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Vassalboro, (Me.)

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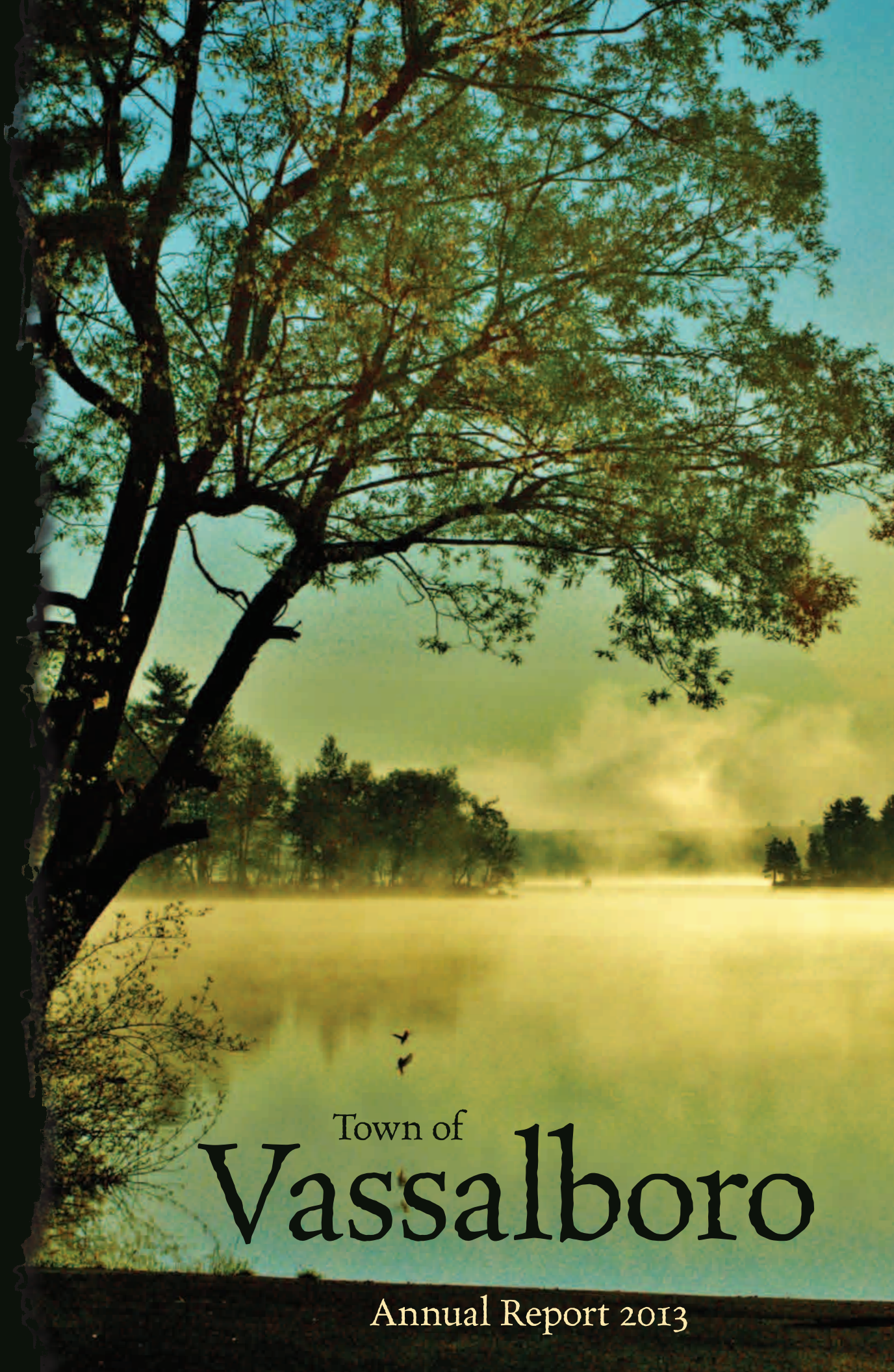

Town of Vassalboro

Annual Report 2013

Front & Back Cover Photos
Dan Feeney

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Courtesy of Fox Photo

Annual Report Design
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Benjamin H. Cates, Jr.
(1920-2014)

A young man, in his thirties, watched the face of his dying father as they listened together to the recording—a Christmas musical from church. The son had taped the music as he and his siblings sang that morning—rich harmonies, clear lyrics, superb solos, presented from the heart. Tears streamed down the face of the father, and the son realized it was the only time he had seen him cry. Within a few weeks the older man passed away, but the memory of those tears remained with his son for decades.

Recently Vassalboro lost the younger man himself, a native son. He was Benjamin Harold Cates, Jr., born in 1920 in the East Village, sixth child in a large family that would become an integral part of the life of the Town. When Ben was a toddler, the family moved into a rambling farmhouse on the corner of South Stanley Hill Road, boasting 65 acres of fields and woods, and long frontage on China Lake. Six more children would complete Ben's generation, filling the home with laughter, music, and mischief, learning hard work, integrity, faith, and creativity in the process of growing up.

From the beginning Ben loved music. While still a teenager, he accompanied Cates family sing-a-longs on his guitar. He sang in scores of impromptu quartets through the years and his clear tenor voice carried solo parts in numerous church and community events. His first professional barbershop quartet was called The Fortissimos. Then in 1972 he became a charter member of the Kennebec Valley Chordsmen, and was honored as Barbershopper of the Year in 1995.

Ben married Edna Winder from Pennsylvania. Their seven children—Robert, Richard, Gerald, William, Nancy, Randall, and George ("Moe") —grew up in East Vassalboro and attended local schools. Ben and Edna's marriage lasted for six decades, until her death in 2004 at the age of 83.

As a young man Ben studied accounting for two years at Bentley College in Boston. He worked in shipping and marketing at Harris Baking Company until 1957. At that point he and Edna bought his grandparents' store on the corner in East Vassalboro (now The Country Store). He represented the fourth generation—over a century—of Cateses to own the business, and moved his family into the living quarters above the store for a time.

The Cates family enjoyed a lifelong commitment to Friends Meeting (the Quaker Church), just up the hill from their farm. During World War II Ben, a conscientious objector because of his Quaker beliefs, served his country by building fire towers throughout New England.

During his long life Ben had several careers. In addition, he served the Town of Vassalboro in many volunteer positions—as Selectman, as Sanitary Treatment District trustee, and on several committees: appeals, budget, and cemetery. Whatever Ben did, he did well—whether it involved a paycheck or not! A friend testified, "There was something special about Ben. He never asked for much, but he gave a lot."

Last December a large group of Chordsmen made a visit to Oak Grove Center in Waterville, where 93-year-old Ben was a resident. Very ill by then, he seldom left his room; but at the request of his barber-shopper friends, the nurses wheeled him into the meeting room. The festive decorations and twinkling lights seemed out of place in the presence of his suffering. But at the sound of the pitch pipe, as the first smooth chords filled the room, Ben perked up. He lifted his head, eyes twinkling, and began to sing with them in a voice that was weak, but true. The familiar words, the satiny harmonies, went beyond his infirmity to his heart. Perhaps the singing even reached back half a century to that day when he saw his father cry. Music formed the background of his life, and it touched him once more that day.

Ben Cates breathed his last on January 15, 2014. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

©2014, by Vicki Reynolds Schad, with help from the Historical Society, Paul and Gerald and Bob Cates, and Tim Giroux

TOWN INFORMATION

Emergency	911
Town Office	872-2826
Public Works	923-3985
Transfer Station	923-3051
School	923-3100
Library	923-3233
Animal Control	458-4853
Police Chief - Non Emergency	622-7730

Vassalboro Town Office

682 Main Street

PO Box 129

North Vassalboro, Maine 04962

Phone: (207) 872-2826

Fax: (207) 872-5414

Hours:

Monday thru Wednesday	8:00am to 4:00pm
Thursday	8:00am to 6:30pm
Friday	8:00am to 12pm

Closed Saturday, Sunday and all Holidays.

www.Vassalboro.net

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TOWN MANAGER'S STORY

Mary Sabins
Vassalboro Town Manager

Over the past year in 2013, the Selectmen and I have worked on many issues facing the town, and we continue to implement the wishes of the voters indicated at town meeting. Immediately after town meeting, the Selectmen worked with the Fire Department officers to bid out a tanker truck that was authorized for purchase. The bid price of $266,065 was accepted from Greenwood Emergency Vehicles. After months of waiting for the truck to be built to our Department's specifications, the truck was delivered to the Riverside Fire Station in mid-March 2014.

Another large ticket item purchased this year, was the new one-ton public works truck equipped with a sander and plow. The winning bidders for this equipment were Hight/Chrysler of Madison at a price of $27,690 for the cab and chassis with trade-in; and Viking Cives of Sidney at a price of $50,747 for the sander and plows.

A new metal roof was installed on the Town Office in the fall by C.O. Beck of Waterville at a bid price of $27,690. Even though the Town Office building is only fourteen years old, the old asphalt shingles were worn out and curling, and needed replacement before major water damage occurred. The new roof is projected to last at least three decades, maybe more. A new taller fiberglass flagpole was also installed in front of the town office at about the same time to replace the old one with worn out mechanisms.

Volunteerism continues to be evident in town with the purchase and installation of a hundred American Flags along Main Street in the North and East Village areas, thanks to the Vassalboro Business Association. This group also sponsors the annual Vassalboro Days Event the weekend after Labor Day, which includes the fun Double Dam Ducky Derby, a fundraising activity that is entertaining to watch and a sure crowd pleaser. We appreciate the efforts made by this group to provide fun family activities, and for their support of the community.

Another volunteer recognized this year for his accomplishments was Ray Breton. Ray was presented the 2013 Spirit of America Award by the Board of Selectmen at the annual town meeting in June. Ray was recognized for his efforts to obtain and clean up several dilapidated properties in the North Village area and for developing recreational and swimming opportunities on his property for all Vassalboro Residents, especially the young adults, to use and enjoy.

(L to R): Lauchlin Titus, Phil Haines, Ray Breton - recipient of the Spirit of America Award, and Rob Browne.

Last year's Spirit of America award winner Holly Weidner continues to volunteer her time and skill set to the benefit of the town. This past year, Holly has written a successful grant application to the Maine Department of Transportation for sidewalks in the East Village area. This grant was applied for after receipt of voter approval to submit the grant at the June 2011 town meeting. Voters will be asked to reaffirm the funding for this article at the annual town meeting, and once approved, implementation of the grant will be phased in as funding becomes available from the federal government within the next few years.

Looking forward to the upcoming town meeting in June, the voters will be asked to support a proposal to designate a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) District as a result of the installation of a natural gas pipeline along Route #201 last summer. The assessed value of the new pipeline will increase the Town's overall valuation significantly. This in turn, because of funding formulas used, will reduce the amount of State Education Subsidy that the Town receives, and increase the amount of County tax the Town will need to pay, and it will also reduce the amount of Municipal Revenue Sharing that the town receives from the State. The designation of a TIF district will result in "sheltering" the new assessment value of the pipeline and will prevent these undesired changes in revenue and assessments from happening. The Summit Natural Gas Company will still be assessed for their property at the same rate as other taxpayers, but the tax revenue the Town receives from Summit will be deposited into a separate, locally controlled fund that will be used for economic development projects that will benefit the town. A public hearing to explain all the details on this issue will be held at town meeting on June 2nd, prior to the vote. The public's participation in this meeting, and all other town-sponsored events, are welcomed and encouraged.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Selectmen, and all of my staff members who make it such a pleasure to come to work each day. Each one of them are dedicated professionals who perform their jobs well, and I am very proud to work alongside them to serve the residents of Vassalboro.

ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Selectmen (L to R): Phil Haines, Lauchlin Titus, and Rob Browne.

TELEPHONE	TERM EXPIRES	SELECTMAN/OVERSEERS	ADDRESS
873-2108	2014	Lauchlin Titus	1063 Main Street, Vassalboro
923-3391	2015	Philip Haines	702 Bog Road, Vassalboro
626-0966	2016	Robert Browne	9 Szady Drive, Vassalboro
		SCHOOL COMMITTEE	
445-5159	2014	Barry Bernier	165 Nelson Road, Vassalboro
872-7062	2016	Phillip Landry	10 St. Bridgetts Way, Vassalboro
872-8596	2016	Kevin Levasseur	209 Bog Road, Vassalboro
622-5341	2014	Lance Cloutier	1085 Riverside Drive, Vassalboro
923-4069	2015	Jolene Clark Gamage	1633 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
		PLANNING BOARD	
873-5226	2014	Virginia Brackett	20 Alpine Street, Vassalboro
	2014	Betsey Poulin	373 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3800	2015	Douglas Phillips	738 Bog Road, Vassalboro
923-3400	2015	Sally Butler	49 Taber Hill Road, Vassalboro
873-1601	2014	Marianne Hubert	53 Sherwood Lane, Vassalboro
	2015	Don Robbins, Alternate	254 Main Street, Vassalboro
		BUDGET COMMITTEE	
923-3729	2014	John Melrose	636 Bog Road, Vassalboro
873-7399	2015	Donald Breton	174 Cemetery Street, Vassalboro
622-7730	2014	Richard Phippen	492 Webber Pond Road, Vassalboro
873-9094	2014	Rick Denico, Jr.	237 Oak Grove Road, Vassalboro
923-3800	2014	Douglas Phillips	738 Bog Road, Vassalboro
923-3511	2014	Elizabeth Reuthe	924 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
873-2605	2015	Peggy Schaffer	22 Station Hill Road, Vassalboro
622-3096	2015	William Browne	793 Webber Pond Road, Vassalboro
872-5265	2015	William Whitley	67 Gray Road, Vassalboro
872-7268	2015	Lori Fowle	305 Taber Hill Road, Vassalboro
		BOARD OF APPEALS	
923-3231	2014	Peggy Cain	358 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
873-3911	2014	Gary Coull	36 Maple Street, Vassalboro
923-3185	2015	Kathy Lees	604 Bog Road, Vassalboro
923-3759	2015	Leon Duff	595 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3803	2015	John Reuthe	924 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro

TELEPHONE	TERM EXPIRES	RECREATION COMMITTEE	ADDRESS
441-5963	2014	Adam Loiko, Director	1241 Riverside Drive, Vassalboro
	2014	Peter Howard	
	2014	Kim Glidden	
	2014	Kevin Luczko	
	2014	Tiffany Luczko	
	2014	Ryan Redman	
	2014	Ben Loiko	
	2014	Jen Fortin	
		SANITARY DISTRICT	
692-2421	2014	Lee Trahan	132 Clinton Avenue, Winslow
872-5884	2016	Ray Breton	7 Priest Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3971	2015	Alfred Roy	12 So. Stanley Hill Road, Vassalboro
872-8803	2015	Marshall Roy	99 Main Street, Vassalboro
	2014	Vacant	
		TOWN CLERK	
872-2826	2014	Catherine Coyne	P.O. Box 82, N. Vassalboro
		KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT TRUSTEE	
873-3911	2016	Gary Coull	36 Maple Street, Vassalboro
		CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
	2016	Mary-Ellen Johnston	191 Priest Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3836	2016	Steve Jones	55 Quaker Lane, Vassalboro
923-3397	2014	Holly Weidner	320 Main Street, Vassalboro
	2014	Paul Mitnik	700 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3483	2015	David Jenney	844 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
		CEMETERY COMMITTEE	
622-8792	2014	Richard Kelly, Chairman	1091 Riverside Drive, Vassalboro
923-3411	2014	Tom Richards	508 Hussey Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3533	2014	Julie Lyon	360 Main Street, Vassalboro
872-2569	2014	Jim Ashton	859 Main Street, Vassalboro
923-3220	2014	Jane E. Aiudi	656 Bog Road, Vassalboro
		CAPITAL EXPENSES COMMITTEE	
873-9094	2014	Rick Denico, Jr.	237 Oak Grove Road, Vassalboro
872-8286	2014	Alan Dorval	28 Cook Hill Road, Vassalboro
923-3625	2014	Matt Masse	39 Masse Lane, Vassalboro
923-3342	2014	Dale Doughty	1639 Cross Hill Road, Vassalboro
877-0574	2014	Kevin Reed	757 Main Street, Vassalboro
		STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 24	
622-9921- home		Roger Katz	3 State House Station
287-1505 - office		senroger.katz@legislature.maine.gov	Augusta, Maine 04330
287-1583 - TTY			
		STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 58	
872-7268 - home		Lori Fowle	House of Representatives
287-1400- office		RepLori.Fowle@legislature.maine.gov	2 State House Station
287-4469 - TTY			Augusta, ME 04333-0002

126th Legislature

Senate of Maine

Senate District 24

Dear Neighbors,

It is my honor to serve you in the Maine Senate. It may sound corny, but I feel lucky every day I walk into the chamber, knowing that I have the opportunity to help make Maine a more prosperous state so that our children and grandchildren will have economic opportunity here.

Last session was filled with both accomplishments and disappointments. We were successful in passing a bipartisan budget and avoiding a state shutdown. Along with others, I worked hard to retain at least most of the revenue-sharing for our towns and cities that the Administration had sought to eliminate. We also passed a comprehensive energy bill which will help bring more natural gas to our area at a lower cost. That can be a real game – changer for our local economy.

The Workforce Development Committee, on which I served, passed landmark legislation to better match up our educational opportunities with the high-demand high-paying jobs of the future. Working with the Governor, we were able to hold onto many of the positive changes we made in the last Legislature in education, workers compensation and reducing the size and reach of state government. And I was proud to sponsor two bills which will keep the government from snooping into our cell phone records, texts, and emails without a warrant.

On the disappointment side I think we missed a golden opportunity to finally transform our antiquated tax system. I was part of the "Gang of 11" which proposed comprehensive tax reform to help make us more competitive with other states. We are all committed to continue the conversation. Additionally, I think we missed an opportunity by not participating in federal Medicaid expansion. I proposed an amendment which would have limited our participation to just those years in which the federal government was paying 100% of the cost. We are addressing the issue again this session.

Throughout the past year, I've tried to be an independent voice for the people I represent. I have tried to be a good listener and to weigh each issue separately. I may not always agree with my party, with our Governor, or even with you, but I try to make the best possible decisions I can.

The more I hear from you, the better job I can do. I hope you will continue to contact me in the future with your thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

Best,

Roger Katz
State Senator

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

359 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: http://www.King.Senate.gov

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

January 17, 2014

Town of Vassalboro,
682 Main Street,
Vassalboro, Maine 04962

Dear Friends,

Since arriving to the U.S. Senate last January, I have been looking for ways to provide Mainers with improved access to federal services through the use of digital technology and on the ground outreach initiatives. Maine is a rural state and I know that traveling to our offices can present both logistical and financial challenges.

To help overcome those obstacles, I launched our signature **Your Government Your Neighborhood** outreach program in June 2013. Every other week members of my staff in Maine travel to different towns – ensuring that all 16 counties are served each month - to hold constituent office hours for local residents.

Over the past eleven months my work in Washington has been largely shaped by the four committees that I serve on: Armed Services, Intelligence, Budget, and Rules. These appointments allow me to engage on issues important to Maine and help craft legislation before it comes to the Senate floor. On the Armed Services Committee I work with my colleagues to honor our obligations to members of our armed forces both past and present, as well as ensure the continued strength, efficiency, and sustainability of our military. On the Intelligence Committee I work to effectively mitigate security threats facing our country while also establishing measures to guarantee that the privacy rights of U.S. citizens are protected. On the Budget Committee, I am working to ensure that necessary spending is tempered with fiscal responsibility, and my position on the Rules Committee allows me to push for procedural reforms that remove institutional inefficiencies and help move the country forward.

I am tremendously grateful for the opportunity to serve you and determined to keep you informed of my activities in Maine and Washington. As always, I welcome any thoughts, questions, or concerns that you may have. You can visit my website at http://www.king.senate.gov and provide your input there, or call our toll free in state line at **1-800-432-1599**. In addition, our local numbers are as follows: Augusta (207) 622-8292, Presque Isle (207) 764-5124, and Scarborough (207) 883-1588, and Washington D.C. (202) 224-5344.

Sincerely,

Angus S. King, Jr.

ANGUS S. KING, JR
UNITED STATES SENATOR

AUGUSTA
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite F1
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

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169 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
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MAINE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1904
(202) 224–2523
(202) 224–2693 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–1904

COMMITTEES:
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING, RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is a privilege to represent Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share some of my work from the past year.

Encouraging the creation of more jobs remains my top priority. I have developed a Seven Point Plan for Jobs in Maine, which includes proposals to spur small business investment, ensure robust workforce education and training, reduce regulatory red tape that stifles job creation, support Maine agriculture and manufacturing, and invest in the infrastructure needed to expand our economy. Traditional industries and small businesses remain the backbone of Maine's economy, and innovation will be important for future jobs as well. I have supported Maine's effort to lead the world in deepwater wind technology and was proud when the University of Maine and its private sector partners launched the first prototype this year. This emerging industry has the potential to create thousands of good jobs here in Maine.

BIW remains a major Maine employer and is critical to our national security. I have worked hard to support the Navy's request for a 10th DDG-51 and to continue construction on the DDG-1000s at the shipyard. This year's annual defense policy bill also contains more than 30 provisions to eliminate sexual assault from our military, including several provisions that I authored.

Partisan divisiveness in Washington continues to prevent us from addressing some of our nation's most serious challenges. Gridlock reached a peak in October with the federal government shutdown that pushed our country to the brink of defaulting on its financial obligations and damaged our economy. As the shutdown continued with no end in sight, I presented a proposal I believed both sides could support. Within days, I was leading a bipartisan coalition of 14 Senators that worked night and day to craft a plan to reopen government, avert default, and restart negotiations on a long-term plan to deal with our nation's unsustainable debt of more than $17 trillion. Known as the "Common Sense Caucus," we will continue to work to develop solutions and bridge the partisan divide.

Earlier this year, across-the-board federal spending cuts known as "sequestration" took effect. These indiscriminate cuts jeopardized priorities from national security to medical research and stand in stark contrast to the thoughtful and thoroughly debated spending priorities set at town meetings throughout Maine. To bring some Maine common sense to this process, I authored bipartisan legislation to allow federal agencies to set priorities in administering the required cuts and wrote a new law to ensure that sequestration would not disrupt air travel, which plays such an important role in fueling Maine's tourism economy.

I have also enjoyed my work as the ranking member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging where, with Senator Bill Nelson of Florida, we work on issues of critical importance to Maine seniors. The committee has created a toll free hotline (1-855-303-9470) to make it easier for senior citizens to report fraud and scams and to receive assistance. I also serve as the Senate Co-Chair of the task force on Alzheimer's, a devastating disease that takes a tremendous personal and economic toll on more than five million Americans. Better treatment for Alzheimer's and ultimately finding a cure should be an urgent national priority.

Finally, I am proud to reflect our famous Maine work ethic by completing another year of service without missing a single roll call vote. I have not missed a vote since I was elected – a streak that stands at more than 5,300 in a row.

May 2014 be a good year for you, your community, and our great State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Susan M Collins

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
1st District, Maine

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. It is an honor to represent you in Congress and a pleasure to update you on the work I am doing in Maine and Washington.

You are probably aware that Washington is a very challenging place to get anything done these days. The partisan climate has kept many important issues from being addressed and even led to a shutdown of the federal government. Worst of all, it has created uncertainty for Maine families and the economy. It's the last thing we need. Over the next year, I will continue pressing Congressional leaders to bring the focus back to helping people rather than advancing ideologies.

As difficult as it's been, though, there are areas where I have been able to make progress on needed policy reforms. One has been support for local food producers. For decades now, federal agriculture policy has only benefited huge farms and commodity crops, not the kind of the diverse family farms we have in Maine. It's time for that to change. With small federal changes, we can capitalize on the huge economic potential of the local food movement. I've introduced the Local Farms, Food, and Jobs Act to make some of those changes, and have been pleased to see many of these reforms gain bipartisan support.

Another issue is helping veterans who were sexually assaulted during their service. I've introduced the Ruth Moore Act—named after a Maine veteran who struggled for 23 years to get disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs after she was sexually assaulted while in the military. The bill would help veterans like Ruth get the assistance they need to recover from the debilitating trauma they suffered while serving the country. The bill passed the House and now awaits consideration in the Senate.

While policy in Washington is important, so is the work my staff and I do here in Maine. My office keeps close connections to Maine communities and their leaders to make sure we're doing all we can to help them succeed. This work might include providing letters of support for federal grant applications, getting answers from federal agencies, or bringing national officials to our state to raise awareness about the good things being done here.

We also work with hundreds of constituents who have issues with federal agencies and programs. Not everyone knows that you can call your Member of Congress for this kind of thing, but it's an essential part of my responsibilities and my commitment to the people I serve. Members of my staff are experts on issues ranging from veterans benefits and IRS questions to Social Security problems and passport inquiries. They can help you navigate the process, communicate with federal agencies, and, in certain circumstances, facilitate the expediting of claims. If there is an area where you need assistance, I encourage you to call my Portland office at (207) 774-5019 or go to my website, www.pingree.house.gov.

Again, it's a privilege to serve you in Congress. Please stay in touch.

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Lori Fowle
305 Taber Hill Road
Vassalboro, ME 04989
Residence: (207) 872-7268
E-Mail: lorifowlehouse58@gmail.com

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It is an honor and privilege to be representing Vassalboro in the Maine House of Representatives.

This year we kept the Legislature's promise to restore $40 million in state aid to cities and towns. This is part of Maine's decades-old revenue sharing partnership where the state gives some of its sales and income tax revenue back to Maine communities to pay for essential services and keep property taxes in check. Failing to follow through would have been bad news for town budgets and for all property taxpayers in our district, especially low-income families and those who survive on a fixed income.

This session I have submitted four bills, and, as of this writing, every one of them has received favorable votes in the Legislature. The bills make it easier for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to access a small but significant property tax exemption, cut red tape for small businesses who raise money for charity, preserve Kennebec County's successful veterans court, and allow fishing near the fish ladder on Webber Pond.

Finally, I continue to support the Legislature's efforts to invest in our students, keep our environment clean and ensure that more Maine people have health insurance.

Whether we're dealing with the above topics or any other policy area, I renew my pledge to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve the best possible results for Maine families.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me with any questions or concerns or if you need assistance navigating state government. I can be reached at lorifowlehouse58@gmail.com or at 649-4863.

Sincerely,

Lori Fowle

Lori Fowle
State Representative

District 58 Augusta (part), Vassalboro and Windsor

Printed on recycled paper

VOTER REGISTRAR

Jim Schad
Registrar of Voters

It is with pleasure that I submit the Vassalboro Voter Registrar Report to the Selectmen and the Residents of Vassalboro.

During this past year we have had two elections in Vassalboro:

> **June 11, 2013,** was the date for a municipal election, a continuation of the Annual Town Meeting in Vassalboro. There were **212 total votes** cast.
>
> The State Referendum Election was held on **November 5, 2013**. There were **583 ballots** cast. Seventy-two people voted absentee.

Also, on December 11, 2013, the Town of Vassalboro participated in the AOS discussion and vote at Winslow High School.

Please be aware that laws for Absentee Voting have changed recently. No absentee ballots can be issued after the Thursday before any election, except for these special circumstances:

> (a) The voter will be absent from the municipality of residence UNEXPECTEDLY during the entire time the polls are open on election day, and
>
> (b) The voter has a physical disability or is not able to leave his/her home or treatment facility due to incapacity or illness. An Affidavit must be completed by the voter before the ballot can be issued in such cases.

As of March 1, 2014, Vassalboro had **3,025 registered voters**, enrolled as follows:

Unenrolled (not in any party)	1,092
Democrat	958
Republican	837
Green / Independent	137

During the past year we had a total of 132 voter cancellations for these reasons:

Deceased	37
Duplicate Registrations	1
Moved out of State	17
Moved out of Town	61
Registrar Hearing	3
Voter Request to Cancel	2
Inactive for two General Elections	11

The Town Office is equipped to register voters any time during office hours. When you come to register, remember you should provide a photo ID and proof of Vassalboro residency.

All registrations are now kept on the Central Voting Registration (CVR) System, set up through the Secretary of State's Office in Augusta. This makes it easier to track voters when they move from town to town within the State. The CVR System boosts our efficiency, and is a powerful tool against voter fraud.

I would like to thank my co-workers, Cathy Coyne and Jean Poulin, without whose expert help this job would be most difficult.

Photo: Dan Feeney

TOWN CLERK REPORT

I am pleased to submit my Town Clerk's report to the Selectmen and to the residents of Vassalboro.

Certified Copies of Death, Birth, and Marriage Certificates can be obtained at a cost of $15.00. Additional copies are $6.00 each.

You must have proof of having held a previous hunting licenses or proof of having taken a Hunter Safety Course in order to purchase a Hunting license. You do not have to be a resident of Vassalboro in order to obtain a license.

There are approximately 890 dogs registered in town. All dog licenses expire December 31st. You must have a rabies certificate in order to license your dog. You will also need to provide proof of Spay or Neutering. A spayed/neutered dog is $6.00 and the fee for an unaltered dog is $11.00. There is a $25.00 late fee after January 31st. For the past several years we have held a Rabies Clinic at the North Vassalboro Fire Station in November. Dog licensing is available at the clinic. Part of the proceeds goes to the Vassalboro Food Pantry. You can reach the Animal Control Officer, Dave Huff at 458-4853.

General Assistance is a program that provides assistance with basic needs for eligible applicants who cannot provide for themselves and their families. General Assistance is administered on each Wednesday by appointment unless there is an emergency. Any person who has been assisted with General Assistance in any municipality in the state of Maine must retain all receipts to keep their eligibility. You can call **872-2826** to set up an appointment.

Vassalboro Town Office Staff: (front l-r) Bookkeeper Jean Poulin, Town Clerk Cathy Coyne, Code Officer/Plumbing Inspector Bob Folsom (back l-r) Registrar of Voters Jim Schad, Assessor Ellery Bane, Town Manager Mary Sabins

There were 23 Female and 20 Male births to Vassalboro residents from March 3, 2013 – March 1, 2014.

The following are Marriage Licenses, using Maiden name that were recorded from March 14, 2013 – March 1, 2014.

PARTY A	PARTY B	DATE MARRIED
Daniel Michael Donahue	Hollie Anne Painchaud	March 14, 2013
Mariateresa Danielle Tognato	Philippe Omer Ouimet	April 1, 2013
William Allen Jones	Jodi Lee Carpenter	May 25, 2013
Kevin Dean McLaughlin	Jandee Ann Ferland	June 1, 2013
Shaun Adam Munroe	Jesse James Rowell	June 8, 2013
Michelle Lyn Gagnon	Scott Douglas Fitts	June 14, 2013
Shelley Melinda McLeod	Robert John Stackpole	June 15, 2013
Tisha Marie Goodrich	Daniel Alton Goodrich	July 6, 2013
Wayne Ellison Bowers	Matthew Wayne Pitcher	August 10, 2013
Benjamin Royal Chaston	Tiffany Ann Turner	August 10, 2013
Ashely Christine Ellis	Daniel Edmond Mayotte	August 24, 2013
Jasmine Marie McCausland	Eric Roland Plante	August 24, 2013
Patricia Anne Greene	Steven Dean Van Blarcom	August 31, 2013
Becky Dawn Sevigny	William Russell Jenkins	August 17, 2013
Russell Ronald Marquis	Rosanne Field Crider	August 18, 2013
Sheila Mary Doherty	Dennis James Cataloni	August 24, 2013
Richard Arthur Baldic	Kelly Buck	August 24, 2013
Alisha Rae McKeil	Matthew Blake Nelson	August 31, 2013
Maggie Anne Stickle	Rebecca Jane Lamey	September 20, 2013
Mary Kathryn Gooldrup	Donald Joseph Dennis	September 21, 2013
John Comber Tuthill	Sarah Jessica Bard	October 26, 2013
Jillian Jean Johnson	Philip Keith Sinclair	November 3, 2013
Sally Lynn Pond	Kenneth Theodore Vlodek	February 15, 2014
Paul Arnold	Ruby Evelyn Curtis	February 28, 2014

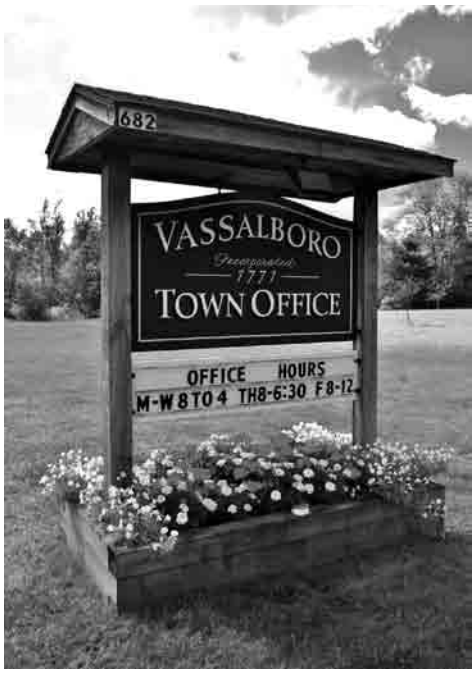


Photo: Dan Feeney

The Vital Statistic information listed below pertains to deaths from March 1, 2013 – March 1, 2014.

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE	LOCATION
Althea Dall	March 7, 2013	80	Vassalboro
Milton Willoughby	March 11, 2013	64	Togus
William Crump	March 31, 2013	49	Waterville
Daveeda Brown	April 1, 2013	82	Vassalboro
Mary Heeg	April 1, 2013	99	Vassalboro
Theresa Annunziata	April 8, 2013	74	Augusta
Stephen Ellis	April 10, 2013	67	Vassalboro
Donald White	April 16, 2013	92	Waterville
Evelyn Blake	April 22, 2013	76	Freeport
Frederic Bragdon	May 25, 2013	69	Waterville
Coralene Cates	May 28, 2013	80	Bangor
Avis Noel	May 30, 2013	81	Augusta
James Casey	June 1, 2013	82	Waterville
Beth Hawk	June 26, 2013	89	Togus
Teresa Jerome	July 11, 2013	45	Augusta
Jeannine Viens	July 11, 2013	81	Lewiston
Phyllis Albee	August 16, 2013	91	Vassalboro
Shawn Greenleaf	August 19, 2013	32	Vassalboro
Kenneth Lee	August 19, 2013	63	Augusta
Kathleen Devona	August 25, 2013	88	Waterville

NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE	LOCATION
Marion Cartagena	September 14, 2013	79	Waterville
Kelly Langdon	September 19, 2013	84	Waterville
Herbert Forsythe	October 17, 2013	78	Vassalboro
Russell Brown	October 19, 2013	91	Vassalboro
Michael Beach	October 21, 2013	30	Vassalboro
Deborah Jordan	October 27, 2013	64	Vassalboro
Lucille Reilly	October 28, 2013	70	Waterville
Sean Belden	November 1, 2013	35	Vassalboro
Avis Moody	November 2, 2013	88	Vassalboro
Tim Pooler	November 24, 2013	54	Vassalboro
John Mayhew	November 29, 2013	72	Augusta
Anna Blaisdell	December 9, 2013	92	Augusta
Robert Gerard	December 13, 2013	64	Vassalboro
Alice McNeil	December 18, 2013	53	Waterville
Norman Rowe	December 22, 2013	67	Portland
Constance Lachance	December 24, 2013	81	Waterville
Robert Hawk	December 28, 2013	85	Augusta
Benjamin Cates	January 15, 2014	93	Waterville
Doris Glidden	January 30, 2014	102	Augusta

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES (Unpaid as of 03/31/2014)

Acct		Name	Year	Original Tax	Payment/Adjustments	Amount Due
359	P	BRIDGET'S PLACE	2010	146.45	0.00	146.45
359	P	BRIDGET'S PLACE	2011	145.00	0.00	145.00
359	P	BRIDGET'S PLACE	2012	159.50	0.00	159.50
99	P	BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2012	256.30	0.00	256.30
201	P	CAIN & SONS EQUIPMENT	2011	24.00	0.00	24.00
201	P	CAIN & SONS EQUIPMENT	2012	36.30	0.00	36.30
305	P	GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2009	149.48	0.00	149.48
305	P	GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2010	149.48	0.00	149.48
305	P	GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2011	148.00	0.00	148.00
305	P	GERARD, ROBERT G & ANITA L	2012	162.80	0.00	162.80
277	P	GREEN, JOHN PAVING	2011	206.00	0.00	206.00
277	P	GREEN, JOHN PAVING	2012	226.60	0.00	226.60
99	P	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2005	274.35	0.00	274.35
99	P	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2006	292.95	0.00	292.95
99	P	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2007	200.38	0.00	200.38
99	P	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2008	214.36	0.00	214.36
99	P	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2009	235.33	0.00	235.33
99	P	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2010	235.33	0.00	235.33
99	P	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2011	233.00	0.00	233.00
314	P	NOLL, ETHAN E.	2008	69.00	0.00	69.00
314	P	NOLL, ETHAN E.	2009	75.75	0.00	75.75
314	P	NOLL, ETHAN E.	2010	75.75	0.00	75.75
314	P	NOLL, ETHAN E.	2011	75.00	0.00	75.00
314	P	NOLL, ETHAN E.	2012	82.50	0.00	82.50
352	P	NORTHERN QUALITY CONCRETE LLC	2012	37.40	0.00	37.40
261	P	WW PRECISION MACHINERY INC	2010	645.39	21.02	624.37
261	P	WW PRECISION MACHINERY INC	2011	560.00	0.00	560.00
261	P	WW PRECISION MACHINERY INC	2012	567.60	0.00	567.60
Total for 28 Accounts:				**5,684.00**	**21.02**	**5,662.98**

REAL ESTATE TAXES (Unpaid as of 03/31/2014)

Acct	Name		Year	Original Tax	Payment/Adjustments	Amount Due
71	L	BAILEY, PAULA	2012	1,091.65	0.00	1,091.65
2311	L	BARTLETT, RICHARD & LYNNE	2012	2,181.95	0.00	2,181.95
163	L	BLUMBERG, SARA "HEIRS"	2012	1,387.45	349.50	1,037.95
2287	L	BOURGET, BRUCE K & MARY N	2012	1,303.37	0.00	1,303.37
209	L	BRAGDON, FREDERICK N.	2012	632.91	0.00	632.91
1869	L	BREARD, RHONDA L & PAUL C	2012	311.85	0.00	311.85
268	L	BROCK, CARL	2012	134.37	0.00	134.37
2519	L	BROCK, CARL	2012	199.70	0.00	199.70
2520	L	BROCK, CARL	2012	229.90	0.00	229.90
2972	L	BROCK, CARL	2012	155.00	0.00	155.00
272	L	BROCK, CARL & AMY	2012	96.91	0.00	96.91
273	L	BROCK, CARL & AMY	2012	279.20	0.00	279.20
271	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2012	291.04	0.00	291.04
2581	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2012	199.70	0.00	199.70
2582	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2012	137.80	0.00	137.80
2679	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2012	1,029.36	0.00	1,029.36
2680	L	BROCK, CARLETON E & AMY L	2012	156.52	0.00	156.52
2618	L	BROCK, CARLTON	2012	229.13	0.00	229.13
3076	L	BROCK, CURT	2012	249.02	0.00	249.02
2480	L	BURNS, RICHARD	2012	2,549.20	0.00	2,549.20
1524	L	BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2012	2,145.65	1,924.94	220.71
1528	L	BUTTERFIELD, LINDA	2012	1,864.76	0.00	1,864.76
1082	L	C.S.I. ENTERPRISES, LLC.	2012	2,036.34	38.06	1,998.28
1747	L	CAHOON, DEBORAH E	2012	1,214.33	0.00	1,214.33
2472	L	CAIN, RICHARD B JR & DEBORAH	2012	2,602.31	0.00	2,602.31
1302	L	CAIN, RICHARD B JR & DEBORAH A	2012	2,866.01	0.00	2,866.01
2619	L	CARTAGENA, BONNIE	2012	329.64	0.00	329.64
1203	L	CHANG, HUICHEN	2012	1,151.28	0.00	1,151.28
2151	L	COONS, GARY R.	2012	78.15	0.00	78.15
487	R	CORSON, LEAL O - HEIRS OF	2010	216.14	0.00	216.14
487	R	CORSON, LEAL O - HEIRS OF	2011	214.00	0.00	214.00
487	R	CORSON, LEAL O - HEIRS OF	2012	235.40	0.00	235.40
3151	L	CROMMETT, SYLVIA G. & LESLIE H., JR.	2012	2,324.49	1,088.10	1,236.39
64	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	876.51	0.00	876.51
535	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	1,390.12	0.00	1,390.12
3360	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	258.55	0.00	258.55
3361	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	263.15	0.00	263.15
3362	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	259.70	0.00	259.70
3363	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	256.26	0.00	256.26
3365	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	257.41	0.00	257.41
3366	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	250.54	0.00	250.54
3367	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	256.26	0.00	256.26
3368	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	250.54	0.00	250.54
3369	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	255.13	0.00	255.13
3370	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	203.53	0.00	203.53
3371	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	204.68	0.00	204.68
3372	L	CUMMINGS, LEON E	2012	203.53	0.00	203.53
3075	L	DEBLOIS, CARLEE	2012	599.06	0.00	599.06
2981	L	DUMAS, BOBBIE-JO A.	2012	166.47	0.00	166.47
3209	L	DUTTON, TIM	2012	141.21	0.00	141.21
2579	L	DUTTON, TIMOTHY	2012	368.22	0.00	368.22
693	L	DYER, DAVID & TANYA	2012	1,032.03	0.00	1,032.03
2684	L	DYER, THOMAS	2012	207.72	0.00	207.72
765	L	FIELD, JOHN P & MARIETTA F	2012	542.89	0.00	542.89
3066	L	FORTIN, GREGORY E. (JR.) & JENNIFER G.	2012	2,429.57	0.00	2,429.57
871	L	GERARD, ROBERT C & ANITA L	2012	689.59	0.00	689.59
2777	L	GIDNEY, ADAM J	2012	1,094.34	0.00	1,094.34
2099	L	GRAY, PATRICIA C & CHARLES H	2012	1,208.60	0.00	1,208.60
1905	L	GREENLEAF, IVERS	2012	962.49	0.00	962.49
1002	L	HAYWARD, TERRENCE L	2012	1,585.40	0.00	1,585.40
2840	L	HOPPER, MICHELLE C.	2012	667.45	0.00	667.45
3136	L	IBBITSON, THOMAS S.	2012	227.23	0.00	227.23
3269	L	JOSE, JODY	2012	582.90	0.00	582.90
1153	L	JOSEPH, FRANCIS E, TRUSTEE	2012	1,223.90	0.00	1,223.90
2429	L	KARTMAN, MICHAEL J SR	2012	673.96	0.00	673.96
2642	L	KENT, FRANK	2012	211.18	0.00	211.18
1278	L	LEMIEUX, SHEILA	2012	1,406.94	764.08	642.86
1287	L	LETOURNEAU, MICHAEL S	2012	1,179.16	0.00	1,179.16
3018	L	LILLY, RHONDA J.	2012	531.79	0.00	531.79
2312	L	LISTER, EVANS J.	2012	1,669.85	0.00	1,669.85
2314	L	MALLOY, MARIE	2012	1,248.33	0.00	1,248.33

Acct	Name		Year	Original Tax	Payment/Adjustments	Amount Due
337	L	MARTIN, DIANA L	2012	135.51	113.10	22.41
2885	L	MCCAUSLAND, CRAIG	2012	985.42	978.08	7.34
2318	L	MCKEE, DAREN L & MELISA L	2012	740.85	0.00	740.85
1523	L	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2012	200.08	0.00	200.08
1527	L	MORNEAU, PAUL J	2012	1,499.42	0.00	1,499.42
1532	L	MORSE, DENNIS	2012	1,726.04	0.00	1,726.04
3202	L	MORTON, ROBERT	2012	168.80	0.00	168.80
1540	L	MUNSTER, PRISCILLA M	2012	1,259.05	0.00	1,259.05
1593	L	NOLL, ETHAN	2012	1,561.71	0.00	1,561.71
2934	L	NOLL, ETHAN	2012	445.06	0.00	445.06
2211	L	PATERSON, RUSSELL W & THOMPSON,	2012	2,781.93	0.00	2,781.93
2523	L	PEASLEE, DANIEL	2012	1,965.25	0.00	1,965.25
2611	L	PICARD, WAYNE & CATHERYN HUGHES	2012	137.04	0.00	137.04
1404	L	PINKHAM, KIRBY L.	2012	1,219.30	0.00	1,219.30
1264	L	POIRIER, CHRISTOPHER	2012	994.57	0.00	994.57
1750	L	POULIN, JAMES & BRENDA	2012	472.94	0.00	472.94
651	L	PULLEN, KEVIN & LISA	2012	63.66	0.00	63.66
652	L	PULLEN, KEVIN B & LISA	2012	186.34	0.00	186.34
1844	L	REYNOLDS, SANFORD E JR	2012	113.33	0.00	113.33
1865	L	RICHARDS, PATRICIA A	2012	380.86	0.00	380.86
1866	L	RICHARDS, REBECCA	2012	771.03	0.00	771.03
1303	L	RONCO, EILEEN LINDBERG & JAMES F JR	2012	1,389.74	0.00	1,389.74
1955	L	ROY, PAUL	2012	490.91	0.00	490.91
2980	L	SMITH,BERTELLE & KIMBERLY	2012	238.69	0.00	238.69
2064	L	SPAULDING, WILLIAM H.	2012	1,464.03	0.00	1,464.03
458	L	SPRAGUE, HAROLD A. & JODI L.	2012	1,639.67	277.52	1,362.15
3250	L	STONE ROAD CORPORATION	2012	291.79	0.00	291.79
3253	L	STONE ROAD CORPORATION	2012	292.94	0.00	292.94
3255	L	STONE ROAD CORPORATION	2012	283.77	0.00	283.77
3256	L	STONE ROAD CORPORATION	2012	302.11	0.00	302.11
1811	L	SUGA, LINDA	2012	1,135.61	0.00	1,135.61
2128	L	SUGA, LINDA	2012	1,124.15	0.00	1,124.15
2119	L	SUGA, LINDA C.	2012	313.44	0.00	313.44
1571	L	SUGA, RICHARD J	2012	227.21	0.00	227.21
1669	L	SUGA, RICHARD J	2012	150.40	0.00	150.40
1670	L	SUGA, RICHARD J	2012	150.40	0.00	150.40
2576	L	SUGA, RICHARD J	2012	245.95	0.00	245.95
384	L	SUGA, RICHARD J.	2012	2,246.89	0.00	2,246.89
2127	L	SUGA, RICHARD J. & RHONA R.	2012	2,183.83	0.00	2,183.83
2457	L	SUGA, RICHARD JOSEPH	2012	669.37	0.00	669.37
1698	L	TESS, MARK J & TERESA D	2012	1,783.36	12.77	1,770.59
2172	L	THOMPSON, PETER	2012	1,187.20	0.00	1,187.20
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	1997	175.74	-11.98	187.72
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	1998	323.32	30.50	292.82
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	1999	333.10	-12.25	345.35
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2000	380.14	-12.93	393.07
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2001	396.09	-12.93	409.02
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2002	405.29	-5.00	410.29
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2003	442.38	-12.64	455.02
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2004	401.51	-12.64	414.15
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2005	363.35	0.00	363.35
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2006	382.04	-8.32	390.36
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2007	294.44	0.00	294.44
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2008	305.37	-8.54	313.91
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2008	16,087.40	-8.54	16,095.94
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2009	905.45	0.00	905.45
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2010	894.63	-8.75	903.38
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2011	885.66	0.00	885.66
2088	L	TREE FREE FIBER CO.	2012	977.03	0.00	977.03
2310	L	WELCH, PAMELA	2012	1,509.72	0.00	1,509.72
479	L	WILLETT, SAMANTHA	2012	660.59	0.00	660.59
251	L	WILLIAMS, LINDA JEAN	2012	716.00	37.59	678.41
2382	L	WOOD, SHANE	2012	351.18	0.00	351.18
2451	L	WOOD, SHANE	2012	646.84	0.00	646.84
2487	L	WOOD, SHANE	2012	81.64	0.00	81.64
2488	L	WOOD, SHANE	2012	71.31	0.00	71.31
2386	L	WOOLEY, MARCIA L.	2012	454.86	0.00	454.86
2384	L	WOOLEY, MARSHA	2012	925.04	0.00	925.04
2447	L	YEATON, SANDRA J & JEFFREY A	2012	586.05	0.00	586.05
2624	L	YELITZ, RONALD P.	2012	301.74	0.00	301.74
2404	L	YOUNG, CLAIRE	2012	2,118.13	2,075.04	43.09
TOTAL FOR 143 ACCOUNTS:				**123,956.11**	**7,574.76**	**116,381.65**

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Robert Folsom, Sr.
Code Enforcement Officer
Local Plumbing Inspector

I am happy to inform the residents of the Town of Vassalboro that as of January 8, 2014 I have been selected as your Code Enforcement Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector.

My goal is to be an asset to the Town of Vassalboro, current residents, and newcomers, regarding both residential and commercial projects. Please consider me as a resource to provide information regarding building and plumbing permits/codes and required inspections.

I am available by contacting the Town Office at **(207) 872-2826** or by email: **rfolsom@vassalboro.net**.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Ellery G. Bane
Assessor

For the 2013 tax year, the Town had a total valuation of $334,382,380 and issued a total of 1,071 Homestead Exemptions. There were also 145 Veterans Exemptions granted in this last year. There are also residents who have applied and entered State classified programs such as Tree Growth, Farm Land and Open Space. All of these programs, if applicable, are applied locally and can be a help to taxpayers in easing the burdens they face in regards to property tax. I can assure you that in trying economic times like these, the Town of Vassalboro is diligently working to keep the impact on property taxes to a minimum. Any help that I can offer in explaining these programs and exemptions is encouraged, so please feel free to contact me at the Town of Vassalboro assessing office at **872-2826**, or on the Town's website at **ebane@vassalboro.net**. As always, I look forward to working with you in the future.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Vassalboro Cemetery Committee meets monthly at the Town Office every first Monday at 9:30. Interested citizens are welcome to attend. As it is often difficult to visit cemeteries during the winter months, we have not met during December and January. Those wishing to join the committee should check with the Town Office.

The most significant decision made during the last year was the Town taking over the responsibility for the Cross Hill burial grounds. Approved at the annual Town Meeting in June of 2013, the Cross Hill Cemetery has a large undeveloped section which will make burial sites to Vassalboro residents and families for some years to come. We appreciate the gift of the cemetery to the Town. Other issues we have dealt with include removal of several high priority trees which threaten memorial stones; repair of broken stones; and identifying new priorities.

The coming year will include the following:

1. Surveying the new section of the Cross Hill Cemetery.
2. Modifying the rules governing the North Vassalboro Village Cemetery so all cemeteries have consistent policies governing them.
3. Adopting a computer record system which will be available to all. We are seeking volunteers to enter the data into the new system.
4. The Cemetery Committee is studying the possibility of employing a part time sexton.
5. Volunteers are needed for over site of each of the burial grounds. Those interested in taking on such a task should contact the Cemetery Committee or the Town Manager.
6. Fiscal repair and upkeep in each cemetery.
7. Signs at each cemetery.
8. Tree removal.

Dick Kelly
Cemetery Committee Chairman

FOOD STATION PANTRY

The Town of Vassalboro is very fortunate to have such a well-run food pantry that provides a supplement food program to help our residents in need. Our goal as a pantry is to bring relief to individuals & families struggling to get by. There has been an increase of senior citizens coming for food and assistance.

In 2013 the VFSP has seen record numbers of residents asking for help to feed their families. We are able to give clients one week's worth of groceries once a month, in addition they can come to the pantry to receive items every week such as, breads, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, pastries, and more.

Our Heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to all the generous supporters, without them the pantry would not be possible. Some of our Loyal Supporters are: Maine Savings Credit Union of Vassalboro employees, Mid State Machine Foundation Grant, Steven & Tabitha King Foundation grant, Ray Haskell Ford of Oakland sponsoring our pantry van, the two Hannaford Stores of Augusta donating every Thursday, Country Kitchen Thrift Store of Waterville, Mike & Jill Pleau, Ray Breton, Vassalboro Riverside Congregation Church, Vassalboro United Methodist Church, Vassalboro Fire Department volunteers, Edward & Avis Noel family, John & Elizabeth Reuthe, David & Cheryl Sherwood, James & Barbara Horner, Sappi of Skowhegan, Togus VA of Augusta Employees, Vassalboro Community School, Bill & Pat Sleamaker, the community garden volunteers as well as many more anonymous donors.

The wonderful employees at the Vassalboro branch of the Maine Savings Federal Credit Union.

For 2013, the VFSP coordinated and provided - 48 Easter Dinner boxes, 83 Thanksgiving dinner boxes, 81 Christmas dinner boxes. Toys for Tots provided gifts to 51 Vassalboro Families with children. We also distributed about 2,800 banana boxes of food to Vassalboro Residents.

The Board Members for 2013-2014 are: Cindy & Albert Ferland, Evelyn Dutil, Diane Bailey, George Bourassa, Cheryl & Dave Sherwood, and Marjorie Saporita.

If anyone would like more information or could volunteer (need strong backs, energy, computer skills) please call **873-7375** and leave a message. Also please check out our Facebook page…don't forget to click the "LIKE" icon so we can keep the page going and you can get our updates.

Cindy Ferland
Executive Director

Augusta Hannaford

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Eugene Field
Road Commissioner

As road commissioner for the Town of Vassalboro it is a pleasure working with the Town Manager, staff and citizens of Vassalboro.

In the summer of 2013 Pike Industries was awarded the paving bid for a cost of $75.00 a ton for both shim mix and surface mix. The roads were first shimmed with approximately 5/8 inch of mix, and then one inch of surface was placed down. The following roads were done:

- Gray Road was done with 1,636.43 tons of mix and a cost of $122,732.25.
- Legion Park Road was done with 924.91 tons of mix and a cost $ 69,368.25.
- Taber Hill Road from the intersection of the Hussey Hill Road to the intersection the Gray Road was done with 545 tons of mix and a cost of $ 40,875.00.
- The plan for the summer of 2014 is to do the following if the budget allows for this amount of work to be completed, if not we will do as much as possible:

  1) Cushnoc Road – 1.3 miles, the south end.
  2) Reynolds Road - all of it, approximately .3 miles

Normally the Town has been trying to pave around four miles of roads per year to keep them in good condition. This allows most Town roads to be repaved about every ten years or so. As you can see we have been falling behind due to budget constraints. This year, as of now, it is looking like the budget will be around $ 145,000.00 and in the past few years we have had a budget of around $ 225,000.00 for paving. As road commissioner, I think the Town should be planning on paving some of the remaining gravel roads in the near future.

Some of the additional work completed by the public works crew included our annual program of cutting and chipping brush to improve the visibility of signs at intersections and overall visibility. Some of the major brush cutting was done on the Hannaford Hill Road, Cross Hill Road, Gray Road, White House Road, and around the China Lake dam. Other work completed was preparation work for paving on the following roads: the Gray Road, Legion Park Road and the section of the Taber Hill Road between the Hussey Hill Road intersection and the Gray Road intersection which consisted of cutting the high shoulders down, ditching and replacing culverts. We also did the ground work at the Transfer Station in preparation of building walls out of concrete blocks for the various containers they use for shipping materials out. The public works crew cleaned up all the Cemeteries along with some help from the prisoners, but even after having the prisoners scheduled early, they cancelled out half the dates they were scheduled to work with the Town.

We worked with John Picher doing drainage work at the Town's Ball Fields for the Recreation Department. We ditched around the all-purpose field but it was too wet to install the drainage pipe. We did install six-inch drainage pipe in behind home plate on the Waceken field and also six-inch drainage pipe along the outfield fence on the Pulver field.

The prisoners helped out with other projects like, cleaning and painting equipment at the Public Works, Transfer Station and Fire Stations. In the year 2013 we had the use of their services for seventeen days.

At this time I would like to thank my crew of James Wentworth, Shawn Bragg and Shane Cole for their dedicated work. If you have questions about any road project, please don't hesitate to contact the Public Works Garage at **923-3985** or email at **vasspublicworks@fairpoint.net**.

Gene Field (center back) received his "Road Scholar" certificate from MDOT in April 2014 in Waterville.

VASSALBORO SANITARY DISTRICT

The sanitary system has reached the point that it needs extensive repairs or to be replaced. We are currently evaluating two options: pump to Winslow or refurbish the existing system. We have no choice in the matter; we must do one or the other. We welcome people to attend our monthly meetings. We also need board members; please let us know if you'd be interested in joining us.

Below is a list of delinquent accounts owed to the Vassalboro Sanitary District. Liens will be applied to these accounts in the near future. To avoid a lien being applied to your account, please call **872-7263** to arrange a payment plan.

Marshall Roy
Chairman

APEX INC	$772.66
ARNOLD, JONATHAN	$802.63
BABB, CONRAD	$112.66
BERRY, TERRY L	$1,248.88
BROWN JACK	$112.66
BROWN, CHARLES D	$1,238.15
BUCKMORE, ERIC	$2,147.67
BURDETTE, WILLIAM	$914.97
CARON, PATRICK	$9,179.93
COLEMAN, DANIEL	$400.66
CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH	$106.66
CRABTREE, JANE A	$975.17
CROSBY, HOWARD	$362.76
DUTIL, ANTHONY	$55.02
EAMES, SHELDON	$524.69
EMERY, SA-TINA	$859.30
FIELDSTONE GARDENS	$190.66
FLAMM, VIVIAN	$148.66
FLOOD, CRAIG*	$1,965.16
GIROUX, DANIEL	$4,957.21
GOODRICH, JOHN	$869.24
GRAHAM, JAMES	$2,684.19
GROSSO, DOUGLAS	$88.66
HANKEY, MATTHEW	$213.32
HAYFORD, KATHERINE	$2,380.08
HILL, TEMPLE	$160.66
HOFMEISTER, LINNEA	$2,727.23
JOSEPH, GRETA	$1,257.65
JOSEPH, GRETA	$432.33
KARCZEWSKI, TARA L	$408.64
KERTZMAN, MICHAEL	$1,852.06
LETOURNEAU, MICHAEL	$2,852.56
LEWIS, JAMES	$259.32
LISTER, EVANS	$1,519.78
MASON, CARL	$2,749.71
MORNEAU, ROBERT	$1,161.28
MORSE, BRADLEY	$2,886.37
NUNN, DALE	$6,962.38
OROURKE, TERRANCE	$455.75
OROURKE, THOMAS	$106.66
PALMER, ROBERT W JR	$173.39
POIRIER, CHRISTOPHER	$6,115.21
POOLER, CLIFFORD	$542.60
RANCOURT, DORI	$2,647.92
RANCOURT, DORI	$2,563.02
RICHARDS, LINDA	$8,687.66
RICHARDS, MICHELLE	$1,501.33
RICHARDS, WILLIAM	$2,936.48
RONCO, JAMES	$1,257.48
ROY, PAUL	$6,376.63
SEARLES, PETER	$2,119.83
SHEPARD, TRICIA	$1,500.45
SHOREY, BRIAN	$1,510.00
SMITH, HOWARD	$3,517.28
SOUVINEY, JAMES	$3,907.89
THOMPSON, DEBBIE	$1,136.25
TRIAL, PETER	$5,739.14
TURCOTTE, REBECCA*	$3,271.16
VERHILLE, MARTHA	$1,453.66
WILLETT, SAMANTHA	$1,601.60
WILLIAMS, LINDA	$6,187.01

** Denotes payment plan in place.*

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING REPORT

George Hamar
Transfer Station Manager

I am grateful for the opportunity to share what's been going on at the facility this past year. It's always a pleasure serving those who utilize our wonderful transfer station and recycling facility here in Vassalboro. As always our focus is to operate a clean, safe and friendly place to dispose of household wastes and recyclables.

I would like to thank our station attendant Thomas O'Rourke for his hard work and dedicated service to the transfer station, and the Vassalboro public works crew and town office staff for all their services they provide.

In January 2014, our five year hauling contract with local rubbish company Central Maine Disposal expired. This contract to haul our Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and recyclables was placed out to bid again. Bolsters Rubbish out of Burnham was the lowest bidder and awarded the contract to haul the MSW and bulky waste. The hauling of the recyclables was awarded to Pine Tree Waste in Waterville whom also introduced a new system to the transfer station called **Zero-Sort** recycling.

The new **Zero-Sort** is allowing a simple way for everyone to recycle. It means you only have to make one sort separating your recyclables from your trash. Everything we normally separated such as newspapers, mixed paper/boxboard, plastics # 1-7, cans and glass can now all be put together in one container or bag and brought to the transfer station. Then at your preference, you can either empty your bag/ container or toss your bag (if clear) into the designated **Zero-Sort** container. All corrugated cardboard we will continue to separate into its designated container. By keeping the corrugated separated and stacked we are able to get more of the other recyclables into the **Zero-Sort** container minimizing trucking expenses. Please stop by the town office or the transfer station and pick up our current **Zero-Sort** recycling brochures with further details.

Recycling the following items reduces the amount of normal household trash or MSW that Vassalboro tax dollars pay to transport and dispose of each year. We are currently shipping 20-30 tons of MSW every week and the current tipping rate is at $78.00 per ton.

In 2013 we recycled a total of 736 tons of the following materials:

Plastics # 1-7	39.47 tons
TV's Misc. electronics	11.18 tons
Newspaper/ Magazines	48.00 tons
Corrugated Cardboard	60.57 tons
Tires	4.16 tons
Antifreeze	.18 tons
Mixed paper /boxboard	44.00 tons
Waste Oil	2.31 tons
Zero- sorted Recyclables	4.31 tons
Reusable Items (swap shed)	4.29 tons
Metals	69.60 tons
Brush	215.92 tons
Glass	22.43 tons
Compost	12.96 tons
Inert Fill materials	14.85 tons
Construction & demolition wood debris	181.49 tons

This was an estimated savings of $56,672 for the town.

We would like to thank everyone for their 2013 recycling efforts. Keep up the good work everyone!

In 2013, by residents participating in donating returnable bottles and cans, and the transfer station staff also retrieving these from the household waste, we have been able to donate over $ 800.00 to local nonprofit organizations in town such as the Vassalboro food pantry, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Wildlife Care Center. Please instead of throwing these into the trash adding more tonnage tax dollars pay to dispose of, donate these for a good cause into the collection barrels here at the transfer station.

The recycling building that was built in 2011 will continue to be used for recycling. This building allows adequate space for safe handling of the Universal Waste such as TV'S, Computers, Game Consoles, Cellphones, Batteries, Florescent bulbs (mercury lamps) CFL'S and all other miscellaneous electronics. These items containing heavy metals and other hazards are required by Maine state law to be recycled. We have labeled the windows on this building with new signage giving residents a more user friendly way to recycle these materials.

In January 2013, we implemented a new sticker permit program that regulates the use of the transfer station to only Vassalboro property owners, renters, camps and businesses. We were able to catch up with many people that no longer lived in Vassalboro and prevented others hauling trash in from other towns. These vehicle stickers will be changed periodically and proof of residency updated as necessary. Our goal is to make sure Vassalboro tax dollars are paying for trash only generated in Vassalboro. This means we will not tolerate anyone hauling in out of town trash. This will be enforced.

We had also anticipated on improving the area out near the bulky waste and metal storage containers. Our hardworking and well organized Vassalboro public works department made this happen by excavating the old dilapidated retaining wall, made from railroad ties and 4 ft. concrete blocks. The ground work was then prepared to construct a new retaining wall consisting of 6 ft. interlocking concrete blocks, purchased from Auburn Concrete. This created a more stable area for everyone's safety, meeting the Maine department of labor's fall protection standards. Concrete pads were then poured in front of the walls allowing for easier cleanup of nails and other falling debris being unloaded that could cause injury or flat tires. These were done by Innovation Foundations, a local contracting company.

This coming year a pad will be constructed with a back wall near the bulky waste to accommodate those residents or contractors that have dump trailers containing large loads of shingles or other demolition materials. These loads will then be able to be scooped up with the backhoe and dumped into the proper container.

All non-treated demolition wood will now be stored in a roll off container behind the new retaining wall. This material will no longer be chipped on site as had been done in the past. The demolition wood will be trucked to a facility offsite to be chipped and processed for reusable energy. This new system will allow a clean way to manage this while preventing nails on the ground and costly yearly cleanups that included disposal of the wood, and dirt mix left behind.

The traffic flow at the transfer station has almost tripled since the transfer station was established in 1988. Today, an average weekend we can see up to several hundred residential vehicles and many times becoming congested near the compactor and other areas of disposal. Also over the last 25 years the trash compactor at the transfer station has cycled through many tons of trash and has recently been in need of repairs every year. There are future plans within the next few years to research and develop this area and to have installed a new trash compactor and hopper, as well as reconfiguring a one way traffic flow to safely accommodate the modern day traffic in and out of the transfer station. The new configuration will allow for everyone to drive thru without having to back up to the hopper to deposit their household trash, then continue on forward to the exit gate or other areas of disposal. All the necessary information of this project will be obtained and put together for review and consideration of approval from the appropriate town committees. All thoughts and ideas will be welcome and open for discussion on this future plan.

We look forward continuing to serve the residents of Vassalboro. We welcome all to join us in keeping the transfer station a clean and fun place to dispose of all your household wastes and recyclables. All comments and ideas are respected and appreciated. You can pick up our current transfer station fee schedule and recycling brochure either at the town office or the transfer station. Please don't hesitate to see Tom or myself if you have any questions.

VASSALBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY You are always welcome!

Dawn Thistle
Librarian

Check our catalog online! **http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home.php**. I have had the distinct pleasure to share in the history of the Vassalboro Public Library for nearly eight years – and for nearly eight years I have been eager to share that invitation with our town. At last, I can! With the help of many hands – and ongoing work – we are finally able to share with you our growing and exceptional catalog online. At the writing of this report we have about 20,000 items searchable in our online catalog – and hope to have our full collection of over 35,000 items completed within the year. We have also begun barcoding our collection and are starting to automate circulation – AND we have recently joined the state's interlibrary loan delivery system, which will save us money in postage and, eventually, help to bring us into the statewide network of libraries sharing resources.

Despite so much change, however, the Vassalboro Public Library remains – and will remain – the welcoming gathering place and cherished resource that folks love. Indeed, this chapter of our 100+ year history is perhaps the most exciting and engaging. We have long fulfilled the promise to bring you the books, movies, items, and services you request and enjoy – and now we can do so more efficiently, more affordably, and, ultimately, as a contributor in the larger workings of the state's great library network. It is truly a delight to be a part of it – and we hope you will join in the excitement.

In FY 2012-13, we welcomed over 7,000 patron visits and increased our circulation to over 14,500 items. We continue to welcome new patrons every week and develop our collections continuously with new and bestselling titles in books and DVDs, high quality children's materials, and acclaimed audio books. Our new patron computers continue to offer high-speed Internet access and color printing (along with our free Wi-Fi) to accommodate nearly 1000 patron sign-ins over the year. Our local history and genealogical collection remains a prized resource (and includes free library access to Ancestry.com). It is rare that patrons do not find exactly what they come looking for – but if it does happen, our waiting lists are always short and, if we don't have it, we'll find it as quickly as possible.

We continue to keep busy and active with events, including L.C. Bates Museum Outreach programs for kids, the wonderful Spirit of Christmas community day (in partnership with the Grange), and our most anticipated annual Book & Bake Sale & Silent Auction just gets bigger and better every year – always the Saturday after Labor Day and a highlight of Vassalboro Days – mark your calendars now!

As ever, my steadfast assistant, Russell Smith, and I give great thanks for our outstanding team of volunteers, whose service to the library is indispensable to our success. Logging over 1700 hours, they help make it all happen – and each and every effort is an invaluable contribution to our library and our community. Space does not allow an exhaustive list of all who contribute their time and energy, but the following deserve special recognition for their incalculable efforts and unflagging dedication: Sylvia Michaud, Jim Ashton, Lore & Chuck Ferguson, Irene Forster, the Limberger Family, Valerie Sugden, the Welch Family, Myrna & Paul Duplessie, Sue & Phil Haines, Dianne Hogendorn, David Jenney, Jennifer Kochaver, Helen LaFleur, Julie Lyon, Art & Linda Kingdon, Susan Taylor, Esther Bernhardt, Susan Bouchard, Debra Crump, Victor Esposito & the REACH Kids, Maverick Hilton, Susan Kiralis, Liz McMahon, George O'Connor, Greg Seamans, David Shipman, Pam Shofner, Debby Thompson, Marcia Tyrol, Jacob Vashon, and Ann White; and, although we do not get to see them as often these days, we always welcome time spent with our cherished volunteers, Eleanor Getchell, Betts Kiralis, and Claudia Wilcox. We thank you, one and all!

As a vibrant community center that delivers access to information, ideas and entertainment for everyone, we are proud to maintain the services and value upon which the town has relied for over a century. Despite our growing 21st century edge, we continue to provide personalized service and dedication to patrons and projects every day. We are open Mondays & Wednesdays (12:30-8PM) and Saturdays (10AM-6PM) – stop by for a best seller, discover a new author, research a favorite topic, connect online, print your resume, learn something new, volunteer, meet up with your friends and neighbors, or just say hello!

VASSALBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Vassalboro Historical Society celebrated 50 years of incorporation in 2013 and continues to grow. We have more than 160 VHS facebook group members and continue to get research requests from all over as people find our website, **VHSME.org**. Of course our local members and volunteers are always the ones who keep the Society going and growing. Thanks to all of them for all they do!

One of the many displays at the Vassalboro Historical Society Museum. Photo by Jan Clowes

We are hoping that anyone interested in Vassalboro, its history, residents, or landmarks will note our Open Houses which, along with a picture of the museum are featured on the 2014 Methodist Church Community Calendar.

As those who travel through East Vassalboro may have noticed, the Blacksmith Shop is back on the ground and more stable than it has been in a long time. We will make sure that those interested will have opportunities to stop by for a visit.

The acquisitions committee has been busy bringing or keeping Vassalboro items in town - including a G.H. Cates trade card, an early 1920's scrapbook created by Agnes M. Masse, and a locally-made horse-drawn wagon.

Locally made horse drawn wagon acquired by the Vassalboro Historical Society. Photo by Pam Ferran Perro

Please join us as we continue to bring together people interested in Vassalboro history and to discover, collect, preserve and make available historical artifacts and information. To learn more, please visit the website, come to an Open House, or call the museum at **207-923-3505**.

The Cates Family

Cates Family, circa 1940

Back Row: Effie, Paul, Helen, George, Benjamin, and Herbert (Maynard, eldest, not present)
Front Row: June, Carleton, Harold, Ann, Marian, Annabel, and Margaret.

# of East Vassalboro

The little boy entered his family's spacious old farmhouse for the first time, eyes shining with excitement. "Which room is mine?" he asked. "Upstairs, with the red door," an older sibling answered. He raced up the stairs, stopped, and turned slowly around in the hallway. Every room had a red door!

That was Ben's introduction to the farmhouse (circa 1803) on Stanley Hill Road where his generation of the Cates family would live for decades. Harold and Annabel Cates would have an even dozen children—six boys and six girls. They worked and played on the 65 acres of woods and fields that surrounded them. They hunted the woods, and fished the lake where Ben once caught a brown trout (eight pounds, one ounce) that landed him in the record books of "The One That Didn't Get Away." They all attended Vassalboro schools, some graduated from college out-of-state, and most returned to Maine to live and work. The family would have impact internationally, and would weave itself into the fabric of East Vassalboro—in the Grange, the Friends Meeting, the schools, and even the corner store.

Hmmm, better make that *especially* the corner store.

Before the days when every family had an automobile, and could zip into Waterville or Augusta to supermarkets and malls, the local store was a place of huge importance in the life of a community. Townsfolk could find nearly everything they needed there: groceries, dry goods, hardware, medicine, fellowship, information, even their mail. Such an enterprise needed many hands to make it function well, and the Cates family had plenty of hands!

Cates's Store offered some amazing choices in groceries. Harold was a skilled butcher, selling their own veal, and bacon and ham that they cured and smoked themselves. Merchants and farmers in Waterville and the surrounding countryside provided produce, baked goods, eggs, and beef. At Christmas time, the family went to Portland and brought back a supply of gifts to offer in the store.

Annabel held a special place in the hearts—or the stomachs—of the bachelors in town. She used scraps left from butchering to make a delectable veal loaf to sell in the store. Decades later residents remember how wonderful the loaf tasted. Reputedly it was a mainstay for the single men in town, who waited all week for it.

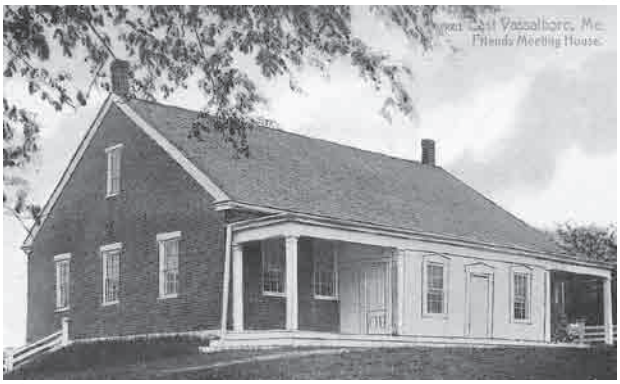
An ongoing strategic game of Rook took place in one corner of the store, while a group of elderly gentlemen sat on the porch and watched the life of the Village pass by. Children clutching pennies for candy walked through the creaking screen doors. Men running for public office left their nomination papers on the counter for citizens to sign. (Signatures of twenty-five registered voters still earn one a place on the ballot at Town Elections.)

The Country Store continues to thrive well into the 21st century, but it is unlikely that any single family will own and run it as *long* as the Cates family did. They first bought it about the time of the Civil War, and kept it in the family for four generations, till 1971 when Ben sold the business after owning it for 14 years. He remembered owning the store as "a good experience, one I enjoyed. I made good friends. But it [became] a losing proposition because we were not open on Sundays, and we sold no alcohol." Then he added with a twinkle in his eye, "Besides, after a hundred years, I was just plain tired!"

Even when their religious convictions cost them some business, the Cates family stood firm. The Vassalboro Friends Meeting (Quakers) had a profound impact on the life of the family, and the family continues to affect the Meeting. Harold and Annabel and their sons and daughters were well acquainted with Rufus Jones (1863-1948), one of the leading Quakers of the twentieth century, born in nearby South China. Their lives have reflected the

Cates Store, circa 1945

Friends Meeting, circa 1940



Friends Meeting, circa 1900

Cates Homestead, 1940s

Cates home, circa 1960

four Testimonies of the Quakers: Peace, Equality, Integrity, and Simplicity. The Friends believe there's something of God in everyone; and they work to recognize the dignity, equality, and sanctity of life.

Their Testimony of Peace requires them to refrain from killing, even in wartime. George and Ben did alternative service stateside during the Second World War. Younger brother Paul was excused from military service to work on the family farm. After college, during the Cold War, he traveled to Germany to help with the relief effort there. True to his Quaker faith, Paul set about trying to make peace a reality in that war-torn area.

During those years in Europe Paul may not have brought about world peace, but he did find love—in a young East German girl with a beautiful smile. The love story of Paul and Elisabeth unfolded amid international hostility and overwhelming obstacles. When they were finally allowed to reach America by freighter—married and with a young son—they were received warmly by the Cates family and by the folks of East Vassalboro. Elisabeth recalls that on that memorable first night in Vassalboro, her new family greeted her warmly, but Ben was the only one who gave her a hug.

It's easy to see what the Village means to the Cateses. To see what the family means to the Village, we need only to look back a couple of decades to the early nineties when emotions were running very high in Vassalboro. The Community School was voted into existence amid huge controversy, by a margin of only eight votes. The people of the town were sharply divided, some of them supporting the state-of-the-art facility, others deriding it as wasteful and excessive. There were letters to the editor. There was a recount, a lawsuit, and even a video entitled, "A Community at Risk." Construction proceeded as voted, but the acrimony continued for months.

During the ensuing months, another controversy was brewing in the Village. The Kennebec Water District was looking for a site for its new plant, and decided the Cates farm would be ideal. The family emphatically did not want to sell, and KWD began proceedings to seize the land by eminent domain. A public hearing was held at the Town Hall, with a record crowd in attendance. The Townspeople—recently so divided—stood in solidarity with the Cateses. The farm was declared (by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission) to be a Prehistoric Native American Site, and thus was saved for the family. But the threat from KWD pulled the Town together once again—in the cause of the Cates family and freedom.

The family has impacted their Village in amazing ways. Their involvement with the community—in Grange, in Town government, in teaching at Oak Grove and Erskine—can hardly be measured. Paul, in particular, has contributed considerable creativity to the story of Vassalboro, writing plays and stories and poetry that are firmly fixed in the memories of the townspeople. In the late 1980s, the family farm was the site of archaeological excavations into the relics of the Red Paint people, Indians known to have occupied the site several thousand years earlier. The farm now yields acres of beautiful gladiolas and other blooms for sale in their cut-flower business. New generations of Cateses have learned the skill, the work ethic, the quick humor, and the faith that have defined the family for so many decades.

The farmhouse remains as a sentinel on the corner. Two of the upstairs doors are still painted red. Although Paul and Elisabeth live there now with their youngest daughter, family members of several generations call it the home place, and still gather there when they can. The children of Harold and Annabel have grown old, and only four of them remain: Herbert, Paul, Carleton, and Ann. Someday they will all be gone, but their impact upon this community will remain. Their lives of peace, equality, integrity, and simplicity are an example to us all.

by Vicki Reynolds Schad, with help from many sources

VASSALBORO POLICE REPORT

Richard Phippen
Vassalboro Police

Vassalboro police calls are primarily answered by the Maine State Police and the Kennebec County Sheriff's Dept. They can be reached by calling the Maine Department of Public Safety regional communication center in Augusta at **(911)** for emergencies or **(624-7076)** or **(1-800-452-4664)** for non-emergency calls.

An EMERGENCY can and does mean different things to different people. Do not take time trying to decide if it's an emergency. (IF YOU NEED THE POLICE NOW CALL 911). The dispatchers are very well trained and will make the decision how high the priority is and send the appropriate help.
If you want to contact me, you can call me on my cell phone at **557-4601** or through the above numbers. If you call the town office attempting to contact me, it usually predicates a second call. You can always call the town office and leave a message. I usually stop at the town office daily.

I encourage everyone to contact me about anything that seems suspicious. A strange vehicle, suspicious person, or any unusual driving incident you observe. The call may prevent someone from getting hurt or being a victim.

Vassalboro is a very safe community with few violent crimes or accidents; however, we are not immune from the social driven trends of today.

We have people who abuse drugs and at times get very desperate and commit criminal acts in desperation. The businesses in towns and cities surrounding us often are victims of this desperation. Please dispose of any unused opiate or psychiatric drugs in your homes.

Texting while driving will very likely surpass all other causes for serious motor vehicles accidents in the future.

Things to remember while driving that may prevent an accident: if you see a deer, there are usually two or three; if you see a snowmobile, there are usually two or three; if you see a child, there are usually two or three; and if you see someone plowing their driveway, do not anticipate he will see you. Remember the eye contact rule: make eye contact with the other person before proceeding. I encourage you to call me with any concerns you have involving crimes and safety.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

First I want to start off by saying THANK YOU to all the players, coaches, parents and volunteers for making my first year as Rec Director a success. I also want to thank the Rec Committee for all of their help. They are a great group of people whose tireless work made the sports programs a success.

We had over 80 kids sign-up and play soccer this year from ages 4-12. Every week I saw so much improvement in the kids. As for basketball, we had over 70 kids sign-up to play. Once again, I saw a lot of improvement in the kids from week to week and the fun they had showed through with the smiles on their faces. The dedicated volunteer coaches were the direct result with teaching the skills, while having fun at the same time.

I will end on this note - we are always looking for ideas and volunteers to help make our Rec Department better. So if you have any suggestions or would like to help out, please feel free to get ahold of me.

Drainage improvement project at the rec fields.

Again, thank you all for a successful year!

Adam Loiko
Director

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Maeghan Maloney
District Attorney

Dear Friends,

It's been a whirlwind of a year! The District Attorney's Office has seen big changes but the quality of the work and commitment to justice has stayed as strong as ever.

While I respect and honor those who have served the District Attorney's Office in the past, I can not imagine a more dedicated and intelligent group of people than those with whom I have the pleasure to work. I encourage you to visit us in our offices in Augusta, Waterville, and Skowhegan. While I could write glowing pages about each person in the office, I want to at least be sure to introduce you to our new Deputy District Attorney, Fernand LaRochelle. Fern is the former Chief of the Criminal Unit at the Office of the Attorney General. His wisdom, experience, and patience influence everything we do. We are all grateful for the opportunity to work with him!

The focus of the Office this year has been "Smart on Crime." We strive to turn around first time and low level offenders while putting the most dangerous criminals in jail for as long as possible. Here are some examples:

One of the first decisions I made was to allow the US Attorney's Office to prosecute pharmacy robberies. These robberies were at epidemic proportions in our counties and a tougher approach was clearly needed. Longer sentences are possible at the federal level than the state level. I am glad to see that the number of pharmacy robberies has plunged. When law enforcement works together the results are more successful.

After the jury trial conviction of Havier Olmo for Class A, Aggravated Drug Trafficking in oxycodone, the Office passionately sought the longest sentence possible, concluding that his extensive list of priors made rehabilitation unlikely. The judge agreed and sentenced him to 10 years in prison, none of it suspended.

In contrast, Christopher Knight had a long list of burglaries (most outside the statute of limitations) but had never before been convicted of a crime. After "the team" at the co-occurring disorders court ("CODC") concluded he was worth the risk of trying to rehabilitate, I agreed to a "good" sentence of county jail with a "bad" state prison sentence hanging over his head. In general, I'm not in favor of short state prison sentences as this time can teach people to be better criminals. If we can use an intensive alternative program like the CODC (which requires weekly meetings with Justice Mills, counseling, drug screening and employment or school attendance) to turn defendants into productive, law-abiding citizens, then we have been successful. Not to mention that, even with the intensity of the CODC, it is still less expensive for taxpayers than the cost of incarceration.

Speaking of alternative sentencing, the Veterans' Court in Kennebec County is thriving. It has grown to over twice the size it was back in January of 2013. I learned about veterans' courts when I was in the legislature, sponsoring a bill for our own veterans' court in Maine. Any of you who have watched the MPBN broadcast of A Matter of Duty, fully understands the impact this court has had on the lives of veterans. Being a part of this amazing program has shown me the true meaning of criminal justice.

Here are some alternative programs our office is pursuing with community partners: 1) a new alternative program for first time OUI's with a BAC of under 1.0 in Kennebec County; 2) a new alternative program for drug related crimes in Somerset County; 3) a new group focused on high lethality domestic violence cases in Somerset County; 4) a new use of Restorative Justice in sentencing when requested by victims; and 4) a continued support of the alternative sentencing program in Kennebec County for those serving less than 10 days in jail. I am indebted to numerous community partners for making all this possible for the people of Kennebec and Somerset counties.

We have taken a hard stance against domestic violence which has increased our success of victims appearing at trial in high lethality cases. At the same time, we are giving victims control over their lives in cases without a high lethality rating.

Our most serious and heartbreaking cases continue to be our child sexual assault cases. These always create a dilemma as it can be difficult for the child to testify in Court, but we want to pursue the longest prison sentence possible.

It is a privilege and an honor to work with you. Every day I am in awe of the hardworking people in our towns and cities, law enforcement, the Courts, local nonprofits, attorneys, and others working to bring justice to the people of Kennebec and Somerset counties.

Thank you,
Maeghan

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Randall A. Liberty
Sheriff, Kennebec County

The Kennebec County Sheriff's Office continues to proudly serve the citizens of Kennebec County. The Sheriff's Office has a long history of service, dating back to 1799. Our agency serves many functions in the communities of Kennebec County. In addition to rural patrol, the Law Enforcement Division provides many regional assets to our communities including Drug Investigations, K-9, Dive Team, Accident Reconstruction and the Special Response Team.

In 2013, Deputy Sheriffs responded to a total of 34,398 calls for service. We answered (656) calls for service involving theft; (764) motor vehicle accidents with (8) reconstructions; (736) alarms; (319) domestic violence; (286) 911 hang-ups; (158) assaults; (177) K-9 calls and (731) providing assistance to other agencies. The Sheriff's patrol division conducted (385) school safety visits and made 7,273 vehicle stops.

During the past year, our Correctional Facility managed 3,152 inmates. The offenses committed by defendants included everything from Burglaries to Homicides. Substance abuse and the proper treatment of citizens with mental illness continue to be two primary concerns at the Correctional Facility. Despite significant fiscal challenges, the CARA program continues to operate, serving as the only state-wide substance abuse treatment program.

Inmates at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility are required to work. Inmates that are considered to be a risk to the community work inside the facility cleaning and cooking, while others are supervised on outside projects. For every two days worked, one day is reduced from their sentence, resulting in a $697,594 bed day savings to the citizens of Kennebec County. Throughout 2013, inmates worked 23,810 community service hours, valued at approximately $178,576. Our inmates raised 46,448 pounds of produce for the inmate kitchen and area food pantries in 2013.

We are committed to providing innovative programs to reduce crimes, assist victims, and to provide enhanced public safety. I acknowledge the ever-growing opiate addiction problem and have committed to partnerships at the Federal, State and Local levels to combat this problem. Our approach is aggressive enforcement, education and treatment for those afflicted.

I will provide the 122,150 citizens of Kennebec County with progressive and professional Law Enforcement and Correctional Services. I welcome any comments or suggestions which improve our service to the citizens of Kennebec County.

New 2014 E-One International wet side tanker.

VASSALBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Eric Rowe, *Fire Chief*

Our annual Fire Prevention Week continues at the Vassalboro Community School every year. Our Firefighters spent several days this year with over 100 school children at the VCS. Thank you to the Winslow Fire Department for letting us use their smoke trailer to be able to allow the 3rd and 4th graders the experience of being in a smoke filled environment. We are thankful to have the opportunity to teach the kids about fire safety, fire hazards and fire prevention. Remember to teach your children at a young age how to call 911 for an emergency and to have them learn their physical home address. Remember to help us help you, please number your houses and mailboxes on both sides.

This year, we had our best turn out of hunters and non-hunters for our annual hunter's breakfast. The Vassalboro Fire Fighters are proud to put on this annual event, of which all the proceeds are used exclusively for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, and toys distributed through the Vassalboro Food Station. This year, we raised $593. Please join us this fall and support the Vassalboro Food Station by enjoying a homemade breakfast with your family.

Grant acquisitions.

2013 Hunter's Breakfast.

Some of the types of calls the Vassalboro Fire Department responded to in 2013 are noted below:

7	Structure Fires
17	Vehicle Accidents w/PI
9	Delta Assist
8	10-55 (Vehicle accidents)
15	Down Tree/Power Line Calls
2	Vehicle Fires
3	Vehicle Extrications
4	Medical Assistance
6	Grass/Woods Fire
6	Mutual Aid Calls
3	Carbon Monoxide
29	Misc. Calls
3	Chimney Fires
3	Brush Fires
16	Fire Alarms

I'm pleased to say that we are in our last year of a three year program to upgrade the SCBA's and firefighting gear for the firefighters. With your support of the Fire Department's annual budget, and the recipient of several grants from the Sukeforth Foundation and the Wal-Mart Foundation, we will be completing the program this year, thus allowing us to reduce our overall budget request. We also received a safety grant from the Maine Municipal Association for emergency equipment to be used for traffic control.

This past year, we have asked for your support and received it for two major capital projects. One is to replace the windows at the North Station, along with replacing the vinyl siding. The wooden windows will be replaced with vinyl covered widows, and we will reduce the size and quantity of them on the south side. Some of those have been replaced already with the expectation that the whole project will be completed this summer. The second request was for a 3500 gallon tanker to replace the home-made tanker that was built more than 10 years ago which does not currently meet NFPA standards. As of this writing, we are expecting the truck anytime.

Last but not least. I would like to thank all the members of the Vassalboro Fire Department for the countless hours they serve Vassalboro, for not only fighting fires, but firefighter training, servicing trucks, keeping up with state regulations, and for spending time away from their families. I would also like to thank the town officials and the Vassalboro residents for their continued support of the fire department.

ERSKINE ACADEMY

To The Residents of Vassalboro, Maine:

The thoughtful and careful leveraging of our resources and support for Erskine Academy made us a high performing school in 2012-13. The combined influence and efforts of our teachers, students, parents, and alumni has established for our school the sixth highest graduation rate (nearly 98% of our students graduate in four years) and one of the lowest dropout rates in the state. This achievement, along with our students' three-year average scores on state mathematics and reading tests, has earned our school the letter grade "B" in the first year of Maine's school performance grading system program, a grade not typical of most schools in our region.

A private school serving a public purpose, with 571 students in grades nine through twelve, Erskine is the second largest town academy in Maine and the only one to serve a completely voluntary student body exclusively on a school choice basis. As has been the case historically, 97% of our students come primarily from eight sending towns; a small number, which now includes 13 international students, attend on a private basis. Therefore, our students come from primarily humble, hard-working backgrounds and circumstances to experience a school program that blends traditional values with contemporary programs and modern methods to become the most academically and personally prepared young people in the region.

The activities pursued by of our students and staff this past year are testimony to the vibrancy of the school community:

- Thirteen courses taught here for college credit by a first-class teaching corps has resulted in nearly two-thirds of seniors earning credits for a considerable savings in college tuition.
- The addition of the "Jobs for Maine Graduates" program teaches essential work seeking, training, and employment skills.
- Eighty-seven percent of the Class of 2013 is accepted into some form of higher education, many to the most selective colleges in the nation.
- A competitive robotics class and club were added and funded primarily by grants and financial gifts from our friends and alumni.
- For a third time, we brought nearly 250 area sixth graders to our school for a program of early exposure to high school designed to build their confidence for doing high school work.
- Our students have done a great deal of good, contributing literally thousands of hours of community service and raising a similar amount in dollars to aid those in need from nearby and afar, as far as Costa Rica, in fact.
- A 5th Annual Walk to Cure Breast Cancer Walk, with nearly 100% of our student body participating, raised in excess of $3000 for the Maine General Breast Care Center.

This year, as we do every ten years, we engaged a new cycle of accreditation through the "New England Association of Secondary Schools," not only to earn quality assurance from this nationally respected organization, but to further improve our school and the student experience. Our process began with an intensive study of all major programs and operations and a reaffirmation of the school's long-held traditional values. Placing equal value on scholarship, leadership, stewardship and relationships, we have articulated a vision of academic success for all students; created a climate that is safe, supportive, and hospitable to education; and cultivated responsible leadership and civic-mindedness in our young people.

We enthusiastically welcome and educate a substantial number of Vassalboro's high schoolers. The Vassalboro families who have entrusted us to educate and care for their children these many years, energizes, encourages, and strengthens our resolves to provide the highest quality educational program possible and the conditions to inspire our students to their highest potential in school, at work, and within their communities. We are grateful for your confidence in and support for Erskine Academy.

Sincerely,

Michael McQuarrie
Headmaster

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Good day all,

Vassalboro Community School has enjoyed another year of tremendous support from the community, parents and students. The successful completion or our mission statement and work with children would not be possible without the thousands of volunteer hours offered by the very talented and thoughtful people of this community. Thank you again for another year of working together for the benefit of our children.

I am pleased to note that the School Board, with the help of our teachers, town/school administrators, Selectmen and Budget Committee has been able to bring, for your consideration, another reasonable budget for the 2014/15 school year. You can well imagine the hard work and long hours put in by everyone in working through the complexities of this budget. My sincere thanks to all of you for the advice and assistance you have given me and my staff during this process.

Vassalboro Community School Principal Dianna Gram

Lastly I want to thank our School Board for their hundreds of hours of volunteering to ensure a quality education for the children of Vassalboro. Chairman Kevin Levasseur along with Barry Bernier, Lance Cloutier, Jolene Gamage, and Phillip Landry deserve a great big thank-you from all of us. Their compassion and sincerity for helping build a quality kindergarten through 8th grade school does not go unnoticed.

Assistant Superintendent, Peter Thiboutot, has highlighted some of the VCS curriculum/assessment work. As you can see, it has been another busy year providing an appropriate and rigorous education for our students.

Eric L. Haley
Superintendent of AOS #92
Vassalboro, Waterville and Winslow

The Vassalboro Community School has had another outstanding year under the leadership of Principal Dianna Gram and Assistant Principal Aaron McCullough.

Curriculum continues to be a focus for staff. This year, all teachers participated in professional development related to the new Maine educational standards for writing, based on the Common Core framework. Students will benefit from a consistent focus and approach to writing across all content areas. With the completion of a newly adopted math curriculum aligned to the Common Core, teachers shifted to reviewing and developing assessments to provide information about student progress and achievement. Another key focus for the year was Ipad training for teachers, as part of the move to the new devices offered through the MLTI program. Teachers participated in a wide variety of professional development activities. Of special note, science teacher Tom Nadeau was selected to attend Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama this past summer. In April, Tom attended the National Science Teachers Association national conference in Boston.

Each year, federal grant funds are used for specific projects at VCS, including the Positive Partners reading program and staff development. This year, funds were targeted to support the Writing Club at Vassalboro Community School. Headed by fourth grade teacher Jen Isbell, the Writing Club has a membership of over forty students. Another project supported by federal title funds is the After-school program, spearheaded by guidance counselor Erin Brosseau. More than half of all students and teachers participated in this program. Students were able to choose from a wide variety of options, including intramurals, games, crafts and other activities. Once again, this program was a huge success.

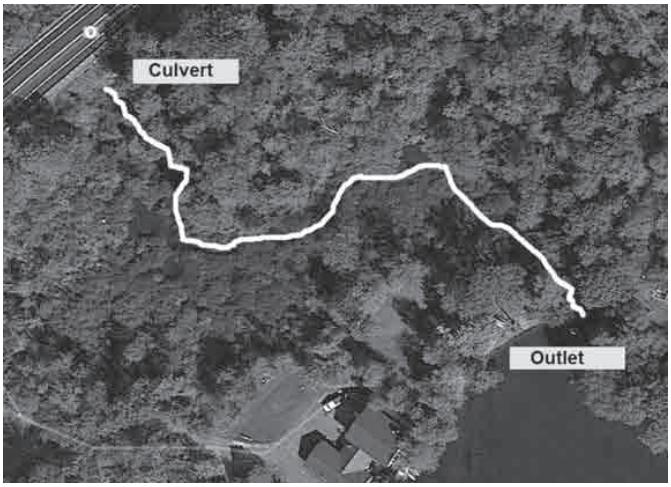
As you can see, VCS continues to attend to the academic and social needs of its students, while emphasizing the value of community. Thanks to all staff for another great year.

Peter Thiboutot
Assistant Superintendent of Schools for AOS #92
Vassalboro, Waterville and Winslow

CHINA REGION LAKES ALLIANCE

This letter contains the China Region Lakes Alliance's Annual Report summarizing the conservation and water quality protection activities undertaken in 2013. Since 1995, the CRLA has been working hard to protect our Lakes and waterways in Vassalboro and neighboring communities.

Among the highlights in 2013 was the improving trend in the water quality of Three Mile Pond which is a direct result of the habitat restoration project undertaken by CRLA at The Seaward Mill Stream, the outlet of Three Mile Pond.



The work has enabled safe passageway for native sea-run alewife by restoring their natural habitat and spawning grounds. At the same time, the billions of juvenile fish build mass and are net exporters of internal phosphorus' from the Pond afterwards. Phosphorus over-enrichment is the chief cause of water quality degradation and this substantial water quality improvement corroborates the good water quality trend seen in Webber Pond over the past decade that coincide with re-introduction of this fishery there as well. Following these remarkable results, The Board of Directors of CRLA is working on plans restore the native fishery to China Lake via the Outlet Stream.

A Lake is the Product of its Watershed…
And the People who Care for it

The Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program and the Youth Conservation Corp enjoyed another successful season with 18 area high school age students participating in providing services for ecological protection against invasive aquatic plants. The CBI provided staffing at all 4 public boat launches in the area and inspected hundreds of boats and trailers for invasive plants (i.e. milfoil) on weekends and holidays prior to their launching. Also, CRLA completed numerous conservation projects including the construction of trail bridges at the new Thurston Park in China and installing and

buffer strips to a Webber Pond camp to mitigate erosion on a steep banking. The informational kiosk was painted at the East Vassalboro Boat Launch and new maps and community materials were added.

These projects are making a positive difference to the community and ecology and CRLA wishes to extend its appreciation to the Town of Vassalboro for its foresight, fortitude, and support.

Jim Hart
CRLA President

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Vassalboro Conservation Commission is now in its sixth year. The Conservation Commission has the responsibility of conducting research and giving advice that will help Vassalboro citizens to better utilize, protect, and plan for the Town's natural resources and open areas. The Conservation Commission seeks to coordinate its activities with existing Town committees, departments, and with other conservation organizations. The members of the Commission include: David Jenney, Steve Jones, Mary Ellen Johnston, Holly Weidner and Paul Mitnik. The ordinance under which it functions allows up to seven members. Vassalboro residents are encouraged to inquire about serving on this Commission; just call the Town Office and leave your contact information. All meetings are open to the public, and we hold them on the second Thursday of every other month. The following is a brief summary of our past year:

Early in the year we contacted the Planning Board Chair, Ginny Brackett, to discuss the Subdivision Ordinance. Many towns have revised their ordinances to reflect the need for protecting the natural resources and "open spaces" within a town and ensuring that new developments adhere to clear guidelines set forth. We shared a sample of language used in other subdivision ordinances and suggested the consultant incorporate these guidelines into the appropriate sections of the new ordinance. References to the Beginning With Habitat maps in appropriate sections would make it easier for people to find the information they are required to provide in their applications.

In the spring, we explored the possibility of creating a Community Garden somewhere in town for people who do not have the space to put a garden. Finding an appropriate location was a challenge, as issues such as soil types, water access, protection from wildlife, vandals, and other concerns were raised. We may revisit this topic in spring of 2014 and welcome ideas and suggestions from the public.

The Conservation Commission feels that communication and cooperation with other town committees is an important part of our work. We proposed to the Selectmen that we be notified regarding properties that are on the towns Tax Lien Foreclosure list. In the event the town has to take possession of property and then decide how to dispose of it, the Conservation Commission might advise them as to the natural resources or other values present on the property, which bear consideration.

We have continued to try to develop a trail to the boat launch site on the Kennebec River at Seven Mile Stream. Coffin Engineering has done some site work, but the cost of making it handicap-accessible will be prohibitive. We are searching for grant money to defray the costs of developing a simple trail from the parking area down to the river.

In the late spring, we invited Theresa Kirshner, Executive Director of the Kennebec Land Trust, to attend one of our meetings. Theresa shared information from the Strategic Conservation Assessment of Kennebec County that had been recently done by KLT. The Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat on Webber Pond is a property that the KLT manages along with the Davidson Reserve. With help from KLT, we explored the possibility of acquiring the Corson property, which abuts the Vassalboro Wildlife Habitat. Questions regarding the boundaries prevented us from concluding this project and we may revisit it again in the future.

A Project Canopy Grant was applied for in December to help cover the cost of a Forester who would update the Town's Forest Management Plan. This program offered annually by the Maine Department of Conservation is very competitive and has a limit of funds available to communities. We were not chosen for this year, but intend to re-apply next fall.

Annual canoe/kayak trip down the Kennebec River.

The Vassalboro Conservation Commission has offered a canoe/kayak trip down the Kennebec River each summer, starting from the Seven Mile Stream access point. We hope that folks will give it a try as it offers a unique and beautiful view of the mighty river that we are so fortunate to have running through our town.

Mary Ellen Johnston
Chair, VCC

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES (JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013)

ADMINISTRATION

Appropriation:	$ 373,836.00
Expenditures:	
Personnel service	$ 255,634.40
Insurance	7,780.21
Utilities	9,034.86
Building Maintenance	17,000.00
Printing/Advertising	3,800.64
Audit/Legal/Dues	20,965.20
Office Supplies/Equipment	10,967.35
Technology/Postage/Other	35,277.82
Registry of Deeds	4,247.39
Carry forward – Bldg. Maintenance	+ 2,000.00
Carry forward for voting machine	+ 6,000.00
Balance	$ 17,128.13

PUBLIC WORKS

Appropriation:	$ 395,505.00
Expenditures:	
Personnel Services	$ 201,970.26
Insurance	14,612.12
Sand/Salt/other contracts	55,514.65
Vehicle Expenses/Equip.	82,506.35
Garage Utilities/Supplies	20,777.25
Bridges/Culverts/signs	3,440.57
Balance	$ 16,683.80

SOLID WASTE

Appropriation:	$ 338,970.00
Expenditures:	
Personnel Services	$ 82,363.27
Insurance	3,001.44
Bldg Maint, Water Monit, Engineering	52,189.53
Utilities/Supplies	6,194.27
Disposal/Hauling/Recycling	156,465.37
Balance	$ 38,756.12

ROAD PAVING/GRAVEL ROADS

Appropriation:	$ 237,520.00
Expenditures:	
Paving	$ 254,963.92
Striping	10,454.40
Gravel Roads/Maintenance	3,459.73
Carry forward – paving	+32,404.00
Balance	$ 1,045.95

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT/RESERVES

Appropriation:	$ 80,000.00
Expenditures:	
Plow Truck Reserve	$ 50,000.00
Transfer Station Reserve	5,000.00
Fire Truck Reserve	25,000.00
Sidewalk Engineering study	2,311.57
Carry forward – sidewalk study	+ 2,312.00
Balance	$ .43

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Appropriation:	$ 115,672.00
Expenditures:	
Utilities	$ 13,428.31
Insurances	7,466.86
Repairs	24,858.54
Training/Equipment/Supplies	31,976.72
Radios	1,406.59
Bldg Maintenance	2,917.63
Firefighter stipend	4,394.00
Chief Stipend	3,000.00
Dispatching	24,521.70
Balance	$ 1,701.65

PUBLIC SAFETY

Appropriation:	$ 36,800.00
Expenditures:	
Employee Costs	$ 19,004.77
Insurances	1,774.54
Supplies/Vehicle Maintenance	6,639.22
Humane Society	6,900.60
Carry Forward – Police per diem coverage	+ 2,000.00
Balance	$ 4,480.87

RECREATION/SUMMER YOUTH

Appropriation:	$ 15,000.00
Expenditures:	$ 15,000.00
Balance	$ .00

RECREATION/ROUTE #3 REST AREA

Appropriation:	$ 1,000.00
Expenditures:	$ 90.00
Balance	$ 910.00

LIBRARY

Appropriation:	$ 31,729.00
Expenditures:	$ 31,729.00
Balance	$ .00

UTILITIES

Appropriation:	$ 34,045.00
Expenditures:	
Street Lights	$ 15,745.90
Hydrant Rental	17,553.36
Balance	$ 745.74

CEMETERIES

Appropriation:	$ 16,500.00
Expenditures:	
Care of Cemeteries	$ 16,499.46
Balance	$ .54

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Appropriation:	$ 3,500.00
Expenditures:	
Shelter	$ 2,011.43
Balance	$ 1,488.57

ASSESSMENT

Appropriation:	$ 31,000.00
Expenditures:	
Contract Assessor Costs:	$ 25,999.92
Maps/Dues/Supplies	4,993.81
Winsketching	1,105.00
Carry forward – winsketching	+ 1,105.00
Balance	$ 6.27

SOCIAL SERVICES

Appropriation:	$ 10,600.00
Expenditures:	
Hospice	$ 1,600.00
Food Pantry	1,500.00
Family Violence	2,250.00
KV Mental Health	3,500.00
Senior Spectrum	1,000.00
Sexual Assault & Crisis Center	750.00
Balance	$ .00

MISCELLANEOUS REQUEST

Appropriation:	$ 15,000.00
Expenditures:	
Historical Society	$ 3,000.00
Snowmobile Club	1,500.00
C.R.L.A.	10,000.00
Balance	$ 500.00

COUNTY TAX

Appropriation:	$ 296,100.00
Expenditures:	$ 296,056.52
Balance	$ 43.48

EDUCATION (local funds only)

Appropriation:	$ 2,793,923.00
Expenditures:	$ 2,793,923.00
Balance	$ .00

Photo: Dan Feeney

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Independent Auditors' Report on Additional Information

Board of Selectmen
Town of Vassalboro, Maine
Vassalboro, Maine

We have audited the financial statements of Town of Vassalboro, Maine as of and for the year ended June 30, 2013, and our report thereon dated November 15, 2013, which expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements, appears on page 1. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule on page 31 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Macpage

South Portland, Maine
November 15, 2013

BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

June 30, 2013

ASSETS	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,006,413	$ 119,976	$ 1,126,389
Investments	644,567		644,567
Receivables:			
Taxes	251,114		251,114
Liens	68,080		68,080
Accounts and loans	959	6,608	7,567
Other governments	104,133	83,817	187,950
Prepaid expenses	32,007		32,007
Inventory - food service		7,426	7,426
Interfund loan receivable		65,799	65,799
Total Assets	$ 2,107,273	$ 283,626	$ 2,390,899
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	$ 19,422		$ 19,422
Accrued wages	291,038		291,038
Accrued vacation	22,009		22,009
Accrued sick time	7,490		7,490
Interfund loan payable	64,568	$ 1,231	65,799
Total Liabilities	404,527	1,231	405,758
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	180,000		180,000
FUND BALANCES			
Non-spendable	32,007	95,098	127,105
Restricted - school		130,056	130,056
Restricted - town		57,241	57,241
Committed	86,240		86,240
Assigned	81,307		81,307
Unassigned	1,323,192		1,323,192
Total Fund Balances	1,522,746	282,395	1,805,141
Total Liabilities, Deferred inflows of resources And Fund Balances	$ 2,107,273	$ 283,626	$ 2,390,899

The complete audit report is available for inspection at the town office.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES

Year Ended June 30, 2013

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues			
Taxes	$ 4,347,138		$ 4,347,138
Intergovernmental	3,942,641	$ 621,462	4,564,103
Licenses and permits	32,316		32,316
Charges for services	138,842	53,614	192,456
Interest	19,718	5,456	25,174
Miscellaneous	51,271	20,347	71,618
Maine State Retirement - on-behalf payments	434,000		434,000
Total Revenues	8,965,926	700,879	9,666,805
Expenditures			
General government	382,784	0	382,784
Public safety	171,791		171,791
Public works	648,666		648,666
Health and sanitation	292,173		292,173
Education	6,542,343	470,598	7,012,941
Social services	12,611		12,611
Special assessments	296,057		296,057
Leisure services	44,257	4,721	48,978
Unclassified	28,765	99	28,864
Food services		215,896	215,896
Debt service		17,798	17,798
CDBG grant		150,000	150,000
Conservation grant		13,238	13,238
Maine State Retirement - on-behalf payments	434,000		434,000
Total Expenditures	8,853,447	872,350	9,725,797
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	112,479	(171,471)	(58,992)
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	1,410,267	453,866	1,864,133
Fund Balance, End of Year	$ 1,522,746	$ 282,395	$ 1,805,141

BUDGET COMPARISON

Year Ended June 30, 2013

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Unexpended Fund Balance - July 1, 2012	$ 307,913	$ 307,913	$ 1,701,209	$ 1,393,296
Revenues				
Taxes	4,293,970	4,293,970	4,347,138	53,168
Intergovernmental	3,955,858	3,955,858	3,942,641	(13,217)
Licenses and permits	32,250	32,250	32,316	66
Charges for services	126,000	126,000	138,842	12,842
Interest	5,000	5,000	19,718	14,718
Miscellaneous	5,000	5,000	51,271	46,271
Total Revenues	8,418,078	8,418,078	8,531,926	113,848
Total Funds Available	8,725,991	8,725,991	10,233,135	1,507,144
Expenditures				
Current:				
General government	413,941	413,941	382,784	31,157
Public safety	188,517	188,517	171,791	16,726
Public works	665,429	665,429	648,666	16,763
Health and sanitation	338,970	338,970	292,173	46,797
Education	6,592,660	6,592,660	6,534,758	57,902
Social services	14,100	14,100	12,611	1,489
Special assessments	296,100	296,100	296,057	43
Leisure services	47,729	47,729	44,257	3,472
Unclassified	86,233	86,233	26,452	59,781
Capital reserves	82,312	82,312	2,312	80,000
Total Expenditures	8,725,991	8,725,991	8,411,861	314,130
Excess of Funds Available Over Expenditures	$ -	$ -	1,821,274	$ 1,821,274
Reconciliation to the Fund Financial Statements:				
Less accrued summer salaries - school			291,038	
Less accrued compensated absences - school			7,490	
Fund Balance - End of Year, Fund Financial Statements, as of June 30, 2013			$ 1,522,746	

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Vassalboro in said Kennebec County, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Vassalboro Community School on Monday, June 2nd, 2014, at 6:30 in the evening to elect a moderator to preside at said meeting, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 63, all of said articles being set out below to wit: and further to warn said voters to meet at the Town Office building in said Town on Tuesday, the 10th day of June 2014, then and there to act on Articles numbered 64 to 66. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Article 1: To choose a **Moderator** to preside at said Meeting, and to pay a sum not to exceed $200.00 for his/her services.

Article 2: To elect from the floor, under the rules of this meeting, five (5) members of the **Budget Committee** to serve two year terms.

Terms Expire in 2014:
John Melrose, Rick Denico, Jr., Richard Phippen
Douglas Phillips, Elizabeth Reuthe

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to fix the **due dates of taxes** as follows, and to set the rate of interest at the prevailing allowable State rate: 7.00%. Interest will begin to accrue 7 days after the due date.

One-fourth of taxes due on 09-22-14
One-fourth of taxes due on 11-24-14
One-fourth of taxes due on 02-23-15
One-fourth of taxes due on 04-27-15

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

REVENUES

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to use the following **anticipated revenue** amounts and from the sources named to reduce the 2014-2015 tax commitment:

Excise Tax	$ 625,000
Agent Fees	14,000
Snowmobile agent fees	2,500
Boat Excise Tax	5,750
Interest/Penalties	32,000
State Revenue Sharing	109,500
State Road Assistance	65,000
Tree Growth Reimbursement	15,000
State Park Sharing	1,500
Veterans Exemption	2,000
Miscellaneous	5,000
Permit Fees	8,500
Solid Waste/Recycling	65,000
Franchise Fee/Cable Fees	14,000
Clerk Fees	6,000
Surplus	150,000
TOTAL REVENUES:	$1,120,750

Selectmen Recommend: $1,120,750
Budget Committee recommends: $1,120,750

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $397,075 for **Administration**.

Selectmen Recommend: $397,075
Budget Committee Recommends: $397,075

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $32,900 for **Assessment Costs**.

Selectmen Recommend: $32,900
Budget Committee Recommends: $32,900

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $5,000 for **Capital Improvements/Reserves**.

Selectmen Recommend: $5,000
Budget Committee Recommends: $5,000

PUBLIC WORKS

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $440,695 for the **Public Works Department.**

Selectmen Recommend: $440,695
Budget Committee Recommends: $440,695

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $160,945 for **paving work** to allow the Town to pave the following roads: Cushnoc Road (south end only) and reconstruct and pave the Reynolds Road Intersection; and for **road striping and paved road maintenance** and if any of said sums remain, the Selectmen at their discretion could do additional paving.

Selectmen Recommend: $160,945
Budget Committee Recommends: $160,945

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $294,035 for the cost of operating the Town's **Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facility**.

Selectmen Recommend: $294,035
Budget Committee Recommends: $294,035

PUBLIC SAFETY

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $40,710 for the **Police Department and Animal Control.**

Selectmen Recommend: $40,710
Budget Committee Recommends: $40,710

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $93,448 for the **Fire Department.**

Selectmen Recommend: $93,448
Budget Committee Recommends: $93,448

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum not to exceed $20,000 from SURPLUS to be used as local match dollars for new Fire Department equipment. These funds will be expended only in the event of a **Fire Department grant award**.

Selectmen Recommend: $20,000
Budget Committee Recommends: $20,000

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $19,500 for **fire hydrant rental.**

Selectmen Recommend: $19,500
Budget Committee Recommends: $19,500

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $16,500 for **Street Lights**.

Selectmen Recommend: $16,500
Budget Committee Recommends: $16,500

SPECIAL ARTICLES AND TOWN POLICY

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen on behalf of the Town to **dispose of any real estate** acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they may deem advisable and to execute quit-claim deeds for such property.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to submit **applications for State and/or Federal funding** and if said program is approved, authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such program, and to disburse such funds for the purpose granted.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 18: Shall an ordinance entitled "Town of Vassalboro – Ordinance to Regulate Use of Exploding Targets" be enacted? (A copy of the Ordinance is available at the Town Clerk's office.)

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from SURPLUS the amount of $53,335, and provide approval for future labor and materials necessary (estimated at a value of $107,377), to match $641,508 of future federal dedicated Pedestrian Safety Funds **to construct and build sidewalks in East Vassalboro Village** as outlined in the 2010 Vassalboro Roadside Pedestrian and Bike Plan.

Selectmen Make No Recommendation
Budget Committee Does Not Recommend

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell the 2000 Volvo Public Works Truck and to **purchase a new public works truck** at a cost not to exceed $200,000 to be funded from the following sources:

$100,000 from taxation appropriation in FY 2014-15
75,000 from SURPLUS
25,000 from Proceeds from the sale of the 2000 Volvo truck
$200,000 Total cost of new truck

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 21: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, for the fiscal year 2014-2015, to **transfer funds** between appropriation accounts so long as the grand total of all appropriations is not exceeded. Any such transfers to be approved only at a properly called public meeting of the Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers under Maine statutes, Chapter 12 Section 6131 and amendments thereto, to promulgate such regulations compatible with the General Laws of the State to govern the time and manner in which **river herring (alewives)** shall be taken therein for the calendar year 2015.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval

Article 23: To see if the Town will authorize the Municipal Officers to sell surplus **river herring (alewives)** for one or more years, or take any action relative to the same, and to take an amount not to exceed $1,500 from herring (alewife) revenues to pay the wages of the river herring counter(s) for current and future harvest seasons, whose services are used to determine the amount of fish entering Webber Pond via the fish ladder to help develop statistics for the Department of Marine Resources.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to establish a new town department entitled **Vassalboro First Responder Service** and to raise and appropriate $15,000 for operational and equipment needs for such service.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Does Not Recommend

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen or their designee to **sell the old Fire Department tanker truck** and to use the proceeds to purchase equipment for the newly purchased tanker truck.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 26: Shall the Town of Vassalboro vote to approve a **Community Development Block Grant** application(s) for the following program(s) and dollar amounts:

Program: Economic Development Program
Amount: $90,000

and to submit same to the Department of Economic and Community Development and if said program is approved, to authorize the municipal officers to accept said grant funds, to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such

authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such programs.

Furthermore, the Town of Vassalboro is cognizant of the requirement that should the intended National Objective of the CDBG program not be met, all CDBG funds must be repaid to the State of Maine CDBG program.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 27: Shall the Town of Vassalboro designate the **Natural Gas Pipeline Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District** and adopt the Development Program for the District, subject to the Findings and the Development Program attached to the original Town Meeting Warrant as Appendix A, copies of which are available at the office of the Town Clerk?

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the revenues received in FY2014-15 from the Natural Gas Pipeline Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District into a fund designated as the **Development Program Fund** to be used for projects, loans and/or grants for economic development within the Town as outlined in the Development Program for the District to be expended on such projects at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen?

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to **dispose of Town owned property** with a value of $10,000 or less, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to authorize an amount not to exceed $15,000 from SURPLUS to serve as a **contingency fund** to be spent by the Selectmen in the event of an emergency and to avoid overdrafts.

Selectmen Recommend: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

LIBRARY

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $31,729 for the Town's share of the **Library's** budget.

Selectmen Recommend: $31,729
Budget Committee Recommends: $31,729

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,500 for **General Assistance** and to authorize the Selectmen to expend any and all reimbursement funds received from the State.

Selectmen Recommend: $3,500
Budget Committee Recommends: $3,500

Article 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,500 for the **Vassalboro Food Station.**

Selectmen Recommend: $1,500
Budget Committee Recommends: $1,500

Article 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,600 for the **Hospice Volunteers of the Waterville Area**. (This article presented by petition.)

Selectmen Recommend: $1,600
Budget Committee Recommends: $1,600

Article 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,925 for the **Family Violence Project.** (This article presented by petition.)

Selectmen Recommend: $2,250
Budget Committee Recommends: $2,250

Article 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,500 for the **Kennebec Valley Behavioral Health Center**. (This article presented by petition.)

Selectmen Recommend: $3,500
Budget Committee Recommends: $3,500

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,000 for **Spectrum Generations**. (This article presented by petition.)

Selectmen Recommend: $1,000
Budget Committee Recommends: $1,000

Article 38: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,519 for the **Sexual Assault Crisis & Support.** (This article presented by petition.)

Selectmen Recommend: $1,417
Budget Committee Recommends: $1,417

Article 39: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,500 for the **Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA of Greater Waterville** (This article presented by petition.)

Selectmen Recommend: $ -0-
Budget Committee Recommends: $-0-

RECREATION

Article 40: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $15,000 for the **Recreation Department.**

Selectmen Recommend: $15,000
Budget Committee Recommends: $15,000

Article 41: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $1,500 for the **Kennebec Trail Riders Snowmobile Club** for the maintenance of snowmobile trails with the understanding that such trails will be open for the use of snowmobiles during snowmobile season.

Selectmen Recommend: $1,500
Budget Committee Recommends: $1,500

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS AND REQUESTS

Article 42: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,500 for the support of the **Vassalboro Historical Society** to assist this organization with the maintenance of the former East Vassalboro school building.

Selectmen Recommend: $3,000
Budget Committee Recommends: $3,000

Article 43: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $18,000 for the Town's share in the M**aintenance of Cemeteries and Public Grounds and for Memorial Day expenses**.

Selectmen Recommend: $18,000
Budget Committee Recommends: $18,000

Article 44: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $300 for the maintenance of the **Three Mile Pond Recreational Area**.

Selectmen Recommend: $300
Budget Committee Recommends: $300

Article 45: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $307,000 for the estimated assessment from **Kennebec County Government.**

Selectmen Recommend: $307,000
Budget Committee Recommends: $307,000

Article 46: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 for the support of the **China Region Lakes Alliance**.

Selectmen Recommend: $10,000
Budget Committee Recommends: $10,000

Article 47: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $81,975 for **Debt Service (fire truck bond).**

Selectmen Recommend: $81,975
Budget Committee Recommends: $81,975

Article 48: To see if the Town will vote to increase the **property tax levy limit** of $682,565.73 established for the Town of Vassalboro by State Law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (Written ballot)

SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES TO APPROPRIATE MONIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A M.R.S.A. SECTION 1485

Article 49: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $3,917,051.81 for **Regular Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: $3,917,051.81
Budget Committee Recommends: $3,917,051.81

Article 50: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $1,123,320.60 for **Special Education**.

School Committee Recommends: $1,123,320.60
Budget Committee Recommends: $1,123,320.60

Article 51: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $168,224.60 for **Career and Technical Education**.

School Committee Recommends: $168,224.60
Budget Committee Recommends: $168,224.60

Article 52: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $44,414.04 for **Other Instruction**.

School Committee Recommends: $44,414.04
Budget Committee Recommends: $44,414.04

Article 53: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $289,155.74 for **Student and Staff Support**.

School Committee Recommends: $289,155.74
Budget Committee Recommends: $289,155.74

Article 54: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $176,657.52 for **System Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: $176,657.52
Budget Committee Recommends: $176,657.52

Article 55: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $286,441.20 for **School Administration**.

School Committee Recommends: $286,441.20
Budget Committee Recommends: $286,441.20

Article 56: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $460,636.80 for **Transportation and Buses**.

School Committee Recommends: $460,636.80
Budget Committee Recommends: $460,636.80

Article 57: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the sum of $473,829.74 for **Facilities Maintenance**.

School Committee Recommends: $473,829.74
Budget Committee Recommends: $473,829.74

Article 58: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for **Debt Service and Other Commitments**.

School Committee Recommends: $ .00
Budget Committee Recommends: $ .00

Article 59: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend for **All Other Expenditures**.

School Committee Recommends: $.00
Budget Committee Recommends: $.00

ARTICLES PURSUANT TO 20-A, M.R.S.A. Section 15690

Article 60: To see what sum the municipality will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (Recommend $6,356,578.30) and to see what sum the municipality will raise as the municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

Statutory Recommendation $2,591,595.00
School Committee Recommendation: $2,845,257.76
Budget Committee Recommendation: $2,845,257.76

"Explanation: The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars."

Note: Per PL2009, Chapter 571, the amount recommended by the school committee as the required local share for the FY 2014-2015 budget may be no less than 82.22% of the Title 20-A, Section 15688 amount, in order to receive the full amount of state subsidy.

Article 61: To see what sum the municipality/district/unit will vote to raise and appropriate in additional local funds for school purposes under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, §15690.

School Committee Recommends: $ -0-
Budget Committee Recommends: $ -0-

The school budget does not exceed the state EPS funding model.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the municipality/district budget for educational programs.

Article 62: To see what sum the Town will vote to authorize the school committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015 from the school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Committee Recommends: $6,939,732.05
Budget Committee Recommends: $6,939,732.05

Article 63: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

School Committee Recommends: Approval
Budget Committee Recommends: Approval

The following articles will be decided by secret ballot election. The polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., June 10th, 2014 at the Town Office.

Article 64: Do you favor approving the Vassalboro Community School's budget for the upcoming school year that was adopted at the June 2, 2014 Annual Town Meeting?

Article 65: Shall an ordinance entitled "Vassalboro Subdivision Ordinance", as revised June 2014 be enacted? (Copies of the Ordinance are available at the Town Clerk's office.)

Article 66: To elect all necessary municipal officers/officials by secret ballot.

Given unto our hands this _____ day of May 2014, AD

_____

Lauchlin W. Titus, Selectman

_____

Robert C. Browne, Jr., Selectman

_____

Philip W. Haines, Selectman

APPENDIX A.

FINDINGS

Relating to the Vassalboro Natural Gas Pipeline Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program

WHEREAS, the Town of Vassalboro (the "Town") is authorized pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, to designate specified areas within the Town as the Vassalboro Natural Gas Pipeline Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District (the "District") and to adopt a Development Program for the District (the "Development Program"); and

WHEREAS, designation of the District and implementation of the Development Program will serve a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Town has held a public hearing on the question of establishing the District in accordance with the requirements of 30-A M.R.S.A. Section 5226, upon at least ten (10) days prior notice published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town shall vote whether to designate the District and to adopt the Development Program; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that approval will be sought and obtained from the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, approving the designation of the District and the adoption of the Development Program;

NOW, THEREFORE:

Section 1. The Town hereby finds and determines the following, demonstrating the District's compliance with State statute:

a. At least twenty-five percent (25%), by area, of the real property within the District, as hereinafter designated, is suitable for commercial uses; and

b. The total area of the District does not exceed two percent (2%) of the total acreage of the Town, and the total area of all existing and proposed development districts within the Town (including the District) does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total acreage of the Town; and

c. The original assessed value of all existing and proposed tax increment financing districts (including the District) does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total value of equalized taxable property within the Town as of the April first preceding the date of the Commissioner's approval of the District; and

d. The designation of the District and pursuit of the Development Program will generate substantial economic benefits for the Town and its residents, including employment opportunities, broadened and improved tax base and economic stimulus, and therefore constitutes a good and valid public purpose. The Town has considered all evidence, if any, presented to it at the required public hearing with regard to any adverse economic effect on or detriment to any existing business and has found and determined that such adverse economic effect on or detriment to any existing business, if any, is outweighed by the contribution expected to be made through the District and the Development Program.

Section 2. Pursuant to Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended, the Town hereby designates the District designated and described more particularly set forth in the "Vassalboro Natural Gas Pipeline Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District Development Program" presented to Town Meeting in the form attached hereto and such Development Program is hereby incorporated by reference into this set of Findings as the Development Program for the District.

Section 3. Pursuant to the provisions of 30-A M.R.S.A. Section 5227, the percentage of captured assessed value to be retained in accordance with the Development Program is to be established as set forth in the Development Program.

Section 4. The Board of Selectmen or its representative, be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to submit the proposed designation of the District and the proposed Development Program for the District to the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development for review and approval pursuant to the requirements of 30-A M.R.S.A. Section 5226.

Section 5. The Board of Selectmen or its representative, be and hereby is authorized and empowered, to make such revisions to the Development Program for the District as the Board of Selectmen, or its duly appointed representative, deems reasonably necessary or convenient in order to facilitate the process for review and approval of the District by the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, or for any other reason, so long as such revisions are not inconsistent with these articles or the basic structure and intent of the Development Program.

Section 6. The foregoing designation of the District and the adoption of the Development Program for the District shall automatically become final and shall take full force and effect upon receipt by the Town of approval of the designation of the District and adoption of the Development Program by the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, without requirement of further action by the Town, the Board of Selectmen or any other party.

VASSALBORO CAPITAL EXPENSE COMMITTEE

The Capital Expense Committee was established as an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager in September 2013. We were asked to research, study and advise the Board of Selectmen on both short and long range municipal capital requirements for the 2014 – 2015 budget. The Capital Expense Committee included a diverse group of business people (Frederick Denico Jr., Alan Dorval, Dale Doughty, Matthew Massey and Kevin Reed), all of whom are Vassalboro residents.

Our primary focus was to help facilitate coordination between community objectives, capital needs and the town's fiscal capacity. Throughout the process, our goal was to help the town understand the relative need, cost, tax impact and funding methods available for each capital expenditure.

To provide a clear distinction between operating expenses and capital expenses, the committee determined that we would only address items that required a minimum expenditure of $15,000 with an expected lifespan of at least 3 years.
Items that met these criteria include the following:

a. Department of Public Works (DPW) trucks and equipment
b. Fire Department trucks and equipment
c. Police Department vehicles
d. Major infrastructure repairs and projects (roads, drainage, transfer station, etc.)
e. Substantial building renovations and/or new construction

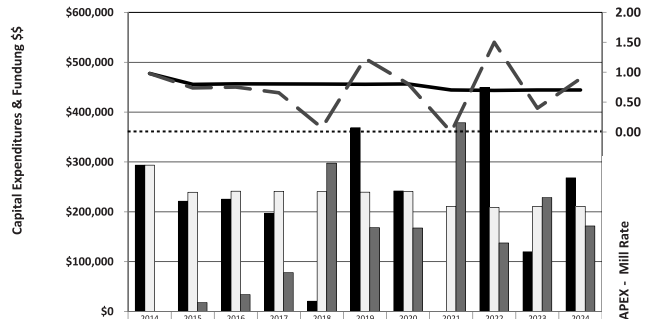
In September of 2013, we began meeting with the various municipal department heads to get an in-depth overview of their operations, understand their projected current and future capital expenditure requirements and to develop a comprehensive understanding of long term goals for their respective areas of responsibility. We then looked at budgets and expenditures for the prior six (6) years in an attempt to identify patterns and/or trends that we could use to develop an effective capital expenditure plan.

Employing what we learned over the course of several meetings between September and December 2013, the Capital Expense Committee developed a detailed capital expenditure plan for the periods of 2014-2024 and 2025-2035.

Based on our work, it is our recommendation that the Town of Vassalboro adopt a structured municipal capital expenditure plan to support the on-going needs of the town, rather than waiting until it's forced into action by an unscheduled event.

Whenever an unplanned event occurs the town is forced to react, often at a higher cost (purchase price & financing expense) than if we had a defined capital expenditure plan in place.

It is our belief that by adopting a structured capital expenditure plan accompanied by level funding from taxes, we would be able to virtually eliminate year-to-year budget fluctuations associated with municipal capital expenditures. Developing targeted reserves in years with lower capital expense requirements would allow us to set aside the funds necessary to support years with significant capital expenses without having to repeatedly alter the mil rate year to year. For example, if the Town of Vassalboro were to incorporate our recommendations and funding approach over the ten year period between 2014–2024, the mil rate for municipal capital expenditures would range between .80 and .70 mils annually after the initial year of the program.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Planned Expenditures	$293,542	$221,230	$225,402	$197,069	$20,785	$368,777	$241,733	$0	$449,756	$119,901	$268,014
$$ Raised From Taxes	$293,542	$239,230	$241,402	$241,041	$240,500	$239,500	$240,878	$211,000	$208,806	$211,000	$210,849
Surplus / Shortfall	$0	$18,000	$34,000	$77,972	$297,687	$168,411	$167,556	$378,556	$137,606	$228,705	$171,540
Mill Rate - Level Funding	0.98	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
Mill Rate - Pay As We Go	0.98	0.74	0.75	0.66	0.07	1.23	0.81	0.00	1.50	0.40	0.89

Shown above is a comparison of the year-to-year mil rates and associated funding required to support the current "Pay As We Go Method" versus the recommended "Level Funding Method" for your review and consideration. This chart can also be seen in color on the town's website by visiting: **http://www.vassalboro.net/other_minutes.html**

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review this article and consider our recommendations.

Vassalboro Capital Expense Committee

VARIANCE IN PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNT	CURRENT YEAR 2013-2014	SELECTMEN'S PROPOSED BUDGET	$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
TOWN BUDGET:				
Administration	404,406	397,075	(7,331)	-1.81%
Public Works	425,730	440,695	14,965	3.52%
Solid Waste	291,700	294,035	2,335	0.80%
Paving/Maintenance Program	250,105	160,945	(89,160)	-35.65%
Fire Department	128,098	93,448	(34,650)	-27.05%
Public Safety	37,770	40,710	2,940	7.78%
Capital Improvement/Reserves	39,000	105,000	66,000	169.23%
Recreation	15,000	15,000	0	0.00%
Route 3 Rest Area	300	300	0	0.00%
Library	31,729	31,729	0	0.00%
Utilities	35,000	36,000	1,000	2.86%
Cemeteries	18,000	18,000	0	0.00%
General Assistance	3,500	3,500	0	0.00%
First Responders	0	15,000	15,000	#DIV/0!
Assessment Costs	31,500	32,900	1,400	4.44%
Social Services	11,267	11,267	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous Req.	14,500	14,500	0	0.00%
Debt Service (fire truck bond)	88,542	81,975	(6,567)	-7.42%
Total Municipal Budget	1,826,147	1,792,079	(34,068)	-1.87%
REVENUE BUDGET:				
General Revenues	1,013,000	970,750	($42,250)	-4.17%
Surplus	150,000	150,000	$0	0.00%
Homestead and Bete Reimb (est.)	64,662	61,000	($3,662)	-5.66%
Total Revenues	1,227,662	1,181,750	($45,912)	-3.74%
Tax Levy Requirement - town budget	598,485	$610,329	$11,844	1.98%
Mil Rate Municipal	1.79	1.81	0.02	1.37%
County Tax:	300,235	307,000	$6,765	2.25%
County Tax Mil Rate	0.90	0.91	0.01	1.65%
SCHOOL BUDGET:				
Regular Instruction	3,875,110.94	3,917,051.81	41,940.87	1.08%
Special Education	974,573.79	1,123,320.60	148,746.81	15.26%
Career & Technical Education	169,358.46	168,224.60	(1,133.86)	-0.67%
Other Instruction	44,976.15	44,414.04	(562.11)	-1.25%
Student & Staff Support	284,227.92	289,155.74	4,927.82	1.73%
System Administration	157,734.36	176,657.52	18,923.16	12.00%
School Administration	237,384.71	286,441.20	49,056.49	20.67%
Transportation & Buses	438,328.33	460,636.80	22,308.47	5.09%
Facilities Maintenance	519,976.70	473,829.74	(46,146.96)	-8.87%
Debt Service & Other Commitments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
All Other Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total School Budget	$6,701,671.36	$6,939,732.05	$238,060.69	3.55%
Tax Levy Requirement - School Budget	$2,805,001.36	$2,845,257.76	$40,256.40	1.44%
School Mil Rate	$8.39	$8.46	$0.07	0.83%
Overlay (estimated)	$41,362	$20,000	($21,362)	-51.65%
Overlay mil rate	$0.12	$0.06	$(0.06)	-51.93%
Combined Tax Levy Requirements	$3,745,083	$3,782,587	$37,504	1.00%
Estimated Combined Net Mil Rate	11.2000	11.24	0.04	0.40%
Valuations (estimated as of 2/27/14)	$334,382,380	$336,382,380	$2,000,000	0.60%

THREE BUDGET TOTALS GROSS AMOUNTS

					% of Budget
county tax (estimated)	$300,235	$307,000	$6,765	2.25%	6.18%
municipal budget	$1,826,147	$1,792,079	($34,068)	-1.87%	36.10%
school budget - local portion raised	$2,805,001	$2,845,258	$40,256	1.44%	57.31%
overlay	$41,362	$20,000	($21,362)	-51.65%	0.40%
totals	$4,972,745	$4,964,337	($8,408)	-0.17%	100%