

Annual Report

For The Town of

BENTON NEW HAMPSHIRE

For the Year ending December 31
1983

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE TOWN OF
BENTON
NEW HAMPSHIRE

For The Year Ending December 31,
1983

TOWN OF BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TOWN OFFICERS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1983

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BENTON TOWN OFFICERS
1983

Board of Selectmen

Matthew G. Flynn (Resigned - John Elliott Temp.)	Term Expires 1986
William J. Harris, Chairman	Term Expires 1984
Wayne Klingler	Term Expires 1985

<u>Moderator:</u> John G. Elliott, Jr.	Term Expires 1984
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<u>Town Clerk:</u> Helena Harris	Term Expires 1984
Patricia Driscoll, Deputy	

<u>Tax Collector:</u> Maxine M. Tyler	Term Expires 1984
Marjorie L. Robitzer, Deputy	

<u>Treasurer:</u> Priscilla T. Boutin	Term Expires 1984
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<u>Auditor:</u> Jacob Aldrich (Temp.)	Term Expires 1984
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Health Officer: Seraphene R. Harris

Supervisors of the Checklist:

Dorothy I. Elliott	Term Expires 1984
Catherine L. Elliott	Term Expires 1986
Seraphene R. Harris	Term Expires 1988

Trustees of Trust Funds:

Joseph Boutin Jr.	Term Expires 1983
Scott E. Roden	Term Expires 1984
Arland F. Robitzer (Resigned)	Term Expires 1985

Surveyor of Wood and Lumber: Joseph Boutin Jr.

Constable:

Dog Officer: Bruce Elliott

Sexton: Bruce Elliott

Ballot Clerk: Iona V. Boutin

Ballot Inspector: Katie J. Goodwin

Community Building Committee:

Seraphene R. Harris, Chairman
Iona V. Boutin
Laura E. Mason

Planning Board:

Albert J. Boutin, Jr.	Term Expires 1985
John G. Elliott, Jr.	Term Expires 1986

Zoning Board of Adjustment:

James J. Page	Term Expires 1983
Richard E. Saffo	Term Expires 1984
Priscilla T. Boutin, Secretary	Term Expires 1985
Roy F. Irwin	Term Expires 1986
Scott E. Roden, Chairman	Term Expires 1987

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

GRAFTON, ss

TOWN OF BENTON

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton, N.H. who are qualified to vote in town affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Community Building in Benton on Tuesday, March 13, 1984, at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following subjects:

Article 1: To vote for the following Town officers:

One Selectman to serve for a term of three years

One Selectman to serve for a term of two years

One Treasurer to serve for a term of one year

One Tax Collector to serve for a term of one year

One Trustee of Trust Fund to serve for a term of three years
and such other Town officers as may be required by law.

Article 2: (By Petition)

To see if the State should be requested to take over the responsibility of governing the Town and managing its affairs.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to have a reappraisal made of all taxable real estate in the town; to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 for this purpose; to authorize the use of Federal Revenue Sharing Funds to defray the expense of such reappraisal; or to take any other action thereon.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to make any alterations in the amount of money to be raised and appropriated for the ensuing year for the support of the Town as recommended in the budget, to raise and appropriate all sums so determined for said purposes, and to pass any other vote relating thereto.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed in the Town Report.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to borrow funds for current indebtedness in anticipation of taxes collected in fiscal year 1984 and to be paid therefrom.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to administer or sell any real estate acquired through tax collectors deeds.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a discount on current property taxes paid before a date set by the Selectmen, if all previous taxes are paid, and will set the amount of said discount.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to use part of the Building Budget to improve the lighting in the Town Hall. App. \$500.00

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to put the Benton Property Tax billing on computer when available.

Article 11: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

A TRUE COPY OF WARRANT-ATTEST

William J. Harris
Wayne Klingler
John Elliott Jr. (Temp.)
SELECTMEN OF BENTON, NH

TOWN OF BENTON
BUDGET SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

<u>Purpose of Appropriation</u>	<u>Appropriations</u> <u>1983-84</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>Expenditures</u> <u>1983-84</u>	<u>Ensuing</u> <u>Fiscal Yr.</u> <u>1984-85</u>
<u>General Government</u>			
Town Officers Salary	1,200.00	1,136.80	1,300.00
Town Officers Expenses	2,000.00	2,685.53	2,000.00
Election & Registration Exp.	300.00	328.40	1,200.00
Cemeteries	0	350.25	250.00
General Govt. Bldgs.	1,500.00	984.11	1,500.00
Reappraisal of Property	0	0	8,000.00
Planning and Zoning	250.00	219.00	300.00
Legal Expenses	100.00	105.00	100.00
Adv. & Regional Assoc.	350.00	0	0
<u>Public Safety</u>			
Police Department	200.00	0	200.00
Fire Department	3,500.00	0	3,500.00
<u>Highways, Streets & Bridges</u>			
Town Maintenance	9,000.00	13,425.70	9,000.00
Town Road Aid	176.00	2,020.00	0
<u>Sanitation</u>			
Solid Waste Disposal	1,300.00	1,610.00	2,200.00
<u>Health</u>			
Hospital & Ambulances	500.00	500.00	600.00
Home Health	100.00	100.00	578.00
White Mt. Health	300.00	300.00	495.00
<u>Welfare</u>			
Old Age Assistance	0	253.00	300.00
<u>Debt Service</u>			
Interest Expense - Tax			
Anticipation Notes	500.00	795.84	1,000.00
<u>Capital Outlay</u>			
Tax Map	200.00	684.00	0
<u>Operating Transfers Out</u>			
Payment to Trust Fund	200.00	0	0
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
Insurance	3,000.00	1,872.00	2,000.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$24,676.00	\$27,369.63	34,523.00

TOWN OF BENTON
BUDGET SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

<u>Sources of Revenue</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue 1983</u>	<u>*Actual Revenue 1983</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue 1984</u>
<u>Taxes</u>			
Resident Taxes	1,200.00	1,010.00	1,200.00
Yield Taxes	3,500.00	3,527.04	2,500.00
Interest & Penalties on Taxes	1,000.00	4,182.90	2,000.00
Inventory Penalties	180.00	200.00	180.00
<u>Intergovernmental Revenues</u>			
Meals & Rooms Tax			
Block Grant	1,350.00	4,055.08	3,400.00
Interest & Dividends Tax	700.00	0	0
Savings Bank Tax	40.00	0	0
Highway Subsidy--Regular	2,456.00	1,958.00	0
Town Road Aid Refund		1,813.40	0
Class V Hwy. Maint. (Duncan)	954.00	0	0
Business Profits Tax	0	6,097.47	6,000.00
Reimb.a/c State-Fed. Forest Land	8,000.00	15,620.58	8,000.00
Highway Subsidy - New	1,584.00	939.44	0
National Forest Reserve - 1/2	4,000.00	9,635.24	5,000.00
Motor Vehicle Transfers	400.00	0	0
Federally-Owned Entitlement Lands	7,000.00	7,016.00	7,000.00
<u>Licenses and Permits</u>			
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	5,500.00	4,627.00	4,500.00
Dog Licenses	250.00	132.50	150.00
Business Licenses, Permits & Filing Fees	0	6.00	0
<u>Miscellaneous Revenues</u>			
Interest on Deposits	250.00	924.35	800.00
Trust Fund Highways	0	112.86	115.00
Sale of Town Property - Cemetery Lots	0	90.00	50.00
Welfare Reimbursements	0	514.63	0
<u>Other Financing Sources</u>			
Revenue Sharing Fund & Int.	3,520.00	3,670.82	3,500.00
Fund Balance	0	3,757.42	0
 TOTAL REVENUES AND CREDITS	 \$41,884.00	 69,890.78	 44,395.00

TOWN OF BENTON
SUMMARY OF INVENTORY VALUATION

	<u>1983</u>
Land - Improved and Unimproved	
(a) \$ 13,180.00	
(b) \$2,021,260.00	\$2,034,440.00
Buildings	2,047,070.00
Public Utilities - Electric	58,410.00
Personal Property - Mobile Homes	<u>117,410.00</u>
	\$4,257,330.00
Exemptions - Elderly	<u>(15,000.00)</u>
<u>Total Net Valuation</u>	\$4,242,330.00
(a) = Value of Land under <u>Current Use</u>	
(b) = Value of all other Improved and Unimproved Land	

TOWN OF BENTON
REPORT OF TOWN CLERK FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984

<u>DEBITS</u>	
Motor Vehicle Permits Issued -- 170	\$4,837.00
Dog Licenses Issued -- 29	138.50
Fines & Penalties Collected -- 4	<u>4.00</u>
TOTAL DEBITS	<u><u>\$4,979.50</u></u>

<u>CREDITS</u>	
<u>Remittances To Treasurer</u>	
Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	\$4,627.00
Dog Licenses & Penalties	132.50
<u>Fees Retained By Clerk</u>	
Motor Vehicle	210.00
Dog Licenses	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL CREDITS	<u><u>\$4,979.50</u></u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Helena L. Harris
Town Clerk

TOWN OF BENTON
COMPARATIVE STATE OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983

<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Receipts & Reimbursements</u>	<u>Total Amount Available</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Unexpended Balance</u>	<u>Overdraft</u>
Town Officers Salaries	\$ 1,200.00	\$	\$ 1,200.00	\$1,136.80	\$ 63.20	
Town Officers Expenses	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,622.80		\$622.80
Election & Registration	300.00		300.00	328.40		28.40
Cemeteries				350.25		350.25
Town Buildings Expenses	1,500.00		1,500.00	984.11	515.89	
Planning & Zoning	250.00		250.00	219.00	31.00	
Legal Expenses	100.00		100.00	105.00		5.00
Fire Department	3,500.00		3,500.00		3,500.00	
Town Road Maintenance	9,000.00	112.86	9,112.86	13,425.70		4,312.84
Town Road Aid	176.00		176.00		176.00	
Highway Subsidy - New						
Solid Waste Disposal	1,300.00		1,300.00	1,610.00		310.00
Health	900.00		900.00	900.00		
Welfare				253.00		253.00
Interest	500.00			795.84		295.84
Tax Map	200.00			684.00		484.00
Insurance	3,000.00		200.00			
Advertising & Reg. Assoc.	350.00		3,000.00	1,872.00	1,128.00	
Police Department	200.00		350.00			
TOTALS	\$24,476.00	\$ 112.86	\$23,888.86	\$25,286.90	200.00	
Net Overdraft					\$5,614.09	\$6,662.13
						<u>\$1,048.04</u>

TOWN OF BENTON
TAX COLLECTORS SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1984

<u>DEBITS</u>				
	<u>1983</u>	<u>LEVY OF</u> <u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
<u>Uncollected Taxes 1-1-83</u>				
Property Tax		\$28,090.90		\$28,090.90
Resident Taxes		220.00	20.00	240.00
Yield Taxes		184.24	932.30	1,116.54
<u>Taxes Committed to</u> <u>Collector</u>				
Property Tax	74,810.45			74,810.45
Resident Tax	1,200.00			1,200.00
Yield Tax	3,860.53			3,860.53
<u>Added Taxes</u>				
Property Taxes	133.31			133.31
Resident Taxes	20.00			20.00
Yield Taxes	258.05			258.05
<u>Overpayments</u> a/c Property Taxes	113.72			113.72
<u>Interest Collected on Delinquent</u> <u>Property & Yield Tax</u>		1,622.59		1,622.59
<u>Penalties Collected on Res-</u> <u>ident Taxes</u>	8.00	19.00		27.00
<u>Bank Interest</u>	84.79			84.79
TOTAL DEBITS	<u>\$80,488.85</u>	<u>\$30,136.73</u>	<u>\$952.30</u>	<u>\$111,577.88</u>
<u>CREDITS</u>				
<u>Remittances to Treasurer</u>				
Property Taxes	\$48,954.06	\$28,060.90		\$ 77,014.96
Resident Taxes	820.00	190.00		1,010.00
Yield Taxes	3,563.04	91.60		3,654.64
Bank Short Me on Prop.	.05			.05
Interest Collected dur.Yr.		1,622.59		1,622.59
<u>Penalties on</u>				
Resident Taxes	8.00	19.00		27.00
Bank Interest	84.79			84.79
Discounts Allowed	1,419.92			1,419.92
Overpayments	111.21			111.21
<u>Abatements Made</u>				
Property Tax (Inv. penalties)	10.00	30.00		40.00
Resident Tax	70.00	30.00	20.00	120.00
<u>Uncollected Taxes - 12-31-83</u> (Per Collectors' List)				
Property Taxes	24,562.24			24,562.24
Resident Taxes	330.00			330.00
Added Yield Taxes	258.05			258.05
Yield Taxes	297.49	92.64	932.30	1,322.43
TOTAL CREDITS	<u>\$80,488.85</u>	<u>\$30,136.73</u>	<u>\$952.30</u>	<u>\$111,577.88</u>

TOWN OF BENTON
TAX COLLECTOR SUMMARY OF TAX SALE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983

	<u>DEBITS</u>	<u>LEVY OF</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>
	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>	
Unredeemed Taxes - 1/1/83		\$3,881.43	4,863.93	8,745.36
Taxes Sold to Town	\$10,015.93			10,015.93
Interest Collected				
After Sale	118.54	85.16	2,001.00	2,204.70
Redemption Cost	<u>59.00</u>	<u>45.20</u>	<u>82.60</u>	<u>186.80</u>
TOTAL DEBITS	<u>\$10,193.47</u>	<u>\$4,011.79</u>	<u>\$6,947.53</u>	<u>\$21,152.79</u>

	<u>CREDITS</u>			
<u>Remittances to Treasurer</u>				
Redemptions	\$ 2,465.65	\$ 495.19	\$4,753.07	\$ 7,713.91
Interest & Cost after Sale	177.51	130.36	2,083.60	2,391.47
Unredeemed Taxes - 12-31-83	<u>7,550.28</u>	<u>3,386.24</u>	<u>110.86</u>	<u>11,047.38</u>
TOTAL CREDITS	<u>\$10,193.44</u>	<u>\$4,011.79</u>	<u>\$6,947.53</u>	<u>\$21,152.76</u>

TOWN OF BENTON
TREASURER'S REPORT DETAIL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983

<u>From Tax Collector</u>		
Local Taxes		\$90,763.88
<u>From State Sources</u>		
Reimb. for State & Federal Lands, 1982	\$15,620.58	
Nat'l. Forest Reserve Fund 1982	10,043.82	
Nat'l. Forest Reserve Fund 1983	9,226.67	
Highway Subsidy - Regular	1,958.05	
Highway Subsidy - Add'l.	4,994.52	
T.R.A. Refund	1,813.40	
Business Profit Tax	<u>6,097.47</u>	49,754.51
<u>From Federal Sources</u>		
Federal Land Entitlements		7,016.00
<u>From Town Clerk</u>		
Motor Vehicle Tax - 1983	4,627.00	
Dog Licenses - 1983	132.50	
Filing Fees	<u>. 6.00</u>	4,765.50
<u>From Trust Fund</u>		
For Highways	<u>112.86</u>	112.86
<u>From Sale of Cemetery Lots</u>	<u>90.00</u>	90.00
<u>From Welfare Reimbursement</u>	<u>514.63</u>	514.63
Revenue Sharing Transfers	1,500.00	
Yield Tax Transfers	3,020.33	
Choice Account Transfers	19,714.00	
From Tax Anticipation Note	<u>21,000.00</u>	<u>45,234.33</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>\$198,251.71</u>

TOWN OF BENTON
TREASURER'S REPORT DETAIL STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983

Town Officers' Salaries:

William Harris, Selectman	\$ 200.00	
Wayne Klingler, Selectman	200.00	
Matthew Flynn, Selectman	110.00	
Priscilla Boutin, Treasurer	200.00	
Helena Harris, Town Clerk	150.00	
Maxine Tyler, Tax Collector	200.00	
Scott Roden, Trustee	25.00	
Bruce Elliott, Dog Officer	26.80	\$1,136.80

Town Officers' Expenses:

Town Reports	\$ 862.20	
Dues-NH Municipal Assn.	305.00	
Officers Assn.	47.00	
Postage	273.35	
Officers Bonds	128.00	
Supplies	389.95	
Fees	204.50	
Reg. of Deeds	17.90	
Mileage	16.00	
Telephone	62.50	
Safe Deposit Box	--	
Charges Deducted from Bank	62.73	\$2,474.13

Election and Registration

John Elliott Jr., Moderator	\$ 26.80	
Helena Harris, Moderator	26.80	
Dorothy Elliott, Supervisor	80.40	
Catherine Elliott, Supervisor	80.40	
Seraphene Harris, Supervisor	80.40	
Matthew Flynn, Selectman	26.80	
Wm. Harris, Selectman	26.80	\$ 348.40

Town Building Expenses:

Fuel - Bradford Oil Co.	\$ 802.39	
Electric - N.H. Electric Co-op	181.72	
Repairs	**58.75	\$1,042.86

Planning:

No. Country Council	\$ 219.00
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Insurance:

Franconia Ins. Agency	
Liability	\$ 878.00
Community Building	994.00
Workmen's Compensation	\$1,872.00

Solid Waste Disposal:

Leete-Powers Landfill \$1,610.00

Town Road Aid: 2,020.00

Town Road Maintenance-Summer:

Elliott & Sons Construction	\$1,760.50	
Gravel & Hot Top	402.10	
Dozer-Albert Boutin	435.00	
Mowing-Wm. Minot	164.00	
Gravel-French Pond Crushing	140.00	
Frank Drew	<u>2,767.00</u>	\$5,668.20

Town Road Maintenance-Winter:

Elliott & Sons Construction	\$4,453.50	
Frank Drew	2,902.50	
Salt & Sand	313.50	
Morrill Const.-Wing Snow	<u>88.00</u>	\$7,757.50

Health Department:

Debt Service: \$2,250.00

Interest Expense	\$ 795.84	
Tax Anticipation Note	<u>21,000.00</u>	\$21,795.84

Taxes Bought by Town: 10,015.93

Cemeteries: 350.25

Abatements & Refunds:

Property Tax 141.93

Payments to Other Government Divisions:

County Tax	\$6,714.00
State of NH-Dog License Fees	17.50

Payments to School District: \$128,284.48

TOWN AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts of the Tax Collector, Town Treasurer, Town Clerk, and Selectmen and find them fairly stated.

Respectfully submitted

JACOB ALDRICH
Auditor

February 27, 1984

TOWN OF BENTON TRUST FUNDS FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1983

	<u>Principals</u>	
Ira Whitcher	\$ 500.00	
Whitcher & Mann	500.00	
Whitcher & Mann	1,000.00	
Whitcher & Mann	1,750.00	
Whitcher & Mann	1,750.00	
J. C. Speed	134.71	
Whitcher & Kendall	200.00	
Samuel Annis	50.00	
William T. Torsey	50.00	
Jonathan Davis	50.00	
George H. Clark	200.00	
Ella Mann	50.00	
Kendrick L. Howe	50.00	
Daniel M. & Kendrick L. Howe	100.00	
Isabella Tyler	50.00	
Lee & Maude McKean	100.00	
Vevah M. Leonard	250.00	
Library Fund	<u>190.99</u>	
TOTAL	\$6,975.70	
<u>Interest to Be Used on 1984 Budget</u>	<u>Total Interest Rc'd.</u>	
<u>As Listed Below</u>	<u>\$926.52</u>	
<u>Cemeteries</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Highway</u>
\$363.80	\$237.36	\$325.36
		\$926.52

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Roden
Joseph Boutin Jr.

Income distribution figures were not available at the time the Town Budget was made up.

TOWN OF BENTON
COMMUNITY BUILDING REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983

Balance on Hand 1-1-83 \$ 222.00

Receipts

Dinners	\$1,048.75	
Rent	<u>10.00</u>	\$1,058.75

Expenses

Food	\$ 510.00	
Advertising-Sho Case	84.00	
Repairs	87.75	
Heart Fund	100.00	
Christmas Party	<u>250.00</u>	<u>\$1,031.75</u>

Balance on Hand 12-31-83 \$ 270.00

SERAPHENE HARRIS
Chairman

REPORT OF THE GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

We appreciate this opportunity to more directly communicate with our taxpaying citizens through their annual town/city reports.

Because of our July 1st fiscal year, it is hard to anticipate the local tax impact of the county budget. The Commissioners are accountable to the public and taxpayers, and accordingly are extremely conscious of meeting the citizen's needs adequately and efficiently, yet as economically as possible. However, we are faced with similar budgeting dilemmas as towns and cities. Real budget concerns are created by federal and state mandated programs and services without supporting funds or local control, and the increased demand for services while attempting to hold down budgets and taxes. We all must maintain a close relationship with our legislators. The Commissioners are following very closely the pending legislation regarding settlement and assistance programs, and hope that the towns are also involved in this very important issue.

Courtroom #2 was finished last summer and was dedicated during the opening of the fall term of Superior Court on September 13, 1983. We anticipate having a second judge in March, which should relieve the backlog and reduce the need for masters.

Counties, as well as towns, are experiencing the transition of the courts into the new State Unified Court System, and should notice a decrease in local expenses for the judicial system. However, the counties will have to "reimburse" \$2.75 million to the Unified Court System in fiscal year 1985, which means approximately \$200,000 to Grafton County. We also expect that the counties will retain certain operating expenses such as Probate Court guardianship and appeals costs, Superior Court bailiff costs, and probably will have to provide court space, furnishings and equipment without remuneration.

On Commissioner recommendation, the Delegation Executive Committee appointed a Jail Study Committee to review the needs for the county correctional facility. The National Institute of Corrections made an independent study of the correctional facility at no cost to taxpayers, and issued an encouraging report recommending minor changes, but overall indicating a good facility in general compliance with laws, regulations, and meeting needs. Some attention is being given to the need for additional space, especially for "weekend" incarcerations. There was no recommendation for new permanent facility construction at this time.

Grafton County is currently involved in litigation in a retirement buy-back issue which could have heavy impact on all local governments in the N.H. Retirement System. Assessment on Grafton County in this one case could run approximately \$70,000 plus legal fees and could result in a serious "domino" effect on local governments.

Grafton County will be going through the budgeting process in May and June, with a public hearing on the Commissioners recommendations expected to be held in mid-June. The hearing will be advertised, and we strongly encourage your attendance at the hearing to voice your opinions and feelings on the budget. We welcome your attendance and comments.

The Commissioners meet Mondays at 9:30 a.m. at the Courthouse and at 12:30 p.m. at the Nursing Home. Meetings are open to the public.

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dorothy Campion-Corcoran, Chairperson

Richard L. Bradley, Vice Chairman

Arthur E. Snell, Clerk

HAVERHILL DISTRICT COURT

The Haverhill District Court is the local court that the State of New Hampshire provides for the towns of Bath, Benton, Haverhill, Landaff, Piermont, and Warren. It is located in the Municipal Building in Woodsville.

The Haverhill District Court has jurisdiction over most matters that occur in the towns it serves, including all offenses related to motor vehicles, all misdemeanors, and all matters concerning the youngsters who live in those towns, such as acts of juvenile delinquency and of abuse or neglect, and matters concerning children in need of services. It also hears petitions and can offer relief in cases of domestic violence.

The Haverhill District Court has the power to hear and decide any civil case (a dispute between two citizens) involving not more than \$10,000.00 which does not concern the title to real estate. There is also a small claims division where cases involving \$1,500.00 or less can be brought for smaller filing fees, using simplified forms provided by the Clerk of Court, and in which the hearings do not require most legal formalities or technicalities. Most small claims cases, in fact, are conducted without the presence of an attorney. Hearings in such cases are usually held within 30 days after the papers are filed.

All questions regarding the Haverhill District Court and the services it provides should be addressed to Patricia Wolfe, Clerk of Court, Municipal Building, Woodsville, New Hampshire, 03785. (Telephone number 747-3063).

NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL TOWN REPORT

North Country Council is the regional planning and economic development agency for communities in the northern part of the State. Your town is one of forth-three member towns that utilize Council services in community and land use planning, economic development, solid waste, transportation, recreation, and municipal services. The Board of Directors is made up of representatives from every member town.

In Benton, we provided general information on the new planning laws and master planning.

In regionwide economic development, the Council has devoted time to improving utilities in and access to industrial parks, in lobbying for continued maintenance of regional transportation facilities including rail, highways and airports, and to increased business marketing efforts. Through grant assistance, coordination with State and Federal agencies and data, the staff has assisted local development organizations in four towns which serve as area employment centers.

The Council has provided information and guidance to several towns on the Community Development Block Grant, Urban Development Action Grant, and Farmers Home Administration Programs and prepared several grant applications. The Council is a partner in the Business Assistance to Northern New Hampshire Program, providing demographic data to individuals, businesses, and economic consultants interested in the North Country. This summer, we prepared a Plymouth Area Economic Base Study, to be followed by similar reports on other North Country subregions.

The Council participated in research and marketing efforts to increase the use of the Concord-to-Lincoln rail line and to maintain a schedule for rehabilitation of other regional railroad lines.

Other regional activities of importance include the coordination and establishment of eight solid waste districts. Council staff has assisted towns in developing work plans to assess their waste disposal needs and current methods and develop a 10-year plan. The Council has also surveyed local disposal practices for septage, estimated future needs, and will be recommending alternative disposal arrangements.

In community planning, we have assisted many towns with adopting or amending zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, site plan review and other local regulations. With the reorganization and slight revision of the state planning and zoning laws, we've been busy trying to keep planning boards informed of the changes and new requirements. A workshop was held in the fall and more are planned for the spring. We also met with over 20 towns to help them review regulations relating to subdivision and building in the floodplain to insure compliance with federal regulations. The staff successfully assisted communities in applying for funds for recreation and library facilities.

A new NCC service this past year has been computerized tax billing. We provided this service under contract to four towns. We anticipate expanded municipal and in-house use of the computer.

These are some of the highlights of the past year. We welcome your town's active participation on the Board and use of the Council's services and look forward to working on your behalf in 1984.

TOWN OF BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE - TOWN MEETING - 1983

Agreeable to the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, the meeting was called to order by the Moderator, John G. Elliott, Jr., on March 8th, 1983, at 7:00 p.m. at the Benton Community Building.

Article 1: The following officers were elected:

Selectman for three years--Matthew Flynn

Selectman for two years --Wayne Klingler

Treasurer--Priscilla Boutin

Tax Collector--Maxine Tyler

Trustee for Trust Funds--Richard Partain, Joseph Boutin Jr., Scott Roden

Surveyor of Wood and Lumber--Joseph Boutin Jr.

Town Clerk--Helena Harris

Dog Officer--Bruce Elliott

Auditor--John Connell

Sexton--Bruce Elliott

Constable--No one was elected as there is no one in the Town of Benton who is qualified. It was decided that the Selectmen would appoing someone or see about hiring Roy Irwin as our Constable. Selectmen will make their decision and let the Town know in 30 days.

Article 2: The Town voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$175.91 as the Towns' share for construction of highways for Town Road Aid.

Article 3: After much discussion it was voted down 29 to 18 not to have a reappraisal made of all taxable real estate in the Town, not to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 for this purpose, not to authorize the use of Federal Revenue Sharing Funds to defray the expense of such reappraisal and not to take any other action thereon.

Article 4: The Town voted to make any alterations in the amount of money to be raised and appropriated for the ensuing year for the support of the Town as recommended in the budget, to raise and appropriate all sums so determined for said purposes and to pass any other vote relating thereto. Suggested use of Federal Funds was \$500 for Constable training, \$500 for Town Building repairs and \$2,500 for work on town roads.

Article 5: The Town voted to accept the reports of Town officers and agents as printed in the Town Report.

Article 6: The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to borrow funds for current indebtedness in anticipation of taxes collected in Fiscal Year 1983 and to be paid therefrom.

Article 7: The Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to administer or sell any real estate acquired through Tax Collector's deeds.

Article 8: The Town voted to authorize a 4% discount - 15 days from mailing date on property taxes, if all previous taxes are paid.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. without day or date. All new officers were sworn in at closing of Town Meeting.

A TRUE COPY - ATTEST
Helena L. Harris
Town Clerk, Benton

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1983

DISTRICT OFFICERS

SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Edward Matz, Chairman	Term Expires 1984
Mrs. Priscilla Boutin	Term Expires 1985
Mrs. Alice Harris	Term Expires 1986

Other District Officers

Mr. John Elliott	Moderator
Mrs. Maxine Tyler	Treasurer
Mrs. Iona Boutin	Auditor
Mrs. Helena Harris	Clerk
Mr. Norman H. Mullen	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Harold J. Haskins	Asst. Superintendent of Schools

TOWN OF BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

March 9, 1983

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by the town meeting Moderator, John G. Elliott, Jr., as Roy Irwin, the previous moderator has moved from town. Mr. Elliott read the School Warrant and the following action was taken on the articles in the Warrant.

Article 1: John G. Elliott was nominated for the office of Moderator for the coming year. The motion was seconded.

Article 2: Helena Harris was nominated for the office of Clerk for the coming year. The motion was seconded.

Article 3: Alice Harris was nominated as a Member of the School Board for a term of three years. The motion was seconded.

Article 4: Maxine Tyler was nominated as Treasurer for the coming year. The motion was seconded.

Article 5: A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 5 as written.

Article 6: A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 6 as written.

Article 7: A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 7 as written.

Article 8: There was much discussion on this. Some felt that the three children who would be entering kindergarten this fall would be missing out on a lot if they were not able to attend. Many pros and cons were discussed. There was a question asked about why there was such a large jump in the school budget this year. Mr. Ed Matz proceeded to explain that it costs more to send each child to school this year. After much discussion it was decided to have a paper ballot on this. Results were:

Yes - 13 - To Discontinue
No - 21 - To Continue

Article 9: A motion was made and seconded to accept Article 9 as written.

Article 10: John G. Elliott, Jr. said we are one of the better off towns as far as school budgets go. He thinks it should be looked into for a school of six grades in the town of Benton. He feels this would be cheaper in the long run. Mr. Matz stated that 22 children would cost \$22,000. It was mentioned that Landaff is the only school around here who does this small school business. Mr. John Connell made a motion to set up a committee to study the cost of this small school system compared to large schools. The committee consists of: Harold Noyes, Mrs. Cadreact, Scott Roden. This committee is going to look into this and report to the School Board.

A motion was then made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

HELENA HARRIS
Clerk

SCHOOL WARRANT STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the Inhabitants of the School District in the Town of Benton qualified to vote in district affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Community Building in said district on the 13th day of March, 1984, at 8:30 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon the following subjects:

- Article 1. To choose a Moderator for the coming year.
- Article 2. To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.
- Article 3. To choose one Member of the School Board for a term of three years, ending in 1987.
- Article 4. To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- Article 5. To determine and appoint the salaries of the School Board and Truant Officer and fix the compensation of other officers or agents of the district.
- Article 6. To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.
- Article 7. To choose Agents, Auditors, and Committees, in relation to any subject embraced in this Warrant.
- Article 8. To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the salaries of school district officials and agents for the payment of statutory obligations of the district and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the state foundation aid fund together with other income; the school board to certify to the selectmen the balance between the estimated revenue and appropriation, Which balance is to be raised by taxes by the town.
- Article 9. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands at said Benton this 14th day of February, 1984.

EDWARD MATZ
PRISCILLA BOUTIN
ALICE HARRIS
School Board of Benton

A True Copy of Warrant--Attest:

EDWARD MATZ
PRISCILLA BOUTIN
ALICE HARRIS
School Board of Benton

(This is a temporary Warrant. Articles may be added until February 13, 1984).

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget for 1984-1985

	Adopted Budget <u>1983-84</u>	Proposed Budget <u>1983-84</u>
<u>1000 INSTRUCTION</u>		
<u>1100 Regular Education</u>		
561 Tuition	\$ 87,800.00	\$ 86,650.00
<u>1200 Special Education</u>		
561 Tuition	7,021.00	13,000.00
<u>2000 SUPPORT SERVICES</u>		
<u>2300 General Administration</u>		
870 Contingency Fund	50.00	50.00
<u>2311 School Board Services</u>		
110 Salaries	175.00	175.00
<u>2312 Clerk of Board Services</u>		
110 Salaries	16.00	16.00
<u>2313 Treasurer Services</u>		
110 Salaries	50.00	50.00
<u>2317 Audit Services</u>		
110 Salaries	16.00	16.00
<u>2321 Office of Superintendent Services</u>		
351 S.A.U. #23 Mgt. Services	1,351.59	1,241.07
<u>2250 Pupil Transportation</u>		
513 Contracted Services	11,000.00	14,000.00
720 2 Wooden Shelters	200.00	-0-
870 Contingency	1,200.00	3,600.00
<u>1122 Deficit Appropriation</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$115,379.59	\$118,798.07

ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 1984-1985

	<u>1983-84</u>	<u>1984-85</u>
Unreserved Fund Balance	720.42	
<u>1000 REVENUE FROM LOCAL SOURCES</u>		
<u>1100 Taxes</u>		
1120 Current Appropriation	106,364.76	97,503.66
<u>1900 Other Revenue-Local Sources</u>		
1920 Trust Fund Income	122.44	122.44
<u>3000 REVENUE FROM STATE SOURCES</u>		
<u>3100 Unrestricted Grants-In-Aid</u>		
3110 Foundation Aid		13,000.00
3120 Sweepstakes	842.46	842.46
3240 Handicapped Aid	2,829.51	2,829.51
<u>4000 REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES</u>		
<u>4800 Revenue in Lieu of Taxes</u>		
4810 Forest Reserve	4,500.00	4,500.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	\$115,379.59	\$118,798.07

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

For Year Ending June 30, 1983

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
REVENUES		
Local Taxes	\$77,106	\$77,106
Trust Fund Income	106	175
State Sources		
Sweepstakes	878	878
Vocational School Aid	3,032	4,215
National Forest Reserve	<u> </u>	<u>5,022</u>
Total Revenues	\$81,122	87,396
EXPENDITURES		
Instruction		
Regular Education	67,443	73,841
Special Education	5,000	4,886
General Administration		
School Board	259	294
S.A.U. #23	1,450	1,450
Contingency	50	
Transportation		
Contract Services	11,000	11,485
Contingency	<u>1,200</u>	<u> </u>
Town Expenditures	\$86,402	\$91,956
Excess Expenditures over Revenues	(5,280)	(720)
Fund Balance--July 1, 1982	5,280	5,280
Fund Balance--June 30, 1983	<u> </u>	<u>720</u>

*Amounts have been rounded off to nearest dollar.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BENTON

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 1983

BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 1983

ASSETS

<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>General</u>
<u>Account No.</u>	
100 Cash	\$ 57.99
140 Intergovernmental Receivables	<u>662.43</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 720.42

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

TOTAL LIABILITIES	-0-
<u>Fund Equity</u>	
770 Unreserved Fund Balance	<u>720.42</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	\$ 720.42

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURES*
For Year Ending June 30, 1983

	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Junior High</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>Instruction</u>				
Regular Education	\$28,913	\$13,627	\$31,301	\$73,841
Special Education	4,886			4,886
<u>General Administration</u>				
School Board	125	44	125	294
S.A.U. #23 Services	616	218	616	1,450
<u>Transportation</u>				
Contract Services	<u>4,675</u>	<u>1,650</u>	<u>5,160</u>	<u>11,485</u>
TOTALS	\$39,215	\$15,539	\$37,202	\$91,956

*Amounts have been rounded off to the nearest dollar.

REPORT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER

Fiscal Year July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983

School District of
BENTON

SUMMARY

Cash on Hand July 1, 1982	\$ 41.31
Received from Selectmen	
Current Appropriation	\$ 76,877.62
Balance of Previous Appropriation	5,609.96
Revenue from State Sources	5,092.58
Revenue from Federal Sources	5,021.91
Received as Income from Trust Funds	122.44
Received from All Other Sources	<u>52.84</u>
 TOTAL RECEIPTS	 \$ <u>92,777.35</u>
 TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL YEAR	 \$ 92,818.66
LESS SCHOOL BOARD ORDERS PAID	<u>92,760.67</u>
BALANCE ON HAND JUNE 30, 1983	\$ 57.99

July 5, 1983

Maxine Tyler
District Treasurer

This is to certify that I have examined the books, vouchers, bank statements and other financial records of the treasurer of the school district of Benton of which the above is a true summary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1983 and find them correct in all respects.

July 11, 1983

Laurie S. Elliott
Auditor

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I herewith submit my nineteenth annual report of the voters of the Benton School District:

The Benton School Budget continues to be influenced by one large expenditure - tuition. In turn, this category is largely dependent upon the number of children attending public schools. Below is listed the number of children and tuition costs for 1984-85:

Kindergarten	2 @	\$ 875	=	\$ 1,750
Elementary	21 @	\$1,750	=	\$36,750
Jr. High	7 @	\$2,050	=	\$14,350
Sr. High	13 @	\$2,600	=	\$33,800
				<u>\$86,650</u>

Also, below is listed the various school districts in the area and their charges for next year. As one can see, Benton students are receiving a good education at reasonable and realistic costs.

Blue Mountain	\$3,000
Oxbow	3,450
St. Johnsbury	3,129
Hanover	3,717
Orford	2,750
Plymouth	3,090
Thetford	3,290

For the first time in about fifteen years, the Benton School District will be receiving Foundation Aid in the amount of \$13,000. Because of this bonanza the money to be raised by taxes will decrease by approximately \$8,861.10.

May I extend my thanks to the Benton School Board and voters for their generous support during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
NORMAN H. MULLEN
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #23

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT'S AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY

Section 5, Chapter 243, Laws of 1953 of the State of New Hampshire requires that school district annual reports show the total amount paid to the superintendent and assistant superintendent.

One-half of the School Administrative Unit expense is prorated among the several school districts of the Unit on the basis of adjusted valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30. The Superintendent of S.A.U. #23 during the 1983-1984 school year will receive a salary of \$39,550 prorated among the several school districts. The Assistant Superintendent will receive a salary of \$32,778 prorated among the several school districts.

The table below shows the proration of salaries to each school district:

	<u>SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY</u>
Bath	\$ 1,898.40
Benton	280.80
Haverhill Cooperative	16,290.65
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative	14,174.72
Monroe	2,594.48
Piermont	2,214.80
Warren	<u>2,096.15</u>
	\$39,550.00
	 <u>ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY</u>
Bath	\$ 1,573.44
Benton	232.72
Haverhill Cooperative	13,501.21
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative	11,747.64
Monroe	2,150.24
Piermont	1,835.52
Warren	<u>1,737.23</u>
	\$32,778.00

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF BENTON, N.H.
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983

<u>Date and Names of</u> <u>Groom & Bride</u>	<u>Residence of</u> <u>Groom and Bride</u>	<u>Name of Father</u> <u>Name of Mother</u>
March 5 Robert O. Elliott	Benton	Robert O. Elliott Sr. Beverly Moses
Jean Marie Sylvester	Bradford, VT	Telesphore Sylvester Betty Dow

Officiant: Richard L. Weinberg Jr.
Woodsville, N.H.

DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE TOWN OF BENTON
FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983

<u>Date of Death</u> <u>Name of Deceased</u> <u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Name of Father</u> <u>Name of Mother</u>
July 20 Celilia Dominick Haverhill, NH	62	Anthony Makerevic Antonia Muraski
July 29 Lillian Tremblay Manchester, NH	78	John S. Gendron Mary Laurent
December 28 Robert F. White Wells River, VT	78	Unknown Annie White

FIRST CLASS

W. N. H. Harrary
Durham, N. H.
03824

