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1996 TOWN REPORT



...Bennington, N.H.

BENNINGTON SALUTES...



Brown & Knight VFW Post 8268 on its FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Chartered August 26, 1946...originally named the Calvin Brown Post...renamed the Brown & Knight Memorial Post #8268, honoring Robert Knight, Jr., killed in action in Vietnam, April 11, 1969...a feature of the Town of Bennington...Post members once met in a one-room school located across from Town Hall. They purchased the former Boston and Maine Depot in 1967.

The Auxiliary to the Post was chartered in 1949.

POST COMMANDERS

Milan E. Parker	1946	Peter Martel	1963-67, 80-84
Lawrence J. Parker	1947	Norman R. Stacy	1964
Herman C. Skinner	1948-49	Fred Smith	1969
George Gray	1950	Charles A. Johnson	1970-71
Edgar E. Brown	1951	Edwin A. Parris	1972-74
Robert L. Knight, Sr.	1952-53	Donald R. Taylor	1975-76
Robert E. Wilson	1954	Franklin D. Dalton	1978-79
William A. Newhall	1955	Branchley Beers	1982
Harlan Robertson	1956-65	James D. Putnam	1983-84
Richard S. Piehl	1957	John Knapper	1985
Robert F. Lang	1958-60-66	Louis R. Fischer, Sr.	1986-89
Paul E. Murray	1959-77	Herb Flanders	1990-91
Christos Cordatos	1961	John F. Leggett	1993
Sydney A. Huntington	1962-68	William Bailey	1994-

(information credit to Don Taylor and Dotty Glynn)

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

TOWN OFFICERS

of

BENNINGTON, NH

for the Year Ending December 31, 1996

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Paper Donated by Monadnock Paper Mills Inc., Bennington

TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR

James G. Dodge

Term Expires 1998

SELECTMEN

James W. Cleary, Chairman

Term Expires 1998

John J. Cronin, III

Term Expires 1997

Terry D. Schnare

Term Expires 1999

TOWN CLERK

Valerie Germain

Term Expires 1997

TOWN TREASURER

Joyce L. Miner

Term Expires 1997

TAX COLLECTOR

Denise P. French

Appointed

ROAD AGENT

Dave Blanchard

Appointed

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Virginia Young

Term Expires 1997

Elaine Barrett

Term Expires 1998

Lise Lemieux

Term Expires 1999

FOREST FIRE WARDENS

Appointed by Selectmen

Robert Horn, Warden

Mark Chase, Deputy

Dominic Collemacine, Deputy

Allan Wilson, Deputy

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mark Tazelaar

Term Expires March, 1997

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Appointed by Moderator

Harvey Goodwin
Dennis McKenney

Robyn Manley
Douglas Mooney

Barbara Varnum

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Appointed by the Selectmen

Stephen Chase

Joseph Cuddemi

Walter Reasa

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Dawn A. Bond
Linda J. Osienski
Victoria L. Turner

Term Expires March, 1997
Term Expires March, 1997
Term Expires March, 2001

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

Francesco Carrara
Roy Johnson
Mae Lizotte

Term Expires March, 1999
Term Expires March, 1998
Term Expires March, 1997

OFFICER OF HEALTH/WELFARE

Barbara Huntley

Appointed

CHIEF OF POLICE

C. Stephen Campbell

Appointed

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

William B. Reid

Appointed

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

Philip Traxler
James Champagne
Stephen Chase, Jr.

Term Expires March, 1999
Term Expires March, 1997
Term Expires March, 1998

PLANNING BOARD
Appointed by Selectmen

Elaine Barrett	Term Expires 1999
Thomas Carr	Term Expires 1998
Frank Cordelle, Chairman	Term Expires 1998
Peter Eppig	Term Expires 1998
Bill Horton	Term Expires 1999
Terry Schnare, ex-officio	Term Expires 1998
Douglas Wilk, Alternate	Term Expires 1998

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Appointed by Selectmen

David Barrett, Alternate	Term Expires 1998
Glenn Dow	Term Expires 1999
Barbara Goodwin	Term Expires 1999
Harry Sewall, Chairman	Term Expires 1998
Russell Young	Term Expires 1998
Sam Zachos	Term Expires 1999

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Chester D. Heinzman, Jr.	Appointed
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Appointed by Selectmen

David Barrett, Chairman	Term Expires 1998
Bruce Edes	Term Expires 1998
Peter Eppig	Term Expires 1997
Jonathan Manley	Term Expires 1997
Dennis McKenney	Term Expires 1998
Terry Schnare	Term Expires 1997

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE
Appointed by Selectmen

Joseph Cuddemi	Peter Eppig	Philip Germain
Harvey Goodwin	Roy Johnson	Joseph MacGregor
William Reid, ex-officio		Selectmen

WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONERS

John French	Term Expires 1998
Roy Johnson	Term Expires 1997
David Rochford	Term Expires 1997

NEWHALL PARK BOARD

Appointed by Selectmen

Peter Martel	Term Expires 1999
David Parker	Term Expires 1997
Joyce Desaulniers	Term Expires 1998
Brian Whittemore, Alternate	Term Expires 1997

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dominic Collemacine, Chief	Term Expires 1997
Timothy Attridge, First Deputy	Term Expires 1997
Allan Wilson, Second Deputy	Term Expires 1997

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Appointed by Selectmen

Deborah Belcher	Gretchen Hutton
Deborah Page	Richard Page
Susan Seneschal, Chairman	Terry Schnare, ex-officio

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Appointed by Selectmen

Terry Schnare	Steve Skubik (Deceased)	Richard Verney
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HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Appointed by Selectmen

David Blanchard	Stephen Campbell
John Cronin	William Reid

PIERCE SCHOOL PROJECT COMMITTEE*

Appointed by Selectmen

James Cleary	Glenn Loucks	Anne Trow
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*School District Committee

STREET LIGHTING STUDY COMMITTEE
Appointed by Selectmen

Norman Bennett
Bruce Hall

Betty Coffin
Victoria Turner, Chairman

TOWN WARRANT

The State of New Hampshire

To the inhabitants of the Town of Bennington in the County of Hillsborough in said State, qualified to vote: You are hereby notified to meet at the Fire Station on Tuesday, the eighth day of April, next at eight o'clock in the forenoon, to act upon the following subjects:

Note: The casting of absentee ballots will begin at 2 p.m. The polls will close at 7 p.m.

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing.
2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) for the purpose of construction and original equipping of a new Highway Department Garage and to authorize the issuance of not more than sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; further to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand five hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$14,587) for payment of the first year principal and interest.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
3. Shall the Town vote to amend its Conflict of Interest Ordinance as follows: (Full text of proposed amendment, current ordinance and legal opinion attached).
Petitioned Warrant Article.
4. Shall the Town vote to elect the five members of the Planning Board pursuant to the provisions of RSA 673:2,II(b)(2)?
Petitioned Warrant Article.
5. Shall the Town vote to elect the five members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment pursuant to RSA 673:3?
Petitioned Warrant Article.
6. Shall the Town vote to reinstate the practice of printing the complete invoice and property tax listing, including gross tax and a complete listing of unredeemed taxes in the annual report?
Petitioned Warrant Article.
7. Shall we adopt provisions of RSA 466:31; and approve an Ordinance defining and regulating the control of dogs in the Town of Bennington? (Full text of the Ordinance attached).
Recommended by the Selectmen.
8. To see whether the Town will vote, pursuant to RSA 154:1(III), to choose a form of fire department organization in which the Chief and Officers are elected, while the firefighters would be elected by firefighters. Since the Town does not currently have a fire department organization that complies with the provisions of RSA 154:1(a)-(e), it is understood that this organization will take place immediately, without the one year delay provided for by RSA 154:1(IV) and will result in all firefighters in good standing as of the date of this vote to be

enrolled as such and entitled to vote for the admission of future firefighters to their number. The present fire chief and officers will similarly be immediately installed as the chief and officers for a term of 1 year each, at the conclusion of which they shall be subject to reelection. By-laws governing the conduct of the election of firefighters may be drafted by the firefighters and once approved by them submitted to the Selectmen and the Fire Chief for approval. When and if approved by the Selectmen and the Fire Chief the same shall thereafter govern the conduct of the firefighter selection process. Said By-laws shall include a provision that allows them to be amended in the same manner. By-laws, rules and regulations of the department that govern matters other than the election of firefighters shall be drafted by the Fire Chief.

Recommended by the Selectmen.

9. Shall we modify the Elderly Exemptions from property tax in the Town of Bennington based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$20,000; for a person 75 years up to 80 years, \$40,000; for a person 80 years of age or older, \$60,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$18,500 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$25,500; and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000 excluding the value of a person's residence.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

10. To see if the Town will vote to create an expendable general trust fund, to be known as the "Bridge Maintenance Fund", for the purpose of construction or reconstruction of town bridges and to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for deposit in such account, and to grant the Selectmen the right to withdraw such sums as may be required for emergency repairs to bridges, after a Public Hearing but without further action of Town Meeting, or take any other action thereon.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize withdrawal from the Used Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund such funds as are necessary for the purchase and equipping of a Forest Fire vehicle, final purchase and equipment costs to be determined by the Selectmen.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

12. To see if the Town will vote to (1) raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund (2) authorize withdrawal from that fund such funds as are necessary, not to exceed one hundred forty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$142,500), for the purchase of a 1997 International Pumper and (3) authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to arrange for short-term borrowing in respect to the purchase in order to meet payment deadlines/maximize return from invested funds.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to be placed in the Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
16. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Highway Equipment Loader/Grader and to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to be placed in this fund.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in the Water Department Capital Reserve Fund for Equipment Replacement.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
18. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of a Sewer Department Septic Lagoon Dredging Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to be placed in that fund.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be placed in the Library Capital Reserve Fund.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
20. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1, for the purpose of a Highway Department/Recreation Department mower, and to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in that fund.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450) as its share of 1997-1998 programming for Project LIFT (Fuller Public Library, Hillsboro) which provides literacy services and materials to Bennington residents over 16 years of age.
Petitioned Warrant Article. Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.
22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate its share, the sum of eight thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$8,350) to perform water testing, gas survey monitoring, topography testing and the mowing of grass at the former Tri-Town Landfill, all as required by the post-closure agreement with the State of New Hampshire; the costs of which are shared by Antrim, Bennington and Francestown.
Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) to replace and/or upgrade the Police Department's two existing computers.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand and fifty dollars (\$5,050) for tree/limb/masonry and gravestone work at the Town's Cemeteries.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

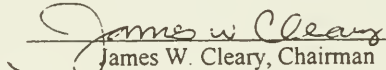
25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to replace the Water/Sewer Department Flow Meter on Old Antrim Road.


Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

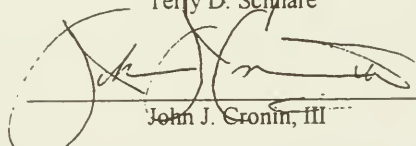
26. Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special articles, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling seven hundred forty-two thousand three hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$742,338)?

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Given under our hands and seal this twenty-first day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven.

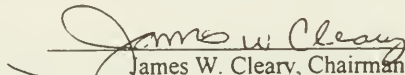

James W. Cleary, Chairman



Terry D. Schnare

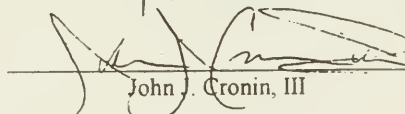

John J. Cronin, III

Board of Selectmen
Bennington, New Hampshire

A true copy of Warrant - Attest


James W. Cleary, Chairman


Terry D. Schnare


John J. Cronin, III

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

It's customary in the 90's, for corporate America and our elected politicians, on assuming office, to closet themselves and their staffs for a week or weekend at some isolated retreat to craft a set of goals and objectives for their administration.

We didn't go through that exercise last March, but we did have a good collective sense of what we hoped to accomplish in the year. This Report is a Balance Sheet, of sorts, and may help you to make your own critical analysis of our performance.

Our first thought on taking office was to move forward from a long and occasionally bitter political campaign. We attempted to do this by word, at the March 14 Town Meeting; by being gracious in victory and by demonstrating our respect for the views of our opponents and their supporters. We have attempted to bring them into active roles on Town Boards and Committees, and have made an honest effort to carry to completion worthy efforts generated during their terms in office.

We remain concerned about the ill will and the personal animosity which still remains in Bennington. We are committed to those acts of acceptance and understanding that will bring the Town and its people closer together.

A second aim of the Board for 1996 was to improve communication between citizens and Town officials. We've attempted to do that by welcoming any resident to approach the Board with a problem at our Wednesday meetings; by making ourselves available at home and on the street as our own schedules permit, by encouraging Departments, such as the Police Department to assume pro-active postures in community relations. And, finally, we have published issues of the "Bennington Bulletin" designed to provide first-hand and usable advice on a range of topics - from abatement requests to septic problems.

It's doubtful that any Selectmen elected anywhere doesn't have as a goal the reduction of property tax. We had the collective pleasure of announcing a seventeen percent decrease last fall, and we're striving to hold that rate, or effect even another decrease for 1997.

Much credit should go to the Boards which preceded this one; to those individuals who worked diligently, for several years to effect a change in the Conval School District Formula, both Bennington citizens and those in adjoining towns and to people of goodwill elsewhere in the District who eventually recognized inequity and corrected it at the polling booth.

The future of the ski area on Crotched Mountain was, to say the least, bleak even after tremendous snowfall during the winter of 1995-96. But the atmosphere has changed. Where March 1996 found lethargy; even hopelessness among the leadership and divisiveness between the principles there is now both a concerted effort to market the Mountain in a business-like manner, consensus among those principles that the right attitude can make it happen. Perhaps more important, there is demonstrated enthusiasm

on the part of potential buyers. The Bennington Board can properly claim that theirs' was the catalyst role that has brought the principles and prospective purchasers to the table.

There is hope.

In December, the Town's insurers signed a settlement which ended an eight-year series of court cases against the Town, its former Police Department and Town Boards. That action, coupled with those made a year ago and several other favorable court judgments in 1996 sharply reduced the number and significance of legal clouds over the Town. We sincerely hope that they harbinger a new and brighter day for the community.

The Board's effort to resolve the long-standing issue of Durgin Road/Merrill Drive completion did not succeed. The Selectmen drew up a plan of action which it felt would be in the best long-term interest of the abutters there and of the Town. It was made clear from the outset that the plan was totally dependent on the decisions of the Planning Board and the ZBA. They are independent entities. They saw fit to disallow excavation in the area. The Board's pledge is to continue its effort to get the roads completed at the least possible cost in the most equitable manner for everyone concerned. We welcome citizen input.

Some significant decisions in a community go unnoticed. That happened this year with the Police Department. The Selectmen accepted the resignation in June of Chief Cam Brown after only 18 months on the job. Officer Steve Campbell, with relatively little on-the-street law enforcement experience, was chosen to lead the Department. Steve's community-relations skills have served him well, and we look forward to his and the Department's continued growth.

The most dramatic physical change in Bennington - the rebuilding of the Pierce School - is shown in pictures elsewhere in this Report. We congratulate the School's teachers and staff; all the parents and the youngsters themselves on the positive attitude they've taken to the difficult year of dislocation and adjustment. We join them in looking at the day when the new Pierce School opens its doors, not just as a learning institution, but as a civic centerpiece.

Tradition seems to demand that this Report includes a look into the community's future. We've dealt with some of the problem areas already. We know they're solvable; the groundwork has been done and we have every confidence that the Selectmen will tackle them with equal enthusiasm.

We take this opportunity to thank the leadership and members of the Town's Boards, Committees and Commissions for their contributions of time, skill and judgment; we thank Department Heads and employees for their faithful service and we thank you as fellow citizens for your continued support.

Jim, Terry, John

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
MUNICIPAL SERVICES DIVISION

MS-6

61 So. Spring St., P.O. Box 1122
Concord, NH 03302-1122
(603) 271-3397



BUDGET OF THE TOWN

OF _____ Bennington _____ N.H.

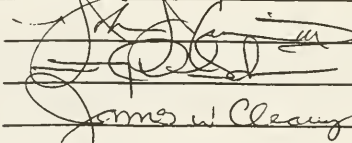
Appropriations and Estimates of Revenue for the Ensuing Year January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997 or
for Fiscal Year From

_____ to _____

IMPORTANT: Please read RSA 32:5 applicable to all municipalities.

1. Use this form to list the entire budget in the appropriate recommended and not recommended area. This means the operating budget and all special and individual warrant articles must be posted.
2. Hold at least one public hearing on this budget.
3. When completed, a copy of the budget must be posted with the warrant. Another copy must be placed on file with the town clerk, and a copy sent to the Department of Revenue Administration at the address above.

Date February 12, 1997



James W. Cleary

SELECTMEN (PLEASE SIGN IN INK)

THIS BUDGET SHALL BE POSTED WITH THE TOWN WARRANT

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (RSA 31:4)	Marr Art. #	Appropriations Prior Year As Approved By DRA	Actual Expenditures Prior Year	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (RECOMMENDED)	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (NOT RECOMMENDED)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4130-4139	Executive		59321	58323	63967	
4140-4149	Election, Reg. & Vital Statistics		10338	10462	9316	
4150-4151	Financial Administration		40653	41775	39668	
4152	Revaluation of Property					
4153	Legal Expense		29000	30425	20000	
4155-4159	Personnel Administration		56313	57471	55982	
4191-4193	Planning & Zoning		3950	1865	3585	
4194	General Government Buildings		9600	10456	9850	
4195	Cemeteries		4005	4131	4005	
4196	Insurance		24200	18714	21500	
4197	Advertising & Regional Assoc.					
4199	Contingency		3000	2489	3000	
PUBLIC SAFETY			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4210-4214	Police		98996	85982	89275	
4215-4219	Ambulance		3000	3000	3000	
4220-4229	Fire		30627	23548	36627	
4240-4249	Building Inspection		750	750	750	
4290-4298	Emergency Management					
4299	Other Public Safety (including Communications)					
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4311-4312	Administration & Highways & Streets		120108	119539	122158	
4313	Bridges		1000	110	1000	
4316-4319	Street Lighting & Other		11865	11434	12374	
SANITATION			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4321-4323	Administration & Solid Waste Collection		20048	19410	22442	
4324-4325	Solid Waste Disposal & Cleanup		25172	21554	24052	
4326-4329	Sewage Collection & Disposal & Other		20800	25232	26900	
WATER DISTRIBUTION & TREATMENT			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4331-4332	Administration & Water Services		41150	33127	39950	

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATIONS (BSA 31:4)	Mar. Art. #	Appropriations Prior Year As Approved By DRA	Actual Expenditures Prior Year	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (RECOMMENDED)	APPROPRIATIONS ENSUING FISCAL YEAR (NOT RECOMMENDED)
4335-4339	Water Treatment, Conservation & Other					
	ELECTRIC		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4351-4352	Administration & Generation					
4353	Purchase Costs					
4354	Electric Equipment Maintenance					
4355-4359	Other Electric Costs					
	HEALTH					
4411-4414	Administration & Pest Control		1645	706	928	
4415-4419	Health Agencies & Hospitals & Other		5237	5271	5271	
	WELFARE		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4441-4442	Administration & Direct Assistance		4943	2792	5409	
4444	Intergov. Welfare Payments					
4445-4449	Vendor Payments & Other		5355	6019	5995	
	CULTURE & RECREATION		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4520-4529	Parks & Recreation		10000	8813	11500	
4550-4559	Library		30890	31353	34183	
4583	Patriotic Purposes		1700	573	1700	
4589	Other Culture & Recreation		0	500	500	
	CONSERVATION		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4611-4612	Administration & Purchases of Natural Resources		500	375	475	
4619	Other Conservation					
4631-2	REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING					
4651-9	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
	DEBT SERVICE		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4711	Princ. - Long Term Bonds & Notes		148050	148050	33050	
4712	Interest-Long Term Bonds & Notes		32465	32435	23926	
4723	Interest on TANS		13790	7917	10000	
4790-4799	Other Debt Service					
	CAPITAL OUTLAY		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
4901	Land & Improvements					
4902	Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment					

Acct. No.	SOURCE OF REVENUE	Warr. Apt.#	Estimated Revenue Prior Year	Actual Revenue Prior Year	ESTIMATED REVENUE For Ensnung Fiscal Year
	TAXES		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3120	Land Use Change Taxes			1500	1000
3180	Resident Taxes				
3185	Yield Taxes		3000	12628	4000
3186	Payment in Lieu of Taxes				
3189	Other Taxes				
3190	Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes		60000	61953	60000
	Inventory Penalties				
	LICENSES, PERMITS & FEES		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3210	Business Licenses & Permits		600	536	600
3220	Motor Vehicle Permit Fees		105000	114770	119000
3230	Building Permits		400	350	400
3290	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees		3500	3664	3500
3311-3319	FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT Onset Rd. VA COPS Program		10000	9599	?
	FROM STATE		20000	3924	2500
			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3351	Shared Revenues		120500	120470	120500
3352	Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution				
3353	Highway Block Grant		25850	25570	25570
3354	Water Pollution Grant		25000	23721	23721
3355	Housing & Community Development				
3356	State & Federal Forest Land Reimbursement				
3357	Landfill Closure Recycling Grant			61000	31599
3359	Other (Including Railroad Tax)		50	0	0
3379	FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS				
	CHARGES FOR SERVICES		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3401-3406	Income from Departments		1500	792	1000
3409	Other Charges				
	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3501	Sale of Municipal Property/INS. Div		6000	2918	3000
3502	Interest on Investments		10000	13970	12000
3503-3509	other Donation		82000	81548	2000
	INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS IN		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3912	Special Revenue Funds				

3912 Special Revenue Funds					
Acct. No.	SOURCE OF REVENUE	Warr. Art.#	Estimated Revenue Prior Year	Actual Revenue Prior Year	ESTIMATED REVENUE For Ensuing Fiscal Year
3913 Capital Projects Fund					
3914 Enterprise Fund					
	Sever - (Offset)		22000	37435	40000
	Water - (Offset)		42000	20321	22000
	Electric - (Offset)				
3915 Capital Reserve Fund					
3916 Trust & Agency Funds					
	Fines, Forfeits		10500	125	
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		7000	5377	6000
			XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3934 Proc.from Long Term Bonds & Notes					
Amounts Voted From "Surplus"					
"Surplus" Used in Prior Year to Reduce Taxes					
TOTAL REVENUES					
			554,900	602,131	478,390

BUDGET SUMMARY

SUBTOTAL 1 Recommended (from page 3)	
SUBTOTAL 2 "Individual" Warrant articles (from page 3)	
SUBTOTAL 3 Special Warrant articles as defined by law (from page 3)	
TOTAL Appropriations Recommended	
Less: Amount of Estimated Revenues (Exclusive of Property Taxes) (from above)	
Amount of Taxes To Be Raised	

ILP! We ask your assistance in the following: If you have a line item of appropriations from more than one warrant article, please use the space below to identify the make-up of the line total for the ensuing year.

Acct. No.	W.A. No.	Amount	Acct.No.	W.A. No.	Amount

Vachon, Clukay & Co., PC

Certified Public Accountants

45 Market Street
Manchester, New Hampshire 03101
(603) 622-7070
FAX: 622-1452

Board of Selectmen
Town of Bennington, New Hampshire

We have compiled the financial statements of the Town of Bennington, New Hampshire for the year ended December 31, 1996 included in the accompanying Form F-65 (MS-5), in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Our compilation was limited to presenting in the form prescribed by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration, information that is the representation of Town Officials. We have not audited or reviewed the financial statements referred to above and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

The financial report, Form F-65 (MS-5), is presented in accordance with the requirements of the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration which differ from generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such differences.

Vachon, Clukay & Co., PC

January 8, 1997

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
MUNICIPAL SERVICES DIVISION



ANNUAL CITY/TOWN
FINANCIAL REPORT
R.S.A. CHAPTER 21-J

30 3 006 004 000 00 0 0000 1250
BENNINGTON TOWN
CHR BD SELECTMEN
GENERAL DELIVERY
BENNINGTON, NH 03442 9999

(Please correct any error in name, address, and ZIP Code)

State of New Hampshire
Department of Revenue Administration
Municipal Services Division
PO Box 1122
Concord, NH 03302-1122
Telephone: (603) 271-3397

GENERAL FUND - Revenues and expenditures for the period - Specify -
January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996
OR
July 1, 199__ to June 30, 199__

A. REVENUES - Modified Accrual		Account No.	Amount
		(a)	(b)
1. Revenues from taxes			
a. Property tax (commitment less overlay Plus line 6, column C, page 11)	3110	T01 \$	1,784,115
b. Exhibit - taxes paid to school districts (Total on line 16c, page 7) For Census Bureau Info.	4933		1,308,295
c. Land use change taxes	3120	T01	1,500
d. Resident taxes	3180	T01	
e. Yield taxes	3185	T01	12,628
f. Payments in lieu of taxes	3186	U99	
g. Other taxes (Explain on separate schedule)	3189	T01	
h. Interest and penalties on delinquent taxes	3190	T01	61,953
i. TOTAL (Excluding line 1b)		\$	1,860,196
2. TOTAL revenues for education purposes (This entry should be used by the few municipalities which have dependent school districts only)			
3. Revenue from licenses, permits, and fees			
a. Business licenses and permits	3210	T90	536
b. Motor vehicle permit fees	3220	T01	114,770
c. Building permits	3230	T99	350
d. Other licenses, permits, and fees	3290	T99	3,664
e. TOTAL		\$	119,320

GENERAL FUND (Continued)

A. REVENUES - Modified Accrual (Continued)	Account No.	Amount
4. Revenue from the federal government	(a)	(b)
a. Housing and urban renewal (HUD)	3311	\$
		B50
		B89
b. Environmental protection	3312	
c. Other federal grants and reimbursements - Specify -		B89
Veterans grant	3319	3,924
d. TOTAL		\$ 3,924
5. Revenue from the State of New Hampshire		C30
a. Shared revenue block grant	3351	\$ 120,470
		C46
b. Highway block grant	3353	25,570
		C91
c. Water pollution grants	3354	23,721
		C50
d. Housing and community development	3355	
		C89
e. State and federal forest land reimbursement	3356	
		C89
f. Flood control reimbursement	3357	
g. Other state grants and reimbursements - Specify -		C
Landfill closure grant	3359	92,559
h. TOTAL		\$ 262,320
6. Revenue from other governments		D
Intergovernmental revenue - Other	3379	\$
7. Revenue from charges for services (Exclude interfund transfers)		A89
a. Income from departments	3401	\$ 792
		A91
b. Water supply system charges	3402	37,435
		A80
c. Sewer user charges	3403	20,321
		A81
d. Garbage-refuse charges	3404	
		A89
e. Other Charges - Landfill/Recycling fees	3409	80,645
f. TOTAL		\$ 139,193
Remarks		

GENERAL FUND (Continued)

A. REVENUES - Modified Accrual (Continued)	Account No.	Amount
	(a)	(b)
8. Revenue from miscellaneous sources		
a. Special assessments	3500	\$ 9,599
b. Sale of municipal property	3501	200
c. Interest on investments	3502	13,970
d. Rents of property	3503	
e. Fines and forfeits	3504	125
f. Insurance dividends and reimbursements	3506	2,718
g. Contributions and donations	3508	903
h. Other miscellaneous sources not otherwise classified	3509	5,377
i. TOTAL		\$ 32,892
9. Interfund operating transfers in		
a. Transfers from special revenue fund	3912	\$
b. Transfers from capital projects fund	3913	
c. Transfers from proprietary funds	3914	
d. Transfers from capital reserve fund	3915	37,178
e. Transfers from trust and agency funds	3916	2,188
f. TOTAL		\$ 39,366
10. Other financial sources		
a. Proceeds from long-term notes and general obligation bonds	3934	\$
b. Proceeds from all other bonds	3935	
c. Other long-term financial sources	3939	
d. TOTAL		\$
11. TOTAL REVENUES FROM ALL SOURCES		\$ 2,457,211
12. TOTAL FUND EQUITY (Beginning of year) (Should equal line B.2d, column b, page 8)		\$ 94,131
13. TOTAL OF LINES 11 AND 12 (Should equal line 19, page 7)		\$ 2,551,342

Remarks

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH PART I, SECTION B, ITEM 1, ON PAGE 4

GENERAL FUND (Continued)

A. EXPENDITURES - Modified Accrual	Account No. (a)	Total expenditure (b)	Equipment and land purchases (c)	Construction (d)
1. General government				
a. Executive	4130	\$ 57,875	\$	\$
		E29	G29	F29
b. Election, registration and vital statistics	4140	10,711	G89	F89
		E89		
c. Financial administration	4150	41,473	G23	F23
		E23		
d. Revaluation of property	4152		G23	F23
		E23		
e. Legal expense	4153	30,413	G25	F25
		E25		
f. Personnel administration	4155	57,471	G29	F29
		E29		
g. Planning and zoning	4191	1,865	G29	F29
		E29		
h. General government building	4194	10,677	G31	F31
		E31		
i. Cemeteries	4195	4,131	G89	F89
		E89		
j. Insurance not otherwise allocated	4196	18,714	G89	F89
		E89		
k. Advertising and regional association	4197		G89	F89
		E89		
l. Other general government	4199	2,489	G89	F89
		E89		
m. TOTAL		\$ 235,819	\$	\$
2. Public safety				
a. Police	4210	\$ 88,332	\$	\$
		E62	G62	F62
b. Ambulance	4215	3,000	G32	F32
		E32		
c. Fire	4220	71,715	G24	F24
		E24		
d. Building inspection	4240	750	G66	F66
		E66		
e. Emergency management	4290		G89	F89
		E89		
f. Other public safety (including communications)	4299		G89	F89
		E89		
g. TOTAL		\$ 163,797	\$ 48,157	\$
3. Highways and streets				
a. Administration	4311	\$	\$	\$
		E44	G44	F44
b. Highways and streets	4312	119,223		
		E44		
c. Bridges	4313	110		
		E44		
d. Street lighting	4316	11,434		
		E44		
e. Other highway, streets, and bridges	4319		G44	F44
		E44		
f. TOTAL		\$ 130,767	\$	\$

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH PART I, SECTION B, ITEM 4, ON PAGE 5

GENERAL FUND (Continued)

A. EXPENDITURES - Modified Accrual (Continued)				
	Account No. (a)	Total expenditure (b)	Equipment and land purchases (c)	Construction (d)
4. Sanitation				
a. Administration	4321	E80 \$ 19,177	G80 \$	F80 \$
b. Solid waste collection	4323	E81	G81	F81
c. Solid waste disposal	4324	E81 21,543	G81	F81
d. Solid waste clean-up	4325	E81 43,702	G81	F81
e. Sewage collection and disposal	4326	E80 25,231	G80	F80
f. Other sanitation	4329	E80	G80	F80
g. TOTAL		\$ 109,653	\$	\$
5. Water distribution and treatment				
a. Administration	4331	\$ 15,740	\$	\$
b. Water services	4332	15,100		
c. Water treatment	4335	1,402		
d. Water conservation	4338			
e. Other water	4339			
f. TOTAL		E91 \$ 32,242	G91 \$	F91 \$
6. Health				
a. Administration	4411	\$ 655	\$	\$
b. Pest control	4414	51		
c. Health agencies and hospitals	4415	5,271		
d. Other health	4419			
e. TOTAL		E32 \$ 5,977	G32 \$	F32 \$
7. TOTAL expenditures for education purposes <i>(This entry should be used by the few municipalities which have dependent school districts only)</i>				
		\$	\$	\$
8. Welfare				
a. Administration	4441	E79 \$ 1,356	G79 \$	F79 \$
b. Direct assistance	4442	E67 1,436		
c. Intergovernmental welfare payments	4444	M79 715		
d. Vendor payments	4445	E75 5,254		
e. Other welfare	4449	E79 51	G79	F79
f. TOTAL		\$ 8,812	\$	\$

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH PART I, SECTION B, ITEM 9, ON PAGE 6

GENERAL FUND (Continued)

A. EXPENDITURES - Modified Accrual (Continued)				
	Account No. (a)	Total expenditure (b)	Equipment and land purchases (c)	Construction (d)
9. Culture and recreation				
a. Parks and recreation	4520	E61 \$ 8,813	G61 \$	F61 \$
b. Library	4550	E62 24,090	G62	F62
c. Patriotic purposes	4583	E61 573	G61	F61
d. Other culture and recreation	4589	E61	G61	F61
e. TOTAL		\$ 33,476	\$	\$
10. Conservation				
a. Administration	4611	\$ 375	\$	\$
b. Purchase of natural resources	4612			
c. Other conservation	4619			
b. TOTAL		E59 \$ 375	G59 \$	F59 \$
11. Redevelopment and housing				
a. Administration	4631	\$	\$	\$
b. Redevelopment and housing	4632			
c. TOTAL		E50 \$	G50 \$	F50 \$
12. Economic development				
a. Administration	4651	\$	\$	\$
b. Economic development	4652			
c. Other economic development	4659			
d. TOTAL		E89 \$	G89 \$	F89 \$
13. Debt service				
a. Principal long term bonds and notes	4711	\$ 148,050	\$	\$
b. Interest on long term bonds and notes	4721	189 32,435		
c. Interest on tax and revenue anticipation notes	4723	189 7,917		
d. Other debt service charges	4790	E23		
e. TOTAL		\$ 188,402	\$	\$
14. Capital outlay				
a. Land and improvements	4901	\$	\$	\$
b. Machinery, vehicles, and equipment	4902	G		
c. Buildings	4903	F		
d. Improvements other than buildings	4909	F		
e. TOTAL		\$	\$	\$

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH PART I, SECTION B, ITEM 15, ON PAGE 7

GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET - Please specify the period -

As of December 31, 1996 OR June 30, 199__

A. ASSETS		Account number	Beginning of year	End of year
		(a)	(b)	(c)
1. Current assets				
a.	Cash and equivalents	1010	\$ 266,133	\$ 362,571
b.	Investments	1030		
c.	Taxes receivable, net (See worksheet, page 11)	1080	259,656	189,644
d.	Tax liens receivable, net (See worksheet, page 11)	1110	185,094	167,088
e.	Accounts receivable	1150	179,526	
f.	Due from other governments	1260	6,704	12,114
g.	Due from other funds	1310	14,699	1,000
h.	Other current assets	1400		
i.	Tax deeded property (subject to resale)	1670		
j.	TOTAL ASSETS (Should equal line B3)		\$ 911,812	\$ 732,417
B. LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY				
1. Current liabilities				
a.	Warrants and accounts payable	2020	\$ 21,840	\$ 32,830
b.	Compensated absences payable	2030		
c.	Contracts payable	2050		
d.	Due to other governments	2070	149	202
e.	Due to school districts	2075	613,967	523,318
f.	Due to other funds	2080		1,079
g.	Deferred revenue	2220	181,725	2,689
h.	Notes payable - Current	2230		
i.	Bonds payable - Current	2250		
j.	Other payables	2270		
k.	TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 817,681	\$ 560,118
2. Fund equity				
a.	Reserve for encumbrances (Please detail on page 12)	2440	\$	\$
b.	Reserve for continuing appropriations (Detail on page 12)	2450		
c.	Reserve for appropriations voted from surplus	2460		31,559
d.	Reserve for special purpose (Please detail on page 12)	2490	1,156	1,888
e.	Unreserved fund balance	2530	92,975	138,852
f.	TOTAL FUND EQUITY		\$ 94,131	\$ 172,299
3. TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY				
<i>(Should equal line A1i)</i>				
			\$ 911,812	\$ 732,417

GENERAL FUND

A. FIXED ASSET GROUP OF ACCOUNTS

(Please specify date)

As of December 31, 1996

OR

June 30, 199

As with the majority of New Hampshire communities, the Town has not maintained historical cost records of its investment in General Fixed Assets.

Account number (a)	Beginning of year		End of year	
	Debit (b)	Credit (c)	Debit (d)	Credit (e)
1. Land and improvements				
2. Buildings				
3. Machinery, vehicles, and equipment				
4. Construction in progress				
5. Improvements other than buildings				
6. Tax deeded property				
7. Investment in general fixed assets				
8. TOTAL	\$	\$	\$	\$
B. LONG-TERM DEBT GROUP				
(Please specify date)				
As of December 31, 1996				
OR				
June 30, 199				
1. Bond proceeds not used	1810			
2. Amount to be provided for the retirement of long-term debt	1820		492,950	
3. Notes and bonds payable - Long-term	2310	547,850		399,800
4. Other long-term liabilities	2390	116,694		93,150
5. TOTAL	\$	\$ 664,544	\$ 492,950	\$ 492,950

GENERAL FUND (Continued)

C. AMORTIZATION OF LONG-TERM DEBT (Please specify date)

Purpose (a)	Date of December 31, 1996 OR June 30, 1996	Annual installment (b)	Interest rate (c)	Date of final payment (d)	Bonds o/s at beginning of year (e)	Bonds issued this year (f)	Bonds retired this year (g)	Bonds o/s at end of year (h)
Water	As of December 31, 1996	Variable	5.00%	Nov. 2010	\$ 224,400	\$	\$ 12,000	\$ 212,400
Sewer	OR June 30, 1996	1,300	5.00%	Oct. 2004	13,000		1,300	11,700
Sewer	Description of general obligation bonds (Please also list total original obligation)	10,000	7.6 - 8.8%	Feb. 2005	110,000		15,000	95,000
Sewer	1. \$352,400 - 1981	4,740	6.625%	Feb. 2013	85,450		4,750	80,700
Highway	2. \$28,234 - 1984	10,000	6.6 - 7.75%	July 1996	10,000		10,000	0 -
Landfill Closure	3. \$260,680 - 1985	Variable	52.00%	Aug. 1996	105,000		105,000	0 -
	4. \$128,200 - 1986							
	5. \$110,000 - 1986							
	6. \$335,591 - 1993							
	7.							
	8. TOTAL				\$ 547,850		\$ 148,050	\$ 399,800

D. PLEASE LIST THE ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS TO AMORTIZE ALL GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT AS OF (Enter date) December 31, 1996 FOR THE ENSUING FIVE YEARS

Year (a)	Principal (b)	Interest (c)	Total (d)	Remarks
1997	\$ 33,050	\$ 23,926	\$ 56,976	General Obligation Bonds
1998	28,050	21,898	49,948	Capital Leases
1999	28,050	19,985	48,035	Estimated liability for landfill postclosure care costs
2000	28,050	18,110	46,160	Total Long-Term Obligations
2001	28,050	16,267	44,317	
	145,250	100,186	245,436	
	254,550	67,637	322,187	
	\$ 399,800	\$ 167,823	\$ 567,623	

RECONCILIATIONS

A. RECONCILIATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT LIABILITY

	Amount
1. School district liability at beginning of year (Account number 2075, column b, on page 8)	\$ 613,967
2. ADD: School district assessment for current year (Should equal line B16c, Account number 4933, on page 7)	1,308,295
3. TOTAL LIABILITY WITHIN CURRENT YE (Sum of lines 1 and 2)	1,922,262
4. SUBTRACT: Payments made to school district	(1,398,944)
5. School district liability at end of year (lines 3 less line 4) (Account number 2075, column c, on page 8)	523,318

B. RECONCILIATION OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

	Amount
1. Short-term (TANS) debt at beginning of year	61V \$
2. ADD: New issues during current year	400,000
3. SUBTRACT: Issues retired during current year	(400,000)
4. Short-term (TANS) debt outstanding at end of year (Lines 1 + 2 - 3) (Be sure to include (TANS) in Account number 2230, column c, page 8)	64V

PLEASE REFER TO THE INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE SECTIONS C AND D

C. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS WORKSHEET

	Current year (a)	Prior year (b)	TOTAL (c)
1. Overlay/Allowance for Abatements (Beginning of year)*	10,184	11,329	21,513
2. SUBTRACT: Abatements made (From tax collector's report)	(5,055)	(24,860)	(29,915)
3. SUBTRACT: Discounts	()	()	()
4. SUBTRACT: Refunds (Cash abatements)	()	()	()
5. ESTIMATED ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AT END OF YEAR**	(1,509)	(18,491)	(20,000)
6. Excess of estimate (Add to revenue on page 1, line 1a)	3,620	(32,022)	(28,402)

*Overlay amount for current year column and last year's balance of line 5, Allowance for Abatements for column b.

**The amount in column c will go into line 1(b) for next year's worksheet.

D. TAXES/LIENS RECEIVABLE WORKSHEET

	1080 taxes (a)	1110 liens (b)	TOTALS (c)
1. Uncollected, end of year	\$ 191,153	\$ 185,579	\$ 376,732
2. SUBTRACT: "Overlay" carried forward as Allowance for Abatements (from Worksheet C, line 5)	(1,509)	(18,491)	(20,000)
3. Receivable, end of year*	189,644	167,088	356,732

*These amounts are entered on page 8, account number 1080 and 1110, column c)

SUMMARY OF REVENUES FOR ALL OTHER FUNDS - Please specify the period -

January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996 OR July 1, 199 to June 30, 199

	Capital projects		Special revenue		Proprietary funds	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	Enterprise	Internal service
	T01	T01	T01	T01	T01	(d)
REVENUE AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES						
1. Revenue from taxes	\$ T89	\$ T96	\$ T99	\$	\$	\$
2. Revenue from licenses, permits, and fees	B89	B89	B89			
3. Revenue from the federal government	C89	C89	C89			
4. Revenue from the State of New Hampshire	D89	D89	D89			
5. Revenue from other governments						
6. Revenue from charges for services						
(a) Water supply system charges					A91	
(b) Sewer user charges					A80	
(c) Garbage/refuse collection charges					A81	
(d) Other - Specify -						
(1)						
(2)						
(3)						
7. Revenue from miscellaneous sources	U20	U20	U20		U20	U20
(a) Interest on investments				118		
(b) Other miscellaneous sources				5,926		
8. Interfund operating transfers in				7,500		
9. Other financial sources						
10. TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SOURCES	\$	\$	\$	13,544	\$	\$

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES FOR ALL OTHER FUNDS - Please specify the period -

January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996 OR July 1, 199__ to June 30, 199__

EXPENDITURES (BY FUNCTIONS)	Capital projects		Special revenue		Enterprise		Proprietary funds	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
1. General government	F69	E89	E89	E89	E89			
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$
2. Public safety	F69	E89	E89	E89	E89			
3. Sanitation	F80	E80	E80	E80	E80			
4. Water distribution and treatment	F91	E91	E91	E91	E91			
5. Health	F32	E32	E32	E32	E32			
6. Welfare	F79	E79	E79	E79	E79			
7. Culture and recreation	F61	E61	E61	E61	E61			
	F59	E59	E59	12,959	E59			
8. Conservation	F50	E50	E50	E50	E50			
9. Redevelopment and housing	F89	E89	E89	E89	E89			
10. Economic development								
11. Debt service								
12. Capital outlay	F69	F69	F69	F69	F69			F69
13. Interfund operating transfers out								
14. Payments to other governments								
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	\$	\$	12,959	\$			\$
Remarks								

BALANCE SHEET FOR SUMMARY OF ALL OTHER FUNDS - Please specify the period -

As of December 31, 1996 OR June 30, 199

	Account No. (a)	Capital projects		Special revenue (c)	Proprietary funds	
		(b)	(d)		Enterprise (d)	Internal service (e)
A. ASSETS						
1. Current assets						
(a) Cash and equivalents	1010	\$	\$	5,190	\$	\$
(b) Investments	1030					
(c) Accounts receivable	1150					
(d) Due from other governments	1260					
(e) Due from other funds	1310					
(f) Other - Specify -						
2. Fixed assets						
(a) Land and improvements	1610	\$	\$		\$	\$
(b) Buildings	1620					
(c) Machinery, vehicles, and equipment	1640					
(d) Construction in progress	1650					
(e) Improvements other than buildings	1660					
(f) Other - Specify -						
3. TOTAL ASSETS						
		\$	\$	5,190	\$	\$

FORM F-65 (REV 5/17-90-98)

BALANCE SHEET FOR SUMMARY OF ALL OTHER FUNDS (Continued) - Please specify the period -
 As of December 31, 1996 OR June 30, 199

B. LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	Account No. (a)	Proprietary funds			
		Capital projects (b)	Special revenue (c)	Enterprise (d)	Internal service (e)
1. Liabilities					
(a) Warrants and accounts payable	2020	\$	\$	\$	\$
(b) Compensated absences payable	2030				
(c) Contracts payable	2050				
(d) Due to other governments	2070				
(e) Due to other funds	2080				
(f) Deferred revenue	2220				
(g) Notes and bonds payable					
(h) Other Specify -					
(i) TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$	\$	\$	\$
2. Fund equity/Capital					
(a) Reserve for encumbrances	2440	\$	\$		
(b) Reserve for special purposes	2490				
(c) Unreserved fund balance	2530		5,190		
(d) Municipal contributed capital	2610				
(e) Other contributed capital	2620				
(f) Retained earnings	2790				
(g) TOTAL FUND EQUITY		\$	5,190	\$	\$
3. TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY		\$	5,190	\$	\$



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION WORKSHEET

The data requested below should be included in parts I-IV. By supplying this information you will not be asked to complete Census Bureau forms F21 or F22.

A. ALL FUNDS (ADDITIONAL)		Account No.	TOTAL	Equipment and land	Construction
Revenue	(a)	(d)	(c)	(d)	
Parks and recreation	3409	A61 \$			
Parking	3409	A60			
Electric power system		A92			
Transit or bus system		A94			
Expenditure					
Parking	3409	E60 \$		G60	F60
Vital statistics	4140	E32		G32	F32
Other hospitals - payments to hospitals operated privately	4415	E38	5,271	G38	F38
Money paid DIRECTLY to needy persons NOT covered by Federal programs (general relief, home relief, poor relief, etc.	4442	E68	1,436		
Electric power system		E92		G92	F92
Transit or bus system		E94		G94	F94

B. INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Report payments made to the State or other local governments ON REIMBURSEMENT OR COST-SHARING BASIS. Do not include these expenditures in part VI.

Purpose	Account No.	Amount paid to other local governments
(a)	(b)	(c)
Schools		M12 \$
Sewers		M80
All other - County	4931	M89
All other - Towns	4199	M89
Purpose	Account No.	Amount paid to the State
(a)	(b)	(c)
Highways	4319	L44
All other purposes	4199	L89

C. DEBT OUTSTANDING, ISSUED, AND RETIRED

Long-term debt purpose (a)	Bonds outstanding at the beginning of this fiscal year (b)	Bonds during this fiscal year		Outstanding at the end of this fiscal year	
		Issued (c)	Retired (d)	General obligations (e)	Revenue bonds (f)
Water-sewer utility	19A 432,850	29A	39A 33,050	41A 399,800	44A
Industrial revenue	19T	29T	34T		44T
All other debt	19X 115,000	29X	39X 115,000	41X - 0 -	44X
Education	19H	29F	39F	41F	44F
Interest on water debt	19I				

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION WORKSHEET (Continued)

D. SALARIES AND WAGES

Report here the total salaries and wages paid to all employees of your city before deductions for social security, retirement, etc. Include also salaries and wages paid to employees of any utility owned and operated by your government, as well as salaries and wages of city employees charged to construction projects. These amounts may be taken from the W3 form filed by your government for the year ended December 31.

Total wages paid
Z00

\$257,949

E. CASH AND INVESTMENTS HELD AT END OF FISCAL YEAR

Report separately for each of the three types of funds listed below, the total amount of cash on hand and on deposit and investments in Federal Government, Federal agency, State and local government, and non-governmental securities. Report all investments at par value. Include in the sinking fund total any mortgages and notes receivable held as offsets to housing and industrial financing loans. Exclude accounts receivable, value of real property, and all non-security assets.

Type of fund (a)	Amount at end of fiscal year Omit cents (b)
Bond funds - Unexpended proceeds from sale of bond issues held pending disbursement	W31
All other funds except employee retirement funds	W61
	\$671,790
CENSUS USE ONLY	W01

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the information contained in this report was taken from official records and is complete to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Signatures of a majority of the governing body:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Three copies of this report are sent to each municipality. Selectmen, treasurer and tax collector are expected to cooperate in making out this report. When completed, one copy should be returned to the Department of Revenue Administration and one copy should be placed in your municipal records. The third copy is for use in preparing the annual printed report for the voters.

Please be sure you have completed Part IX, items A-E.

WHEN TO FILE: (R.S.A. 21-J)

* For cities/towns reporting on a calendar year basis, this report must be filed on or before April 1.

* For cities/towns reporting on an optional fiscal year basis (year ending June 30), this report must be filed on or before September 1.

WHERE TO FILE

Department of Revenue Administration
State of New Hampshire
Municipal Services Division
PO Box 1122
Concord, NH 03302-1122

NOTES

NOTES

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Department of Revenue Administration
Municipal Services Division
P.O. Box 1122
Concord, N.H. 03302-1122
(603) 271-3397



STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATION

VOTED BY THE

CITY/TOWN OF Bennington IN Hillsborough COUNTY

Mailing Address: 7 School St.

Bennington, N.H. 03442

March 16, 1996
(Date of Meeting)

Date March 27, 1996

Phone # 588-2189

FAX # 588-8005

Maura E. Mayson
James W. Gray
John Smith
(Please Sign in Ink)

Selectmen of Bennington, N.H.
(Governing Body)

This is to certify that the information contained in this report was taken from official records and is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief. RSA 21-J:34.

PENALTY: FAILURE TO FILE WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER EACH MEETING AT WHICH APPROPRIATIONS WERE VOTED MAY RESULT IN \$5.00 PER DAY PENALTY FOR EACH DAY'S DELAY. RSA 21-J:36.

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATION (RSA 32:3,V)	Warrant Article #	For Use By Municipality (omit cents)	Reserved For Use By Dept. Of Revenue
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:				
4130	Executive		59,321	
4140	Election, Registration, & Vital Statistics		10,338	
4150	Financial Administration		40,653	
4152	Revaluation of Property			
4153	Legal Expense		29,000	
4155	Personnel Administration		56,313	
4191	Planning and Zoning		3,950	
4194	General Government Building		9,600	
4195	Cemeteries		4,005	
4196	Insurance		24,200	
4197	Advertising and Regional Associations			
4199	Other General Government (Contingency)		3,000	
PUBLIC SAFETY				
4210	Police		98,996	
4215	Ambulance		3,000	
4220	Fire		30,627	
4240	Bldg. Inspection		750	
4290	Emergency Management			
4299	Other Public Safety (Including Communications)			
HIGHWAYS AND STREETS				
4312	Highways and Streets		121,108	
4313	Bridges			
4316	Street Lighting		11,865	
SANITATION				
4323	Solid Waste Collection		45,220	
4324	Solid Waste Disposal			
4326	Sewage Collection and Disposal		20,800	
WATER DISTRIBUTION AND TREATMENT				
4332	Water Services		41,150	
4335	Water Treatment			
HEALTH				
4414	Pest Control (Animal control)		800	
4415	Health Agencies and Hospitals		5,237	
	Adm.		845	
WELFARE				
4442	Direct Assistance		3,500	
4444	Intergovernmental Welfare Payments		455	
4445	Vendor Payments		4,600	
	Adm.		1,443	
	Adm.		300	
Sub-Totals (carry to top of page 3)			631,076	

Acct. No.	PURPOSE OF APPROPRIATION (RSA 32:3,V)	Warrant Article #	For Use By Municipality (omit cents)	Reserved For Use By Dept. Of Revenue
	Sub-Totals (from page 2)		(631,076)	
	CULTURE AND RECREATION			
4520	Parks and Recreation		10,000	
4550	Library		30,890	
4583	Patriotic Purposes		1,700	
4589	Other Culture and Recreation			
	CONSERVATION			
4612	Purchase of Natural Resources			
4619	Other Conservation		500	
	4632 REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING			
	4652 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT			
	DEBT SERVICE			
4711	Princ-Long Term Bonds & Notes		43,050	
4721	Int.-Long Term Bonds & Notes		27,005	
4723	Interest on TAN		13,790	
	Closure Bond (Prin. and Int.)		110,460	
	CAPITAL OUTLAY			
4901	Land and Improvements			
4902	Mach. Veh. & Equip.			
4903	Buildings			
4909	Improvements Other than Buildings			
	(See List)		58,397	
	OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT			
4912	To Special Revenue Fund			
4913	To Capital Projects Fund			
4914	To Enterprise Fund			
	Sewer —			
	Water —			
	Electric —			
4915	To Capital Reserve Fund		43,000	
4916	To Trust and Agency Funds			
	TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		969,868	

HELP! We ask your assistance in the following: If you have a line item of appropriation which is made up of appropriations from more than one (1) warrant article, please use the space below to identify the make-up of the line total. We hope this will expedite the tax rate process by reducing the number of inquiries from this office.

Acct. Capital Outlay	W.A.	Amt.	To Acct. Cap. Res.	W.A.	Amt.
	#4	\$ 450		#7	\$15,000
"	#5	30,000	"	#8	3,000
"	#6	5,000	"	#9	11,000
"	#12	5,187	"	#10	10,000
"	#13	5,500	"	#11	4,000
"	#14	3,500			
"	#15	8,310			
"	#16	450			

Acct. No.	SOURCE OF REVENUE	Warrant Article #	For Use By Municipality (omit cents)	Reserved For Use By Dept. Of Revenue
	TAXES			
3120	Land Use Change Taxes			
3180	Resident Taxes			
3185	Yield Taxes		3,000	
3186	Payments in Lieu of Taxes			
3189	Other Taxes (Specify Bank Stock Tax Amt.)\$			
3190	Interest & Penalties on Delinquent Taxes		60,000	
	Inventory Penalties			
	LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES			
3210	Business Licenses and Permits		600	
3220	Motor Vehicle Permit Fees		105,000	
3230	Building Permits		400	
3290	Other Licenses, Permits & Fees		3,500	
	FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (Onset Road)		10,000	
3319	Other VA and COPS		20,000	
	FROM STATE			
3351	Shared Revenue		120,500	
3353	Highway Block Grant		25,850	
3354	Water Pollution Grants		25,000	
3355	Housing and Community Development			
3356	State & Federal Forest Land Reimbursement			
3357	Flood Control Reimbursement			
3359	Other (Including Railroad Tax)		50	
	FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT			
3379	Intergovernmental Revenues			
	CHARGES FOR SERVICES			
3401	Income from Departments		1,500	
3409	Other Charges			
	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES			
3501	Sale of Municipal Property (Ins. Div.)		6,000	
3502	Interest on Investments		10,000	
3509	Other (Donation MPM)		82,000	
	INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS IN			
3912	Special Revenue Fund			
3913	Capital Projects Fund			
3914	Enterprise Fund			
	Sewer —		22,000	
	Water —		42,000	
	Electric —			
3915	Capital Reserve Fund		34,900	
3916	Trust and Agency Funds (Fines, Forfeits)		10,500	
	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
3934	Proc. from Long Term Notes & Bonds		7,000	
General Fund Balance		For Municipal Use		
Unreserved Fund Balance		\$	XXXXX	XXXXX
Fund Balance Voted From Surplus		< \$ >		
Fund Balance to be Retained		< \$ >	XXXXXX	XXXXXX
Fund Balance Remaining to be Used to Reduce Taxes		\$		
TOTAL REVENUES AND CREDITS			589,800	

TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1996

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance, January 1, 1996	\$ 264,977.49
Receipts	3,144,113.14
Disbursements	<u>3,048,407.58</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 1996	\$ 360,683.05

CONSERVATION FUND

Beginning Balance, January 1, 1996	\$ 3,725.06
Interest Earned to December 31, 1996	<u>96.37</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 1996	\$ 3,821.43

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Beginning Balance, January 1, 1996	\$ 1,155.86
Interest Earned to December 31, 1996	<u>28.82</u>
Ending Balance December 25, 1996	\$ 1,184.68

SAWYER PARK

Beginning Balance, January 1, 1996	\$ 245.90
Interest Earned to December 31, 1996	<u>.92</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 1996	\$ 246.82

WELCOME SIGN

Opening Balance	\$ 660.21
Transfer To General Fund, October 19, 1996	205.00
Interest Earned to October 31, 1996	<u>1.57</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 1996	\$ 456.78

Joyce L. Miner,
Treasurer

Town Clerk's Revenue Report
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1996

Motor Vehicle Registrations		\$113,386.00
Municipal Agent Fees		830.00
Motor Vehicle Titles		554.00
UCC & IRS Lien Filings		535.64
Marriage Licenses:	Town	70.00
	State	380.00
Certified Copies:	Town	164.00
	State	192.00
Dog Licenses:	Town	1,245.00
	State	130.00
	Animal Population Control	482.00
Dog License Fines		175.00
Bad Check Fees		<u>75.00</u>
Total Revenue Collected By The Town Clerk		\$118,218.64

I hereby certify that the above report is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Valerie Germain, Town Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
MUNICIPAL SERVICES DIVISION
P.O. BOX 1122
CONCORD, NH 03302-1122
(603) 271-3397



CITY/TOWN Bennington

SUMMARY INVENTORY OF VALUATION

TAX YEAR OF 1996 IN Hillsborough COUNTY

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the information contained in this report was taken from official records and is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief. RSA 21-J:34

.....
..... Selectmen of Bennington
..... Date August 28, 1996
.....
(Please Sign in Ink)

REPORTS REQUIRED: RSA 21-J:34, as amended, provides for certification of valuations, appropriations, estimated revenues and such other information as the Department of Revenue Administration may require upon blanks prescribed for that purpose.

Return this completed Summary Inventory form to the Dept. of Revenue Administration, P.O.Box 1122, Concord, NH 03302-1122 by September 1st.

You may duplicate Page 5 for each district whose valuation differs from the Town/City valuation; please note the name of the district at the top of each Page 5 provided. Thank you.

PENALTY: FAILURE TO FILE BY SEPTEMBER 1st MAY RESULT IN \$5.00 PER DAY PENALTY FOR EACH DAY'S DELAY. (RSA 21-J:36)

NOTE: PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE INFORMATION ON PAGE 3 AND 4 (ALSO PAGE 5, IF APPLICABLE) OF THIS REPORT.

Revised 1996

Name of Municipality: Bennington

MS-1

LAND	(Items 1A,B,C,&D)-List all improved and unimproved land (include wells, septs & paving)	A C R E S	1996 ASSESSED VALUATION	For Use By Dept. of Revenue (Prior Year Valuation)
BUILDINGS	(Items 2A,B,&C)-List all buildings			
1. VALUE OF LAND ONLY - Exclude Amounts Listed in Items 3,4,5,& 6				
A.	Current Use (At Current Use Values) (RSA 79-A)	4230	\$ 376945	
B.	Conservation Restriction Assessment (At Current Use Values) (RSA 79-b)		\$	
C.	Residential	4090	\$ 14072200	
D.	Commercial/Industrial	108	\$ 3440400	
E.	Total of Taxable Land (A,B,C & D)	8428	\$ 17889545	
F.	Tax Exempt & Non Taxable (\$ 1722200)		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
2. VALUE OF BUILDINGS ONLY-Exclude Amounts Listed on Items 3,4,5 & 6			\$	
A.	Residential		\$ 30236000	
B.	Manufactured Housing as defined in RSA 674:31		\$ 6161200	
C.	Commercial/Industrial		\$ 9065100	
D.	Total of Taxable Buildings (A,B & C)		\$ 45462300	
E.	Tax Exempt & Non Taxable (\$ 1479800)		XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
3. PUBLIC WATER UTILITY- Privately owned water co. serving public (RSA 72:11 & 72:12)			\$	
4. PUBLIC UTILITIES-Value of all property used in production, transmission, and distribution		Gas-----	\$	
5. including production machinery, land, landrights, easements, etc. Furnish breakdown by individual company in space provided on page 4. (RSA 72:12)		Electric--X--	\$ 1183100	
		Oil Pipeline --	\$	
7. Mature Wood and Timber (RSA 79:5)			\$	
8. VALUATION BEFORE EXEMPTIONS (Total of 1E,2D,3,4,5,6 & 7)			\$ 64534945	
9. Blind Exemption RSA 72:37 (Number) \$			\$	
10. Elderly Exemption RSA 72:39, 72:43-f & 72:43-h (Number 30) \$			\$ 1040000	
11. Physically Handicapped Exemp. RSA 72:37-a (Number) \$			\$	
12. Totally & Permanently Disabled Exemp. RSA 72:37-b (Number) \$			\$	
13. Solar/Windpower Exemp. RSA 72:62 & 72:66 (Number) \$			\$	
14. School Dining/Dormitory/Kitchen Exemp. RSA 72:23 (Number) \$			\$	
15. Water/Air Pollution Control Exemp. RSA 72:12-a (Number 1) \$			\$ 2527300	
16. Wood Heating Energy System Exemp. RSA 72:69 (Number) \$			\$	
17. TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT OF EXEMPTIONS (Items 9 to 16)			\$ 3567300	
18. NET VALUATION ON WHICH THE TAX RATE IS COMPUTED (Item 8 minus 17)			\$ 60967645	

Name of Municipality: Bennington

MS-1

LIST REVENUES RECEIVED FROM PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES The amounts listed in this section should not be included in assessed valuation column on page 2.	MUNICIPALITY	PER RSA 362-A:6, III Amount Apportioned To SCHOOL
19. State and Federal Forest Land, Recreation, and/or Flood Control Land From MS-4, acct. 3356 & 3357	\$	XXXXXXXXXX
20. Other From MS-4, acct. 3186: <u>Town of Antrim</u>	\$ 500	\$
21. Other From MS-4, acct. 3186:	\$	\$
22. Other From MS-4, acct. 3186:	\$	\$

TAX CREDITS	Limits	Number	ESTIMATED TAX CREDITS
23. Paraplegic, double amputees owning specially adapted homesteads with V. A. assistance	Unlimited		EXEMPT
24. Totally and permanently disabled veterans, their spouses or widows, and the widows of veterans who died or were killed on active duty	\$700/\$1,400		\$
25. Other war service credits	\$50/\$100	66	\$ 6550
26. Other credits (wood, solar, etc)	XXXXXX		\$
27. TOTAL NUMBER AND AMOUNT	XXXXXX	66	\$ 6550

TYPES OF ELDERLY EXEMPTIONS BEING GRANTED			
Check One	Year Adopted	Check One	Year Adopted
	Standard Elderly Exemption 19__		Expanded Elderly Exemptions 19__
	Adjusted Elderly Exemption 19__	X	Optional Adjusted Elderly Exemptions 19 <u>92</u>

ELDERLY EXEMPTION COUNT					
Number of		At \$5,000	Total Number of		At \$5,000 = \$
	Individuals			At \$10,000	
With Initial			At \$15,000	Granted an	
	Application for Elderly		At \$20,000		Elderly
Exemption for			At \$	Exemption for	8
	Current Year		At \$	Current Year	7
		At \$			At \$ = \$
				TOTAL 30	\$1040000
(Item 10, Page 2 may not exceed this amount)					

Name of Municipality: Bennington

UTILITY SUMMARY: ELECTRIC GAS & PIPELINE COMPANY			
Insert valuation of plant used in production, distribution and transmission. The total in each column should agree with the totals listed under the corresponding items on Page 2 of this report. (RSA 72:8)			
NAME OF COMPANY	GAS Item 4, Page 2	ELECTRIC Item 5, Page 2	OIL PIPELINE Item 6, Page 2
Public Service Co. of New Hampshire		1183100	
TOTAL		1183100	

CURRENT USE REPORT (Number of Acres)				CONSERVATION RESTRICTION ASSESSMENT REPORT (Number of Acres)		
Section A Granted in Prior Years	Section B Granted for Current Year	Section C Totals of Sections A & B		Section D Granted in Prior Years	Section E Granted for Current Year	Section F Totals of Sections D & E
151.22	6	157.22	FARM LAND			
3834.32	31.5	3865.82	FOREST LAND			
92.92	11.0	103.92	UNPRODUCTIVE LAND			
108.65	-	108.65	WET LAND			
			DISCRETIONARY EASEMENTS			

Total Number of Acres Exempted under Current Use	<u>4229.61</u>
Total Number of Acres Taken Out of Current Use During Year	<u>6</u>
Total Number of Acres Exempted under Conservation Restriction Easement	<u> </u>
Total Number of Acres Receiving the 20% Recreational Assessment	<u> </u>
Total Number of Owners Granted Current Use Assessment	<u>177</u>
Total Number of Owners Granted Conservation Restriction Assessment	<u> </u>

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION
Municipal Services Division
Concord, N.H. 03302-1122
1996 Tax Rate Calculation

Town/City of: BENNINGTON

Tax
Rates

Appropriations	969,868		
Less: Revenues	503,570		
Less: Shared Revenues	19,978		
Add: Overlay	10,184		
War Service Credits	6,550		

Net Town Appropriation	463,054		
Special Adjustment	0		

Approved Town/City Tax Effort		463,054	
Municipal Tax Rate			7.59
	-- School Portion --		
Due to Local School	0		
Due to Regional School	1,308,295		
Less: Shared Revenues	59,099		

Net School Appropriation	1,249,196		
Special Adjustment	0		

Approved School(s) Tax Effort		1,249,196	
School(s) Tax Rate			20.49
	-- County Portion --		
Due to County	110,928		
Less: Shared Revenues	4,514		

Net County Appropriation	106,414		
Special Adjustment	0		

Approved County Tax Effort		106,414	
County Tax Rate			1.75

			29.83
Combined Tax Rate			
Total Property Taxes Assessed		1,818,664	
	--- Commitment Analysis ---		
Total Property Taxes Assessed		1,818,664	
Less: War Service Credits		(6,550)	
Add: Village District Commitment(s)		0	

Total Property Tax Commitment		1,812,114	
		=====	
	-- Proof of Rate --		
Net Assessed Valuation	Tax Rate	Assessment	
60,967,645	29.83	1,818,664	
	1996 Bond Requirement		
Treasurer:	68,000 Tax Collector:	65,000	
Town Clerk:	15,000 Trustees of Trust Funds:	46,000	

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1996

	1996	1995	PRIOR
UNCOLLECTED TAXES 01/01/96			
Property Taxes		\$271,594.19	\$3,760.11
Yield Taxes		\$110.08	
Annual Onset Assessment		\$3,224.82	\$617.53
Deferred Onset Assessment		\$7,581.00	
TAXES COMMITTED THIS YEAR			
Property Taxes	\$1,815,998.00		
Land Use Change Tax	\$1,500.00		
Annual Onset Assessment	\$5,433.92		
Yield Taxes	\$12,627.50		
Deferred Onset Assessment	\$2,538.00		
OVERPAYMENT			
Property Taxes	\$1,203.74	\$4,944.40	
INTEREST - DELINQUENT TAXES			
	<u>\$2,623.06</u>	<u>\$18,659.48</u>	
TOTAL DEBITS	\$1,841,924.22	\$306,113.97	\$4,377.64
<hr/>			
REMITTED TO TREASURER 1996			
Property Taxes	\$1,634,785.07	\$253,169.02	
Land Use Change Tax	\$1,500.00		
Yield Taxes	\$4,618.42	\$110.08	
Interest	\$2,623.06	\$18,659.48	
Annual Onset Assessment	\$3,982.81	\$857.60	
ABATEMENTS			
Property Taxes	\$1,766.54	\$8,116.57	
Deferred Onset Assess	\$2,538.00		
Current Levy Deeded	\$3,288.00	\$17,620.22	\$4,377.64
UNCOLLECTED TAXES 12/31/96			
Property Taxes	\$177,362.13		
Yield Taxes	\$8,009.08		
Deferred Onset Assessment		\$7,581.00	
Annual Onset Assessment	<u>\$1,451.11</u>		
TOTAL CREDITS	\$1,841,924.22	\$306,113.97	\$4,377.64

A list of unpaid accounts is available for public inspection, at Town Hall, during regular office hours.

Respectfully Submitted

**TAX COLLECTOR
Denise P. French**

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
SUMMARY OF TAX LIEN ACCOUNTS**

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1996

	TAX LIEN ON ACCOUNT OF LEVIES:		
	1995	1994	PRIOR
Unredeemed Liens January 1, 1996		\$125,244.26	\$225,460.22
Liens Executed 1996	\$159,619.04		
Interest & Costs Collected After Lien Execution	<u>\$3,283.27</u>	<u>\$8,795.79</u>	<u>\$28,804.71</u>
TOTAL DEBITS	\$162,902.31	\$134,040.05	\$254,264.93
<hr/>			
REMITTANCE TO TREASURER			
Redemptions	\$42,262.72	\$39,350.44	\$80,073.33
Interest & Costs After Lien Execution	\$3,283.27	\$8,795.79	\$28,584.93
Abatements of Unredeemed Taxes		\$1,690.20	
Liens Deeded to Municipality	\$4,393.22	\$19,944.50	\$137,250.11
Unredeemed Tax Liens December 31, 1996	<u>\$112,963.10</u>	<u>\$64,259.12</u>	<u>\$8,356.56</u>
TOTAL CREDITS	\$162,902.31	\$134,040.05	\$254,264.93

A list of unpaid accounts is available for public inspection, at Town Hall, during regular business hours.

Respectfully Submitted

**TAX COLLECTOR
Denise P. French**

WATER & SEWER FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1996

Unpaid Balance January 1, 1996		\$3,627.46
Charges:		
Water Usage	\$37,317.05	
Water Interest	\$88.85	
Shut-off Notice Fees	\$153.00	
Sewer Usage	\$20,386.44	
Sewer Interest	<u>\$54.77</u>	
TOTAL CHARGES		+ <u>\$58,000.11</u>
		\$61,627.57
Abatements Granted		
Water	\$123.85	
Sewer	<u>\$120.40</u>	
TOTAL ABATEMENTS		- \$244.25
Receipts To Treasurer		- <u>\$57,052.05</u>
Unpaid Water/Sewer At December 31, 1996		\$4,331.27

A list of unpaid accounts is available for public inspection, at Town Hall, during regular office hours.

Respectfully Submitted

**TAX COLLECTOR
Denise P. French**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1996

LOCAL TAXES FOR CURRENT YEAR		
Property	\$1,634,785.00	
Interest & Penalties	2,623.00	
Land Use Change Tax	1,500.00	
Yield	4,618.00	
Onset Road Assessment	<u>3,983.00</u>	
		\$1,647,509.00
LOCAL TAXES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS		
Property	\$ 253,169.00	
Interest and Penalties	18,659.00	
Yield	110.00	
Onset Road Assessment	858.00	
Tax Liens Redeemed	161,686.00	
Tax Lien Interest/Penalties	<u>40,664.00</u>	
		\$ 475,146.00
WATER DEPARTMENT		\$ 37,559.00
SEWER DEPARTMENT		\$ 20,441.00
TOWN CLERK REVENUE		\$ 118,219.00
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE		
Shared Revenue	\$ 120,470.00	
Highway Block Grant	25,570.00	
Water Pollution Grant	23,721.00	
Landfill Closure Grant	<u>92,559.00</u>	
		\$ 262,320.00
MONADNOCK PAPER MILL CLOSURE GIFT		\$ 80,000.00
INTERFUND TRANSFER		\$ 38,257.00
FEDERAL GRANTS		
COPS/FAST	\$ 4,535.00	
SMOCTA	<u>4,452.00</u>	
		\$ 8,987.00
TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES		\$ 400,000.00
INTEREST EARNED ON DEPOSITS		\$ 13,936.00

DIVIDENDS		
Property Liability Insurance	\$ 349.00	
Worker's Compensation	997.00	
Unemployment	<u>591.00</u>	
		\$ 1,937.00
LICENSES, PERMITS & FEES		
Building Permits	\$ 350.00	
Driveway Permit	10.00	
SWD Fees	69.00	
Cable Franchise Fees	1,746.00	
Pistol Permits	30.00	
Bad Check Fees	115.00	
CUV Filing Fees	20.00	
Commercial Hauler Fees	500.00	
Election Fees	<u>39.00</u>	
		\$ 2,879.00
INCOME FROM DEPARTMENTS		
Police	\$ 676.00	
Recreation	268.00	
Planning Board	291.00	
Water	25.00	
Administration	76.00	
Cemetery	<u>2,238.00</u>	
		\$ 3,574.00
RECYCLING REVENUE		
Glass	\$ 329.00	
Plastic	227.00	
Aluminum Cans	1,387.00	
Cardboard	24.00	
Scrap Paper	<u>114.00</u>	
		\$ 2,081.00
REIMBURSEMENTS		
Town of Antrim	\$ 1,578.00	
Town of Francestown	500.00	
Conval School District	180.00	
Health Insurance	2,530.00	
Welcome to Bennington Sign	205.00	
Highway Department	15.00	
Welfare Department	100.00	
Forest Fire	556.00	
Election & Registration	46.00	
Personnel Administration	<u>100.00</u>	
		\$ 5,810.00
TOTAL 1996 RECEIPTS		\$3,118,655.00

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 1996

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Selectmen Salaries	\$ 2,250.00	
Administrative Assistant	29,490.00	
Part-Time Office Support	10,868.00	
Moderator Salary	80.00	
Telephone	2,660.00	
Computer Support	2,478.00	
Xerox Machine Rental	1,744.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	500.00	
Advertising	835.00	
General Supplies	977.00	
Office Supplies	1,629.00	
Postage	2,539.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	231.00	
Mileage	326.00	
Town Meeting Police Coverage	168.00	
Printing 1995 Town Report	<u>1,548.00</u>	
Total Executive Office		\$ 58,323.00

ELECTION & REGISTRATION

Town Clerk	\$ 6,820.00	
Deputy Town Clerk	847.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	35.00	
Town Clerk Office Supplies	218.00	
Town Clerk Books & Periodicals	155.00	
Supervisors of the Checklist	450.00	
Conval Supervisor Salaries	180.00	
Advertising	273.00	
Supervisor Office Supplies	87.00	
Ballot Clerks	714.00	
Election Printing	680.00	
Election Meals	<u>3.00</u>	
Total Election & Registration		\$ 10,462.00

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Bank Transfer	\$ 500.00	
Auditing Services	3,800.00	
Assessing	7,179.00	
Tax Collector/Bookkeeper	28,229.00	
Tax Collector Dues	15.00	
Tax Collector Fees	1,302.00	
Treasurer's Salary	750.00	
1995 Overlay	<u>6,004.00</u>	
Total Financial Administration		\$ 47,779.00

JUDICIAL & LEGAL EXPENSE

General Legal Support	\$ 29,425.00	
Judgements/Settlements	<u>1,000.00</u>	
Total Judicial & Legal Expense		\$ 30,425.00

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

Health Insurance	\$ 34,575.00	
Dental Insurance	1,879.00	
FICA	11,808.00	
Medicare	3,716.00	
Retirement	5,084.00	
Unemployment Compensation	<u>409.00</u>	
Total Personnel Administration		\$ 57,471.00

PLANNING & ZONING

Recording Secretary	\$ 240.00	
SWRPC Membership Dues	1,398.00	
Planning Board Miscellaneous	212.00	
Zoning Board Miscellaneous	<u>15.00</u>	
Total Planning & Zoning		\$ 1,865.00

GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Custodial/Groundskeeping	\$ 3,190.00	
Security/Fire Alarms	1,034.00	
Electricity	2,032.00	
Heat & Oil	2,292.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	1,785.00	
Supplies	<u>123.00</u>	
Total Government Buildings		\$ 10,456.00

CEMETERIES

Evergreen Cemetery Maintenance	\$ 1,708.00	
Sunnyside Cemetery Maintenance	<u>2,423.00</u>	
Total Cemeteries		\$ 4,131.00

PROPERTY/LIABILITY INSURANCE

NHMA-PLIT Annual Premium	\$ 17,304.00	
Insurance Deductible Coverage	<u>1,410.00</u>	
Total Insurance		\$ 18,714.00

OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Contingency Fund	\$ 2,395.00	
Abatement Interest	<u>94.00</u>	
Total Other General Government		\$ 2,489.00

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Full-Time Officers Salary	\$ 59,835.00	
COPS/FAST Officer	5,933.00	
Telephone	3,970.00	
Lease of Pagers	506.00	
Medical Services	44.00	
Photo Services	182.00	
Dispatch Services	5,540.00	
Equipment/Training Supplies	1,739.00	
Office Supplies	1,128.00	
Postage	26.00	
Maintenance/Repair of Equipment	581.00	
Gasoline	2,899.00	
Vehicle Repairs	1,607.00	
Books/Periodicals	363.00	
Uniforms	1,255.00	
Miscellaneous	191.00	
Education/Safety	<u>183.00</u>	
Total Police Department		\$ 85,982.00

ANTRIM AMBULANCE \$ 3,000.00 \$ 3,000.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chiefs Salary	\$ 500.00	
Telephone	416.00	
Dispatch Services	1,537.00	
Supplies	1,050.00	
Fire Fighter Emergency Calls	4,348.00	
Training	500.00	
Lease of Radios	4,327.00	
Equipment Replacement	2,784.00	
Radio Repairs	840.00	
Gasoline	436.00	
Vehicle Repairs	2,688.00	
Electricity	1,509.00	
Heating Oil	1,366.00	
Building Repairs/Maintenance	<u>1,247.00</u>	
Total Fire Department		\$ 23,548.00

BUILDING INSPECTION \$ 750.00 \$ 750.00

GENERAL HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Laborers Salary	\$ 51,414.00	
Telephone	481.00	
Lease of Pager	197.00	
Drug/Alcohol Testing	345.00	
Electricity	1,021.00	
Heat & Oil	1,065.00	
Building Maintenance/Repair	258.00	
Supplies	1,734.00	

Street Signs	139.00		
Equipment Maintenance/Repair	2,291.00		
Gasoline/Oil	6,352.00		
Vehicle Maintenance/Repair	2,711.00		
Miscellaneous	<u>192.00</u>		
Total General Highway		\$	68,200.00
HIGHWAYS & STREETS			
Paving/Reconstruction/Grading	\$ 23,374.00		
Paving/Reconstruction Equipment	6,000.00		
Road Maintenance Supplies	437.00		
Road Drainage Supplies	1,313.00		
Snow/Ice Supplies	9,913.00		
Hired Plowing/Sanding	5,977.00		
Gravel Preparation	<u>4,325.00</u>		
Total Highways & Streets		\$	51,339.00
BRIDGE MAINTENANCE/REPAIR	\$ 110.00	\$	110.00
STREET LIGHTING	\$ 11,434.00	\$	11,434.00
TRANSFER STATION			
Attendant Salaries	\$ 19,410.00		
Telephone	464.00		
Hauling & Disposal	13,547.00		
Electricity	1,241.00		
Shed Heat	126.00		
Supplies	1,710.00		
Equipment Maintenance	196.00		
Certification	206.00		
Chemical Toilet	845.00		
Miscellaneous	50.00		
Recyclables Removal	1,376.00		
Container Lease	1,255.00		
NHRRRA Membership Dues	71.00		
Highway Department Assistance	467.00		
Total Transfer Station		\$	40,964.00
WATER DEPARTMENT			
Labor Wages/Salaries	\$ 1,020.00		
Town of Antrim	13,816.00		
NE Rural Water Association Dues	100.00		
Postage	555.00		
Miscellaneous	217.00		
Telephone	689.00		
Electricity	7,762.00		
Pumphouse Heat	912.00		
Water Line Repairs/Maintenance	6,654.00		
Corrosion Control Chemicals	<u>1,402.00</u>		
Total Water Department		\$	33,127.00

SEWER DEPARTMENT		
Groundskeeping	\$ 41.00	
Town of Antrim	21,942.00	
Electricity	2,953.00	
Propane	<u>296.00</u>	
Total Sewer Department		\$ 25,232.00
HEALTH DEPARTMENT		
Health Officer Salary	\$ 645.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>10.00</u>	
Total Health Department		\$ 655.00
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 51.00	\$ 51.00
HEALTH AGENCIES		
Home Health Care	\$ 4,000.00	
Monadnock Family/Mental Health	<u>1,271.00</u>	
Total Health Agencies		\$ 5,271.00
WELFARE DEPARTMENT		
Welfare Officer Salary	\$ 1,298.00	
Telephone Reimbursement	33.00	
Dues & Subscriptions	25.00	
Rental Assistance	1,436.00	
Meals on Wheels	715.00	
Medical Assistance	127.00	
Food Assistance	528.00	
Electric/Heat Assistance	4,588.00	
Gasoline Assistance	10.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>51.00</u>	
Total Welfare Department		\$ 8,811.00
PARKS & RECREATION		
Christmas Celebration	\$ 144.00	
Fishing Derby	200.00	
Little League Baseball	1,000.00	
Soccer	400.00	
Groundskeeping	2,003.00	
Electricity - Newhall Field	516.00	
Telephone	552.00	
Chemical Toilets	1,008.00	
Lifeguard Salary	2,340.00	
Beach Groundskeeping	106.00	
Water Sampling/Analysis	36.00	
Red Cross Supplies	140.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>368.00</u>	
Total Parks & Recreation		\$ 8,813.00
MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE	\$ 573.00	\$ 573.00

GEP DODGE LIBRARY

Librarian/Assistants Salary	\$ 20,774.00	
Book Collection	6,000.00	
Telephone	788.00	
Electricity	599.00	
Heat & Oil	1,114.00	
Groundskeeping	30.00	
Building Maintenance	48.00	
Photo Copier	1,500.00	
Program Supplies	150.00	
Conference/Fees	<u>350.00</u>	
Total GEP Dodge Library		\$ 31,353.00

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES

Principal	\$ 400,000.00	
Interest	<u>7,917.00</u>	
Total Tax Anticipation Notes		\$ 407,917.00

PRINCIPAL - LONG TERM NOTES

Note Repayments	\$ 1,300.00	
General Obligation Debt	41,750.00	
Landfill Closure Bond	<u>105,000.00</u>	
Total Principal		\$ 148,050.00

INTEREST - LONG TERM NOTES

Interest on Notes	\$ 715.00	
Interest on General Obligations	26,260.00	
Interest on Closure Bond	<u>5,460.00</u>	
Total Interest		\$ 32,435.00

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Fire Truck	\$ 15,000.00	
Highway Equipment	10,000.00	
Rescue Vehicle	3,000.00	
Police Cruiser	9,195.00	
Library	<u>4,000.00</u>	
Total Capital Reserve Funds		\$ 41,195.00

1996 WARRANT ARTICLES

Supplemental Checklist Wages	\$ 450.00	
Dredge Septic Lagoon	30,000.00	
Police Part-Time Wages	3,289.00	
Fire Department Equipment	4,360.00	
Fire Department Windows	5,529.00	
Fire Department Roof	2,675.00	
Landfill Post-Closure Costs	11,867.00	
Project Lift	<u>450.00</u>	
Total 1996 Warrant Articles		\$ 58,620.00

EDWARD E. FRENCH SCHOLARSHIP	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
CONSERVATION COMMISSION DUES	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00
TAXES PAID TO HILLSBORO COUNTY	\$ 110,928.00	\$ 110,928.00
TUITION PAID TO CONVAL SCHOOLS	\$1,398,944.00	<u>\$1,398,944.00</u>
Total 1996 Expenditures		\$2,840,292.00

THE NEW PIERCE SCHOOL

Groundbreaking October 10, 1996



The price of progress...an apartment house; and at one time a busy general store, the landmark was gutted by the wrecking crew in a matter of minutes last October as part of site preparation.



...The sounds of bulldozers and earth movers filled Bennington's air through the fall and winter of 1996-97. Pierce School's new foundations rise above the snow...five months before the first day of school '97.

1996 PAYROLL

Attridge, Timothy	\$ 2,878.76
Belcher, Debra	4,882.64
Bell, Stephen	30.00
Blanchard, David	27,531.72
Bond, Dawn	5,832.25
Brown, Cameron	17,217.20
Browning, Hannah	2,340.00
Campbell, C. Stephen	28,790.01
Carrara, Josephine	180.00
Chase, Elizabeth	150.00
Cleary, James	750.00
Clough, Melissa	1,823.52
Clow, Gail	5,186.14
Collemacine, Dominic	200.00
Cook, Michael	8,412.81
Cote, George	93.00
Cronin III, John	750.00
Dickinson, Scott	6,780.76
Dodge, James	80.00
Emerton, Elaine	366.75
Foote Sr., Lester	11,221.89
Fox II, Wyatt	26,409.32
French, Denise	29,366.72
French, John	244.00
Germain, Valerie	4,977.97
Heinzman Jr., Chester	750.00
Huntley, Athlon	320.00
Huntley, Barbara	1,943.00
Johnson, Jason	944.00
Johnson, Roy	184.00
Liljeberg, Sheila	21.00
Logan, Lisa	322.42
MacGregor, Leslie	16,330.50
Mancini, David	150.00
Miner, Joyce	750.00
McKenney, Darlene	66.00
Nelson, Richard	13,030.34
Osienski, Linda	162.00
Ouellette, Tracy	120.00
Perry, Adam	612.00
Pope, Velma	174.00
Reid, William	29,490.27
Rochford, David	66.00
Schnare, Terry	750.00
Tarrio, Christine	1,457.36
Turner, Victoria	150.00
Warren, Carroll	960.00
Weeks, Nicholas	2,265.25
Wilk, Deborah	135.00
Wilson, Allan	150.00
Young, Rusell	<u>150.00</u>
TOTAL 1996 PAYROLL	<u>\$257,948.60</u>

Report of The Trust Funds of the City or Town of
Please duplicate these two pages if you need additional lines.

DATE OF CREATION	NAME OF TRUST FUND <small>(List first three characters of fund and common fund)</small>	PURPOSE OF TRUST FUND	HOW INVESTED <small>(Whether bank deposits or Common fund, or state)</small>	Balance Beginning Year	New Funds Created	Cash Out or (Loans) in Securities	Withdrawals	Balance End Year	Balance Beginning Year	INCOME			Grand Total Balance at End of Year
										Percent	Amount	Expanded During Year	
	GENETERY FUNDS												
Various	Total Mt. Calvary	Perpetual and General Care	CFX BANK	775.00				775.00	8.89	16.85		25.74	800.74
Various	Total Sunnyside	Perpetual and General Care	CFX BANK	11,661.73	200.00			11,861.73	2,643.79	730.24	730.24	2,643.78	14,505.52
Various	Total Evergreen	Perpetual and General Care	CFX BANK	11,639.75	200.00			11,839.75	1,415.06	1,710.66	1,710.66	1,415.06	13,254.81
	TOTAL GENETERY	General Expenses and Books	CFX BANK	24,076.48	400.00			24,476.48	4,067.74			4,084.59	28,561.07
Various	Library		CFX BANK	80,241.40				80,241.40		3,977.39	3,977.39		84,218.79
	OTHER FUNDS												
1940	Community Fund	Christmas Tree Community	CFX BANK	327.85				327.85	773.78	23.71		797.49	1,125.34
1988	Erving McCain Fund	Settlement	CFX BANK	400.00				400.00	113.13	11.03		124.16	524.16
1994	Edward French Fund	Scholarship	CFX BANK	1,855.47				1,855.47	134.62	85.67		220.29	2,075.76
	CAPTAIN RESERVE FUNDS												
1990	New Fire Truck		CFX BANK	90,000.00	15,000.00			105,000.00	16,023.90	6,487.85		22,511.75	127,511.75
1992	Rescue Truck		CFX BANK	32,000.00	3,000.00		35,000.00	00	2,823.72	433.23	3,256.95		00
1993	Water Department Pump Replacement		CFX BANK	18,890.26		10,960.98	7,929.28	1,433.02		324.59	1,433.02	374.59	8,253.87
1993	Used Fire Truck		CFX BANK	15,000.00				15,000.00	1,100.21	915.67		2,015.88	17,015.88
1993	Highway Dept Equipment		CFX BANK	3,699.86	10,000.00			13,699.86	00	354.75		352.75	14,052.61
1993	Police Cruiser		CFX BANK	2,176.47	9,195.00			11,371.47	64.74	320.39		385.13	11,756.60
1994	Library		CFX BANK	8,000.00	4,000.00			12,000.00	388.64	517.56		906.20	12,906.20
				276,667.79	41,595.00		45,960.98	272,301.81	26,923.50	15,911.59	11,108.26	31,724.83	304,026.60

1996 G.E.P. DODGE LIBRARY FINANCIAL REPORT
TRUSTEES' OPERATING ACCOUNT

Cash on hand 1-1-96 879.70

RECEIPTS from:

Library Trust Funds	4,325.50
NOW acct. interest	21.89
Book sales/Fundraising	740.93
Copy Machine Revenue	364.00
Town Allocated Income:	
Book Collection	6,000.00
Copy Machine	1,500.00
Education/Fees	350.00
Special Programs	<u>150.00</u>

13,452.32

14,332

EXPENSES for:

Building Maintenance	1,068.29
Office Administration	886.20
Book Collection	7,513.12
Periodicals	454.22
Book Rental Program	693.60
Education/Memberships	290.00
Special Programs	244.47
Petty Cash	310.00
Donations/Pub. Relations	145.75
Copy Machine	<u>1,353.50</u>

12,959.15 - 12,959

Cash in Operating Acct. 1/1/97

1,372

LIBRARY

1996 was another very full year at the G.E.P. Dodge Library. Inter-library loan requests went off the charts, our patron base continued to grow, and our patron's needs have become more demanding and specialized. Melissa, Chris, Debi and I have found 1996 to be both gratifying and challenging. We have had to adjust our schedules and assignment of duties. It has been a year of growth in numbers of volumes and information requested and borrowed. If the first month of 1997 is any indication of what the rest of the year will be like, we will be in for an unbelievable year. The following are some of the ongoing programs the library has offered throughout the year.

Project LIFT is into its fourth year in Bennington. This program is in conjunction with Hillsboro, Antrim, and now Deering and Frankestown. Bennington's adult students benefit from tutors and materials necessary for completion of GEDs or learn to read, and master the math skills necessary for various employment opportunities. If you are interested in being either a student or a tutor, contact the Bennington Library, or the Hillsboro Library.

Every year during the months of February through April, AARP has had a representative available weekly at the library to assist Bennington residents with tax help. This year and for the past nine years this representative has been Jim Shea of Peterborough. The library makes available tax forms for anyone who needs them, and should anyone be doing retrospective tax filings, we keep the manuals and reproducible forms two years back.

Available through the library, too, is information for NH job works. Should you need this service, we can show you how to contact NH job works at home, and should you not have the equipment to do so, we can gather the information for you. Many patrons have taken advantage of this service over the past year.

Beginning in early 1997, a Book Discussion group will be formed in conjunction with the Antrim Library. To participate, sign up at either the Bennington or Antrim libraries.

Last winter, Debi Belcher and Linda Osienski attempted to start a "hand craft circle" on Sunday afternoons in the library. Anyone working on knitting, stitching, darning, crocheting and needlepoint or need instruction were encouraged to bring their work to the library. Should anyone be interested in taking up this activity again, please contact the library.

Ongoing throughout the year the library offers programs every week. Through June of 1996, students of Pierce School came to the library weekly for a story and to select books for either silent reading time, pleasure, or for enhancement of their curriculum. We look forward to their return in September of 1997. We continue to have story time for the students of Small Beginnings, and too a story and craft time for children who are not yet in school, every Monday morning. Last year we also offered a library skills class for home school families along with their own story time.

Several times throughout the year we offer holiday and seasonal programs in the evenings for families. These programs have been a lot of fun for the younger members of our community who get a chance to dress up and see other children their age. It is also a good opportunity for parents to meet other adults and their families from town. Many friendships have been forged at these events.

One terrific program we have been fortunate to offer Bennington children is the Summer Reading Program. As in years past, the program was sponsored by *CHILIS* (Children's Librarians of New Hampshire) and *First NH Bank*. Locally we have been supported by the *Bennington Country Store* with free popscicles and videos, *Great Brook Veterinary Clinic* for funding donated from the rabies clinic to cover art and craft materials, and the *Toadstool*, permitting use of gift certificates. 1996's summer reading program was entitled "The Best Game Around". With the help of Debi Belcher's creative and artistic talents, we converted the library to a giant Monopoly board. This year the 68 participants earned turns at throwing the dice and moving around the "board" by reading pages. As a result we had a grand total of 70,727 pages read!

For older summer reading program participants ages 11 to 16, we had a Mystery Night. With the help of 8 adult volunteers, we staged a murder that had to be solved. The "detectives" were set up in teams of two, and had a time limit to solve the murder. It was so much fun, that we will be sure to repeat Mystery Night this coming summer too.

Last year I retired as Nubanusit Library Cooperative secretary after four years, and then took on the job of president to the Area Library Forum II. Both the Nubanusit Cooperative and the Forums are vehicles for information on state and national laws affecting libraries and their patrons, for the ongoing education for librarians and their trustees, and sources for information concerning collection, management, and cooperation amongst state libraries. Without these and other state and national library organizations, our library and others would be operating in a void, and would receive none of the benefits reaped by these memberships.

The library has purchased a book in memorial to Ruth A. Cody. The book is entitled: The Book of American Traditions: Stories, Customs and Rites of Passage to Celebrate Our Cultural Heritage, by Emly Jenkins. This book is an excellent resource for not only Pierce School students doing reports about the US and its customs, but too for curious adults. Please come in and check it out, and continue to learn from Mrs. Cody.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have put so much of their time and their talents to benefit Bennington. Some of the activities that our volunteers have contributed to are: Sunday hours, book deliveries, art work, baking, help at the book sales, story time, crafts, computer help, readers for story hour, the summer reading program and holiday programs, donation of newspaper and magazine subscriptions, trash removal, donation and planting of summer flowers and food for the participants in activities.

We are so grateful for our many volunteers: Debi and Tom Belcher & family, Linda Osienski, Jean & Lee Smith, Patricia & Hie-Young Oh & family, David & Catriona Beck & family, Frances & Melissa Clough & Luke, Bennington Boy Scout & Girl Scout troops, Robin Gregg, Eleanor & Richard Amidon, David Glynn, Chris & Rich Tarrío & family, Lisa Logan, Robyn Manley, Deb, Rich & Dennis Page, Sue Dow, Kristie French, Dorothy Smith, Barbara Varnum, Judith Klein-Dial, Dave Barrett, Sharon Paige, Russell Young, Jessica & Sarah Brown, Joe, Ryan & Dana MacGregor, Phil & Val Germain, Priscilla Roberts, Chief Steve Campbell, Linda & Eric Tenney, Tom & Sharon Dowling, Ruth Brown, Betty Coffin, the Lemieux family, and a special thank you to Dee French, Dawn Bond and Bill Reid at the Town Hall, and of course to our dedicated Trustees, Elaine Barrett, Lise Lemieux and Virginia Young.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie S. MacGregor,
Librarian

CAPITAL RESERVE COMMITTEE

The following list of Capital Reserve Fund appropriations were approved by the voters at the 1996 Town Meeting:

Fire Truck	\$15,000
Highway Equipment	\$10,000
Rescue Vehicle	\$ 3,000
Police Cruiser	\$11,000
Library	\$ 4,000

The Rescue Vehicle appropriation permitted purchase of the vehicle in the summer of 1996. A small amount of the balance remains and the Committee suggests it serve to start a fund for eventual replacement of this unit.

Last year marked the first appropriation under a new plan for Police Cruisers. If it works out as contemplated, it will enable the Department to replace one of the two types of cruisers every two years.

By order of the Selectmen, on the advice of the Fire Department, Engine #2 was taken out of operation in mid-summer. It was judged to pose a liability to the Town and Department personnel. Much of the Committee's 1996 discussions centered on the means of replacing this vital piece of equipment as soon as possible and within the Town's economic and investment constraints. Voters will be asked for approval in April for release of the funds that should get the second fire engine in use by mid-fall, 1997.

Voters will also be asked, this year, to consider for the first time creation of an expendable reserve fund for maintenance and possible replacement of town bridges. Not truly a capital reserve fund, it can be used at the discretion of the Selectmen during the course of the year to make repairs on existing bridges as needed to prolong their functional life. If the funds are not expended, they will remain as an investment toward the day when actual bridge replacement is a necessity.

William B. Reid,
Adminstrative Assistant,
for the Committee

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Another year has passed and for the Police Department has been a good one. I am happy to say it has been a year free of complaints and lawsuits.

Myself and the Selectmen agreed to staff the Police Department with two full-time officers and two part-time officers. This is a change from three full-time and one part-time officer.

My main concern for the year was the number of hours the two full-time officers had to work. We worked six months of 24-hour shifts. Between duty time and on-call time we averaged 96 hours each per week. I have hired two part-time officers which should alleviate this concern.

In addition, it has been another year of transition. Personnel changes included:

- Scott Dickinson resigning in April.
- Cam Brown moving to Ashland, NH in June.
- My appointment to position of Chief in June.
- Hiring of Rick Nelson in June.
- Hiring of Bruce Browne in August.
- Discharge of Bruce Browne in September.
- Hiring of Jason Johnson in October.
- Hiring of Dennis Rector in December.

As far as police activities, we had another busy year. The following are some statistics for 1996:

- Criminal Cases - 209
- Juvenile Cases - 65
- Calls for Service - 775
- Motor Vehicle - 1384

We also had administrative, court appearances, animal complaints and mutual aid requests totaling approximately 1060. One of the most important numbers is 94. That is the number of times we made contact with the community and school to help improve their relationship with the police. In all we had about 3985 police contacts.

Some of the things I would like to see and/or do in 1997:

- Establish some stability in personnel
- Have another year without complaints and lawsuits
- Purchase a radar unit for the Ford Explorer
- Purchase two portable radios
- Update the capability of the computer system
- Continue making cosmetic improvements to the Police Station
- Increase the number of community policing contacts

As of Town Meeting I have been Chief for nine months. I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your Chief. I enjoy the job and position very much. I like Bennington and the people of Bennington and hope to be here for a long time.

Remember that police are here to serve you so please do not hesitate to contact us if you need anything -- the door is always open.

On behalf of the Police Department: Officer Nelson, Officer Johnson, Officer Rector and myself, we want to thank everyone for their support. We are committed to providing professional and courteous service to everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Campbell,
Chief of Police

BENNINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1996, the Volunteer Fire Department responded to 138 calls, including 69 rescue, 16 mutual aid, 15 motor vehicle accidents, 13 false alarms, ten miscellaneous calls, seven structures, four chimney fires, three cover truck and 1 brush fire.

The number of calls may seem high, but because of the quick and concise calls to 911 and good response time by the department, the losses were kept to a minimum.

In 1996, the Explorers were chartered in April with six members and now they are up to ten.

The station received new windows, with installation being done by Valley Construction of Antrim. A new roof was put on the Rescue bay. We thank Paul Knight Construction of Frankestown for that.

The Fire Department also purchased a new Rescue vehicle, which was put into service over the summer. The Department used the money from the sale of the old Rescue vehicle for a cascade system for the new one.

Also over the summer, 4M-2 (the 1978 Chevy), was taken out of service because of high repair costs. The Fire Department and the Selectmen decided to move the purchase of a new truck to 1997 instead of 1999.

Once again, thank-you for all the support from the people of Bennington. It is your support that helps us do our jobs to the best of our ability. As always, there is a need for volunteers, and if you have the time, please contact any member.

One last thing - don't forget to check your smoke detectors at least twice a year.

Thank You,
The Bennington Volunteer Fire Department

BENNINGTON FIRE EXPLORERS

Hello fellow citizens. We are the Bennington Fire Explorers Post #588 here in Bennington. Our Post consists of people ages 14 to 21. This program is sponsored by the Bennington Fire Department and its purpose is to teach the tactics and skills needed for fire fighting. As Explorers, we also learn trust, responsibility, communication and, most of all, cooperation; working as a team. We train and work with the Fire Department and share most of the duties they do on fire scenes.

We are a Post of 10 Explorers, all committed to teamwork and constantly striving toward betterment of ourselves and our community. We are responsible for raising our own funds with no help from the Fire Department. A car wash and tag sale are two of the ways we raised money this year. We are working on other ideas for the coming year.

Our goal for 1997 is to make the community more aware of the Explorers and what we are about. With the support of our community, our accomplishments will be unlimited.

We would like to thank all members of the Bennington Fire Department, and especially our advisors, Joseph O'Brien and Mark Chase, who have put numerous hours into our Post. If not for them, our Post would not be as great as it is. Also, special thanks to Chief Nick Collemacine for believing in us and giving us the opportunity to be the best we can be.

I am very proud of our Explorers Post and want to thank all who have given so much toward our success. Words cannot express how much they have done:
Kristen Belcher, Tim Carr, Tim Clow, David Corthell, Kristie French, Kathryn Michlick, Heather Osienski, Chad Trumpower and Melissa Trumpwer.

Respectfully submitted,
Brett French, Captain
Bennington Fire Explorers

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

In the summer of 1996 the Highway Department continued its paving project on North Bennington Road and the north end of Bible Hill Road and Balch Farm Road. This included culvert extension, shoulder work and widening in some of the narrow places.

New culverts and underdrainage were installed on Pierce Road and Gillis Hill Road.

Two thousand yards of gravel was crushed and applied to the Town's gravel roads this summer with calcium chloride put down for dust control. Roadside mowing was done, a retaining wall was installed in Sunnyside Cemetery to replace the one that was falling over, sitework for a basketball court at Newhall Youth Field was completed and eight other Department problems were dealt with. Some serious washout problems were taken care of in July.

The first storm of the winter of 1996-97 was on December 6 with 20" of wet snow and a lot of snow, sleet, freezing rain and rain storms following.

This year I have recommended that the Town take advantage of a program the University of New Hampshire is offering to the Towns. It's called a Road Management Inventory and Assessment Program. This will provide the Town with an up-to-date inventory of our road system and determine and document the condition of each road. We can then plan maintenance and repair methods for each condition/type; determine the costs; set maintenance and repair priorities and establish long-range work and budget plans. The study will give us a detailed view of Bennington's road system.

The last thing I would like to report on is the progress that has been made toward the remodeling or replacement of the Highway Garage.

Renovating the present Town Barn would be costly. Rewiring it according to code and the installation of new doors and windows - this alone- would come to \$10,000.00. That's without insulating the rest of the building or repairing the floors.

This also does nothing to address the fact of its being ten feet from a 30 mph zone or 100' from the new school, or that all the other equipment (salt, sand, gravel) is at another location.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee have recommended a Warrant Article for a new Highway Garage to be built at the Transfer Station area. This will enable the Highway Department to have all equipment, tools, oil, fuel, parts and materials at one location, saving countless trips hauling things back and forth. It will also allow us more outside room, the present site being on a 2/10 acre lot.

I urge your support of this Article. Its passage will provide the Town considerable savings in the years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Blanchard, Road Agent

PLANNING BOARD

This has been a somewhat slow year for the Planning Board, a condition undoubtedly reflecting the local economy. We have had very few parties inquiring about potential development plans; and none of the rumored suitors of the Ski Area have gotten so far along in their plans as to approach us.

We have as a result been able to cut our proposed budget for next year by twice the 5% requested by the Budget Committee. That might change if we become busier in the future, although the implications of that are that the Town's tax base would rise in parallel.

This year we propose no new land use regulations, though we are beginning to research the possibility of strengthening the rules under which gravel can be mined in Town, so as to make sure we can keep health, safety, environmental and highway concerns under control, should the need arise.

We lost two members a few months ago, Billy Horton and Elaine Barrett. Both had served the board for some time; their expertise and contributions will be sorely missed.

In their place, we welcome Gail Rochford and Sue Seneschal, both of whom bring lots of useful experience and common sense to the board.

Frank Cordelle, Chairman
Tom Carr
Peter Eppig, Vice chair
Gail Rochford, Alternate
Terry Schnare, Ex-officio
Sue Seneschal, Alternate
Doug Wilk, Secretary

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Board heard only one case in 1996, the request of Primary Bank for a variance which would allow an excavation on Lots 1 & 2 of the former Bennett Subdivision off Merrill Drive.

At a Hearing conducted October 28, 1996, that application was denied.

The Board welcomed to membership during the year Glenn Dow and Barbara Goodwin. Openings for Alternate Members are still available. Any resident interested is encouraged to complete a Volunteer Recruitment form available at the Town Hall.

Harry Sewall,
Chairman

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission continued its regular activities and monitoring of permits, small scale land use, logging and woodlot operations and mapping.

Of particular interest is the on-going program of locating and mapping of the Town's boundaries with much completed on the north, west and south boundaries.

Once again we sponsored a scholarship to a local student, Brian Magoon, to attend an early summer Youth Conservation Camp. Brian participated in a wide range of conservation activities and has indicated it was very interesting and enjoyable. This is an opportunity available to Bennington students, grades 8-10. If you are interested for this June's camp, talk with Brian and contact John Manley through the Town Hall.

Other activities included several field trips and our annual river clean up day.

We appreciate all who have helped and supported the work of the commission and we invite anyone interested to attend our meetings or join us on an outing.

Respectfully submitted,
Bennington Conservation Commission
David Barrett, Chairman
Peter Eppig
Bruce Edes
John Manley
Joe MacGregor
Dennis McKenney
Terry Schnare

CONVAL SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

As you probably know by now, this time marks the end of my six years on the School Board. Sometimes it's easy for us to concentrate on the negative, so I'd like to take a moment to put things into perspective and remember some of the major accomplishments we've made in these last six years.

Kindergarten has become such a way of life at Pierce School that it's hard to believe it's only been five years since it began. The Board and this community wouldn't give up after having kindergarten proposals defeated more than once, but through persistence, it finally passed. About half of the State's districts still have no kindergarten (N.H. is the only state in the country without mandated KG); we're truly fortunate not to be included in that group.

Just a couple of years ago, it looked as if ConVal High was going to be bursting at the seams, possibly mandating a huge building program. But through careful planning and much politicking, the administration and Board were able to succeed in building a beautiful, new, state-of-the-art Applied Technology Center at very little cost to the District taxpayer. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the new Tech Center, do so ... you'll be amazed at this fantastic new wing of the High School. The primary goal in building it was obviously to offer our students new and varied opportunities they otherwise would have missed, but the added benefit was that our high school was enlarged at the same time, making an otherwise mandatory expansion unnecessary.

Perhaps the biggest accomplishment for us as a town and the District as a whole was the passage of the formula change. I don't have to remind you how many times over the years we tried to pass a change ... we were all very frustrated. But with a lot of truly hard work by many people, we were able to come to a mutual agreement on a 50-50% split, one that eventually passed as you well know. If this proposal hadn't passed, I'm not sure this District would have remained intact. I'm thankful for its passage, that we in Bennington have some tax relief, and that the District can focus on its primary goal of educating children.

The other most obvious accomplishment for us as a town was the passage of the Elementary Schools Bond, and subsequent construction of a new school here in Bennington. After years of having to deal with over-crowded conditions and truly sub-standard facilities, our children and teaching staff will enjoy the benefits of a school that can be held up to any in the state. It truly will be a building we all can be proud of for years to come.

There will be parts of not being on School Board that I'll truly miss; others that I won't miss a bit! But all and all, it's been a good experience, and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you for the past six years.

Mark Tazelaar
Bennington Representative
Conval School District

PIERCE SCHOOL PTO

1996 has been a year of transition for Pierce School and its PTO. With the approval of the fifteen million dollar construction bond, excitement and anticipation is being felt throughout the community for our new school. With the new school in mind, the PTO had a successful year with our annual fund-raisers.

In May, the PTO sponsored the Bike-a-thon, which was a great way for students, parents and teachers to get together while the bikers racked up the miles! To ensure the children's safety, a Bicycle Safety Course was given by the Bennington Police Department at school prior to the event.

In June, the PTO sponsored the Fourth Grade Banquet and Graduation. This was a special time for the fourth grade students to get together and share their memories at Pierce School with each other as well as with their teachers and families. The graduating class of 1996 will be fondly remembered as the last to leave the Pierce School as it had been.

With the beginning of the 1996-1997 school year, the teachers and students made the transition of relocating the Pierce School to the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center. After a few weeks of adjusting to the new setting, the students and teachers felt right at home in their spacious new surroundings.

The PTO began their monthly meetings with quite a few new parents attending. In September, the annual Spaghetti Dinner and Magic Show with Fran Ferry was a fun time had by all!

In November, a Community Ornament Night was held at the Fire Station in preparation for the Pierce School's Christmas Craft Fair. This was a great way for all members of the community to get together and brought out hidden talents by sharing and creating some wonderful ornaments.

Despite a bit of snow, the Craft Fair was quite successful. Crafters from Bennington and beyond displayed and sold their goods while numerous baked goods and cookies were donated for the Cookie Walk and Bake Sale.

1996 came to a close with the annual Christmas Buffet and gift exchange. This was an opportunity for all the students and teachers to get together at the Fire Station to enjoy lots of good food and exchange gifts with one another.

The PTO remains a vital part of Pierce School and the greater community. The success of the PTO can be attributed to the dedication and commitment of parents, teachers and community members.

In closing, the PTO would like to thank the Bennington Fire Department, Chief Steve Campbell, Officer Rick Nelson, Sharon Hall and all Town Officials and community members who support the Pierce School PTO.

1996-1997
Pierce School PTO Presidents,
Claudia Sysyn
Val Germain

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Town's Transfer Station continues to function in a manner in which its guiding Committee, its Staff and the Selectmen take genuine pride. Its aim has been neatness, efficiency and service. Whether your visit involves trash disposal or recycling, Lester and Mike's intention is to make the facility user friendly.

The Station lost the services of two of its Committee Members in 1996. Walter Reasa resigned early in the year because of business constraints. The resignation of Joe Cuddemi in the mid-winter was a significant loss. Joe, in a real way, was a dominant figure in waste disposal and recycling efforts in the community - even in the Region - and his time and counsel will be missed.

The Selectmen in January signed a five-year agreement with Waste Management of New Hampshire. The pact calls for step increases in tipping fees on an annual basis, but it still provides Bennington with the lowest hauling and disposal cost of any area community.

The Tri-Town Landfill has been selected by the Department of Environmental Services as the site for a state-wide workshop to take place June 10, 1997.

The Solid Waste Management Committee, Lester and Mike wish to thank all residents for their continued cooperation.

William B. Reid,
Administrative Assistant,
for the Committee

WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION

The necessary repairs to the Antrim Sewer Treatment Plant's number one lagoon were completed on time and within cost estimates. The Town of Bennington has a twenty-two percent ownership position in the plant.

During 1996, we again experienced outstanding cooperation from our Highway Department in assisting in the repair of leaks in the water system, as these leaks occurred or were discovered.

A break in a major main that feeds water to our entire system was caused by an accident. Repairs were made without cost to the Town. Once again, the cross-connect between the Bennington and Antrim systems allowed us to distribute Antrim water to our customers while repairs were being made.

Articles requesting Capital Reserve allocations for both Water and Sewer major equipment replacement or repair and an article raising funds for a new meter at the sewer transfer pumping station will be included in the 1997 Warrant.

It has been necessary, pursuant to RSA 38.2, to increase water and sewer rents by 10% effective April 1, 1997.

Roy Johnson
John French
David Rochford

HEALTH AND WELFARE

1996 was a real challenge, due to the increasing cost of fuel and the "Fuel Assistance" funding delay. The applicants that were accepted in the fall had to rely on Town help until well into 1997. The elderly and needy families with children find this difficult to deal with. Rent Assistance, the other big item to be dealt with, decreased about ten percent. Hopefully this is the result of Landlords better screening of new tenants.

The cost of Meals-On-Wheels, Home Health and Visiting Nurse is money well spent and many thanks to those who contributed at Christmas.

I would like to remind all of our citizens that those who are ill, needy, elderly or for any reason want help or just a little talk or guidance, that there is a lot "going for them". Please do not hesitate to contact me any time. Often a phone call, letter or referral will solve the problem. All will be confidential.

Telephone:

588-2189 Town Hall

588-6839 Home

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Huntley
Overseer of Public Welfare,
Health Officer

RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Recreation Department started 1996 with the Annual Fishing Derby, which is co-sponsored by the Fire Department; many thanks for their donation. Once again, we would like to thank Bruce Edes for his dedication to this event. Numerous prizes were awarded to different age groups and a canoe was raffled off and won by Linda Ryan of Greenfield.

Bennington Little League dominates most of the spring and summer months, and even though they did not take the championship this year they will always be "champs" in our eyes. The coaches should be applauded for their dedication and, most importantly, teaching these young athletes good sportsmanship.

The Antrim-Bennington Soccer program didn't happen this year as Antrim didn't have this program. However, Dawn Bond and Linda Osienski took it upon themselves to get a group together and play amongst themselves. Thank you both.

The Haunted Hayride went extremely well with over \$800.00 made. Without the help of all the volunteers, this would never be so successful. Many thanks to the drivers of the wagons and to Dee French and Deb Wilk for braving the cold and selling the tickets.

The Children's Halloween Party went extremely well with a very large turnout compared to previous years. The children enjoyed refreshments, games and as we have found out, the favorite part is decorating their pumpkins.

The Town Christmas Party wasn't as great a turnout as one would like, but we blamed the sleet & rain for this. Many thanks to Jim and Don Trow for coming to our rescue with their horses & wagons. Thank you to the residents of Town who turned out to Christmas Carol with Noralee Sysyn and son Jim. Carol Deyo, thank you for the refreshments and a very special thanks to Santa, who arrived on time.

I would like to remind residents that we certainly can use help. If you would like to volunteer an evening or weekend afternoon for volleyball or basketball, we would love to hear from you.

Last but not least, we would like to thank Sfa Whittemore for her many years on the Recreation Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Recreation Committee
Susan Seneschal, Chairperson

BENNINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1996 was a year of surprises both nationally and locally. We endured a very long and severe winter; in January the blizzard of '96 arrived and at my house on Greenfield Road an incredible 32 inches of snow piled up. The season total for New Hampshire, 112 inches, was the largest amount ever recorded.

At School and Town Meetings citizens of Bennington voiced their desire to retain the Pierce School building; at a special school meeting the people reiterated their concerns about keeping Pierce School and adding on to it to meet increasing needs.

Properties purchased by Conval to add to the acreage include the Helen Broderick house on Francestown Road and the old First National Store on Main Street. The brick stone building, owned by the Primary Bank (formerly Peterborough Savings Bank), has been used as a two apartment rental since 1971.

The building was built in 1820 by the Whitmore family; the bricks were handmade on land owned by the late J. Prentice Weston, Stony Brook Farm, on the Greenfield Road. It was originally known as the Joslin store; the building housed the Post Office and Western Union office. During Joslin's time, you could buy shoes, clothing, food, fresh meat and even carriages for horses! In the 1930's it became the First National Store and in 1958 was a meat market. It took a wrecking ball only three hours to demolish this historic old building.

The school formula charges were changed to 50% valuation/50% number of pupils, which helped the Town to lower property taxes 17 1/2%.

Crotched Mountain Ski Area was taken over by the Town after the Ski Area defaulted on their property taxes.

The race for Selectmen was a hot issue at election time; heavy campaigning took place on both sides. Terry Schnare defeated Marie Magoon, 372 votes to 237; John Cronin beat Glen Loucks 365 votes to 250. Town Moderator James Dodge retained his office by a large majority; Peter Cordatos ran against him.

Newly-appointed Town Clerk Valerie Germain and deputy Debi Belcher have become Certified Municipal Agents; license plates are to follow.

The Bennington Recreation Committee has continued to sponsor recreational activities in Town, including the popular Haunted Hayride.

The local VFW also organized the Town's Memorial Day Parade and decoration of the graves of military veterans.

The Bennington Historical Society Museum was visited by sixty-five people. A gift of a heating system for the museum was generously donated by Pearl Walker. Ellen Hill purchased for the society a silk on linen sampler dated 1841; it was stitched by Roxanne Colby in memory of her deceased husband John Colby. The sampler was made in and signed "Society Land" - the only piece of needlework found to date with that town name.

The Historical Society has received many other gifts which are on display at the Museum - we extend our thanks and appreciation to all.

The Society donated \$600 to the Town for the purchase of granite to be installed at the church side of the Town Common. We look forward to the Town's installation of a water supply at the Common.

Don't forget the Historical Society's Baked Ham Dinner in August and the Turkey Dinner in October. We can use everyone's help in putting together historic data and can also use help in "Museum Sitting"; please call 588-2143 or 588-2327.

Respectfully submitted,
David A. Glynn, President
Bennington Historical Society

ELECTION REPORT

1996 was a very busy year for elections. Bennington voters had 4 opportunities to vote at the polls - the Presidential Primary, Town Election, the State Primary and the General Election - as well as regular Town and School District meetings. As usual, Bennington voter turnout is higher than average. It's gratifying to see so many of our neighbors taking the time to participate. Keep up the good work!

One major change in the voting process has already taken place. You will see another when you vote on Town Election Day this year.

The first change is Same-day registration. This allows new voters to register at the polls on voting day. All they need to bring is a driver's license or other proof of residency. We saw many new voters this year, and most of them registered at the polls - 46 on November 5th alone! Welcome to all you new voters!!!

The second change is Official Ballot voting for Town Meeting. Bennington voters chose this option last year. While we will still have our regular Town Meeting, voters will now be able to vote on warrant articles at the polls on Town Election Day. Be prepared for a few extra ballots - and don't forget to attend the Budget Hearing and Town Meeting so you can learn more about the warrant articles before you vote. If you can't make the meetings, sample ballots will be available at the Town Hall in the weeks prior to voting.

The Supervisors are proud to report that the Bennington Voter Checklist is now fully computerized. Copies of the checklist are available on request for \$10 in both paper and computer disk forms. We have also created a file of registration cards for the Town Clerk. This file is open to inspection during normal business hours. Election checklists back to 1990 are also available for inspection.

Finally, it is with regret that we must note the retirement of Betsy Chase and Russ Young, who have given their time to the Town as Supervisors of the Checklist. Thank you, Betsy and Russ, for your many years of service.

The challenge of democracy is that it requires our participation. We thank all of you who continue to step forward to run for and serve as elected officials. We also thank all of you who turn out to vote, regardless of the weather. We hope turn-out will only increase, as it takes all of us to keep the wheels of the ever-changing experiment we call democracy turning.

Respectfully Submitted,
Supervisors of the Checklist,
Victoria Turner
Dawn A. Bond
Linda Osienski

BENNINGTON STREET LIGHT COMMITTEE

The Committee agrees on the following matters:

- 1) **QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF LIGHT** - The orange glow put off by high pressure sodium lights is objectionable to many. In addition, PSNH's proposal calls for an increase in the amount of light (lumens) in Town. Committee members feel that there is enough light in town currently to provide ample safety and security for residents. Concern was expressed that having too much light and changing the color of the lights in town would adversely affect the cozy small town feeling of Bennington.
- 2) **FINANCING OF REPLACEMENT LIGHTS** - The Committee feels that the initial capital expenditure for sodium lights is more than the Town can afford at this time. While there is an energy and cost savings associated with sodium lights, the Town would be required to put the entire cost up front in one year, while the energy/cost savings would be realized slowly over a number of years.
- 3) **UNCERTAIN REGULATORY FUTURE** - In the wake of many recent changes in New Hampshire's attitude toward PSNH's monopoly status, it seems to be a bad time to lock ourselves into any major deal with PSNH at this time. On May 13, 1996 the NH Supreme Court unanimously upheld the Public Utilities Commission's ruling that PSNH does not have a legally enforceable monopoly in NH. In June of this year, the Legislature passed the Electricity Restructuring Act of 1996, which mandates that, not later than July of 1998, statewide competition is to be available to all electric customers in NH. The Committee feels that locking us into this deal now might lock Bennington out of choosing another electric provider at a later date. We feel that it would be better to see what options become open to municipalities in the future should electric competition become a reality.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Street Light Committee recommends not to go along with PSNH's proposal at this time because:

- A) We can't afford it.
- B) Bennington has enough light and does not need to be brighter or ugly and orange.
- C) We should wait until the electrical industry regulatory changes, which seem inevitable, take place and we are more certain that these changes are long-lasting.
- D) **FURTHER STUDY:** Committee members expressed an interest in keeping the Committee alive to study several things: 1) To make a map of the lights in Town so that further discussions of Bennington lighting would be easier; 2) To explore energy

saving options and technology which may or may not be viable, such as motion detectors or timers for lights and 3) To determine whether there are redundant lights that the Town could save money by eliminating or reducing wattage.

Respectfully Submitted,
Street Light Committee
Norm Bennett
Betty Coffin
Bruce Hall
Victoria Turner, Chairman

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF BENNINGTON

Conflicts Of Interest Described And Regulated

The Town of Bennington, New Hampshire, pursuant to RSA 31:39-a, ordains as follows:

I. DECLARATION OF POLICY: Where government is based on the consent of the governed, every citizen is entitled to have complete confidence in the integrity of that government. All persons performing a public trust, engaged in the Town's business or in their duties as Town Officers or Employees, whether elected or appointed, including paid or unpaid members of municipal boards, commissions and committees, must earn and honor that trust by their conduct in all official actions. It is the purpose of this ordinance to ensure fair consideration of any application or matter to be voted upon, and also to ensure the appearance of fairness so as to maintain public confidence in the integrity of Town government.

II. DISCLOSURE OF POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Whenever any Officer has a possible or potential conflict of interest as described in Section V, with respect to any matter upon which that Officer is to make a decision, either legislative or quasi-judicial, that Officer shall disclose the facts constituting the possible conflict of interest at a public meeting of the Board of which he or she is a member, or in some other effective public forum; provided, however, that any Officer who steps down pursuant to Section III need not disclose reasons for doing so.

III. DISQUALIFICATION IN QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTERS: Whenever any Officer has a conflict of interest, as described in Section V, with respect to a matter upon which that Officer is to make a decision in a quasi-judicial capacity, and that conflict of interest is definite, direct, and capable of demonstration, rather than remote, uncertain, or so speculative that reasonable persons would not be influenced by it, that Officer shall be disqualified and shall step down. Officers who are to make legislative decisions shall neither be required to, or prohibited from, stepping down under this ordinance.

An Officer required to step down under this section shall not decide or vote on the matter under consideration, shall not participate in any Board deliberation or discussion of the matter, except as a member of the public at a public hearing, and shall not sit with the remainder of the Board during its consideration of the matter.

IV. RESOLUTION OF UNCERTAINTY; PROCEDURE: Whenever uncertainty arises as to the application of Section III to an Officer acting as a member of a Board, the Board shall, upon request of that member or another member of the Board, vote on the question of whether that member should step down. Any such request shall be made prior to the commencement of any public hearing, or immediately following a disclosure under Section II, whichever is later. The Officer shall step down if the Board so determines by majority vote.

V. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DESCRIBED: The following circumstances shall constitute possible conflicts of interest under this ordinance:

1. PECUNIARY INTEREST: A personal and pecuniary interest by the Officer in the outcome of the decision. Such interest includes, but is not limited to, an ownership interest in property affected, a mortgage interest, a creditor or debtor relationship with a party in the matter, or a business relationship with a party in the matter.

2. KINSHIP: A relationship by blood or marriage with a party in the matter, including the relationship of spouse, parent, child, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild.

3. EMPLOYMENT: Employment of or by a party in the matter under consideration.

4. ABUTTER: Ownership of land abutting land under consideration in the matter.

5. PREJUDGMENT: A prior public statement or position indicative of bias for or against the matter under consideration. Prejudgment does not include statements or votes made during prior official action concerning the same subject matter (Example: ZBA vote on a variance request does not constitute prejudgment of a request for reconsideration of that same vote).

6. COMBINATION: Any combination of the above factors. (Example: relationship by blood or marriage to an abutter.)

VI. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISTINGUISHED FROM INELIGIBILITY
Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to render any person ineligible to hold any office or position.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF BENNINGTON
Proposed Changes

I. [No change]

II. Amended to read:

DISCLOSURE OF POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Whenever any Officer has a possible or potential conflict of interest as described in Section V, with respect to any matter upon which that Officer is to make a decision, either legislative or quasi-judicial, that Officer shall publicly disclose the nature and extent of the possible conflict of interest at a public meeting of the Board of which he or she is a member, or in some other effective public forum; this information to be duly recorded in the minutes.

III. Amended to read:

DISQUALIFICATION:

Whenever any Officer has a conflict of interest, as described in Section V, with respect to a matter upon which that Officer is to make a decision in a legislative or quasi-judicial capacity, that Officer shall be disqualified and shall step down.

{the second paragraph remains the same}

IV. [No change]

V. [No change]

VI. [No change]

Add a section that reads:

VII. CONDUCT:

No Public Official shall:

1. participate in any hearing, debate, discussion or vote, or in any manner otherwise attempt to influence the outcome of a matter in which he or she has an interest;
2. utilize information obtained in such capacity for his or her own personal benefit or that of his or her clients or the clients of the organization with which the public official is associated;
3. appear on behalf of a client before any governmental body of which the public official is a member or whose members have been appointed by the governmental body of which the public official is a member;

4. accept anything of value from any person or organization when the public official knows or reasonably should know that the offer is for the purpose of influencing the public official's actions or decisions;
5. use his or her official position to influence or to attempt to influence any governmental body to act in favor of the public official or the public official's clients or the clients of the organization with which the public official is associated.

These amendments and additions shall take effect upon passage.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE
LEGAL OPINION**

Town Counsel
William Drescher, Attorney

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is my opinion that the proposed warrant article, as well as the current ordinance, are, to the extent addressed below, ill advised and subject to the possibility of legal challenge for the reasons identified. The reasons are:

Removal in the Event of Alleged Conflict: It is my opinion that this ordinance should be changed to provide that the issue of removal, once raised and determined by the board, will not result in the immediate removal from the board until a superior court has had the opportunity to review the matter.

Removal of Distinction Between Legislative and Judicial Functions: While I cannot say with certainty that the feature elaborated on below under this section would be grounds, per se, for a finding that the ordinance was illegal, I can say that the degree to which it apparently would inhibit legitimate legislative conduct and involvement, could arguably be grounds for such a contention and, at a minimum, will undoubtedly impede the ability of the town's boards, when acting in legislative capacity, from carrying out their functions.

Mandatory Disclosure of Conflict Information: This feature of the proposed amendment would, if adopted, at a minimum, present a considerable chilling effect on the motivation of local citizens to serve in virtually any capacity on boards or committees of the town. While it is clear that disclosure of the details of a potential conflict is essential if the issue of the existence of the conflict is contested or to be litigated, it is equally clear that such an inquiry does little to serve the purpose for which the ordinance exists if the official in question is willing to voluntarily remove him/her self from the proceedings. As such, the ordinance arguably could be invalidated, at least in part, for failure to serve the legitimate public purpose for which it was passed.

PROPOSED DOG ORDINANCE

RSA 466:31

Dogs a Menace, a Nuisance or Vicious

I. Any person who considers a dog to be a nuisance, a menace or vicious to persons, to property or to other animals may make a complaint in writing to any law enforcement officer, conservation officer, or a selectman of the town or city in which such dog is kept. Such officers or selectman shall within 3 days after receipt of such complaint, investigate the facts and circumstances of this case, and if the complaint is sustained shall forthwith order the owner, keeper or person who harbors such dog to abate the nuisance or menace. Service of such order shall be made upon the owner, keeper or person who harbors such dog by any law enforcement officer by causing a certified copy of such order to be delivered to him or by registered mail to his last known place of abode. Any owner, keeper or person who harbors such dog upon whom notice of such order has been served may, within 10 days, bring a petition to the municipal or district court for the town or city, as the case may be, praying that the order be reviewed by the court. After notice to the investigating officers and the person or persons making the complaint, and upon hearing, the court shall affirm, modify or dismiss such action as justice may require. During the pendency of such action and the order of the justice of the court, the owner, keeper or person who harbors such dog shall restrain such dog from running at large at all times.

I. Under this section, a dog is considered to be a nuisance, a menace, or vicious to persons or property under any or all, but not limited to, the following conditions:

- (a) If it barks for sustained periods of time, or during the night hours so as to disturb the peace and quiet of the neighborhood or area;
- (b) If it digs, scratches, excretes, or causes waste or garbage to be scattered on property other than the owner's;
- (c) If any female dog in season (heat) is permitted to run at large or be off the premises of the owner or keeper during this period except when being exercised on a leash by a responsible adult. At all other times such dog shall be confined within a building or enclosure in such a manner that she will not come in contact (except for intentional breeding purposes) with a male dog. A female dog in heat shall not be used for hunting;
- (d) If it growls, snaps at, runs after or chases any person or persons;
- (e) If it runs after, chases bicycles, motor vehicles, motorcycles, or other vehicles being driven, pulled or pushed on the streets, highways or public ways;

(f) If, whether alone or in a pack with other dogs, it bites, attacks, or preys on game animals, domestic animals, fowl or human beings.

II-a. If the skin of a person has been punctured by a dog and the incident was reported, including the identity of the dog and its owner, to the animal officer, if any, or to the town clerk, such officer or clerk shall, within 24 hours, notify the injured person, or, in the case of a minor, the minor's parent or guardian, whether, according to town records, the dog has been appropriately immunized against rabies.

III. Any person who fails, by appropriate action including but not limited to restraining an animal from running at large, or otherwise effectively abating a nuisance found such under the provisions of this section, or who fails to comply with any other provisions of this section after being so ordered, shall have his dog taken into custody by the police of the city or constable of the town and such disposition made of the dog as the court may order.

RSA 466:31-a Penalties

I. Any person who violates any provision of RSA 466:31 shall be guilty of a violation; provided that if such person chooses to pay the civil forfeiture specified in paragraph II, he shall be deemed to have waived his right to have the case heard in district or municipal court and he shall not be prosecuted or found guilty of a violation of RSA 466:31. Any person who does not pay the civil forfeiture specified in paragraph II shall have the case disposed of in district or municipal court.

II. Any person who violates any of the provisions of RSA 466:31 shall be liable for a civil forfeiture, which shall be paid to the clerk of the town or city wherein such dog is owned or kept within 96 hours of the date and time notice is given by any law enforcement officer to the owner or keeper of a dog in violation of RSA 466:31. If the forfeiture is paid, said payment shall be in the amount as specified for the following violations:

(a) \$25 for nuisance offenses under RSA 466:31, II (a), (b) or (c).

(b) \$50 for menace offenses under RSA 466:31, II (d) or (e).

(c) \$100 for vicious offenses under RSA 466:31, II (f).

III. Any person who pays a civil forfeiture specified in paragraph II 2 times in any year, according to the records of the town or city clerk, may not pay a civil forfeiture for subsequent violations of RSA 466:31 in that year, but shall have those cases disposed of in district or municipal court.

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 1996 TOWN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Moderator James G. Dodge at 8:00 a.m. Father Andre Bedard was present and shared a prayer prior to the polls opening. Motion was made and seconded that the polls would be open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The results of Article 1; "To choose all necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing" :

Selectman For Three Years	Terry D. Schnare
Selectman For One Year	John J. Cronin, III
Town Moderator	James G. Dodge
Supervisor Of Checklist Five Years	Victoria L. Turner
Supervisor Of Checklist Six Years	Elizabeth M. Chase
Town Clerk	Valerie Germain
Cemetery Trustee Three Years	Philip Traxler
Library Trustee Three Years	Lise Lemieux
Treasurer	Joyce Miner
Trustee of Trust Funds Three Years	Francesco Carrara
Water/Sewer Commissioner 3 Years	Timothy J. Attridge
Fire Chief For One Year	Nick Collemacine
1st Deputy Fire Chief For One Year	Timothy J. Attridge
2nd Deputy Fire Chief For One Year	Allan Wilson
Conval School Board Moderator	Gary W. Gagnon

When the polls opened at 8:00 a.m., the Voter Checklist contained 759 names. During the day 63 new voters were added to the Checklist. When the polls closed at 8:00 p.m. the Voter Checklist totaled 822 voters. A total of 620 voters (75.4%) participated in this election.

Article 2. "Shall we adopt provisions of RSA 40:13 to allow ballot voting on all issues before the Town?" By paper ballot, the vote was "YES" - 443; "NO" - 127. The article required a 60% favorable vote for passage. The article passed by a margin of 77.7%.

Also voted on, at the polls this date, were three Proposed Amendments to the Articles of Agreement (Contoocook Valley School District). A summary of the three ballot votes is as follows:

1. To amend the funding of expenses of the school district to be apportioned 50% on average daily membership and 50% on the equalized evaluation of each town. Bennington's vote was "YES" - 599; "NO" - 13. District-wide the article needed 2/3 majority to pass. The actual vote for the Conval School District was 69.55% affirmative.

2. To amend the funding of expenses of the school district to be apportioned 100% on the average daily membership. Bennington's vote was "YES" - 46; "NO" - 537. The article failed throughout the Conval School District.
3. To adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Conval School District. Bennington's vote was "YES" - 472; "NO" - 117. District-wide the article needed 3/5 majority to pass. The actual vote for the Conval School District was 70.24% affirmative.

The meeting was recessed until Saturday, March 16, 1996 at which time the business articles would be taken up.

Town Meeting reconvened on Saturday, March 16, 1996 at the Great Brook Middle School in Antrim, New Hampshire. The Moderator, James G. Dodge, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. He reviewed the rules of the meeting and code of conduct expected. These were adopted by voice vote. Mr. Dodge thanked the individuals who worked from 7:30 a.m. to midnight on election day. He also thanked the volunteer fire department for their assistance in making the fire station an effective place for the town election.

The Moderator read aloud the results of Tuesday's election. He asked that all those people who were elected to public office to come forward at the end of this business meeting to be sworn in to their respective positions - excluding the two successful selectmen candidates. He announced that written requests had been received from Glenn Loucks and Marie Magoon relative to a recount of ballots for each of those contested selectman races. The recount will be conducted March 20th. After the recount is concluded the two selectmen will be sworn in at that time.

The Moderator also announced the results of balloting on Article 2 - "the official ballot". Based on its passage, Mr. Dodge reviewed the anticipated course of action for future town business. This 1996 annual town meeting could be the last of its kind where the articles are publicly discussed and immediately voted on - either by voice vote, a show of hands or by secret yes/no balloting. Photos and video recording of this meeting were done by the Bennington Historical Society.

The town meeting was attended by 122 registered voters.

Article 3. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fourteen thousand six-hundred thirty-one dollars (\$14,631) for the purchase and installation of high pressure sodium street lights or other cost saving measures to replace present street lights." The conversion is projected to save \$3,800 annually. Payback for the upgrade would be 3.6 years. There was much discussion on

alternative means of street lighting. There were strong feelings that the yellow/orange illumination was offensive. A motion was made by John Cronin, III, and seconded, "to amend the current Article #3 as follows: To empower the Selectmen to appoint a study committee to make recommendations at the next Town Meeting concerning alternative street lighting." The amendment passed by voice vote. The vote on the main article passed by voice vote. A study committee will be appointed by the Selectmen.

Article 4. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to reimburse Supervisors of the Checklist in accordance with the number of elections mandated annually; to set that fee beginning in 1996 at seventy-five (\$75.00) per election; and to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) to be added to the amount in Line Item 4140-2-1330 to put that into effect." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 5. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) as Bennington's share (22.87%) of the cost of dredging the septic lagoon in Antrim which serves the Town's septic disposal needs. The dredging is necessary to comply with State and Federal wastewater management standards." An Agreement with the Town of Antrim was executed in November, 1993 whereby the Town of Bennington owns 25% of the sewage treatment plant. Expenses are based on the actual flow volume. Peter K. Martel made a motion to amend Article #5 as follows "The costs of this article will be charged to the users of the system." The motion was not seconded. The motion was denied. By voice vote, the main article was passed.

Article 6. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to fund line item 4210-6-120 in the Police Department 1996 budget request." The article stirred a lot of debate relative to the extent of police coverage and staffing. A motion was made by Joseph Cuddemi, and seconded, "To put the part-time officer out for study by a committee of five, appointed by the Moderator, and return next year with their finding." Using secret yes/no ballots (A), the vote on the amendment was "Yes" - 37, "No" - 81. The amendment failed. The vote on the main article was done by secret yes/no ballots (B). The result was "Yes" - 67; "No" - 45. The article passed.

Article 7. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. The article passed by voice vote.

Article 8. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote (1) to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) to be placed in the Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund and (2) to authorize withdrawal from that fund such funds as necessary for the purchase of a new Rescue Vehicle; said vehicles and amount to be determined by the Board of Selectmen." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 9. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000.00) to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 10. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the Highway Equipment/Truck Capital Reserve Fund." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 11. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) to be placed in the Library Capital Reserve Fund." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 12. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand one hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$5,187.00) to purchase the following Fire Department Equipment: a CO Tester (CO2 was on printed on the original warrant - a typo!), hose, forestry tools, replacement clothing/gear and one air pack." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 13. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500.00) for replacement of second-floor windows at the Bennington Fire Station." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 14. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) for repair of the Fire Station roof using either metal or other appropriate replacement/repair material." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 15. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate its share, the sum of eight thousand three hundred ten dollars (\$8,310.00) to perform water testing, gas survey monitoring, topography testing and the mowing of grass at the former Tri-Town Landfill, all as required by the Post-Closure Agreement with the State of New Hampshire; the costs of which are shared by Antrim, Bennington and Frankestown." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 16. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00) as its share of 1996-1997 programming for Project LIFT (Fuller Public Library, Hillsboro) which provides literacy services and materials to Bennington residents over 16 years of age. This appropriation will be made only if Federal program funding does not materialize." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 17. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eight hundred sixty eight thousand four hundred seventy one dollars (\$868,471.00) which represents the 1996 operating budget, said sum exclusive of all Special Articles addressed (3-16)." The article passed by voice vote.

Article 18. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to increase water and sewer rates by twenty percent (20%) over the existing rate schedule. Copies of the existing rate schedule are available at Town Hall." After much discussion on the pros and cons of the 20% increase in both water and sewer rates a motion was made by Tom Carr, and seconded, to "amend Article #18 to read 10% each of the next two years increase." By a show of hands, the vote on the amendment was "Yes" - 37; "No" - 41. The proposed amendment failed. Motion was made by Jim Cleary, and seconded, "to see if the Town will vote to increase water and sewer rates by ten percent over the existing rate schedule. Copies of the existing rate schedule are available at Town Hall." By a show of hands, this proposed amendment passed. The vote on the main article passed by voice vote.

Article 19. Motion was made and seconded to see whether "the Town will accept the provisions of RSA 41:8, 31:39 and 259:60 to adopt an Ordinance defining and regulating certain misuse of motor vehicles on public ways." The full text of the Ordinance was printed in the Town Report. A typographical error was brought to the voters' attention. The fine (penalty) should read "not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense" - not five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). The article passed by voice vote.

Article 20. Motion was made and seconded "to see if the Town will vote to urge our representatives to the General Court of New Hampshire and the United States Congress to pass laws reforming electoral campaign financing, thus returning the political process to the will of the people and encouraging the participation of candidates with great ability and limited means." The article passed by voice vote.

Following the discussion of 1996 warrant articles, Joseph MacGregor nominated the names of Edward French and Charles Lindsay to be added to the Town of Bennington Plaque of Honor. The plaque is to be located in the Town Hall in a prominent place and the cost of updating the plaque shall come from the general funds. The proposal was approved by a round of applause in memory of the two veteran public servants.

John Cronin suggested that the Selectmen be authorized to appoint a five person Selectmen's Advisory Committee to assist the Selectmen and the Town on matters including, but not limited to, Long Range Planning and Needs; Local and Community Development; Inter-Departmental Cooperation; Administrative Structure; and the Pierce School and the Conval School District. Voter approval was granted to form a Selectmen's Advisory Committee. It is hoped that those who were not elected would pledge their time and energy to help on the committee.

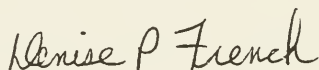
Mark Tazelaar, Bennington School Board Representative, congratulated James Cleary, Chairman of the School Site Committee, the school site committee members, Glenn Loucks and Marie Magoon for their hard work relative to the location of our elementary school. A straw poll of the voters indicated that 70% of the voters wish to see the present Pierce School renovated and the elementary school remain in the center of town. The

Conval School District has apparently agreed to abide by this overwhelming consensus. Mark also congratulated the voters on their efforts at the polls on Tuesday. It has been said that the large amount of Bennington residents that turned out to vote had a direct impact on the successful passage of the 50/50 funding formula. Mr. Tazelaar reminded the audience how important it was to follow through and vote for new elementary schools at the Conval School District Meeting on March 23, 1996.

Silvio Zanga led the audience in a standing ovation in honor of William Reid, Administrative Assistant, for all his hard work and dedication to the Town and its residents.

There being no other business, the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise P French".

Denise P. French
Town Clerk

Births Registered In The Town Of Bennington For The Year Ending December 31, 1996

<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place of Birth</u>	<u>Child's Name</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Mother's Maiden Name</u>
01/16/96	Peterborough, NH	Courtney Lauren Gagnon	Not stated	Sara L. Brissette
01/30/96	Peterborough, NH	Timothy James David McGuigan Smith	Frank G. Smith	Linda D. Withington
02/11/96	Peterborough, NH	Angela Mary Lafave	Shannon P. Lafave	Lisa J. Landry
03/15/96	Keene, NH	Talyn MacKenzie Green	James D. Smart	Susan Green
04/05/96	Peterborough, NH	Jeremey Neil Smith	Not stated	Tammi L. Earle
05/02/96	Peterborough, NH	Tessa Rhea Davison	Roland R. Davison	Tina M. Judkins
05/03/96	Manchester, NH	Kelsea Elizabeth Colburn	Dana T. Colburn	Maryann F. Henderson
05/08/96	Peterborough, NH	John Lewis Voorhees	Christopher C. Voorhees	Pamela J. Brissette
06/03/96	Peterborough, NH	Arianna Francesca Christine Zrzavy	Helfried C. Zrzavy	Phyllis A. Scrocco
06/14/96	Peterborough, NH	Nicole Marie Tatro	Steven J. Tatro	Karen M. Bergan
08/14/96	Peterborough, NH	Nathaniel Loren Coombs	Robert P. Coombs	Deborah M. Pero
08/14/96	Manchester, NH	Christopher Ryan Ouellette	Stephen P. Ouellette	Tracy E. Halden
08/23/96	Peterborough, NH	Normand Irving Corthell	Bryan D. Corthell	Martha L. Vasquez

08/24/96	Lebanon, NH	Stephanie Marie Woods	Patrick R. Woods	Nancy M. McGuire
12/01/96	Peterborough, NH	Brian Roger Brewer Jr.	Brian R. Brewer	Patricia N. Shattuck
12/21/96	Peterborough, NH	Anna Noel Magee	George R. Magee IV	Melissa A. Wolfskill
12/31/96	Peterborough, NH	Tasha Sue Zabriskie	Michael Albert Zabriskie	Dorothy Ann Gates

I hereby certify that the above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Valerie Germain, Town Clerk

Deaths Registered In The Town Of Bennington For The Year Ending December 31, 1996

<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Place of Death</u>	<u>Name & Surname of Deceased</u>	<u>Name of Father</u>	<u>Maiden Name of Mother</u>
02/12/96	Bennington, NH	Libra Marie Wilson	Edward Senprini	Theresa Fabri
02/26/96	Peterborough, NH	Barbara Costanzo	Peter Merlini Jr.	Edna Annis
02/29/96	Concord, NH	Audrey Anne Wilson	Leo St. Pierre	Yvonne Berard
04/29/96	Peterborough, NH	Antonio Rosa Fernandez	Cecilio Rosa	Ramona Fernandez
05/19/96	Peterborough, NH	Benton L. Tucker	Robert Tucker	Gladys Sweitzer
05/29/96	Peterborough, NH	Edna Dorothy Baker Glover	John Baker	Margaret Frolich
07/26/96	Bennington, NH	Helen Elizabeth Brooks Cass	Richard Leroy Brooks	Myrtle Marion Chamberlain
07/30/96	Concord, NH	Jill Elizabeth Hirsh	Herman F. Hirsh	Sara E. Keisen
09/21/96	Bennington, NH	Stephen J. Skubik	unknown	unknown
11/06/96	Bennington, NH	Robert C. Crowley Jr.	Robert C. Crowley Sr.	Dorothy M. Hushion

I hereby certify that the above report is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Valerie Germain, Town Clerk

Marriages Registered In The Town Of Bennington For The Year Ending December 31, 1996

<u>Date of Ceremony</u>	<u>Name of Bride & Groom</u>	<u>Residence</u>
04/05/96	Tina Marie Judkins Roland Richard Davison III	Bennington, NH Bennington, NH
05/25/96	Dorothy Ann Gates Michael A. Zabriskie	Bennington, NH Bennington, NH
06/15/96	Christa Kathryn Tenney Christopher Robert Salamy	Antrim, NH Peterborough, NH
06/16/96	Dawn Frances Giraldo David Allan Kimball	Bennington, NH Keene, NH
06/22/96	Leslie Marie Strickland John Thomas Daley III	Bennington, NH Bennington, NH
09/07/96	Stacy Anne Hinton Todd Alan Clough	Bennington, NH Bennington, NH
09/09/96	Susan Grace Young Terry Alan Barnes	Bennington, NH Bennington, NH
09/29/96	Debra M. Whitney Paul E. Whitney	Bennington, NH Bennington, NH
10/06/96	Elaine Marie Flanagan Todd Christopher Powell	Bennington, NH Bennington, NH
10/12/96	Gretchen Lynne Booth Geoffrey M. Garfinkle	Bennington, NH Bennington, NH

I hereby certify that the above report is correct of the best of my knowledge and belief.

Valerie Germain, Town Clerk

TOWN OF BENNINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

588-2189

Town Hall Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tax Collector Available during Town Hall office hours

Town Clerk Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - noon
Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - noon

MEETING SCHEDULES

Selectmen Every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

Planning Board Second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Library Trustees Second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
in the Library.

Recreation Committee Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Water & Sewer Commissioners First Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission Second Wednesday of each month at
7:30 p.m.

LIBRARY HOURS

588-6585

Monday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday Noon - 8:00 p.m.
Friday Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
(staffed by volunteers)

RECYCLING/TRANSFER STATION HOURS

588-3407

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Photo Credit: Chief Steve Campbell

Cover Photo: One of Bennington's early landmarks, the Adams Tavern was built by Arnold Burt in 1839 on the site of the current Pierce School. The Tavern burned to the ground on April 12, 1915.

