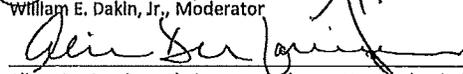
 Deborah J. Aldrich, Town Clerk



 John DeBenedetti, Chairman, Select Board



 William E. Dakln, Jr., Moderator



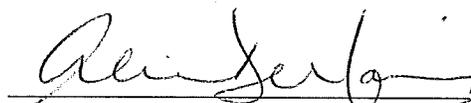
 Allison DesLauriers, Chairwomen, Chester Town School District

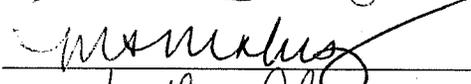
**WARNING FOR CHESTER
TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING**

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT are hereby notified and warned to meet at Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. to act on the following Articles. Voting on Articles 1, 2 and 3 will be by Australian Ballot on March 7, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect Town School District Officers for the ensuing year (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 2:** To elect Directors for Chester-Andover Elementary School for the ensuing year (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 3:** To elect Directors for Green Mountain Union High School for the ensuing year (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$222,120.00 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 15, 2017, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town School District will authorize the Directors to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town School District's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 6:** To authorize the Town School District to accept payment from the State Department of Taxes under Act 68.
- ARTICLE 7:** To act on the reports of the Town School District Officers for the year ending December 31, 2016.
- ARTICLE 8:** To transact any other business deemed proper when met.

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 23rd day of January, 2017.


_____/s/ Alison DesLauriers, Chairman


_____/s/ Marilyn Mahusky


_____/s/ Heather Chase

**TOWN OF CHESTER
WARNING
NOTICE OF TOWN MEETING**

The Legal Voters of the TOWN OF CHESTER are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Chester Town Hall, Second Floor in said Town of Chester on Monday, March 6, 2017, at 6:00 pm., to act on the following Articles. Voting on Article 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be by Australian ballot on March 7, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall Second Floor.

- ARTICLE 1:** To elect Town Officials for the ensuing year as provided by the Public Laws of Vermont and citizens to serve on the Budget Committee (Australian Ballot).
- ARTICLE 2:** Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$235,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing the following capital items: \$135,000.00 to repair the large culvert on Popple Dungeon Road; \$100,000.00 to make improvements to Route 35. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 3:** Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing a new Pumper Truck for the Fire Department. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 4:** Shall general obligation bonds of the Town of Chester in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$185,000.00), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, be issued for the purpose of purchasing the following capital items: \$25,000.00 to replace the pumps at the town pool for the recreation department; \$110,000.00 to purchase a tractor with a roadside mower and leaf blower for the highway department; \$50,000.00 to repair the handicap access ramp at town hall. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 5** To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the office of town auditor. The town is audited annually by a certified public accountant. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to eliminate the office of Lister, effective January 1, 2018. This position would be replaced by a professionally qualified assessor. (Australian Ballot)
- ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to accept gifts and trust funds for perpetual care of cemetery lots in accordance with conditions of said gifts and trusts as follows: Nelson and Sherry Smith, \$1,000.00; Georgeann and Donald Turner, \$500.00; Frederick Salo, \$500.00.

- ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise \$2,876,502.11 to be paid to the Chester Town Treasurer on September 15, 2017, to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to expend from the Capital Budget Reserve Fund, \$333,100.00 to be allocated as follows: \$125,000.00 for the purchase of a new dump truck for the highway department; \$49,600.00 for the Loader lease for the highway department; \$20,000.00 for the purchase of a new pickup truck for the highway department; \$55,000.00 for the excavator loan for the highway department; \$18,500.00 for the purchase of airpaks for the fire department; \$45,000.00 for the purchase of a cruiser for the police department; \$20,000.00 for the library repairs; all as indicated on the Capital Budget Program schedule and less any grant funds that may be received
- ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Chester Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
- ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to exempt from municipal and education taxes, for a period of five years, 100% of the Fair Market Value of lands and buildings occupied by the Green Mountain Softball League.
- ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$ 8,649.00 to the Springfield Regional Development Corporation.
- ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to Pennies for the Playground (501(c)(3) nonprofit) organization for the renewal of the Chester Community Playground at Chester Andover Elementary School in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691.
- ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$2500 (two thousand five hundred dollars) to support the Chester Fireworks for Labor Day weekend, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2691.
- ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVEN DOLLARS (\$13,807) to help support the home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the **Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH**. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND FORTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$3,044) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of **Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc**. This article is by petition.

- ARTICLE 17:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS (\$3,040) to **Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)** to assist Chester in responding to the emergency needs of the community and providing all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$900) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 19:** Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,200.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 20:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,700 (two thousand seven hundred dollars) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot and cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Chester. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 21:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the support of the Current operated by Connecticut River Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Chester. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 22:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$800 (eight hundred dollars) to support Windsor County Partners, for youth mentoring services provided to children in Windsor County. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 23:** Shall the Town of Chester appropriate the sum of \$400 (four hundred dollars) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Chester through volunteer service. This article is by petition.
- ARTICLE 24:** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,800.00) toward the support of the Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Inc. a non-profit organization which provides services to senior citizens, helping them to stay in their homes longer safely. This article is by petition.

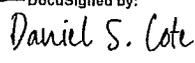
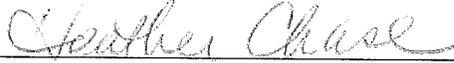
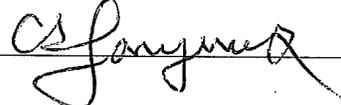
ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town of Chester will appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) to assist in the services of the Chester-Andover Family Center for individuals and families in need. This article is by petition.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes to pay current expenses and any part of the Town's indebtedness.

ARTICLE 27: To act on the reports of the Town Officers for the year ending December 31, 2016.

ARTICLE 28: To transact any other business deemed proper when met, not including the expenditures of Town Funds or other business acted upon in the preceding Articles.

Dated at Chester, Vermont on this 19th day of January, 2017.

 _____ /s/ John DeBenedetti, Chairman
 _____ /s/ Ben Whalen
DocuSigned by:
 _____ /s/ Dan Cote
7A68FE48F902402...
 _____ /s/ Heather Chase
 _____ /s/ Arne Jonynas

TOWN MEETING

March 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
In town Hall Second Floor

TOWN BALLOTING

March 7, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
In Town Hall Second Floor

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Telephone: (802) 875-2173

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

First and Third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

First and Third Monday at 7:00 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD MEETING

Second and Fourth Monday at 6:00 p.m.

FOR POLICE

Emergency: DIAL 911 or 875-2233
Business: 875-2035

FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE

DIAL 911 or 875-3200

FOR FIRE SERVICE

DIAL 911 or 875-3200

FOR HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

875-2173

FOR TOWN FIRE WARDEN

(802) 384-3001 or 875-2173

FOR TOWN MANAGER

875-2173

FOR TOWN WEBSITE

www.chestervt.gov

Ellsworth Memorial Clinic
Chester Family Medicine 875-2546
Robert J. Schwarts, MD
Gianina Kennedy, APRN

The cover of this year's Town Report is a pen and ink drawing of the Chester Town Hall by artist Lewis
Watters of Chester