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Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton

New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31
1995

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TOWN OF BENTON, NH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF TOWN OFFICERS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1995

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BENTON TOWN OFFICERS

<u>OFFICE</u>		<u>TERM</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Board of Selectmen:	John G. Elliott Marjorie Robitzer Stefan Cimikowski	3 yrs	1996 1997 1998
Moderator:	Mark Elliott	2 yrs	1996
Town Clerk:	Lyn Bandy	1 yr	1996
Treasurer:	Paula Boutin	1 yr	1996
Auditor:	Richard Dickenson (appointed)	1 yr	1996
Tax Collector:	Sharon Edwards	1 yr	1996
Supervisors of the Checklist:	Iona Boutin Sera Harris Catherine Elliott	3 yrs	1996 1997 1998
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	1 yr	1996
Ballot Clerk:	Dorothy Bragdon	1 yr	1996
Ballot Inspector:	Kate Goodwin	1 yr	1996
Trustees of the Trust Fund:	Joseph Boutin, Jr. Jeff Elliott Justen Elliott	3 yrs	1996 1997 1998
Planning Board:	Joseph Boutin, III Jeffrey Elliott Sera Harris Kenneth Kealey John G. Elliott, (Ex officio member)	4 yrs	1996 1997 1998 1999

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
State of New Hampshire

Grafton, SS

Town of Benton

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton Qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Benton Community Building in said Benton on the second Tuesday of March next, the 12th, at seven o'clock in the evening to vote and act upon the following subjects:

Article 1 - To chose a Town Clerk, a Treasurer, a Tax Collector and an Auditor for the term of one year, a Selectman and a Supervisor of the Check List for three year terms, a member of the Planning Board for five years and a Surveyor of Wood & Lumber for one year plus any other necessary officers or agents for the ensuing year.

Article 2 - To see if the town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed.

Article 3 - To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the "so called" Wheeler Road. (RSA 231:43)

Article 4 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200 for Marty Noble to purchase topsoil, grass seed and fuel for his equipment to be used for restoration of the High Street Cemetery. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 5 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700 to buy the copier, now on a trial basis in the Town Clerk's office. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 6 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sums necessary to support a police officer on an "as needed" basis, \$1,500 maximum for start-up expenses, \$1,000 vehicle expense plus \$50 for the first years salary and a raise in our insurance costs of approximately \$1,000. The selectmen recommend this article.

Article 7 - To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money of not more than \$130,000 and to authorize the issuance of long term bonds or notes of not more than \$90,000 for the purpose of rebuilding parts of Howe Hill Road and/or Tunnel Stream Road, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, RSA:ch 33, and to authorize the municipal officers to issue or negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate thereon; furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of

Article 7 (cont'd) - \$40,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. The voters must determine what action shall be taken on any one total proposal of the three tendered, or portion thereof, and determine the total sum to be raised in excess of the CRF for Roads. A 2/3 ballot vote is required. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 8 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the CRF for Roads. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 9 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$220 to have the Town included in the spring hazardous waste collection by the North Country Council. The Selectmen do not recommend this article.

Article 10 - To see if the Town will vote to have the Road Agent contract put out for bids at least one month prior to the end of the present contract.

Article 11 - To see if the Town will vote to have the Town's inhabitants vote and act upon the contract bids received for the job of Road Agent. The Selectmen do not recommend this article.

Article 12 - To see if the Town will vote to have the Town Clerk post notice of a town meeting to act upon contract bids for job of Road Agent in at least two local newspapers two weeks prior to meeting.

Article 13 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum to be used for the rental of a place to store sand and/or salt for use on the roads and to determine this monthly or yearly sum. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Article 14 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,768, which represents the opening budget. This does not include any special articles addressed. The Selectmen recommend this article.

A True Copy Attest

Marjorie L. Robitzer

John G. Elliott

Stefan A. Cimikowski

Selectmen of Benton

TOWN MEETING
BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 14, 1995

Agreeable to the warrant for the annual Benton Town Meeting, the meeting was called to order by the moderator, Mark Elliott, at 7:00 p.m. at the Benton Community Building, in Benton, New Hampshire. A motion was made to recess the town meeting and open the school meeting, which was seconded and voted in the affirmative.

The town meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

ARTICLE I The following town officers were elected by voice vote:

Town Clerk	Lyn Bandy	1 year
Treasurer	Paula Boutin	1 year
Tax Collector	Sharon Edwards	1 year
Auditor	Dorothy Elliott	1 year
Sup. of ck list	Kitty Elliott	3 years
Moderator	Mark Elliott	1 year
Planning board	Ken Kealey	5 years
Surveyor of wood	Joe Boutin, Jr.	1 year
Ballot Clerk	Dorothy Bragdon	1 year
Ballot Inspector	Kate Goodwin	1 year
Trustee of the Trust Funds	Jeff Elliott	3 years
Sexton	Bill Harris	1 year

The position for Selectman was selected by secret ballot: Jeff Elliott and Stefan Cimikowski were nominated.

Selectman Stefan Cimikowski 3 years

Many thanks to outgoing ballot clerk Michelle Elliott and outgoing selectman, John Roden for their service to the town.

ARTICLE II Will the town vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed in the town report?

The town voted to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed in the Benton town report.

(In a discussion of the High Street Cemetery and its run-down and neglected condition, Martin Noble volunteered to check the cemetery and cut brush as needed.

ARTICLE III To see if the town will vote to put property taxes in Benton on a semi-annual basis.

The motion was defeated after a discussion. It should be noted that tax payments for the coming year may be made at any time, thus avoiding the extra expense to the town of semi-annual billing.

ARTICLE IV To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110 for the town to be included in a six town hazardous waste pick-up and collection.

Motion was accepted on voice vote.

ARTICLE V To see if the town will vote to designate the selectmen as agents to withdraw the sum of \$12,000 from the Expendable Trust Fund for roads to be used for reconstruction of parts of Howe Hill and Tunnel Brook Roads.

Article V was defeated by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the CRF for roads.

Article VI was accepted by voice vote.

ARTICLE VII To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the purpose of updating the town map.

The motion passed.

ARTICLE VIII 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 as recommended in the budget and will vote to raise and appropriate all sums so determined.

The article was accepted as written.

ARTICLE IX To see if the town will vote to pass an ordinance to enable Benton to be part of the 911 network and to require street markers and house numbers for all Benton properties.

This article was accepted as written.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m. All new officers were sworn in at the closing.

A true copy - Attest

Lyn Bandy, Town Clerk
Benton, New Hampshire

JOHN OF BENTON
Comparative Statement of Appropriations and Expenditures
for the year ending December 31, 1935

Category	Appropriation	Extra Rev.	Total	Expended	Unexp. Bal	Overdraft
Selectmen and Expenses	\$1,400		\$1,400	\$1,288	\$112	
Elections and Registrations	\$500		\$500	\$450	\$50	
Financing Administration	\$3,100		\$3,100	\$3,062	\$38	
Legal Expenses	\$500		\$500	\$0	\$500	
Planning and Zoning	\$200		\$200	\$19	\$181	
Community Building	\$1,800		\$1,800	\$1,253	\$547	
Cemeteries	\$350	\$109	\$459	\$350	\$109	
Insurance and Bonds	\$1,500		\$1,500	\$1,839		\$339
Regional Organizations	\$835		\$835	\$827	\$8	
Ambulance Service	\$1,768		\$1,768	\$1,768		
Fire Protection	\$2,500		\$2,500	\$2,500		
Roads	\$35,000	\$52	\$35,052	\$36,467		\$1,415
Donations to Hospitals & Clinics	\$600		\$600	\$600		
Charitable Organizations	\$350		\$350	\$350		
Direct Assistance	\$500		\$500	\$320	\$180	
Interest on T.R.N.'s	\$1,800		\$1,800	\$1,273	\$527	
To C.R.F. - Road fund	\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000		
Solid Waste	\$110		\$110	\$110		
To Up-Date Town Map	\$500		\$500	\$500		
Totals	\$58,313	\$161	\$58,474	\$57,976	\$2,252	\$1,754
					(\$1,754)	\$498

TREASURER'S REPORT

Received from Tax Collector	
Tax sales redeemed for 1992	\$3,777.53
Interst & costs after lien execution	1,310.30

	\$5,087.88
Property tax - 1993	\$385.60
Property tax interest	209.59
Tax sales redeemed	5,644.69
Interest & cost after lien execution	943.02

	\$7,182.90
Property tax - 1994	\$54,157.77
Property tax interest	1,229.53
Tax sales redeemed	4,689.27
Interest & cost after lien execution	364.41

	\$60,440.98
Property tax - 1995	\$187,623.22
Property tax interest	2.00
Inventory fees	50.00
Yield taxes	5,189.28

	\$192,864.50
Received from Woodsville Guaranty Bank	
Tax anticipation note	\$50,000.00
Received from Trustees of the Trust Fund	
Cemetery & Highway Funds	\$161.36
Received from Selectmen:	
Building permits	\$115.00
Pistol permits	50.00
Rent of Town Hall	10.00
Current Use fee	12.50

	\$187.50
Received from State & Federal sources:	
Rooms & Meals tax	\$4,355.86
Highway Bloc Grant	9,754.78
Federal Entitlement fee	15,399.00
State Entitlement fee	6,570.31
State Revenue Sharing	6,326.56

	\$42,406.51

Received from Town Clerk:		
Motor vehicle permits		\$20,754.00
Motor vehicle transfers		145.00
Title fees		25.00
Filing fees to State of N.H.		27.00
Vital Statistics		99.00
Dog licenses		403.50
Penalties		113.00
Marriage licenses		76.00
O.D. check & charge redemption		100.00
		<hr/>
		\$21,743.50
Total Receipts		\$390,420.90
Cash on hand January 1, 1995		95,632.14
Interest earned		1,188.60
		<hr/>
		\$487,241.65
Less Selectmen's Orders		406,973.46
		<hr/>
		\$80,268.19
Bank charge	less	4.86
Returned check & charge	less	78.00
		<hr/>
Cash on hand - January 1, 1996		\$80,185.33

Respectfully submitted

Paula Boutin - Treasurer

Budget and Summary Analysis

Category	App. '95	Exp. '95	Est. '96
Selectmen & Expenses	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,288	\$ 1,400
Town Map Update	500	500	
Election and Registration	500	450	2,400
Financial & Office Admin.			
Salaries and Expenses	3,100	3,062	3,200
Legal Expenses	500		500
Planning Board	200	19	200
Town Building	1,800	1,253	1,800
Insurance & Bonds	1,500	1,839	1,850
Regional Associations	835	827	850
Cemeteries	350	350	350
Fire Protection	2,500	2,500	2,500
Ambulance Service	1,768	1,768	1,768
Solid Waste	110	110	
Roads	35,000	36,467	35,000
Welfare: Direct Assistance	500	320	500
Senior Citizens Council	175	175	175
Community Action Program	175	175	175
Wht. Mt. Mental Health	300	300	300
No. Country Home Health	300	300	300
Interest in TAN's	1,800	1,273	1,500
Added to CRF for Roads	5,000	5,000	
Totals	\$58,313	\$57,976	\$54,768
Taxes bought by the town	\$ 16,221		
Abatements	50		
County Tax	20,152		
State Research Fees	303		
Schools	262,157		

This estimate does not include amounts addressed in separate Warrant articles.

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Estimate of Revenue

Sources of Revenue	Est. '95	Rec. '95	Est. '96
From local taxes:			
Yield taxes	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,622	\$ 6,000
Interest & Penalties	2,500	4,059	4,500
State of N. H.:			
Shared Revenue	5,000	6,327	5,000
Hiway Bloc Grant	9,703	9,755	9,565
Entitlement fees	6,570	6,570	6,000
Rooms & meals tax		4,356	4,000
Wht. Mt. Nat'l Forest:	2,360	15,399	15,000
Licenses, Permits & Fees:			
Motor Vehicle	16,500	20,924	19,000
Dogs & Penalties	474	517	500
Copies & Fees	110	200	150
Income from Trust Funds:	172	161	166
Interest on Deposits:	975	1,189	1,000
Total Town Revenue from all sources except prop. taxes	\$49,364	\$75,079	\$70,881

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
For the Municipality of Benton - Year ending 12/31/1995

DR.	Levy for 1995	Levy for 1994	Levy for 1993

Uncollected taxes - beginning of fiscal year:			
Property Taxes		\$54,079.99	\$385.60

Taxes committed in 1995:			
Property Taxes	\$239,321.88		
Yield Taxes	\$5,267.95		

Overpayment:			
Property Taxes		\$77.78	
Inventory	\$10.00		

Interest collected on delinquent taxes:	\$2.00	\$1,439.52	

TOTAL DEBITS	\$244,601.83	\$55,597.29	\$385.60

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CR.	Levy for 1995	Levy for 1994	Levy for 1993

Remitted to Treasurer during the fiscal year:			
Property Taxes	\$187,673.22	\$54,079.99	\$385.60
Yield Taxes	\$5,267.95		
Interest	\$2.00	\$1,439.52	
Overpayment		\$77.78	

Abatements made:			
Inventories	\$30.00		

Uncollected Taxes - End of Year			
Property Taxes	\$51,628.66	\$0.00	\$0.00

TOTAL CREDITS	\$244,601.83	\$55,597.29	\$385.60

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
For the Municipality of Benton - Year ending 12/31/1995

DR.	Levy for 1995	Levy for 1994	Levy for 1993
Balance of unredeemed liens beginning of the fiscal year		\$10,996.29	\$3,777.58
Liens executed during fiscal year	\$18,134.17		
Interest & costs collected after lien execution	\$154.41	\$1,152.61	\$1,310.30
TOTAL DEBITS	\$18,288.58	\$12,148.90	\$5,087.88

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CR.	Levy for 1995	Levy for 1994	Levy for 1993
Remitted to Treasurer during the fiscal year:			
Redemptions	\$4,689.27	\$5,644.69	\$3,777.58
Interest & costs collected after lien execution	\$154.41	\$1,152.61	\$1,310.30
Balance of unredeemed liens at the end of fiscal year	\$13,444.90	\$5,351.60	\$0.00
TOTAL CREDITS	\$18,288.58	\$12,148.90	\$5,087.88

Schedule of Non-Taxable Property

Town of Benton:

High Street Cemetery	0.6 Acres	\$ 1,360
Graveyard Field	1.3 Acres	2,950
Mountain View Cemetery	0.9 Acres	2,040
East Cemetery Rte. 116	0.3 Acres	680
Old Town Hall Lot Rte. 116	0.05 Acres	110
Tunnel Brook Bridge Corner	0.3 Acres	680
North Benton Union Soc.	0.7 Acres	1,590
Benton Bible Chapel, Parsonage	1.7 Acres	55,310
Benton Bible Chapel	1.4 Acres	130,260
Town Hall, Land & Building	0.2 Acres	84,600
Furnishings & Equipment		3,950

State of New Hampshire:

Old LaBounty place	0.5 Acres	1,140
Home for the Elderly	107.0 Acres	202,150
Forest Division	401.0 Acres	112,280

United Forest Service:

Dept. of Agriculture	23,604.0 Acres	6,609,120
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Totals	24,120.0 Acres	\$7,208,220
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TOWN OF BENTON
Summary of Inventory Valuation

Land, Improved and Unimproved:	
Under Current Use - 1,765.3 acres	\$ 137,410
Ad Valorem Value	<u>835,900</u>
All Other - 5,502.9 acres	3,317,750

Total of Taxable Land	\$ 3,455,160
 Tax exempt and non-taxable land 24,120 acres Assessed at \$7,208,220.	
 Housing:	
Residential & allied buildings	\$ 4,488,380
Manufactured Housing	503,410

Total	\$ 4,991,790
 Tax exempt building assessed at \$370,130	
 Public Utilities:	
New England Hydro-Transmission	\$ 1,002,440
New England Power Co.	36,360
New Hampshire Elec. Co-op	301,210

Total	\$ 1,340,010
 Total Assessments:	\$ 9,786,960
Less Elderly Exemptions (4)	\$ 20,000

Tax Rate - 1995	\$ 9,766,960
	x 24.58

Less Veteran's deductions (18)	- 900

Property Tax Warrant	\$ 239,172

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS

Town of Benton, N. H.

Date of Creation	Name	Purpose	Bal. 12/31/95
1897	Ira Whitcher	Cemetery	\$ 500.00
1910	Whitcher & Mann	Cem-Sch-Hwy	500.00
1910	Whitcher & Mann	Cem-Sch-Hwy	1,000.00
1910	Whitcher & Mann	Schools	1,750.00
1975	Vivah Leonard	School	191.00
1924	William T. Topsey	Cemetery	50.00
1910	Whitcher & Mann	Highways	1,750.00
1919	J. C. Speed	Cemetery	134.70
1921	Whitcher & Kendall	Cemetery	200.00
1930	George H. Clark	Cemetery	200.00
1934	Ella Mann	Cemetery	50.00
1934	Kendrich Howe	Cemetery	50.00
1924	Samuel Annis	Cemetery	50.00
1924	Jonathan Davis	Cemetery	50.00
1938	Isabeth Tyler	Cemetery	50.00
1938	D. M. & K. L. Howe	Cemetery	100.00
1962	Maude & Lee McKean	Cemetery	100.00
1975	Vivah Leonard	Cemetery	250.00
1988	John & Ethel Boutin	Cemetery	300.00
1993	Willard Lucas	Cemetery	100.00
1995	Lloyd Mason	Cemetery	80.00
Income to be used in 1996			
		Cemeteries	\$ 140.00
		Highways	66.00
1989	Capital Reserve for Highways		\$ 38,624.13
1993	Capital Reserve for Fires		3,715.27

Trustees: Joseph N. Boutin, Jr.

Justin J. Elliott

Jeffrey M. Elliott

TOWN OF BENTON
Report of the Town Clerk - 1995

Motor Vehicle permits issued:	323	\$ 21,350.00
Dog licenses issued:	65	541.50
Certified copies, records search, marriage licenses and fees:		318.00

Total		\$ 22,209.50

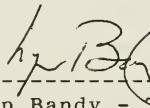
Submitted to Treasurer		
Motor vehicles		\$ 20,924.00
Dog fees & fines		516.50
Copies & search fees		202.00

Total		\$ 21,642.50

Fees retained by the Town Clerk:		
Motor Vehicles		\$ 426.00
Dog licenses		25.00
Copies & search fees		116.00

Total		567.00
To Balance		\$ 22,209.50

Respectfully Submitted



Lyn Bandy - Town Clerk

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

1995 started out like any other year with all the last minute meetings and work to get the books closed for the past year, correcting the mistakes that crop up during the year, finish all the annual reports, get all the figures ready for 1996 and put together a Town Report.

In the mean time, Scott Roden, Ed Matz and some other residents were getting together with the idea of writing to all of our State and Federal representatives to see if a bit more money could be generated for the town in this manner to ease up on the constant rise of property taxes. We finally put together two letters that were sent to our Senator, Congressmen, our state representatives, the Governor's Council and the Governor. The letter writers and those interested and the Selectmen had several meetings with some of the recipients of our letters and we can see a difference in some of the monies received by the Town. Our school foundation aid had doubled and our per acre "payment in lieu of taxes" for the White Mt. Nat'l Forest went from \$.10 per acre to \$.65 per acre. Our revenue sharing checks also increased by \$1,100. It does look as though the "squeaky wheel" got some oil and that we all owe a vote of thanks to Ray Burton, Rep. Bill Williams, Governor Merrill, Senator Ned Gordon, Senator Hugh Gregg, Representatives Bass, King and Zeliff.

We had a very pleasant summer and the weather didn't get too cold until December. We did, however, have three very nasty wind and rain storms in October and November. Dan Elliott had all the roads in good condition to go into winter when the first hard rain storm hit. The leaves had just about finished falling and drains and culverts became leaf clogged in no time. Washouts were deep and widespread. The second violent storm hit about a week later and the wind took down hundreds of trees. Danny and Jessie spent many hours with equipment cleaning roads. There was so much damage that the first day was spent merely making openings so that a car could get through. There were several huge trees caught against the middle support of the Tunnel Brook Bridge and many many hours and much equipment was necessary to dislodge, beach and cut up all that debris. We had used all our summer money before these storms hit and we had to go into winter road money so work done on these clean-ups was minimal.

Another storm hit in November and things went from bad to worse.

The New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management contacted our Director of Emergency Management, Sam Boutin, Jr., and he contacted the Selectmen to tell us that a regional meeting was being held in Littleton to tell a few surrounding towns how to go about applying for special funds being made available to towns who had sustained damage during these storms. Selectman, John Elliott, Road Agent, Dan Elliott and Emergency Management Director, Sam Boutin, Jr. attended the meeting. They were put in contact with a federal representative who came to Benton to meet with John and Danny Elliott. They spent two to three days during two successive weeks going over roads, documenting all the damage, money that has been spent and compiling accurate accounts of material, labor and equipment necessary to put the roads back in shape.

We have been told that we will probably be reimbursed for the \$2,700 that we had to spend to merely open the roads sometime in the next two months. We then, must repair the rest of the damage, bill the FEMA and then a FEMA representative will inspect the repairs and direct the State of N.H. to issue payment for the rest of the work to the Town of Benton. We will end up with cleaned out ditches, several new and larger culverts and many loads of gravel sorely needed on washed out road beds.

We have had a busy year, our jobs became more complicated and take more time but if we can see a couple of things that are better at the end of the year than they were January 1st, we can all feel better for having kept right on working.

Selectmen of Benton

Marjorie L. Robitzer

John G. Elliott

Stefan Cimikowski

DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS
by Selectmen

Selectmen:

Salaries -	Marjorie Robitzer	\$ 500.00
	John G. Elliott	300.00
	Stefan Cimikowski	300.00
Expenses -	Notices, mileage, Veterinary	
	bills for stray dogs	187.80
	Town map up-date	500.00

		\$1,787.80

Elections & Registration:

Supervisor -	Iona Boutin	\$ 15.40
	Catherine Elliott	77.00
	Seraphene Harris	77.00
	Notices	157.00
Selectmen -	John Elliott	30.80
	Marjorie Robitzer	30.80
Town Clerk -	Lyn Bandy	30.80
Moderator -	Mark Elliott	30.80

		\$ 449.60

Financial Administration:

Salaries -	Treasurer, Paula Boutin	\$ 300.00
	Tax Collector, Sharon Edwards	300.00
	Town Clerk, Lyn Bandy	300.00
	Surveyor of Wood and	
	Lumber, Joseph Boutin, Jr.	100.00
	Auditor, Dorothy Elliott	50.00
General Office Expenses		1,282.17
Town Report 1994		575.00
Town Clerk Fees		154.50

		\$3,061.67

Public Welfare:

Ambulance Service		\$1,767.50
Hospitals & Clinics		600.00
Charitable Organizations		350.00
Direct Assistance		319.80

		\$3,037.30

Community Building:	
Telephone Service	\$ 353.43
Walter Jock Oil Co., Inc. fuel oil, yearly service & cleaning	650.35
Electric Service	249.14

	\$ 1,252.92
Insurance & Bonds:	
Franconia Insurance, Bonds	\$ 342.00
Franconia Insurance, Workmen's Comp.	750.00
Poulos Insurance, fire & liability	747.00

	\$ 1,839.00
Regional Associations:	
Assn. of Assessing Officers	\$ 20.00
N.H. Municipal Assn.	500.00
North Country Council	272.30
N.H. City & Town Clerks Assn.	20.00
N.H. Tax Collectors Assn.	15.00

	\$ 827.30
Fire Protection:	
Twin State Mutual Aid	\$ 1,000.00
North Haverhill Fire Co.	750.00
Haverhill Corner Fire Co.	750.00

	\$ 2,500.00
Benton Roads:	
Summer repairs & maintenance	\$ 18,670.00
October/November - storm damage	
minimal emergency repairs	2,704.00
Winter maintenance	12,005.00
Material and Supplies	3,088.47

	\$ 36,467.47
Deposited to CRF for Roads:	\$ 5,000.00
State of New Hampshire:	
Record Search Fees	\$ 160.00
Animal Population & disease control	142.50

	\$ 302.50

Solid Waste - No. Country Council:	\$	110.00
Planning & Zoning:	\$	19.20
Cemeteries:		
William Harris, mowing	\$	350.00
Abatelements & Refunds:	\$	50.00
Taxes bought by the town:	\$	16,220.88
Interest on TAN's:	\$	1,272.94
Repayment of TAN:	\$	50,000.00
Schools:	\$	262,156.93
Grafton County tax:	\$	20,152.00

Total Checks Written		\$406,857.51

Selectmen of Benton
 Marjorie L. Robitzer
 John G. Elliott
 Stefan A. Cimikowski

ROAD REPORT

The year started off kind of quiet with just regular maintenance of snow and ice. Town meeting came and a number of people said, "try and find something cheaper than cold patch." So, we tried some other materials: some worked, some didn't. We graveled Tunnel Stream Road, graded all roads twice, repaired some culverts, cleaned ditches, and general repairs. Fall came and we put up sand, cleaned a few more ditches and removed leaves from culverts. Things were in pretty good shape and well under budget, then came the last week of October and the first week of November. We received two major storms of wind and rain in that two week period and took on a lot of damage.

This county has since been declared a disaster area by the president. At this time we have just finished meeting with the F.E.M.A. government man and should receive all funds needed for repairs.

December hit very hard with early and heavy snow which further strained the budget.

We contacted paving companies and received a good quote from the firm of Blaktop, Inc. with three proposals of which #2 is recommended. Also we support the article to add to the C.R.F. for roads.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Elliott - Road Agent

MONTHLY ROAD EXPENSES

1/1/95 - 2/6/95

 PLOW
 SAND ROADS
 THAW CULVERTS
 TOTAL - \$4,675.00

2/7/95 - 3/6/95

 PLOW / SAND ROADS
 THAW CULVERTS
 REMOVE ICE FROM DITCHES
 TOTAL - \$3,855.00

3/7/95 - 4/3/95

 PLOW / SAND ROADS
 THAW CULVERTS
 HAUL GRAVEL
 REPAIR WINTER DAMAGE
 TOTAL - \$3,885.00

4/5/95 - 5/1/95

 SAND ROADS / CUT TREES
 TRUCKS TO HAUL GRAVEL
 DOZER TO LEVEL
 BACKHOE TO CLEAN DITCHES
 TOTAL - \$3,348.00

5/12/95 - 6/5/95

 GRAVEL / PATCH
 MAKE REPAIRS
 GENERAL MAINTENANCE
 TOTAL - \$2,075.00

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

 BROWN CONCRETE - CALCIUM CHLORIDE \$ 85.00
 RENTAL - ROAD SWEEPER 75.00
 IDES - HALITE & POLY 268.00
 BLAISDELL SAND & GRAVEL 873.00
 MARTIN - STA MAT 796.55
 SAND 560.00
 BLACKTOP 430.92

TOTAL \$3,088.47

6/7/95 - 7/2/95

 CLEAN DITCHES
 GENERAL REPAIRS
 PATCH HOLES / GRAVEL
 TOTAL - \$2,706.00

7/9/95 - 8/7/95

 CLEAN DITCHES
 GRADE ROADS
 GENERAL REPAIRS
 TOTAL - \$3,536.00

8/16/95 - 9/8/95

 GENERAL MAINTENANCE
 CLEAN DITCHES
 HAUL WINTER SAND (280 YDS)
 TOTAL - \$3,680.00

10/21/95 - 10/25/95

 WIND DAMAGE / FLOOD DAMAGE
 TOTAL - \$1,442.00

11/5/95 - 12/4/95

 WIND DAMAGE / FLOOD DAMAGE
 SECOND STORM
 PLOW / SAND ROADS
 TOTAL - \$2,037.00

12/5/95 - 12/31/95

 PLOW / SAND ROADS
 TOTAL - \$2,700.00

REPORT OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN
AND STATE FOREST RANGER

In calendar year 1995, our three (3) leading causes of fire were children, non-permit fires not properly extinguished and smoking materials.

Violations of RSA 224:27 II, the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire, are misdemeanors punishable by fines up to \$2,000 and/or a year in jail. Violators are also liable for all fire suppression costs.

To aid your Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department and State Forest Fire Officials, contact your local Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required. This also helps to prevent unnecessary response to a controlled burn.

1995 Fire Statistics

<u>Forest Ranger Reported Fires</u>	<u>Fires Reported by County</u>
Number of fires for cost share payment: 465	Belknap 11 Carroll 50 Cheshire 39
Acres burned: 437	Coos 17 Grafton 26
Suppression cost: \$147,000+	Hillsborough 71 Merrimack 49
Lookout Tower Reported Fires: 555	Rockingham 106 Strafford 78 Sullivan 18
Visitors to towers 26,165	

.....

Local communities and the State share the cost of suppression on a 50/50 basis. The State of New Hampshire operates 15 fire towers, 2 mobile patrols and 3 contract aircraft patrols. This early detection and reports from citizens aid the quick response from the local fire departments.

"REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!"

John Q. Ricard - Forest Ranger

William Harris - Forest Fire Warden

VITAL STATISTICS
TOWN OF BENTON - 1995

BIRTHS

January 17, 1995 Daniel Joseph Finn IV at Dartmouth-
Hitchcock Medical Center
Parents, Nancy C. & Daniel J. Finn III

June 29, 1995 Douglass Piskura Saffo at Littleton
Regional Hospital
Parents, Veronica J. & Richard E.
Saffo, Jr.

MARRIAGES

July 8, 1995 Betty Louise Placey to Renee L. Dube
in Pittsburg, N. H.

July 8, 1995 Ruth Alice Ames to Peter Alan Thompson
in Benton, N. H.

DEATHS

February 2, 1995 Martha M. Marshall, resident of the
Glencliff Home for the Elderly, at 79
years of age.

April 8, 1995 Phoebe Jackson, resident of the
Glencliff Home for the Elderly, at 84
years of age.

April 9, 1995 Francis W. Hill, resident of the
Glencliff Home for the Elderly, at 64
years of age.

June 24, 1995 William G. Reusher, brother of Nancy
Reusher of Benton, at 68 years of age.

June 27, 1995 Edward H. Boudreau, resident of the
Glencliff Home for the Elderly, at 80
years of age.

September 24, 1995 Laura E. Mason, wife of Lloyd A. Mason
of Benton, at 65 years of age.

October 8, 1995 Irene B. White, resident of the
Glencliff Home for the Elderly. at 65
years of age.

October 16, 1995 Albert Molderez, resident of the
Glencliff Home for the Elderly. at 78
years of age.

December 22, 1995 Eleanor Ilsley, resident of the
Glencliff Home for the Elderly. at 60
years of age.

BENTON TOWN OFFICERS
(Telephone numbers & office hours)

	<u>Phone No.</u>								
Board of Selectmen:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">John G. Elliott</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6781</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marjorie Robitzer</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6053</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stefan Cimikowski</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-2389</td> </tr> </table>	John G. Elliott	787-6781	Marjorie Robitzer	787-6053	Stefan Cimikowski	787-2389		
John G. Elliott	787-6781								
Marjorie Robitzer	787-6053								
Stefan Cimikowski	787-2389								
<p>The Selectmen meet on the first Monday of each month at the Benton Community Building at 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.</p>									
Moderator:	Mark Elliott 787-6013								
Town Clerk:	Lyn Bandy 787-2324								
<p>The Town Clerk has office hours every Monday evening at the Benton Community Building at 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. Telephone number 787-6541</p>									
Treasurer:	Paula Boutin 787-6232								
Auditor:	Richard Dickenson 787-6486								
Tax Collector:	Sharon Edwards 787-2324								
Supervisors of the Checklist:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Iona Boutin</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6267</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sera Harris</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6368</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catherine Elliott</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6781</td> </tr> </table>	Iona Boutin	787-6267	Sera Harris	787-6368	Catherine Elliott	787-6781		
Iona Boutin	787-6267								
Sera Harris	787-6368								
Catherine Elliott	787-6781								
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr. 787-6083								
Ballot Clerk:	Dorothy Bragdon 787-2481								
Ballot Inspector:	Kate Goodwin 787-6695								
Trustees of the Trust Fund:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Joseph Boutin, Jr.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6083</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeff Elliott</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6181</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Justin Elliott</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6681</td> </tr> </table>	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	787-6083	Jeff Elliott	787-6181	Justin Elliott	787-6681		
Joseph Boutin, Jr.	787-6083								
Jeff Elliott	787-6181								
Justin Elliott	787-6681								
Planning Board:	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Joseph Boutin, III</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeffrey Elliott</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6181</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sera Harris</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6368</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kenneth Kealey</td> <td style="text-align: right;">787-6084</td> </tr> </table>	Joseph Boutin, III	787-6250	Jeffrey Elliott	787-6181	Sera Harris	787-6368	Kenneth Kealey	787-6084
Joseph Boutin, III	787-6250								
Jeffrey Elliott	787-6181								
Sera Harris	787-6368								
Kenneth Kealey	787-6084								
Road Agent:	Daniel Elliott 787-6189								
Dog Officer:	Linda Smith, Haverhill 787-6084								
<p>If the need arises, please call the Selectmen first.</p>									

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT OFFICERS
SCHOOL BOARD

Scott Roden	Term Expires 1996
Marty Noble	Term Expires 1997
Laurie Elliott	Term Expires 1998

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

John Elliott, Jr.	Moderator
Maxine Tyler	Treasurer
Dorothy Elliott	Auditor
Lyn Bandy	Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Douglas B. McDonald, Ed.D. (resigned 6/30/95)
Linda J. Nelson (appointed 7/1/95)

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
Linda J. Nelson 1994-95

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Edward N. Emond

Annual School District Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 1995

Lyn Bandy - School District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the Moderator, John G. Elliott, with 49 townspeople present. Moderator Elliott read the warrant. Prior to action being taken on the articles, the following ensued:

John Elliott read a letter initiated by Ed Matz regarding the unfair tax burden which is placed on our income-poor, "property-rich" community. Virtually all voters present at the town meeting signed the letter, which was then forwarded to Governor Greg, elected legislators, and Ray Burton, our councilor.

Deborah Page donated a copy of the warning of the first town meeting in Coventry, New Hampshire, on December 30, 1809. The document was originally saved by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Leonard. This record will be copied, framed, and the gift noted in town records. We are very grateful for these records of our town history.

ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year. Mark Elliott was elected.

We wish to thank John Elliott for his years of service as school moderator.

ARTICLE 2: To choose a clerk for the coming year. Lyn Bandy was reelected.

ARTICLE 3: To choose one member of the school board for a term of three years.

Laurie Elliott was reelected for a 3 year term.

The resignation of Sharon Edwards before her term expired was accepted with regret. A replacement will be appointed.

ARTICLE 4: To choose a treasurer for the ensuing year. Maxine Tyler was reelected.

ARTICLE 5: To hear reports of agents, committees or officers chosen, and pass any vote relating thereto. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the district will vote to set the salaries of school board members at \$150 per year, the school district treasurer at \$50 per year, the school district moderator at \$10 per meeting, and the school district clerk at \$10 per meeting.

Motion was made to accept the article. Laurie Elliott then amended the article to read: School district treasurer to \$70 per year, school district moderator at \$16 per meeting, and the school district clerk at \$16 per meeting, and the school district auditor at \$30 per year. This article was accepted as stated with the amendment.

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of the schools, for the salaries of school district officials and agents and 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.

Scott Roden moved that the district raise and appropriate the sum of \$290,021.00 for the obligations as set forth in Article 7. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting. Stefan Cimikowski moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded and passed by a voice vote at 7:25 PM.

Lyn Bandy
Benton School District Clerk

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the Inhabitants of the School District of Benton in the County of Grafton, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said district on the 12th day of March, 1996, at 7:00 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.
- ARTICLE 4: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 5: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the District will vote to set the salaries of School Board Members at \$150 per year, the School District Treasurer at \$100 per year, Auditor at \$30 per year, the School District Moderator at \$16 per meeting and the School District Clerk at \$16 per meeting. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)
- ARTICLE 7: To see if the school district will vote to create an expendable general fund trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the Benton Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of paying the

unanticipated cost of educating Benton children who attend schools outside the Benton school district. Furthermore, to name the school board as agents to expend and to raise and appropriate up to \$25,000 to be placed in such fund with such sum to be funded from the June 30, 1996 undesignated fund balance over \$15,000. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the District will vote to appropriate \$50.00 to help support, with other school districts, the case of the Claremont School District et al vs. Governor et al, a court challenge to the constitutionality of New Hampshire's method of funding public education through near total reliance on local property taxes. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

ARTICLE 9: 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 and 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 10: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our hands at said Benton this 26
day of February, 1996.

Scott Roden, Chairman

Laurie Elliott

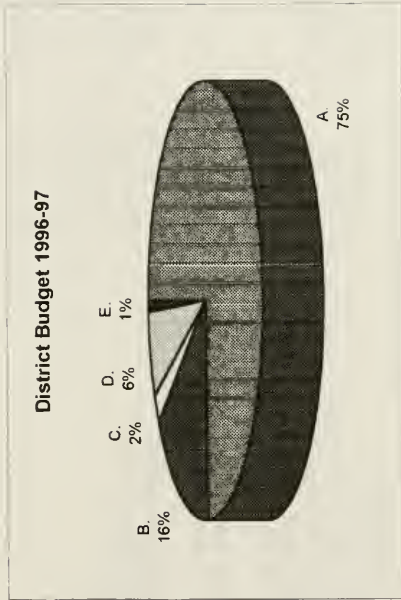
Marty Noble
BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

<u>DISTRICT SUMMARY</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>+/-</u>
		<u>1994-95</u>	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	
A.	<u>Instruction</u>				
	1100 Regular Programs	186,473.25	224,390.00	\$221,108.00	(\$3,282.00)
	1300 Vocational Education	8,250.00	10,800.00	\$10,800.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL INSTRUCTION	194,723.25	235,190.00	\$231,908.00	(\$3,282.00)
B.	<u>Special Education</u>				
	1200 Special Programs	25,337.44	27,581.00	\$48,749.00	\$21,168.00
	1420 Summer School	395.76	1,265.00	\$2,125.00	\$860.00
	2150 Speech and Audiology	-	100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
	2159 Speech - Summer School	-	-	\$75.00	\$75.00
	TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION	25,733.20	28,946.00	\$51,049.00	\$22,103.00
C.	<u>SAU Services</u>				
	2321 Office of the Superintendent	4,609.00	5,794.00	\$6,296.00	\$502.00
	2390 Other Mgmt Services	-	-	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL SAU SERVICES	4,609.00	5,794.00	\$6,296.00	\$502.00
D.	<u>Transportation</u>				
	2552 To and From School	14,217.00	\$15,699.00	\$15,699.00	\$0.00
	2553 Handicapped	1,303.20	\$1,296.00	\$3,989.00	\$2,693.00
	2558 Summer School Handicapped	158.40	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	15,678.60	\$17,195.00	\$19,888.00	\$2,693.00
E.	<u>School Board</u>				
	2311 School Board	2,561.76	\$2,738.00	\$2,738.00	\$0.00
	2312 Clerk of the Board	-	-	\$0.00	\$0.00
	2313 Treasurer	-	\$93.00	\$123.00	\$30.00
	2314 Election and District Meeting	33.22	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$0.00
	2317 Audit	60.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL SCHOOL BOARD	2,654.98	\$2,896.00	\$2,926.00	\$30.00
	GRAND TOTAL	243,399.03	290,021.00	312,067.00	22,046.00

1996-97

- A. \$231,908.00 Instruction
- B. \$51,049.00 Special Ed.
- C. \$6,296.00 SAU Services
- D. \$19,888.00 Transportation
- E. \$2,926.00 School Board
- E. \$312,067.00 TOTAL BUDGET**



BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE

	Budgeted 1995-96	Revised 1995-96	Budgeted 1996-97	+/-	
Unreserved Fund Balance			10,937.00	15,000.00	4,063.00
3000 Revenue From State Sources					
3110 Foundation Aid	20,299.00	37,571.00	51,342.00	13,771.00	
3221 Vocational School Tuition	7,000.00	7,000.00	5,000.00	-2,000.00	
3222 Vocational School Transportation	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00		
3240 Catastrophic Aid	2,500.00				
4920 Medicaid			8,000.00	8,000.00	
4000 Revenue From Federal Sources					
4810 Forest Reserve	7,000.00	8,672.00	15,000.00	6,328.00	
1100 Revenue From Local Sources					
1121 Current Appropriations	251,772.00	224,391.00	216,275.00	-8,116.00	
1510 Interest	250.00	250.00	250.00		
TOTAL	290,021.00	290,021.00	312,067.00	22,046.00	
Tax Impact					
1986	22.91				
1987	7.90				
1988	4.89				
1989	7.09	(\$8,436 = \$1.00)			
1990	15.22	(\$8,655 = \$1.00)			
1991	13.19	(\$8,700 = \$1.00)			
1992	16.18	(\$9,160 = \$1.00)			
1993	18.55	(\$9,465 = \$1.00)			
1994	23.51	(\$9,500 = \$1.00)			
1995	22.54	(\$9,936 = \$1.00)			
1996 Estimate	21.70	(\$9,767 = \$1.00)			

BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 1995

ASSETS

Current Assets

Account No.

100	Cash	11,862.13
140	Intergov't Rec.	<u>7,777.58</u>
Total Assets		19,639.71

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Fund Equity

Account No.

	Other Payables	30.00
	Deferred Revenues	8,672.64
	Unreserved Fund Balance	<u>10,937.07</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity		19,639.71
Current Appropriation		217,396.50
Total Taxes		217,396.50

STATEMENT OF REVENUES
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1994

TAXES

REVENUE FROM LOCAL SOURCES
Account No.

1121 Current Appropriation	<u>\$217,396.50</u>
Total Taxes	\$217,396.50
1500 Earnings on Investments	\$ 408.31
1990 Other Local Revenue	<u>\$ 654.40</u>
Total Other Revenue	\$ 1,062.71
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE	\$218,459.21

UNRESTRICTED GRANTS-IN-AID
Account No.

3110 Foundation Aid	<u>\$ 15,705.62</u>
Total Unrestricted Grants-In-Aid	\$ 13,660.55

RESTRICTED GRANTS-IN-AID
Account No.

Vocational Tuition	\$ 6,000.00
Vocational Transportation	\$ 990.08
3240 Catastrophic Aid	<u>\$ 5,537.94</u>
Total Restricted Grants-In-Aid	\$ 12,528.02
TOTAL REVENUE FROM STATE SOURCES	\$ 28,233.64

REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES
Account No.

4800 Revenue In Lieu of Taxes	<u>\$ 7,000.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES	\$ 7,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$253,692.85

REPORT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER
 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BENTON
 FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1994 TO JUNE 30 1995

Cash on Hand July 1, 1994	\$27,350.85
Received from Selectmen	\$217,396.50
Revenue from State Sources	\$21,847.85
Revenue from Federal Sources	\$15,672.64
Received from Tuitions	\$7,707.08
Received as income from Trust Funds	\$57.61
Received from all other Sources	\$393.31
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$263,074.99
TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL YEAR	\$290,425.84
LESS SCHOOL BOARD ORDERS PAID	\$278,563.71
BALANCE ON HAND JUNE 30, 1995	\$11,862.13

July 17, 1995

Maxine Tyler
District Treasurer

This is to certify that we have examined the books, vouchers, bank statements and other financial records of the treasurer of the school district of Benton, NH of which the above is a true summary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995 and find them correct in all respects.

August 24, 1995

Diana L. Roden
Auditor

**School Administrative Unit #23
Report of the Superintendent's and Business Administrator's
Salaries**

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 Business Administrator.

One-half of the School Administrative Unit expenses 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 SAU #23 during the 1995-96 school year will receive a salary of \$59,000.00 plus and incentive of \$2,100.00 prorated among the several school districts. The Business Administrator will receive a salary of \$36,000.00 plus and incentive of \$1,000.00 prorated among the several school districts.

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

Superintendent's Salary & Incentive

Bath	\$ 5,371.00
Benton	953.00
Haverhill Cooperative	34,570.00
Monroe	10,204.00
Piermont	5,346.00
Warren	<u>4,656.00</u>
	\$61,100.00

Business Administrator's Salary & Incentive

Bath	<u>3,252.00</u>
Benton	577.00
Haverhill Cooperative	20,935.00
Monroe	6,179.00
Piermont	3,238.00
Warren	<u>2,819.00</u>
	\$37,000.00

TO THE SCHOOL BOARD AND CITIZENS OF BENTON,
I SUBMIT MY FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

In October, 1994, the New Hampshire State Board of Education granted SAU #23's request to form two SAUs: SAU 23; and SAU 68. This reorganization was discussed in last year's Town Report.

At the SAU 23 Board meeting in May, Wayne Fortier stepped down as Chair, thanking the Board for its support during his three years in office. He explained that his work as President of the New Hampshire State School Boards Association and Chair of the state's Joint Education Council made this necessary. After thanking Fortier for his leadership during the difficult SAU separation process, the Board elected Denis Ward of Monroe as Chair. Ben Harrington of Bath was elected Vice Chair. Bob Regis of Monroe became Secretary, and Donna Roche of Haverhill became Treasurer. With Board approval, we added a Business Administrator to the SAU staff, hiring Ed Emond for this position in July, 1995. Ed is a strong addition to the SAU and has earned our respect for his work developing the SAU and district budgets.

Benton accepted Sharon Edwards' resignation from the School Board with regret last year. Amy Barry served briefly in Sharon's place until she moved from Benton. Marty Noble took Amy's place. He brings to the Board the same high level of commitment to school issues that his predecessors had.

In Benton's Budget Hearing in February, community members asked if there were ways to express their concerns about school financing to state elected representatives. A meeting was arranged for the town with local officials. On the 1996 Warrant, the School Board is also including an Article showing support for the Claremont lawsuit, legal action aimed at forcing the state to develop a more appropriate school financing plan. In other attempts at cost savings, the Benton School Board continues its tuition contract with Haverhill School District. Because Benton sends over 100% of its students to Haverhill, Benton qualified for a 5% tuition discount in 1994-95 and 1995-96. With increases in Haverhill tuition costs for the 1996-97 school year, Benton has negotiated a 10% tuition discount.

Finally, I would like to thank the Benton school community for your kind support. The first few months as Superintendent have been very busy. I am continually surprised by the range of responsibilities that come with this job. I welcome hearing your thoughts about school

issues. *SAU 23 Notes*, published monthly, is an attempt to keep you informed about our work. The SAU #23 School-Community Forums, which have featured Dr. Jack Hruska on Family-School Connections, and Fred Bramante on Market Driven Teacher Compensation Plans, are another way we are trying to include the community in our work. As you know, we can only reach our primary goal - making school a challenging and enriching experience for all students - by working together. It's a goal that we can reach, together.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda J. Nelson
Superintendent

University of N.H. Library
Durham, N.H. 03824



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