

Town of
Shaftsbury, Vermont



ANNUAL TOWN REPORT
For the Year Ending June 30, 2017

~~~~~

School Business Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Monday, March 5, 2018

~~~~~

Town Business Meeting
7:30 p.m. Monday, March 5, 2018

~~~~~

Balloting  
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 6, 2018

~~~~~

Contact Information	4
SECTION 1 – Annual Meeting Warning.....	6
SECTION 2 – Financial Information.....	9
TREASURER	9
TAX RATE FY18.....	10
LISTERS.....	11
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR	12
AUDITORS	14
TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS	14
SECTION 5- Town Clerk.....	18
SECTION 6 – Selectboard.....	19
SELECTBOARD REPORT	19
FY19 BUDGET NOTES	20
SECTION 7- Operational Reports	25
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	25
BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION.....	26
BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF.....	27
BENNINGTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE	29
CEMETERIES.....	31
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD	31
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.....	32
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	33
FIRE DEPARTMENT	33
FOREST FIRE WARDEN	34
HEALTH OFFICER.....	35
PLANNING COMMISSION	36
PUBLIC WORKS.....	36
RECREATION COMMITTEE	37
STATE REPRESENTATIVE.....	38
TREE WARDEN	39
VERMONT STATE POLICE	39
VETERANS’ COMMITTEE.....	41
WATER DEPARTMENT	42
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR.....	43

Introduction to the New Town Report Format

We have redesigned this year's Town Report to make the information more relevant and accessible, and to save printing costs. Gone are pages of financials spreadsheets, and state and local government phone directories. (Shaftsbury town offices now have one central phone number 802 442 4038.) We have retained town officer reports, and tried to present relevant data with minimal statistics and charts. Nevertheless, all of that detail, including the 500 line budget spreadsheet, remain part of the public record and are available upon request and at our website shaftsburyvt.gov.

Contact Information

In Case of Emergency
911
Fire - Police - Medical

Main Phone Number

802 442 4038

Clerk: ext. 1

Treasurer: ext. 2

Administrator: ext. 3

Assesor/Listers: ext. 4

Zoning: ext. 5

Accounts Payable: ext. 6

Water Dept.: ext. 7

Cemetery: ext. 8

Fax: 802 442-0955

Email

Clerk: townclerk@shaftsburyvt.gov

Treasurer: treasurer@shaftsburyvt.gov

Administrator: administrator@shaftsburyvt.gov

Assesor/Listers: listers@shaftsburyvt.gov

Accounts Payable: accounting@shaftsburyvt.gov

Zoning: zoning@shaftsburyvt.gov

General Inquiries: info@shaftsburyvt.gov

Website

shaftsburyvt.gov

Town Offices at Cole Hall

PO Box 409

61 Buck Hill Rd

Shaftsbury VT, 05262

Other Phone Numbers

Animal Control Officer

Traci Mulligan - 802 375 6121

Constables

Paul McGann, First Constable - 802 366 0125

Bob Perry, Second Constable - 802 442 3071

Delinquent Tax Collector

Merton Snow - 802 442 4526

Emergency Management Director

Jerry Mattison - 802 442 3032

Fire Department

Joe Vadakin, Chief - 802 384 0061

Health Officer

Jackie Myers - 802 688 9570

Fire Warden (Burn Permits)

Jerry Mattison - 802 379 4487

Eric Bushee - 518 396 7639

Todd Siclari - 802 447 3028

Travis Buttle (Glastenbury) – 802 442 4383

Public Works (Highways, Parks, Water)

Steve Washburn - 802 442 9838

Recreation Committee (Park Reservations)

Deena Ruege - 802 447 4741

Water Department

Jim McGinnis - 802 375 4021

Tree Warden

Jim White - 802 375 6454

PUBLIC WORKS EMERGENCIES

Highways

Steve Washburn - 802 442 9838

For dangerous conditions nights/weekends/holidays

Call State Police - 911 or

Shaftsbury Barracks - 802 442 5421

Shaftsbury Water System

Jim McGinnis - 802 375 4021

North Bennington Water System

Ted Fella - 802 375 9224

Truck Cell - 802 688 9005

SECTION 1 – Annual Meeting Warning

STATE OF VERMONT
Bennington County, SS:
TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY

March 2018 Annual Meeting Warning

Shaftsbury residents, qualified to vote at the Annual Town Meeting, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Shaftsbury Elementary School on **Monday, March 5, 2018, at 7:30 PM** to transact the business specified below. Upon completion of such business, the Meeting will stand adjourned until **Tuesday, March 6, 2018, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM** when voting by Australian ballot will commence at the Buck Hill Road Fire House for the election of town officers and consideration of ballot articles.

Shaftsbury residents may submit an application to the Town Clerk to have their names added to the voter checklist no later than **5:00 PM on Monday, March 5, 2018** to be eligible to vote on Monday, March 5, 2018 during the Floor Meeting and/or Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at the polls. Any voter unable to come to the polls may apply for an early voter ballot with the Town Clerk until **5:00 PM on Monday, March 5, 2018**. Registration to vote can be done online by going to **olvr.sec.state.vt.us**. Residents registering on Election Day must do so only at the polling place of their physical residence.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED FROM THE FLOOR
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018 AT 7:30 PM
SHAFTSBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
150 BUCK HILL ROAD.

1. To hear reports of the Town Officers and take action thereon.
2. To Determine:
 - A. Shall Selectboard members each receive an annual stipend of \$500?
 - B. Shall the Board of Auditors be paid a wage at the rate of \$10.50 per hour?
 - C. Shall the 1st and 2nd Constable be paid a wage at the rate of \$10.50 per hour?
 - D. Shall the Board of Listers be paid a wage at the rate of \$10.50 per hour?
3. Shall the Town authorize collection of taxes on real or personal property by its Treasurer, which are due in hand on or before, **Friday, November 9, 2018** at 5:00 PM or likewise postmarked no later than **Friday, November 9, 2018**?
4. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,900,300 to defray the Town's general and highway expenses for Fiscal Year 2019, the amount of such sum to be raised by property taxes and to be reduced by non-tax revenues and reserve funds?

5. To transact any other non-binding business as legally may come before said meeting at this time.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018
7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM
FIRE STATION -166 BUCK HILL ROAD

1. To Determine:

WHEREAS extreme and erratic temperatures, increasingly severe storms, flooding, a rise in tick-borne diseases, and threats to farmers and maple sugar makers clearly demonstrate that climate change is one of the most urgent problems facing our state, nation, and world, and WHEREAS THE State of Vermont has a goal in the Comprehensive Energy Plan to achieve 90% of its energy from renewable resources by 2050, yet is making insufficient progress towards achieving that goal;

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Town urges the State of Vermont to:
 - a. Halt any new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure, including but not limited to energy pipelines;
 - b. Firmly commit to at least 90% renewable energy for all people in Vermont, with firm interim deadlines; and,
 - c. Ensure that the transition to renewable energy is fair and equitable for all residents, with no harm to low-income people, people of color, or rural communities.
2. That the Town will do our part to meet these demands by committing to efforts such as:
 - a. Protecting Town lands from fossil fuel infrastructure, denying easements or agreements for any pipelines crossing town lands;
 - b. Enlisting state support in weatherizing town buildings and schools and installing alternative energy, such as roof top solar, to town structures;
 - c. Other initiatives to improve the quality of life while helping to reduce overall use of energy.
2. To Determine: Shall the Town vote to exempt Taconic Community Grange from payment of property tax for a period of five years?
3. Community Appropriations to Determine:
 1. Shall the Town appropriate **\$7,000** to the Arlington Rescue Squad, Inc.?
 2. Shall the Town appropriate **\$5,225** to Bennington Area Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice?
 3. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1000** to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless?
 4. Shall the Town appropriate **\$475** to the Bennington County Conservation District?
 5. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the Bennington Free Clinic?
 6. Shall the Town appropriate **\$17,250** to the Bennington Free Library?
 7. Shall the Town appropriate **\$600** to Bennington Little League?

8. Shall the Town appropriate **\$4,560** to the Bennington Project Independence, Inc.?
9. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,700** to the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council?
10. Shall the Town appropriate **\$600** to the Center for Restorative Justice?
11. Shall the Town appropriate **\$200** to the Green-Up Vermont?
12. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,850** to the Habitat for Humanity?
13. Shall the Town appropriate **\$20,000** to the John G. McCullough Free Library?
14. Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,000** to the Martha Canfield Library?
15. Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,500** to the Paran Recreations, Inc.?
16. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the Park McCullough House
17. Shall the Town appropriate **\$450** to the Project Against Violent Encounters?
18. Shall the Town appropriate **\$950** to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program?
19. Shall the Town appropriate **\$2,500** to the Shaftsbury Historical Society, Inc.?
20. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the Sunrise Family Resource Center?
21. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,100** to the SW Vermont Council on Aging?
22. Shall the Town appropriate **\$900** to the Tutorial Center?
23. Shall the Town appropriate **\$300** to the VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired?
24. Shall the Town appropriate **\$1,000** to the VT Center for Independent Living?
25. Shall the Town appropriate **\$500** to the Bennington County Association Against Child Abuse?

DATED at Shaftsbury, Vermont this 29th day of **January, 2018**.

TOWN OF SHAFTSBURY SELECTBOARD

Tim Scoggins, Chair

Art Whitman, Vice Chair

Ken Harrington,

Joe Barber, Member

Tony Krulikowski, Member

SECTION 2 – Financial Information

TREASURER

Overview of the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017 (FY2017):

The Town of Shaftsbury ended the year with a small unfavorable variance to the General Fund of \$78,589.

The budget called for equal revenue and expenditures. Revenue came in about 2% below budget, and expenditures were about the same amount over budget.

	Budget	Actual	Actual % of Budget
Total Revenue	1,880,067	1,842,859	98.02%
Total Expenditures	1,880,067	1,921,448	102.20%
Total General Fund	0	-78,589	

This variance in expenditure was intentional. We had intended to spend down \$49,300 of the fund balance in FY2016, but, owing to the mild winter and other factors, ended that year with a favorable balance that more than offset that amount. The extra expenditures in FY2017, approved by the Selectboard, went to park and sidewalk improvements. On the revenue side, tax collection was very slightly down from the previous year.

The auditing firm of Sullivan, Powers & Co. again undertook an external audit of the Town for FY2017. (It is now Town policy to have an external audit annually.) Their complete final audit report will be available on the Town website and at the Town Offices.

They continue to identify fairly minor issues of internal control, which we are addressing. Overall, their findings were positive: it is reassuring to know that our systems conform, as well as is feasible with such a small staff, with generally accepted accounting principles. If you have any questions about the audit, or any other matter regarding town finances, please don't hesitate to email, stop by or give me a call.

Melanie Dexter, Shaftsbury Town Treasurer

TAX RATE FY18

TAX RATES FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018
Rate Adopted by Select Board August 31, 2017

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES AS VOTED AT TOWN MEETING	\$1,539,392
GRAND LIST VALUE	4049925
RATE BASED ON GRAND LIST PER \$100	0.3801

LOCAL AGREEMENT ADJUSTMENTS

	GRAND LIST VALUE	(STATE) (EDUCATION) (RATE)	EDUCATION TAXES TO BE RECOVERED	
TOWN 180				
RESIDENT VETERANS EXEMPTIONS	5,400	1.3177	7,115.58	
NONRESIDENT VETERANS EXEMPTION	300	1.4379	431.37	
TOWN 254	(.)			
RESIDENT VETERANS EXEMPTIONS	600	1.5012	900.72	
NONRESIDENT VETERANS EXEMPTION	-	1.4689	-	
TOTAL VETERANS' EXEMPTION			8,447.67	0.0021
GRANGE HALL EXEMPTION (Expires 2018)	3,559	1.4379	5,117.49	0.0013
SHAFTSBURY COMMUNITY HALL	1,113	1.4379	1,600.38	0.0004
PROVISION FOR POSSIBLE ABATEMENTS			2,000.00	0.0005
LOCAL AGREEMENT TOTAL			17,165.54	0.0043
TOTAL MUNICIPAL TAX RATE			0.3844	
Rate Adopted by Select Board August 31, 2017			0.3844	

COMBINED MUNICIPAL AND EDUCATION RATES PRE \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE				
		(MUNICIPAL) (RATE)	(EDUCATION) (RATE)	(TOTAL) (RATE)
DISTRICT 180 RATE -SHAFTSBURY				
RESIDENT	Shaftsbury	0.3844	1.3177	1.7021
NONRESIDENT	Shaftsbury	0.3844	1.4379	1.8223
DISTRICT 254 RATE - NORTH BENNINGTON				
RESIDENT	North Bennington	0.3844	1.5012	1.8856
NONRESIDENT	North Bennington	0.3844	1.4689	1.8533

LISTERS

In the last year we have had two professional appraisers come and go. Now, we are again without one in the office but have begun a search and hope we will find replacement soon.

The Listers' office works hard to keep our expenses down and we are once again within the same range in our budget needs that we have maintained since I began working here several years ago. We are proud of it and we will do our best to continue with that goal for years to come.

I would like to remind everyone again that the Listers are involved with property assessments, not taxes. When you grieve in the summer you are grieving only the assessment of your property. If you wish to discuss or vent about your property taxes I encourage you to talk to the folks in Montpelier, or write letters to them and to the Select Board and the School Board. They would value your thoughts on the matter and of course community input and participation is always recommended.

Our hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon. We are often in the office other days and times as well but not dependably so call first if you plan to come by or need anything. We are also available by appointment.

Diana H Mayer
Chair, Board of Listers

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

DELINQUENT TAXES AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

2009 Taxes

Carter	Tina M.	74.17 A
--------	---------	---------

2010 Taxes

Carter	Tina M.	46.96 A
--------	---------	---------

2014 Taxes

Caton	Alan L. & MonaJo	3367.75 B
-------	------------------	-----------

2015 Taxes

Bindman	Naomi J.	236.92 *
Bossong	Rose	131.55 *
Carter	Tina M.	50.68 A
Caton	Alan L. & MonaJo	3481.02 B
Dixon	Jessica	26.37 *
Dunn	Cheryl A.	1033.30 P
Fox Estate	Mary C.	3337.41 P
Harmon Jr.	Richard	305.01 *
Joly	Wendy	814.59 *
Joly	Wendy & William	811.99 *
McKeighan	Heather	897.97 *
Tiftt	Marcus & Cindy	1158.45 *
West	Keith	2529.69 *
Total 2015 Taxes		14814.95

2016 Taxes

Ahrens	Elizabeth	226.68 *
Atherton	Mark & Holly	775.66 *
Avis	Robin	232.90 *
Bendik	John S. & Lisa A	63.76 *
Bossong	Rose	1762.54 *
Bouteiller	Alfred & Dorothy	203.77 *
Carter	Tina M.	50.98 A
Carver	Michael A.	2310.05 P
Caton	Alan L. & MonaJo	3501.40 B
Charpentier	Ida M.	332.08 *
Davis Jr	Ralph	106.84 *
Dunn	Cheryl A.	906.44
Favreau	Raymond & Marcia	277.25 *
Fox Estate	Mary C.	4597.53

Garcia	Richard & Elise	2123.64 *
Gardner	Mark A. & Noreen S.	2314.24 P
Gordon	Sandra J.	239.08 *
Harmon Jr.	Richard	544.42 *
Harris	Robert	3368.96
Hein	Richard F.	1344.28 P
Joly	Wendy & William	906.64 *
Joly	Wendy	819.36 *
Kennedy	Kenneth M. & Mary A.	1066.82 *
Kozloski	Ronald & Robin	1977.42 P
Maser	Charles & Barbara	1428.38 *
Mattison	Lawrence & Cecelia	449.80 *
McKeighan	Heather	1783.12 *
Peacock Estate	George	40.06 *
Peters	Dan R. & Lynn M.	964.02 *
Rice	William C.	261.26 *
Sarvis	Mary Jane	1089.22 *
Shores	Shane	54.63
Spina	Joan A. & Mary A.	473.93 *
Sternberg	Rolf M.	1003.77 *
Tifft	Marcus & Cindy	2491.16 *
Vanderwerken Jr.	David	1397.29
Volpi	Jason A. & Noel M.	3631.12 *
Wade	Brian D. & Judith Ann	1277.91 *
Walbridge	Ruth	2368.86 *
West	Keith	4374.38 *
Total 2016 Taxes		53141.65

GRAND TOTAL UNPAID TAXES 71445.48

* Denotes Paid in Full
P Denotes Partially Paid
A Denotes Abandoned
B Filed Bankruptcy

DELINQUENT TAX
COLLECTIONS

YEAR	AMOUNT DUE 30/06/2016	AMOUNT COLLECTED	DELINQUENT AMOUNT 30/06/2017
2009	74.17	0	74.17
2010	46.96	0	46.96
2013	1958.99	1958.99	0
2014	4866.01	1498.26	3367.75
<u>2015</u>	<u>54952.82</u>	<u>40137.87</u>	<u>14814.95</u>
Sub Total	61898.95	43595.12	18303.83

2016	<u>242938.27</u>	<u>189796.62</u>	<u>53141.65</u>
TOTAL	304837.22	233391.74	71445.48

Respectfully Submitted,

Merton Snow
Delinquent Tax Collector

AUDITORS

The Auditors' have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the Town of Shaftsbury as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, as listed in the Table of Contents. These financial statements are based on information supplied by the Town Treasurer and were prepared by the outside auditor, Sullivan and Powers. The Auditors' responsibility is to express an opinion concerning these financial statements based on our review.

We have completed examinations of the Town Treasurer's records including purchase orders, invoices and checks comparing these items with the Selectboard payment warrants and a printout of the Detailed Transaction Report. This examination was on the basis of an estimated 35% sample of the records. The Auditors have continued to reconcile monthly bank statements, audit the Reserve Fund and review the General Journal Entries. The Auditors have also reviewed the records of the Delinquent Tax Collector and the Cemetery Superintendent.

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present, in all material respects, the financial position and changes in financial position of the Town of Shaftsbury as of June 30, 2017, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Caslin
Lisa Lent

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS Year Ended June 30, 2017

This report summarizes the activity of the town funds for which the Trustees of Public Funds have responsibility. The Trustees manage these funds for the purpose of providing

income for fund purposes while protecting the purchasing power of the funds through capital appreciation.

In 2016, the Trustees undertook a review of the investment advisory services being provided to the Trustees. Requests for Proposals were submitted to J.J. Williams, D.B. McKenna Co., Inc. and Morgan Stanley. After careful consideration of the proposals submitted, the Trustees decided to change financial advisors. As of Jan. 1, 2017 the Trustees receive professional consultation in managing the fund from D. B. McKenna Co., Inc.

The funds were established for the benefit of the Town and local townsfolk. The trustees are cognizant of the fund purposes as they strive to make certain the funds are used as they were intended. No one was more aware of this than the trustees' chairperson, William Fisk. Bill resigned his position after years of dedicated service and, with his resignation, we lost a conscientious and compassionate leader.

William Hession was elected as a trustee in Mar. 2017 to fill the vacancy left by Bill Fisk's retirement.

Robert Steuer
Barry Mayer
William Hession

CEMETERY TRUST FUND

These funds, with accruing net income, are set aside by the Selectboard to acquire equipment needed for the care of our cemeteries or for the procurement of additional land if and when that becomes necessary.

CEMETERY PERPETUAL CARE

These funds result from payments made to the Town of Shaftsbury to provide for the perpetual care of cemetery lots. An amount for this purpose is included in the price of each lot sold. Monies received by the Town from this source become part of the principal of the fund and may not be used for any other purpose but to produce income for perpetual care. This income is used by the town for cemetery care under the supervision of the Selectboard. The annual net income from this fund is remitted to the Town of Shaftsbury after the close of the fiscal year.

HUNTINGTON CEMETERY FUND

An 1890 gift in trust by Calvin Huntington established the Huntington Cemetery Fund to provide income "to keep in repair the family grave stones of his relations in the town grave yard." The Bennington Probate Court in 2000 appointed the Selectmen of the Town of Shaftsbury as successor trustees to the Huntington Cemetery Trust. The Select Board voted "to turn management of the Huntington Cemetery Fund over to the Trustees of Public Funds" at its June 20, 2005 meeting. The Trustees received the Huntington Fund in July 2005.

The Huntington Fund principal may not be expended for any purpose. Income from the Huntington Fund may only be used for the stated purpose of the Fund.

SCHOOL FUND

The School Fund, derived from any payments or bequests to the Town of Shaftsbury School District, provides that the net income from the fund be paid annually to the school district.

LIBRARY FUND-RESTRICTED

All net income is paid annually upon request to the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library Association to purchase books for the library at the Shaftsbury Elementary School.

LIBRARY FUND-UNRESTRICTED

In June 1994 the trustees received a check for \$10,000 from the estate of Tirzah J. Sweet as an unrestricted bequest to the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library, located in the Shaftsbury Elementary School. Net income is credited to the fund. Monies from this fund are requested and disbursed at the discretion of the Mary Monroe Hawkins Memorial Library Association.

HEALTH FUND

All net income is to be credited to the Shaftsbury Health Fund. Income can be drawn from the Health Fund as needed for current activities related to community health.

RECREATION FUND

The Selectboard established this fund to function as an endowment providing income for use in supporting recreation projects in the Town of Shaftsbury. Prior town recreation saving accounts together with Howard Park contributions were either transferred or deposited into this fund to make up its principal. The annual net income from this fund is remitted to the Town of Shaftsbury after the close of the fiscal year for use by the recreation committee.

JULIA MATTISON FUND

A 1919 will of Julia E. Mattison, a Shaftsbury resident established this fund. The Bennington Probate Court distributed the funds to the Town in a 1926 order following Ms. Mattison's death. Fund income provides care, comfort and maintenance of any aged and needful women who are residents of the Town of Shaftsbury under the terms of Ms. Mattison's will. The Selectboard determines recipients of assistance from this fund at its discretion.

GEORGE W. HAWKINS FUND

A generous legacy from a former resident, George W. Hawkins, established this fund in 1976. Net income is credited to the fund. The fund is unrestricted as to use and monies are disbursed at the discretion of the Selectboard. It has been the Selectboard's policy to maintain a minimum principal of \$80,000.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Fund	Balance	Income	Gains	Additions	Withdrawals	Investment Fees	Rounding /Errors	Balance	Allocation of Investment Fees					
	July 1, 2016		(Losses)					June 30, 2017	2017	Percent	Fees to	Income	Gains	to Income
Cemetery Trust	24,666	694	1,057	-	(94)	118	26,441	694	1,057					
Cemetery Perp Trust	125,279	3,450	5,284		(2,685)	(469)	130,837	3,450	5,284	0.50	235	3215		
Huntington Cemetery	53,783	1,512	2,302	-	(204)	4	57,397	1,512	2,302					
School	29,769	819	1,255		(658)	(111)	31,078	819	1,255	0.50	56	763		
Library - Restricted	12,808	352	540		(283)	(48)	13,367	352	540	0.50	24	328		
Library - Unrestricted	10,693	294	451		(236)	(40)	11,159	294	451	0.50	20	274		
Health	28,420	799	1,217	-	(108)	2	30,331	799	1,217					
Recreation	97,340	2,679	4,104		(2,154)	(364)	101,612	2,679	4,104	0.50	182	2497		
Julia Mattison	30,893	868	1,322	-	(117)	4	32,970	868	1,322					
G.W. Hawkins	136,321	3,831	5,835	-	(517)	(24)	145,446	3,831	5,835					
Total Public Funds	549,972	15,298	23,367	-	(6,016)	(2,072)	580,637	15,298	23,367		517	7077		

This report summarizes the activity of the town funds for which the Trustees of Public Funds have responsibility. The Trustees manage the funds of the purpose for providing income while protecting the purchasing power of funds through capital investment. D.B. McKenna & Co., Inc. provides investment advice to the Trustees.

Shaftsbury Public Funds were invested as follows at June 30, 2017				Distributions of FY 2016 Income	
Money Market Funds and Bank Deposits		\$	204,790	Cemetery Perpetual Trust	3,215
Certificates of Deposit			0	Recreation	2,497
Bonds			0	School	763
Equity Mutual Funds			375,847	Library - Restricted	328
		\$	<u>580,637</u>	Library - Unrestricted	274
					<u>7,077</u>

SECTION 5- Town Clerk

Since becoming Town Clerk last March, I have heard more times than I can count, “You have huge shoes to fill”. I could not agree more! Shaftsbury was very fortunate to have Judy Stratton as our Town Clerk for 35 years. I know how incredibly fortunate I am to have been trained by someone with Judy’s experience and talent.

In addition to training with Judy, I attended the New Clerks Training in West Rutland last April, Tax Appeals training in Montpelier last May, and the VMCTA annual training in September. In February, I will be attending VLCT training in Montpelier and in March attending the International Institute of Municipal Clerks training that will take place in Manchester.

I have enjoyed my first year as your Town Clerk. This is a very active office with many attorneys and researchers visiting daily. A large part of my job is to record and preserve vital records and to assist Shaftsbury residents and others in finding their important documents. I provide free Notary Public services, register voters, and issue marriage and dog licenses. I also preside over elections, and serve as clerk for the Board of Civil Authority, along with many other duties too numerous to mention. I enjoy meeting everyone that comes into the office. Every day brings something new, this job is never boring.

I look forward to serving Shaftsbury in the future. If you stop in the office, don’t be afraid to bring your dog with you, there are always treats waiting for them and candy for you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene Hall, Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS

Births: 39 | Marriages: 17 | Deaths: 25

SECTION 6 – Selectboard

SELECTBOARD REPORT

Garage

With voter approval of the bond in March, the Public Works Dept. garage is now on track to be built during the 2018 construction season. Site preparations are already underway with the demolition of Town owned residences on North Road and removal of trees. Plans have been finalized and an invitation to bid has been prepared. The bid award for a general contractor is scheduled to be announced in early March.

Public Works Staffing

Recent years have seen back and forth changes in staffing for highways, parks, and water. Retirements and other staff reductions allowed us to try reducing the highway crew to as few as four from a historical level of six. We further saw the retirement of long-time park superintendent Walter Merritt and are currently planning for retirements in the Water Dept. of Joe Herrmann and Jim McGinnis. We tried filling the gaps with contract personnel but the pool of qualified part-time personnel is just not adequate. Further, we realized that in order to compete in the job market we had to offer more salary and better benefits. The solution we settled on is a Public Works staff of six. Going forward, Public Works will be responsible for highways, parks, and water. Salaries have been broad in line with our major competitor, VTrans, and we now make a family medical plan an option for all employees. While we continue to explore options such as contracted billing and collections for the Water Dept., we believe we are now striking the right balance between affordability and workability in Public Works staffing.

Bennington Rescue Squad

Funding for Bennington Rescue Squad (BRS) has become a major budget consideration since it was announced that the endowment that has been a large source of their funding is drying up. Shaftsbury responded initially by moving their funding from a \$2500 community appropriation (CA), subject to voter approval with many other charities, to a \$7500 budget line item in FY18. In FY19 we are increasing our contribution to \$15000. To help the board give this continuing issue the scrutiny and diligence it deserves, Selectboard member Tony Krulikowski agreed to serve on the BRS board of directors. Thanks to Tony we now literally have a seat at the table and will be working to make sure this vital service is delivered to our citizens as efficiently as possible.

Economic Development

The publication of the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone (SVEDZ) report in 2015, with its dire depiction of the state of our local economy, has proved a call to action for Bennington County government officials and civic leaders. The entire Southern Vermont region has moved energetically to act on the report's recommendations, and gone beyond with

important initiatives to get our economy moving:

- The Regional Economic Development (RED) group formed to pursue economic collaboration with Windham County. Our two Southern Vermont counties agreed to develop a joint Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), opening the door to federal funding. Selectboard chair Tim Scoggins is an active member of the RED group and agreed to serve on Windham County's already operating CEDS committee in order to build relationships and gain expertise leading to a joint CEDS.
- Bennington, lead by Bennington County Regional Commission's (BCRC) Bill Colvin, brought together innovative funding ideas and diverse players to create the downtown Bennington Putnam Block development. This \$53M project has the potential to revitalize downtown Bennington and bring surrounding economies with it.
- VOREC, Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative is a state effort to leverage our natural resources to bolster our economy. Tim Scoggins is active in the Bennington County group that has formed to encourage this effort. He is also leading the effort to upload local trail information into the State's TrailFinder.info system.

In the meantime, Shaftsbury has been active with its own economic development efforts:

- The Great Zoning Bylaws Rewrite of 2016 was approved by voters in March 2017, greasing the skids of economic activity in our town.
- The Planning Commission (PC), at the direction of the Selectboard, undertook a feasibility study looking to bring a country store-like business back to the village. The report is available at shaftsburyvt.gov.
- Anticipating the State's VOREC initiative, trails as an economic engine is also under consideration by the PC. They are considering an initial effort to improve hiking access to the Town's municipal forest land off West Mountain Road, with an eye toward promoting trails as a way to make Shaftsbury more attractive.
- The Town website, shaftsburyvt.gov, has been redesigned to include a marketing section to attract people to Shaftsbury as a place to live and play.

Happy New Year

There are hopeful signs for our region as we start the new year. We wish you prosperity and happiness in 2018.

FY19 BUDGET NOTES

Our FY19 budget continues our trend of the last four years of improving Town services and

infrastructure with little or no increase in taxes and expenses. The projected FY19 tax rate of 39.5 cents is hardly changed from the 39.1 cents of FY16. As we have squeezed the budget over these years we have still been able to:

- More than double capital improvement for roads
- Establish a Capital Equipment Reserve fund and a plan to replace future highway equipment with saving instead of debt
- Provide for a professional audit of Town finances every year
- Provide for overdue maintenance in parks, including a new tennis court surface
- Schedule overdue maintenance and improvements at Cole Hall
- Improve communications with a new phone system and website

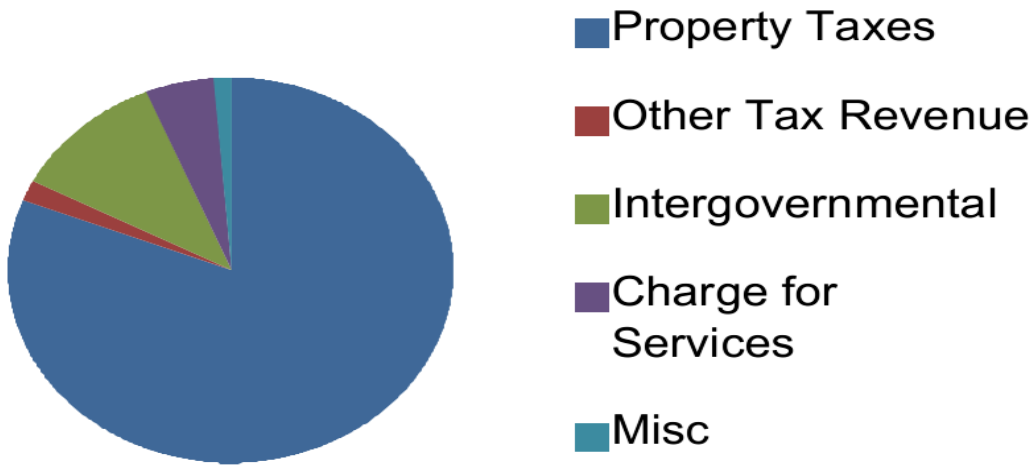
Expenses and revenues are both projected to rise about 2% in FY19. A slight one cent tax rate increase will be required to offset last year's tax cut provided by a budget surplus. Areas seeing increased funds next year include:

- Bennington Rescue Squad (see above)
- Community Appropriations (assuming all are approved by voters)
- Hazardous Tree Removal (Tree Warden Jim White has provided a long list, but Green Mountain Power is helping around power lines)
- PFOA testing and mitigation

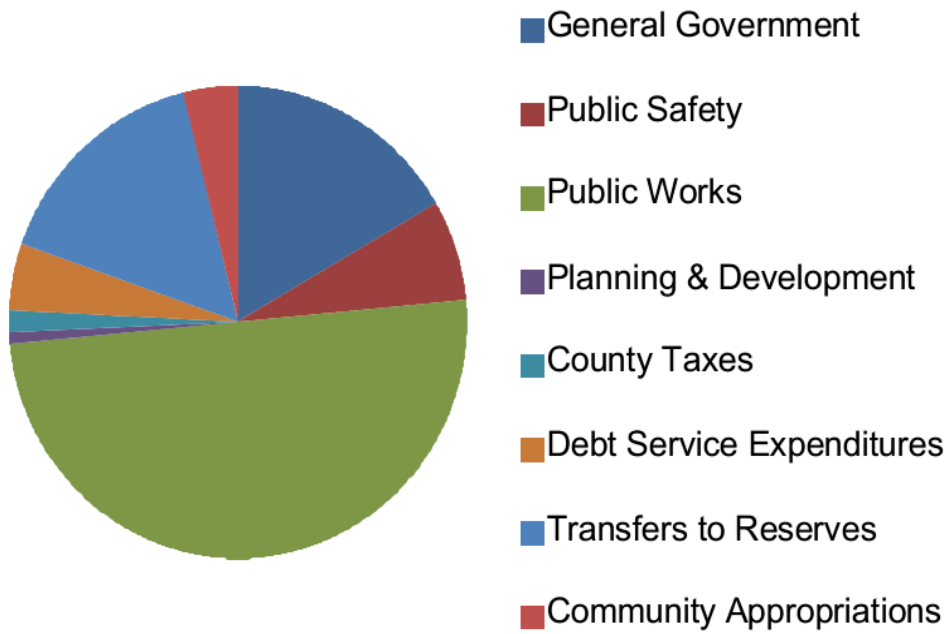
Please see the following charts for breakdowns and trend lines.

Note that we have removed many pages of detailed financial information from this report in order to make the provided information more relevant and accessible, and to save printing costs. All of that data remain in the public record and is available upon request or from our website at shaftsburyvt.gov.

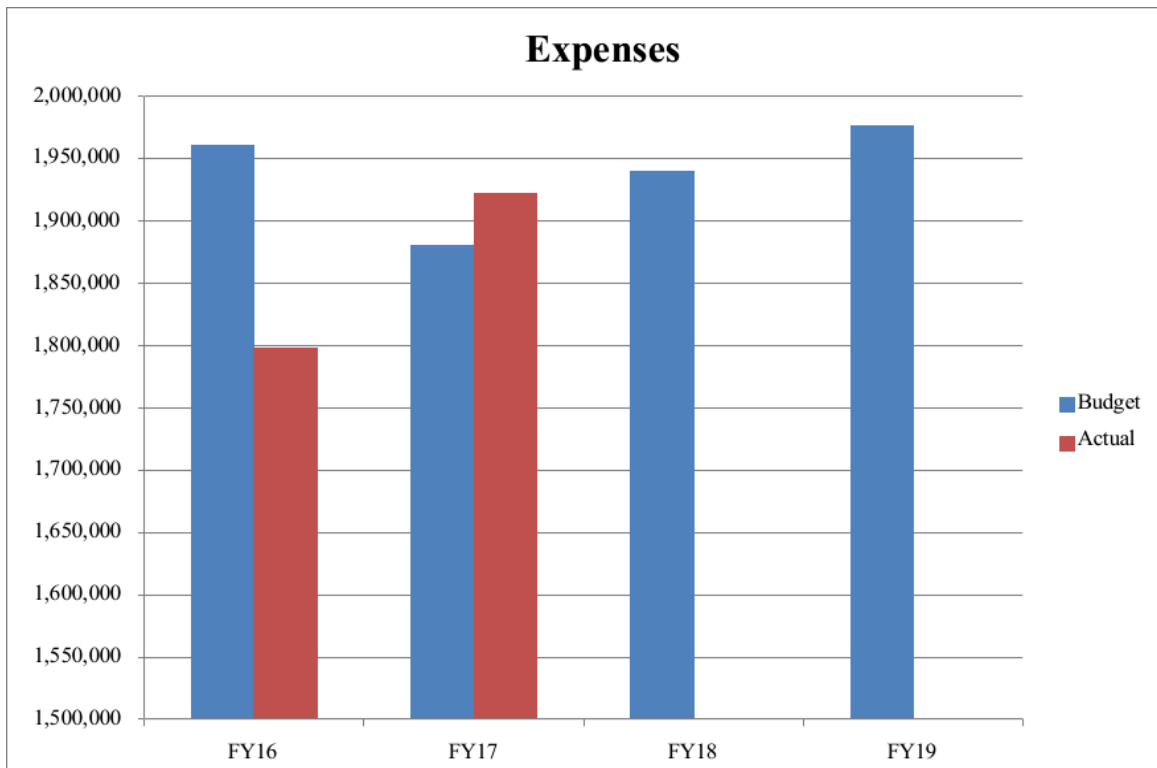
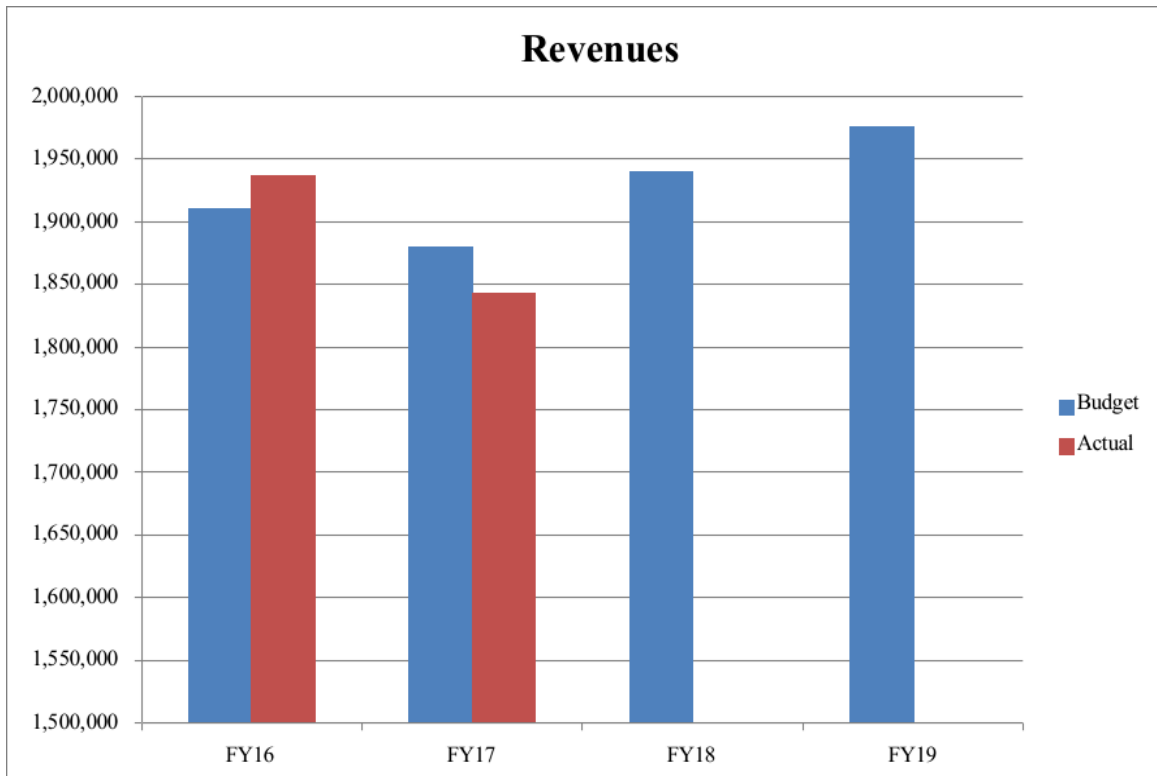
FY19 Projected Revenues \$1,975,960



FY19 Projected Expenses \$1,975,960



Budget Trends



	FY18	FY19	FY19/FY18
TOWN BUDGET	1-Jul-17	1-Jul-18	
	30-Jun-18	30-Jun-19	% Change
	Budget	Budget	
BUDGET SUMMARY			
Revenues			
Property Taxes	1,542,000	1,598,632	4%
Other Tax Revenue	35,223	35,367	0%
Intergovernmental	215,559	220,796	2%
Charge for Services	75,332	97,385	29%
Misc	28,060	23,780	-15%
Subtotal w/o RESERVES	1,896,174	1,975,960	4%
Transfers from Reserves	43,552	-	-100%
TOTAL REVENUES	1,939,726	1,975,960	2%
Expenses			
General Government	312,252	329,077	5%
Public Safety	124,889	134,329	8%
Public Works	950,987	989,925	4%
Planning & Development	17,762	15,785	-11%
County Taxes	28,500	29,000	2%
Debt Service Expenditures	102,685	89,685	-13%
Subtotal w/o RESERVES	1,537,074	1,587,800	3%
Transfers to Reserves	337,552	312,500	-7%
Subtotal w/o CA	1,874,626	1,900,300	1%
Community Appropriations	65,100	75,660	16%
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,939,726	1,975,960	2%

SECTION 7- Operational Reports

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Traci Mulligan

This report covers the 2016/2017 fiscal year that ends on June 30th. After many years serving as ACO I still find it interesting that comparing trends over the years has proven that the only certainty is the lack of predictability in what each year might entail. These fluctuations are usually seen in the number of animal bite cases reported and also in the number of impounded dogs that are claimed vs those that remain unclaimed.

If the decreased amount of dogs being impounded annually is actually becoming a trend then this is obviously a very good sign. What has become more and more challenging and increasingly frustrating each year has been the difficulty in finding suitable homes for the adoptable unclaimed strays entering into my Luckydog Adoption Program. This is despite listing them on Petfinder, Facebook and hanging flyers around towns and in vet offices. Please find & share the Facebook page "[Animal Control -VT & Luckydog Adoptions](#)" to spread the word and gain exposure.

I am increasingly frustrated and often thwarted by the increasing trend of folks to use unrelated FB page postings when finding or losing an animal but totally neglecting to contact ACOs, police, veterinarians and animal shelters! Sometimes it is only after I've held and processed a dog for adoption and then posted it to the above site that it will be widely shared and an owner matched to, nearly always from some other non-animal related FB site. Sometimes it is the other way around where I have a frantic owner's lost report but the dog's finder doesn't notify me so I am unable to help connect the 2 parties.

The new-era adoption options of on-line shopping have turned out to be a double-edged sword, often more detrimental than helpful to our local strays who, sadly, get overlooked while prospective homes search nation-wide for a specific age/breed/coat/sex etc. Even animal shelters are turning away local owner surrenders while importing dogs deemed more adoptable from other shelters, typically those down south.

Fortunately during this fiscal period only 2 impounded dogs entered the adoption program and although the older puppy was adopted fairly quickly the other adoptee spent nearly 2 months in the kennel before his first visitor. I was not at all surprised that they immediately fell in love and adopted him but in these changing times arranging meetings with prospects has become too frustratingly common. I don't know what the answer is but it is sad that the dogs end up missing out on family time as they wait far too long for their new homes.

This year 6 dogs were returned to their owners, 1 of them having been seized in conjunction with VSP to be examined by a veterinarian due to some concerns for its welfare and proper housing. Additionally many verbal and written warnings were issued as is usual. On a more positive note, only one of the above dogs was in need of vaccination and was also unlicensed.

This year's reported animal bite/contact cases were up a bit from last year with a total of 4 dog and 2 cat encounters. One of these is worthy of my again warning residents to NOT handle unknown animals. In this case it was a stray cat that the victim felt it was safe to pet and was consequently both bitten and scratched. The cat ran off and was never identified and so the victim underwent the rabies treatment protocol. Rabies is a reality in our area and it is important

for everyone to remain alert and cautious when encountering any wild or domestic animal and to share these safety tips with your children.

As always I can be reached at 375-6121 where a machine is always on since I am often in and out the door, sometimes on a moment's notice.

BENNINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

In addition to its ongoing role in supporting the comprehensive planning work of municipal officials and volunteer boards and commissions, the BCRC serves as a regional center for work in community development, transportation, healthy community design, energy, environmental conservation and protection of water quality, solid waste management, and emergency management. The BCRC regularly conducts and sponsors public meetings and workshops on these topics throughout the region (www.bcrvvt.org for more information).

During the past year, the BCRC has worked to implement its comprehensive plan and has supplemented that document with a new regional energy plan which supports efforts to conserve energy and plan for renewable energy development. Economic development planning in the region is now being coordinated through a collaboration between the BCRC and the Bennington County Industrial Corporation (BCIC). The BCRC is providing staff support to help BCIC conduct economic development planning and to support business retention, growth, and recruitment. An outgrowth of this economic development work involves cooperation within the region and with Windham County to advance the goals of the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone. The BCRC also is providing staff support for a major downtown redevelopment project in Bennington that grew from brownfields and community development work overseen by the Commission. Other important accomplishments have included: assistance with updates to several municipal comprehensive plans and bylaws, new village center designations, implementation of the regional solid waste management plan in cooperation with the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, management of several bicycle and pedestrian projects, and planning and project management to assist municipalities with water quality improvement projects.

Special initiatives to be undertaken in the coming year include: work on a Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, development of a regional cultural resources plan, assistance with enhanced municipal energy plans, workforce and business development initiatives, support for local water quality management plans and improvement projects, further expansion of bike-ped facilities, and assessment and support for redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the region.

The BCRC is governed by locally appointed commissioners from seventeen area municipalities and several elected commissioners who represent interests ranging from public health to

economic development. Our office, located at 111 South Street in Bennington, is open Monday through Friday. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month, with frequent special meetings throughout the year (information at: www.bcrevt.org).

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sullivan, Director

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Listed below you will find the number of traffic complaints and incidents / arrests that the Bennington County Sheriff's Office handled in the Town of Shaftsbury from July 1,2016 through June 30, 2017.

The Sheriff's Office provides a number of services at our location on US Rte 7 S in Bennington. We continue to accept unused prescription drugs for destruction. We offer a number of fingerprinting services including TSA Pre-check, Haz-Mat, and fingerprinting for employment background checks. If you need an appointment you can call our office at 802-442-4900.

We will again be offering the New Year's Eve safe ride program for those folks who need a safe and sober ride home that evening.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions, comments, or concerns that you might have.

Chad D. Schmidt, Sheriff

Vermont Civil Violation Complaints

- 1 Possessing Marijuana/Hashish – 1st offense (under 21)
- 1 Possessing Marijuana/Hashish - 1st Offense (21 or older)
- 20 Defective equipment violations
 - 1 DLT- Failure to drive on roadways laned for traffic
 - 4 DP- Display of front registration plate
 - 1 DR- Failing to drive to the right
 - 2 FTC- Following too closely
 - 2 FYE- Operation on approach of emergency vehicles
 - 3 FYY- Stop sign violation
 - 7 INS - Operating Without Liability Insurance
 - 4 IS - 21-30 MPH Over Speed Limit
 - 1 IS- 31 or more MPH over speed limit
 - 56 ISL - 1-10 MPH Over Speed Limit
 - 29 ISL - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit
 - 4 LBR - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit-Local
 - 1 LBR - 21-30 MPH Over Speed Limit-Local
 - 1 LOP- Limitations on Passing

- 5 NL – Operating without a license
- 3 NR - Persons Required To Register
- 7 OSC - Operating After Suspension/Revocation/Refusal- V1
- 5 OSC - Operating After Suspension/Revocation/Refusal- V2
- 1 OWS- Obstructing Windshields
- 1 PNA - Misuse Of Number Plates
- 5 SOO- 1-10 MPH Over Speed Limit
- 3 SO2- 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit
- 17 SL1 - 1-10 MPH Over Speed Limit
- 34 SL2 - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit
- 4 SL3 - 21-30 MPH Over Speed Limit
- 10 VNI - Vehicle Not Inspected Within 15 Days Of Vt. Registration

Total 232

Traffic Warnings

- 41 DEF - Condition Of Vehicle
- 4 DP - Failed To Display Front Registration Plate
- 1 DR- Failing to Drive to Right
- 1 FTC- Following Too Closely
- 3 FYE- Operation on approach of Emergency Vehicle
- 1 FYY - Stop Sign
- 1 IR- Illumination required
- 13 ISL- 1-10 MPH over speed limit
- 8 ISL – 11-20 MPH over speed limit
- 5 LBR – 11-20 MPH over speed limit (local)
- 1 NR- Persons required to register
- 37 SL1 - 1-10 MPH Over Speed Limit
- 11 SL2 - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit

Total 133

Incidents / Arrests

- 4 911 Hangup
- 1 Accident - Injury to person(s)
- 4 Accident - Property damage only
- 3 Alarm
- 3 Animal Problem
- 1 Arrest on warrant
- 23 Assist – Agency
- 2 Assist - Other
- 4 Assist – Public
- 6 Assist Motorist
- 8 Directed Patrol
- 1 Disturbance
- 2 DUI

- 1 False Info to Police
 - 5 Juvenile Problem
 - 7 Motor Vehicle Complaint
 - 3 Property Watch
 - 1 Subpoena Service
 - 8 Suspicious Event
 - 417 Traffic Stop
 - 1 Vandalism
 - 2 VIN verification
 - 1 Violation of conditions of release
 - 2 Welfare Check
- Total 511**

BENNINGTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ALLIANCE

Submitted by Michael Batcher, BCRC

Member Towns: Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

Solid Waste Implementation Plan and the Universal Recycling Law: In December of 2015, the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance adopted a solid waste implementation plan or “SWIP” to comply with both the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) and the materials management plan developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The SWIP describes how the member towns will increase recycling, reduce the amount of materials sent to landfills, and provide outreach program for residents, schools, businesses and institutions to assist them in recycling. The Alliance provides information on their website (www.bcswavt.org) and Facebook page as well as in local newspapers.

School and Business Outreach: This past year, the Alliance provided outreach to Burr and Burton, Pownal Elementary and Stamford Elementary schools including assisting Pownal Elementary with on-site composting. The Alliance provided outreach to over 40 businesses on ways to increase recycling, manage food scraps, and properly dispose of hazardous materials.

Funding and Grants: The member towns provide most of the funding for programs. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 the Alliance received over \$25,000 in grants from the Agency of Natural Resources and from the Agency for Agriculture and Markets for sales of compost bins and for household hazardous waste events. The Alliance also received \$4,000.00 from the High Meadows Fund to assist the towns of Pownal, Searsburg, Shaftsbury and Stamford in starting food scrap collection at their transfer stations.

Programs and Events: The Alliance sponsors and supports many programs to assist residents, businesses, schools and institutions to properly dispose of materials. The following are some of our major programs.

- Household Hazardous Waste Events: The Alliance held two household hazardous waste (HHW) events in the spring and fall of 2017. The spring event was sponsored by the Town of Bennington and held at the Bennington Transfer Station. The fall event was managed by the Bennington County Regional Commission and held at the Dorset School. Over 400 households participated in the two events. In 2018, the Alliance will again hold two events for the 13 Alliance towns. One will be held in Bennington on May 12, 2018 and the second at the Dorset School on September 15, 2018.
- Electronics Collections: The Vermont E-Cycles program provides for free disposal of electronic devices including computers, monitors, printers, computer peripherals, and televisions, regardless of brand, age, or condition, for consumers, charities, school districts, and small businesses. Free collection locations in Bennington County include the Bennington, Northshire (Dorset), Pownal, Searsburg, and Sunderland Transfer Stations and other sites listed at <http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/product-stewardship/electronics>. The Dorset School also holds annual E-Waste Collection events.
- Fluorescent Bulbs: Vermont has also implemented a plan to accept used fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) at various retail. These bulbs contain mercury, which is a hazardous substance. Residents can dispose of bulbs at several hardware stores and other retail establishments and at several of the transfer stations. More information is available at <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/fluorescent-bulbs/>.
- Paint Collections: PaintCare Inc. is a non-profit organization established to assist paint manufacturers to plan and operate paint stewardship programs in the United States, including Vermont. Both latex and oil-based paint have been collected at HHW events and at special PaintCare events, and several local hardware stores accept paint. To find a location, residents may visit <http://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-locations/>.
- Battery Recycling: Primary (alkaline) batteries and rechargeable batteries are now accepted at many retailers and at the Bennington, Northshire, Sunderland and Pownal Transfer Stations. You can find locations at: <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/battery-recycling/>. For more information, visit Call2Recycle at <http://www.call2recycle.org/what-can-i-recycle/>.
- Textiles: The Bennington, Northshire, Sunderland, Shaftsbury and Pownal transfer stations have textile boxes where residents can donate clothing and shoes. Boxes are also located throughout the Alliance area. Visit www.bcswavt.org for locations. Goodwill in Bennington also accepts clothing donations as well as other household items, books and used electronic devices. Visit them at <http://www.goodwill-berkshires.com/>.
- Leaf and Yard Waste, Food Scraps and Other Organics: All transfer stations accept leaf and yard waste, clean wood and food scraps. Visit <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/transfer-stations/> for information on your transfer station.
- Construction and Demolition Debris: All transfer stations accept construction and demolition debris from builders and do-it-yourself homeowners. The TAM Pownal facility also accepts construction and demolition debris from residents and businesses.

- Prescription Drugs: Prescription drugs should be properly disposed when they are no longer needed as they can make their way into water sources and can pose a hazard in the home. The Bennington Police Department, the Manchester Police Department, the Bennington County Sheriff and Southwestern Vermont Medical Center accept prescription drugs. Go to <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/disposing-of-prescription-drug/> for more information.

CEMETERIES

Slowly but surely the condition of Shaftsbury cemeteries is improving. The major effort during this period was at Center and Maple Hill. The work consisted of headstone straightening and base leveling. Two wind storms brought down several limbs and branches but fortunately there was no damage to headstones. Work continued on clearing the nob at Maple Hill; we hope this will be completed in the next year. In anticipation of the transfer of management of the Grandview Cemetery from North Bennington's Grandview Cemetery Association to the Town of Shaftsbury, the Committee did an onsite review to determine work required to get it into satisfactory condition. The transfer took place on 1 July 2017.

The final iteration of the Cemetery Operating Procedures was signed by the Selectboard on 22 December 2017. Please note that artificial plants and flowers are prohibited. These procedures are available at shaftsburyvt.gov and Cole Hall, and copies are in containers on sign posts in each cemetery.

Relatives of deceased buried in Hollow Cemetery in West Shaftsbury and Elwell Cemetery off East Road petitioned the town to clean them up and maintain them in the future. These private cemeteries were abandoned years ago. This work will begin in the fall of 2017.

Three hundred nineteen hours were devoted to the cemeteries this period. There were twenty burials, eight conventional and twelve cremation and twenty plots were sold.

Special thanks to the Cemetery Committee members, Town Clerk, Town Administrator, and Selectboard members for their outstanding support. Thanks to our road crew for responding to every call for help. Most of all, thanks to all the Shaftsbury folks who have cooperative and patient.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Coonradt
Superintendent of Cemeteries

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Development Review Board, authorized under Vermont State Law (24 V.S.A. Chapter 117), is the quasi-judicial or decision-making zoning function for the town. The five members and two alternates of the Development Review Board are appointed by the Select Board for staggered three year terms and one year terms.

The Board's primary goal, in determining the matters that come before it, is to insure that all applications, of whatever nature, fully comply with the Zoning By-Laws and Subdivision Regulations.

The Board is currently engaged in filling 3 open positions, one being a 3 year full member position, the other two are 1 year alternate positions. Anyone interested should send a letter of interest to the Shaftsbury Town Administrator.

During the past year, the Development Review Board, reviewed applications for subdivisions, site development plans, and zoning variances.

The Board normally meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Huncharek, Chair

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Mission of the Shaftsbury Economic Development Committee is to develop and implement plans that will ensure the continuing economic revitalization of the town.

This past year the Select Board and Planning Commission have been studying Economic Development for Shaftsbury within the context of a great Bennington Economic Development Plan. One of the items they are considering is revitalizing the Country Store. (See the SelectBoard report.). When they have identified a project they will activate the Economic Development committee to assist with the implementation.

Selectboard Chair Tim Scoggins has been active with the Regional Economic Development (RED) Group, working to implement the recommendations of the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone (SVEDZ) Report. (See the Selectboard report.)

In the meantime, businesses in South Shaftsbury and Shaftsbury Center have an opportunity to take advantage of the Village Center Designation the Economic Development committee secured for the Town. These businesses may qualify for significant tax credits for improvements they make to their buildings and signage. Any business wanting to learn more about this program and to understand if they are within the designated boundaries should contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Whitman, Chair

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2017 we had our annual maintenance and load test performed on the standby generator at the elementary school, a copy of which is on file at the town office. Our annual review of contacts was updated. The towns LEOP (Local Emergency Operation Plan) was updated and adopted by our select board, the regional commission and the State. The Selectboard signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SVSU allowing the firehouse to be used as an emergency shelter in the event of a school evacuation.

I would like to personally thank our new Town Clerk Marlene Hall for her time to pursue Red Cross Training and becoming one of the few certified Red Cross personnel in the Bennington County area. Our area could use more like Marlene to aid those in their time of need. If you have a desire to become a shelter volunteer or a Red Cross certified personnel, please contact Marlene or myself; we can get you the info and get you started. Please remember to check on those in your area that may need assistance during times of crisis and remember that during the first 48 hours in any event it is up to you so be prepared. Have a checklist of things and know how to implement them. Large scale events can sometimes overwhelm local resources so be educated and prepared to shelter in place unless otherwise directed. NEVER run a generator indoors or in a confined space. As always, I am open to suggestions, questions, concerns. If you would like to become part of the team please feel free to reach out to me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Mattison
Emergency Management Director

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Shaftsbury Fire Department responded to 123 Emergency calls this year, you can see the breakdown of the calls below.

I would like to thank the Town of Shaftsbury residents for their continued support of us throughout the year with our annual Coin Drop and Raffle. I would also like to thank Town Administrator David Kiernan and our Selectboard for their hard work and support of us. We couldn't do this job without them.

This past winter we started on a project to install new energy efficient windows to our Station I. The current windows were found to have a lot of rotten wood around them and other issues that we need to resolve. This may be a three-year project due to the cost of labor and the windows.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the importance of a fire extinguisher in his or her home. When a fire starts, it will double its size every minute, so a fire that starts small in a waste paper basket could be a room and contents fire by the time the Fire Department arrives. It's my belief that every kitchen should have an extinguisher located away from the stove and checked annually. A fire extinguisher does not make you a firefighter, but it could save your home. If the fire is too big to manage then the best course of action is to just get

out. To learn more you can go to Youtube, they have excellent fire safety videos that can show you the proper technique and use of a fire extinguisher.

Emergency Responses

Structure Fires - 7
Car Accidents/ Extrication - 23
Vehicle Fires - 3
Hazardous Materials - 1
Wildland Fires - 4
Chimney/Pellet Stove Fires - 3
Good Intent - 55
Assist EMS - 7
Mutual Aid - 20

Total - 123

Respectfully Submitted
Chief Joe Vadakin

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

A combined total of 97 permits were issued in 2017 by our wardens and assistants. Due to a wet, favorable and responsible spring season we had a total of 2 wildland fires. For the fall season we had 1 due to a stretch of dry conditions for a total of 3. We serviced 1 mutual aid request from Arlington to an incident in Sandgate. Typically, spring is the most active season with snow cover, weather and activity the driving factors.

We purchased some new equipment in 2017. The first was an electric hose reel to replace our antiquated manual hose reel. This new reel is installed and operational, holds 300 feet of hose and makes responding, deploying, moving and redeploying a fast and seamless process. We also purchased 4 hard shell personal Indian tanks to replace our collapsible bladder tanks. These tanks hold more water, are lighter than the pervious metal tanks and can be filled remotely with ease. To keep our wildland fire fighters safe, we added 4 new sets of gear (shirt and pants) that are specifically designed for wildland fire. All this made possible through the financial support from Glastenbury and Shaftsbury.

Through the support and generosity of Rick Harrington, a Glastenbury resident and owner of Harrington Steel, we received free all the aluminum square stock required to retrofit our brush truck with new side racks for holding hand tools, tanks and blowers, as well as enough material for a new tailgate. This new system allows for more accessible storage for fast deployment on scene as well increasing our storage capacity. With the new material we needed a fabricator, so we looked within our department to Elliot Lewis a Shaftsbury resident and active merchant marine with vast knowledge of welding. Through his efforts on nights and weekends he was able to complete the job and provide us with a system that will last. My hat is off to both these individuals with my sincerest appreciation and gratitude.

I would also like to acknowledge the staff at Peckham Industries. Whenever we have a wildland situation within the area of Peckham's there has always been some of their staff on scene to offer assistance wherever they can. We thank them.

Do to our assistant wardens, fire chiefs, outstanding crews, and our local support, 2017 was a safe fire season. Please continue these efforts by seeking a burn permit whenever needed and by using good judgment in your outdoor burning. Remember...as the Bear says ...Only you can prevent wildfire!

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Mattison
Glastenbury & Shaftsbury Fire Warden

HEALTH OFFICER

By law, every town and city in Vermont has a Local Board of Health. The Local Board of Health consists of the Town Health Officer and town select board (or city council).

Town Health Officers are responsible for:

- Investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the town or city
- Taking action to prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazards
- Taking action to lessen significant public health risks
- Enforcing health laws, rules and permit conditions, and taking the steps necessary to enforce orders

Summary of 2017 Health Officer Activity

Communicable Diseases

No communicable diseases were reported for the past year.

Rabies Management

I received 2 reports of suspected rabies in two dogs. No bites were reported. Both cases were referred to Animal Control Officer, Tracy Mulligan.

Rental Housing

The majority of issues this past year had to do with tenant complaints. I investigated and mitigated numerous complaints pertaining to Rental Housing Health Code issues. Time was spent investigating such matters as suspected mold and mildew, garbage complaints and rodent complaints. I strive to work with property owners, involving them early in the process to encourage voluntary understanding and compliance of Rental Housing Health Codes.

Other Public Health Issues

No other public health issues were reported for the past year.

I was successful in obtaining voluntary compliance with all public health problems this year and appreciate the cooperation from all involved. Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or concerns you may have by calling 802 688-9570.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Myers
Health Officer

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission began the year of 2017 without enough members for a quorum. With some new recruits, we accepted an assignment from the Selectboard for a planning study on how the Shaftsbury Country Store might be brought back to life. The Planning Commission report examined the present location along with two other village sites. The conclusion was that all presented challenges and required substantial investment. Case studies of revived general stores in other Vermont villages pointed to community involvement as one of the main factors for success. There was some question as to just how much market was available to support such an enterprise. Other areas of activity have been around study of the Bennington County Regional Energy Plan, affordable housing as a local growth industry and ideas for trail development as a community asset and economic driver. We have investigated the trail network between Blueberry Hill Road and the Shaftsbury Town Forest which sits atop the ridge of West Mountain. Lastly the Planning Commission has spent a lot of energy informing itself about the occupancy at the Iron Kettle Motel. We are concerned that the present use is not described in our zoning bylaws.

Respectfully submitted
Chris Williams, Chair

PUBLIC WORKS

Major projects for FY17 included chip sealing of the development known as Paran Acres; reclamation, cold mix and chip sealing of Hewitt Drive; reclamation and cold mix for a 700 foot section of Harvest Hills Road; and chip sealing of all of Harvest Hills Road. Three culverts were replaced in the work area.

A 3800 foot section of East Road was reclaimed, and a base coat and topcoat laid in from the area of 1500 East Road to Furnace Brook Road. Eight culverts in the work area were replaced. Engineering was completed for the replacement of the culvert on Shaftsbury Hollow by Hollow Hideaway. It is hoped that State grants can be secured to finish the project in FY19.

Public Works is now responsible for all maintenance in the Town parks. We also transitioning to be responsible for the Shaftsbury Water Department. All water related expenses incurred by the Public Works Department, including labor, are billed to the Water Department.

FY17 also saw the completion of the around the block sidewalk project including the installation of street lights, speed warning signs, and pedestrian crossing signs.

Winter thaw caused severe problems along Daniels Road, two sections of East Road, Shaftsbury Hollow and several sections of Myers Road. Those areas are being addressed in FY18. The Department has begun working closely with State engineers from District 1 Bennington in the development of more comprehensive plans to address some of the more difficult areas.

Steve Washburn
Public Works Foreman

RECREATION COMMITTEE

The mission of The Shaftsbury Recreation Committee is to revitalize our town parks. We are dedicated to developing them into true community parks which can be enjoyed by all ages.

After digging a new well and updating and installing a new water system last year, we now have potable drinking water available for all park users at Howard Park. Howard Park is consistently used by local sports teams: Little League and Spring and Fall soccer teams, the Doberman Club, local groups running workshops, and folks who reserve the pavilion for family events.

Both Howard and Cleveland Avenue Parks saw much needed maintenance to playground equipment. New playground equipment and play surfaces have been installed at Cleveland Avenue Park. Aging playground equipment at Howard Park has been removed while we seek grants for replacement..

Annually, we participate in “Vermont Green-Up Day,” 1st Saturday in May, which is a great time of community involvement and promoting civic pride in our town. Helen Olney is the state coordinator for the Town of Shaftsbury. If you are interested in taking an active part in this event, please give Helen a call. Her contact number is 442-2757.

The Shaftsbury website is a good source of information for sporting events and town activities.

If you are interested in using the park or fields, please use the contact number or e-mail address below so I can schedule your event.

The Recreation Committee meets the 4th Friday of the month at 10 a.m. at Cole Hall. If you have questions, need information on reserving the facilities, or would like to join us, contact me at 447-4741 or gruege03@aol.com. New members are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

Deena Ruege
Chairperson/Recording Secretary

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Even though the chaos in Washington dominated much of the conversation around governing in Vermont this past legislative session, much was accomplished. And no taxes were raised. But we locked in rules to protect the environment before Trump and the Congress can gut them. Concerns about the impact the federal budget will have on Vermont drove the work of many committees, certainly mine, House Education.

We passed Act 46, the education consolidation bill, with changes to help school committees become larger and stronger in the face of much lower enrollment throughout the state. Vermont today has 26,000 fewer students, pre-K to 12. In 1997 there were 105,000 students. The expectation is that these numbers will continue to decline. When towns consolidate and work together, our school districts will be strengthened. Bennington area school held a vote on consolidation in November. That vote failed to get three town votes as required by law. But a reconsideration vote in Woodford is planned for January 9th. There is still a possibility that tax cut incentives may still be possible if the vote passes this time.

An economic bill directs the Agency of Education to work closely with Vermont's state colleges and UVM to strengthen partnerships with the technical education centers. Apprenticeships create excellent pathways toward well-paying careers.

The governor has announced that he will support a marijuana bill that passed the General Assembly that removed all civil and criminal penalties for possession of up to one ounce. The bill continues to impose penalties for possession by persons under 21 and imposes penalties on those who enable minors to consume marijuana. Delaying these measures until 2019 will give time to put in place needed traffic safety precautions as well as education and preventive programming.

Here's some of the other significant legislation we passed:

- Funded career training for younger children, beginning in middle school.
- Helped first responders get treatment for on-the-job PTSD.
- Continued to increase the minimum wage.
- Enacted a law to protect victims of sexual violence.
- Moved a bill to help set up a retirement system for working Vermonters.
- Enacted a law for paid family leave.

I may be reached at 802 430 1515, amiller@leg.state.vt.us, or 88 Horton Hill Shaftsbury VT 05262. I look forward as always to hearing your concerns and ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

TREE WARDEN

The concept of tree risk management is a necessary community endeavor to protect public safety. As long as you have trees and targets (a target is what the tree or branches will hit when it falls) you will have risks of damage to people and property. A hazard tree is one that has structural defects in the roots, stem, or branches that may cause the tree or parts of the tree to fail, where such a failure may cause property damage, loss of electrical service, blocked roads, or personal injury.

With road foreman, Steve Washburn, we identified the highest risk trees in the "rights of way" of all the town roads. Following that the targets are listed, most commonly they are the travel part of the road and electric wires. Then we list way to reduce risk sometimes through pruning branches but more commonly removing the entire above ground part of the tree. We then list the priority of the action. Priority is based upon size, health, and probability of failure. The assumption is made that paved roads(except for development roads) handle more traffic and at a higher speed, than gravel roads and that a tree with 2 targets should rate a higher priority than one with a single one.

The right of way along town roads is a terrible environment for tree health. What with ditching, salt, and the occasional collision it is a wonder that we haven't listed more trees.

I would like to thank David Kiernan, the Town Administrator who took our inventory and contacted Asplundh Tree Service who is scheduled to tree maintenance along Green Mountain Power Company electric lines in Shaftsbury in 2018. Any tree we identified as a hazard to electric lines will be treated by them. This will allow the town road crew to concentrate on other trees and will save the town money.

Respectively submitted,

Jim White
Shaftsbury Tree Warden

VERMONT STATE POLICE SHAFTSBURY BARRACKS

The Shaftsbury Barracks currently consists of eight uniformed troopers, four Patrol commanders, and two detectives. There are also two administrative staff members who support daily activities and duties. The barracks recently received two additional newly hired troopers in January of 2017. Lieutenant Thomas Mozzer initiated Station commander duties beginning in May of 2017.

The barracks recently teamed with the Boy Scouts of America and began hosting a Vermont State Police Explorers Post here in Shaftsbury. There are currently 11 cadets who participate in a series of meetings and trainings in an effort to expose our youth to law enforcement related

fields and activities. We believe interacting, mentoring and guiding students by fostering relationships will promote better ethical decisions, leadership qualities and community awareness.

Troopers activities from the Shaftsbury Barracks resulted in the following for the period 1 JUL 2016 to 30 JUN 2017:

Total incidents/ calls for service: 857

Tickets issued: 467

Warnings issued: 440

Lieutenant Thomas A. Mozzer
Station Commander
Shaftsbury Barracks
Vermont State Police.

Below is a snapshot of the types of cases investigated by Shaftsbury troopers:

0450	ASSAULT SIMPLE, NOT AGGRAVATED	2
0500	BURGLARY/B&E-FORCE	3
0613	LARCENY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	4
0615	LARCENY BICYCLES	1
0618	LARCENY ALL OTHER	11
1000	FORGERY/COUNTERFEIT	1
1100	FRAUD, BAD CHECKS	1
1101	FRAUD	2
1120	FRAUD, IMPERSONATION	1
1400	VANDALISM	10
1500	WEAPON LAW VIOLATION	1
1600	PROSTITUTION	1
1700	LEWD/ADULTRY	1
1801	Regulated Drugs-Sale of	1
1802	Regulated Drugs-Possession of	1
1803	Regulated Drugs-Cultivation of	1
1831	CONT SUBST/DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOL	2
1850	DRUGS – CIVIL	12
2000	CHILD OFFENSE	3
2050	DOMESTIC ABUSE ORDER VIOLATION	1
2100	DRIVE/OPERATE UNDER INFLUENCE	18
2411	DISTURBING THE PEACE	4
2412	QUARRELS	4
2430	FAMILY DISTURBANCE	10
2480	DISORDERLY CONDUCT OTHER	3
2607	Condition of Release Violation	4
2608	IMPEDING POLICE OFFICER	1
2614	False Information To Police	4
2619	PUBLIC NUISANCE OR PRANKS	2
2621	TRESPASSING VIOLATION	4
2625	Obstructing Justice	2

2632	FUGITIVE	2
2634	ARREST ON WARRANT - POLICE CHK	2
3100	Accident-Injury-DMV Report	4
3200	Accident-Damage - DMV Report	14
3607	MOTOR VEHICLE, DISTURBANCES	60
3617	Careless Negligent Motor Veh	3
3619	DLS Criminal	10
3620	LSA Motor Vehicle	3
3691	Littering	3
6602	Canine Use (Police Dogs)	6
ALAR	Alarm	30
AMAS	Ambulance or Medical Assist	3
ANPR	Animal Problem	14
ASST	Agency Assist	140
ATL	Attempt to Locate	2
ATV	ATV Incident	1
CDIS	Citizen Dispute	15
CITA	Citizen Assist	97
DPAT	Directed Patrol	19
E911	E911 Hangup	21
FALS	False Alarm	4
FGO	Fish and Game Offense	1
FIRE	Fire	1
INTP	Intoxicated Person	18
JUVP	Juvenile Problem	4
LFPR	Lost or Found Property	3
MAST	Motorist Assistance	20
MENT	Mental Health Assistance	3
MPER	Missing Person	5
NDIS	Noise Disturbance	2
PARK	Parking Problem	3
PSC	Suspicious Person/Circumstance	99
PUBL	Public Speaking Engagement	6
PWAT	Property Watch	2
SORC	Sex Offender Registry Check	2
SRCH	Search Warrant	4
TCNR	Traffic Crash Non-Reportable	29
THAZ	Traffic Hazard	11
WELF	Welfare Check	22

VETERANS' COMMITTEE

The Veterans' Committee met once this year. We warn all our meetings with the date, time, and place, of our meetings, and they are open to the public. Should you wish to contact the Veterans' Committee the following members will be very happy to take your inquiry: Andrew Squires, Chair (802) 578-4821 tanker252003@gmail.com, or Victor Harwood Jr. squid52@earthlink.net

The committee is scheduled to have its next meeting on January 15, 2018 at 1800 (6:00PM) and we will be voting on a new Secretary; discuss the logistical planning for the 2018 Memorial Day Parade; open discussion about how we should tackle lowering the flags so that one person does not have to do it each time they are to be lowered; and discuss the Honor Roll (wall). We will also be brainstorming ideas about how to get new members to join. Veterans that might not otherwise know that there is a veterans committee to join.

The Shaftsbury Veterans Committee is currently in the process of coming up with a mission statement that will define its purpose.

The Committee is gathering names for the Honor Roll. It will be necessary to expand the Honor Roll by adding two more panels. The projected cost for this addition to the Honor Roll is \$50,000.00. The criteria for a name to be placed on the wall are: the Veteran must have entered the service from Shaftsbury District II or Shaftsbury District I; the Veteran must have served in a foreign campaign; the veteran must have been on active duty, and the Veteran must have received an Honorable Discharge. If you know of a family member or friend that meets this criteria please have them contact the Veterans' Committee Members Andrew Squires (802) 578-4821 or Victor Harwood Jr. squid52@earthlink.net

The Memorial Day Parade was held in North Bennington this year on May 29, 2017. The Veterans' Committee thanks the Shaftsbury Community, and all individuals and organizations that participated in the Parade. The Parade for 2018 will be held in Shaftsbury; we look forward to seeing you there. As such, plans are being made for organizing the 2018 Shaftsbury Memorial Day Parade. We would like to welcome back all who participated in the 2016 parade.

The Veterans' Committee thanks you the Shaftsbury Community; Shaftsbury Selectmen; Town Clerk, Marlene Hall; Town Administrator, David Kiernan; and Chairperson of the Selectboard, Tim Scoggins for your continued support of this Committee and all Veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Squires
Shaftsbury Veterans' Committee Chair

WATER DEPARTMENT

The year started uneventfully, with the water system winterized for a normal winter. In March, it was decided for David Worthington, the highway crew, to assume an additional responsibility of being the Assistant Water Superintendent. The goal was to assume the full title when the present Water Superintendent retires, projected to be May, 2019.

Also in March we received information on the Asset Management Grant Program. With this program, the State awards grant monies to water systems who will develop plans for maintaining their systems and also will upgrade them as the standards evolve. We submitted our application and were awarded a grant of \$10,200.00. With this grant money we have to:

- develop a level of service to our customers that we must meet.

- Inventory all of the assets the Water Dept. has. (Water Mains, Valves, Hydrants, Curb Stops, Water Meters, etc)
- We must determine the present condition of these assets.
- We must develop plans to replace these assets can they come near the end of their useful life cycle.
- We must include in the plan how we are going to pay for replacing these assets.

To assist us we have retain the services of Otter Creek Engineering, who in the past has assisted us in upgrading Sycamore La and West View La in 2008-09.

As a part of the Asset Management work we have uncovered all of the valves, except two, cleaned them out and exercised them. In addition Valves that have to cleaned out constantly we are trying Mud Plugs, to keep the mud out and prolong the life of the valves.

The new well at Howard Park has passed all water tests, showing that it can provide safe, potable water 24/7. The Water Dept. is responsible for testing the water when the park is open.

We would also like to thank the North Bennington Water Dept. for their past and future assistances. They are very good neighbors.

Respectfully Submitted,

James McGinnis
Water Superintendent

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Zoning Administrator is responsible for impartially enforcing the Town’s Zoning Bylaw, issuing permits and violations, working with the Development Review Board and Planning Commission, as well as maintaining accurate and complete files of land use in the Town.

Zoning Administrator Shelly Stiles was appointed in September 2014.

Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9 am-noon

Telephone : 802-442-4038 x 104

E-Mail: zoning@shaftsburyvt.gov

Permit Application Summary

Type of permit	2011-2012	2012-2013	2014-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Houses	2	4	3	5	4	6
Mobile home	1	1	1	0	0	0
Additions	21	27	19	16	34*	35
Pools	1	4	0	2	1	1
Subdivisions	3	5	4	3	5	6

Home occupations	0	0	0	0	1	1
Commercial buildings	0	0	4	0	2	0
Camps	0	3	1	3	1	1
Signs	2	1	0	3	2	1
Accessory structure	13	9	9	16	17	18
Other	33	30	21	6	2	10
Violation	18	0	0	3	0	0
Curb Cut	0	5	7	7	5	4
Zoning letters of compliance	0	8	19	31	39	60
Fence	0	3	1	0	0	0
Totals	94	100	89	95	113	143

Respectfully Submitted
Shelly Stiles
Zoning Administrator