GENERAL FUND

The General Fund includes the departments and programs of general municipal government. It is funded primarily through taxes and fees. General revenue items include:

Property Taxes

Property taxes constitute just over half of the total General Fund revenue at $27,063,119. This is an increase of $406,799 over FY 2012 and reflects minimal growth in the Grand List. The City Grand List has taxable property of approximately $3.57 billion with projected growth in FY 2011 of approximately $12 million in appraised value.

The non-education tax rate is decreased by a net of 1.27 cents for a total tax rate of 71.53 cents per $100 of assessed value; an overall decrease of 1.27 cents from FY 2012. A decrease in the Retirement tax rate of 2.31 cents due to the shift of school retirement and FICA costs to the school budget is partially offset by an increase in the Chittenden County Transportation Authority and the Debt Service tax rate.

Other Taxes

The two other major forms of taxes for the City are the gross receipts tax and local option sales tax. The gross receipts tax is projected to be $2,650,000 for Fiscal Year 2013, an increase of $50,000 from the FY 2012 budget based upon trends noted in FY 2012. The local option sales tax is projected to generate $2,180,000 of revenue in Fiscal Year 2013; the same level as FY 2012..

Payments In Lieu of Taxes

Another major form of revenue is the Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) from a variety of tax-exempt entities such as Burlington Electric. PILOT monies for Fiscal Year 2011 are projected to remain flat at $1,323,700.

The General Fund operating budget is organized into 14 departments. In addition, the General Fund provides for transfers of monies to other funds of the City. The primary transfers are to the Debt Service Fund to pay for City bonds and the newly created Health and Dental Self Insurance Fund, newly created Workers' Compensation and Liability Insurance Fund, and Retirement Trust Fund to account for employee benefits.