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VILLAGE OF
NORTH BENNINGTON
VERMONT

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE VILLAGE OFFICERS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011

<http://www.northbennington.org/>

This years Annual Report is dedicated to the students in our area that have helped, and continue to help, The Village of North Bennington in its efforts to improve our parks and recreation facilities.

First, we would like to recognize the elementary, middle school, and high school that helped research, design, fundraise, and construct The Norshaft Lions Community Park. They have worked very hard for over five years now and continue to volunteer their time toward the completion of what has been a true community project that has become a wonderful asset to the village.

Secondly, we would like to recognize the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center students, under the leadership of David Dense, which helped to start the renovation project at McWaters Park. Their time and equipment came at no expense to the village. We are very fortunate to have such an amazing program available to our community. We hope to continue this relationship with future village projects.

Thank you to all of the youth of our community that helped with these two projects. You are real assets to The Village of North Bennington and you are truly appreciated!

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 North Bennington Graded School in said village on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 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 two trustees for two years, one trustee for one year.
- 4) To discuss any other business found proper when met.

Lorine Elwell
Village of North Bennington
January 2011

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, 2010 and 2009 amounted to \$8,127 and \$7,127, respectively.

(6) Subsequent Events

The Water Fund has evaluated subsequent events through February 8, 2011, the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued. There were no reportable subsequent events.

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Village Officers and Employees

WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Notes to Financial Statements

Moderator			John Ulrich
Treasurer			Gail Mauricette
Village Clerk			Lori Elwell
Trustees:			
2 year term expires 2012			Mark Boudreau
2 year term expires 2012			David Monks, Vice Chair
1 year term expires 2011			Janice Lerrigo
2 year term expires 2011			James Johnson
2 year term expires 2011			Matthew Patterson, Chair
Highway Department:			Normand Leblanc Jarod Lauzon
Water Department:			Jerry Elwell Ted Fela
Water Board Members:			
Term Expires	October	2015	Steve Goodrich, Chair
Term Expires	October	2011	Arla Sampsell
Term Expires	October	2012	Joe Hermann
Term Expires	October	2013	James Johnson
Term Expires	October	2014	Larry Powers, Vice Chair
Chief of Fire Department			Ed Myers
Zoning Administrator			Daniel Taub
Delinquent Tax Collector			Patricia Waters
Village Auditors:			Joe Russell James Morin Ray Mullineaux
Planning Commission Members:			
Term Expires	April	2012	Matthew Patterson
Term Expires	April	2012	Martin Cummings
Term Expires	April	2013	Robert Howe, Vice Chair

(3) Capital Assets

Capital assets consisted of the following:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
Land	\$ 88,650	-	-	88,650
Buildings and improvements	9,377	-	-	9,377
Equipment	87,497	6,893	-	94,390
Water meter system	61,490	-	-	61,490
Water lines	72,826	-	-	72,826
Water filtration plant	2,046,261	-	-	2,046,261
Totals at historical cost	2,366,101	6,893	-	2,372,994
Accumulated depreciation	(1,952,514)	(113,891)	-	(2,066,405)
	\$ 413,587	(106,998)	-	306,589

(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	\$ 559,284	-	50,000	509,284	50,000
Deferred bond reduction	40,716	-	-	40,716	-
	\$ 600,000	-	50,000	550,000	50,000

Reductions in general obligation bonds represent a current year principal payment of \$50,000 and a reduction due to refunding in future years of \$40,716.

Debt service requirements are as follows:

	Principal	Interest	Total
2011	\$ 50,000	37,875	87,875
2012	50,000	34,375	84,375
2013	50,000	30,938	80,938
2014	50,000	23,970	73,970
2015	50,000	20,539	70,539
2016-2020	233,408	26,891	260,299
2021	25,876	-	25,876
Total	\$ 509,284	174,588	683,872

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

(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 \$475,246 at December 31, 2010 with a corresponding bank balance of \$476,139.

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. Of the balance, \$474,756 was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and \$1,383 was uninsured and uncollateralized.

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.

Term Expires	April	2013
Term Expires	April	2011

Dan Taub
Rachel Schumacher, Chair

Development Review Board Members:

Term Expires	April	2011
Term Expires	April	2012
Term Expires	April	2012
Term Expires	April	2013
Virginia Sandy		

Bruce Lierman
Martin Cummings, Chair
Kage Brower
Rachel Schumacher, Vice Chair
Alternate

Village of North Bennington
Annual Village Meeting
Tuesday, March 16, 2010 – 7:30 PM
North Bennington Graded School

Trustees & Public Officials Present – Matthew Patterson, Chair; David Monks, Vice Chair; James Johnson, Trustee; Mark Boudreau, Trustee; Janice Lerrigo, Trustee; John Ulrich, Moderator; Gail Mauricette, Treasurer; Lori Elwell, Village Clerk

Public Present - Public Present – Bob Howe, Cora May Howe, Rachel Schumacher, Bob Nolan, Flossie Nolan, Londa Weisman, Alisa DelTufo, Bernice Powers, Larry Powers, Edie Sawitsky, Allie Boudreau, Harriette Lerrigo Leidich, Ray Mullineaux, George Lerrigo, Virginia Sandy, Stephen Sandy, Jon Traver, Candy Cuthbert, David Aldrich, Tabbie Aldrich, Doris Pratt, Jeanne McWaters, Robert McWaters, Martin Cummings, Laura Boudreau, Mary Jones, Helene DelTufo, Nilu Chirchirillo, Edward W. Myers, Jr., Dawson Raspuzzi, Kim Cushman, Emily Hunter, Dan Taub, Jane Burkhardt, Seth Gabriel, Joe Russell, Michael Keane

The Annual Meeting of the Village of North Bennington was called to order at 7:30 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.

*Jeanne McWaters questioned several Zoning Violations that she has noted on Water Street. Dan Taub, Zoning Administrator, noted that these issues are currently on the April meeting agenda.

*Rachel Schumacher would like zoning to look into the Nadeau property in North Bennington, which she defined as an eyesore

- Larry Powers made a motion to approve Article One. Cora May Howe 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.

(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 Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements as well as Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements issued on or before November 30, 1989, unless those pronouncements conflict with GASB pronouncements, in which case, GASB prevails.

(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
Statements of Cash Flows - Modified Cash Basis

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>	
	2010	2009
<i>Cash flows from operating activities:</i>		
Cash received from customers	\$ 309,782	296,160
Cash paid to employees	(96,321)	(96,335)
Cash paid to suppliers	(126,352)	(110,172)
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	87,109	89,653
<i>Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:</i>		
Principal payments on notes and bonds payable	(50,000)	(50,000)
Interest paid	(41,375)	(44,875)
Purchase of property and equipment	(6,893)	(604)
<i>Net cash used in capital and related financing activities</i>	(98,268)	(95,479)
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>		
Interest on cash investments	4,159	8,953
<i>Net cash provided by investing activities</i>	4,159	8,953
<i>Net increase (decrease) in cash</i>	(7,000)	3,127
<i>Cash balance, beginning of year</i>	482,246	479,119
<i>Cash balance, end of year</i>	\$ 475,246	482,246
<i>Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:</i>		
Operating loss	\$ (26,267)	(25,267)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	113,891	114,405
Increase (decrease) in payroll withholdings	(515)	515
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	\$ 87,109	89,653

- Bob Howe asked that the budget be explained. Matthew Patterson explained how this year's budget was created and pointed out that it is a more realistic picture of what is needed and what has been spent. He continued by explaining the equipment replacement funds while Trustee Janice Lerrigo explained the unused fund balances.
- Rachel Schumacher asked how the budget would affect the tax rate. Gail Mauricette, Treasurer explained that the actual tax rate would decrease because the reappraisal is now frozen.
- Alisa DelTufo asked what the Bennington Acres Account was. Moderator John Ulrich explained how that came about with the construction of Hannaford Plaza.
- Joe Russell asked about the type of truck the highway department was purchasing. Mr. Patterson described the truck and explained the schedule of vehicle replacement. At this time Mrs. Lerrigo explained the cooperative buying program and how that has been working with the Town of Bennington.
- Bob Howe asked again for a review of the amount to be raised by taxes. Matthew Patterson explained the highway, village, school and Town of Bennington pieces to the budget.
- Ray Mullineaux asked about the timing for the new salt and sand shed. Matthew Patterson explained the restrictions for the construction of this building and gave a proposed time line for completion. Mr. Mullineaux then asked about the status of the audit.
- Gail Mauricette, Treasurer, explained the cost and the process that needs to happen to get to the point of commencing an audit.
- Rachel Schumacher stated that the cost of an audit is astronomical and a waste of taxpayer money. However, she did acknowledge with approval that the process has been started.
- Cora May Howe asked Mr. Mullineaux if he had a problem with the books. Mr. Mullineaux stated that he did not.
- Joe Russell inquired as to whether the school has an annual audit. Mr. Mullineaux replied that yes they do.
- Gail Mauricette, Treasurer, explained how and why the Water Department does their audits.
- Mr. Mullineaux explained that some of the audit information is the state of affairs but the village does have a plan.
- Mr. Howe questioned the trustees as to their control over the Water Department.
- Mrs. McWaters asked what would happen if the Water Department defaulted on their current bond? Matthew Patterson explained that the trustees would be responsible and went on to further explain the relationship between the Water Department and the Highway Department.
- Bob McWaters asked that the trustees and water boards publish their minutes.
- Larry Powers stated that the Water Board does have published minutes. He also stated that the boards will remain separate.
- Matthew Patterson answered questions about the significant water quality problems experienced in the village in recent months.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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

- Jeanne McWaters made a motion to accept and approve Article Two. This was seconded by Ray Mullineaux and so voted unanimously with no opposition or further discussion.

Article Three: To elect a Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, and three Auditors for the ensuing year; and two trustees for two years, one trustee for one year.

- 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. Laura Boudreau nominated Lori Elwell for Village Clerk. Mary Jones 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. Jeanne McWaters nominated Gail Mauricette for Village treasurer. Robert McWaters seconded this motion. There being no further nominations for Village Treasurer, a motion was made to elect Gail Mauricette 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 Patty Waters for Collector of Taxes. Jeanne McWaters seconded this motion. There being no further nominations for Collector of Taxes a motion was made to elect Patty Waters for Collector of Taxes. This was seconded and so voted with no discussion or opposition.
- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for three Auditors for the ensuing year. A nomination for Joe Russell was made and seconded, a nomination for Jim Morin was made and seconded and a nomination for Ray Mullineaux was made and seconded. There being no further nominations, a motion was made to elect Joe Russell, Jim Morin and Ray Mullineaux as Village auditors for the ensuing year. This was seconded and so voted with no opposition or further discussion.
- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for two trustees for two years. There was a nomination and a second for Mark Boudreau. There was a nomination and a second for David Monks. A motion was made to elect Mark Boudreau for trustee for two years. This was seconded and so voted. The Village Clerk cast one ballot for Mark Boudreau. A motion was made to elect David Monks as one trustee for two years. This was seconded and so voted with no discussion or opposition. The Village Clerk cast one ballot for David Monks.
- Mr. Ulrich accepted nominations for one trustee for one year. There was a nomination and a second for Janice Lerrigo for one trustee for one year. There being no further nominations, a motion was made to elect Janice Lerrigo for one year as one trustee. This was seconded and so voted with no discussion or opposition. The Village Clerk cast one ballot for Janice Lerrigo.

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>	
	2010	2009
Operating revenues:		
Fees and charges for services	\$ 309,418	296,160
Other operating revenue	364	-
Total operating revenues	309,782	296,160
Operating expenses:		
Salaries and wages	95,806	96,850
Payroll taxes and employee benefits	15,899	14,956
Bookkeeping services	6,525	6,196
Depreciation expense	113,891	114,405
General insurance	8,338	6,962
Health insurance	20,560	20,483
Heat, fuel and light	17,647	17,657
Office expenses	7,935	8,585
Operating supplies	10,001	8,740
Other operating expenses	16,831	10,847
Professional fees	5,416	6,003
Repairs and maintenance	17,200	9,743
Total operating expenses	336,049	321,427
Operating loss	(26,267)	(25,267)
Nonoperating revenues (expenses):		
Interest income	4,159	8,953
Interest expense	(41,375)	(44,875)
Total nonoperating expenses	(37,216)	(35,922)
Change in net assets	(63,483)	(61,189)
Net assets, beginning of year	295,318	356,507
Net assets, end of year	\$ 231,835	295,318

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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

	<i>December 31,</i>	
	2010	2009
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 475,246	482,246
Total current assets	475,246	482,246
Noncurrent assets:		
Capital assets:		
Land	88,650	88,650
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	217,939	324,937
Total noncurrent assets	306,589	413,587
Total assets	\$ 781,835	895,833
Liabilities		
Current liabilities:		
Payroll liabilities	\$ -	515
General obligation bonds payable	50,000	50,000
Total current liabilities	50,000	50,515
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Deferred bond reduction	40,716	40,716
General obligation bonds payable	459,284	509,284
Total noncurrent liabilities	500,000	550,000
Total liabilities	550,000	600,515
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets, net of debt	306,589	413,587
Unrestricted	(74,754)	(118,269)
Total net assets	231,835	295,318
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 781,835	895,833

Article Four: Shall the Village of North Bennington appropriate \$5,000.00 to Paran Recreations?

- Alisa DelTufo, President of Paran Recreations spoke of the many happenings at Lake Paran over the past year. Ms. DelTufo also discussed the financial status of Paran Recreations and what they hoped to accomplish with the proposed additions of funds. She also noted that the board of Paran Recreations is working hard to expand the activities at the lake to our four seasons. Mr. Mullineaux would like to know how the money was spent next year at this meeting, if in fact the appropriation was approved.
- A motion was made to appropriate \$5,000.00 to Paran Recreations. This was seconded and so voted with no opposition or discussion.

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

- Rob McWaters asked that in the future the tax rate be published. He also asked that people speak louder at meetings and he would like something done about the acoustics in the Depot Office Building.
- Joe Russell asked who takes care of sewer issues in the village. Matthew responded that the Town of Bennington could answer his questions regarding sewers.
- Alisa DelTufo stated that she feels that Bennington College should compensate the village as they don't pay property taxes. She said that the Town of Bennington will not pursue taxing them; however the Village of North Bennington will pursue taxation.
- Michael Keane asked what the estimated tax revenue from Bennington College could be.
- Matthew Patterson said that the estimated tax revenue would be around \$45,000-\$50,000.
- David Monks publicly thanked the North Bennington Fire Department for their exemplary service this past year.
- Ray Mullineaux publicly thanked the board of trustees for all of their hard work.
- Mark Boudreau announced that there would be an informational meeting of the newly formed Parks and Recreation Committee on March 29, 2010.
- A motion was made by Larry Powers to adjourn the Village of North Bennington Annual Meeting at 9:15 PM. This was seconded and so voted.

Lorine Elwell
Village Clerk
North Bennington

Village of North Bennington
Expense Report

WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
December 31, 2010

General Government	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011			Budget 2011-2012
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	12 Month Projected	
Village Office	9,000	\$ 9,918	\$ (918)	7,000	\$ 2,547	7,000	-
Village Treasurer	3,650	3,650	-	3,650	\$ 3,650	3,650	-
Village Clerk	3,200	3,200	-	3,200	\$ 1,600	3,200	-
Village Secretary	3,200	3,200	-	3,200	\$ 1,600	3,200	-
Village Bookkeeper	3,600	3,600	-	4,000	\$ 2,318	4,000	-
Trustees' Fees	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	\$ 1,000	1,000	-
Trustees' Expenses	750	205	545	500	\$ -	500	-
DRB & Planning	7,000	5,406	1,594	7,000	\$ 5,039	7,000	-
Depot Expenses	8,000	7,770	230	6,000	\$ 1,448	6,000	-
Auditor's/ Legal Fees	12,000	680	11,320	6,000	\$ 44	3,000	3,000
Depot Renovation Fund	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	\$ 5,000	5,000	-
Audit Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-
Community Development Fund	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-
Total General Government	\$ 56,400	\$ 43,628	\$ 12,772	\$ 46,550	\$ 24,245	\$ 43,550	\$ 3,000

Fire Department	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011			Budget 2010-2011
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget 2010-2011	6 Month Actual	12 Month Projected	
Officer & Drill Pay	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,095	\$ 105	3,200	\$ 3,235	3,235	(35)
Fire Dept - New Equipment	6,000	5,758	242	4,000	\$ 2,326	4,000	-
Fire Dept - Gear Replacement	5,000	3,843	1,157	4,000	\$ 130	4,000	-
Fire Dept - Training	3,000	2,810	190	3,000	\$ 800	3,000	-
Fire Truck Maintenance	5,000	5,080	(80)	5,000	\$ 1,361	5,000	-
Gas & Diesel	3,000	4,173	(1,173)	5,000	\$ 1,683	5,000	-
Fire House Expense	9,000	11,194	(2,194)	9,000	\$ 4,009	9,000	-
Communications	2,000	3,705	(1,705)	3,000	\$ 1,643	3,000	-
Special Police	250	250	-	250	\$ 250	250	-
Fire Equip. Replacement Fund	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	\$ -	20,000	-
Fire House Renovation Sinking	5,000	5,000	-	-	\$ -	-	-
Total Fire Department	\$ 61,450	\$ 64,907	\$ (3,457)	\$ 56,450	\$ 15,437	\$ 56,485	\$ (35)

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget and Rates

The 2011 budget for Water Fund expenditures shows a decrease of 1.47%. The water rate will increase in 2011 from at a rate of \$3.00/1000 gallons to \$3.50/1000 gallons. Additionally, the bond assessment will decrease by 10% in 2011.

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
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
December 31, 2010**

	2010	2009
Operating revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 309,418	296,160
Delinquent collections and other	364	-
Total operating revenues	<u>309,782</u>	<u>296,160</u>
Operating expenses:		
Personnel costs	132,265	132,989
Other operating costs	89,893	74,033
Depreciation	113,891	114,405
Total operating expenses	<u>336,049</u>	<u>321,427</u>
Nonoperating revenues (expense)	<u>(37,216)</u>	<u>(35,922)</u>
Change in net assets	<u>(63,483)</u>	<u>(61,189)</u>
Net assets - beginning	<u>295,318</u>	<u>356,507</u>
Net assets - ending	<u>\$ 231,835</u>	<u>295,318</u>

Capital Assets

The following table presents capital assets as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, net of related accumulated depreciation. Additional information regarding capital assets is provided in footnote 3 of the accompanying financial statements.

	2010	2009
Land	\$ 88,650	88,650
Buildings and improvements	1,078	1,149
Equipment	20,918	21,359
Water meter system	2,022	2,553
Water lines	40,451	44,093
Water filtration plant	153,470	255,783
	<u>\$ 306,589</u>	<u>413,587</u>

Long-Term Debt

The Water Fund has long-term debt outstanding of \$550,000 at December 31, 2010. General obligation bonds total \$550,000 and require annual principal payments of \$50,000. Additional information regarding long-term debt is provided in footnote 4 of the accompanying financial statements.

**Village of North Bennington
Expense Report**

	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011			Budget 2011-2012
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Actual	Projected	
Public Works							
Parks	\$ 500	\$ 1,455	\$ (955)	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,253	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Street Lights	20,000	19,914	86	22,000	14,770	22,000	22,000
Tree Committee Reserve Fund	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Total Public Works	\$ 21,500	\$ 22,370	\$ (870)	\$ 28,000	\$ 18,023	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000
Highway							
Highway Wages	\$ 67,200	\$ 77,438	\$ (10,238)	\$ 83,800	\$ 44,851	\$ 83,800	\$ 85,000
Highway Payroll Taxes	5,200	5,924	(724)	6,400	3,438	6,400	6,500
Health Insurance	12,000	5,668	6,332	10,000	5,486	10,000	11,000
Highway - New Equipment	6,000	5,449	551	8,000	3,941	8,000	8,000
Vehicle Maintenance & Gas	15,000	23,752	(8,752)	16,000	9,231	16,000	16,500
Garage All Expenses	8,000	12,066	(4,066)	8,000	5,704	8,000	8,000
Highway Maintenance	30,000	40,403	(10,403)	68,000	43,846	68,000	70,000
Salt and Sand	12,000	14,104	(2,104)	17,000	3,452	17,000	16,000
Employees' Retirement Plans	3,370	3,370	-	5,600	862	5,600	5,600
Sidewalk Reserve Fund	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Salt Shed Reserve Fund	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Backhoe Reserve Fund	6,500	6,500	-	8,000	8,000	8,000	5,000
Tractor Reserve Fund	3,500	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Truck Reserve Fund	15,000	15,000	-	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Truck Purchase Sinking Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,335
Total Highway	\$ 190,770	\$ 220,174	\$ (29,404)	\$ 254,300	\$ 137,311	\$ 254,300	\$ 282,435

Village of North Bennington
Expense Report

Payments to Other Organizations	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011			Budget 2011-2012
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	12 Month Projected	
McCullough Library	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Park McCullough House	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sage City Symphony	500	500	-	500	500	500	500
Benn. County Regional Commiss.	1,650	1,632	18	1,750	1,665	1,665	1,698
Little League	-	-	-	700	-	700	700
Grandview	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sunrise Family Resource	500	500	-	500	-	500	500
Bennington Coalition/ Homeless	500	-	500	500	-	500	500
North Bennington Fire Dept.	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-	-
Paran Recreation	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	6,485	6,485	(1,485)
Total Other Organizations	\$ 19,150	\$ 19,632	\$ (482)	\$ 20,950	\$ 20,650	\$ 22,350	\$ (1,400)

Other Expenditures	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011			Budget 2011-2012
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	12 Month Projected	
Insurance	\$ 25,000	\$ 18,528	\$ 6,472	\$ 25,000	\$ 19,741	\$ 25,000	\$ -
Total Other Expenditures	\$ 25,000	\$ 18,528	\$ 6,472	\$ 25,000	\$ 19,741	\$ 25,000	\$ -

Operating Transfers Out (in)	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011			Budget 2011-2012
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	12 Month Projected	
Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -
Total Operating Transfers	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -

Total Expenditures	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010			Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011			Budget 2011-2012
	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	6 Month Actual	12 Month Projected	
	\$ 375,270	\$ 390,239	\$ (14,969)	\$ 432,250	\$ 235,407	\$ 430,685	\$ 1,565
Total Expenditures	\$ 375,270	\$ 390,239	\$ (14,969)	\$ 432,250	\$ 235,407	\$ 430,685	\$ 1,565

WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
December 31, 2010

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, 2010. This information is presented in conjunction with the audited basic financial statements, which follow this section.

Financial Highlights for 2010

1. The Water Fund had cash balances totaling \$475,246 for the year ended December 31, 2010. Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, amounted to \$306,589.
2. Long-term debt, including general obligation bonds, totaled \$550,000 at December 31, 2010.
3. Operating revenues amounted to \$309,782 in 2010. Operating expenses were \$336,049.
4. The increase in the Water Fund's budgeted expenses from 2009 to 2010 was 9%. The majority of the increase was in the line item for wages. This is expected to decrease in 2011.

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 Assets – Modified Cash Basis provides information on the Water Fund's assets and net assets. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis identifies the Water Fund's revenues and expenses for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009. 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, 2010 and 2009.

The Statement of Net Assets – 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 Assets – Modified Cash Basis. Cash and cash equivalents were the largest component of the Water Fund's assets at just over \$475 thousand at December 31, 2010.

The following table presents condensed information from the Water Fund's operating statement. Operating expenses exceeded operating revenues by \$26,267 in 2010. In 2009, operating expenses exceeded operating revenues by \$25,267. Non-operating revenues and expenses, consisting primarily of interest expense, amounted to \$37,216 in 2010 and \$35,922 in 2009. In total, net assets decreased by \$63,483 in 2010 and \$61,189 in 2009.

Independent Auditors' Report

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Water Fund of Village of North Bennington, Vermont as of and for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Water Fund of Village of North Bennington, Vermont management. 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 of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Water Fund of Village of North Bennington, Vermont prepares its financial statements on the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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.

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, 2010 and 2009, 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.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 2-4 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 or provide any assurance.

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

February 8, 2011

Vt. Reg. #357

115 Elm Street • P.O. Box 319 • Bennington, Vermont 05201-0319
(802) 442-5552 • (800) 894-5511
Facsimile: (802) 442-7314 • e-mail: mail@lovecody.com
www.lovecody.com

Expenses	
Gen. Gov./ Other Expenditures	\$ 61,950
Fire Dept.	64,450
Highway	282,435
Public Works	28,000
Other Organizations	15,898
Other Expenditures	25,000
Operating Transfers Out	<u>1,000</u>
Total Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 478,733</u>
Revenue	
State Aid Highway	30,000
Town of Bennington--Recreation	700
Town of Bennington--Park	5,000
Fund Balance--designated highway	41,335
Fund Balance--undesignated	<u>53,100</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 130,135</u>
Amount To Be Raised by Taxes	<u>\$ 348,598</u>

Village of North Bennington
Reserve Fund Balances
June 30, 2010

Bennington Acres Account	11,524
Depot Clock Restoration Fund	767
Joseph McCarthy Tree Fund	3,142
McCullough Mansion Tax Loss Fund	1,593
Contingency Fund	11,337
Depot Renovation Fund	73,473
Less: Due to Operating	(31,882)
Total Depot Renovation Fund	41,590
Fire Equipment Replacement Fund	101,336
Firehouse Reserve Fund	51,667
Less: Due to Operating	(11,836)
Total Firehouse Reserve Fund	39,831
Highway Contingency	28,851
Salt/Shed Sinking Fund	46,538
Sidewalk Reserve Fund	56,095
Less: Due to Operating	(8,789)
Total Sidewalk Reserve Fund	47,307
Backhoe Reserve Fund	13,096
Tractor Reserve Fund	7,052
Truck Reserve Fund	10,045
Lions Park Reserve Fund	20,447
Tree Committee Reserve Fund	1,000

WATER FUND OF VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

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**DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTORS REPORT
VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON**

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

TOTAL DELINQUENCY AS OF: JUNE 30, 2009
\$8,592.05

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

Financial Statements – Modified Cash Basis

December 31, 2010 and 2009

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

COLLECTIONS	July 1,2009 - June 30,2010	\$12,000.86
DISBURSED AS SUCH:		
PRINCIPAL TO TREASURER		\$11,008.30
INTEREST TO TREASURER		\$487.91
PENALTY TO COLLECTOR		\$504.65
TOTAL		\$12,000.86

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Waters
Delinquent Tax Collector

Trustees Report

It has been another eventful year in the Village of North Bennington. Since our last March meeting, our Highway Department has been busy with many projects. The salt shed was erected in the late spring and early summer. This project was completed in-house, realizing substantial savings. A project that could have cost more than \$50,000 came in less than \$30,000.

The West Street paving and sidewalk project began mid summer. While redoing the south sidewalk, we installed two drop-inlets for surface drainage. We hope that this will reduce the water problems experienced by homeowners.

The second phase of the train depot painting was completed by outside contractors. The exterior of the building is now much improved, yet several windows will need more work if we want this "Jewel of our Village" to shine.

Norm and Jarod worked this late summer and fall to improve the annual leaf pickup. We purchased a truck-mounted leaf vacuum that is able to collect resident's leaves from the curb. This will work much better than requiring residents to bag their leaves. Please remember next fall to simply pile up your leaves close to the curb and they will do the rest.

The big surprise was that our largest plow truck met its final demise. Not yet prepared to purchase a new one from reserve funds, we decided to borrow the money and pay it off over three years from a surplus highway fund that we are trying to bring into parity with other municipalities.

I cannot overstate our good fortune in having such surplus to help us through these difficult times. We have been working hard to create a budget that reflects our true needs. For many years, I feel that our board was not looking far enough ahead to account for the needs of equipment depreciation and road repaving. A bulk of this problem was hoisted upon us, as the state took 15 years to plan the repaving of Water Street. We were held hostage during those years, uncertain that we would have the funds available when they finally did the job. It is now clear that we saved more money than was necessary, and we have begun to apply these funds to deferred road and bridge projects, as well as the unexpected truck failure.

Many innovations are being explored in our Highway Department. Norm LeBlanc, our Supervisor has taken the initiative to find more cost effective ways to salt our roads and plow the sidewalks. He is keeping better records of our expenses, so that we can track improvements. We continue to refine and improve our task of keeping our roads safe and well maintained.

Looking ahead to this spring, we will be rebuilding the bridge deck and sidewalks on Prospect St. Norm and David Monks wrote a grant to the state for this funding. We received a \$175,000 grant to put towards a \$210,000 project.

Sage City Symphony

Box 547, Shaftsbury, VT 05262

November 28, 2010

*Thanks for your support!
Hope you can make it
to these concerts!*

Louis Calabro (1926-1991)
Founding Music Director

Michael Finckel
Music Director

Executive Board

Peter Lawrence, Esq.
President

David Monks
Vice President

Jack Leonard
Treasurer

Anne Wallace-Senft
Secretary

Board Members

Gillian Adams
Tom Bogdan
Nicholas Brooke
Karl Brosch
Claude DeLucia
Charles Dewey
Michael Gallagher
Cathy Hall-Schor
Celia Murray
Ralph Thomas

Christine Graham
Marcella Rauscher
Guy Rauscher
Emerita

David Bort
Librarian

Gail Smith
Manager

Dear Friends:

Sage City Symphony wishes you the very best for this holiday season. This is a time of reflection and anticipation. This year we celebrated the 90th Birthdays of three pillars of Sage City Symphony - Joseph Schor, Muriel "Petie" Palmer, and Otto Weil - who each played magnificently in our Season opening Concert on November 14, 2010.

Sage City Symphony continues to impress and delight our audience. If you missed our Season opening Concert, we hope you will come to our Winter and Spring Concerts! Our Chamber Concert will be on February 13, 2011, featuring three pieces by Mozart and Robert Zimmerman's *Suite from Gesta Romanorum*. At our Youth Concert on March 20, 2011, we will feature new compositions from our Young Composer's Project and Concerto movements by Mendelssohn, Dvorak and Brahms performed by three Bennington College students.

Our final Spring Concert on May 15, 2011 will have a new commissioned work from John Eagle and will also emphasize French Music - Debussy's *La Mer*, Faure's *Elegy*, and the Bennington Children's Chorus performing the Chorus from Bizet's *Carmen*.

All of our concerts this year will be held at Greenwall Auditorium on the Bennington College Campus. We are extremely grateful to Bennington College for their generosity in allowing us to use their facilities! We are grateful for all the support we receive from our community.

The Sage City Symphony is an all volunteer organization. Our concerts are free to the public. Your financial support enables us to provide our concerts free of charge. The Board of Directors of Sage City Symphony work very hard to control costs and keep administrative expenses as low as possible. However, we still have costs that have to be met, such as music rental expenses, expenses for commissioning new works, expenses for rehearsal and performance spaces, travel expenses for musicians and expenses for publicizing our concerts. We are dependent on your financial support to meet these expenses. Please continue your generous support!

For the Board of Directors,

Nick Brooke

Bennington County Regional Commission BCRC

The BCRC is made up of commissioners appointed by municipal selectboards, trustees, at-large members, and professional staff whose mission is to work together for the purpose of effective planning, development, and joining in the delivery of local and regional programs and services. BCRC website: www.bcrctvt.org Examples of services and projects include:

Municipal Technical Assistance - TA

Arlington >Water system grant, sidewalk project, traffic counters, wildfire grant, FEH mapping, hazmit plan, solid waste. **Bennington**>Plan update, Growth Center, round-about, brownfields, BCRC plan approval, energy, multi-modal facility, pedestrian signage, culverts, GIS mapping, traffic counts, FEH map, industrial composites proposal, Morgan St. HRRR, Roaring Branch. **Dorset** >Groundwater/springs mapping, solid waste, zoning map change, Hazmit grant assistance, Dorset Energy Committee and energy element, FEH. **Glastenbury** > Town Plan update (local and BCRC approval). **Landgrove** > zoning and subdivision assistance, parcel map. **Manchester** > Growth Center, speed/access ordinance, intersection work, solid waste, sign inventory, Burr& Burton ewaste, FEH mapping, traffic counter, zoning. **Manchester Village** > Village Plan and BCRC approval, Burr&Burton ewaste, solid waste. **Old Bennington Village** > Signage review/VTrans, plan/zoning info, wetlands. **North Bennington Village** > Intersection project, state paving, traffic counters, culvert data, streetscape map, NFIP program, bylaw assistance, river park map. **Peru** > Broadband, planning grant assistance, subdivision x-border, plan/zoning maps. **Pownal** > Brownfields& hydro, energy park/biomass project, culvert inventory, plan/BCRC website, broadband, FEH. culverts. **Rupert** > Zoning process, syrup grant, signage, parcel and PDM map, Hazmit plan. **Sandgate** > Town Plan, maps, broadband grant/service, culvert map, solid waste, . **Shaftsbury** > Telcom info, zoning map, Robert Frost trail, HHW grant, Town Plan and approval, access ordinance, signage, zoning map, Hazmit plan. **Stamford** > Plan update, sidewalk project, traffic counters/intersection, GIS maps, solid waste plan, flood hazards. **Sunderland** > Zoning/subdivision grant, plan maps, HRRR/safety follow-up, culvert map. **Woodford** > Town Plan grant, zoning amendments, ancient roads, map updates, EECBG grant assistance, culvert map. **Other:** Energy programs and AARA grants, emergency services, transportation projects.

Regional Initiatives & Projects

~ **Energy** Grant Outreach: home energy visits and materials, business audits, streetlights, Regional Energy Plan implementation and Regional Energy Committee ~ **SWIP solid waste** contract and plan implementation ~ **Transportation** Initiative and Transportation Advisory Committee TAC ~ **Emergency** Services, plans, training, exercises, and Local Emergency Planning Committee LEPC ~ **Passenger Rail** Study with VTrans/Southwest VT Rail Corridor Committee, ~ **brownfields** projects ~ **scenic byways** ~ **GIS mapping** projects and data development ~ **telecommunication/broadband** initiatives ~ **Natural Resources** and Basin plan with Bennington County Conservation District & Committee, Wildfire grant, forest stewardship project, trail mapping ~ **housing** support with Regional Affordable Housing Corp. RAHC ~ **Other:** FEH and Floodplains ~ Multi-modal Transit Ctr. with Green Mountain Community Network – Public Transit ~ technical reviews.

Respectfully submitted: Rex Burke, Executive Director

Without this grant, we would have continued to watch this bridge deteriorate. Now we plan to install new ADA compliant sidewalks, as well as railing and posted streetlamps, adding polish to the millpond area.

As you can see, our total budget has gone up considerably. We have again tempered these hikes with the surplus funds we now have. We have held the tax rate increase to around 8%. Although not a small increase, let me remind residents that this increase should result in no more than \$100-150 per average homeowner. The Village budget represents less than one-third of your entire tax bill, as we also pay taxes to the town of Bennington and the School District. The services provided residents of our village are only as strong as the employees who provide them. We are fortunate in the professionalism of our workforce which the Trustees have supported by encouraging participation in professional development opportunities, updating of our personnel policies to include sick and personal leave time as well as more flexibility in financial compensation for health insurance and conducting annual evaluations to recognize employee strengths and to set performance goals for the year ahead.

In addition to making progress in tackling a long list of projects prioritized by our Village departments (many of which are detailed elsewhere in this report) the work has been made easier through cooperation between various village departments, the Town of Bennington and with private organizations such as Lake Paran, the Art Park, the Arts Council and Plein Air Competition, to name a few. In the spirit of building upon North Bennington's designation as being chosen the best place in Vermont in which to raise children, we are including a new line item in our budget, "Community Development." Supported by a surplus in zoning permit fees we see these funds being used to attract more resources to our community—perhaps through grant writing or PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) funding from Bennington College. Benefits might include increasing green technology, making the village depot more accessible, continuing to upgrade our parks and recreation areas and much more.

The work on the enhancement grants for the improvement of the Bank Street/Main Street intersection project has been frustrating but progress is being made. Since these grants are federal monies administrated by the state highway departments, meeting all the federal and state requirements at every step of the way can be daunting. The village has applied for and received three grants through the highway enhancement program. Two grants are for the improvement of the Bank Street/Main Street intersection; one for \$152,000 to begin the design and feasibility study and a second for \$199,000 to complete the design and construction. We have also received a third grant for \$19,500 to conduct feasibility studies and cost estimates for new sidewalks and streetscape designs along the east side of Main Street. The Village has signed the grant agreement and is waiting for the signed agreement back from the state before work can begin. The following is a report from Jim Sullivan, Assistant Executive Director of the Bennington County Regional Commission, who is the Project Manager of the Street/Main Street intersection project:

The intersection project is moving along. We have final right-of-way plans that have been accepted by the State and Peter Holden currently is preparing legal documents for the temporary and permanent easements adjacent to the sidewalks and driveways at the Sage City Syndicate and Merchants Bank properties. Draft valuations for those easements have been prepared and approved by VTrans. Once the easement documents are approved we can make formal offers to the property owners.

The “pre-final” construction plans have been accepted by VTrans – and now include a modified storm water system that will tie into a new line that the Village will be installing from the intersection project limits to the existing system in Lincoln Square.

The utilities have been notified of the project schedule and will be available to relocate the overhead lines per the site visit we had last year. I just have to give them the go-ahead. I also need to get in touch with someone about moving the pay phone currently adjacent to the gas station drive to a point on or near the building.

Once VTrans grants us ROW clearance we will be ready to assemble final plans and bid documents. We also will need to hire a construction engineer to oversee the contractors’ work. Depending on the ROW approval process, we should be ready to proceed to bidding by this spring. Of course, actual construction also will depend on whether the Village installs the new storm water line that will take the drainage from the project.

Project Management (BCRC) and Construction Engineering (Engineered Solutions) budget is \$68,000, of which \$56,427 has been expended.

The Right-of-Way budget is \$38,750. At this point, I do not expect total ROW costs to exceed \$15,000 (between acquisition of easements and legal fees). As soon as all ROW costs have been incurred (when we have the ROW clearance), I will request that the balance of the ROW funds be committed to the construction budget.

Current approved Construction budget is \$244,500 (includes construction engineering and contingencies). After bids are received, we can determine if any initial change orders are warranted/possible”

Matthew Patterson, Chair
David Monks, Vice Chair
Jamie Johnson
Janice Lerrigo
Mark Boudreau

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the members and staff of the Park-McCullough House Association, Inc., we thank you for your generous support and your continuing interest in Park-McCullough.

Patricia Gordon Michael
Executive Director
North Bennington, VT
January 15, 2011

On behalf of the members, volunteers and trustees of the Park-McCullough House Association, Inc.

Park-McCullough House Association Board of Trustees

*Katherine W. Traver, President
Diane Welebit, Vice-President
Susanne Warren, Secretary
Robert Ebert
Judith M. Frangos
Lindy S. Lynch
Allen G. McCullough
Stacey New
Edward J. H. Weissman*

Trustees Emeriti
*Phebe Bell
Jane Richardson Hanks
Elizabeth Jenney
Muriel C. Palmer*

We want to make special note of the cooperation and consideration received from the Village of North Bennington employees during the “repaving season”. Many of our visitors are from outside the area and do not know alternate routes to reach our site. We know that the workers were extremely helpful and considerate to people who didn’t know how to “detour” to find us. Also, during the repaving of the intersection of Park and West Streets, the crew chief made a special effort to ensure that our entrance drive matched the level of the newly-paved street and took extra care to protect the lawn borders. This was just one more example of the excellent help and consideration we receive from our home village and we are most appreciative.

We are also grateful for the enthusiastic support of the Village Trustees in the presentation of the first North Bennington Plein Air Painting Competition. It would not have been possible without your cooperation and help. The event was a great success and brought many visitors to North Bennington, people who were

Historic Park-McCullough is an integral part of North Bennington and the greater Bennington community. We make it possible for all our guests – residents, tourists, scholars and researchers – to have a direct and enjoyable experience of this jewel of Vermont architecture and history. These are difficult times financially for all of us, and historic sites and historical organizations are not immune. The work we do is made possible by our dedicated volunteers and by the generous financial support we receive from a variety of sources, including grants, contributions, our members and from the Village of North Bennington. We are grateful for all our support but we are especially grateful for the financial support from our home community and the opportunity to be of service and value to the Village of North Bennington.

The annual support from the Village of North Bennington does more than help support a physical place. It helps sustain the example of what one contemporary historian identified as three characteristics of the American spirit: Realism about the present, optimism about the future and a determination to get things done. That spirit was exemplified in the lives of the people who built the House and lived in it for generations. It continues today, among all those who appreciate and believe in the significance of more than 140 years of local, state and national history.



Village of North Bennington, VT 05257
Board of Water Commissioners
PO Box 343
Phone & Fax (802) 442-3883

Board of Water Commissioners Report 2010

For the year 2010, 104,444,000 gallons of water were treated at the Filtration Plant. A combination of leak repairs, water saving devices installed in houses, as well as the current down turn in the economy has contributed to lower water consumption. The continued reduction in consumption continues to put pressure on the current water usage rate.

All required water testing for 2010 was completed on time and passed, with results to be reported in our Consumer Confidence Report, delivered before July 1, 2011.

Testing included:

1. Coliform bacteria, finished water, completed weekly. State requires testing to be completed twice monthly.
2. Stage #1 Disinfection Byproducts, to be completed quarterly (1 site).

Several improvements were made to the distribution system during the year. Nine galvanized services were replaced with copper and the hydrant at the top of the hill on Prospect St. was replaced with new and set further back from the roadway. A new 550 gallon chlorine storage tank was purchased and installed to replace the original 1500 gallon tank, which was 20 years old. The smaller tank was necessary because the old tank developed a leak. The smaller tank will allow turnover of the product to be quicker therefore preserving the strength of the chlorine for more effective disinfection.

Mark Youngstrom from Otter Creek Engineering is in the process of designing a replacement for the aging pressure reducing valve vault located in Lincoln Square across from Powers Market. The current Ross pressure reducing valves are originals from 1923 and are oversized for the reduced usage and flow in the system. Additionally the current Ross pressure reducing valves are outdated and the deteriorating underground vault needs to be brought in line with current confined space guidelines.

The lower reservoir was not drained and cleaned due to lack of sufficient rainfall during July and August. The lower reservoir is scheduled to be drained and cleaned in June of 2011, weather permitting.

To minimize the effect of any algae that may be present in the water, water from the well field was mixed with water from the brook during mid to late summer.

The Water Department financial and billing records are computerized and audited yearly by Love, Cody, and Company, of Bennington, Vt. and are included in the Village Report.

Water Board meetings are held monthly the 2nd Tuesday following the 1st Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Rail Road Depot. Meeting dates are posted on the Depot Bill Board.

Board of Water Commissioners
Steve Goodrich, Chairman
Lawrence Powers, Vice Chairman
Joseph Herrmann
James Johnson
Arla Sampsell

NORTH BENNINGTON WATER BOARD
2011 WATER BUDGET

Advertising	200.00
Bank Charge	600.00
Health Insurance	22,850.00
Property & Liability Insurance	8,800.00
Purifying Chemicals	9,000.00
Co FICA	6,926.00
Company paid Pension	5,000.00
Dues and/or Fees	1,600.00
Electricity	12,000.00
Fuel Oil	7,500.00
Gasoline	3,200.00
Legal and professional	1,500.00
Audit Fees	4,200.00
New Equipment	8,000.00
Office Expenses	3,000.00
Office Equipment	1,000.00
Payroll-Gross	84,529.00
Repairs-Building and Equipment	6,000.00
Filtration Plant B&E Repairs	3,500.00
System Maintenance	4,200.00
Telephone	2,800.00
Outside contracts	5,000.00
PO Box & Bank Safety Dep	140.00
Treasurer's Fee	2,222.00
Bookkeeping	2,222.00
Board Compensation	750.00
Secretary	1,560.00
Water Testing	3,000.00
State Operating Permit Fee	5,000.00
Transfer – Special Reserve	13,000.00
<u>Total Budget</u>	\$ 229,299.00

- Hosted a Field Work Term student from Bennington College for costume and textile collection research and documentation
- Presented 5 successful “Summer Sundays At Four” concerts
- Presented “Champagne Tea on the Veranda and Croquet” as a special event for the participants in the Sherlock Holmes conference held in June 2010
- Welcomed the return of the Green Mountain Music Camp for a second week-long residence on our site in July. Hundreds of people visited Park-McCullough to attend the two public performances offered by the Music Camp participants. The camp will be held again in July 2011.
- Held the annual Eunice J. Schleif Memorial Golf Tournament and exceeded fundraising goals for the event thanks to the leadership of Lindy Lynch as Chair and the generosity of local sponsors and golfers. .
- Participated in the community-wide “Season of Mystery” by presenting the “Sherlock Holmes Playhouse on the Veranda every other week from June 15 through August 24. These free programs attracted a steadily increasing audience over the summer including many visitors from outside the immediate area.
- Continued to expand and present our “special interest” tours focused on a specific interest (architecture, textiles, paintings, et al.) and behind-the-scenes tours. This program is in addition to our regular complement of group tours and bus tours.
- Participated in the first ever North Bennington Plein Air Painting Competition, September 8-11. We were represented on the steering committee and hosted the all day “Quick Draw” event on our site. Related activities included the Norshaft Lions “Plein Air Café” and an exhibition of classic cars.
- Participated in the 2010 North Bennington Winterfest on the Planning Committee and hosting events onsite.
- Offered special holiday tours on Thanksgiving weekend and experienced a 12% increase in visitation.
- Presented the annual Victorian Holiday Tea with Lizzie McCullough (sold-out).
- Curatorial activity included a new costume exhibit; continued scanning of photo archives; continuing research on the Carriage Barn; continuing research on Trenor Park
- Increased media attention – print, radio, and local access television.
- Overall increase of 25% in general attendance
- Continued to develop and expand the gardens, especially the rose gardens
- For the first time, created a room vignette, “A Victorian Christmas”, for the Bennington Museum Festival of Trees. The exhibit received a People’s Choice Award.

In addition to programs produced by Park-McCullough itself, we also are the site for other community events including theatrical presentations, informal concerts and lectures. In addition, the site is used for numerous private events throughout the year including weddings, civil unions, birthday and anniversary parties, holiday parties, family reunions and memorial services.

HISTORIC PARK-McCULLOUGH
One Park Street, P.O. Box 388, North Bennington, VT 05257
802-442-5441 www.parkmccullough.org

**2010 REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF NORTH BENNINGTON**

Historic Park-McCullough, including Park-McCullough House, the Carriage Barn, the support buildings and grounds, is owned and operated by the Park-McCullough House Association, Inc. a 501(c)(3) private, not-for-profit corporation. The mission of PMHA is to preserve, protect, restore and interpret the buildings, object collections, archives and grounds for the enjoyment and education of the public.

Built in 1864-1865 by one of Vermont's most prominent and historically significant families, Historic Park-McCullough today is a microcosm of more than 100 years of American life and society. Still situated within the context of the original estate, Park-McCullough retains the buildings, art, furniture, costumes, books, carriages, sleighs, tools and other historically and artistically significant objects and artifacts that belonged to four generations of the single family that shaped the story and the heritage of the site. The importance of the site resonates beyond local and regional interest to be part of the national story of the development of the United States, politically, culturally and economically. It is truly a treasure.

Park-McCullough today plays a significant role in the economic life of the greater Bennington community as a destination for more than 10,000 annual visitors. It is open seven days a week for visitors, six daily scheduled tours on the hour and other activities from mid-May through the end of October. The newly-renovated Carriage Barn is available for events and programs throughout the season. From November through April, Park-McCullough offers group tours by appointment and special events as announced. throughout the year. The grounds are open daily from dawn to dusk throughout the year to accommodate walkers and hikers.

Highlights of 2010 at Park-McCullough include:

- Season opening on May 16, 2010
- The Big House Croquet League (more than 70 members) met weekly from June 12 to August 24.

The Development Review Board (DRB) met three times in 2010, on March 31, April 27 and September 21.

Two items were on the Board's agenda for the March 31 meeting:

A contractor representing the owners of a house at 21 Prospect Street appeared to request DRB approval for the construction of a two car garage with a second floor apartment. The contractor explained that the existing house on the property is in very bad condition and, in the opinion of several experts, cannot be repaired. The owners, who do not live in the area, wish to construct the garage and apartment as a summer home. Their intent is to tear down the existing dilapidated house within five years and construct a permanent year round home on the site. The DRB approved the application for the demolition of the house and the construction of the garage.

Art Carlucci, a contractor and developer applied for a conditional use permit to convert the "Red Mill" building at 1 Pleasant Street (the former home of McAdoo Rugs) into a five unit condominium. This project raised a number of issues including: the number and location of parking spaces, possible requirements for a vegetative buffer between Paren Creek and a proposed parking area, traffic safety, the location of a propane tank, whether the existing building was partially located on village property and compliance with historic district design standards.

Because of the complexity of these issues, and engineering issues that emerged as project plans went forward, this project was the subject of additional hearings at the Board's April 27, September 21 and January 11, 2011 meetings. The Board and the developer have worked together constructively and the building will be converted into a four unit condominium. However, it is anticipated that an additional hearing may be required to deal with landscaping issues.

At its April 27 meeting the DRB considered an application from Rod Williams, the owner of the old factory building at 940 Water Street, to grade land at that address and at 2 Scarey Lane on the east side of Paren Creek and to construct a pedestrian bridge across the creek. Mr. Williams had previously applied for, and received, a permit from the village Zoning Administrator to construct apartments on the second floor of the building. This is a permitted use in the Water Street industrial district under the current bylaws. The grading and pedestrian bridge were proposed as a way to provide additional parking for the building.

However, the current zoning by-laws require a vegetative buffer on that part of Paren Creek which could have be violated by the proposed grading. In addition, the Zoning Administrator stated that the grading would require permits from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Board voted to table the application pending receipt of more information including copies of required state and federal permits.

At its April meeting the Board also considered and approved an application to convert a single family house at 18 Main Street into a three unit multi-family dwelling.

The Board's September meeting was devoted entirely to further discussion of issues related to the conversion of the Red Mill building at 1 Pleasant Street into four condominiums.

**Office of the Zoning Administrator
Village of North Bennington, Vermont**

Daniel Taub
Zoning Administrator
Village of North Bennington
P. O. Box 423
North Bennington, VT 05257

Phone # 802-447-1112
email: nbdant@yahoo.com

Report of the Village Zoning Administrator

Reflecting the continued nationwide economic downturn, the Village issued even fewer zoning permits in 2010 than during the already slow 2009. During last year, village property owners received 12 zoning permits. For the first year in a long time, no permits for new construction of a single family home were issued in North Bennington last year. Two of the 12 were use permits for commercial offices or home occupations and 9 were for renovations or accessory structures to residential buildings. One permit for a lot line change was issued, and one permit extension was issued to Bennington College for its new Center for Advancement of Public Action (CAPA)

As always, the zoning office has been busy researching and responding to many requests for information and interpretation of the Village Zoning Bylaws. I am happy to respond to any questions or concerns you have regarding village zoning matters. Please feel free to contact me at 447-8736. I can also be reached via e-mail at nbdant@yahoo.com

The Zoning Bylaws are now available online at www.northbennington.org (click "Village" and then "Zoning Forms"). In addition to the new Village Zoning Bylaws, including the Design Review Guidelines, several other documents are accessible via this website. The Village Zoning Map (which reflects our new Conservation and Residential-Professional zoning districts, and streamlined residential districts), and Sign Ordinance, along with current zoning forms, are available for downloading. Please obtain forms either online or call me directly. If you have forms from any other source please confirm that they are identical to the forms online, which are the most up to date.

As the weather warms in the coming months, the attention of the zoning office will turn to one of the less pleasurable responsibilities of the Zoning Administrator, enforcement of the zoning bylaws. There is a persistent problem throughout the village of noncompliance with several provisions of the zoning bylaws.

The **four most common problems** are the following:

1. **Junk Cars:** It is prohibited to store outdoors inoperable motor vehicles on any lot for longer than 30 days. This means that one cannot keep outside on a village lot any car that is either unregistered, uninspected, or is used for salvage. (Section 3.10);

2. **Unsightly Debris:** Scrap, old construction material, discarded snowplows and

Sunrise Family Resource Center

Sunrise Family Resource Center has provided support services to the families and caretakers of young children for over 40 years. North Bennington's continuing support through many of these years has helped provide community-based prevention services designed to strengthen families, build stronger communities and reduce the need for more expensive remedial services later on.

Last year 12 North Bennington families received extensive services from Sunrise, while dozens more were assisted in locating childcare, obtaining subsidies for childcare or having their providers increase their skills through professional development. Services most used by residents include:

- A weekly playgroup, monthly picnics plus regularly scheduled parenting classes available to all parents wishing to strengthen their parenting skills. Funding from communities specifically helps keep costs affordable for all.
- *Nationally accredited childcare focusing on the youngest children in our communities (ages 6 weeks through age 3) continuing as a core service.*
- Home visits providing parenting support and resource referral information available to a variety of families -- those with newborns and young children, with children in high risk or stressful circumstances, or moving towards economic self-sufficiency. Sunrise provided significant home-based support to 6 families from North Bennington last year.
- *Comprehensive services for families of pregnant and parenting teens. We reach young couples early in their pregnancies providing support to engage in early pre-natal care and to complete high school in our onsite alternative education program. Last year 4 young parents and their children from North Bennington received these intensive services. Overall 10 young adults from the wider Bennington area received their Mount Anthony diplomas through Sunrise (and celebrated their achievement at Lake Paran).*
- Through our community-based childcare support services we answered childcare referral inquiries and processed applications from area families seeking financial assistance for childcare. We also offered consultation and trainings to childcare providers from 5 licensed and registered centers and homes from North Bennington who participated in an average of 3 to 4 trainings monthly.

Strong, healthy families benefit all our communities. Sunrise looks forward to continuing its work strengthening the families and village of North Bennington.

Sincerely,
Linda Dean-Farrar
Executive Director

Norshaft Youth Baseball

The Norshaft Youth Baseball program had a very successful year. Being a part of the Cal Ripken league has opened many opportunities for us in terms of regular season games and All-Stars. We played inter-league teams from Hoosick Falls and Cambridge. Our "Major", "Minor" and "Instructional" league teams competed in Greenwich, NY, Nassua NY, Cambridge NY, District and State Tournaments. Our "Instructional" league hosted its annual 7 and 8 year old tournament at Howard Park.


We enroll approximately 175 children from Shaftsbury and North Bennington. Roughly 60% of our children are residents of North Bennington. Last year our league was comprised of three tee-ball, four instructional, two minor and two major league teams.

This year we will be continuing the upgrade of the Lions Park playing surface. As well as, enhancing the family experience by providing an upgrade in concession sales. This is in addition to our normal expenses.

We are asking the citizens of North Bennington to continue to assist us in offering baseball as an option for our children. Norshaft Youth Baseball relies on funding from Shaftsbury and North Bennington to remain viable and to keep our enrollment fees at an affordable level.

We believe that coaching and mentoring our children is the most important role in Youth Baseball. "Thank You" managers and coaches for your countless hours and many weekends you sacrifice so our children can enjoy the sport. Your dedication has not gone unnoticed! Thank you to those who have donated time and money to Norshaft Baseball. Without your determination and dedication we would not have had such a great year. I look forward to working with all of you next year.

Respectfully Submitted,


Brian C. Bushee, President
Norshaft Baseball

pickup caps or other waste material cannot be disposed of or stored on any village lot. (Section 3.10);

3. **Travel trailers, boat trailers or boats in front yards:** Such items cannot be stored in the front yard of any lot, meaning in most cases, about 30 feet from the street line. (Section 12.3.c.);

4. **Structures built without a permit:** A property owner must obtain a building permit before commencing work on any building project, including erecting a new structure or making a structural alteration to an existing one. This includes sheds (whether or not they have a foundation), fences, swimming pools, porches, decks, etc. (Section 13.3.a.).

If you have any questions regarding whether your project requires a permit, or feel that you may be out of compliance with these or any other provisions of the bylaws, please contact me.

Daniel Taub
Zoning Administrator
PO Box 423
North Bennington, VT 05257
nbdant@yahoo.com
802-447-8736

**VILLAGE of NORTH BENNINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION
2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

Norshaft Community Park

Board Members:

Rachel Schumacher, Chair
Robert Howe, Vice Chair
Daniel Taub, Secretary
Matthew Patterson
Marty Cummings

Daniel Taub
Zoning Administrator

The Planning Commission's primary mission, among other responsibilities, is to review and update its "Bylaws" and its "Master Plan" on an ongoing basis to insure that they are kept current and in conformity with the State of Vermont rules and regulations and to make recommendation for changes, as deemed appropriate, to the Village Trustees for their review, recommendation and enactment upon.

I regret to report that the State of Vermont has put a temporary hold on all funding for community grants for 2009 and 2010.

We have been advised that the State will resume funding for some community grants in the spring of 2011.

These community grants are the sole source of funding, which have allowed the Village to hire a consultant to assist the Planning Commission in updating our Bylaws and Master Plan.

Therefore there were no activity in 2010, however as soon as funding is made available, we shall resume grant writing and seek assistance for another round of updating both our Bylaws and Master Plan. The State recommends revision every five years, so we are well within this window for the time being.

Respectfully submitted

Rachel Schumacher
Rachel Schumacher
Chair

As of January 2011, the Park has collectively raised a total of \$143,000 in actual cash plus many hours of volunteer services from local contractors and local residents. North Bennington Tax Payers have contributed \$20,000 towards this total. We are very proud of our NorthShafts Community Park!

We have seen increased traffic of local and surrounding area kids enjoyed the skate park and play ground. This Spring started construction of the Band Stand and Concessions building. Currently this structure is 98% complete with just a few areas left to finish.

As of this coming Spring, Peter Geannelis has offered to guide and show us how to make our ball park professional looking. Peter has been instrumental in upgrading many area ball fields with his contributions and personal time. We are lucky to have him show interest in our community park.

As of current, our park has spent \$67,000 for the skate park portion, \$18,400 for the playground equipment and \$48,600 on band/concession building. This totals \$134,000.00. The budget remains with a mere \$9,000.00. We are still seeking donations.

North Bennington Tree Committee 2010 Report

The North Bennington Tree Committee has continued its work to further its mission of enhancing the beauty of our Village by planting and maintaining shade trees in public spaces and in the public right-of-way. We are also always on the lookout for hazardous trees in the village right-of-way and seek corrective actions in appropriate situations. The Committee would like to recognize the support of the Village and funds received from The Fund for North Bennington this year. We will forever be grateful for the work done and vision set forth for the committee by its founder Jean Aldrich.

This year Arbor Day events were centered on the planting of two fruit trees at the North Bennington Graded School near the expanding and beautiful garden area. A standard Cortland apple tree and an old fashioned crab apple tree were planted in an open space to the north of the school parking lot, with visions of present and future students picking and using the apples in various nutritious projects, as they also continue to use the perennial and annual flower beds there. The students participated by identifying the origin of various packages of apples by grade level and then locating the sometimes distant countries of origin on a world map. Each class then helped to fill in the two holes for the trees, as assisted by various Tree Committee members and Village officials.

Through the approval of the State of Vermont and the North Bennington Variety Store, the Tree Committee designed and funded a project to improve the traffic patterns at the store and provide shade to the area. An island was created, curbing installed and a locust tree planted east of the parking area. The Committee hopes to continue to enhance the 67 West entrance to the Village by planting more shade trees as funds become available.

The Committee also replaced a sugar maple on Prospect Street this year. An old maple had been removed at the site when a retaining wall was replaced as part of improvements to the area around and above Pleasant Street.

This year the Committee applied for and received 501-c3 status as a non-profit organization which will make the Committee more independent and hopefully will open up new opportunities for funding projects. We will continue to follow the maintenance schedule for past street tree plantings in the coming year, including pruning and mulching. We will also continue to look for opportunities in planning tree installations at the Lions' Park and the McWaters Park.

The North Bennington Tree Committee works in conjunction with the Village Tree Wardens, 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 and the Tree Committee.

Tree Committee Members:

- Jeff Gray, chair
- Maurice Kahn, Secretary/Treasurer
- Emily Hunter, Tree Warden
- Matthew Patterson, Tree Warden, Village Trustee
- Robert McWaters, Member-at-large
- Ron Pembroke, Certified Arborist
- Kage Brower, Member-at-large

*THE NORTH BENNINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.
P.O. BOX 417 NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05257
(802)-447-1305*

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

“ORGANIZED AND INCORPATED IN 1834”

Chief-Edward Myers Jr.
1st Assistant Chief Wayne Burgess.....2nd Assistant Chief Keith Cross Sr.
President-Steven Gorman

Our annual coin drops were good success, as well as the haunted hay ride.

2011 we will be hosting many events, the 3rd annual county firefighter's softball tournament, along with the 6th annual penguin plunge with Special Olympics.
On May 30th 2011 we will have the Memorial Day parade at 8am.

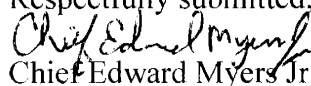
We continue to provide good fire safety with only 60 calls in 2010.

As always we are always looking for new membership.

False alarms	20	Motor vehicle accident / fire	3
Good intent	5	Mutual aid	15
Hazard call (Co, nature.etc.)	0	Outside fire (grass, brush, etc.)	0
Hazard material	0	Structure fire	7
Ems or police assist.	3	Service calls	1
Investigations	6		

We are always interested in your input and suggestion. Please call the firehouse at 447-1305 on Monday evenings after 6:30pm if you would like to speak with us.

We are always looking for new members.

Respectfully submitted;

Chief Edward Myers Jr.
EM/wb

North Bennington Fire Department
Annual Budget.

North Bennington Parks and Recreation Committee

2010 Annual Report

Article	2010-2011	2011-2012
Officer & Drill Pay	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
Fire Equipment New	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00
Gear replacement	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00
Training	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Maintenance & Repairs	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Gas & Diesel	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00
Fire House Expense	\$9,000.00	\$10,000.00
Communications	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Special police	\$250.00	\$250.00
Equipment Replacement Fund	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Fire House Renovation		\$5,000.00
	-----	-----
	\$56,450.00	\$64,450.00

Respectfully submitted

Chief Ed Myers
Chief Ed Myers
1-17-2011
EM/wb

CHIEF ED MYERS
1ST ASST. WAYNE BURGESS—2ND ASST. KEITH CROSS

We are happy to report that much progress was made on several of the projects that the Parks and Recreation Committee focused on in 2010. First, we were able to create a soccer field at the Wellings Field sight. This field was put in to replace the one that was on George Street that is no longer there. The new field is used by youth soccer teams from Shaftsbury, Bennington, and North Bennington. We hope to make further improvements to Wellings Field in the near future. Secondly, we are very pleased with the progress that has been made at the McWaters Park sight. With the help of the CDC group, led by David Dense, a great deal of clearing of the overgrowth that dominated the area has been accomplished. This action has opened the sight up to a wonderful view of the Henry Bridge and many opportunities for further development. We were also able to begin forming what will be the parking area. This phase of the project will be completed in the spring of 2011. Lastly, research is being done on increasing the relationship between Paran Recreation and The Village of North Bennington. More information on this will be available in the near future as we are still in the early stages of the research.

We hope to have a meeting early this spring to discuss the future development of McWaters Park. This will be a chance for members of this and surrounding communities to share their ideas for this sight.

Although not much progress was made in our efforts to improve the trail systems in the village, this will continue to be a priority of our committee.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to improve the parks and recreational areas in our village. We welcome your input and concerns, and encourage you to contact us with your ideas and comments.

Mark Boudreau 442-7061 markboudreau@northbennington.com

Martin Cummings [martincummings@northbennington.com](mailto:martin@northbennington.com)

Edie Sawitsky [ediesawitsky@northbennington.com](mailto:edie@northbennington.com)

Marlene Driscoll [marlenedriscoll@northbennington.com](mailto:marlene@northbennington.com)

Alisa DelTufo alisa@northbennington.com

NORTH BENNINGTON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

" GRANDVIEW CEMETERY "

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

In 2011 Grandview Cemetery will celebrate its 100th year as a corporation under the name of North Bennington Cemetery Association. The board would welcome contributions to the gravestone repair fund to honor the long history of service to the cemetery by interested citizens of North Bennington and Shaftsbury. In 2010 nineteen gravestones were re-leveled.

Cemetery rules, lot prices, and other information are posted on the cemetery grounds.

Lot owners may wish to attend the 2011 annual meeting on April 4th at 7 PM at St. John's Catholic Church. Officers will be elected.

Volunteers serving on the board are;

EDWARD MYERS, JR. -President
ROBERT LOOMIS -Vice-president
CHERYL THOMPSON -Secretary
PRISCILLA KENNEDY -Treasurer
ARLA SAMPSELL -Records/Agent
BARBARA BUXBAUM
ROBERT NOLAN
PATRICIA WATERS
DEBRA HILL

John G. McCullough Free Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

The McCullough Free Library continues to provide services to the residents of North Bennington, Shaftsbury, Bennington and surrounding towns, adding 170 new patrons in the past year. The Library schedule has remained unchanged: Tuesday and Wednesday, 1pm to 8pm; Thursday and Friday, 1pm to 6pm; Saturday, 10am to 2pm.

The Library provides meeting space for non-profit groups at no cost. Once again in 2010 the Library was certified as having met the Minimum Standards for Vermont Libraries (for the year 2009). The certification verifies that the Library is adequately serving its communities in terms of its hours of operation, staffing, levels of staff training, revenue, materials budget, Inter Library Loan, and programming. The McCullough Free Library easily met these standards.

We have qualified for a Gates Foundation Opportunity Grant, which will fund three new public access computers for the Library in 2010 and 2011. The Library successfully raised \$1300 to match the 2010 Gates Grant amount of \$3900m which allowed us to purchase two new public access computers and upgrade our server and software. There has been a great increase in use, due to the improved computers and infrastructure. The McCullough Library has also been selected to be part of the Vermont FiberConnect project, which will bring a fiber optic cable for a very high speed Internet connection into the Village of North Bennington. This will be installed in 2011.

The Friends of the Library group that was started in 2005 has continued to grow in membership and to add new activities. They have continued the program for Headstart children, which introduces them to the Library. Once a week a class comes to the Library, where the volunteers read to them, lead them in activities and help them to select books to take back to their school. The program continues to draw additional volunteers to read to the children, making it possible to accommodate more children.

The Friends also continue their Homebound Readers Program, which takes library materials to patrons who cannot come to the Library on their own. Difficulty with identifying homebound individuals has caused us to shift our emphasis to taking books, magazines, audio-books and DVDs to individuals in area assisted living facilities, rather than to individual homes.

The annual Book and Bake Sale conducted by the Friends in the Fall continues to grow in size and scope, and is becoming an anticipated community event. The sale allows to Library to purchase desired items that it is not possible to accommodate in the regular budget

The Children's Room continues to be a hub of activity. Our children's librarian Bonnie Dundas makes weekly visits to Hiland Hall School and the NBGS kindergarteners come to the Library one day a week for story hour. The Summer Reading Program "Make a Splash: Read!" successfully drew a regular attendance. The program was augmented by Judith Witters, who told stories to the guests. The first day of school was celebrated with free ice cream cones for children at the end of the school day.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Warren, Director, John G. McCullough Free Library

**Paran Recreations: Report to the Village of North Bennington Report, 2010
General Support and Sustainability Grant**

General Support: Paran Recreations is a local resource for summer recreation. We offer swimming, a beach for playing and relaxing, boating, fishing, summer entertainment for adults and children, volley ball and swim lessons. This year we received a grant for \$5000 towards our general operating costs.

Paran Recreations strives to be a resource for **everyone** in our community (North Bennington, Shaftsbury and Bennington). Over the past few years we have grown from having 75 members to **over 246 memberships** with thousands more people coming to swim, picnic, play in our volley ball league, use our boats, fish and enjoy music and other entertainment. By reaching out to a wider spectrum of the community Paran has become an important asset to a wide array of community residents. Evidence of this is the rise in usage we document through our membership, daily attendees and participation in events. Over the past two years Paran has tripled the number of people using the lake! This includes 400 kid/days of children enrolled in VAE summer camps and over 400 kid/days of students of the Bennington School, 75 members of the summer Chamber Music Program, 60 from SVC's Upward Bound summer advancement program for high school students, DREAM's 12 mentees and mentors who used the lake regularly this summer, seniors through BPI as well as residents from our three "home" communities.

Although our membership and other fees are low, there are many families in our communities who cannot afford them. As the economy continues to weaken, more and more families are experiencing economic hardship. Many families stay in town for the summer with fewer options for recreation. Also, children and adults are seeking organized activities to get them out of doors, be healthier while learning to appreciate and enjoy nature. In order to address these concerns Paran Recreations has received grants from the Fund for North Bennington to offer free memberships for families in need.

Organized by volunteers working hundreds of hours, our first annual Blue Grass Festival brought over 350 music lovers from as far away as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maine. We are also working to keep Paran alive for people during our off-season by planning several fall/winter activities that bring people to the lake. For example on Saturday October 16th we held our first Harvest Fest which drew over 80 children and adults to the lake for apple dunking, pumpkin carving and shooting our now famous potato cannon. We will have at least to more events this winter. We have achieved this degree of success through hard work, consistent leadership, community outreach, a modicum of financial stability and a vision of how the assets of Lake Paran can and should be enjoyed by our entire community. We will be running the Blue Grass Festival again this coming summer

Through a grant from the Fund for North Bennington we were able to provide 40 free memberships to community residents (we were funded to offer 35 but the need was greater) , 8 organizational passes to not for profits as well as 50 passes to elder members of the community and swimming lessons to those requesting them. Many who benefit from this initiative tell us regularly that their pass has enabled them to spend enjoyable time outdoors,

with their children. They and we are deeply grateful for this opportunity and hope to continue it in the future.

Sustainability Grant: Paran Recreations asked for and received a one-time \$5000 grant from the Village to explore options to address issues of Paran Recreations long-term sustainability options. During the summer of 2009 Paran Recreations septic system started to fail. After several expensive emergency visits by plumbers we had an assessment done to determine a better solution. We were troubled to discover that if we were to truly fix this problem our costs would be at least \$50,000 and probably more likely \$100,000. Unable to deal with an expense of this kind we determined that we needed to explore various options to address the future of the organization and the physical plant.

The grant is being used to pay a consultant to look into state grant and loan sources, private foundation and individual contributions that could go towards addressing these significant needs. In addition we are exploring public private partnerships with the Village that would maximize the benefits of this wonderful recreation facility for all of us for decades to come.

Paran Recreations will be making periodic reports to the Trustees, at Annual Meeting and our own board of directors over the next year.