

CHAPTER VI COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND RECREATION

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Chapter is to evaluate Salisbury's community facilities, recreational facilities, and utilities. Providing and maintaining the essential services of community and recreational facilities and utilities are jointly one of the primary functions of government. As the population and demographics of the community grow and change over time, it is important that the community make adjustments in its delivery of services to meet the needs of the changing community.

Historically, rural communities in New Hampshire have provided very limited community facilities and services. In many cases, community facilities were limited to only a Town Hall and later, public school. However, as the population of the state increased, more services have been required to meet the needs of the citizenry. Today, modern communities are expected to provide full-time police protection, fire protection, as well as highway crews, recreational facilities, and professional administrators to manage daily operations of Town government.

This Chapter will inventory and assess current Town facilities, identify publicly sponsored programs, identify and assess the adequacy of existing equipment, and also identify current and long-term staffing needs. In addition, recommendations on how to meet some of these needs are provided.

An important component to a high quality of life, recreation provides a much-needed means of stress reduction and physical well-being. Recreational facilities also provide residents with a place to interact and create a sense of community that is beneficial to people of all ages. In recent years, numerous studies have identified that recreational facilities and programs also give children and teenagers a place to go, thereby reducing delinquent activity by those sectors of the population.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAPTER AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- To provide reliable, efficient, and cost-effective Town services to the residents of Salisbury.
 - Continue to monitor the necessity for full-time Police Department coverage.
 - Undertake training seminars and recruitment for Rescue Squad personnel.
 - Acquire the proper number of pagers for Fire Department personnel.
 - Encourage the continued training of Fire Department personnel at appropriate seminars.
 - Continue to monitor any necessary major expenditures that are anticipated above the annual Cemetery maintenance budget.
 - Develop a true plastic recycling program at no additional expense to the Town.
 - Repair Whittemore Road in 2007.
 - Establish a regular cycle of repairing paved roads built into the Town budget through CIP allocation.
 - Develop a Capital improvements Program for the Town, focusing on road repair in the short-term, and later incorporating equipment and capital project needs for all Town Departments as needed.
 - Investigate the hiring of an additional part or fulltime administrative assistant for the Town Hall.
 - Purchase an additional computer for the Town Hall to upgrade current equipment and to allow the hiring of an additional assistant
 - Locate additional space for document storage for Town Hall files.
 - Evaluate the Town Hall building for compliance with health and safety standards and for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - Re-establish the Recreation Commission to expand the reach beyond youth sports teams and to re-focus Town initiatives for community recreation.

- To work with non-Town service providers to ensure the most cost effective and highest quality services to residents.
 - Examine the possibility of establishing an education committee to work with the Merrimack Valley School District regarding long-range planning of facilities, transportation and education.
 - Upgrade the Library and bring facility into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - Continue to monitor utility providers to ensure that the level of high quality affordable service remains in effect.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

In 2005, the Planning Board distributed community surveys to 411 Salisbury households. Of the 411 surveys distributed, 102 were returned, indicating a total response rate of 25%. The results of the survey can be found in the APPENDIX CHAPTER. Answers to the questions pertaining to community facilities issues are summarized below.

The survey asked respondents to rate the public services offered by the Town. Results are presented in **Table VI-1** below. Overall, respondents indicated satisfaction with most public services. Services which were overwhelmingly rated as "good" include Fire Protection, Snow Removal and the Library. Responses which were more divided include Animal Control, Planning Regulation Administration and Enforcement, and Zoning Administration and Enforcement. This may indicate that there is room for improvement in these services, or else respondents are limited in their interactions with those particular boards and services.

From **Table VI-1**, the majority of respondents (62.4%) agreed that the Town should identify and procure appropriate property for future Town services. Overall, respondents were flexible in how to fund possible acquisitions, with the majority favoring a municipal bond.

Table VI-1
Please rate the following public services.

Service	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinio
Animal Control	20	15	19	42
Cemetery Care	38	25	11	23
Fire Protection	67	20	1	10
Library	69	17	1	12
Natural Resource Conservation	30	32	15	18
Recreation	29	36	10	21
Police Protection	34	37	14	12
Rescue/ Ambulance Service	53	27	2	17
Road Maintenance	48	31	16	1
School System	50	20	3	22
Snow Removal	70	23	1	2
Garbage Disposal & Recycling	53	29	6	8
Planning Regulation Admin. & Enforcement	29	28	20	16
Zoning Admin & Enforcement	29	24	24	17
Health Regulations & Enforcement	31	19	7	40
Ambulance Service	47	20	2	24

When asked if they were in favor if increasing the Capital Reserve Fund in order to build a new Town Hall, nearly 75 percent of respondents said "no". However, residents were not asked about their preferences for increasing the Capital Reserve Fund for other Town projects. The Town may wish to look into this issue further.

Table VI-2

Are you in favor of increasing the Capital Reserve Fund in order to build a "new" Town Hall (this would include land and building)?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percent
Yes	13	12.9%
No	75	74.3%
No Opinion	1	1.0%
Not Sure	12	11.9
Total	101	100%*

**decimals are rounded and may not equal exactly 100%*

Respondents could choose more than one recreational activity which they enjoyed. The majority of respondents enjoyed nature observation (14.6%), hiking (12.1%), and fishing (11.3%) the best, but multiple other activities also scored highly.

Table VI-3

In what ways do you enjoy Salisbury's recreational opportunities?
Please check all that apply:

Response	Number of Respondents	Percent
Fishing	54	11.3%
Mountain biking	20	4.2%
Snowshoeing	45	9.4%
Personal watercraft	30	6.3%
Hiking	58	12.1%
Canoeing/boating	46	9.6%
Hunting	44	9.2%
Snowmobiling	32	6.7%
Horseback riding	15	3.1%
Nature observation	70	14.6%
Swimming	32	6.7%
Cross-country skiing	34	7.1%
Total	480	100.0%*

**decimals are rounded and may not equal exactly 100%*

A majority of respondents (57.7%) identified their support for a trail system in Town to accommodate different uses. A strong minority and those with no opinion, totaling 42.3%, did not support a trail system. The preferred method of developing a trail system was by landowner permission to use land (35.7%), followed distantly by boat subdivision regulation requirements and private organization purchase of land/easements (both at 15.6%).

Table VI-4

Do you support a trail system in Salisbury for recreational use that would include snowmobiles, horseback riding, mountain biking, walking and etc.?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percent
Yes	71	57.7%
No	46	37.4%
No Opinion	6	4.9%
Total	123	100.0%*

**decimals are rounded and may not equal exactly 100%*

Table VI-5

If yes, how should this be done?

Response	Number of Respondents	Percent
Town purchase of land	16	10.4%
Town purchase of easement	21	13.6%
Transfer of development rights	14	9.1%
Subdivision regulation requirements	24	15.6%
Landowner permission to use land	55	35.7%
Private organization purchase of land/easement	24	15.6%
Total	154	100.0%*

**decimals are rounded and may not equal exactly 100%*

DISCUSSION OF POPULATION TRENDS

When examining the community and recreational facilities of a municipality, it is essential to know if the population is being adequately served. This can be gauged by a number of measures, including the tracking of population trends and projections. Communities need to be able to adequately service the needs of their residents and estimate what changes will be needed for future years.

Historic Trends

Salisbury has grown significantly since 1970. The population has increased by 548 people, and the number of housing units has increased by 289 units, which means that both the number of people and the number of housing units nearly doubled. The vast majority of this growth took place between 1970 and 1990, as shown in **Table VI-6**.

Table VI-6
Overall Population and Housing Growth Trends, 1970-2000

Growth	Population	Net Change		Housing Units	Net Change	
		#	%		#	%
1970 (US Census)*	589	192	32.6%	290	65	28.9%
1980 (US Census)*	781	280	35.9%	422	132	45.5%
1990 (US Census)*	1,061	76	7.2%	514	92	21.8 %
2000 (US Census)*	1,137	548		---	289	
Total Change from 1970 - 2000	—	192	32.6%	290	65	28.9%

Sources: 1970-2000 US Census Population and Housing Unit Counts;

**Includes seasonal and vacant housing units.*

Current Trends

Table VI-7 displays growth experienced by Salisbury (7.1%) and the communities that border it from 1990 to 2000. All areas have experienced growth within the last decade, ranging from a low of 1.2% in Franklin to a high of 22.6% in Warner.

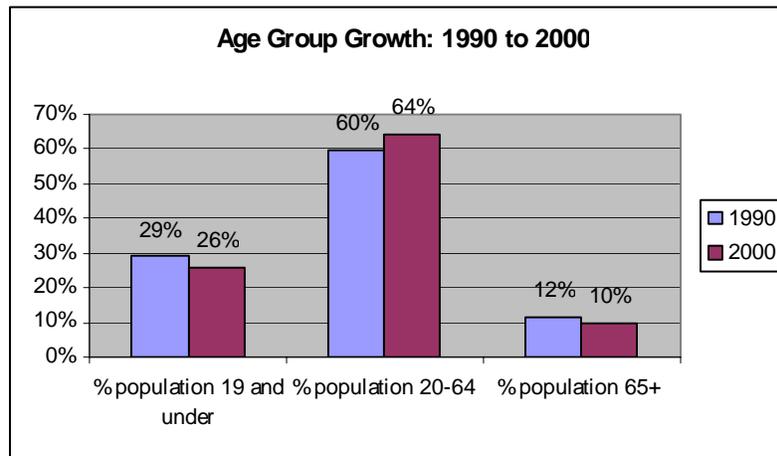
Table VI-7
Population Increase, 1990-2000
Salisbury and Abutting Communities

	% Increase, 1990-2000
Salisbury	7.1%
Webster	12.0%
Andover	12.3%
Warner	22.6%
Boscawen	2.3%
Franklin	1.2%

*Sources: 1990 US Census & 2000 US Census,
compiled by the NH Office of State Planning, State Data Center*

Figure VI-1 displays the Census population figures broken down into age groups. This reference is useful for determining the immediate needs of certain age groups, such as children and the elderly.

Figure VI-1
Salisbury Population Trends by Age Group, 1970-2000



Source: US Census 1990 and 2000

Future Projections

While it is important for any community to plan ahead for an anticipated increase in population, which in turn increases pressure on community services and facilities, this section should be taken lightly as any population projections are considered to be fallible numbers. Those projections displayed below utilize the commonly used Office of Energy and Planning (NH OEP) calculations which consider numerous variables for these projections.

Excerpted from the **POPULATION AND ECONOMICS CHAPTER, Table VI-8**, projected future population growth, was calculated based upon the community’s historical share of the County’s population. It depicts the projected population for Salisbury and abutting communities. These projections predict an **annual** population growth averaging 1.2% (6.2% average 5-year growth) over the 25-year time span. This corresponds to an average of about new residents per year in the Town of Salisbury.

Table VI-8
Population Projections 2005-2030

	2005 Estimate	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Salisbury	1,260	1,410	1,490	1,560	1,610	1,650
Andover	2,220	2,320	2,430	2,540	2,650	2,730
Webster	1,760	1,960	2,080	2,160	2,250	2,320
Warner	2,950	3,130	3,320	3,520	3,720	3,870
Boscawen	3,850	4,220	4,580	4,800	4,970	5,060
Franklin	8,690	8,790	8,890	8,990	9,110	9,200

Source: New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, January 2007

All projections should be reviewed with care as no methodology is perfect enough to predict what an actual future count would be. The POPULATION AND ECONOMICS CHAPTER of the Master Plan also considers these projections lightly as only actual Census data accurately states the current and historical population of any given area.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

An examination of each of the departments in Salisbury which serves the population will be undertaken in this section. Each department will be inventoried for its statistics, equipment, and staffing and facilities needs. A series of future will be developed based upon the information compiled. Locations of community facilities are displayed on the *Community Facilities Map*.

TOWN OFFICES/ACADEMY HALL

The Town Offices are located in Academy Hall at 9 Old Coach Road. The offices of the Selectmen, the Town Clerk, the Tax Collector and the Building Inspector are located here. There is meeting space here as well for the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Budget Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The office is routinely staffed by an Administrative Assistant, a Municipal Secretary, and the Town Bookkeeper.

Vital documents are kept at Academy Hall including licenses, taxation assessments and records, election registrations, accounting records, budgets, human resource information and meetings minutes for all Boards. Recently, fireproof cabinets were added to help safeguard these records.

Staffing

Due to the increase in the town's population and increased activity in town, it is anticipated that an additional administrative assistant will be needed. Existing staffing:

- Administrative Assistant (Full Time)
- Municipal Secretary (Part Time)
- Town Bookkeeper (Part Time)
- Town Clerk (Part Time)
- Tax Collector (Part Time)
- Planning/Zoning Board Secretary (Part Time)

Equipment

Recent equipment upgrades include fireproof cabinets and new a computer plus a multifunction printer/fax machine. New emergency lights and an automatic defibrillator have been installed at Academy Hall. The defibrillator is portable and will allow it to be used in other buildings such as Town Hall during Town functions.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the Town:

- Additional part or fulltime administrative assistant.
- Additional computer to upgrade current equipment and to allow the hiring of an additional assistant.
- Additional space for document storage. Use of the Safety Building for some of this may be feasible.
- Evaluation of the Town Hall building which recently had septic problems and has issues with compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department duties include, but are not limited to, all aspects of road maintenance and tree removal in Town right-of-way. In 2006, the Town had an eventful year due to significant storm damage, but much of that has been repaired and the Town has received money from FEMA to offset the costs. The Town has recently undertaken a program to repair some of the paved roads that are in the worst condition. West Salisbury Road was begun last year and completed this past summer.

Staffing

The privately contracted Road Agent coordinates the repairs of roads in Town. Although all grading, paving and repairs are coordinated through the Road Agent, larger operations, such as paving, are contracted out.

Equipment

The privately contracted Road Agent provides his own equipment when servicing the roads.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the Town:

- Repair Whittemore Road in 2007.
- Establish a regular cycle of repairing these paved roads built into the Town budget through CIP allocation.

SOLID WASTE/TRANSFER STATION

The Solid Waste/Transfer Station is located on Warner Road , two miles off Rte. 127, south of Rte. 4. The hours of operation of the Transfer Station are Saturdays 8:30 to 4:00. The Town has disposal fees for certain large appliances and demolition debris is discussing adding disposal fees for e-waste. The Transfer Station recently was upgraded to improve traffic flow and to encourage recycling. The Town now actively recycles paper, glass, and metal. The recycling of paper has actually reached the point that it saves the town money with additional savings expected if the amount of paper recycled continues to increase.

Staffing

Staffing of the Transfer Station consists of three paid employees, one operator and two assistant operators. Volunteers are used for the recycling program.

Equipment

Many buildings at the transfer station have been upgraded this past year as well. No significant expenditures are anticipated for the foreseeable future.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the Town:

- Develop a true plastic recycling program in place as soon as possible, at no additional expense to the town.

CEMETERIES

There are several cemeteries throughout Town. A regular maintenance program which has been instituted is expected to continue indefinitely and this has seemed to put the cemeteries in their best state of repair in years.

Staffing

Administration of the cemeteries is handled by the Town Cemetery Trustees. The Trustees have had difficulty filling their positions until this year, but now are fully staffed. A private contractor provides the services for maintaining the cemeteries.

Equipment

The private contractor provides its own equipment when servicing the cemeteries.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the Town:

- No major expenditures are anticipated above the annual maintenance budget.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department is housed in the Safety Building on Route 4. The Safety Building is only open when the Police Department personnel are in the building.

Staffing

There are approximately 75 members between the fire department and the rescue squad; many members serve on both squads.

Equipment

The department recently took delivery of a new pumper truck and is currently upgrading its forestry vehicle. The equipment is modern and in good repair. The department's need for capital equipment is low as all the major pieces are fairly new. No major purchases are expected for several years.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the Town:

- Acquisition of a proper number of pagers
- Continued training of its members at appropriate seminars.

RESCUE SQUAD

The Salisbury Rescue Squad is also housed at the Safety Building. The activity of the squad is increasing yearly, with a record number of calls this year.

Staffing

There are approximately 75 members between the fire department and the rescue squad; many members serve on both squads.

Equipment

The ambulance is relatively new and the equipment is up to date with no anticipated major expenditures anticipated in the next several years. Training will be necessary because of the increasing complexity of the equipment in use.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the Town:

- Undertake training seminars and recruitment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is located in the Safety Building on Route 4. There are currently no business hours open to the public, but personnel are often in the building during their shifts.

Staffing

Police coverage is provided about 30 hours per week by a Police Chief and a Sergeant. When no officers are on duty, the State Police will provide coverage.

Equipment

The Town has recently purchased a new cruiser. The previous vehicle will be kept for a backup and for its four wheel drive capability. A taser and a refurbished radar gun were added as well. No other purchases of equipment are expected in the near future.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the Town:

- While the goal is to achieve full time police coverage, the current level of activity in Town does not warrant it at this time.

VOLUNTARY BOARDS: PLANNING BOARD, ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT, AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

These boards have been voluntary and by appointment and are currently fully staffed. There has been a desire expressed to make the ZBA members elected instead of appointed, but no formal application to change this has been made. The only anticipated future need is the possible need for an additional secretary as one secretary handles both the Planning and the Zoning Boards. Otherwise, there are no anticipated equipment or staffing needs for these boards.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

At this time, the Town capital improvements have been handled by trust funds which are added to on an annual basis for expected future capital purchases. For those items that could not be covered by trust fund, financing has been obtained with the payments incorporated into the town budget. This is the manner in which both the new fire truck and the safety building have been paid.

All major town equipment is new and not anticipated to need replacement in the next 5-10 years. However, an ongoing program to upgrade and maintain town roads has been established and it is the Town's desire to have a regular program to annually address the roads most in need of repair. For this immediate program, a new Capital Improvement Program will be established, with the hope of then covering other capital purchases in the more distant future, when replacement does become necessary.

NON-TOWN PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Several essential services that are critical to the community are examined within this section. Many are partly under the control of the Town through funding or cooperative agreements. Their future needs are also examined as they affect the Town's ability to serve its residents.

MERRIMACK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Public education in the Town is managed by the Merrimack Valley School District. The only school within town is the Salisbury Elementary School which handles grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. Kindergarten is a half day only and the teacher is shared with Webster. There is a single class in each grade with the average number of pupils slowly increasing; currently on the order of 12-13 students per class. This, however, leaves room for growth without needing to enlarge the school. No major projects are scheduled for the school.

Middle and high school students go to the respective regional schools in Penacook. There is currently a major renovation going on at the high school which began in the spring of 2006 which is updating the cafeteria and the library.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the school system:

- No future local regional school needs have been identified for Salisbury.

SALISBURY FREE LIBRARY

The Free Library sits on Rte. 4 on the Salisbury Heights, adjacent to Town Hall. Its collection of books is supplemented by materials obtained through interlibrary loans. Regular open houses are scheduled to provide opportunities to meet and hear NH writers as well as regular story telling sessions.

The library, however, is in a state of flux. Renovations have begun to both modernize the structure and to bring it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Construction is expected to be completed before the beginning of 2008.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the library:

- Upgrade the Library and bring facility into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

UTILITIES

Electrical service is from three providers. Unitil, Public Service of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Electrical Cooperative all support different parts of the town.

Telephone service is provided mostly by TDS Telecom, which also provides Internet service both through dial-up service and through DSL high speed. Part of the town that abuts the City of Franklin has access to Verizon which includes Cable TV service. TDS Telecom does not provide cable TV but numerous homes access satellite TV through either DISH Network or Direct TV.

There is no municipal sewer system or water delivery system. Water is provided by private wells and sewerage is disposed via private septic systems.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the utilities in Salisbury:

- No future utility needs have been identified at this time.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

An important component to a high quality of life, recreation provides a much-needed means of stress reduction and physical well-being. Recreation facilities also provide residents with a place to interact and create a sense of community that is beneficial to residents of all ages. In recent years, numerous studies have identified that recreational facilities and programs give children and teenagers a place to go, thereby reducing delinquent activity by those sectors of the population. Locations of select recreational facilities are displayed on the *Community Facilities Map*.

INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Indoor recreational facilities are important to communities as they afford sheltered recreational opportunities to residents all year. Such facilities provide important places for year-round social interaction that helps to foster a sense of community. **Table VI-9** details suggested guidelines for indoor recreational facilities for a community with a population similar to that of Salisbury. Notably, use of these standards indicates Salisbury should currently provide both a senior center and teen center and associated programs for each.

Table VI-9

Indoor Recreational Resources in Salisbury

Type of Resource	Name
Non-Profit	Salisbury Elementary School Community Facility (including Gym)
	Salisbury Library
	Church
	History Museum

Source: Subcommittee Input

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Like indoor recreational facilities, outdoor recreational facilities are also very important to communities as they also provide a place to interact. Based upon the standards outlined in **Table VI-10**, Salisbury should consider developing the following amenities:

Table VI-10
Outdoor Recreational Resources in Salisbury

Type of Resource	Name
Non-Profit	Maplewood Recreation Fields
	Fields at Elementary School
	Salisbury Town Forest

Source: Hazard Mitigation Plan

Trails in Salisbury

While there are no developed trails in Salisbury, there are numerous class VI roads throughout town that can be used for recreational purposes. These provide opportunities for hiking, biking, etc. During the winter months, some class VI roads are maintained for snowmobile. While there are no snowmobile clubs in Salisbury, the neighboring towns of Andover, Boscawen, Franklin, and Warner each have snowmobile clubs that actively maintain trails that cross into Salisbury. Much of this trail network is made possible through landowner agreements allowing access.

RECREATION COMMISSION

Since 2003, the Recreation Commission has had a budget just over \$2,000, which is a very small percentage of the total budget. The budget is primarily used to help support youth sports teams.

Table VI-11
Recreation Budget Allocations, 2003 -2006

Year	Recreation Committee Budget	Total Town Budget	Recreation as % of Total Budget
2003	\$2,025	\$768,268	0.2%
2004	\$2,025	\$1,395,954	0.14%
2005	\$2,105	\$1,014,854	0.2%
2006	\$2,625	\$1,281,956	0.2%

Source: Salisbury Annual Reports, 2003-2006

In 2006, Salisbury spent

a total of \$2.31 per capita (per person) on recreation, using the 2000 census figure of 1,137 for population.

Future Needs

The following needs have been identified for the Town:

- Re-establish the Recreation Commission to expand the reach beyond youth sports teams and to re-focus Town initiatives for community recreation.
- Identify, map and assess suitability of manmade features in the Town that could help satisfy recreational needs. These may include old roads (Class VI), trails, logging roads, playfields, fishing, boating access points, active playfields (baseball/soccer/football), playgrounds and etc.
- Identify, map and assess suitability of natural features in Town that can also help satisfy recreational needs. These may include areas for swimming/canoeing, natural areas suitable for birds/wildlife viewing, hiking, non-motorized bike trails, cross country ski trails, scenic overlooks, snowmobile trails, ice fishing and etc.
- Through the Recreation Commission, approach local property owners whose lands are affected by this inventory of manmade and natural resources to develop guidelines where public recreational needs might be partially satisfied where these features overlap private property.
- Encourage the Recreation Commission to act as a clearinghouse for organized recreational opportunities i.e. Sport leagues, within the community for both individuals and families.
- Encourage the Recreation Commission to promote development of trailhead signage, interpretive trails at natural areas, off street parking areas, etc. through fund raising drives and volunteer initiatives that further enhance the recreational experience in Salisbury.

SOURCES FOR FINANCING FACILITY NEEDS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Impact Fees

The purpose of an impact fee ordinance is to collect funds from new development to help offset extra infrastructure needs associated with new development. In addition to financing new school additions and roadway projects, impact fees could also be collected to help pay for new recreational facilities. The impact fee ordinance would need to be adopted via Town Meeting ballot. When necessitated in the future, the Planning Board could explore creating a set impact fee schedule for recreational needs created by new development. Impact fees can only be implemented after a Capital Improvements Program is prepared.

User Fees

During the 1980s, the concept of user fees for the funding of numerous public facilities and services was widely adopted throughout the nation. Several communities in New Hampshire help finance community facilities and programs through the adoption of user fees. Examples of user fees in New Hampshire include water district charges and transfer station fees.

License and Permit Fees

Fees, such as building permit, zoning application, and planning board subdivision and site plan fees, are all examples of permit fees. Such fees are highly equitable and are successful for minimizing the burden on taxpayers for specific programs such as building code enforcement.

Grants-in-Aid

New Hampshire communities are eligible for various grants-in-aid for financing school construction and improvements. Examples include:

- Foundation Aid to help schools provide minimum education
- Building Aid
- Handicap Education Aid
- Area Vocational School Tuition and Transportation Aid
- Sweepstakes Aid
- Nutrition Grants
- Driver Education

Community Development Block Grants

Depending on the location, social value, and functional use of a community facility, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) can sometimes be a good source of financing. CDBG funds are allocated from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and, in New Hampshire, are administered by the Office of State Planning. Each year, communities are invited to submit grant applications for funding of projects. Examples of projects funded by the CDBG program include Community Centers for the Towns of Pittsfield and Bradford. Each year, New Hampshire receives about 10 million dollars in CDBG funds that, through the grant process, is allocated to communities across the State.

Sale of Surplus Town Property and Land

Sale of town-owned property is another viable option for raising funds to pay for new community facilities. Parcels that should be liquidated include those that have no significant conservation or cultural value, or limited potential for future facilities.

Capital Reserve Funds

Capital reserve funds are similar to savings accounts, as they allow the Town to contribute money to a specific account for the purpose of purchasing or defraying the cost of significant items such as school additions, highway equipment, fire trucks, and municipal facilities.

Bonds

Bonding is a popular method of raising revenue to construct or purchase Town equipment and facilities. Though viable, the Town should avoid encumbering too much debt, as it can limit the ability of the Town to fund future, unidentified needs.

Private Foundations / Trusts

For years, communities have been the beneficiaries of trusts and donations created by private citizens and foundations. The Town should actively solicit such resources for assistance regarding the development or expansion of recreational facilities and programs.

TEA-21 Recreational Trails Program

A federal program administered in New Hampshire by the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Trails Bureau, funding is derived from the Federal Gas Tax. Annually, communities submit competitive grant applications for funds. Grant amounts are limited to a maximum of \$20,000 and require an "in-kind" community match of 20% of the grant amount. Acceptable forms of matching contributions include

cash, materials, labor, and in-kind services. Projects eligible for this funding include trails for both motorized and non-motorized use.

Town Appropriations

In addition to grants, community groups can also seek appropriations through the annual budget process to pay for the expansion of recreational or community facilities.

Regional Co-ops

Another option for defraying the cost of developing recreational facilities is co-ops among local communities in the region. Used for years for water, sewer, and solid waste facilities, co-ops among communities are rarely employed for recreational facilities. Salisbury could explore the possibility of creating a co-op with Weare, Bow, Goffstown, and Hopkinton to construct and staff recreational facilities.

Volunteers

Salisbury should continue to seek the help of volunteers and publicly recognize their efforts.

SUMMARY

The community facilities of the Town have been extensively upgraded in the last few years. The two major structures are the Safety Building and Academy Hall. The Safety Building is only several years old and in good repair and Academy Hall is in excellent condition and had some minor repairs and painting done last year. These buildings should remain in relatively good repair and require minimal investment over the next 5 years. Likewise, the transfer station has recently been modified and upgraded.

The Town's major equipment, the ambulance, police cruiser and fire equipment are all also new within the last several years and likewise should not require replacement or major investments in the next 5 years. That may change for the police cruiser if the Town upgrades to full time police coverage.

The Library will be fully renovated within the next 6 months and should not require any significant expenditures in the near future.

The elementary school is at approximately half its rated capacity and should not require any expansion in the near future.

While the Town equipment and buildings are mostly new and in good repair, the major issue on the immediate horizon will be road upgrading and repair. There are significant problems with many culverts and the pavement of many roads. While most of these issues do not mandate immediate repair, delay will become more and more costly down the road. The major goal of the Town in terms of its community facilities will center around developing a comprehensive program to address road maintenance as well as the mechanism to fund it.