

PLEASE NOTE: The following report was omitted in error.

Budget Committee's contribution to the 2013 Town Report

We meet again to discuss, deliberate, argue and resolve a budget for the year ahead. We all come with specific objectives in mind, and some will be approved, and some not. I guess what we really have to wind up agreeing on, is the composite, the bottom line. It's this sum that concerns the Budget Committee being based on the many demands of the different departments, in order to keep our town tax in line.

Facing this squarely is also the concern of moving the town ahead. Time, as you know is very much a part of this equation as it affects our buildings, our equipment, our roads, even ourselves. Your Budget Committee passes on to you this budget that begins this process as part of a 6 year projection. Restoring the town hall, replacing Fire trucks, Highway trucks, repairing town roads, along with the many miscellaneous items that need attention, all being part of this projection.

This balancing act takes into account to our advantage; the towns having retired the bond on the Highway Garage and the school district having paid off its bond on the improvements at the High School, along with other foreseeable increments.

Your Budget Committee; Dick Keller, chair; Jon Marden, vice chair; George Cilley; Don Jackson; Susan McKeivitt; Will Hurley; and John Pfeifle, selectmen's representative

P.S. With the committee's due diligence, and your support, your overall tax rate went down this past year. So you see we can do it.

Additional Town Report Corrections

Page 28 (comparative expenditures) shows the Conservation Commission as not having spent their 2013 appropriation. The Conservation Commission did spend the entire \$800.00. This correction reduces the amount of 2013 surplus by that amount.

Please see next page for additional omissions

BRADFORD TOWN HALL RESTORATION COMMITTEE

The Town Hall Restoration Committee has continued to work to create a strong plan for the future of our irreplaceable town hall building. Bradford needs space for town meetings and voting, and essential administrative functions such as tax collection, vehicle registration, and board and commission meetings. The mission of the Town Hall Restoration Committee is to restore the Town Hall to a functional building for municipal services and community use. The best investment for the town is to modernize the building to provide for the town's present needs, as cost effectively as possible, so that it can continue to serve Bradford for many years to come, consistent with its historical character.

A recurring question to the Restoration Committee has been regarding the placement of a full foundation under the entire renovated Town Hall. The Building Committee has explored this question with industry professionals and, after considerable research and consultation, the Town Hall Building Committee is recommending the placement of a full foundation under *only the rear* portion of the Town Hall. The reasons for this decision are:

- The design team undertook a full evaluation of the existing foundation, its support, timbers, and sills; and found that the foundation for approximately two-thirds of the front of the building is sound, dry, and stable. Therefore, because there has been very little, if any, movement of the building in that area, foundation work there is not necessary.
- The resulting basement space could be used only for storage, due to life-safety and building code restrictions; and the full basement would exceed the storage needs for the Town.
- Additional basement space would require more automatic fire sprinklers. More sprinklers mean a larger water cistern and fire pump, which would increase the cost of the project.

Thus, while it is true that the cost of added basement space would be less per square foot than building a new space elsewhere, it is still a significant cost, for which there is no pressing need. For these reasons, the Building Committee recommends against including a full foundation in its building plans for the Town Hall.

In July 2013 the Selectmen established the Town Hall Maintenance and Renovation Trust account. This account may be used for money raised through fundraising events and for private donations, including tax deductible donations.

In September, the Select-board agreed with the THRC to choose Bruss Construction as the construction manager for the project. We have been hard at work for an updated plan that best suits Bradford's current and future needs.

The Committee and members of our community have joined in fundraising efforts including a July "Silent Auction", a Christmas Greens & Holiday Pie Sale, the Masons Spaghetti Dinner and a January 2014 Progress Dinner. The Committee currently has undertaken a campaign to secure

pledges of financial support for a public / private partnership to complete the rehabilitation of Town Hall.

The Town of Bradford has a dedicated committee to manage the project who are willing to raise part of the funding for the project on behalf of the town. The Committee has been working closely with the Select-board to refine plans for the project and raise matching private funds, including grants and rebates, in anticipation of a warrant article request at the March 2014 town meeting.

Bradford's Select-board fully supports the restoration/renovation of Town Hall. On January 29, 2014 the Budget Committee unanimously voted to recommend this year's warrant article for Town Hall and on January 30, 2014 the Planning Board voted unanimously to give their support for the Town Hall Restorations.

As always, the Restoration Committee appreciates the comments and questions from residents as we work towards returning the Town Hall to a vital part of our community. Feel free to contact us: Eileen Kelly at 938-2779.

Committee Members

Eileen Kelly, Chair; John Greenwood, Vice Chair; Marge Cilley, Secretary; Jim Bibbo, George Cilley, Nikki Dubaere, Karen Hambleton, Marcia Keller, Scott MacLean, Sandy Paul, Mel Pfeifle, Susan Reynolds, Beth Rodd, Walter Royal, Audrey V. Sylvester, Caryl Walker, Sandra Wright, and Jim Bruss, consultant.

Please note – correction on page 10

Vote on Articles #4 and #5

The vote on Article #4 was	YES	195	NO	113
	The article did not carry			
The vote on Article#5 was	YES	165	NO	63
	The article carried			

