

## OSSU Tells Agency of Ed Its Plans Are Working

by Doug McClure

**NIRWAK**—At the first of three regional meetings the Agency of Education (AOE) is holding, representatives of Orleans Southwestern Supervisory Union (OSSU), its school boards, and Craftsbury reiterated their strong belief that not only is OSSU achieving its Act 46 goals, new plans in the works may boost student opportunities if realized.

While the Secretary of the AOE's Act 46 report said the status quo of OSSU worked and made no recommendations for change, it did express concern as to whether the structure of OSSU was ideal, given the spread-out nature of the district, which state board chair Krista Huling brought up at the meeting.

All OSSU and school board representatives present disagreed, citing historical, social, and economic ties going back decades.

"We all agree with the goals that are stated in Act 46," said Woodbury Elementary Board chair Patrick Flood. "We believe that we're working hard to achieve those goals right now, and we believe we can achieve them without mergers."

While the state has a strong music program for a long time, he said, "We want to take the next step, and I don't want to overkill this. We want to make an arts academy that would have a variety of arts offerings for all our students."

Flood said "I've want to give every kid an opportunity from an early age to be creative, either around tactile arts or performing arts. Every single kid can benefit from that and expand their skills to learn."

Mike Metcalf of the Hazen Union School Board added that the OSSU's footprint is the state's newest and most technologically advanced theater, the Highland Center for the Arts and noted that Hazen Union students have already performed there. Metcalf highlighted the synergies OSSU offers by recounting the story of a Craftsbury student who took advantage of Hazen's music program.

"The national anthem this year [at Hazen Union] graduation was sung by a student from Craftsbury because she was interested in the music program at Hazen ... as far as art is concerned, we had an exemplary program for a number of years."

Metcalf pointed out the strong community support and collaboration extends to Hazen's work with the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (GMTCC) forestry program. He said the school plans to talk with the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) about expanding the school's offerings and make further use of GMTCC's funding stream.

Flood said these opportunities were just some ways OSSU is

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Photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Sgt. Mike Glodgett is retiring July 26, after working for the Hardwick Police Department since 2009.

## Sergeant Glodgett Retires After Almost Three Decades

by Michael Bielawski

**HARDWICK**—For almost a decade, Sergeant Mike Glodgett and his K9 Alos have been a staple presence in town, overseeing the safety and quality of life for residents of Hardwick and Greensboro. And for 28 years, Sergeant Glodgett has been involved in law enforcement work in Vermont, including serving with the Orleans County Sheriff's Department, where he earned a few top ratings.

and now Glodgett will follow suit. There was a barbecue with about 50 people to honor his service on Friday afternoon.

"I love working down here, I love the people in the town, there are a lot of nice people here and in Greensboro," Glodgett said in an interview. "I look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren and my children."

One of the big challenges of police work is the schedule, which is the oddball.

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## Sand, Silt, and Grant for Yellow Barn

by Doug McClure

**HARDWICK**—At the Hardwick Select Board meeting on July 19, Town Manager Jon Jewett announced that the Yellow Barn project was moving forward with the awarding of a grant, and the cost of road sand was reviewed and select board chair Eric Bonnick gave an update on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT), where progress has hit what is either a hiccup or a major roadblock.

Jewett said the Yellow Barn project was awarded a \$36,900

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant which, with the required match from the town, would inject about \$60,000 into the project. The new funds would facilitate a business plan, architectural design work, and permitting. This work should be done in the next month or so.

The town received three bids for winter sand from Gravel Construction, Demers Construction, and Davis Contracting Service. A major factor was in its second year of use as a sieve test to determine how much fine sand is

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## Flurry of Personnel Changes in Hardwick

by Michael Bielawski

**HARDWICK**—Those who do business at the Memorial Building will see some new faces. Business Manager Brittany Currie has moved on to other work and Assistant Town Clerk Sue Cross has retired. Her role in town will be filled by Dossy Gray. And over at the Hardwick Police Department, Sergeant Mike Glodgett is retiring, to be replaced by part-time officer Devin Borner.

Town manager Jon Jewett said that town employees retiring or moving on to other work is the nature of the business. He explained that resignations tend to be pretty devout beliefs, but they are not always as competitive in salary as the private sector.

Currie had been with the town for five years and five months, and Jewett says he wishes her well.

"To nice to see them advance and move onto better jobs, even though it kind of makes it a hardship for us to find new people," he said.

"People often stay in one position like this for a little more than five years because after 5 years they become vested in the State retirement plan and can move on without losing the retirement benefit. I think it's the natural transition and growth of a person in the position. They are young, they come in and learn more and they become more valuable."

Jewett said he still looking out for someone to fill Curti's spot, which is a challenge now, with the state's latest unemployment rate at just 2.8 percent. Jewett said the town received several applications so far, but is still talking and interviewing.

He said the town would prefer someone with accounting experience, but they also wouldn't mind having someone right out of college with the appropriate degree related to business and accounting.

Jewett said Currie did a great job looking over an annual budget that is more than \$3 million, with its fair share of moving parts including fluctuating prices for road crew materials and constantly raising insurance rates for all town workers.

"We also have the water and sewer budgets, which push it up close to \$4 to \$5 million," he said. "Sometimes our grant money might be half a million, or a million dollars."

Jewett said that the business manager position can be a great stepping-stone, especially for those just starting out. It offers the chance to deal with a complex budget and there is constant engagement with auditors and other professionals.

He said there is also a lot of engagement with the public, for better or worse.

"We didn't go over budget for the last four years, so she did a really good job," he said. "Especially like you are managing a budget like that, you get quite a bit of scrutiny from the public."

Fortunately for Currie, most of those just starting out are in the black and the town never has to deal with the money out of its fund balance.



Photo by Doug McClure  
Dexter Thurston's wrecked 2001 Subaru Legacy GT, Thurston, 18, of Wolcott, was killed when an improved driver crossed the center line and struck his car head-on.

## Fatal Wreck in Elmore Takes Young Life

by Doug McClure

**ELMORE**—According to police, at approximately 10:50 a.m. on Friday, July 20, a 2001 Subaru Legacy GT driven by 18-year-old Dexter Thurston of Elmore, was struck head-on by Colby J. Costello, 26, also of Wolcott, in a 2005 Subaru Legacy. Police say Costello "traveled left of center

and collided head on [with Thurston's vehicle]."

Thurston was pronounced dead at the scene. Corporal Andrew Leise of the Vermont State Police (VSP) said Subaru was not seriously hurt.

"[Injuring] did not sustain serious incapacitating injuries. It was more minor injuries. He was released from the hospital and sent home," said Leise.

Despite the impact being severe enough to invert his vehicle, Costello only sustained minor injuries and is now charged with Police Gross Negligent Operation.

Death Resulting, with the Lamoille County State's Attorney likely seeking other charges, according to police.

Police said neither Thurston nor Slayton were belted in, while Costello was.

Police said in a release "[Costello's] speed and impairment were contributing factors in this collision," but did not specify the nature of the impairment. Leise said at the time the investigation was ongoing and VSP had an estimate of low fast the vehicles were traveling. Contrary to some news reports, Leise said there were no other passengers in either vehicle.

Protopiers were assisted at the scene by the Elmore Fire Department, Morraville Fire and Rescue, Wolcott Fire Department, Snows Fire Department, and the Merristown Police Department. Route 12 was closed for over six hours to clear the wreckage and allow VSP's Accident Reconstruction Team time to complete investigation of the accident.

At the crash scene, the roadway reeked of oil and gasoline. VSP troopers stood around, quiet, some, some sitting in their cars to await the flat-tops to tow away the ruined cars so their crash investigation could commence. The tow workers on their rigs loaded the destroyed vehicles in silence. Every person working the scene focused on the mechanics of the job. Over a hundred yards away from Thurston's car, the Subaru driven by Costello had been up-ended and set, abandoned, in the middle of the highway.

Thurston had updated his Facebook in January to show off his car, which was dented out with stickers. He had worked at Snows, according to his profile, and attended Northeast Vermont University in Johnson after graduating from Snows High School.

Costello's hearing is set for August 22 at Lamoille County Superior Court at 12:30 p.m.



Photo by Vanessa Fournier  
Craftsbury woman arrested for Civil Disobedience.

## Craftsbury Woman Arrested for Civil Disobedience

by June Pichel Cook

**CRAFTSBURY**—Craftsbury resident Anne Hanson stands out about 2' 7" tall, and probably weighs 100 pounds soaking wet, but this petite, 50-year-old woman has taken courageous stand for democratic principles.

Hanson said she was arrested for her act of civil disobedience and charged with illegal trespass at the Vermont State Police Station. She was arrested last week for her act of civil disobedience and charged with illegal trespass at the Vermont State Police Station. She was arrested last week for her act of civil disobedience and charged with illegal trespass at the Vermont State Police Station.

Hanson was asked to leave three times shortly before 5:00 p.m. on July 20, as in the protocol, before the Capital Police were called. She was handcuffed, hands behind her back, buckled into a police van, taken to a police station, handcuffed to a wall and asked about prior arrests, given

her Miranda rights and placed in a holding cell, taken out for fingerprinting and mug shot. Her personal belongings were inventoried, and she was given a citation after two hours. She was released that quickly because she has no criminal record. Hanson must appear in court in early August.

"I would be lying," she said, "if I told you I slept well in the nights just week before boarding the night bus out of Albany. The bus was so full of people that I was, though intermittently pestered by the lightening hair spray, but I had taken a knife's edge that basted lunacy and hostility. But I had the clarity of the words etched into the granite steps I had viewed from a bank lobby on my way out of Vermont 'Respect' and 'Courage.'"

Hanson was fitted with a sobriety, which was fitted by a subordinate, though the senator would be consistent with his plea to delay Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) construction hearings when a nominee is named so close to the election. McConnell had successfully delayed former

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