

# Village of North Bennington Annual Report



# Dedications



Bill Scully

North Bennington honors the memory of former Trustee William “Bill” Scully who died on July 19, 2020 after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Bill was an exceptional human being. His interests and intellect were far-reaching. He was a self-described non-traditional student among non-traditional students during his first stint at Bennington College in the early 90’s. He fell in love with Vermont, particularly North Bennington and its history and was determined to make a home here. Bill threw himself head-long into everything that he did. Not everyone understood that kind of commitment but Bill knew that was what worked best for him and contributed to his innovation and ingenuity. One person who did understand it well was Maria his wife and partner. Through their partnership they grew several joyful and prosperous businesses and ultimately their greatest creation, a daughter, Kiera. Once again, Bill poured himself into a project, this time fatherhood, and he packed many years of memories into a brief period of time.

Bill’s citizenship was well known, whether it was contributing through his businesses or his own personal effort. In addition, he felt called to civic life joining the Village Trustees in 2012 for 5 years and then serving on the Bennington Selectboard from 2019 until his death. Bill was also determined to combat our warming planet by developing hydroelectric projects from existing dams. Miraculously, Bill was able to secure Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permits for these projects through his own hard work and grit— a task which is normally farmed out to consultants for tens of thousands of dollars (in many cases making projects financially untenable). This also inspired Bill’s completion of his degree (while teaching a course at the same time!) at Bennington College in 2018 with a focus on the Clean Water Act. We will all benefit for years to come from this legacy of clean energy and repurposing of historic dams.

The Village Trustees plan to recognize Bill through a public memorial when COVID-19 health protocols allow it.

## Cover:

Left to Right: Village Kiosk by Joe Chirchirillo. Art Whitman-Norshaft Lions at Halloween Parade, photo by Tedd Habberfeied. Nick Disorda taking an order curbside at Pangaea. Temperature taking in the morning at Village School. John Ulrich and the VAE Art Bus lead the Halloween Parade, photo by Tedd Habberfield. Signs of the times at N.B. Variety Store.

## Back Cover:

Left to Right: VAE Parade Poster. VAE Art Bus. Boudreau family truck masking up. Kane family together, photos by Tedd Habberfield. “Together Apart” smiles. Wood family mobile TP.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Village Officers and Employees.....	2
Annual Village Meetings Minutes .....	3
Village Clerk`s Expense Report .....	7
Village of North Bennington Fund Balances .....	10
Delinquent Tax Collector`s Report .....	11
Report of the Board of Trustees .....	12
Board of Water Commissioner`s Report.....	15
North Bennington Water Board Budget.....	17
Development Review Board.....	18
Zoning Administrator`s Report.....	19
North Bennington Fire Department Report.....	20
John G. McCullough Library Annual Reprt .....	21
Paran Recreations .....	27
North Bennington Tree Committee.....	29
Bennington County Regional Commission Town Report .....	30
Board Meeting Dates .....	31
Vermont Arts Exchange .....	32
Park McCullough.....	33
Water Fund Independent Auditor`s Report.....	34
Finacial Statements and Schedules Report.....	48

## Village Officers and Employees

Moderator			John Ulrich	
Treasurer			Mary Rogers	802-442-5547
Village Clerk			Lori Elwell	802-447-7450
Trustees:				
3 year term expires 2021			Mark Boudreau	
3 year term expires 2021			John Lamson, Chair	<a href="mailto:lamson.vnbtrustee@gmail.com">lamson.vnbtrustee@gmail.com</a>
3 year term expires 2023			Tara Lowary	<a href="mailto:t.lowary@gmail.com">t.lowary@gmail.com</a>
3 year term expires 2022			Erin McKenny	<a href="mailto:mckennytrustee@gmail.com">mckennytrustee@gmail.com</a>
3 year term expires 2023			Matthew Patterson	
Highway Department:				
			Normand Leblanc	1-802-442-7474
			Justin Robinson	
Water Department:				
			Ted Fela	<a href="mailto:nbwd2009@gmail.com">nbwd2009@gmail.com</a>
			Zachary Bull	
			James Ostrander	
Water Board Members:				
Term Expires	October	2025	Steve Goodrich	
Term Expires	October	2021	Arla Sampsell	
Term Expires	October	2022	Joe Hermann	
Term Expires	October	2023	David Shaughnessy, Chair	
Term Expires	October	2024	Gerald Elwell	
Chief of Fire Department				
			Ed Myers	
Zoning Administrator				
			Chris Damon	
Delinquent Tax Collector				
			Mary Rogers	802-442-5547
Planning Commission Members:				
Term Expires	April	2020	Matthew Patterson, Chair	
Term Expires	April	2021	Brian Vargo	
Term Expires	April	2021	Robert Howe, Vice Chair	
Term Expires	April	2021	Abigail Martin	
Term Expires	April	2020	Chris Damon	
Development Review Board Members:				
Term Expires	April	2021	Hugh Crowl	
Term Expires	April	2022	James Sullivan, Chair	
Term Expires	April	2020	Charlotte Lyons	
Term Expires	April	2022	Tara Lowary	

## Village of North Bennington Annual Meeting Minutes

Village of North Bennington  
Annual Village Meeting  
Tuesday, March 12, 2020 – 7:00 PM  
Village Depot Offices via ZOOM

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Due to the COVID – 19 crisis, The Village of North Bennington Trustees held its Annual Village Meeting on May 12, 2020 at 7pm. This meeting was held by video and telephone conference only, via Zoom. This is in accordance with H.681 (section 6); addendum 01-20/Act 92

Trustees & Public Officials Present – John Lamson, Chair; Matthew Patterson, Vice Chair; Tara Lowary, Trustee; Mark Boudreau, Trustee; Erin McKenny, Trustee; John Ulrich, Moderator; Mary Rogers, Treasurer; Lori Elwell, Village Clerk

Public Present – Ray Mullineaux, Alisa DelTufo , Emily Hunter, Katie Cleaver, Mark Rogers, Candice Cuthbert, Jenny Rozycki, Dana Rozycki, Bob Howe, Mary Feidner, Rob Woolmington, Jennile Smith, Peter Crabtree, Lucas Nathan – Bennington Banner Reporter, Stephen Kelleher, Christine Graham, Kim Hall, Susan Sgorbati

The Annual Meeting of the Village of North Bennington was called to order at 7:06 PM by Moderator John Ulrich.

The Warning for the Annual Village Meeting was read by Village Clerk Lori Elwell.

**Article One:** To hear and dispose of the reports of the Village Officers for the year.

- Mary Feidner made a motion to approve Article One. Alisa Deltufo seconded this motion and it was so voted.

**Article Two:** To see what sum the Village will vote to cover appropriations made at this meeting and for the current and incidental expenses or authorize the trustees to borrow the necessary funds for that purpose; authorize the trustees to spend unanticipated

revenue; and also authorize the trustees to set the tax rate upon completion of the Grand List.

- Trustee Chair John Lamson explained the Highway Projects; West Street, Susan Taylor Lane, Asa's Way, Royal Street construction and the new purchase of highway equipment.
- Treasurer Mary Rogers reviewed the overall budget noting specifics that should be detailed.
- Bob Howe made a motion to accept and approve Article Two. This was seconded by Rob Woolmington and so voted unanimously.

**Article Three:** To elect a Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, and three Auditors for the ensuing year; two trustees for three years and one trustee for one year to fill the remaining term currently held by Mark Boudreau.

- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for Moderator. A nomination for John Ulrich for Moderator was made. There being no further nominations, a motion was made to elect John Ulrich as Moderator. This was seconded and so voted with no discussion or opposition.
- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for Village Clerk. Rob woolmington nominated Lori Elwell for Village Clerk. Mary Rogers seconded this nomination for Village Clerk. There being no further nominations, a motion was made to elect Lori Elwell for Village Clerk. This was seconded and so voted with no opposition or discussion.
- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for Village Treasurer. Mark Rogers nominated Mary Rogers for Village Treasurer. Ray Mullineaux seconded this motion. There being no further nominations for Village Treasurer, a motion was made to elect Mary Rogers for Village Treasurer. This was seconded and so voted with no opposition or discussion.
- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for Collector of Taxes. Ray Mullineaux nominated Mary Rogers for Collector of Taxes. Emily Hunter seconded this motion. There being no further nominations for Collector of Taxes a motion was made to elect Mary Rogers for Collector of Taxes. This was seconded and so voted with no discussion or opposition.
- John Lamson, Trustee, explained the purpose of Village Auditors. Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for three Auditors for the ensuing year. There being no nominations, three Village auditor's seats are currently vacant.
- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for one trustee for three years. There was a nomination and a second for Matthew Patterson. There being no further nominations it was so voted by all residents in attendance. Matthew Patterson will retain his current position.
- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for one trustee for three years. There was a nomination and a second for Tara Lowary. There being no further nominations it was so voted by all residents in attendance. Tara Lowary will retain her current position.

- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for one trustee to fill the remaining term held by Mark Boudreau. There were no nominations. Mark Boudreau has agreed to stay on with the understanding that the trustees will continue to search for a replacement for him.

**Article Four:** Shall the Village of North Bennington appropriate an increase in funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Paran Recreations for the purpose of General Operating Expenses?

- A motion was made to appropriate an increase in funding of \$2,000.00 to Paran Recreations for the purpose of General Operating Expenses. This was seconded and so voted with no opposition or further discussion.

**Article Five:** Shall the Village of North Bennington appropriate funding of \$500.00 to the Bennington County Choral Society?

- A motion was made to appropriate funding of \$500.00 to the Bennington County Choral Society. This was seconded and so voted with no opposition or further discussion.

**Article Six:** Shall the Village of North Bennington set the 2020/2021 property tax due date for November 10, 2020?

- A motion was made to set the 2020/2021 property tax due date for November 10, 2020. This was seconded and so voted with no opposition or further discussion.

**Article Seven:** Shall the Village of North Bennington adopt the “Climate Solutions Resolution for the State of Vermont”?

- Chairman John Lamson shared the resolution for all attendees to review. Treasurer Mary Rogers explained the Energy Action Committee, its purpose, members and mission. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the “Climate Solutions Resolution for the State of Vermont”. This was so voted.

**Article Eight:** To discuss any other business found proper when met.

- Susan Sgorbati explained the Fund for North Bennington in conjunction with the Vermont State Employees Credit Union are offering short term, no interest loans to North Bennington residents in need during this Covid-19 crisis. Details were provided.

- McCullough Library librarian, Jennie Rozycki, explained the current operating practices of the library.
- BCRC Representative Dana Rozycki described Covid-19 resources available to residents. They can be found at [BCRCVT.org](http://BCRCVT.org).
- Alison Deltufo updated the trustees on the progress with the Village Kiosk.

A motion was made by Alisa Deltufo to adjourn the Village of North Bennington Annual Meeting at 8:00 PM. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted.

Lorine Elwell  
Village Clerk  
North Bennington

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON  
EXPENSE & REVENUE REPORT**

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021			BUDGET 2021-2022
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual		
VILLAGE OFFICE	\$ 11,200	\$ 18,979	\$ (7,779)	\$ 16,600	\$ 9,272	\$ 14,850	
VILLAGE TREASURER	4,300	4,300	0	4,500	2,150	4,500	
VILLAGE CLERK	4,000	4,000	0	4,200	2,000	4,200	
VILLAGE SECRETARY	4,300	4,634	(334)	4,500	2,342	4,500	
VILLAGE BOOKKEEPER	4,700	5,050	(350)	4,900	2,550	4,900	
TRUSTEES' FEES	1,500	1,500	0	5,000	3,500	5,000	
TRUSTEES' EXPENSES	500	295	205	500	200	500	
DRB & PLANNING	9,500	7,297	2,203	7,200	3,718	7,200	
DEPOT MAINTENANCE	7,000	11,660	(4,660)	7,750	6,450	7,750	
STORAGE SHED MAINTENANCE	2,000	3,400	(1,400)	2,000	1,790	2,000	
LEGAL FEES	5,000	2,703	2,297	5,000	1,491	5,000	
AUDIT RESERVE FUND	1,000	1,000	0		0	0	
DEPOT RESERVE FUND		(15,229)	15,229	3,000	0	3,000	
ZONING PERMITS	(2,700)	(1,405)	(1,295)	(2,400)	(921)	(2,000)	
MISC REVENUE		(3,765)	3,765	(300)	(385)	(300)	
DEPOT RENO EXP		35,704	(35,704)				
GRANT REVENUE-DEPOT		(20,475)	20,475				
<b>TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>\$ 52,300</b>	<b>\$ 59,648</b>	<b>\$ (7,348)</b>	<b>\$ 62,450</b>	<b>\$ 34,157</b>	<b>\$ 61,100</b>	

FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021			BUDGET 2021-2022
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual		
OFFICER & DRILL PAY	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,855	\$ (130)	\$ 3,850	\$ 3,855	\$ 3,850	
FIRE DEPT-NEW EQUIPMENT	5,000	2,701	2,299	5,000	323	5,000	
FIRE DEPT-GEAR REPLACEMENT	20,000	20,285	(285)	10,000	0	10,000	
FIRE DEPT-TRAINING	3,000	2,990	10	3,000	832	3,000	
FIRE TRUCK MAINTENANCE	5,000	4,171	829	5,000	3,681	4,000	
GAS & DIESEL	5,000	3,861	1,139	5,000	1,992	5,000	
FIRE HOUSE EXPENSE	10,000	9,961	39	9,000	6,336	9,000	
COMMUNICATIONS	3,000	4,508	(1,508)	3,000	2,121	4,000	
SPECIAL POLICE	250	200	50	250	220	250	
FIRE EQUIP REPLACEMENT FUND	20,000	20,000	0	20,000	0	20,000	
FIRE HOUSE RENO SINKING	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0	5,000	

SMALL EQUIPMENT RESERVE	2,000	2,000	0	4,000	0	6,000
<b>TOTAL FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>\$ 81,975</b>	<b>\$ 79,532</b>	<b>\$ 2,443</b>	<b>\$ 73,100</b>	<b>\$ 19,360</b>	<b>\$ 75,100</b>

PUBLIC WORKS	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021		BUDGET 2021-2022
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	
Parks Maintenance	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,152	\$ (2,152)	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,255	\$ 5,000
Parks Reserve	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	0	5,000
STREET LIGHTS	17,000	14,955	2,045	17,000	9,720	17,000
PARKS REVENUE	(6,000)	(6,000)	0	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>\$ 21,000</b>	<b>\$ 21,107</b>	<b>\$ (107)</b>	<b>\$ 21,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,975</b>	<b>\$ 21,000</b>

HIGHWAY	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021		BUDGET 2021-2022
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	
HIGHWAY WAGES	\$ 101,500	\$ 88,486	\$ 13,014	\$ 103,700	\$ 60,720	\$ 109,350
HIGHWAY PAYROLL TAXES	7,950	6,520	1,430	8,000	5,407	8,400
HEALTH INSURANCE	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	0	10,000
HIGHWAY-NEW EQUIPMENT	22,000	62,389	(40,389)	20,000	14,150	20,000
SIDEWALK TRACTOR	10,000	9,958	42	10,000		10,000
BACKHOE/DUMP TRUCK	16,236	16,236	0	36,000		36,000
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	5,000	4,665	335	3,800	2,478	3,800
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	15,000	12,462	2,538	8,000	4,697	8,000
OIL & GAS	10,000	8,756	1,244	8,000	3,122	8,000
GARAGE ALL EXPENSES	12,000	22,391	(10,391)	25,000	8,201	26,200
HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE	86,000	137,770	(51,770)	84,500	22,305	84,500
SALT & SAND	24,000	25,537	(1,537)	24,000	5,956	24,000
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND	7,600	5,275	2,325	5,800	0	6,350
SIDEWALK RESERVE FUND	5,000	(3,000)	8,000	8,000	0	8,000
BACKHOE RESERVE FUND	4,500	4,500	0	4,500	0	4,500
TRACTOR RESERVE FUND	3,000	3,000	0	3,500	0	3,500
TRUCK RESERVE FUND	26,000	23,535	2,465	26,000	0	26,000
TREE REMOVAL RESERVE FUND			0		0	5,000
GARAGE IMPROVEMENT FUND			0		0	2,000
SALE OF EQUIPMENT	0	(62,915)	62,915	0	(3,845)	0
HIGHWAY REVENUE	(31,000)	(31,260)	260	(31,000)	(24,076)	(31,000)
ROAD REPAIR CARRY FWD		(57,000)	57,000		(20,000)	
<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY</b>	<b>\$ 334,786</b>	<b>\$ 282,305</b>	<b>\$ 52,481</b>	<b>\$ 357,800</b>	<b>\$ 79,115</b>	<b>\$ 372,600</b>

Payments to Other Organizations	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021		BUDGET 2021-2022
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	
MCCULLOUGH LIBRARY	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
PARK MCCULLOUGH HOUSE	1,500	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
SAGE CITY SYMPHONY	500	500	0	500	500	500
VAE ALLOCATION	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
BENN COUNTY REG. COMM.	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
PARAN RECREATION	4,500	4,500	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
GRANDVIEW	2,000	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000
SUNRISE FAMILY RESOURCE	500	500	0	500	500	500
TREE COMMITTEE	1,500	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
OUTDOOR SCULPTURE SHOW	500	500	0	500	500	500
NB ROUNDTABLE	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	500	1,000
BENN COUNTY CHORAL			0	500	500	500
<b>TOTAL OTHER ORGS</b>	<b>\$ 47,000</b>	<b>\$ 47,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 48,000</b>	<b>\$ 46,500</b>	<b>\$ 48,000</b>

OTHER EXPENDITURES	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021		BUDGET 2021-2022
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	12 Month Actual	
INSURANCE	\$ 30,000	\$ 29,250	\$ 750	\$ 28,000	\$ 26,532	\$ 27,000
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 29,250</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ 28,000</b>	<b>\$ 26,532</b>	<b>\$ 27,000</b>

Operating Transfers Out (In)	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021		BUDGET 2021-2022
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	
CONTINGENCY FUND	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	-	\$ 1,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021		BUDGET 2021-2022
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	
	607,761	702,662	(94,901)	631,050	271,866	645,100
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>(39,700)</b>	<b>(182,820)</b>	<b>143,120</b>	<b>(39,700)</b>	<b>(55,227)</b>	<b>(39,300)</b>
<b>NET EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>568,061</b>	<b>519,842</b>	<b>48,219</b>	<b>591,350</b>	<b>216,639</b>	<b>605,800</b>

To: Village of North Bennington  
 From: Mary Rogers, Treasurer  
 Date: July 30, 2020  
 Re: Account Balances 6/30/20

<u>Account</u>	<u>6/30/2020</u>
General Fund - Unrestricted	30,594.70
Highway Dept PR	4,205.46
Delinquent Tax Account	7,415.81
Tax Account	<u>92,587.42</u>
CASH ACCOUNT BALANCE	134,803.39
RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Firehouse Reserve Fund	29,455.15
Fire Equipment Reserve-New	6,001.43
Fire Truck Reserve Fund	96,884.18
Salt Shed Reserve Fund	8,637.90
Highway Reserves Sweep:	143,240.94
Sidewalk Reserve Fund	22,317.53
Backhoe Reserve Fund	13,517.68
Tractor Reserve Fund	26,283.86
Truck Reserve Fund	81,121.87
General Reserves Sweep:	66,522.89
Audit Reserve Fund	27,135.59
Village Contingency Fund	21,728.51
Depot Renovation Fund	17,658.79
Parks Reserve Fund	25,020.80
Total Restricted	375,763.29
TOTAL FUNDS	510,566.68

NOTES:

\$8,000 was used from the Sidewalk Fund for Houghton Street project.  
 \$10,000 was used from Audit Fund for the 2016 multi-year audit.  
 \$2,465 was used from the Highway Truck Fund for the 2019 dump truck.  
 All Reserves were funded according to the 2019/2020 Budget.

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON  
PROPERTY TAXES  
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Taxes Billed & Due 11/12/19		
	NB Highway	319,096.60
	NB General	161,749.34
	NB Fire	88,117.17
	Local Share for school	1,846.14
	Late Homestead Penalty	1,850.56
	<b>Total Billed</b>	<u>\$ 572,659.81</u>
Collections by Treasurer	Total Received	556,029.61
Delinquent Taxes to Delinquent tax Collector	Total Delinquent	16,126.08
	Credits - to be refunded	<u>504.12</u>
	<b>Total Collections &amp; Delinquent</b>	<u>\$ 572,659.81</u>
Disbursements	Village	554,183.47
	Refunds/Overpayments	504.12
	School - Local Share	1,846.14
	<b>Total Disbursed</b>	<u>\$ 556,533.73</u>
Delinquent Balance 7/1/19		\$ 3,467.42
	2019-20 Delinquencies	16,126.08
	Payments Received	(17,360.74)
	Abatements	0.00
	Adjustments	<u>(8.25)</u>
Delinquent Balance 7/1/20		<u>\$ 2,224.51</u>
Interest Collected		\$ 725.15
Penalty Collected		\$ 1,388.88
Respectfully submitted		
Mary Rogers		
Treasurer/Delinquent Tax Collector		

The Village Trustees submit the following report on the activities of 2020.

I am writing this report in the closing days of 2020 and I think I speak for the Village when I say I am glad that this year is finally behind us! Although we still have to remain vigilant and very likely this global pandemic will lead to permanent changes in our behavior, at least with several safe and effective vaccines there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Of course, this year's focus has been the health and safety of our community. New protocols went into place as soon as the Governor's Emergency Order was issued in March. The Village employees have incorporated social-distancing practices and maintained the access to our public buildings and areas to safest extent possible.

Fortunately, we live in a place where we have been able to take advantage of outdoor activities throughout this pandemic. Unfortunately, even here we have public areas that required modified use and in some cases closure. Lions Park was initially closed out of an abundance of caution as evidence on the transmissibility of the virus was assessed. When it became evident that surface transmissibility was low-risk, we were able to open the park to limited use with a come-play-go mindset. Our Village offices at the Depot have been closed and remain so indefinitely. Any questions should be directed to the Village Clerk at PO Box 427, North Bennington 05257 or (802) 379-1176.

With the help of a grant from the Microsoft Corporation we have added broadband wifi access to the Village Depot Offices parking lot and Lions Park. The Village thanks Justin McCoart, of Up and Running IT, who wanted to know if he could do something for the State to assist with the Covid-19 problem. He contacted the Vermont Department of Public Service and they came up with a plan to submit to Microsoft for funding. The wifi has been available for all Villagers needs and in particular students who need to access broadband for their classes or to upload/download work.

With the help of another State grant an EV (Electric Vehicle) charging station will be installed at the Village Depot Offices parking area by summer 2021. We are pleased to offer this option for visitors to our historic downtown. Studies have shown that charging opportunities play into consumers decisions about staying and/or shopping and dining in an area.

As of this writing the Trustees have voted to postpone our Annual Meeting to Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 10am. We hope this will allow us all to gather (socially distanced) outdoors at either Lake Paran or Lions Park. The Trustees feel that the community would prefer some sort of gathering (with safety being prioritized) over a strictly Australian ballot meeting. We do not have the same requirements on completing our meeting as the North Bennington Graded School District so we have more flexibility in having our meeting later.

The primary responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy environment is on us as individuals and the choices we make. Although a vaccine is in the process of being distributed it will be many months before we have produced a community/herd immunity to a degree safe to return to normal activity. This time is especially risky because of the fatigue that many of us are experiencing. We encourage you to stay

vigilant and keep your masks on and your hands washed. We are so close. Let's not let down those who are vulnerable in our community!

On October 30 we were pleased to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bessie Vadikan-Burgess at Lincoln Square. A car parade and a socially-distanced Elvis helped her mark this milestone. Ms. Vadikan-Burgess has been a resident of North Bennington all her life and it was a great honor to be able to recognize her.

A new kiosk and signage have been added to the veterans' memorial park across from Lincoln Square and McCullough Library and at the Bank Street intersection. This beautiful project was conceptualized by our own resident and artist Joe Chirchirillo and primarily funded through a State Animating Infrastructures grant. These grants are designed to mix public art with functional municipal infrastructure. This project does so in a way that only Mr. Chirchirillo could have envisioned. Mr. Chirchirillo's work is beautiful, stark, timeless and has interwoven elements of the regions history to make it a permanent centerpiece to our downtown. Many thanks are deserved for this wonderful addition. I encourage you to visit Mr. Chirchirillo's website at: <https://www.joechirchirillo.com/>

The Lake Paran Association provides a separate report but the Trustees feel it is important to recognize the extreme challenges that were faced by the Lake this summer. In spite of this, through the hard work and long hours of the Board and volunteers and summer employees they had a successful season and so many in our community were able to find comfort and relief from the heat as they usually do in Lake Paran. We thank the Association and encourage everyone who is not already a member to become one and also donate to the organization if you can.

Similarly, the Fund for North Bennington typically issues its own report. However, the Trustees also want to recognize the efforts of this organization to continue to provide access to natural areas in North Bennington throughout this pandemic. This has been absolutely essential for people to maintain their physical and mental health. Without the Fund's efforts both now and historically in creating and preserving these resources we would not be so fortunate to have these outdoor opportunities.

The Lake Paran Village community development by Shires Housing on Paran Road just over the line in Shaftsbury was completed and tenants began to move in in Fall 2020. We are very pleased to welcome these new community members to North Bennington. The site was developed tastefully and preserved open space as well as recognizing environmental impacts by making the units some of the most efficient available in the state of Vermont! And all offset with solar trackers. This is a model of development for North Bennington.

The North Bennington Water Improvement Project was completed in 2020 and should provide access to safe, clean drinking water for decades to come. In reviewing my notes from last year I had predicted that all construction would have been completed before summer. Due to COVID-19 and other factors that did not become the reality. However, all work has been completed including clean up and some remediation work. We are happy to have this behind us and will welcome a period of several years to come with substantially less road construction. That said, we have a priority list for road improvement but always welcome comment. If you know of an issue that needs to be addressed please contact the road foreman, Norm LeBlanc, at (802) 379-0993.

As a reminder, the Village provides a spot to dump leaves off of the Fishing Access Road in addition to the Bennington Transfer Station accepting them free of charge.

Respectfully Submitted,

John B. Lamson, Chair

Trustees of the Village of North Bennington

## Board of Water Commissioners Report 2020

For the year 2020, 136,168,000 gallons of water were treated at the filtration plant. This was an increase over previous years. The increase in consumption is a direct result of residents quarantining at home due to Covid-19 restrictions set forth by Governor Phil Scott. Increased use can also be attributed to required flushing in conjunction with the Water System Distribution System Improvement project.

All required water testing for 2020 was completed on time, with results to be reported in our Consumer Confidence Report, delivered before July 1, 2021.

Testing included:

1. Coliform bacteria, finished water. State requires testing to be completed twice monthly.
2. Stage #2 Disinfection Byproducts, to be completed in the months of February, May, August, and November (two sites).
3. Nitrate, to be completed once per year.
4. Volatile Organic Chemicals, once every three years.
5. PFAS sampling, at the filtration plant.



**North Bennington Water Filtration Plant.**

2020 was an unconventional year, to say the least. The Covid-19 pandemic affected all aspects of life including construction projects. The Water System Distribution Improvement project was delayed due to construction restrictions implemented by the Governor to combat the spread of Covid-19. In spite of the delays the project was completed during summer. The improvements provide greater redundancy and higher water capacity to the center of the Village, greatly enhancing fire protection. The Water System Distribution Improvement Project brings the system into, state mandated, compliance with current fire flow regulations and significantly lowers the risk of costly repairs and loss of water in the future.

January 13, 2020 the Water Department hired Jim Ostrander. Jim has been a licensed plumber for 34 years and operated his own successful plumbing business for 26 years. Jim completed the Grade 3 & 4 exam preparation course in the fall of 2020. Due to Covid-19 restrictions Jim is awaiting his opportunity to take the Vermont Grade 4 Water Operator's Exam.

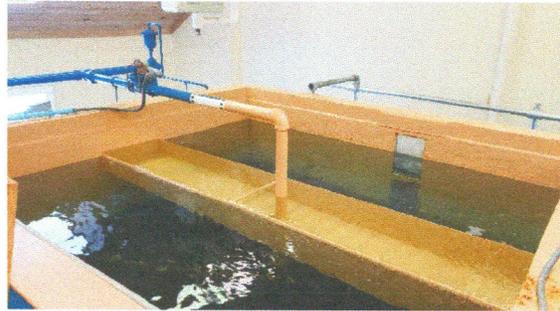
A new regulation for 2019, all municipal water systems in the state of Vermont were required to complete PFAS sampling this year. PFAS is a family of chemical contaminants that includes PFOA. The sample

was completed by Aquaterra in October. The sample was non-detect for all PFAS chemicals. The water system will now be on a three year rotation for PFAS sampling.

Water quality standards continue to become stricter and the North Bennington Board of Water Commissioners are committed to supplying the highest quality drinking water to their customers. The North Bennington Water System and its operators have been commended for managing and operating the water system to the highest standards.



**Incoming raw water piping.**



**Filter # 2.**

The Water Department financial and billing records are computerized and audited yearly by Love, Cody, and Company, of Bennington, Vermont. Copies of the audit are available upon request.

Water Board Meetings are held monthly on the second Tuesday following the first Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Rail Road Depot. Meeting dates are posted on the Depot Bill Board.

Board of Water Commissioners  
David Shaughnessy, Chairman  
Steve Goodrich, Vice Chairman  
Arla Sampsell  
Joseph Herrmann  
Gerald Elwell

NORTH BENNINGTON WATER BOARD  
2021 WATER BUDGET

Advertising	\$ 300.00
Bank Charge	\$ 150.00
Health Insurance	\$ 54,255.00
Property & Liability Insurance	\$ 12,573.00
Purifying Chemicals	\$ 20,000.00
Co FICA	\$ 11,700.00
Company paid Pension	\$ 8,481.00
Dues and/or Fees	\$ 1,650.00
Electricity	\$ 14,000.00
Fuel Oil	\$ 6,500.00
Gasoline	\$ 4,000.00
Legal and professional	\$ 4,000.00
Audit Fees	\$ 8,000.00
New Equipment	\$ 8,000.00
Office Expenses	\$ 6,500.00
Office Equipment	\$ 1,000.00
Payroll-Gross	\$ 132,867.00
Repairs-Building and Equipment	\$ 8,000.00
Filtration Plant B&E Repairs	\$ 10,000.00
Repairs-Equipment	\$ 1,000.00
System Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00
Telephone	\$ 3,000.00
Outside contracts	\$ 8,200.00
PO Box & Bank Safety Dep	\$ 140.00
Treasurer's Fee	\$ 7,200.00
Bookkeeping	\$ 7,200.00
Board Compensation	\$ 1,250.00
Secretary	\$ 5,472.00
Water Testing	\$ 2,500.00
State Operating Permit Fee	\$ 6,500.00
Transfer – Special Reserve	\$ 13,000.00
Property Taxes- Shaftsbury	\$ 9,000.00
<hr/>	
<u>Total Budget</u>	\$ 386,438.00

## 2020 North Bennington Development Review Board

Development Review Board members and alternates shall be appointed by the Village Trustees for specified terms in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Section 4460. The Board shall adopt rules of procedure and rules of ethics to guide its official conduct in accordance with the requirements of the Vermont Planning and Development Act and Vermont's Open Meeting Law; and shall have all powers and duties as set forth in the Planning and Development Act to administer the provisions of these regulations, including but not limited to the power to hear and decide:

- applications for site plan and/or conditional use approval,
- applications for design approval, → applications for PUD approval,
- applications for subdivision approval,
- applications for changes to or additions to nonconforming uses or noncomplying structures,
- appeals from any decision, act or failure to act by the Administrative Officer,
- requests on appeal for variances, → requests for waivers, → any other matter indicated as under its jurisdiction by any provision of this Bylaw.

### Development Review Board Members

James Sullivan, Chair  
Hugh Crowl  
Charlotte Lyons  
Tara Lowary

## 2021 Meeting Dates for the Development Review Board - Held in the Village Depot Offices.

### Meeting dates as shown below when business has been brought before the DRB.

Tuesday - January 19, 2021 - 7:00pm	Tuesday - February 16, 2021 - 7:00pm
Tuesday - March 16, 2021 - 7:00pm	Tuesday - April 20, 2021 - 7:00pm
Tuesday - May 18, 2021 - 7:00pm	Tuesday - June 15, 2021 - 7:00pm
Tuesday - July 20, 2021 - 7:00pm	Tuesday - August 17, 2021 - 7:00pm
Tuesday - September 21, 2021 - 7:00pm	Tuesday - October 19, 2021 - 7:00pm
Tuesday - November 16, 2021 - 7:00pm	Tuesday - December 21, 2021 - 7:00pm

## 2020 Report of the Village Zoning Administrator

The Administrative Officer, commonly referred to as the Zoning Administrator (ZA) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of zoning and other bylaws working with the Development Review Board and the Planning Commission as well as maintaining accurate and complete files of land use in the village.

An important function of the ZA is to provide property owners and other members of the public with the necessary forms to obtain any village permit or authorization required under local bylaws or ordinances regulating land development supporting the North Bennington Village Plan.

The Village Zoning Administration issued **12** permits and **5** Administrative Option of Zoning Compliance 2020.

The Village issued permits for - 3 Deck/Porch, 2 Sheds, 2 Stone Wall/Foundation , 1 Siding, 1 Fence, 1 Roof Dormer, 1 Driveway, 1 Homeoffice/Studio.

The estimated cost of all the permits issued is **\$126,350.00**. The final amount added to the Grand List will be determined by the Board of Lister's following their inspection.

As always the zoning office has been busy researching and responding to many request for information and interpretation of the Village Zoning Bylaws.

**Yes!** To be in compliance with the bylaws you need a permit or to have had a conversation with the ZA about your project.

1. Except as otherwise provided under Village Zoning Bylaws, any use not specifically permitted shall be deemed to be prohibited.
2. No land, building, or premises or part thereof, shall be used, and no building, structure or part here shall be constructed, reconstructed, extended, enlarged, moved, or altered except in conformity with the Village Zoning Bylaws.
3. No lot shall have an area, width, or a front, side, or rear yard less than that set forth in the applicable section of the Village Zoning Bylaws.

Contact: Chris Damon, Zoning Administrator (Appointed: October 2018)  
PO Box 423, North Bennington, Vermont 05257-0423  
Email: [nobzacd@gmail.com](mailto:nobzacd@gmail.com) or call (802) 447 3962 **Please leave a message.**

Village Zoning Map, Sign Ordinance, documents and forms can be downloaded at, [www.northbennington.org](http://www.northbennington.org) or by calling (802) 447 3962 **Please leave a message.**



**The  
 North Bennington Fire Department.  
 Chief Edward Myers Jr.  
 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Keith L. Cross  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief Edward S. Harrington  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief Andrew Myers  
 Est. 1834**

“ORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED IN 1834”

*(802)-447-1305 or msg. 802-379-6464*

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

The North Bennington Fire Department’s report for the year 2020 is as follows:  
 Remember that outside burning is NOT permitted unless you have a new Village Fire Permit and all guidelines to safe burning provided by the Village Fire Warden or assistants which you may get by calling the Fire Warden Ed Myers @ 379-6767 or 379-6464.

2020 is the 186<sup>th</sup> Birthday of The North Bennington Fire Department, proudly continuing serving our Village of North Bennington. The Fire Department is following all guidelines for the Covid Epidemic and keeping up with keeping safe and prepared to fight fires as safely as possible. We all want to keep our Community safe and healthy and look forward to the Covid ending. We wish you all well and Thank you for your continued respect and support of your Fire Department and fire fighters.

Structure Fires	05	CO2	03
Traffic Control	02	False Alarms	03
Good Intent	13	Investigations	02
Brush Fires	01	M.V.A	02
Mutual Aid	09	Police Assist	02

Total calls for 2020 = 42

Respectfully,

*Edward Wm Myers Jr*

Chief Edward Wm. Myers Jr

**John G. McCullough Free Library  
2020 Report to the Village of North Bennington**

**Organization Contact Information:**

**John G. McCullough Free Library  
2 Main Street/ PO Box 339  
North Bennington, VT 05257  
802.447.7121  
[www.mcculloughlibrary.org](http://www.mcculloughlibrary.org)**

**Director:** Jennie Rozycki  
[mclibrary@comcast.net](mailto:mclibrary@comcast.net)

**Trustees Chair:** Jennifer Fels  
PO Box 816, North Bennington, VT, 05257.  
email: [jafels@comcast.net](mailto:jafels@comcast.net)  
telephone: 802.447.3126

**Treasurer:** Mary Rogers  
163 Matt Drive, North Bennington, VT 05257  
email: [mary.r.rogers@gmail.com](mailto:mary.r.rogers@gmail.com)

**Board of Trustees:**

**Stephanie Eames (Secretary), Cathy Daughton, Julia Rhode, and Ray Stevens**

**Mission:** The John G McCullough Free Library will enter its 100<sup>th</sup> year of service in 2021. In that time, the Library has provided free access to a wide variety of materials, opportunities, and community events to support lifelong learning, enhance civic engagement, and to bring neighbors closer together. We pride ourselves on friendly, responsive, professional library service and the cultivation of a welcoming atmosphere for all.

In recent years, this has meant ensuring free Wi-Fi access within and around the library building, providing public computer terminals, providing free access to eBooks and digital audiobooks, joining a lending consortium to improve our online catalog and interlibrary loan services, and improving communication with monthly e-newsletters and through social media.

**Membership:** North Bennington residents are warmly encouraged to activate their free McCullough Library accounts. Stop by the library (book pickup hours are listed below), email [McCulloughLibraryClerk@gmail.com](mailto:McCulloughLibraryClerk@gmail.com) or use our new, easy online form to get started: <https://forms.gle/WyBc3Jwh6A9QPdYd8> .

**Continuing Response to COVID-19:** To protect public health, the McCullough Library closed to the public in mid-March, ahead of Governor Scott's Stay Home, Stay Safe order. While the library building was closed, the frequency of our newsletters and other communications increased and included credible health information, highlighted our free digital collections, and free public Wi-Fi access outside the building.

In early June, we were able to offer safe, reliable access to the collection through our book pickup service. This modification has been enthusiastically received by those we serve, and will remain the McCullough Library's method of service for the foreseeable future. The building remains closed to the public. To request books, DVDs, audiobooks on CD and more, please call the Library at 802.447.7121, email [McCulloughLibraryClerk@gmail.com](mailto:McCulloughLibraryClerk@gmail.com) , or use our new, convenient online request form: <https://forms.gle/487y28SV3Nkvk7eJA> . Book pickup windows are Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 PM- 6:00 PM and Saturdays from 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM.

**Successes:**

- **Strong 1<sup>st</sup> quarter before library building closed to the public in mid-March.**
- **Welcomed 212 new members.** Our new online membership activation form has helped people access the McCullough Library's services. North Bennington residents account for 17% of new memberships this year, but remain the largest group of members overall.
- **Creative Virtual Fundraising Solutions:** The Trustees' fundraiser Gala at Pangaea Restaurant, which was scheduled for April, was moved online. A virtual auction was held in lieu of the Friends of the McCullough Library group's annual Book & Bake Sale, which is usually held in September. Similar virtual fundraisers are planned for the year ahead.
- **PPP Loan and Vermont Humanities Council CARES Act Funding:** To keep payroll in place for all library staff members and to help cover fundraising shortfalls and unexpected expenses The McCullough Library was awarded a \$14,000 loan through the Payroll Protection Program and \$5,000 in CARES Act

funds distributed by the Vermont Humanities Council. It is expected that the PPP Loan will be forgiven.

- **Lynda.com/ LinkedIn Learning, Beanstack, and Kanopy:** To support those whose employment requirements or circumstances have changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the McCullough Library was the first library in Vermont to offer free, unlimited access to Lynda.com/ LinkedIn Learning, a collection of top- shelf online job and technology skills courses and tutorials. This new resource was sponsored by the Fund for North Bennington. Beanstack is an online reading tracker app which helped parents participate in our Summer Reading Club for Kids remotely. Access to Kanopy, a video streaming platform, will be available to McCullough Library patrons in late December 2020/ early January 2021. Kanopy's collection features documentaries, access to The Great Courses series, educational programs for children, international films, and independent films.
- **Installation of Community Garden:** In response to concerns about food security experienced by many in our community, interns from the University of Vermont Extension's Master Gardener program designed and installed a demonstration and education garden next to the library. A number of safely distanced in-person programs on herb and vegetable cultivation and use were offered, which will continue in the year ahead.
- **Organizing the Organization:** McCullough Library staff members took advantage of work-from-home requirements by establishing weekly virtual staff meetings. This new practice has proven beneficial to the staff and will continue after virtual meetings are no longer necessary. Additionally, Trustees, with input from Library staff, have steadily worked to update, refine, and revise the Library's policies.
- **Continuing Education:** Library staff members have been working remotely as much as possible since the building closed in mid-March, and have used this time wisely. All have attended webinars and virtual conferences to deepen their understanding of the profession. Our Children's Librarian was awarded a scholarship to attend the Association for Rural and Small Libraries' week- long virtual conference and the Library Director was awarded a scholarship to attend a Library Director Crash Course hosted by the American Library Association. Our Children's Librarian and our Cataloger made tremendous progress toward their Vermont Certificates of Public Librarianship, a credential they should complete in the year ahead.

- **Summer Reading Club for Kids:** 82 young readers registered for our Summer Reading Club for Kids. Many used our new Beanstack reading tracker app to participate. Together, they read for over 343 hours! Library staff assembled and distributed 178 craft kits. A variety of virtual and safely distanced in-person events were offered and enthusiastically attended. Similar plans are in place for Summer 2021.
- **Virtual Programs:** A wide variety of virtual programs for all ages have been offered since June. Most have been well attended, some, like this year's Shirley Jackson Day Celebration, were extremely well attended. Virtual programs, including our popular Reading & Discussion series through the Vermont Humanities Council, are planned for the foreseeable future.
- **Craft Kits:** Building on the success of our Summer Reading craft kits, the Library secured grant funding from the Bank of Bennington to offer craft kits for children on the first and third Saturday of every month through April 2021. At least one craft kit per month is planned for adults and teens as well.
- **Commitment to Racial Equality:** In July, the McCullough Library's Trustees and staff reaffirmed their commitment to racial equality through collection development, community events, and internal policies in a public statement and in our monthly newsletter. Resources related to this topic have been in high demand, and the library was prepared to meet this need. We have added resource guides on this topic to our website as well.
- **Distribution of Masks:** The library assisted the Village of North Bennington distribute hundreds of washable cloth masks to North Bennington residents this summer.
- **Building and Grounds Maintenance:** Three large trees near the library were pruned this year, and overgrown, declining trees in the library's alley were removed to promote air circulation on one side of the building. It is hoped that this will help preserve this historic, 100-year-old structure.
- **Replacement of Staff Computers:** As planned, both staff computers were replaced this October, which has increased efficiency in the office. The library's internal server was also decommissioned at this time.

#### **Shortcomings:**

- **Heat Pump:** A grant for a heat pump system to improve fuel efficiency wasn't pursued, so this planned project was not completed.

- **Year of Mystery:** The coronavirus pandemic prevented the completion of plans for this ambitious event series, funded in part by a \$4,000 grant from the Vermont Humanities Council. The Year of Mystery series featured close collaboration with a wide variety of area institutions and organizations to celebrate the mystery literary tradition. As current projections for the year ahead and our partner organizations' ability to host events aren't clear, it is difficult to make plans to offer this series in the year ahead.
- **Decline in Circulation:** People borrowed far fewer items this year than in 2020. This is directly attributable to the fact that the library building was closed for ten weeks this year, and that people haven't been able to experience the happy serendipity of browsing the stacks. Unsurprisingly, use of our ebook and digital audiobook platform vastly increased this year, and will likely account for one third of overall circulation. It is worth noting that despite these setbacks, circulation this year is projected to be higher than it was five years ago.

#### **Plans for the year ahead:**

- **Book Pickup and Phased Reopening Plans:** Prioritizing public health, the McCullough Library plans to reliably and consistently offer its thrice-weekly book pickup service for the foreseeable future. A phased reopening plan has been developed, and will be activated once it is safe to do so and the Governor no longer recommends curbside service as a preferred mode of service. Virtual events are planned for the foreseeable future, with safely distanced events to be added when it is safe to do so.
- **Food Pantry:** A take-what-you-will, leave-what-you-will food pantry will be installed and maintained in the library's front lobby before the building reopens to the public.
- **Centennial Celebration:** The McCullough Library's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. It is hoped that a public birthday party for the library will be possible. An exhibit of interesting historical items, an oral history project, and a special legacy fundraiser are all in the early planning stages.

#### **Planned Building Improvements:**

- **Restroom Renovations:** Both of the McCullough Library's restrooms will be extensively renovated in 2020, the first major renovation in the building's history.

As a result, accessible, more hygienic, family- friendly public restrooms will be available on both floors, and a drinking fountain will be installed. Grants and gifts will fully fund this project, including a \$10,000 Educational Facilities Grant from the Vermont Agency of Administration, which was awarded in late October 2020.

- **Portico and Porch Repairs:** Necessary repairs will be made to fix a broken drain in the Library's balcony and to repair water damaged wood on the library's portico. The condition of the marble steps and original herringbone brickwork on the library's porch are also being assessed in preparation for repairs in 2021. Grant funding will be pursued for this project.
- **Laura Nowak Room:** It is hoped that a large storage closet/ former film projection room at the top of the library's stairs will be converted into a combination laptop bar and meeting room when work is done on the library's restrooms this year. Funding for this project is already in place.
- **New Back Door:** To better protect and insulate the building, a new door will be installed leading to the library's rear entrance.
- **Window Casings:** Necessary preventative sealing and repainting around the library's unique, original windows will be completed this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

-Jennie Rozycki, Library Director

## **Paran Recreations: COVID Summer North Bennington**

**We did not have a normal summer, but we feel that just opening to the public was a great accomplishment! We have a deficit because we had to limit the number of people using the lake, could not operate our summer camps, had to pay additional staff to maintain health and safety and were not able to run any of our fundraising events. The funds provided by the Village were essential to our survival and we deeply appreciate it. We are using our time this winter to try to raise additional funds and plan for a great summer in 2021. We hope we can continue to rely on support from the community to help us make it through!**

**Lake Paran** is one of the hidden jewels in the Bennington area. Developed in the late 1960s, Paran is a beautiful swimming and recreation area that provides our community with a place to enjoy the wonders of nature close to home. **Paran Recreations** is the locally run, community supported, not for profit dedicated to keeping our lake a simple, fun, safe and affordable pleasure. In addition to the day-to-day program of swimming and boating, Paran Recreations runs a summer entertainment series, hosts children's camps and is part of a local effort to preserve environmentally sensitive wetlands.

Paran Recreations strives to be a resource for everyone in our area. We work hard to make our programs and facilities accessible to all. In addition to the summer programs we run for children and families we are developing new ways to attract people to our lovely lake all year round.

Our major accomplishment during COVID summer was that we actually were able to open. Due to state (Vermont) imposed restrictions, we were forced to remain closed until July 7<sup>th</sup>. Once we opened, we had to comply with state health and safety requirements. In order to do this we had to limit the number of people at the lake at any one time, collect contact tracing information, take everyone's temperature, close our snack bar, cancel all special events (many of which are fundraisers) provide additional training for all staff, bring in special cleaning staff, equipment and materials and hire a safety monitor to help patrons follow the rules. The kids and their families that came to Paran, were extremely grateful that we opened! Because of our commitment to the families of our region we are currently working with the Rec Center to offer "out of school time" activities for families whose kids are attending school on ZOOM.

All summer our board and staff leaders met weekly, sometimes more often, to keep Paran open and safe. We had some very difficult experiences and made many decisions that supported health and safety but were not good for our bottom line. We used social media to communicate with our community every day and coordinated with the towns and other youth

serving organizations to keep ourselves open and safe. No one related to Paran tested positive all summer.

We did receive another State Recreational Facilities matching grant this fall and will be using it to install a new “fishing dock” on the western side of our beach front. We look forward to seeing more people enjoy that past time when the weather improves in the spring. We also have received a three-year commitment from **VISTA** and have hired Camille Kauffman to develop an outdoor and environmental education program for the lake. This is an exciting new venture for Lake Paran and we look forward to rolling it out in 2021.

## North Bennington Tree Committee 2020 Report

The unusual circumstances of 2020 may have delayed the Tree Committee's honoring of Arbor Day, but it was finally recognized in September. With appropriate Covid social distancing, the ceremony proceeded, with help from students, staff and community members. A Freemanii Red Maple was planted in front of the school to honor Fay Hardy; this is one of a pair, the second tree in honor of Dan Taub (sponsored by the school). Turning a page on the 2019 Arbor Day tree, the Committee planted a Serviceberry in Lincoln Square to replace the one planted last year to commemorate the life of Maurice Kahn (the original tree had been injured by an incident with a car). Additionally, a memorial bench was installed in the Hiland Hall Gardens this year in Maurice's honor.

Other plantings included a Sugar Maple at Lake Paran, to pair up with the 2018 Arbor Day tree in providing shade along the path from the parking lot to the pavilion. The Committee also continues to use available funds to keep up to date on our pruning and maintenance schedule of Village trees.

The Tree Committee would like to announce a new venture: the Village Tree Initiative. We wish to encourage and assist our residents of the Historic District of the Village in the planting of trees on their property by covering half of the cost of the trees chosen. Our requirement is that the tree be visible to all and enhance the beauty of the Village. If you have questions about the Initiative or want to apply for assistance with planting a tree please contact [northbenningtontreecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:northbenningtontreecommittee@gmail.com) or write to the address below.

The Committee would like to acknowledge and express our gratitude for the continued support of the Village Trustees, The Fund for North Bennington and all the generous donors this year that have made our new plantings and the Village Tree Initiative possible. We always welcome contributions to help us plant and maintain more trees. (Checks should be made out to *North Bennington Tree Committee* and mailed to PO Box 336, North Bennington VT 05257.)

The North Bennington Tree Committee works in conjunction with the Village Tree Wardens, Jeff Gray, Emily Hunter, and Matthew Patterson. Any concerns about the trees in the right-of-way or Village open spaces should be directed to the Tree Wardens or the Tree Committee. If you have any suggestions for new plantings, please contact us. If you are thinking about planting a tree on your property in the village, we would be happy to offer advice and help if we can.

If you have any questions about or comments for the Tree Committee, please feel free to contact any of our members.

Tree Committee Members:

Jeff Gray, Chair and Tree Warden  
Emily Hunter, Tree Warden  
Ron Pembroke, Certified Arborist  
Susan Lambert, Secretary/Treasurer  
Stu Aldrich, Member  
Anna Crabtree, Member

## **Bennington County Regional Commission**

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) works with and on behalf of its member municipalities to build strong, resilient, and sustainable communities, to foster economic prosperity, and to promote a high quality of life for residents of the region. The BCRC plays an important role in coordinating work among local governments, state and federal agencies, regional public and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and private interests.

In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials and volunteer boards and commissions, the BCRC serves as a regional center for work in community and economic development, transportation, energy, environmental conservation, water quality, solid waste management, and emergency management. The BCRC regularly conducts and sponsors public meetings and workshops on these topics.

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan through a variety of programs and cooperative work with member municipalities. Economic development planning in the region has become one of the BCRC's main program areas. Economic development planning at the BCRC, including dedicated staff directed by a committee with representatives appointed by the regional development corporation, supports business retention, growth, and recruitment. The BCRC also has provided support for the Putnam Block project in Bennington's downtown and is cooperating with local and state officials on new redevelopment initiatives in downtowns and village centers. Concern over the state's water quality has led the BCRC to identify and implement local projects that not only reduce stormwater runoff, but also protect roads, bridges, culverts, and private property. Other important accomplishments have included: assistance with updates to several municipal comprehensive plans and land use bylaws, development of municipal energy plans and support for local energy committees, village center and neighborhood development area designations and successful grant applications, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan in cooperation with the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, and planning for roadway, bicycle and pedestrian, public transportation improvements.

Like everyone, the BCRC has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The office transitioned to remote work and meetings in April and, while staff have recently started spending some time in the office, it generally is easiest to contact us via email (see contacts at [www.bcrcvt.org](http://www.bcrcvt.org)). Fortunately, technology has allowed us to continue work on all of our projects with little interruption in progress. Of course, significant staff resources have been dedicated to providing assistance to businesses and municipalities as they work to navigate the challenges associated with changes to the way operations are conducted, with staffing and revenue disruptions, and to chart a course forward through and beyond the current crisis.

The BCRC is governed by locally appointed commissioners from seventeen area municipalities and commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to economic development. As of January 2021, our offices will have relocated to 210 South Street in Bennington, and post-pandemic, we expect to have regular office hours at the Manchester Town Offices as well. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: [www.bcrcvt.org](http://www.bcrcvt.org)).

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Sullivan, Director

## 2021 Meeting Dates

	<b>Village Trustees</b> Held in the Village Depot Offices: <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>NB Board of Water Commissioners</b> Held in the Village Depot Offices <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>NBGSD Prudential Committee</b> Held in the Village School of North Bennington <b>6:30 PM</b>
January	12	19	13
February	9	16	10
March	9	16	10
April	13	20	14
May	11	18	12
June	8	15	9
July	13	20	14
August	10	17	11
September	7	14	8
October	12	19	13
November	9	16	10
December	7	14	8

A cornerstone of our work at Vermont Arts Exchange (VAE), are partnerships. Here are a few, right here in our Village; Head Start, Village School of North Bennington, UCS Bank Street, Hiland Hall Garden, Norshaft Lion's, Bennington College and Lake Paran. We have collaborated with several local businesses and work with the North Bennington Outdoor Sculpture Show to help support this popular annual art event. Our partnership with Lake Paran plays a big role in our summer camps and McCullough Library helps to videotape and live stream our parades.

We continue to employ about 8-10 artists and 6 Federal Work Study students from Bennington College through our Art Education work.

VAE began 2020 as it normally would. In January we produced the annual cover of this Village Report with the work of our Village School 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of designing the cover and is a small example of what VAE does for our community. Next up was North Bennington Winter Fest where VAE organized a live Dixie Jazz band to perform at Lake Paran for the Plunge and then after at Power's Market. That day we also joined forces with our partners at the Village School for another year of transforming the Art Room into an 8 hole mini golf course as part of the school's Indoor Carnival.

Then came March.

The pandemic took a big hit on everyone and continues too. VAE went into lockdown with all programming except the Village School of North Bennington. In April, with no participants or audience, we decided to focus on our immediate community and Village with a number of projects dedicated to being creative, expressing gratitude and just plain making people happy. On April 25<sup>th</sup> we felt the need for a "Stay in Your Car Village Parade". Over 100 vehicles turned out decorated with signs of gratitude and thanks. This was followed by a Words Wall built in the VAE front lawn to allow people to reply to the pandemic and now shares inspirational words sent in. Several other community projects took place as we all isolated but as June came and graduations approached, N.B. Highway Supervisor Norm LeBlanc shot me a text saying "Hey, I got an idea". Together and with the help of Emily Hunter, we created an opportunity for families of graduates to celebrate these important events. To top it off, we painted in giant letters "GOOD LUCK CLASS OF 2020!" at Lion's Park.

The pandemic was not going to stop the 28<sup>th</sup> North Bennington Halloween Parade! Everyone stayed in their car and decorated them all up. We had judges and live music at Lincoln Square and Kevin Lynch along with the Norshaft Lions handed out pre cooked and packaged grilled hot dogs to the cars as they drove by. This fall we also painted a giant "Bat Beast" face on the Village plow.

This Village has a long history of creativity and understanding the importance of it. It continues to support and nurture the arts and our recent new Kiosk this year by artist Joe Chirchirillo is a fine example. The Village to us is like a family. In times like we are in (pandemic), we rely heavy on our family and close friends to help us out and in return, we help them. It's all summed up in the words from local resident Emily Thomayer's sign (from the April Parade), "North Bennington, Stay Strong". Thank you Village of North Bennington for your support.



Respectfully submitted, Matthew Perry, Executive Director, VAE



# Park-McCullough

*Historic Governor's Mansion*

The Park's and McCullough's philanthropic influences made positive impacts on the community that are visible to this day. They helped build our educational institutions, the water system, our fire department, and our library, to name a few.

Today, the community continues to be an essential part of our mission. Amid the uncertainty of a global pandemic and challenging economic times, Park McCullough is as vital to the community as it has been for over 150 years. People found comfort, continuity, and togetherness at the mansion, as they connected with neighbors and made new acquaintances. This summer, whether it was Yoga on Sunday morning, croquet on Thursday night, walking in the gardens, or the Mile Around Woods, something was always happening on the grounds. Some people enjoyed wine tastings on the veranda, bourbon and cigar nights, garden parties, and enjoyed the StoryWalk or the Elegance Exhibition. Others watched movies with their families during our outdoor movie series. Every day we saw couples picnicking, book and coffee clubs meeting, and friends spending time with each other.

While much of the world is at a standstill, the sense of community remains strong at the mansion. Like so many of you, we are not immune to the effects of Covid-19. It had a negative financial impact on us. However, this is not the first pandemic or economic depression "The Big House" has endured. The pandemic has reaffirmed the importance of preserving this historic site and our essential role within the community.

Your support reinforces Park-McCullough's long-standing and trusted position within our community as well as ongoing preservation efforts, education programs, community activities, and future exhibitions. Landmarks like Park-McCullough do not survive just because we love them; they survive because we protect them. Thank you so much for your continued support, we could not do this without you.

Christopher Oldham  
Executive Director

PO Box 388  
North Bennington, Vermont 05201  
[www.ParkMcCullough.org](http://www.ParkMcCullough.org)  
[Christopher@ParkMcCullough.org](mailto:Christopher@ParkMcCullough.org)  
802-491-7677

**WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF  
NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**

**Financial Statements – Modified Cash Basis**

**December 31, 2019 and 2018**

**(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)**

**Love, Cody & Company, CPAs**

# WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1 - 2
Management's Discussion and Analysis	3 - 5
Financial Statements:	
Statements of Net Position - Modified Cash Basis	6
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position - Modified Cash Basis	7
Statements of Cash Flows - Modified Cash Basis	8
Notes to Financial Statements	9 - 12



## Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Water Commissioners  
Village of North Bennington  
North Bennington, Vermont

### ***Report on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Water Fund of Village of North Bennington, Vermont, which comprise the statements of net position – modified cash basis as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position – modified cash basis and cash flows – modified cash basis for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position – modified cash basis of the Water Fund of Village of North Bennington, Vermont at December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in financial position – modified cash basis and cash flows – modified cash basis, thereof for the years then ended in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

**Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

As also described in Note 1, the financial statements present only the Water Fund and do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

**Other Matter**

**Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3–5 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion

*Love, Cody & Company, CPAs, P.C.*

January 31, 2020

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

**WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**  
**December 31, 2019**

The management's discussion and analysis of the Water Fund's financial performance is required by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34 (GASB 34) and it provides an overview of the Water Fund's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2019. This information is presented in conjunction with the audited basic financial statements, which follow this section.

**Financial Highlights for 2019**

1. The Water Fund had cash balances totaling \$253,882 for the year ended December 31, 2019. Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, amounted to \$4,898,284.
2. Long-term debt, consisting of general obligation bonds and a bond anticipation note, totaled \$1,628,457 at December 31, 2019.
3. Operating revenues amounted to \$355,399 in 2019. Operating expenses were \$519,798.
4. The increase in the Water Fund's budgeted expenses from 2018 to 2019 was 4.7%.

**Overview of the Financial Statements**

This annual report consists of two parts: Management's Discussion and Analysis and the Basic Financial Statements. These statements reflect only the activity and balances of the Water Fund of the Village of North Bennington. They do not present the finances of the Village as a whole.

**Required Financial Statements**

The Financial Statements of the Water Fund report information using the modified cash basis of accounting. The Statement of Net Position – Modified Cash Basis provides information on the Water Fund's assets and net position. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Modified Cash Basis identifies the Water Fund's revenues and expenses for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018. The third basic financial statement is the Statement of Cash Flows – Modified Cash Basis. This statement provides information on the Water Fund's cash receipts, cash payments and changes in cash resulting from operations, investments and financing activities.

**Financial Analysis of the Water Fund**

This section summarizes information and data as related to the financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018.

The Statement of Net Position – Modified Cash Basis and the Statement of Revenues and Expenses – Modified Cash Basis provide an indication of the Water Fund's financial condition and changes in its financial condition. Table 1 presents a condensed Statement of Net Position – Modified Cash Basis. Capital assets were the largest component of the Water Fund's assets at approximately \$3.4 million at December 31, 2019.

**WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
December 31, 2019**

<b>Table 1</b>		
<b>Condensed Statement of Net Position - Modified Cash Basis</b>		
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Assets:</b>		
Current assets	\$ 253,882	397,813
Capital assets, net	4,898,284	3,370,204
Total assets	5,152,166	3,768,017
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Current liabilities	34,632	40,031
Long-term liabilities	1,601,924	48,971
Total liabilities	1,636,556	89,002
<b>Net position:</b>		
Net position invested in capital assets, net of debt	3,318,798	3,370,204
Unrestricted net position	196,812	308,811
Total net position	\$ 3,515,610	3,679,015

The following table presents condensed information from the Water Fund's operating statement. Operating expenses exceeded operating revenues by \$164,399 in 2019. In 2018, operating expenses exceeded operating revenues by \$92,798. Non-operating revenues and expenses, consisting of interest income and interest expense, amounted to \$994 in 2019 and \$1,157 in 2018. Capital contributions and gains amounted to \$0 and \$2,866,003 in 2019 and 2018, respectively. In total, net position decreased by \$163,405 in 2019 and increased by \$2,774,362 in 2018.

<b>Table 2</b>		
<b>Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position - Modified Cash Basis</b>		
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Operating revenues:</b>		
Charges for services	\$ 355,399	340,321
Other operating revenue	-	1,300
Total operating revenues	355,399	341,621
<b>Operating expenses:</b>		
Personnel costs	170,622	139,356
Other operating costs	172,272	192,559
Depreciation	176,904	102,504
Total operating expenses	519,798	434,419
<b>Nonoperating revenue (expense)</b>	994	1,157
<b>Capital contributions and gains</b>	-	2,866,003
<b>Change in net position</b>	(163,405)	2,774,362
<b>Net position - beginning</b>	3,679,015	904,653
<b>Net position - ending</b>	\$ 3,515,610	3,679,015

**WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
December 31, 2019**

**Capital Assets**

The following table presents capital assets as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, net of related accumulated depreciation. Additional information regarding capital assets is provided in footnote 3 of the accompanying financial statements.

<b>Table 3 Capital Assets at Year-end (Net of Depreciation)</b>		
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Land	\$ <b>187,985</b>	88,650
Buildings and improvements	<b>13,811</b>	14,541
Equipment	<b>18,857</b>	23,256
Water lines	<b>4,677,631</b>	3,243,757
	<b>\$ 4,898,284</b>	<b>3,370,204</b>

**Long-Term Debt**

The Water Fund has long-term debt outstanding of \$1,628,457 at December 31, 2019, consisting of General obligation bonds and a bond anticipation note.

**Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget and Rates**

The 2020 budget for Water Fund expenditures shows an increase of 10.5%.

**Additional Financial Information**

This financial report is designed to provide the Water Fund's customers and other interested parties with an overview of the Water Fund's financial operations and financial condition. Should the reader have questions regarding the information included in this report or wish to request additional financial information, please contact the North Bennington Water Department at 802-442-3883.

**WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statements of Net Position - Modified Cash Basis**

	<i>December 31,</i>	
	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 253,882	397,813
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>253,882</b>	<b>397,813</b>
Noncurrent assets:		
Capital assets:		
Land	187,985	88,650
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	4,710,299	3,281,554
<b>Total noncurrent assets</b>	<b>4,898,284</b>	<b>3,370,204</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,152,166</b>	<b>3,768,017</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Payroll withholdings	\$ 8,099	-
General obligation bonds payable	26,533	40,031
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>34,632</b>	<b>40,031</b>
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Bond anticipation note	1,579,486	-
General obligation bonds payable	22,438	48,971
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<b>1,601,924</b>	<b>48,971</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,636,556</b>	<b>89,002</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	3,318,798	3,370,204
Unrestricted	196,812	308,811
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>3,515,610</b>	<b>3,679,015</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net position</b>	<b>\$ 5,152,166</b>	<b>3,768,017</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position -**  
**Modified Cash Basis**

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>	
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b><i>Operating revenues:</i></b>		
Fees and charges for services	\$ 355,399	340,321
Other operating revenue	-	1,300
<b><i>Total operating revenues</i></b>	<b>355,399</b>	<b>341,621</b>
<b><i>Operating expenses:</i></b>		
Salaries and wages	115,235	95,057
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	18,618	16,127
Bookkeeping services	18,762	18,216
Depreciation expense	176,904	102,504
General insurance	10,692	9,791
Health insurance	36,769	28,172
Heat, fuel and light	25,631	22,704
Office expenses	10,198	11,529
Operating supplies	19,356	12,909
Other operating expenses	37,132	82,265
Professional fees	15,120	8,291
Repairs and maintenance	35,381	26,854
<b><i>Total operating expenses</i></b>	<b>519,798</b>	<b>434,419</b>
<b><i>Operating loss</i></b>	<b>(164,399)</b>	<b>(92,798)</b>
<b><i>Nonoperating revenues (expenses):</i></b>		
Interest income	994	1,157
Interest expense	-	-
<b><i>Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)</i></b>	<b>994</b>	<b>1,157</b>
<b><i>Loss before other revenues, expenses, gains and losses</i></b>	<b>(163,405)</b>	<b>(91,641)</b>
<b><i>Other revenues, expenses, gains and losses:</i></b>		
Gain on bond refunding	-	62,745
Capital contributions	-	2,803,258
<b><i>Total other revenues, expenses, gains and losses</i></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,866,003</b>
<b><i>Increase (decrease) in net position</i></b>	<b>(163,405)</b>	<b>2,774,362</b>
<b><i>Net position, beginning of year</i></b>	<b>3,679,015</b>	<b>904,653</b>
<b><i>Net position, end of year</i></b>	<b>\$ 3,515,610</b>	<b>3,679,015</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statements of Cash Flows - Modified Cash Basis**

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>	
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b><i>Cash flows from operating activities:</i></b>		
Cash received from customers	\$ 355,399	341,621
Cash paid to employees	(107,136)	(95,057)
Cash paid to suppliers	(227,659)	(236,858)
<b><i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i></b>	<b>20,604</b>	<b>9,706</b>
<b><i>Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:</i></b>		
Principal payments on notes and bonds payable	(40,031)	(48,253)
Advances on bond anticipation note	1,579,486	-
Capital contributions	-	2,803,258
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,704,984)	(2,852,740)
<b><i>Net cash used in capital and related financing activities</i></b>	<b>(165,529)</b>	<b>(97,735)</b>
<b><i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i></b>		
Interest on cash investments	994	1,157
<b><i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i></b>	<b>994</b>	<b>1,157</b>
<b><i>Net increase (decrease) in cash</i></b>	<b>(143,931)</b>	<b>(86,872)</b>
<b><i>Cash balance, beginning of year</i></b>	<b>397,813</b>	<b>484,685</b>
<b><i>Cash balance, end of year</i></b>	<b>\$ 253,882</b>	<b>397,813</b>
<b><i>Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:</i></b>		
Operating income (loss)	\$ (164,399)	(92,798)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	176,904	102,504
Increase (decrease) in payroll withholdings	8,099	-
<b><i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i></b>	<b>\$ 20,604</b>	<b>9,706</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (1) *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*

#### (a) *Definition of Entity*

The Water Fund is a fund of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont, which is a unit of local government created by charter in 1904. The Village operates under a Board of Trustees form of government and provides services as outlined in its charter. The Water Fund is governed by the Board of Water Commissioners, whose members are appointed by the Village of North Bennington Trustees.

The accompanying financial statements include only the activity of the Water Fund and, accordingly, they are not intended to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont.

#### (b) *Basis of Presentation - Fund Accounting Proprietary Funds*

Enterprise Funds - enterprise funds are used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges; or (b) where the governing body has decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes. The Water Fund is an enterprise fund. The Water Fund applies all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements.

#### (c) *Basis of Accounting*

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The Water Fund is maintained on the modified cash basis; with no recognition being given to assets and liabilities or revenues and expenditures or expenses until cash has been received or disbursed. Under generally accepted accounting principles the Water Fund would follow the accrual basis of accounting. Such basis would require recognition of assets and liabilities which are not recognized in the accompanying financial statements. It is not practicable to determine the amounts of such assets and liabilities.

#### (d) *Capital Assets*

Property and equipment is stated at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in income for the period. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to income as incurred; significant renewals and betterments are capitalized. Deduction is made for retirements resulting from renewals or betterments. Interest costs incurred on borrowings used to finance the construction of facilities are capitalized during the period of construction.

(continued)

# WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (1) *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)*

#### (d) *Capital Assets (continued)*

The amount capitalized is reduced by any interest earned on related temporary investments. Certain assets acquired prior to 1970, including the chlorinator building, metering station and pumping station are not recorded in the financial statements due to the lack of historical cost information.

#### (e) *Compensated Absences*

The Water Fund does not record liabilities for accumulated unpaid vacation pay and compensatory leave because its records are maintained on the modified cash basis.

#### (f) *Risk Management*

The Water Fund is exposed to various risks of loss related to general liability, property and casualty, workers' compensation, employee health and accident and environmental liability. The Water Fund purchases commercial insurance coverage for the risks of losses to which it is exposed, with the exception for environmental liabilities for which coverage is not available.

#### (g) *Use of Accounting Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures or expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### (2) *Cash*

Deposits are maintained in more than one financial institution and are carried at cost. There are no legal or contractual restrictions with respect to the types of investments the Water Fund may make.

The carrying amount of the Water Fund's cash balances was \$253,882 at December 31, 2019 with a corresponding bank balance of \$512,638.

#### Custodial Credit Risk of Bank Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Water Fund of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont deposits may not be returned to it. At December 31, 2019, \$365,814 of the bank balance was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and \$146,824 was uninsured.

#### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Water Fund of the Village of North Bennington Board of Commissioners reduces this risk by structuring the certificates of deposit so that the certificates mature to meet cash needs for ongoing operations, thus avoiding the need to cash in the certificates prior to maturity.

**WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**(3) Capital Assets**

Capital assets consisted of the following:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Transfers/ Retirements	Ending Balance
Land	\$ 88,650	99,335	-	187,985
Buildings and improvements	26,112	-	-	26,112
Equipment	148,054	-	-	148,054
Water meter system	61,490	-	-	61,490
Water lines and hydrants	3,452,768	1,605,649	-	5,058,417
Water filtration plant	2,046,261	-	-	2,046,261
Totals at historical cost	5,823,335	1,704,984	-	7,528,319
Accumulated depreciation	(2,453,131)	(176,904)	-	(2,630,035)
	\$ 3,370,204	1,528,080	-	4,898,284

As the result of a settlement between a local company and the State of Vermont, the Water Department received capital contributions amounting to \$3,105,852 for the extension of waterlines to new service areas in 2018.

**(4) Notes and Bonds Payable**

Long-term debt consisted of the following:

Description	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Amounts Due within One Year
General obligation bonds	\$ 89,002	-	40,031	48,971	26,533
Bond anticipation note	-	1,579,486	-	1,579,486	-
	\$ 89,002	1,579,486	40,031	1,628,457	26,533

On March 14, 2019 the Water Department issued a bond anticipation note providing for advances of up to \$2,195,000. The note bears interest at 3.05% per annum and matures March 13, 2020. Advances under the bond anticipation note amounted to \$1,579,486 at December 31, 2019. The note is presented as non-current in anticipation of its being replaced with long-term bonds, however it is not included in the following debt service requirements schedule as the final amount due and maturities thereof are not known as of the date of these financial statements.

Debt service requirements are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2020	\$ 26,533	-	26,533
2021	22,438	-	22,438
Total	\$ 48,971	-	48,971

Bonds payable are secured by the general revenue raising powers of the Village.

## WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

### Notes to Financial Statements

**(5) Retirement Plan**

The Water Fund makes discretionary contributions to individual retirement accounts on behalf of all full-time employees. Contributions for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 amounted to \$8,454 and \$7,547, respectively.

**(6) Subsequent Events**

The Water Fund has evaluated subsequent events through January 31, 2020, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued. There were no reportable subsequent events.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**

**Financial Statements and Schedules**

**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

**(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)**

**Love, Cody & Company, CPAs**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Independent Auditors' Report .....	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis (Required Supplemental Information).....	4
<b>Basic Financial Statements</b>	
<b>Government-wide Financial Statements:</b>	
Statement of Net Position .....	11
Statement of Activities .....	12
<b>Fund Financial Statements:</b>	
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds .....	13
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position .....	14
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds.....	15
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities ..	16
Statement of Net Position – Modified Cash Basis – Water Fund.....	17
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Net Position - Modified Cash Basis – Water Fund.....	18
Statement of Cash Flows – Modified Cash Basis – Water Fund .....	19
Notes to Financial Statements .....	20
<b>Required Supplemental Information Other Than MD&amp;A:</b>	
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – General Fund .....	29
<b>Other Supplemental Information:</b>	
Combining Balance Sheet – Nonmajor Governmental Funds .....	32
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Nonmajor Governmental Funds .....	33



## **Independent Auditors' Report**

The Board of Trustees  
Village of North Bennington, Vermont

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Village's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The amounts reported for the Water Fund are presented on the modified cash basis of accounting. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Water Fund financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

## **Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont (exclusive of the Water Fund), as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. With respect to amounts reported for the Water Fund, in our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position – modified cash basis of the Water Fund at June 30, 2016, and the changes in financial position – modified cash basis and cash flows – modified cash basis, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

## **Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements of the Water Fund are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 4 - 10 and 29 – 31 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Village of North Bennington, Vermont's basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

*Love, Cody & Company, CPAs, P.C.*

September 11, 2019

Vt. Reg. #357

Love, Cody & Company, CPAs

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

The Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont's financial performance provides an overview of the Village's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. It focuses on the year-end results and provides an objective analysis of the various funds the Village operates in the conduct of its business from a management perspective. It discusses both the government-wide and fund-based financial statements. Please read it in conjunction with the Village's financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

**Financial Highlights**

Government-wide financial statements:

- ❖ The assets of the Village of North Bennington exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$1,340,694 (net position). Of this amount, \$263,398 was unrestricted. Generally, unrestricted net position may be used by the various funds of the Village to meet the Village's ongoing obligations to its citizens and creditors.
- ❖ The Village's total net position stands at \$1,340,694, of which \$906,615 is attributable to governmental activities and \$434,079 is attributable to business-type activities.

Fund financial statements:

- ❖ As of the close of the 2016 fiscal year, the Village of North Bennington's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$374,159, an increase of \$3,966.

**Overview of the Financial Statements**

The financial section of this report consists of three parts: Management's Discussion and Analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and additional required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the Village. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the Village as a whole and present a longer-term view of the Village's finances. Fund financial statements for governmental activities report how these services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements also report the Village's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements by providing information about the Village's most significant funds.

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers a broad overview of the Village of North Bennington's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The statement of net position presents information on all of the Village of North Bennington's assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Village of North Bennington is improving or deteriorating.

The statement of activities presents information showing how the government's net position has changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g. uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave.)

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Village of North Bennington that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). The governmental activities of the Village of North Bennington include general government, highway, fire department, and parks and recreation.

### **Fund Financial Statements**

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Village of North Bennington, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The funds of the Village of North Bennington are classified into two categories: governmental funds and proprietary funds.

### **Governmental Funds**

All of the Village's basic services are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Village's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps the reader determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Village's programs. The differences between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds are reconciled in the schedules following each of the governmental fund financial statements.

### **Proprietary Funds**

The Village of North Bennington reports activity for one propriety fund, the Water Fund. The Water Fund utilizes a modified cash basis of accounting and the activity included in the Village's financial statements is for the Water Department's calendar year ended December 31, 2015.

### **Notes**

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data.

### **Other Information**

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain supplementary information to provide additional financial information not included in the

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

basic financial statements. The notes to financial statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of the Village's budget with actual General Fund revenues and expenditures. Other supplementary information consists of combining statements for the nonmajor governmental funds. The following table summarizes the major features of the Village's financial statements, including the portion of the Village's activities covered and the types of information within.

**Major Features of the Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements**

	Government-Wide Statements	Fund Financial Statements	
		Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
Scope	Entire Village (except fiduciary funds)	The activities of the Village that are not proprietary or fiduciary. Includes general fund and special revenue funds.	The activities of the Village for which a fee is charged to external users (Water Department).
Required financial statements	- Statement of net position - Statement of activities	- Balance sheet - Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances	- Statement of net position or - Statement of revenues, expenses and changes in fund net position - Statement of cash flows
Accounting basis and measurement focus	Accrual basis of accounting and economic resources measurement focus	Modified accrual basis of accounting and current financial resources measurement focus	Modified cash basis of accounting and economic resources measurement focus
Type of asset/liability information	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term	Generally, assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets or long-term liabilities included	All assets and liabilities, both short-term and long-term; including capital assets
Type of inflow/outflow information	All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid (modified cash basis for Water Fund).	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and the related liability is due and payable	All additions and deductions during the year recognized on a modified cash basis

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE VILLAGE AS A WHOLE**

This section summarizes information and data as related to the Statement of Net Position as of June 30, 2016 and the Statements of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2016.

**Government-Wide Statements**

The Village's combined net position increased to approximately \$984 thousand at June 30, 2016. The analysis below focuses on the net assets (Table 1) and changes in net assets (Table 2) of the Village's governmental activities including a 2015 comparative analysis of government-wide data.

**Table 1  
Net Position (in Thousands)**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Business-type Activities</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets	\$ 395	430
Capital assets, net	525	305
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>735</b>
Deferred outflows of financial resources	19	-
<b>Total assets and deferred outflows</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>735</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities	32	51
Long-term liabilities	-	250
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Net position invested in capital assets	525	305
Restricted net position	247	-
Unrestricted net position	135	129
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 907</b>	<b>434</b>

The Village's liquidity – the ability to pay for its most immediate obligations – is measured by comparing current assets to current liabilities. The Village has current assets approximately 9.9 times greater than it does current liabilities.

The Village's solvency – the ability to fulfill its total obligations – is measured by comparing debt-to-assets ratio and debt-to-net position ratio. Debt-to-assets ratio, which equals 20.1%, computes the percent of assets financed with debt. Debt-to-net position ratio, which equals 24.8%, computes the amount that is owed for debt on every dollar that the Village has available for use providing programs.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

The Village's capital assets, such as infrastructure, buildings and equipment, less outstanding debt used to acquire them, amount to \$529 thousand. Although the Village's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

Net position of \$247 thousand has been restricted by the voters or sources external to the Village to be used for specific purposes. The unrestricted net position of \$264 thousand may be used to meet the Village's ongoing activities.

**Table 2  
Changes in Net Position (in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities
<b>Revenues:</b>		
<b>Program revenues:</b>		
Charges for services	\$ 3	362
Grants and contributions	55	-
<b>General revenues:</b>		
Property taxes	436	-
Other general revenues	27	1
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>363</b>
<b>Program expenses:</b>		
General government	164	-
Highway department	293	-
Fire department	67	-
Parks and recreation	32	-
Water	-	329
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>\$ (35)</b>	<b>34</b>

Net position of the Village's governmental activities decreased by 3.8%, or \$35 thousand, while net position of the Village's business-type activities increased by 8.5%, or \$34 thousand. Unrestricted net position comprises approximately 14.8% and 29.7% of the total net position of governmental activities and business-type activities, respectively.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

**Table 3  
Net Cost of Services (in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities
General government	\$ 146	-
Highway department	253	-
Fire department	67	-
Parks and recreation	32	-
Water	-	33
	<b>\$ 498</b>	<b>33</b>

The costs of providing governmental services amounted to approximately \$556 thousand for the year ended June 30, 2016. The cost of providing services is offset by charges for services and program-specific operating and capital grants, resulting in a net cost of services of approximately \$498 thousand. The costs of providing business-type services amounted to approximately \$33 thousand for the year ended June 30, 2016. The net cost of services is funded by property taxes, investment earnings, and grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs.

**Capital Assets**

The following table presents the Village's capital assets at June 30, 2016, net of related accumulated depreciation. Additional information regarding capital assets is provided in footnote 5 of the accompanying financial statements.

**Table 4  
Capital Assets at Year-end  
Net of Depreciation (in Thousands)**

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities
Land	\$ -	89
Land improvements	41	-
Buildings and improvements	86	9
Machinery and equipment	17	23
Heavy equipment and vehicles	309	-
Infrastructure	72	184
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 525</b>	<b>305</b>

**Long-term Debt**

The Water Fund has general obligation bonds outstanding of \$300,000 requiring annual principal payments of \$50,000. Additional information regarding long-term debt is provided in footnote 6 of the accompanying financial statements.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
Year Ended June 30, 2016**

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE VILLAGE'S FUNDS**

It was another eventful year in our Village. The 2016 winter was mild, saving significant costs in salt and added labor. The Spring projects started slow as the Village waited to determine the total cost of the emergency retaining wall repair on Water Street. The project ended up costing about \$140,000 and the State covered 90% of the project through significant local grant writing efforts. The project start was delayed some and did not get finished until October.

Meanwhile, the highway crew invested their time on West Street repairs, crack sealing roads, line painting, storm drain cleaning, leaf cleanup etc. Additionally, the Village invested about \$20,000 in chip sealing Mechanic, Mattison, and Frederick Streets. This was met with dissatisfaction from many abutting property owners, as the dry weather exasperated the dusting problem. The Village will continue this road-life extending process in the future but will take greater care in keeping the nuisance to a minimum.

The Board of Trustees has made great efforts in improving our budget management. Through the help of our new Treasurer, we are better tracking expenses and establishing budget categories for planned equipment replacement. We are also working with the Bennington County Regional Commission in creating a road condition inventory that will help us to prioritize and better plan for road repairs. There are many streets that need attention, but we must coordinate with the Water Department's planned water line improvements. With the current uncertainty regarding waterline extensions, we will hold off on streets where digging will occur.

There are two exciting projects underway with the significant help with local colleges. First, through the help of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Lighting Research Center, a group of students spent a term studying ways to light the Fountain on Lincoln Square. They presented their findings in November and it is the hope of the Friends of the Fountain that they will be able to raise money for this project.

On December 13, 2016, the Village Trustees voted to pursue redevelopment of two hydro sites (the Firehouse Dam and the Lake Paran Dam) and develop an associated Watershed Management Plan.

North Bennington Trustees:

Matthew Patterson, Chair  
Janice Lerigo, Vice Chair  
Mark Boudreau, Trustee  
Bill Scully, Trustee  
John Lamson, Trustee

**Additional Financial Information**

Should the reader have questions regarding the information included in this report or wish to request additional financial information, please contact the Village of North Bennington.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2016**

	<b>Primary Government</b>		
	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Business-type Activities</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash	\$ 275,999	429,529	705,528
Certificates of deposit	110,819	-	110,819
Delinquent property taxes receivable	7,277	-	7,277
Capital assets:			
Land	-	88,650	88,650
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	525,486	216,645	742,131
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 919,581</b>	<b>734,824</b>	<b>1,654,405</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Financial Resources</b>			
Prepaid insurance	18,971	-	18,971
<b>Total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources</b>	<b>938,552</b>	<b>734,824</b>	<b>1,673,376</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 23,707	-	23,707
Accrued payroll and benefits	6,017	745	6,762
Due to others	2,213	-	2,213
Bonds payable:			
Due within one year	-	50,000	50,000
Due in more than one year	-	250,000	250,000
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>31,937</b>	<b>300,745</b>	<b>332,682</b>
<b>Net position</b>			
Invested in capital assets	525,486	305,295	830,781
Restricted	246,515	-	246,515
Unrestricted	134,614	128,784	263,398
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ 906,615</b>	<b>434,079</b>	<b>1,340,694</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
Statement of Activities  
Year Ended June 30, 2016

Functions/Programs	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position			
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
<b>Primary government:</b>							
<b>Governmental activities:</b>							
General government	\$ 164,129	2,777	6,085	9,069	(146,198)	-	(146,198)
Highway department	293,082	-	31,224	8,993	(252,865)	-	(252,865)
Fire department	67,204	-	-	-	(67,204)	-	(67,204)
Parks and recreation	31,912	-	-	-	(31,912)	-	(31,912)
<b>Total governmental activities</b>	<b>\$ 556,327</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>37,309</b>	<b>18,062</b>	<b>(498,179)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(498,179)</b>
<b>Business-type activities:</b>							
Water	328,504	361,459	-	-	-	32,955	32,955
<b>Total primary government:</b>	<b>884,831</b>	<b>364,236</b>	<b>37,309</b>	<b>18,062</b>	<b>(498,179)</b>	<b>32,955</b>	<b>(465,224)</b>
<b>General revenues:</b>							
Property taxes					436,335	-	436,335
Interest - delinquent taxes					2,799	-	2,799
Investment earnings					589	959	1,548
Miscellaneous					22,990	66	23,056
<b>Total general revenues</b>					<b>462,713</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>463,738</b>
<b>Change in net position</b>					<b>(35,466)</b>	<b>33,980</b>	<b>(1,486)</b>
<b>Net position - beginning</b>					<b>942,081</b>	<b>400,099</b>	<b>1,342,180</b>
<b>Net position - ending</b>					<b>\$ 906,615</b>	<b>434,079</b>	<b>1,340,694</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
 Balance Sheet  
 Governmental Funds  
 June 30, 2016

	General Fund	Fire Truck Reserve Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	\$ 145,303	-	130,696	275,999
Certificates of deposit	-	50,231	60,588	110,819
Delinquent property taxes receivable	7,277	-	-	7,277
Due from other funds	-	-	5,000	5,000
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 152,580</b>	<b>50,231</b>	<b>196,284</b>	<b>399,095</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Financial Resources</b>				
Prepaid insurance	18,971	-	-	18,971
<b>Total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources</b>	<b>171,551</b>	<b>50,231</b>	<b>196,284</b>	<b>418,066</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 23,707	-	-	23,707
Accrued payroll and benefits	6,017	-	-	6,017
Due to other funds	5,000	-	-	5,000
Due to others	2,213	-	-	2,213
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>36,937</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,937</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Financial Resources</b>				
Unavailable revenue - delinquent property taxes	6,970	-	-	6,970
<b>Fund Balances</b>				
Nonspendable	18,971	-	-	18,971
Restricted	-	50,231	196,284	246,515
Committed	-	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	108,673	-	-	108,673
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>127,644</b>	<b>50,231</b>	<b>196,284</b>	<b>374,159</b>
<b>Total liabilities, deferred inflows of financial resources and fund balances</b>	<b>\$ 171,551</b>	<b>50,231</b>	<b>196,284</b>	<b>418,066</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds**  
**to the Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2016**

Total fund balances - governmental funds, page 13 \$ 374,159

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.

Governmental capital assets	\$ 1,182,479	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(656,993)</u>	525,486

Other long-term assets (delinquent property taxes receivable) are not available to pay for current period expenditures and therefore are deferred in the funds.		6,970
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Net position - governmental activities, page 11		<u><u>\$ 906,615</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	General Fund	Fire Truck Reserve Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Property taxes	\$ 442,970	-	-	442,970
Interest - delinquent taxes	2,799	-	-	2,799
Intergovernmental revenue	55,371	-	-	55,371
Zoning permits	2,777	-	-	2,777
Interest	259	101	229	589
Other	36,919	-	-	36,919
	541,095	101	229	541,425
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General government	159,129	-	-	159,129
Highway department	319,555	-	-	319,555
Fire department	32,635	-	-	32,635
Parks and recreation	26,140	-	-	26,140
	537,459	-	-	537,459
<b>Excess of revenues over expenditures</b>	3,636	101	229	3,966
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>				
Operating transfers in (out)	(6,030)	10,000	(3,970)	-
	(6,030)	10,000	(3,970)	-
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses</b>	(2,394)	10,101	(3,741)	3,966
<b>Fund balances, July 1, 2015</b>	130,038	40,130	200,025	370,193
<b>Fund balances, June 30, 2016</b>	\$ 127,644	50,231	196,284	374,159

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures**  
**and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds**  
**to the Statement of Activities**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Net change in fund balances - governmental funds, page 15 \$ 3,966

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures however, in the statement of activities, the cost of these assets is depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Expenditures for capital assets	\$ 65,470	
Less: current year depreciation and amortization	<u>(84,338)</u>	(18,868)

When recognizing the sale of capital assets, the governmental funds report the total proceeds of the sale. Only the gain or loss on the sale is reported on the Statement of Activities. This represents the net book value of assets sold or disposed during the year. (13,929)

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources (property taxes not collected within 60 days of fiscal year end) are not reported as revenues in the funds. This amount represents a decrease in deferred property taxes. (6,635)

Change in net position - governmental activities, page 12 \$ (35,466)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statement of Net Position - Modified Cash Basis - Water Fund**  
**June 30, 2016**

<b>Assets</b>	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 429,529
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>429,529</b>
Noncurrent assets:	
Capital assets:	
Land	88,650
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	216,645
<b>Total noncurrent assets</b>	<b>305,295</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 734,824</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current liabilities:	
Payroll withholdings	\$ 745
General obligation bonds payable	50,000
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>50,745</b>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Deferred bond reduction	40,716
General obligation bonds payable	209,284
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<b>250,000</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>300,745</b>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	305,295
Unrestricted	128,784
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>434,079</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net position</b>	<b>\$ 734,824</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in**  
**Net Position - Modified Cash Basis - Water Fund**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

<b><i>Operating revenues:</i></b>	
Fees and charges for services	\$ 361,459
Other operating revenue	66
<b><i>Total operating revenues</i></b>	<b>361,525</b>
<b><i>Operating expenses:</i></b>	
Salaries and wages	83,922
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	11,979
Bookkeeping services	8,455
Depreciation expense	20,475
General insurance	9,090
Health insurance	23,298
Heat, fuel and light	23,950
Office expenses	13,060
Operating supplies	10,995
Other operating expenses	38,983
Professional fees	5,745
Repairs and maintenance	58,013
<b><i>Total operating expenses</i></b>	<b>307,965</b>
<b><i>Operating income</i></b>	<b>53,560</b>
<b><i>Nonoperating revenues (expenses):</i></b>	
Interest income	959
Interest expense	(20,539)
<b><i>Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)</i></b>	<b>(19,580)</b>
<b><i>Change in net position</i></b>	<b>33,980</b>
<b><i>Net position, beginning of year</i></b>	<b>400,099</b>
<b><i>Net position, end of year</i></b>	<b>\$ 434,079</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Statement of Cash Flows - Modified Cash Basis - Water Fund**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

<b><i>Cash flows from operating activities:</i></b>	
Cash received from customers	\$ 361,525
Cash paid to employees	(83,776)
Cash paid to suppliers	(203,568)
<b><i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i></b>	<b>74,181</b>
<b><i>Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:</i></b>	
Principal payments on notes and bonds payable	(50,000)
Interest paid	(20,539)
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,954)
<b><i>Net cash used in capital and related financing activities</i></b>	<b>(73,493)</b>
<b><i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i></b>	
Interest on cash investments	959
<b><i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i></b>	<b>959</b>
<b><i>Net increase in cash</i></b>	<b>1,647</b>
<b><i>Cash balance, beginning of year</i></b>	<b>427,882</b>
<b><i>Cash balance, end of year</i></b>	<b>\$ 429,529</b>
<b><i>Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:</i></b>	
Operating income	\$ 53,560
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	20,475
Increase in payroll withholdings	146
<b><i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i></b>	<b>\$ 74,181</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (1) **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

#### (a) **Financial Reporting Entity**

The Village of North Bennington, Vermont is a unit of local government created by charter in 1904. The Village operates under a Board of Trustees form of government and provides services as outlined in its charter.

The financial statements of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont include all of the financial activity of the general government, special revenue, and proprietary funds. These components are included because they are under the direct control of the Board of Trustees. The Village exercises significant oversight, and financial interdependence exists. The Village is not a component unit of another reporting entity.

The financial statements of the Village of North Bennington, Vermont do not include the financial activity of the Village School of North Bennington because the Board of Trustees does not have control over the School and the Village does not exercise significant oversight.

The Village applies all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements.

#### (b) **Basis of Presentation**

The basic financial statements include both government-wide (based on the Village as a whole) and fund financial statements.

#### **Government-wide Statements**

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all non-fiduciary activities of the Village. Eliminations have been made to minimize the effect of internal transactions between funds. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, State aid, intergovernmental revenues, and other exchange and nonexchange transactions. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants, while the capital grants column reflects capital-specific grants.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Village's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with and are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs, and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

#### **Fund Financial Statements**

The fund statements provide information about the Village's funds. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The financial activities of the Village that are reported in the accompanying financial statements have been classified in the major funds described in the following paragraphs.

(continued)

# VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (1) *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)*

#### (b) *Basis of Presentation (continued)*

##### **Governmental Funds**

**General Fund** - The General Fund is used to account for all revenues and expenditures applicable to the general operations of the governmental agencies of the Village. All general operating revenues which are not restricted as to use by sources external to the Village are recorded in the General Fund.

**Special Revenue Funds** - The Special Revenue Funds are operating funds for which the use of revenues is restricted, generally by the voters of the Village of North Bennington. The Village uses ten Special Revenue Funds: the Firehouse Reserve Fund, Salt Shed Reserve Fund, Sidewalk Reserve Fund, Backhoe Reserve Fund, Tractor Reserve Fund, Truck Reserve Fund, Audit Reserve Fund, Village Contingency Fund, Depot Renovation Fund and the Parks Reserve Fund.

##### **Proprietary Funds**

**Enterprise Funds** - Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The Village uses one Enterprise Fund, the Water Fund. The amounts reported in the accompanying financial statements are for the Water Fund's year ended December 31, 2015.

#### (c) *Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting*

The Village has implemented the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board, Statement 34 (GASB 34) which requires the Village to present government-wide financial statements which include capital assets and related depreciation. In addition, GASB 34 requires the presentation of management's discussion and analysis of the Village's financial performance and activities for the fiscal year.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash transaction takes place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the Village gives or receives value without directly receiving or giving equal value in exchange, include property taxes, grants and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

The governmental fund statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The Village considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within one year after the end of the fiscal year, except for property taxes which are recognized if collected within 60 days of year-end.

(continued)

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(1) **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

(c) **Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (continued)**

The Water Fund is maintained on the modified cash basis; with no recognition being given to assets and liabilities or revenues and expenditures or expenses until cash has been received or disbursed. Under generally accepted accounting principles the Water Fund would follow the accrual basis of accounting. Such basis would require recognition of assets and liabilities which are not recognized in the accompanying financial statements. It is not practicable to determine the amounts of such assets and liabilities.

(d) **Budgets and Budgetary Accounting**

The Village follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data for the General Fund reflected in the financial statements.

1. The Board of Trustees and Village Clerk prepare the annual operating budget for the General Fund for the Village's year ended June 30. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
2. Prior to March of the current year, the Village distributes to its citizens a "Village Report" which contains the warning for the annual Village meeting and the proposed operating budget for the year.
3. In March of the current year, an annual Village meeting is held and the budget is legally enacted by a general Village vote.
4. Budget revisions must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

(e) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits as well as investments in certificates of deposit.

(f) **Capital Assets**

Property and equipment is stated at known or estimated historical cost. Net interest costs are capitalized on projects during the construction period. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives. The Village's policy for determining capital assets and their respective depreciable lives is as follows:

	Capitalization Threshold	Minimum Life (years)
Land	5,000	N/A
Office furniture, fixtures and equipment	5,000	5
Machinery and equipment	5,000	5
Building improvements	5,000	10
Land improvements	7,500	10
Heavy equipment and vehicles	10,000	5 or 7
Infrastructure	15,000	20
Buildings	10,000	30

(continued)

# VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (1) **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

#### (f) **Capital Assets (continued)**

When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in income for the period in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to income as incurred; significant renewals and betterments are capitalized. Deduction is made for retirements resulting from renewals or betterments.

Infrastructure assets include roads, bridges, underground pipe (other than related to utilities), traffic signals, etc.

#### (g) **Encumbrance Accounting**

Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are recorded as a reservation of fund balance in the Village's governmental funds, since they do not constitute expenditures or liabilities.

#### (h) **Compensated Absences**

In the government-wide financial statements long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable statement of net position.

The current portion of accumulated unpaid vacation pay and compensatory leave is accrued when incurred in governmental funds (using the modified accrual basis of accounting). Accumulated unpaid sick pay is paid to Village employees only while employed.

#### (i) **Risk Management**

The Village is exposed to various risks of loss related to general liability, property and casualty, workers' compensation, employee health and accident and environmental liability. The Village purchases commercial insurance coverage for the risks of losses to which it is exposed, with the exception for environmental liabilities for which coverage is not available.

#### (j) **Total Columns**

Total Columns are captioned "Memorandum Only" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position, results of operations, or changes in fund balances in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation. Interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

#### (k) **Net Position/Governmental Fund Balance**

The Village has implemented GASB Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions." This Statement provides more clearly defined fund balance categories to make the nature and extent of the constraints placed on a government's fund balances more transparent. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints:

Non-spendable fund balance is either not in spendable form (such as inventory), or is required to be maintained intact legally or contractually.

(continued)

# VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### (1) **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

#### (k) **Net Position/Governmental Fund Balance (continued)**

Restricted fund balance—amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation.

Committed fund balance—amounts constrained to specific purposes by the Village itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority (i.e. Board of Trustees). To be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board of Trustees takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint.

Assigned fund balance—amounts the Village intends to use for a specific purpose. Intent can be expressed by the Board of Trustees or by an official or body to which the Board of Trustees delegates the authority.

Unassigned fund balance—amounts that are available for any purpose. Positive amounts are reported only in the general fund.

In the government-wide financial statements, net position is classified in the following categories:

Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt – This category groups all capital assets into one component of net position. Accumulated depreciation and the outstanding balances of debt that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of these assets reduce this category.

Restricted Net Position – This category presents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted Net Position – This category includes both designated and undesignated net position of the Village. Designated net position include reserves that were established by the Board, which are considered internally designated. Undesignated net position are not restricted for any project or other purpose.

#### (l) **Interfund Receivables and Payables**

Short-term advances between funds are accounted for in the appropriate interfund receivable and payable accounts. Transactions which constitute reimbursements of a fund for expenditures or expenses initially made from that fund which are properly applicable to another fund are recorded as expenditures or expenses (transfers out) in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of the expenditures or expenses (transfers in) in the fund that is reimbursed.

#### (m) **Use of Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

# VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

## Notes to Financial Statements

### **(2) Explanation of Certain Differences Between Governmental Fund Statements and the Government-wide Statements**

Due to the differences in the measurement focus and basis of accounting used in the governmental fund statements and the government-wide statements, certain financial transactions are treated differently. The basic financial statements contain a full reconciliation of these items. The differences result primarily from the economic focus of the Statement of Activities, compared with the current financial resources focus of the governmental funds.

#### **Total Fund Balances of Governmental Funds vs. Net Position of Governmental Activities**

The total of fund balances of the Village's governmental funds differs from "net position" of governmental activities reported in the Statement of Net Position. This difference primarily results from the additional long-term economic focus of the Statement of Net Position versus the solely current financial resources focus of the governmental fund Balance Sheets.

#### **Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance vs. Statement of Activities**

Differences between the governmental funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance and the Statement of Activities fall into one of the categories listed below.

1. Long-Term Revenue and Expense Differences - Long-term revenue differences arise because governmental funds report revenues only when they are considered "available", whereas the Statement of Activities reports revenues when earned. Differences in long-term expenses arise because governmental funds report on a modified accrual basis, whereas the accrual basis of accounting is used on the Statement of Activities.
2. Long-Term Debt Transaction Differences - Long-term debt transaction differences occur because both interest and principal payments are recorded as expenditures in the governmental fund statements, whereas interest payments are recorded in the Statement of Activities as incurred, and principal payments are recorded as a reduction of liabilities in the Statement of Net Position.
3. Capital Assets - Capital related differences include the difference between proceeds for the sale of capital assets reported on governmental fund statements and the gain or loss on the sale of assets as reported on the Statement of Activities, and the difference between recording an expenditure for the purchase of capital items in the governmental fund statements and depreciation expense on those items as recorded in the Statement of Activities.

### **(3) Cash**

Deposits are maintained in more than one financial institution and are carried at cost. The carrying amount of the Village's cash balances at June 30, 2016 was \$816,347, with a corresponding bank balance of \$838,137. Of the bank balance, \$794,323 was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and \$43,815 was collateralized with collateral held by the pledging financial institution in the Village's name.

#### **Custodial Credit Risk and Interest Rate Risk of Bank Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Village's deposits may not be returned to it. At year end, none of the Village's investments were subject to custodial credit risk.

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Village's investments are limited to certificates of deposit and are not subject to interest rate risk.

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(4) **Internal Balances**

During the course of normal operations, the Village has various transactions between funds including expenditures and transfers of resources primarily to provide services. The governmental fund financial statements generally reflect such transactions as transfers. Transfers among funds are provided for as part of the annual budget process. Transfers are used to move revenues from the fund required to collect the revenue to the fund required or authorized to expend them.

Internal transfers for the year ended June 30, 2016 were as follows:

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount	Purpose
General	Firehouse Reserve Fund	\$ 5,000	Voted appropriation
General	Sidewalk Reserve Fund	1,000	Voted appropriation
General	Backhoe Reserve Fund	4,500	Voted appropriation
General	Tractor Reserve Fund	3,000	Voted appropriation
General	Truck Reserve Fund	22,000	Voted appropriation
General	Audit Reserve Fund	5,000	Voted appropriation
General	Village Contingency Fund	1,000	Voted appropriation
General	Parks Reserve Fund	5,000	Voted appropriation
Truck Reserve Fund	General	50,470	Fund Capital Outlay
		<b>\$ 96,970</b>	

At June 30, 2016 the General Fund had a balance of \$5,000 due to the Parks Reserve Fund representing the voted appropriation noted above.

(5) **Capital Assets**

Capital asset activity for the year was as follows:

	Balance 06/30/15	Additions	Transfers and Disposals	Balance 06/30/16
<b>Governmental activities:</b>				
Land improvements	\$ 85,450	-	-	85,450
Buildings and improvements	259,991	-	-	259,991
Machinery and equipment	22,517	15,000	(15,000)	22,517
Heavy equipment and vehicles	664,051	50,470	-	714,521
Infrastructure	100,000	-	-	100,000
Totals at historical cost	1,132,009	65,470	(15,000)	1,182,479
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land improvements	(40,589)	(4,272)	-	(44,861)
Buildings and improvements	(167,366)	(6,199)	-	(173,565)
Machinery and equipment	(1,652)	(4,975)	1,071	(5,556)
Heavy equipment and vehicles	(341,619)	(63,892)	-	(405,511)
Infrastructure	(22,500)	(5,000)	-	(27,500)
	(573,726)	(84,338)	1,071	(656,993)
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 558,283	(18,868)	(13,929)	525,486

(continued)

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

(5) *Capital Assets (continued)*

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

General	\$	5,000
Public works		38,997
Fire		34,569
Parks		5,772
	\$	<u>84,338</u>

	Balance 06/30/15	Additions	Transfers and Disposals	Balance 06/30/16
<b>Business-type activities:</b>				
Land	\$ 88,650	-	-	88,650
Buildings and improvements	16,002	2,954	-	18,956
Equipment	126,310	-	-	126,310
Water meter system	61,490	-	-	61,490
Water lines	271,488	-	-	271,488
Water filtration plant	2,046,261	-	-	2,046,261
Totals at historical cost	2,610,201	2,954	-	2,613,155
Accumulated depreciation	(2,287,385)	(20,475)	-	(2,307,860)
	\$ 322,816	(17,521)	-	305,295

(6) *Long-term Debt*

Long-term liability activity for the year was as follows:

Description	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
<b>Business-type activities:</b>					
General obligation bonds	\$ 309,284	-	50,000	259,284	50,000
Deferred bond reduction	40,716	-	-	40,716	-
	\$ 350,000	-	50,000	300,000	50,000

Maturities of principal and interest are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2016	\$ 50,000	17,111	67,111
2017	50,000	6,166	56,166
2018	50,000	3,272	53,272
2019	50,000	343	50,343
2020	33,408	-	33,408
2021-2025	25,876	-	25,876
	\$ 259,284	26,892	286,176

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

**(7) Governmental Fund Balances**

The Village's fund balance classifications at June 30, 2016 are as follows:

	General Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Total
<b><i>Nonspendable</i></b>	\$ 18,971	-	18,971
<b><i>Restricted for:</i></b>			
Fire truck capital outlays	-	50,231	50,231
Firehouse improvements	-	9,418	9,418
Salt shed	-	8,552	8,552
Sidewalk capital outlays	-	30,969	30,969
Backhoe capital outlays	-	18,704	18,704
Tractor capital outlays	-	14,227	14,227
Truck capital outlays	-	33,924	33,924
Audit expenditures	-	25,047	25,047
Contingencies	-	17,649	17,649
Depot renovations	-	32,794	32,794
Park expenditures	-	5,000	5,000
<b><i>Unassigned</i></b>	108,673	-	108,673
<b>Total fund balances</b>	\$ 127,644	246,515	374,159

**(8) Property Taxes**

Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of April 1st. Taxes were levied in early September and were payable in November 10, 2015.

**(9) Retirement Plan**

The Village makes discretionary contributions to individual retirement accounts on behalf of all full-time employees. Contributions amounted to \$5,034 (highway department) and \$4,958 (water fund).

**(10) Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Financial Resources**

Deferred outflows of financial resources in the General Fund consisted of prepayments for insurance coverage for the subsequent fiscal year. Deferred inflows of financial resources in the General Fund consisted of \$6,970 in delinquent taxes receivable and related penalty and interest not collected within 60 days of year-end.

**(11) Subsequent Events**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through September 11, 2019 the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -**  
**Budget and Actual - General Fund**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Property taxes	\$ 413,110	442,970	29,860
Interest - delinquent taxes	-	2,799	2,799
Intergovernmental revenue - State of Vermont:			
Highways - quarterly maintenance	31,000	31,224	224
Other	-	18,062	18,062
Town of Bennington - recreation	5,000	6,085	1,085
Zoning permits	2,500	2,777	277
Traffic fines	-	219	219
Sale of equipment	-	34,700	34,700
Interest	-	259	259
Other revenue	200	2,000	1,800
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>451,810</b>	<b>541,095</b>	<b>89,285</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
General government:			
Village officers	18,300	17,008	1,292
Village office	15,700	13,477	2,223
Depot maintenance and repair	7,000	7,433	(433)
Planning and zoning	6,000	8,856	(2,856)
	47,000	46,774	226
Fire department:			
Officer pay	3,200	2,825	375
Drill pay	-	600	(600)
Communication	3,000	4,331	(1,331)
New equipment	5,000	2,646	2,354
Truck maintenance	5,000	3,908	1,092
Gas and oil	9,000	4,609	4,391
Training	3,000	2,073	927
Gear replacement	2,000	1,545	455
Utilities	-	8,477	(8,477)
Repair and maintenance	16,000	1,267	14,733
Insurance	-	104	(104)
Special police	250	250	-
	46,450	32,635	13,815

(continued)

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -**  
**Budget and Actual - General Fund (continued)**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>Parks and recreation:</b>			
Street lights	\$ 20,000	17,196	2,804
Trees and parks	5,000	5,894	(894)
Trees and parks - fountain	-	3,050	(3,050)
	25,000	26,140	(1,140)
<b>Highway department:</b>			
Wages	85,000	91,918	(6,918)
Payroll taxes	6,500	6,960	(460)
Health insurance	11,000	5,253	5,747
Retirement	5,600	5,034	566
Highway maintenance	58,500	63,297	(4,797)
Salt and sand	16,000	10,304	5,696
New equipment	7,000	104,819	(97,819)
Equipment maintenance and repair	-	5,253	(5,253)
Vehicle maintenance	25,000	8,799	16,201
Gas, diesel and fuel	-	4,359	(4,359)
Parks mowing	1,000	-	1,000
Highway garage	10,000	13,559	(3,559)
	225,600	319,555	(93,955)
<b>Payments to other organizations:</b>			
McCullough Library	11,000	11,000	-
Park McCullough House	1,000	1,000	-
Sage City Symphony	500	500	-
Bennington County Regional Commission	2,760	2,760	-
Paran Recreation	8,000	8,000	-
Grandview Cemetary	1,000	1,000	-
Tree Committee	1,000	1,000	-
Sunrise Family Resource Center	500	500	-
	25,760	25,760	-

(continued)

**VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT**  
**Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance -**  
**Budget and Actual - General Fund (continued)**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2016**

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>Grant expenditures:</b>			
Sidewalk Main 13(9) exp	\$ -	5,098	(5,098)
Sidewalk Mechanic 13(22) exp	-	713	(713)
Retaining wall	-	37,118	(37,118)
Depot renovation expense	-	9,379	(9,379)
Fire - Wynecote Foundation Grant	-	2,747	(2,747)
	-	55,055	(55,055)
<b>Other expenditures:</b>			
Insurance	25,500	31,540	(6,040)
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>395,310</b>	<b>537,459</b>	<b>(142,149)</b>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenditures</b>	<b>56,500</b>	<b>3,636</b>	<b>(52,864)</b>
<b>Other financing sources (uses):</b>			
<b>Operating transfers in:</b>			
Truck reserve fund	-	50,470	50,470
<b>Operating transfers out:</b>			
Audit reserve fund	(5,000)	(5,000)	-
Fire truck reserve fund	(10,000)	(10,000)	-
Fire house reserve fund	(5,000)	(5,000)	-
Parks reserve fund	(5,000)	(5,000)	-
Sidewalk reserve fund	(1,000)	(1,000)	-
Backhoe reserve fund	(4,500)	(4,500)	-
Tractor reserve fund	(3,000)	(3,000)	-
Truck reserve fund	(22,000)	(22,000)	-
Village Contingency Fund	(1,000)	(1,000)	-
	(56,500)	(56,500)	-
<b>Total other financing sources (uses)</b>	<b>(56,500)</b>	<b>(6,030)</b>	<b>50,470</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources sources over expenditures and other financing uses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>(2,394)</b>	<b>(2,394)</b>

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
 Combining Balance Sheet - Nonmajor Governmental Funds  
 June 30, 2016

	Firehouse Reserve Fund	Salt Shed Reserve Fund	Sidewalk Reserve Fund	Backhoe Reserve Fund	Tractor Reserve Fund	Truck Reserve Fund	Audit Reserve Fund	Village Contingency Fund	Depot Renovation Fund	Parks Reserve Fund	Totals
<b>Assets</b>											
Cash	\$ 5,000	-	-	18,704	14,227	33,924	25,047	1,000	32,794	-	130,696
Certificates of deposit	4,418	8,552	30,969	-	-	-	-	16,649	-	-	60,588
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 9,418</b>	<b>8,552</b>	<b>30,969</b>	<b>18,704</b>	<b>14,227</b>	<b>33,924</b>	<b>25,047</b>	<b>17,649</b>	<b>32,794</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>196,284</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>											
Fund balance:											
Restricted	\$ 9,418	8,552	30,969	18,704	14,227	33,924	25,047	17,649	32,794	5,000	196,284
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>9,418</b>	<b>8,552</b>	<b>30,969</b>	<b>18,704</b>	<b>14,227</b>	<b>33,924</b>	<b>25,047</b>	<b>17,649</b>	<b>32,794</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>196,284</b>
<b>Total liabilities and fund balances</b>	<b>\$ 9,418</b>	<b>8,552</b>	<b>30,969</b>	<b>18,704</b>	<b>14,227</b>	<b>33,924</b>	<b>25,047</b>	<b>17,649</b>	<b>32,794</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>196,284</b>

VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT  
 Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and  
 Changes in Fund Balances - Nonmajor Governmental Funds  
 Year Ended June 30, 2016

	Firehouse Reserve Fund	Salt Shed Reserve Fund	Sidewalk Reserve Fund	Backhoe Reserve Fund	Tractor Reserve Fund	Truck Reserve Fund	Audit Reserve Fund	Village Contingency Reserve Fund	Depot Renovation Reserve Fund	Parks Reserve Fund	Totals
Revenues:											
Interest	\$ 12	21	75	10	8	25	14	41	23	-	229
Total revenue	12	21	75	10	8	25	14	41	23	-	229
Expenditures:											
Operating expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Excess of revenues over expenditures	12	21	75	10	8	25	14	41	23	-	229
Other financing sources (uses):											
Operating transfers in	5,000	-	1,000	4,500	3,000	22,000	5,000	1,000	-	5,000	46,500
Operating transfers out	-	-	-	-	-	(50,470)	-	-	-	-	(50,470)
	5,000	-	1,000	4,500	3,000	(28,470)	5,000	1,000	-	5,000	(3,970)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	5,012	21	1,075	4,510	3,008	(28,445)	5,014	1,041	23	5,000	(3,741)
Fund balances, July 1, 2015	4,406	8,531	29,894	14,194	11,219	62,369	20,033	16,608	32,771	5,000	200,025
Fund balances, June 30, 2016	\$ 9,418	8,552	30,969	18,704	14,227	33,924	25,047	17,649	32,794	5,000	196,284

# NOTES

# NOTES

## **WARNING FOR THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

The legal voters of the Village of North Bennington, in the Town of Bennington and the State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Village School of North Bennington in said village on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at Seven-Thirty in the afternoon to transact the following business, VIZ:

- 1) To hear and dispose of the reports of the Village Officers for the year.
- 2) To see what sum the Village will vote to cover appropriations made at this meeting and for the current and incidental expenses or authorize the trustees to borrow the necessary funds for that purpose; authorize the trustees to spend unanticipated revenue; and also authorize the trustees to set the tax rate upon completion of the Grand List.
- 3) To elect a Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, and three Auditors for the ensuing year; and three trustees for three years.
- 4) Shall the Village of North Bennington set the property tax due date for November 10<sup>th</sup> each year?
- 5) To discuss any other business found proper when met.

**Lorine Elwell**  
**Village of North Bennington**  
**January 2021**

