

County of Chittenden Stewardship Report. Fiscal Year February 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014.

We had some feedback from the towns that they would prefer level funding. As a result of this request, we got an engineer's report which maps out what needs to be done over 20 years by level of importance. This year we repointed the exterior of building. We are in the midst of installing lighting sensors for interior of the building. DSL upgrade of the heating and ventilating system is dial up now. As a result when Christopher Danaher comes in the morning if there is a failure everything is off. With this upgrade if there is a failure a message will go right to his phone, and he can make changes such as turning power back on right from his phone. The maintenance budget is down because of upgrades we did last year to the gas pipe that leads to the boiler. Upgrades on this pipe eliminated boiler breakdowns, as a result the county saved money on repair. We used this savings in maintenance money to move forward on additional projects recommended by the engineer.

The County continues to provide passport services for Chittenden County residents. We have found it is much better for excited customers getting passports be greeted and processed by Anne Williams, the County Clerk, and not have them wait for service alongside someone in a different frame of mind, for example someone who is going through an unpleasant experience, such as filing a law suit. We have also made the passport office child friendly, with toys and books.

New perennial gardens were designed on the west side and north sides of courthouse. This will eventually save money for the county as we will not have to plant so many annuals next year. We started writing and framed and put up articles in the lobby of noteworthy Chittenden County events, helping to educate people and warm up the lobby.

Next year at the courthouse, we plan on relaying the bricks on west side of the building to make the area more pedestrian-friendly. This is estimated to cost \$22000. We also plan on installing new handrails at an estimated cost of \$5000. The existing railings have rotted where they meet the granite steps. If there are left over funds we will fix the rotted window sills.

At the County Sheriff's building this year we paved the parking lot the original estimate was \$30,000. Due to shopping around and waiting for the cost of oil to go down, we ended up paying \$8,730.00. And it has worked out well.

We had enough money left over to provide the Sheriff's department with a new furnace to replace the very old one that was on the verge of breaking down. Next Fiscal year we plan on sealant for the new paving and window maintenance.

All of these projects have been overseen and directed by County Clerk Anne Williams, and implemented by independent contractor Christopher Danaher.

All work done was reviewed and approved by Assistant Judge Delaney and me.

All checks written are written by Anne, approved by signature by Assistant Judge Delaney and me, and lastly signed by County Treasurer John Leddy. It is the best way to handle monies I have seen.

Anne and Chris' good work and responsible work ethic allows Judge Delaney and me to spend more time in court serving the people of Chittenden County in Family Court trials as well as civil trials.

Their competence and drive makes this beautiful courthouse, completed in 1907, which not only serves as a courthouse, but also as a gateway to the shire town of Chittenden County ~ Burlington. The flowers, cleanliness and upkeep of the building benefits all that pass by. The well-maintained interior serves the community well for trials, notaries, and passports.

The Sheriff's building is also something we can all be proud of.

All in all things are going well at Chittenden County Courthouse and the Chittenden County Sheriff's Department.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Ramsey