

VILLAGE OF WATERBURY TRUSTEES' REPORT 1984

Property Report:

The Village By-Laws require that the Trustees report on the condition of Village property at each annual meeting.

All equipment and real estate owned by the Village has been maintained in good condition throughout the year.

With the help of Rep. Steele, the Trustees have concluded a land swap with the State of Vermont. For many years the Village owned a parcel of forest land on the north-easterly side of I-89 across from the old Town Dump. This land is inaccessible and virtually worthless to the Village. This land was swapped for the fields owned by the State of Vermont that lie to the northwest of the old Town Dump. At present the Village has no use for this land but it has much more potential than that of the landlocked woodland.

During the past year the Selectmen of the Town of Waterbury, with the concurrence of the Trustees, have hired a mechanic to perform the repair and maintenance of equipment. The services of this employee are available to the Village on a cross-charge basis and we are hoping to see a reduction in vehicle maintenance expense as a result of this.

At last year's annual meeting the Fire Department requested, and was granted, \$10,000 from Revenue Sharing to start a Reserve Account for a Ladder Truck. The Fire Department anticipated requesting another \$10,000 at this year's 1985 Annual Meeting for the same purpose, however during the year they found a truck that would meet their needs for the sum of \$18,000. Consequently at a Special Village meeting, the Village released the \$10,000 in the Reserve Account and the Firemen gave the balance of \$8,000 to the Village for the purchase of this vehicle. This truck is now in service and can be seen in the Fire Station.

Budget Report

The 1984 budget was overexpended largely because more street paving was done than had been anticipated. Funds for the overexpenditure were available to us and the cost will not be carried over as part of the budget increase that is proposed for the year 1985.

The proposed budget increase for 1985 may be accounted for in two areas: The first is that it is the desire of the Trustees to increase the taxable level of funding for sewer debt management. We feel that it is undesirable at this time to continue to deplete the sewer reserve account to underwrite the cost of debt management.

We propose to use only the interest on this account to pay for debt management, thus raising the cost to the taxpayer and the State of Vermont.

The second reason for the budget request increase is the lack of fund balance for the year 1984 to carry over as an offset to the 85 budget.

It should be noted that outside of these two areas, there will not be any substantial increase requested in other line items. The Board of Trustees feels that the effect of a budget increase will be tempered by additions to the grand list, however, the amount of these additions is unknown at this time.

Revenue Sharing

A revenue sharing income and expense statement as well as a list of revenue sharing requests are a part of this annual report. Interest earned on all revenue sharing accounts, both unappropriated and unexpended, is returned to the general revenue sharing account.

The request by the "504 Committee" in the amount of \$2,000 is to make some improvements in Village property thus making it more handicapped accessible. The Federal Government has mandated that any organization receiving revenue sharing funds make its programs accessible to the handicapped or face the loss of these funds. To that end the "504 Committee" was named to review the Town and Village of Waterbury properties. The full text of the 504 Committee Report appears in the 1985 Annual Report of the Town of Waterbury. The Trustees feel that this committee did an excellent job and agrees to its recommendations. One immediate change is that Village Meetings will no longer be held on the second floor of the Fire Station. Please note the change to the Elementary School Gym.

During 1984 Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc., an ice cream producer, expressed an interest in relocating to Waterbury and building its new plant here. To this end the Village annexed an additional parcel of property in the Colbyville area. This land was subsequently acquired by Ben & Jerry's as the site of the new plant which is now under construction. In addition, the Village applied for and received an Urban Development Action Grant to help fund the construction of the plant. The \$650,000 grant to the Village will be lent to Ben & Jerry's at reduced interest and paid back over a 15 year period. The loan repayment will then become available to the Village to fund similar projects in the future. The Trustees welcome Ben & Jerry's to the community.

We would also like to thank all the Village employees for a job well done as well as those citizens who served on the various boards and committees throughout the year.

Edward Eldredge, *President*
Village of Waterbury