

Selectboard Report

March 4, 2008 – March 3, 2009

The majority of our efforts this past year have been focused on trying to fulfill the needs of our Town within the fiscal restraints we are all experiencing and in the face of summer and winter storms that we all wish would go away. We have not been helped by the lack of stability in Montpelier's promised financial support but we are on solid ground thanks largely to the many citizens who have pitched in whenever and wherever we have needed a hand.

We have a new roof on our Community Hall (\$200 under budget), our newsletter is coming to you by the first of every month (cost significantly defrayed by the advertising), we have a new website (at no cost to the Town), we have reviewed the majority of our Town's policies, and we have an Energy Committee devoted to helping individuals as well as the Town conserve energy and save money.

The 2007-08 fiscal year reflected a deficit of \$3,295 which is included in the amount of money we are requesting to be raised by taxes for the 2009-10 budget (see page xx). You will notice, however, that for the 2009-10 fiscal year we are requesting significantly less than was approved for 2008-09. This is primarily because we are – for the 2009-10 fiscal year only – eliminating paving. We had hoped to ask for an additional \$70,000 to add to the \$70,000 budgeted for 2008-09 and “reclaim” one mile of East Road. We have had to use the \$70,000 budgeted for this year, however, to repair the August storm damage to East Road and to tide us over while the State decides if/when to give us the promised highway aid. Since we will not be eligible for any paving grants next year, we will not be putting paving in the budget until 2010-11. Additionally, for the forthcoming year all highway projects beyond routine maintenance are either already paid for (drain inlets in the village) or already approved for funding by grants (Sunset Lake Road, Water Trough Hill, Lake Road/North Lake Road intersection).

The following is the Highway Equipment currently owned by the Town. Only the 2008 International Dump Truck (will be paid in 2012) and the Grader (will be paid in 2011) have outstanding loans.

- 2008 International Dump Truck
- 2002 International Dump Truck
- 1997 International Dump Truck
- 2001 Ford F350 Pickup Truck
- 1984 Ford Backhoe
- 1992 New Dresser Payloader 515C
- 1999 Galion Grader
- 2000 Komatsu Excavator
- 2000 Rogers Trailer (equipment)
- 2007 Brimar Trailer (calcium chloride)

In the forthcoming year, we have three major goals. First, we need to do something to preserve the exterior of the Community Hall. Because of the addition of the Library, this building is not eligible for any historic preservation grants. We welcome all ideas. We also intend to develop a unified capital improvement plan, which will clarify the needs of all our municipal departments (Fire Department, Highway and Town Office), identify municipal assets which could be used to finance these improvements and arrive at a long-term plan to meet the needs of our Town. And, finally, we believe that tightening our belts is only part of the solution to the economic health of our Town. We need to work together to bring more funds into Town. Using this summer's 20th Anniversary of the Burdock Festival as a focal point, we hope to expand our Town's fund-raising efforts by creating a central fundraising committee.

To meet these goals, we need your participation. Please get involved!

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