

TOWN OF HARTLAND WARNING FOR TOWN MEETING MARCH 7, 2017

The legal voters of the Town of Hartland, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at Damon Hall on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 9:00 in the forenoon to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect, by Australian ballot, Town officers and Town School District officers for the ensuing year. The ballot box will be open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Moderator Town	One 1-year term	Town Agent	One 1-year term
Treasurer	One Year remaining	Town Grand Juror	One 1-year term
Selectperson	One 3-year term	Library Trustee	Two 3-year terms
Selectperson	One 2-year term	Moderator School District	One 1-year term
Lister	One 3-year term	School Director	One 3-year term
Lister	One 2-year remaining	School Director	One 2-year term
First Constable	One 2-year term		

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$62,250.00 to support the Hartland Volunteer Fire Department, such funds to be raised by taxes?

ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$16,500.00 to support the Hartland Rescue Squad, such funds to be raised by taxes?

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$1,500 to support Stagecoach Transportation Services Inc, such funds to be raised by taxes?

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$26,818.00 to support social service agencies as follows, such funds to be raised by taxes?

Community Nurse Program	5,175.00	Mt. Ascutney Prevention Partnership	2,000.00
Connecticut River Transport	500.00	SEVCA	3,220.00
Cover Home Repair	500.00	The Family Place	200.00
Green Mountain RSVP	500.00	VT Center for Independent Living	160.00
Green-Up Vermont	200.00	Volunteers in Action	900.00
Hartland Community Connections	4,000.00	White River Council on Aging	1,000.00
Hartland Community Food Shelf	500.00	Windsor County Partners	2,000.00
Health Care and Rehabilitation		Women's Information Services	500.00
Services of Southeastern Vermont, Inc.	3,453.00	Woodstock Area Job Bank	300.00
Headrest	1,710.00		

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to authorize the purchase of 21 Route 12 (property adjacent on the west side of the Recreation Center) in an amount not to exceed \$180,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed five years?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town vote to appropriate \$ ***** of which \$ ***** shall be raised by taxes, for Highways and General Fund expenses and all other purposes for which the law requires appropriations or the Town may legally vote?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to continue the use of the tabulator for the purpose of counting ballots in Town and School District voting?

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to declare Hartland, Vermont to be designated as a "Sanctuary Town"? This designation would declare that any illegal immigrant will be safe from deportation and may seek to find employment in this community without being asked for proof of citizenship.

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town authorize the Selectboard to borrow money from the Capital Reserve Fund or a commercial lender for a term of no longer than five years for Town expenses in anticipation of taxes and to execute and deliver their note or notes or Selectboard's Orders thereof?

ARTICLE 11: Resolved, that the Town of Hartland, through the FERC relicensing process, has been presented with information on the Connecticut River. If it is shown that there is a causal relationship between the operation of the Bellows Falls Dam and/or the Wilder Dam by TransCanada Corporation or subsequent owners resulting in the deterioration of the riverbank and attendant roads and farmland, it is recommended that the Town of Hartland formally request that TransCanada or subsequent owners modify current dam operations and create a mitigation fund to reimburse towns and landowners for any and all damages.

ARTICLE 12: To transact any other business necessary and proper under this warning:

Dated at Hartland, Vermont, this 3rd day of February 2017, A.D.

BUDGET COMMENTS 2017-2018

The Board of Selectmen is presenting a combined 2017-2018 budget of \$2,530,000 for the General and Highway Fund, an increase of \$58,300 over the previous year (2.4%). Anticipated income is expected to increase by \$30,500 (4.9%) over the previous year so the amount to be raised by taxes will be \$1,879,400, an increase of \$27,800 (1.5%).

Total wages for all employees increases by \$29,400 (4.4 %) this year. The primary reason for the increase is additional hours in the Clerk's and Treasurer's offices in anticipation of the training necessary for replacements of possible retirements. Health insurance increased again this year by \$46,000 (26.2%) but over half of this increase is due to one new employee opting for family coverage while the employee being replaced opted out of the health insurance plan. Fleet and Liability insurance increased by \$3,000 (5.3%) and Worker's Compensation insurance increased by \$3,700 (14.5%)

The Assessments budget increases by \$1,062 due small increases in County Tax, Ambulance Services, Two River Ottauquechee/Two Rivers Commission fees, Vermont League of Cities and Towns assessment, and Dispatch services offsetting a larger decrease in assessment for the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District. The Listers Office budget shows an increase of \$5,500 (5.9%) primarily due to the upcoming reappraisal.

The Clerk's budget increases \$6,800 (10.2%) for increased hours for the Assistant Clerk.. The Treasurer's budget will increase by \$24,500 but only \$4,250 over the 2016 budget (20.3%). The budget was brought back to a more reasonable amount this year to provide for regular office staffing The Planning Commission budget increases slightly \$600 for printing of the Town Plan. The Conservation Commission plans to increase water testing in Lull's Brook next year so their budget increases by \$500. The Recreation Department shows an increase of \$50,350 (23.1%), half of which is due to health insurance and the remainder due to continued growth of the programs.

The cost to operate and maintain our buildings is projected to decrease by \$45,000 (25.2%) due the elimination of one position and lower heating costs. Capital improvements will increase by \$9,000 (42.8%). Projects planned include roof repairs on the Rec Center, and possibly a new roof for the library.

Appropriations requests are remaining level. The library budget increases by \$13,417 (9.2%), due to increases in health insurance and salaries.

The Highway Fund shows a decrease of \$16,400 (1.7%). Most of this decrease is due one-time costs experienced last year that will not be included in this year's budget.

On the total revenue side of the 2017-2018 budget, we anticipate an increase of \$30,500 (4.9%) due to an increase in the Hold Harmless payment from the State, interest penalty for delinquent taxes and increased user fees for Rec Department programs

We anticipate a slight increase in the Grand List this year and a \$0.005 increase in the municipal tax rate. For a home appraised at \$250,000, a \$0.005 increase in the tax rate translates to a \$12.50 increase in property tax.

Town Manager's Report January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

The Highway crew remained the same for the eighth year in a row with foreman Bill Barrows, Skip Erskine, Dan Morancy, Doug Harrington, and BJ Mattson on board. The Buildings & Grounds Department was restructured so that the Highway crew would be performing most of the department's tasks, particularly winter storm cleanup. The amount of work required for the one employee did not justify a full-time position. Summer mowing will be completed by a private contractor. We want to thank Matt White for his years of working for the Town and wish him well in his future endeavors. John Leonard is doing a fine job as our Recreation Director. Our Assistant Director, Monica Torney found that she preferred to work with children directly so she left her position to fill a Social Emotional Interventionist position at Hartland Elementary School so she will still be working with Hartland students. Joe Olmstead Jr. was hired to replace Monica. Joe comes to us from a similar position in Windsor. He's a Hartland native and we know that he and John will be a very dynamic duo for the Rec Department.

Deb Olmstead is in her second year as the Treasurer and is handling the office quite well. She appointed Dennise Post as her assistant. You may know Dennise (that's how she spells it) from her part-time position at the library. She will be splitting her hours between the two locations. Bruce Locke spends all his time in the Listers' Office now and Doug Linnell has been hired to help Bruce. Doug has jumped in with both feet and between the two of them you'll see some significant upgrades. They are busy preparing for the upcoming Reappraisal that will start in July and take two years to complete. Since Bruce is now in the Listers Office, Clyde appointed Laura Bergstresser to the vacant Assistant clerk position. She is very detailed oriented and will do a good job for us.

Sand and salt totals were about 40% less than our 19-year average due to the mild winter. We also had a relatively mild mud season so Mother Nature was looking out for us.

We purchased a new, tow-behind wood chipper which makes for a much more efficient means to do roadside trimming and emergency cleanups. The crew completed trimming of significant sections on Rice Road and Shute Road. We could keep another full crew busy for years just keeping up with this task. We also replaced one dump truck last year and expect to replace another one this upcoming year.

Garcia Lane became a new town road last summer after the residents brought the road up to town highway standards. We lowered the speed limit on Lovers Lane in hopes to make it a little less intimidating for walkers – it is a very popular road for walking. We paved numerous sections of Quechee Road this fall so that road is in pretty good shape. Most likely, parts of Clay Hill Road and County Road will be resurfaced next summer. We replaced a stone culvert on Densmore Hill Road that was damaged during a storm in 2013. We will receive around 80% reimbursement for that concrete culvert (which is actually a bridge now). Replacement cost was \$196,000.

We finished up our four-year plan to replace broken slate and repair all the chimney flashing on the Damon Hall roof and plan to do the same to the Rec Center roof next year.

Hartland's Common Level of Appraisal, which is based on the State's comparison of housing sales and assessed values, decreased slightly this year to 105.37% which will barely make a difference in the tax rate. The higher this ratio is, the less taxpayers need to pay in school taxes. The Town's municipal budget increased by 2.6%, and the amount to be raised by taxes increased also by 1.3%, resulting in a \$0.0011 increase in the municipal tax rate. Delinquent taxes increased by \$44,042.79 over last year to \$228,570.88 as of December 31, 2016. Three tax sales were held this year with other possible sales after the final tax payment is due in February.

The plans for the reconfiguration of the Three Corners Intersection have been finalized by VHB, Inc. of South Burlington and were submitted to the Vermont Agency of Transportation in October. We await that decision and for approval by their Right-of-Way and Utilities Departments. We anticipate putting the package out to bid in February with a start date of Spring 2017. The Town spent significant time delving into possible policing alternatives for Hartland and decided to conduct a survey to get input from the residents. The results showed an overwhelming preference to retain the Vermont State Police as our law enforcement agency so the Selectboard signed another contract with VSP. We budgeted \$53,500 for their services, which is very reasonable compared to the cost of police services in many of our neighboring communities.

We planted a tree in honor of Ray Sapp, our late beloved Recreation Director, overlooking the soccer field on Foster Meadows. We know that he loved being there watching our kids at play.

As mentioned above, significant changes are starting to occur with the both elected and appointed officials of the Town of Hartland. One change that has not been mentioned is that I will be retiring in June 2017 and a new town manager will be coming on board. The Selectboard is starting to gear up for a search process that you will hear more about that at a later date. I'm confident that the search will result in an excellent replacement that has the energy and skills to fulfill the requirements of this position. I want to thank the Selectboard, my fellow Town employees and the residents of Hartland for their support and assistance for the last nineteen plus years. I will miss the many relationships that I have developed over these years. The Town will need good leaders to step forward in the near future. We have been fortunate to have many individuals without political agendas remain in office for significant periods of time which has helped the Town maintain a consistency of service for our citizens at a reasonable cost. We hope that level of service to the community continues.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Stacey, Town Manager

**TOWN OF HARTLAND
2017-2018 PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY
2015-2016 APPROPRIATION REPORT SUMMARY**

General Fund Expenditures	Budget 2015-2016	Actual 2015-2016	Budget 2016-2017	Proposed 2017-2018
Administration	\$ 290,530	\$ 338,942.06	\$ 302,000	\$ 333,600
Assessment	308,030	336,809.04	319,507	318,445
Constable	11,325	13,900.06	11,300	11,500
Animal Control Officer	1,700	2,034.86	1,150	1,650
Listers	46,612	49,328.76	94,500	100,050
Town Clerk	56,350	61,740.83	66,250	73,050
Treasurer	20,630	17,856.44	8,330	24,880
Planning Commission	1,520	1,998.29	1,520	2,120
Conservation Commission	1,500	1,500.00	1,500	2,000
Recreation Center Program	233,275	229,463.27	218,800	269,150
Library Program -F Meadow	135,831	135,831.00	144,948	158,365
Fire Dept	62,000	62,000.00	61,750	62,250
Sumner Falls	900	240.00	300	300
Foster Meadow Library	12,100	20,228.55	11,500	10,900
Martin Memorial Bldg	3,650	1,364.27	3,150	2,200
North Hartland School	10,860	8,258.63	4,160	2,760
Foster Meadow/Barns	1,450	483.28	750	750
Recreation Center	15,300	12,583.48	14,600	11,300
Activity Center	18,300	12,774.00	16,200	5,100
Town Garage	14,200	12,433.88	13,800	13,500
Damon Hall	22,900	12,171.56	13,200	9,300
Capital Improvements	21,000	16,738.55	21,000	30,000
Four Corners Park	-	-	-	-
Buildings & Grounds	76,960	79,087.45	81,900	47,450
Cemeteries	2,450	4,147.50	2,400	3,050
Appropriations	52,537	52,533.50	55,512	55,512
Miscellaneous	25,390	83,128.72	15,973	11,518
Total General Fund	\$ 1,447,300	\$ 1,567,577.98	\$ 1,486,000	\$ 1,560,700
Highway-Administration	\$ 194,000	\$ 188,177.37	185,700	199,800
Summer Maintenance	378,800	411,256.20	399,500	377,000
Gravel Resurfacing	40,000	869.72	30,000	30,000
Paving & Resurfacing	70,000	223,947.14	80,000	80,000
Total Expenditures - Summer Hwy	\$ 682,800	\$ 824,250.43	\$ 695,200	\$ 686,800
Winter Maintenance	278,500	265,430.27	290,500	282,500
Town Bridges	-	1,478.72	-	-
Total Highway Funds	961,300	1,091,159.42	985,700	969,300
Grand Total	\$ 2,408,600	\$ 2,658,737.40	\$ 2,471,700	\$ 2,530,000
Total Town Budget (2)			\$ 2,471,700	\$ 2,530,000
Less Anticipated Income (1)			(277,100)	(292,600)
Highway Money			(158,000)	(158,000)
Hold Harmless			(185,000)	(200,000)
Amount To be raised by taxes			\$ 1,851,600	\$ 1,879,400

(1) See page 18 for details of Anticipated Income for 2016/2017

(2) See pages 7-17 for details of 2017/2018 Town Budget

**Town of Hartland Income Statement
July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ADOPTED	PROPOSED
	2015-2016	2015-2016	BUDGET	BUDGET
General Fund Income			2016-2017	2017-2018
Taxes General Fund		1,047,367.88		
State of VT-Hold Harmless		182,814.00		
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	35,000	41,164.96	35,000	40,000
8% Penalty	23,000	29,618.36	23,000	28,000
Interest on Investments	500	400.90	400	1,000
Collectors Costs	50	10.00	50	-
Dog Licences and Fees	3,000	3,665.00	3,000	3,500
Mobile Home Park Fees	50	-	50	50
1st and 3rd Class License	220	370.00	220	300
Damon Hall Rent	1,000	2,000.00	1,200	1,500
Activity Center Rent	18,000	16,800.00	18,000	8,400
Recreation Center - Rent	7,500	7,300.00	7,500	7,500
Rec Fees - Athletic Fall/Winter/Spring Prgrms	7,000	11,565.00	8,500	10,000
Recreation Fees After School Program	4,000	4,855.00	6,000	45,000
Recreation Fees - HEART Program	45,000	28,949.00	40,000	-
Recreation Adventures Series	17,000	21,300.00	17,000	21,000
Recreation Camp Fees	21,000	21,190.50	20,000	21,000
Recreation Programs/Courses Fees	6,500	18,404.20	9,000	13,000
Recreation Special Event Fees	1,500	100.00	250	250
Athletic Director Reimbursement	16,850	16,850.00	17,400	17,400
Driveway Permit Fees	100	240.00	100	200
Copies/Fax	4,000	3,731.00	4,000	3,500
Weigh Permit	400	485.00	450	450
Railroad Reimbursement	2,000	4,156.15	2,100	3,500
Windsor County Tax	-	31,158.60	32,000	32,000
No Hartland Tax Dam Loss	500	525.22	500	500
Computer Lists	100	30.00	100	50
Local Fines	5,000	3,603.91	4,000	5,000
Recording/Vault Fees	20,000	22,559.00	23,000	23,000
Motor Vehicles Reg Fees	600	384.00	500	400
Record Preservation	1,000	35.00	1,000	1,000
Old Home Day Income	5,100	3,953.00	2,250	2,600
Community Activity Days	-	1,182.00	-	1,000
Junk/Cleanup Reimb	-	1,041.74	-	-
Eurasian Milfoil Grant	-	3,080.00	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	4,193.23	1,500	1,500
Transf In Cap. Resv Susp	-	64,184.68	-	-
	\$ 245,970.00	\$ 1,599,267.33	278,070.00	292,600.00
Revenue				
Summer Hwy-Paving Grant	\$-	\$142,198.40	\$-	\$-
Tax Revenue-Summer Hwg	-	587,800.00	-	-
State of Vermont Summer Hwg	94,873	94,603.02	95,000	95,000
Tax Revenue -Winter Hwg	-	215,500.00	-	-
State of Vermont Winter Hwg	63,000	62,603.03	63,000	63,000
Tax Revenue-Bridges	-	-	-	-
	\$157,873	\$1,102,704.45	\$158,000	\$158,000
Expenses				
Year to date Expended				
General Fund		\$ 1,567,577.98		
Summer Highway		\$ 824,250.00		
Winter Highway		\$ 265,430.27		
Town Bridges		\$ 1,478.72		
Total Expense		\$ 2,658,736.97		
Total Anticipated Income	403,843		436,070	450,600
Increase or Decrease		\$ 43,234.81		

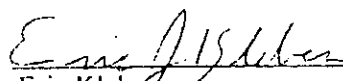
This report shows actual income. Propsed budget figures are estimate of anticipated income excluding taxes.

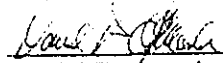
WARNING
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HARTLAND, VERMONT
ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING: February 27, 2017, 7:30 PM
Damon Hall
VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT: March 7, 2017
Polls open 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

- Article 1: To elect by Australian ballot, the Town School District officers for the ensuing year.
- Article 2: To act on the reports of the School District officers for the past year.
- Article 3: To see if the School District will vote to pay taxes to the Town Treasurer, such taxes to be collected on the same schedule voted at the Town Meeting.
- Article 4: To see if the School District will vote to authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money from the Capital Reserve Fund or a commercial lender in anticipation of taxes to meet the requirements of the School District for the ensuing year and to authorize the execution and delivery of notes or orders to the School District.
- Article 5: Shall the voters of the Hartland School District approve, by Australian ballot, the school board to expend \$8,166,553, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,507.14 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 6.28% higher than the spending for the current year.
- Article 6: Shall the voters of the Town of Hartland authorize the Hartland Board of School Directors to withdraw up to \$60,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to do the following: improvements of classroom ventilation systems.
- Article 7: To transact any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

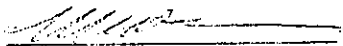
Hartland School Board


Bettina Read, Chair

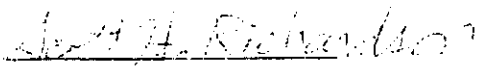

Eric Kleber

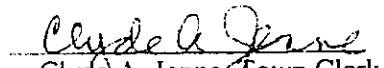

Daniel Emanuele, Vice Chair

Dated at Hartland, Vermont this 26 day of January, 2017


Nicole Buck, Clerk

Received for posting this 26 day of January, 2017.


Scott Richardson

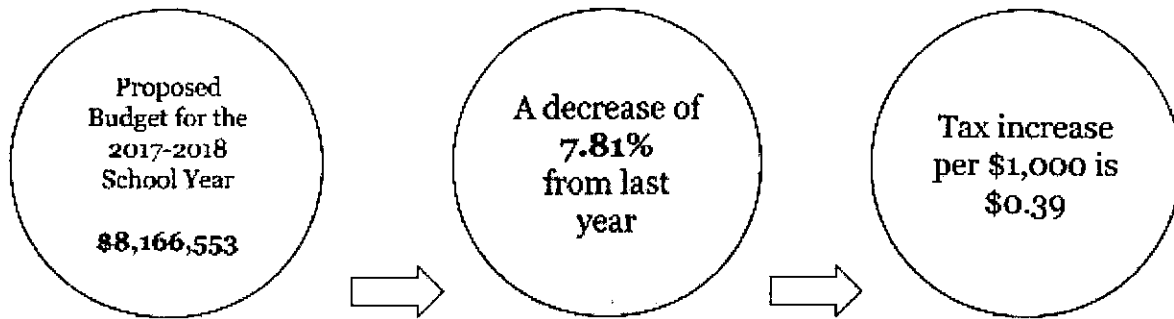

Clyde A. Jenne, Town Clerk

Save the Date!

Annual School District Information Meeting
Monday, February 27 at 7:30 pm
At Damon Hall

Voting for the budget will take place at Damon Hall on
Tuesday, March 7th from 7am-7pm

The school budget adopted by Hartland voters will affect each child in our school and impact every member of our community. Please join us for the meeting.



What are the changes in the budget?

Total decrease in the budget is

\$637,965

Supervisory Union services are up

\$51,018

High School tuitions increase

\$35,671

	Budget FY - 2016	Actual FY - 2016	Budget FY - 2017	Budget FY - 2018
Total Revenue	\$ 8,660,858	\$ 8,669,001	\$ 8,804,518	\$ 8,166,553
Expenditures				
Regular Instruction	457,241	473,557	496,742	634,958
Art Education	3,000	9,164	2,500	9,200
Physical Education	1,000	3,353	80,284	92,701
Music Education	1,500	15,941	69,194	69,945
Theater	4,999	1,979		2,000
Co-Curricular Academics	4,037	7,994	19,102	14,102
Health Services	93,711	96,458	96,357	114,077
Improvement of Instruction	255,164	267,530	222,937	179,274
Media Services	92,767	90,508	94,777	35,791
Computer Technology	169,458	161,777	188,996	230,185
Board of Education	97,959	143,704	45,109	89,666
Legal Services	1,500	7,792	1,500	3,500
Audit Services	5,500	5,800	5,800	-
WSESU Central Office	205,073	198,951	219,154	270,172
Office of the Principal	361,927	368,536	324,122	338,383
Special Education Assessment	1,428,558	1,311,997	1,834,964	709,001
Early Childhood Program	72,864	72,864	168,548	187,897
Building and Grounds	498,962	497,715	443,936	489,272
Pupil Transportation	205,619	195,731	191,246	199,790
Co-Curricular Transportaton	9,000	12,966	9,000	13,000
Total District Wide	3,969,839	3,944,317	4,514,268	3,682,914
Elementary Instruction				
Elementary Instruction	1,084,961	1,092,684	982,846	1,084,209
English Language Arts	1,550	9,016	8,000	4,550
Health Education	300	-	2,000	-
Reading Recovery	200	365	-	400
Mathematics	4,500	3,235	3,000	3275
Science	5,565	45,709	8,200	4,650
Social Studies	1,260	1,140	3,000	1,200
Reading Instruction	5,000	7,258	5,500	7,250
Guidance	79,821	82,794	84,067	86,719
Physical Therapy	-	2,220	-	2,500
Total Elementary Instruction	1,183,157	1,244,421	1,096,613	1,194,753
Middle School Instruction				
Middle School Instruction	653,273	552,679	419,651	480,334
English Language Arts	1,450	5,805	1,500	600
World Language	500	211	1,500	250
Health Education	500	693	1,500	700
Family Consumer Science	2,000	-	-	-
Mathematics	1,600	-	1,500	-
Science	2,990	29,714	1,500	1,500
Social Studies	2,585	5,863	1,500	5,850
Tech Education	1,950	1,032	3,000	1,200
Co-Curricular Athletics	42,716	37,611	40,207	38,500
Guidance	92,617	91,676	96,310	98,812
Total Middle School	802,181	725,284	568,168	627,746
High School Instruction				
High School Instruction	2,545,798	2,305,254	2,432,137	2,466,188
Vocational Education	159,883	154,368	152,732	154,352
Prior Year Tuition	-	-	40,600	40,600
Total High School Instruction	2,705,681	2,459,622	2,625,469	2,661,140
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,660,858	8,373,646	8,804,518	8,166,553

**Hartland School District
2014 - 2018 Statistics**

Expenditures by Education Level

Level	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	% of Budget
District Wide: K-12	3,692,285	3,669,013	3,969,839	4,514,268	3,682,914	45%
Primary Education: K-8	2,189,527	2,124,232	1,985,338	1,664,781	1,822,499	22%
High School :9-12	2,407,241	2,300,501	2,705,681	2,625,469	2,661,140	33%
Totals	8,289,053	8,093,746	8,660,858	8,804,518	8,166,553	100%

Expenditures by Budget Category

Category	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	% of Budget
Wages	2,217,045	2,300,904	2,387,644	2,123,253	2,306,017	28%
Benefits	907,185	979,864	1,009,789	940,845	1,010,814	12%
Contracted Services	15,473	30,563	48,467	149,840	182,922	2%
Assessments	2,042,178	1,783,219	1,829,818	2,375,741	1,353,760	17%
Maintenance	126,206	111,200	82,750	84,350	104,000	1%
Transportation	163,123	166,225	212,119	198,746	211,190	3%
Tuition	2,407,241	2,238,501	2,705,681	2,588,869	2,620,540	32%
Supplies						
Books/Materials	242,104	247,295	222,054	187,263	174,000	2%
Capital Equipment	56,950	44,410	57,000	56,700	49,200	1%
Other	111,548	191,565	105,536	98,911	154,110	2%
Totals	8,289,053	8,093,746	8,660,858	8,804,518	8,166,553	100%

Education Funding Formula Statistics

Statistic	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	% Change
Projected Tax Rate	1.543	1.542	1.602	1.520	1.559	2.58%
Total Budget	8,289,053	8,093,746	8,660,858	8,804,518	8,166,553	-7.25%
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	102.07%	107.07%	107.99%	105.37%	105.06%	-0.29%
Equalized Pupil	468.07	456.40	453.14	486.03	468.52	-3.60%

FY18 Assessment Comparisons

Assessments Type	2017	2018	\$ Diff	% Diff
Tech	152,701	186,690	33,989	22.26%
Business	219,154	270,172	51,018	23.28%
Special Ed	1,834,964	709,001	(1,125,963)	-61.36%
Early Childhood	168,922	187,897	18,975	11.23%
Totals	2,375,741	1,353,760	(1,021,981)	29.83%

WINDSOR SOUTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
Hartland • Weathersfield • West Windsor • Windsor School Districts

105 Main Street, Suite 200 • Windsor, Vermont 05089
(802) 674-2144 • fax (802) 674-6357



March 2016

Dear Communities of West Windsor, Windsor, Weathersfield and Hartland:

It is hard to believe that I am finishing my fifth year as Superintendent for the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union. I have been very fortunate to work in a region that supports public education and makes a firm commitment to educating all children. These last five years supervisory unions have been asked to make some very difficult transitions. The state has asked that many of the services be centralized at the supervisory union level. This has not always been easy. Our communities have always been quite independent – in fact supporting individual superintendents in each town for a long period of time. That said, the Boards have worked well together and we were one of the first supervisory unions to completely comply with Act 153 and Act 156 – commonly known as the consolidation Acts. It has not been without some bumps and bruises, but all-in-all the transitions have been smooth.

Now we are faced with an even greater collaborative challenge – namely trying to comply with Act 46 – fondly called the merger law. This piece of legislation poses a rather unique problem for our towns. While we do work well together, each town is organized differently. Act 46 asks for town districts to organize under a merged structure – where the newly merged district represents one of what the state calls a “preferred structure”. This may be easy in a supervisory union where the towns are already organized in the same way, but in our case we have two PK-8’s; one PK-6; and one PK-12. If we were going to go to one of those structures, then someone has to change – this is never easy. On top of all that, we have two of our towns that offer senior high school choice and one that offers junior and senior high school choice to their children. In some supervisory unions – even if organized differently, the town students still go to one high school. That is not the case with us.

We have to be thoughtful in our collaborative work around Act 46. We have established an Act 46 planning committee that has put in countless hours trying to devise a workable solution. As I write this report, that work is ongoing. I hope by the time we come to Town Meeting we will be able to give a detailed report to our public. In the end, any decision that is made has to be ratified by the voters. If a decision that benefits all four towns cannot be made, then each town can write a proposal to the state recommending an “Alternative Structure”. Unless Act 46 is amended, towns only have until November of 2017 to agree on a preferred structure or to submit an acceptable alternative proposal. If a town cannot decide on a merger or present an acceptable alternative plan, then the current law allows for the Secretary of Education to advise the State Board on the realignment of those towns and districts that are out of compliance. This is a complicated law and we are moving very carefully and thoughtfully.

Our administration and staff work very hard in all four of our schools. We are seeing good results in state testing. Our boards are trying to budget accurately and to maintain quality at a point that is affordable to our taxpayers. I want to applaud the work of our Business Manager, Ed Connors, who around this budget time is constantly refining final budgets and presenting to our boards. He has to track five different budgets (if you include the Supervisory Union budget) and numerous fund accounts. Much of the contents of this Town Report are generated by Ed.

As a Supervisory Union we try to hold the expense line as well. Since we consolidated special education, we employ so many more staff as the central office level. As I write this report, we are negotiating two employee contracts – teachers and support staff. While we do build in estimated increases, we do not actually settle with firm numbers until those contracts are settled. We are also using a new method for the Supervisory Union assessment this year. We are using the “Equalized Pupil” count as the new measure for assessing. We will explain more at Town Meeting, but suffice to say that the boards think this will stabilize those assessments so we can avoid big spikes or dips form year-to year. This is especially important given the size of the total assessment.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve these communities. I look forward to our future together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David W. Baker".

Dr. David W. Baker
Superintendent