

TOWN OF  
**FLETCHER**  
VERMONT

ANNUAL REPORT 2012  
TOWN & SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# ANNUAL REPORT

for the

## Town of Fletcher, Vermont

For Calendar Year Ending  
December 31, 2012

Town Clerk's Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Monday Evenings, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Closed Friday

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Printed in accordance with the Vermont Statutes Annotated

Please bring this report to  
Town Meeting on March 5, 2013  
**@ 9:30 a.m.**  
Held at the Fletcher Elementary School

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**WARNING**  
**2013 Combined Annual Meeting**  
**Town of Fletcher**  
**and**  
**Fletcher Town School District**

The legal voters of the Town of Fletcher the Fletcher Elementary School, Franklin County, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in Fletcher Elementary School in said Fletcher on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 9:30 AM to act on the following articles:

- Art. 1: Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order.
- Art. 2: To elect a Moderator for the Town Meeting.
- Art. 3: To act on the reports of the various officers of the Town contained in the current Town Report covering the fiscal year ending December 31, 2012.
- Art. 4: Will the Town instruct the Town Auditors to have the Town Report printed in the usual manner?
- Art. 5: Shall the Town Voters authorize expenditures for the following municipality service agency in the amount listed and voted on separately on the Ballot? Green Mountain Transit Agency: \$695 meeting the needs of transit dependent citizens including seniors, persons with disabilities, low-income residents and the general public.
- Art. 6: Will the Town authorize the Select Board to purchase a wheeled excavator, to replace the back hoe, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000?
- Art. 7: Will the Town vote a budget of \$898,000 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town?
- Art. 8: To elect a Moderator for the School District Annual Meeting.
- Art. 9: To elect a Clerk for the School District Annual Meeting.
- Art. 10: To hear and act on reports of School Directors' from the previous year.
- Art. 11: To elect by ballot a School Director for a three year term.
- Art. 12: Shall Fletcher School District spend a sum of money necessary for the support of the public schools?
- Art. 13: To conduct any other business that may come before the School Directors.
- Art. 14: To elect a Selectman for three (3) years.

- Art. 15: To elect a Lister for three (3) years.
- Art. 16: To elect an Auditor for three (3) years.
- Art. 17: To elect a Constable for two (2) years.
- Art. 18: To elect a Grand Juror for one (1) year.
- Art. 19: To elect a Town Agent and Conveyor of Lands for one (1) year.
- Art. 20: To elect any other Town Officers to fill any Town Office that may be vacant at this time.
- Art. 21: Will the Town authorize the Town Treasurer to receive all Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes through September 30, 2013?
- Art. 22: Will the Town instruct the Select Board to borrow money to pay current expenses in anticipation of taxes?
- Art. 23: Will the Town authorize the Select Board to purchase six (6) acres of land on Fairfax Road from the Lidsters on which to build a new Town Office building?
- Art. 24: Will the Town authorize the Select Board to sell some 55 acres of Town land north of Metcalf Pond?
- Art. 25: Will the Town authorize the Select Board to alter the fiscal year so that it ends June 30<sup>th</sup>?
- Art. 26: To discuss the building of a new Town Office building.
- Art. 27: To discuss any other business that may properly come before the Town Meeting.
- Art. 28: To Adjourn.

Dated at Fletcher, VT this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January A.D., 2013.

Fletcher Select Board

Jon Bondy, Chair  
 Keller Ashby, Clerk  
 Terry Riggs, Road Commissioner  
 Susan Ferguson  
 N. Todd Pritsky

Fletcher Board of School Directors

Elizabeth Lesnikoski  
 Todd Baumeister  
 Diane Dayvie  
 Tom Kalinoski  
 Tammy Langlois

Received, filed and recorded this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January A.D., 2013.

Attest: Elaine C. Sweet, Town Clerk & Treasurer

## 2012 TOWN MEETING SUMMARY

The legal voters of the Town of Fletcher, Franklin County, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Fletcher Elementary School in said Fletcher on Tuesday, March 6, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. to act on the following articles:

- Art. 1: Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order.**  
**Art. 1. Passed.**
- Art. 2: To elect a Moderator.**  
Barry Doolan Elected.
- Art. 3: To act on the reports of the various officers of the Town contained in the current Town Report covering the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011.**  
**Art. 3. Passed.**
- Art. 4: Will the Town instruct the Auditors to have the Town Report printed in the usual manner?**  
Discussion: Discussed having school information presented first in report, town information second. Voice vote passed.  
**Art. 4. Passed.**
- Art. 5: Does the Town instruct the Select Board to allocate all future reappraisal reimbursement monies received from the State to a separate Town Reappraisal Fund? (This year's anticipated amount is approximately \$6,700.)**  
Discussion: Listers reappraise 1/3 of town properties annually. Town is not required to do a total town reappraisal unless we fall below 80% CLA.  
**Art. 5. Passed.**
- Art. 6: Does the Town Authorize the Select Board to complete construction of the town garage for the sum of approximately \$60,000?**  
Discussion: \$25,000 remains from insurance money for collapsed old town garage. This money is to finish the floor & door, and minimal heat costs.  
**Art. 6. Passed.**
- Art. 7: Will the Town vote an amount to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town?**  
Discussion: Added the budget amount into this Article of \$879,556. \$70,000 budgeted for paving. Roads are being grinded as preparation for paving, rather than paving over bad pavement. Outside vendor hauling sand as truck capacity is 18+ yards versus town truck capacity of 16 yards.  
**Art. 7. Passed as Amended.**
- Art. 8: To elect a Selectman for three (3) years.**  
Terry Riggs elected Selectman for three years.
- Art. 9: To elect a Selectman for three (3) years.**  
N. Todd Pritsky elected Select Board (3) years.



- Art. 10: To elect a Lister for three (3) years.**  
H. Carlton Ferguson elected Lister for three years.
- Art. 11: To elect an Auditor for three (3) years.**  
Kevin Holmes-Henry elected Auditor for three years.
- Art. 12: To elect a Constable for two (2) years.**  
Passed over this Article as the office is not vacant until next year.
- Art. 13: To elect a Grand Juror for one (1) year.**  
Donna Manning elected Grand Juror for one year.
- Art. 14: To elect a Town Agent and Conveyer of Lands for one (1) year.**  
Debbie Lynch elected Town Agent and Conveyer of Lands for one year.
- Art. 15: To elect any other Town Officers to fill any Town Office which may be vacant at this time.**  
**Art. 15. Passed.**
- Art. 16: To authorize the Town Treasurer to receive all Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes through September 30, 2012.**  
**Art. 16. Passed.**
- Art. 17: Will the Town instruct the Select Board to borrow money to pay current expenses in anticipation of taxes.**  
**Art. 17. Passed.**
- Art. 18: In light of the United States Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the Town of Fletcher vote on March 6, 2012 to urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to proposed a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?**  
**Art. 18. Passed.**
- Art. 19: To discuss any other business that may properly come before this meeting.**  
Discussion: Town needs an Emergency Management Coordinator. Interested people should contact Selectboard. Straw vote for Fletcher to pursue having combined Annual Town/School meeting – passed.
- Art. 20: To adjourn.**  
**Passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.**

## TOWN OFFICERS

<b>Position</b>	<b>Held By:</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Moderator:		
	Barry Doolan	2013
Town Clerk & Treasurer:		
	Elaine Sweet	2014
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer:		
	Karrie Sweet	Hired by Town Clerk
Select board:		
	Keller Ashby	2013
	Susan Ferguson	2014
	Terry Riggs	2015
	Jon Bondy	2014
	N. Todd Pritsky	2015
Listers:		
	H. Carlton Ferguson	2015
	Alex Sargent	2013
	Charles E. Tinker	2014
Auditors:		
	Kevin Holmes-Henry	2015
	Nancy Cardinal	2013
	Shana Kane	2014
Road Foreman:		
	Brad Blaisdell	Hired by Select Board
Road Crew:		
	Norman Rainville	Hired by Select Board
1 <sup>st</sup> Constable:		
	Bill Stygles – 2 year term	2013
Animal Control Officer:		
	Bill Stygles	2014
Delinquent Tax Collector:		
	Fred Fletcher – 3 year term	2014
School Directors:		
	Todd Baumeister	2015
	Diane Dayvie	2013
	Tom Kalinoski	2015
	Tammy Langlois	2014
	Betsy Lesnikoski	2014
Town Grand Juror		
	Donna Manning	2013
Town Agent & Conveyor of Lands:		
	Deb Lynch	2013
Fire Warden:		
	Richard Russell – Appointed	06-30-14

Justice of the Peace:		
Lars Baris		2015
David Clark		2015
Roger Dreher		2015
Jan Hilborn		2015
John Lavallee		2015
Ron Newfield		2015
Todd Baumeister		2015
Health Officer:		
H. Carlton Ferguson – 3 year term		07-31-14
Town Service Officer:		
Vacant (appointed by State)		TBD
Fence Viewers:		
Craig Tinker	Appointed by Select Board	
H. Carlton Ferguson	Appointed by Select Board	
Pound Keeper:		
Bill Stygles	Appointed by Select Board	
Inspector of Lumber:		
Rick Russell	2012 Appointed by Select Board	
Weigher of Coal:		
Gary Tinker	Appointed by Select Board	
Tree Warden:		
Betsy Lesnikoski	Appointed by Select Board	
Energy Coordinator:		
Jon Bondy		2013
Zoning Administrator:		
Maurice Rathbun	Appointed by Select Board	
Development Review Board		
Suzanne Stritzler, Chair		01-18-13
Janet Young		07-16-13
Todd Baumeister		01-18-13
Noel Bishop		04-16-13
MJ Featherstone		03-19-15
Emergency Management Coordinator:		
Open	Appointed by Select Board	
Planning Board:		
Suzanne Stritzler		01-18-13
Cheryl Vreeland		02-02-15
Tara Baumeister		08-02-13
Open		TBD
Open		TBD
Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management:		
David Clark – 3 year term		2014
Regional Planning Commission:		
Lynn Douglas – 3 year term		08-06-15
MJ Featherstone		08-06-15

## TAX RATE and STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

In accordance with the vote at the Annual Town and School District Meetings 2012, the Select Board met on July 16, 2012, to set the tax rate. The following rates were set to raise the amounts necessary to operate the Town Administrative and Road Department for 2012 and the School Budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013. Due to changes in Act 68, the Grand List is now split and two tax rates apply: one rate for Homestead (generally residential property) of \$1.8483 and Non-Homestead property of \$2.0482. The Municipal rate is the same for all properties. Note: Due to Errors and Omissions, Tax Appeals and HS-122 Late Filers, the Grand List changed slightly from the time the rate was set to the end of year.

<b>Tax Type</b>	<b>Grand List</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>Taxes Raised</b>
Municipal	\$1,115,645.49	\$0.5513	\$615,055.45
Education-Homestead	\$872,991.40	\$1.2952	\$1,130,698.50
Education-Non Homestead	\$242,654.09	\$1.4951	\$362,792.16
Local Agreement (Veterans)	\$1,115,645.49	\$0.0018	\$2,008.13
<b>Total Taxes Billed</b>			<b>\$2,110,554.24</b>

<b>Taxes Collected and Accounted for:</b>	
Municipal	\$457,347.29
Educational – Collected by Town	\$1,213,601.78
Educational – State Credits	\$342,646.05
Delinquent Taxes to Collector	\$96,959.12
<b>Total Taxes Collected</b>	<b>\$2,110,554.24</b>

## LETTER OF BUDGET TRANSMITTAL

### PART I

To the Voters:

In accordance with the resolution passed by the voters in Town Meeting in 1976, we submit the budget recommendations for your consideration for the fiscal year, January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

#### **SELECTBOARD**

Keller Ashby  
Susan Ferguson  
Terry Riggs  
Jon Bondy  
N. Todd Pritsky

#### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Keller Ashby  
Susan Ferguson  
Terry Riggs  
Jon Bondy  
N. Todd Pritsky  
Elaine Sweet

### PART II

The sums of money or rate percent on a dollar of the Grand-List of the Town are hereby appropriated for the purpose specified in the 2013 recommended Budgets. Such sums of money are hereinafter voted, unless otherwise designated, shall be available only during the fiscal year and if within such year an appropriation therefore is not lawfully utilized or if the same of any unexpected balance thereof remains in the Town Treasury at the end of each year, the same shall, unless otherwise specified by law, revert to the Town Treasury.

### PART III

Taxes are to be paid to the Town Treasurer. All Property Taxes are to be paid on or before September 30, 2013.

All delinquent taxes to bear interest at the rate of one (1) percent per month from due date plus 8% Collectors fee.

## AUDITORS REPORT

We have examined the records of the Town Treasurer and the Tax Collector. To the best of our knowledge the financial statements and reports present the financial position of the Town of Fletcher for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Many thanks to the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk for their cooperation and hard work throughout the year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin Holmes-Henry  
Nancy Cardinal  
Shana Kane

## BALANCE SHEET

### GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT

<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>12/31/2012</b>
General Fund checking account	\$17,460.32
2007 Delinquent Taxes receivable	\$1,607.68
2010 Delinquent Taxes receivable	\$972.08
2011 Delinquent Taxes receivable	\$6,673.32
2012 Delinquent Taxes receivable	49,442.40
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$76,155.80</b>
Accounts Payable	\$405.15
Tax Overpayments	\$235.42
Tax Sale Redemption Payable	\$35,671.24
Health Insurance Payable	\$3,766.92
Dental Insurance Payable	\$44.31
Life Insurance Payable	\$3.00
Vision Insurance Payable	\$27.86
Disability Insurance Payable	\$14.95
2008 Mack Truck	\$25,897.02
Note Payable Short Term	\$0
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$66,065.87</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE – PRIOR YEARS</b>	<b>&lt;\$289,796.46&gt;</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE – CURRENT YEAR</b>	<b>\$299,886.39</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$10,089.93</b>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE + LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$76,155.80</b>

### FIXED ASSET ACCOUNT

<b>Highway Assets</b>	<b>12/31/2012</b>	<b>12/31/2011</b>
2008 Mack Truck	\$112,000	\$140,000
2003 Mack Truck	\$50,500	\$25,000
1995 Mack Truck	\$11,800	\$8,500
2005 Case Loader	\$65,000	\$65,000
1998 Champion Grader	\$45,000	\$45,000
1997 Int'l Truck	\$2,000	\$3,500
1993 Case Backhoe 590	\$10,000	\$5,500
Chloride Tank/Trailer	\$200	\$200
Culvert Machine/Pressure Washer	\$500	\$500
Fuel Tank	\$3,000	\$3,000
Generator/Trailer	\$12,000	\$12,500
Garage Equipment/Supplies/Tools	\$16,000	\$13,000
Gravel/ Stone/Sand	\$30,000	\$25,000
Inventory	\$16,500	\$0
Town Garage – Oustinoff Road	\$300,000	\$250,000

<b>TOTAL HIGHWAY ASSETS</b>	<b>\$674,500.00</b>	<b>\$596,700.00</b>
<b>Administrative Assets</b>		
Land Records	\$76,000.00	\$75,000.00
Computer Equipment & Software	\$12,000.00	\$10,000.00
Other Office Equipment (includes shelving)	\$23,500.00	\$9,500.00
Town Clerk Building-Cambridge Road	\$54,600.00	\$54,600.00
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSETS</b>	<b>\$166,100.00</b>	<b>\$144,100.00</b>
<b>TOWN LANDS (Grand List Value)</b>	<b>\$276,600.00</b>	<b>\$276,600.00</b>
<b>FIXED ASSET BALANCE – PRIOR YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,022,400.00</b>	<b>\$955,900.00</b>
<b>FIXED ASSET BALANCE – CURRENT YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,117,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,022,400.00</b>
<b>NET INCREASE</b>	<b>94,800.00</b>	<b>\$66,500.00</b>
<b>FIXED ASSET BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,117,200.00</b>	<b>\$1,022,400.00</b>

**CASH PROOF**  
12/31/2012

<b>Revenues per Computer (NEMRC)</b>	<b>\$1,250,523.02</b>	
<b>Total Expenditures per report and NEMRC</b>	<b>\$950,636.63</b>	
<b>Net revenues in excess of expenditures</b>		<b>\$299,886.39</b>
<b>Delinquent taxes receivable, beginning of the year</b>	<b>\$58,515.84</b>	
<b>Delinquent taxes receivable, end of the year</b>	<b>\$58,695.48</b>	
<b>Net increase in receivables during the year</b>		<b>&lt;\$179.64&gt;</b>
<b>Liabilities at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>\$36,395.12</b>	
<b>Liabilities at the end of the year excluding bank notes</b>	<b>\$236.92</b>	
<b>Current taxes payable, beginning of year</b>	<b>\$39,933.43</b>	
<b>Current taxes payable, end of the year</b>	<b>\$235.42</b>	
<b>Note Payable Short Term Paid</b>		<b>&lt;\$450,000.00&gt;</b>
<b>Net decrease in liabilities during the year</b>		<b>&lt;\$446,463.19&gt;</b>
<b>Net decrease in Total General Fund cash for the year</b>		<b>&lt;\$146,756.44&gt;</b>
<b>Total General Fund cash at the beginning of the year</b>		<b>\$164,216.76</b>
<b>Total General Fund cash at the end of the year</b>		<b>\$17,460.32</b>

## SELECT BOARD REPORT

This year we are trying an experiment, combining the Town Meeting and the School Meeting into one. The advantage is that we need not schedule the second meeting at a particular time of day, but rather can move between Town and School agenda items, taking a recess at lunch time. Please let us know how you like this new approach.

We **finished the Garage** this year, using all of the money in the Garage Fund, and about \$6K in addition. The right side of the Garage now has a slab, insulation, door, and heat. We will no longer need to contribute \$15K towards the Garage each year!

We ground down 2 miles of **Fairfield Road**, and **paved** critical wear areas last summer. We hope to pave the remainder this summer. The corner near Ellsworth Road was paved because of fear that the gravel would deteriorate over the winter due to high traffic loads and cornering forces.

We receive 4 payments from the State each year to support our road maintenance (separate from repaving grants that we get every 3-4 years). In 2012, we only received 3 of those checks, which is why we are short \$43K in revenue for that line item. The "missing" check was received in 2011.

We received \$413K in FEMA money to compensate for storm expenses in 2012. We spent between \$362K and \$390K on that storm (depending on how we account for it: see page 15 of last year's Town Report) leaving between \$51K and \$24K as unanticipated revenue.

We received \$99K in **unanticipated revenue** in 2012, including \$51K from FEMA for the storms in May of 2011, \$13K in Current Use money, and \$35K from the State/School. We used \$27K of this to allow us to reduce the amount of taxes required so that our Municipal tax rate did not change from 2011 to 2012, leaving \$72K available. We increased spending on paving by \$50K over our original budget, and spent \$10K in addition on gravel, leaving \$12K available for emergencies.

Last year we showed the Fund Balance that we would use to reduce taxes as zero. As explained in the previous paragraph, by July we had the money to invest \$27K for this purpose. This is why the Fund Balance shown for 2012 is \$27K, not the original zero as shown in the previous Town Report.

When we get an unexpected expense or revenue, it sometimes helps to think of what our accounts would have looked like with those values removed:

- Actual Revenues were \$1,277K, of which \$413K was from FEMA for expense incurred in 2011. The difference (\$864K) is \$12K under budget.
- Actual Expenses were \$950K, of which \$50K (for paving and resurfacing) and \$10K (for gravel) came out of our unexpected revenues. This left total Expenses at \$890K, \$14K over budget.
- Thus, between our \$12K Revenue shortfall and our \$14K Expense overrun, we ran a deficit of \$26K last year. This was difficult to see coming in the accounting reports during the year, due to the \$413K that we received from FEMA.



With the NW Solid Waste District managing Green-Up Day for us, we no longer need to budget either revenues or expenses to support that effort.

We will be combining Summer Class 2 Rebuild/Paving and Summer Class 2 Class II Rebuild going forward. The \$4K from Class II Rebuild has been moved into Culverts this year.

In each of the past few years, we have received additional money from the State/School as the State figures out the final numbers for the previous year. This year we have an estimate of that amount from the State, and have included it in Revenues under State/School Reimbursement.

Our budget increased from \$879K to \$898K, an increase of \$19K; the amount of raised by taxes increased from \$616K to \$636K (\$20K). Note that we no longer need to pay \$15K each year towards finishing the garage.

A resident on **Wright Road** pointed out that we had not formally adopted the *de facto* policy of not providing winter road maintenance, and required that we plow the road. The central part of Wright Road is very steep and narrow, and the bridge at the bottom cannot legally carry the weight of our plow trucks. We considered reclassifying the central part of Wright Road as Class 4, to eliminate the need to maintain that section at all, but reconsidered when residents asked that we move in a different direction. We intend to formally adopt a policy of no winter maintenance on the central portion of Wright Road this Spring.

Tom Kabusk resigned this summer, after serving the Town well for years, and we hired a new Road Foreman, Brad Blaisdell, who is doing a great job.

We pursued land from the Lidsters and from the Sheltras on which to place a **new Town Office building**. When the Lidster land perked, we signed a contract to purchase some of the Lidster's land this Fall for \$55K, pending voter approval. We have engaged an architect to provide an initial floor plan and project cost estimate, and will ask the voters whether they approve of obtaining a bond to build the new Town Offices on the Lidster land. There will be an informational meeting about this on February 25th, and an Australian ballot on the bond measure on Town Meeting day. We can discuss the new Town Office project further on Town Meeting day if there is interest. Please contact your Select Board members if you have questions or comments about this project.

Up until now, Fletcher has had a calendar **fiscal year**, ending December 31. The school and the State use a fiscal year that ends on June 30. Since the State's fiscal year is not complete when we are preparing our budgets, we often end up with inadequate or unreliable information upon which to base our budget recommendations. Our financial consultants agree that we should switch to the non-calendar fiscal year, and we will be recommending that at Town Meeting. The change, if approved, would not take effect until next year.

The Town owns some 55 acres of land north and west of Metcalf Pond, in a location that is not conducive to development; in fact, the only reasonable use for that land would be hiking and sugaring. The Select Board would like the approval of the voters to **put that land up for sale**, since some adjoining land owners would like to use it to expand their sugaring operations. Since

the land is not doing the town much good at the moment, this approach seems reasonable to us. Some residents have recently asked whether they could use that land for recreation and hiking instead. We will discuss the alternatives at Town Meeting.

Many town positions remain unfilled (Town Services Officer, Town Health Officer, Town Emergency Coordinator): if you have an interest in helping out (and even getting paid), please get in touch with one of your Select Board members.

#### Budget Footnotes

- [1]: Impact fees from construction of new homes on Rugg Road
- [2]: Publication of hearings for Wright Road
- [3]: Wright Road legal fees and the Wright Road Survey (\$3K)
- [4]: \$70K went down to \$45K because we were low on sand a year ago; the \$25K reduction was put back into Summer Class 3 Gravel.
- [5]: \$2.5K of this was actually a 2013 expense
- [6]: \$16K of this was put on Fairfield Road for the winter
- [7]: We are combining these two line items going forward
- [8]: The \$20K went up to \$45K because of reductions in Winter Class 3 Sand
- [9]: We received a 2011 bill in 2012
- [10]: (line 341) This is the amount we paid to complete the Garage **over** that paid for out of the Garage Fund.

**BUDGET REPORT-DETAIL**

Pg18



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## **FLETCHER TOWN ROAD REPORT**

Compared to several of the past years, this has been a calm year. The weather has cooperated and our yearly expenses came in very close to our budget. The Town received FEMA funds after last year's budget was approved for work done in 2011 on storm-damaged roads. The Board authorized additional expenditures of approximately \$60,000 for the Fairfield Road Project to be used from those funds.

The Fairfield Road improvement project on Fairfield Road discussed at last year's Town Meeting was started in the summer, and the excess money from our FEMA claim allowed us to do more work than what we had anticipated being able to do using local funds. We were able to pave a portion of that road, and we are applying for a grant to complete the project this coming year.

You will see several shifts in road material expenditures in this year's budget. As anticipated, last winter we used an excessive amount of sand to maintain the roads due to the alternating rain and freezing conditions. You will note that this year's budget has returned to the typical allocation for winter sand, and we have ample reserves at this time. This year we were able to increase the Class III gravel budget to previous levels for summer road maintenance.

You will note in our articles that we are requesting money from the equipment fund to purchase a small-wheeled excavator to replace our backhoe. The 1993 backhoe is 20 years old, and it is now being used only for emergencies since it is no longer reliable.

In the early Spring, Joe Jutras suffered health issues and Leon Kingley stepped forward and worked with the Town crew through the summer until Joe was able to return. We greatly appreciate Leon's services for the time that he was with the Town.

In early Summer, Tom Kabusk notified us of his intention to leave his position as Road Foreman. We posted the position, interviewed, and hired an experienced municipal road foreman, Brad Blaisdell, from Cambridge. Brad brought experience and a broadened perspective of road maintenance and improvement, plus knowledge of available grants. Under his leadership, we have been able to realize both time and material efficiencies on winter maintenance.

Sincerely,  
Terry Riggs

## **LISTERS REPORT**

We have been dealing with changes in Current Use. All excluded land will be combined. The combined land will appraised the same as other similar properties in town. This will be subtracted from the total land value to find the portion to be used for Current Use.

The state study for school equalization shows our list to be a 93.64% of Fair Market Value. If the town drops below 805, the State requires a reappraisal.

An effort will be made to accommodate those taxpayers who have to work. This year, we will try to make as many appointments as possible when you are normally at home.

Thank you – The Fletcher Listers,

H. Carlton Ferguson  
Charles E. Tinker, Sr.  
Alex Sargent

## **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

The Zoning Administrator administers the Fletcher Zoning Regulations. No land development or building of any kind may be started within the Town of Fletcher without a building permit. Home occupations also need zoning permits. If you have a question about whether your proposed project needs a permit, please contact the Zoning Administrator at the Town Office 802-849-6616 between 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on Mondays and 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Wednesdays.

In addition to a zoning permit, a Certificate of Occupancy must be issued for any new home constructions before it is used. This certifies that the work for which the permit was issued was completed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, and the requirements of the Zoning Regulations.

**ANY NEW HOME CONSTRUCTIONS AFTER APRIL 27, 1998 MUST HAVE A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN ORDER TO SELL OR REFINANCE PROPERTY.**

For Development Review Board projects you may also contact the Zoning Administrator for assistance.

Maurice Rathbun  
Zoning Administrator

## FEE SCHEDULE OF PERMITS

Adopted July 1, 2009 \*All permits subject to \$10.00 recording fee.

Building Permits and Certificate of Occupancy	\$ 200.00
Accessory Structures: Garages, Patios, Sheds, etc.	\$ 50.00
Home Business Signs	\$ 25.00
Certificate of Compliance/Change of Use – No recording fee	\$ 25.00
Access Approval (Public Hearing)	\$ 75.00
Boundary Line Adjustment	\$ 25.00
DRB – Variance or Conditional Use (Public Hearing)	\$ 75.00
Subdivision Site Plan Review – includes Final Plat – No Refunds	
2 Lots (approved by Zoning Administrator)	\$ 100.00
3 Lots (approved by Zoning Administrator)	\$ 150.00
4 to 5 Lots (approved by DRB)	\$1,000.00
6 to 10 Lots (approved by DRB)	\$1,500.00
Over 10 Lots (approved by DRB)	\$2,000.00

## ZONING PERMITS ISSUED

Permit Type	Number	Fees Collected
Building Permits		
New Houses	7	\$1,400
Additions/Garages/Sheds/Etc.	23	\$1,125
Barn/Farm Structures	6	0
Certificate of Compliance	2	\$ 50
ZA-2 Lot Subdivision	2	\$ 200
ZA-3 Lot Subdivision	0	0
DRB Access Approval	0	0
DRB Conditional Use/Variance	1	\$ 75
DRB Public Hearing Appeal	1	\$ 150
<b>TOTAL PERMITS &amp; APPEALS</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

## EQUIPMENT FUND

January 1, 2011 Beginning Balance		\$41,631.91
Income:		
Interest Income	\$55.21	
Contribution approved at Town Meeting	\$4,000.00	
Total Income:	\$4,055.21	
Expense:		\$0.00
December 31, 2012 Ending Balance		\$45,687.12

**CAPITAL PLAN**  
ROAD EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Estimated Replacement Year</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
1993 Case backhoe	2013	\$40,000.00
1997 Int'l truck	For Sale	\$0
1995 Mack truck	2014	\$134,000.00
2003 Mack truck	2016	\$176,000.00
1998 Champion road grader	2020	\$275,000.00
2005 Case loader	2022	\$130,000.00

**AUDIT FUND**

January 1, 2012 Beginning Balance		\$4,011.44
Income:		
Interest Income	\$19.52	
Budget 2012	\$2,000.00	
December 31, 2012 Ending Balance		\$6,030.96

**GARAGE FUND**

January 1, 2012 Beginning Balance		\$25,940.73
Income:		
Interest Income	\$35.31	
Budget 2012	\$15,000.00	
Rebate on Lights	\$750.00	
Expenses		<\$47,996.57>
Expended from General Fund		<\$6,270.53>

**TOWN OFFICE FUND**

January 1, 2012 Beginning Balance		\$38,061.31
Income:		
Interest Income	\$182.74	
Budget 2012	\$20,000.00	
Expenses:		
Architect		<\$2,466.06>
Deposit on Land		<\$2,000.00>
December 31, 2012 Ending Balance		\$53,777.99

**'08 MACK LOAN**

January 1, 2012 Beginning Balance		\$50,742.83
Principal Paid	<\$24,845.81>	
Interest Expense (2.75%)	<\$1,391.60>	
December 31, 2012 Ending Balance		\$25,897.02

## **The Fletcher Historical Society**

We were busy in 2012 working toward several goals to make the Fletcher Union Meeting House a place for all to enjoy. After 141 years the kitchen now has running water! We have new double doors on the main level and a new one on the lower level. The ramps and the steps were spruced-up. Our collection of artifacts is now on display in two small areas that look inviting and interesting!

Historical items were on display at Town Meeting and at the school's open house in September. In May the 5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> grade students enjoyed a guided tour to the remaining eight one-room schoolhouses here in town. The cub scouts toured our building, looked at artifacts and heard some interesting historical facts about their town.

We have had several very successful fundraisers, all of which we plan to continue: serving refreshments and lunch at Town Meeting and holding a basket auction that same day, holding several Texas Hold'em's throughout the year and the ever popular Fall Fair/ Rummage Sale on the first Saturday in October.

In the fall we were excited to launch a "Windows of Opportunity Campaign" to raise funds for the restoration of our windows. This will be an on-going endeavor over the next several years. Hopefully, matching grant money will help with this project. We gladly accept your donations all year long! Please consider helping out by purchasing a calendar, ornament, or window pane.

Plans are in the making to either reprint or print an updated version of the Fletcher History book that was published in 1976. We are also considering offering a series of ornaments. Let us know if you would like to help on this or on any other project.

We hope to see you at our events or at our monthly meeting which is held on the third Wednesday of each month.

You can, and do, make a difference! Thank you for your support.

Submitted by,  
Pat Root, treasurer

Officers:  
Charles Tinker  
Debra Tilton  
Sharon Tinker  
Pat Root  
Barry Doolan  
Ronald Newfield  
Becky Neapolitano

Fletcher Historical Society					
Financial Report for 2012					
The General Fund					
Balance as of January 1, 2012					\$10,378.94
Income:					
	Rentals			\$1,910.00	
	Memberships			\$400.00	
	Town vote donation			\$3,000.00	
	2012 calendars			\$216.00	
	Town Meeting lunch/refreshments			\$406.00	
	Basket auction			\$500.00	
	Texas Hold'em			\$1,842.85	
	Fall Foliage Fair/Rummage Sale			\$1,934.00	
			TOTAL	\$10,208.85	\$10,208.85
Distributions:					
	Snow removal/Lawn care			\$650.00	
	Fuel oil			\$2,825.06	
	Electricity			\$488.56	
	Supplies			\$99.48	
	Rubbish removal			\$18.00	
	VT Historical Society dues			\$50.00	
	Postage/ Office			\$31.17	
	School Program			\$193.36	
	Insurance			\$4,089.00	
	Repairs			\$577.72	
	Capital Improvements			\$6,658.74	
			TOTAL	\$15,681.09	(\$15,681.09)
Balance December 31, 2012					\$4,906.70
Windows of Opportunity Fund					
2013 calendars, ornaments, window panes and donations					
Balance December 31, 2012					\$1,471.30
submitted by Pat Root, treasurer					



## DELINQUENT TAXES-PROPERTY OWNERS

<b>2007 DELINQUENT TAXES</b>	<b>As of 12/31/12</b>
Wilson, Estate of John	
<b>TOTAL for 2007</b>	<b>\$1,607.68</b>
<b>2010 DELINQUENT TAXES</b>	
Wilson, Estate of John	
<b>TOTAL for 2010</b>	<b>\$972.08</b>
<b>2011 DELINQUENT TAXES</b>	
Blanchette, Steven	
Ellingwood, Claude	
Matzner, Ronald & Barbara	
Milaschewski, Robe & Donna	
Mossey, Eric	
Wilson, Estate of John	
<b>TOTAL for 2011</b>	<b>\$6,673.32</b>
<b>2012 DELINQUENT TAXES</b>	
Ashline, Jean	
Bebon, Brian	
Breault, Gilles	
Broe, Gary and Ann	
Daniels, Glen and Kathryn	
Duncan, Michael and Sonya	
Eaton, Alex and Sarah	
Gillilan, Patrick	
Hilborn, Jan	
Kanouse, Carrie	
Lafleur, Donald and Timothy	
Machia, Roberta	
Matzner, Ronald and Barbara	
McMaster, Daniel and Catherine	
Milaschewski, Robe and Donna	
Mock, Diane	
Mossey, Eric	
Oleson, W. and Maestas, M.	
Phillips, K and Vincelette, L.	
Rickert, William and Cynthia Rogers	
Sweet, Randall and Dorothy	
Tinker, Charles Jr. and Nicholle	
Willette, Brian and Claire	
Wilson, Estate of John	
Sizen, Shane	
<b>TOTAL for 2012</b>	<b>\$49,442.40</b>
<b>Total of all Delinquent Taxes</b>	<b>\$58,695.48</b>

## GENERAL TOWN WAGE SCALE 2012

Position	Pay Scale	Pay Rate
Animal Control Officer	Per month	\$100.00
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Per hour	\$13.00
Auditors	Per hour	\$13.00
Civil Board	Per meeting	\$10.00
Civil Board-Appeals	Per hour	\$10.00
Civil Board-Town Business	Per day	\$25.00
Constable	Per month	\$100.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	% of Taxes Collected	8%
DRB File/Data Clerk/Zoning Clerk	Per hour	\$10.00 - \$13.00
Election Official	Per day	\$25.00
Health Officer	Per inspection	\$13.00
Lister	Per hour – 1 <sup>st</sup> year	\$10.00
Lister	Per hour – 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	\$13.00
Mileage Reimbursement	Per mile	\$0.555
Road Commissioner	Per year	\$500.00
Road Crew – full time	Per hour	\$16.75
Road Foreman	Per hour	\$17.25
Road Labor	Per hour	\$16.25
Select Board Clerk	Per year	\$500.00
Select Board-All Members	Per year	\$600.00
Select Board-Town Business	Per day	\$15.00
Town Clerk & Treasurer	Per week	\$718.42
Zoning Administrator	Per hour	\$15.75

## TOWN EMPLOYEES 2012 SUMMARY OF GROSS WAGES

Ashby, Keller	1,125.00
Baris, Lars	25.00
Blaisdell, Bradford T.	15,226.64
Bondy, Jon	625.00
Desroches, Kenneth C	73.13
Dreher, Roger	25.00
Ferguson, H. Carlton	8,690.50
Ferguson, Susan	625.00
Fletcher, Fred	7,049.27
Hilborn, Jan F.	25.00
Holmes-Henry, Ellen	75.00
Holmes-Henry, Kevin	58.50
Jewell, Sybil G.	1,933.50
Jutras Sr., Joseph R.	8,348.47
Kabus, Thomas	28,285.53
Kane, Shana	57.85
Kinsley, Leon A.	18,273.19
Lavallee, John	25.00
Lynch, Deb	25.00
Pritsky, N. Todd	650.00
Rainville, Norman P.	44,603.40
Rathbun, Maurice	4,362.77
Richards, Amanda	745.00
Riggs, Terry	1,125.00
Russell, Rick	25.00
Sargent, Alex	786.50
Spaulding, Sandra A.	9,940.00
Stygles, William	2,475.00
Sweet, Elaine C.	38,629.84
Sweet, Karrie A.	1,794.00
Tinker, Charles	4,178.50
<b>TOTAL OF GROSS WAGES PAID</b>	<b>\$199,886.59</b>

## VITAL STATISTICS 2012

### MARRIAGES

<b>Name</b>	<b>Residence</b>
Susan L. Ainsworth	Fletcher, VT
Matthew J. Sweet	Fletcher, VT
Amanda S. Hall	Fletcher, VT
Lewis D. Richards	Fletcher, VT
Cynthia L. Rogers	Fletcher, VT
William J. Rickert	Fletcher, VT
Kristan B. Paquette	Fletcher, VT
Terry L. Gaudette	Fletcher, VT
Crystal L. McCray	Fletcher, VT
Charles I. Hagar Jr.	Fletcher, VT
Jennifer Bradford	Underhill, VT
Thomas P. Mitchell	Fletcher, VT

### DEATHS

#### **Name**

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Geneva S. Seres

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Elizabeth Wilson

---

Catherine A. Sweet

---

Anthony M. Gomez

---

Marion M. Schibi

---

William H. Cootware

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BIRTHS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Parents</b>
Matthew C Ryan, Jr.	Kelly M. Gillilan Matthew C. Ryan, Sr.
April R. Bunker	Romona E. Bunker John A. Bunker
William M Nadeau, Jr.	Jennifer L. Nadeau William M. Nadeau, Sr.
Kolby S. Bishop	Corrina A. Bishop Shawn R. Bishop
Sebastian X Mendoza McCormick	Cielo M. Mendoza Richard E. McCormick
Castille V. Simoneau	Sereena G. Simoneau Brent W. Simoneau
Sadie C.M. Pritsky	Ericka R. Garstka N. Todd Pritsky
Mia E. Ryan	Carrie A. Ryan Travis Ryan
Connor D. Macaulay	Danielle L. Macaulay Duncan M. Macaulay
Michael C. Long	Lindsay S. Cary Michael C. Long III
Aila L. Hunt	Samantha L. Sweet Kenneth L. Hunt
Asher J. Osborn	Allyson L. Osborn James W. Osborn
Anna M. Marsh	Ashley M. Marsh Ryan L. Marsh

**DOG AND DOMESTIC PET ORDINANCE**  
**Summary-Adopted September 20, 2004**

NO PERSON SHALL PERMIT A DOMESTIC PET OWNED BY THEM OR UNDER THEIR KEEPING OR CONTROL TO RUN AT LARGE WITHIN THE TOWN OF FLETCHER.

No person shall keep or harbor a domestic pet, which by frequent or habitual barking, howling or yelping, or in any other manner, disturbs the peace. On complaint by any citizen of the Town of Fletcher, our Animal Control Officer will pick up any pet, which becomes a nuisance. The owner will be notified at once and will be liable for all expenses, including care of the animal, the Animal Control Officer fee, and any other expenses incurred.

Any pet left more than ten (10) days after proper notification will be disposed of by proper means.

Any dog picked up without a license tag will be kept no longer than necessary to make a reasonable effort to find the owner. The dog will then be disposed of.

A rabies vaccination is necessary for dogs 6 months or older and must have a Fletcher dog license. For further information refer to the Town of Fletcher Dog Ordinance.

**DOG LICENSE FEES**

License fees are due and payable at the Town Clerk's office on or before April 1 of each year. The rabies certificates are required as well as documentation of spay or neutering at the time of licensing. The fees are \$12.00 for regular and \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs. A late fee applies after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT**

Johnny Cash had his reasons for wearing black. If you walk, run or bike, day or night, on the town roads, there are plenty of reasons not to wear black. The main reason is drivers of trucks and cars are more apt to miss you if you are wearing something bright.

I no longer inspect septic installations. If you have work done on your septic or install another, I recommend you take pictures.

Respectfully submitted,  
H. Carlton Ferguson

## GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

### U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D)  
Washington Office: 433 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Tel: 202-224-4242

U.S. Senator Bernard Sanders (I)  
SCR-2 United States Senate  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Tel: 202-224-5141

Burlington Office:  
199 Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Burlington, Vermont 05401  
Tel: 802-863-2525  
Email: [senator\\_leahy@leahy.senate.gov](mailto:senator_leahy@leahy.senate.gov)

1 Church Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Burlington, Vermont 05401-4451  
Tel: 802-862-0697  
<http://sanders.senate.gov>

### Representative Peter Welch (D)

Washington Office: 1404 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20575  
Tel: 202-225-4115

Burlington Office: 30 Main Street, Ste. 350  
Burlington, Vermont 05401  
Tel: 888-605-7270  
[www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep)

### GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

Peter Shumlin  
109 State Street Pavilion  
Montpelier, Vermont 05609  
Tel: 802-828-3333 or 800-649-6825

### GOVERNORS INFORMATION & REFERRAL

800-649-6825

### FRANKLIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Don Collins (Senator)  
23 Broadway Street  
Swanton, Vermont 05488  
Tel: 802-868-7975  
Email: [dcollins@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:dcollins@leg.state.vt.us)

Norm Mcallister (Senator)  
E. Highgate Road  
Frankline, Vermont 05457  
Tel: 802-285-6363  
Email: [nmcallister@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:nmcallister@leg.state.vt.us)

Dan Connor (Representative)  
4367 Route 36  
Fairfield, Vermont 05455  
Tel: 802-578-3014  
Email: [dconnor@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:dconnor@leg.state.vt.us)

## **Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District Report**

The Northwest Solid Waste District's (NWSWD) mission is to provide for the efficient, economical, and environmentally-sound disposal and reduction of solid waste. In 2012 the NWSWD worked hard to make our operations more convenient, consistent, and cost effective for District residents. Highlights of this year's activities and accomplishments include:

- The opening of a new drop-off point for household trash, bulky trash, and all recyclables at our Georgia Recycling Center
- The opening of a permanent seasonal Household Hazardous Waste Collection site at our Georgia Recycling Center
- Improved operations at District drop-off centers including: cash registers, improved traffic patterns, uniform procedures
- Increased operations and material processing at the District's Georgia Recycling Facility
- Free recycling of televisions, computers, printers, and other e-waste
- Expanded food scrap collection and composting through our Close the Loop program
- Creation of new recycling programs for maple sap tubing, plastic bags, and clothing
- Continued investigation and enforcement of illegal dumping and burning of trash in the District

This update provides a brief overview of the District's work on behalf of Northwest Vermont residents. More information can be found in our Annual Report, which can be accessed on our website [www.nwswd.org](http://www.nwswd.org). Questions, comments and suggestions may be directed to District staff at (802) 524-5986.

### **NWSWD By the Numbers**

Overall in 2012, District communities generated a total of 28,394 tons of waste material. After recycling, reuse and composting, the average District resident generated 3.85 pounds of waste per day.

In the NWSWD, six District run recycling Drop-off sites (Georgia, Montgomery, Bakersfield, Fletcher, St. Albans and North Hero), two town run sites (Alburgh and Grand-Isle), and mandatory curbside recycling for haulers, allows for easy access to recycling for all residents. In 2012 District operated sites and events disposed of 698.8 tons of trash and processed 646.8 tons of recyclables, setting the diversion rate for District services at 48%. All of this effort meant that NWSWD residents and business recycled a grand total of more than 2,230 tons of material. The specific amounts of materials from District communities that were successfully diverted from our landfills in 2012 include:



- 16,791 pounds of hazardous waste
- 117 Freon containing appliances
- 118,273 pounds of scrap metal
- 3,119 propane tanks
- 4,279 pounds of batteries
- 857 tires
- 1,000 gallons of liquid latex paint
- 278,732 pounds of organic material
- 23,338 pound of maple sap tubing
- 25,000+ pound of clothing & goods reused
- 308 tons of household recyclables
- 155,813 pounds of e-waste (electronics)

As the Fletcher representative to the District Board of Supervisors, I am available to discuss District activities with Fletcher residents. I can be reached through the District office (524-5986), or at home (849-2260).

David Clark

**FIRE WARDEN REPORT**  
**NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION TOWN**

**SECTION 7076 AND 7077 OF THE VERMONT STATUTES REVISION OF 1947,  
AS AMENDED REQUIRED THAT:**

Fires kindled for the purpose of burning brush or for other lawful purpose shall be kindled only at such times and such conditions as will enable the parties starting them to keep them entirely under control. Except as provided in this section, a person shall not kindle or authorize another to kindle a fire in the open air for the purpose of burning brush, weeds, or grass, except where there is snow on the site, without first obtaining permission from the fire warden or deputy warden of the town, stating when and where such fire may be kindled. Whenever such permission is granted, such warden or state forester or his deputy, within twelve hours, shall issue a written permit for record purposes stating when and where such fire may be kindled. Such permission shall not be required for the kindling of a fire in a location, which is two hundred feet or more from any woodland, timberland or field containing **DRY GRASS** or other inflammable plant material contiguous to woodland. A person who violated a provision of the section shall be fined not more than \$200.00 or imprisoned not more than six months or both. Whenever the State Forester shall deem that the public safety of any town or portion of a town or this State does not require the protection provided in this section, he may cause the Town fire warden of any such town to post fire notices to that effect in not less than five conspicuous places. The provisions of this section will not apply whenever (1) such notices have been posted nor (2) to fires built in stone arches at the state recreational area; nor (3) to fires built in containers, used for burning brush, weeds or grass when conditions are deemed satisfactory to the town fire warden; nor (4) to areas within cities or villages maintaining a fire department.

Justices of the Peace shall have concurrent jurisdiction with municipal and county courts of offenses committed in violation of the provisions of this section.

The State Forester may, with the written approval of the fire governor, during periods of extreme fire hazards, notify town fire wardens that for a special period no brush burning permits shall be issued. The wardens shall not issue permits during the specified period.

**Richard Russell**

Fire Warden

802-849-6875 or 802-782-5942

**Steven J. Sinclair**

Director of Forests

802-241-3680



**Fairfax Rescue**  
**P.O. Box 428**  
**Fairfax, Vermont 05454**  
**802-849-2773**

Dear Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to take you through some of changes that have been going on with your local rescue squad. In addition to our normal 24 X 7 service to our communities we have begun the construction of our new rescue facility that is planned to be completed in the early part of 2013. This comes at a good time as the facility that we have been housed in for many years is no longer large enough to support the demands of both Fire and Rescue. The new rescue facility was designed to meet the needs of our community for the next 50+ years. We were very fortuitous to find a developer that would work with us to build a half million dollar facility for about \$280,000.00. This “discount” was made possible by use of our 501c3 tax status, several generous donations from area businesses and the support of our elected town officials. That being said the building will cause us to have a modest increase in our expenses for the next 20 years or less, but we would be hard pressed to find a better opportunity.

Fairfax Rescue, in addition to the building project is aggressively working to accrue funds to purchase a new ambulance. In an effort to keep the cost of services down, and deal with budget shortfalls we have been neglecting to fund the ambulance replacement fund for several years. With a carry over from last year’s delay in the starting of the building we now have some funds set aside towards the replacement of our 1999 Ambulance. The time frame for replacement is 4 to 5 years.

Unfortunately there is also an immediate need to upgrade our Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) equipment to the new standard of 12 lead EKG’s. We are one of the last squads in the region to get this new life saving technology. Our hope is that it will be funded through a federal grant, but if not we feel it is critical to get at least one of these devices on an ambulance. The units new are about \$20,000.00 each. We are considering factory reconditioned units at \$6,000.00 ea. These provide a detailed electrical scan of the patient’s heart that can be radioed to the receiving hospital to allow treatment decisions to start ahead of the patient’s arrival.

This year we have adopted a per capita rate for our services. This is the common practice for most neighboring agencies and our hope is this will help us maintain a more stable budget has time goes on. In the past we have seen the budget request range from \$2,000.00 to \$72,000.00 due to how we calculated our budget. Our goal is to maintain the same level of service at the current rate with only marginal increases as needed to the per capital rate. We have the lowest per capita cost in the county thanks to the large number of volunteers that serve on the squad.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about our E-911 sign program. If you’re not familiar with it, for about \$15.00 you can have a E-911 address sign installed at your residence in Fairfax, Fletcher, or Westford. I’ve had the opportunity to use them on several calls and they are huge time saver, especially when seconds count. You can call our office at 849-2773 if you’d like more information on the signs or any other rescue matters or you can also visit our website at: <http://fairfaxrescue.org/wp/>.

Lastly, I’d like to publicly thank the dedicated volunteers of the rescue squad. Many of who give up at least a night a week to be at the ready for our neighbors in their time of need.

Thanks,

Dan Vanslette  
President, Fairfax Rescue  
EMT-I ‘03 / VT Fire Fighter II

STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
**VERMONT STATE POLICE**



St. Albans Barracks  
Post Office Box 809  
St. Albans VT 05478

January 1st, 2013

On behalf of the Vermont State Police, St. Albans Barracks, I am providing you the "2012" Vermont State Police St. Albans Barracks Annual Report for review. This report will provide you information reference current staffing issues, detail the specialty services provided by the Troopers assigned to the St. Albans Barracks and our annual crime statistics. Please review this document and if appropriate, include this information in your town's annual report prior to town meeting day. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

#### St. Albans Barracks Mission Statement

*The mission of the Vermont State Police St. Albans Barracks is to protect the citizens of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. Each Trooper will dedicate themselves to this community caretaking mission. We will reduce crime and enforce the laws of our roadways with a two pronged approach of intensive criminal interdiction along with an aggressive highway safety enforcement program.*

- *Criminal interdiction and investigation – The St. Albans Barracks will make every attempt to interdict crime before it makes its way into our jurisdiction. We will accomplish this goal through an extensive intelligence network that will allow us to stay in touch with the communities that we serve and by sharing investigative information with our local, county, state and federal law enforcement partners. We will aggressively pursue those that distribute drugs to our citizens and we will pursue those that commit violent crimes in our area and will bring the weight of the Barracks to bear on these types of investigations.*
- *Highway Safety Enforcement Programs – Through an aggressive motor vehicle enforcement program, our Troopers will seek out and arrest those individuals that choose to drink and drive on our highways. We will coordinate our efforts with other highway safety resources in an effort to target specific problem areas and make our presence known on the roadways. Along with this, our Troopers will*

*take advantage of every motor vehicle contact to look beyond the traffic stop in an effort to identify criminal activity as it traverses our highways.*

### Specialty Services Provided by the Troopers Assigned to the St. Albans Barracks

In addition to their road responsibilities, many of the Troopers assigned to the St. Albans Barracks are members of special response teams that provide expert response capabilities in a variety of areas. It should be noted that these duties are considered (additional duties) that fall above and beyond the Troopers daily response activities. Many of these Troopers are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are capable of responding anywhere in the state or throughout New England when their services are needed. The break down of these resources is as follows:

#### 3– Troopers on the Tactical Services Unit (SWAT Team)

1 – Trooper on the SCUBA Team

1 – Trooper on the Search and Rescue Team

1 -- Trooper assigned a K-9

1-- Trooper on the Crash Reconstruction Team

2-- Troopers trained as Drug Recognition Experts

2-- Troopers on the Crime Scene Search Team

### Highway Safety Highlights

In keeping with the Field Force Mission Statement, it has been the intent of the Barracks during this last year to deter and prevent motor vehicle violations through an aggressive motor vehicle enforcement campaign. Working with our county and local law enforcement partners and the State Police Traffic Safety Unit, we successfully reduced the number of property damage accidents this year from 235 in 2011 to 178 in 2012. Motor vehicle accidents with injury were down significantly, from 119 in 2011 to 61 in 2012 . We have continued to be aggressive with road patrols, with 1283 tickets written and 2622 warnings issued in 2012. Finally, we were successful in arresting 88 intoxicated drivers in 2012.

Fatal motor vehicle accidents in 2012 totaled five in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties, up one from 2011. We will continue to make an aggressive motor vehicle campaign a priority in the coming year.

## ANNUAL CRIME STATISTICS FOR ST. ALBANS BARRACKS

Total cases investigated:	6,020
Total arrests:	542
Total tickets issued:	1,283
Total warnings issued:	2,622
Fatal Accidents Investigated:	5
Burglaries Investigated:	196
DUI's	88

Local Community Report: Fletcher

Total Cases:	109
Total Arrests:	8
DUI's	2
Accidents w/ Damage	1
Accidents w/ Injury	1
Vandalisms:	5
Alarms	1
Burglaries	8

Summary: It has been another good year for the Barracks and we hope to continue our partnerships and cooperation with our local communities in our collective goals of making our highways and communities safe for all those who live in and visit Franklin and Grand Isle Counties.

As of 1/13/13 I have been transferred to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to oversee the detectives in our A-Troop (St. Albans, Williston & Middlesex) stations. The new Station Commander here in St. Albans will be Lt. John Flannigan. It has been a pleasure to serve and continue to serve the citizens of your community.

Lt. Thomas R. Hango  
Station Commander  
St. Albans Barracks

## **ADDITIONAL REPORTS AVAILABLE**

The following Agencies have reports available at the Town Clerk's Office:

- Franklin County Home Health Agency
- Northern Vermont Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Vermont Center for Independent Living
- Vermont Department of Health
- Voices Against Violence

# SUMMARY OF FLETCHER BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

## MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2012

- Art. 1: Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order.**  
**Art. 1. Passed.**
- Art. 2: To elect a Moderator for School District Annual Meeting.**  
Barry Doolan elected.
- Art. 3: To elect a Clerk for the School District Annual Meeting.**  
Diane Dayvie elected.
- Art. 4: To hear and act on reports of School Directors' from previous year.**  
Discussion: Tom Kalinoski asked why there are multiple school accounts. The building use fund holds revenue from building use and has been used to fund activities such as the ski program. The capital improvement fund uses a portion of budget surpluses toward future building needs (up to 50% of surplus authorized to go into fund, 2007 meeting).  
**Art. 4. Passed and reports approved.**
- Art. 5: To elect by ballot a School Director for a three-year term.**  
Tom Kalinoski was elected as School Director.
- Art. 6: To elect by ballot a School Director for a three-year term.**  
Todd Baumeister was elected as School Director
- Art. 7: Shall Fletcher School District spend a sum of money necessary for the support of the public schools?**  
Discussion: Betsy Lesnikoski presented the proposed budget of \$2,921,252. There was much discussion regarding proposed costs in Compensatory Education of \$30,000. Jasmine Tremblay proposed amendment to budget for additional \$35,000; seconded by Nancy Cardinal.  
Amended budget of \$2,956,252 was approved.
- Art. 8: To conduct any other business that may come to the meeting.**  
Passed.
- Art. 9: To adjourn.**  
Passed.



## PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

We are pleased to present the following school report to the citizens of Fletcher. The mission at Fletcher Elementary School is to provide opportunities for students to acquire and use knowledge, problem solve and communicate effectively. Each and every day, dedicated staff and enthusiastic children strive to achieve our goals of high performance and equity as we continue to develop a digital learning culture. The following chart represents Fletcher's current school population of 139 students:

Pre-K	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
15	27	18	17	18	19	15	10

The number of full time core staff remains relatively the same with several increases planned for 2013-2014 in order to meet the current needs of the school. This includes increasing our overall Comp Ed services by .15FTE, adding one 1.0FTE classroom teacher and moving a .4FTE teaching position from grant to the general fund.

At the time of this report writing, the 2011-2012 New England Common Assessment (NECAP) results indicate that 77% of Fletcher students in grades 3-6 are proficient in reading and 60% are proficient in mathematics. Science NECAP results show that Fletcher students in fourth grade equaled the state average for Proficiency and the average scaled score for students exceeded the state average. This data does not reflect all grade levels or recent local assessment trends, which indicate that overall student performance is increasing. This can be attributed to the faculty and administration's promise to consistently respond to those students who require targeted interventions and differentiated instruction.

Professional development for faculty and staff include district-wide Vertical Team In-service days whose focus has been on looking at student work and the development of local common assessments. Other important teacher training this past year includes preparing teachers for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSS). The purpose of the Common Core, a standards-based education reform throughout the nation, is to provide a consistent and clear understanding of what students need to know and are expected to learn so they can be successful. Faculty and staff meet weekly in grade level teams and monthly to discuss current trends, analyze data, formulate learning profiles of our students and develop common understandings and language to inform their planning and instruction.

There have been several changes to school programming this year that have provided students with increased learning opportunities. A Reading and Writing Workshop Model (RWW) was adopted during literacy instruction. This model allows teachers to further differentiate reading instruction based on each student's needs in his/her development as a reader. Benefits of the RWW include time for students to apply strategies and skills to new material through guided practice and increased opportunities for flexible grouping. New opportunities for students this year include the formation of a school-wide choral group, access to iPads in every classroom, and project based learning activities embedded within each curriculum.

The Fletcher Elementary School 1:1 iPad Initiative is in its second year of successful implementation in the fifth and sixth grade. The iPad Initiative provides the digital age learner with opportunities to engage in interactive educational applications within the construct of their own learning. This year, our fifth and sixth graders are able to take home their devices to extend learning beyond the classroom.

There have been various projects that have been completed to improve/add to our facility and grounds. These include the installation of new playground equipment and fence, upgrading kitchen equipment (stove and warmer), and the painting of the front lobby. Many thanks to Tod Granger, Facilities Director for Franklin West Supervisory Union for leading the way on these projects and for supporting Fletcher when needed.

We wish to recognize Librologist Emily Diguilio who received a Vermont Outstanding Teacher Award this year and classroom teachers Jenny Blackman and Nancy Hurt, who presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in Atlanta. Thanks to Aimee Tinker and Chassidy King for leading our Playground Committee, Lara Weis and Karrie Sweet for coordinating our Winter Wellness Program and to Tara Sweet and FOFE for their support throughout the year.

Respectfully,

Janet E. Cerro, Principal  
Elizabeth Lesnikoski, Board Chairperson

## FLETCHER ELEMENTARY ASSETS & LIABILITIES

### CURRENT ASSETS as of 12/31/12

Balances:

Peoples United Operating Account	\$0
Union Bank Operating Account	\$1,463,760.57
Union Bank Now Account	\$1,502.39
Citizens Bank Building Use Fund	\$6,921.73
NEFCU Capital Improvement Fund	\$146,571.94
Union Bank Lunch Account	\$11,294.26
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$1,630,050.89</b>

Interest:

Peoples United Operating Account	\$15.70
Union Bank Operating Account	\$458.90
Union Bank Now Account	\$980.96
Citizens Bank Building Use Fund	\$439.00
NEFCU Capital Improvement Fund	\$574.55
Union Bank Lunch Account	\$29.26
<b>Total Interest:</b>	<b>\$2498.37</b>

## FLETCHER SCHOOL BUILDING USE FUND

**Citizens Bank Balance as of 01/01/12** **\$9,452.53**

Income:

Basketball, Volleyball, Etc.	\$950.00
Sale of Kitchen Stove	\$700.00
Interest Income	\$4.39
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$1654.39</b>

Expenses:

Rental Deposit Refunds and Custodian Fee	\$574.69
Misc. Expenses	\$150.00
Warming Cabinet for Kitchen	\$2,000.00
Playground Equipment	\$1,460.50
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$4,185.19</b>

**Citizens Bank Balance as of 12/31/12** **\$6,921.73**

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

<b>Balance as of December 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$65,943.80</b>
Income:	
50% Budget Surplus (multiple years)*	\$93,646.59
Interest	\$574.55
Total Income:	\$94,221.14
Expenses:	
Playground Fence/Gate	\$4,340.00
Telephone System	\$9,253.00
Total Expenses:	\$13,593.00
<b>Balance as of 12/31/12</b>	<b>\$146,571.94</b>

\*In 2007, voters authorized 50% of any surplus funds to be deposited in the Capital Improvement Fund, not to exceed 5% of that year's budget, and any remaining surplus to be used as revenue in the next fiscal year.

## FLETCHER SCHOOL HOT LUNCH ACCOUNT

<b>Balance as of December 31, 2011</b>	<b>\$8,581.36</b>
Income:	
Lunch Sales.	\$24,311.55
State of Vermont Reimbursement	\$22,665.79
Interest	\$29.26
Total Income:	\$47,006.60
Expenses:	
Abbey Group	\$43,928.66
Checks/Deposit Slips	\$117.74
Total Expenses:	\$44,046.40
<b>Balance as of 12/31/12</b>	<b>\$11,541.56</b>

**FLETCHER ELEMENTARY SALARIES  
FACULTY AND STAFF  
FOR THE PERIOD 07/01/201 – 06/30/2012**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Blackman, Jennifer	Kindergarten Teacher	\$47,430
Briggs, Beverly	5/6 Teacher	\$57,254
Cerro, Janet E.	Principal	\$83,569
Chisholm, Debra	Guidance Counselor	\$24,235
DiGiulio, Emily	Librologist	\$45,314
Dreher, Roger	Paraprofessional	\$14,762
Godin, Tracey	3/4 Teacher	\$46,665
Goodman, Linda	Nurse	\$14,788
Grundhauser, Joan	Paraprofessional	\$12,845
Guyette, Charles	Art Teacher	\$22,964
Hogan, Kathy	Speech/Language Teacher	\$36,759
Hurt, Nancy	Preschool Teacher	\$41,630
Lemay, Kathryn	Paraprofessional	\$13,599
Locke, Denette	1/2 Teacher	\$47,665
Maynard, Christina	Music Teacher	\$8,836
Metayer, Chelsea	EEE Consulting Teacher	\$7,344
O'Brien, Cathy	1/2 Teacher	\$51,755
Osborne, Joann	Remedial Teacher	\$48,654
Palermo, Lorrene	3/4 Teacher	\$45,370
Pidgeon, Gary	Custodian	\$9,702
Pidgeon Jr., Gary	Custodian	\$1,829
Pidgeon, Tammy	Paraprofessional	\$15,441
Raymond, Sandra	Custodian	\$12,649
Sargent-Minor, Melissa	Special Education Teacher	\$48,430
Sheldon, Joanne	Administrative Assistant	\$13,801
Steves, Julie	Remedial Teacher	\$45,829
Sweet, Corrie	5/6 Teacher	\$51,643
Tinker, Sharon	Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper	\$40,338
Weis, Lara	Preschool Paraprofessional	\$15,260
Young, Douglas	P.E. Teacher	\$17,976
<b>HOURLY WAGE SCALE</b>		
Administrative Assistant		\$12.38 - \$20.41
Bookkeeper		\$20.41
Office Assistant		\$12.14
Custodian		\$9.50-\$15.14
Paraprofessional		\$11.09 - \$12.59
Substitute		\$70.00 per day

**PROJECTED STUDENT ENROLLMENT  
FLETCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>2011 - 2012 (as of 1/18/12)</b>	<b>2012 - 2013 (as of 1/31/13)</b>	<b>2013-2014 (projected)</b>
Pre-School	26	15*	20*
Kindergarten	19	27	15
Grade One	15	18	27
Grade Two	18	17	18
Grade Three	18	18	17
Grade Four	15	19	18
Grade Five	10	15	19
Grade Six	9	10	15
Grade Seven	19	10	10
Grade Eight	16	18	10
Grade Nine	16	15	18
Grade Ten	17	15	15
Grade Eleven	14	15	15
Grade Twelve	22.19**	13	15
<b>Total Elementary</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Total Middle &amp; High School</b>	<b>104.19**</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>234.19**</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>212</b>

\*We can only accommodate 10 – 3 year-olds and 20 – 4 year-olds in our program. Historically, several 3 & 4 year-olds who have not attended preschool will enroll in kindergarten. Therefore, the 2010-2011 enrollment is our best estimate.

\*\*Costs associated with homeschool students who enroll in classes at public schools. Future years' reporting will be rounded.

**SECONDARY TUITION RATES  
(Grades 7 through 12)  
07/01/2011 – 06/30/2012**

BFA Fairfax	\$10,750
BFA St. Albans	\$13,350
Burlington Tech	\$14,700
Essex Technical Center	\$14,735
Mt. Mansfield	\$10,798
Northwest Technical Center	\$11,923
<b>State Average – Secondary</b>	<b>\$12,035</b>

**FLETCHER SCHOOL BUDGET**  
DISTRICT REVENUE PROPOSAL  
2013 - 2014  
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FLETCHER SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPENDITURE SUMMARY  
2013 – 2014  
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FLETCHER SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPENDITURE PROPOSAL  
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DOE THREE YEAR COMPARISON - FLETCHER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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COMPARATIVE DATA FOR COST-EFFECTIVENESS -  
FLETCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
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**FWSU SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 2013**

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**FWSU BUDGET FY-2013**

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## FWSU SALARIES

Fiscal Year  
7/1/2011 - 6/30/2012

Anderson, Cathy	Payroll Specialist	8,608	
Barden, Beth	Nurse Assistant	2,907	
Billado, Sally	PATH Coordinator	1,000	
Cornett, Kimberlee	Grant Specialist	35,114	
Delabruere, Lucie	Digital Learning Specialist	65,332	*
Douglas, Michelle	Accounting Clerk	6,407	
Dreher, Roger	Computer Technician	5,919	
Dunn, Ann	Director of Technology	946	
Fisher, Adrienne	Director of Student Support	95,301	*
Fitzgerald, Mary	Math Teacher Leader	67,192	
Frechette, Carol	Compensatory Reading Teacher	67,872	
Gagne, Sylvia	Computer Technician	50,457	*
Granger, Candy	Payroll Specialist/HR Generalist	52,484	*
Granger, Tod	Director of Plant Operations	61,353	
Graves, Carol	Computer Technician	520	
Hall, Brenda	Vocational Liaison	26,573	
Hartshorn, Nicholas	Payroll Specialist	268	
Hill, Janet	Custodian/Painter	787	
Kirsch, Norman	Superintendent	109,235	
LaPine, Mary Ellen	Student Support Clerk	10,172	
Mortenson, Arik	Data Specialist	35,725	
O'Connor, Carol	HR General	17,776	
Picard, Melinda	Accounting Clerk/HR Generalist	5,120	
Riggs, MaryLynn	Director of Curriculum	83,935	*
Riley, Nancy	Consulting Teacher	71,652	*
Sealy, Christine	Teacher for English Language Learners	10,637	
Smith, Jeffrey	Computer Technician	43,331	
Sumner, Christine	Business Manager	95,012	*
Sumner, Rebecca	HR Clerk	338	
Tinker, Sharon	Bookkeeper	2,459	
Wheel, Natasha	Executive Assistant	40,817	
Yandow, Cheryl	Student Support Clerk	10,172	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,085,421</b>	

\*Includes insurance buyouts