

FEMA DISASTER DR#4330 – FLOOD OF JULY 1, 2017
Final Report on Town Highway Repairs and a Financial Summary of all Activities
Town of Granville, Vermont
Report Dated July 1, 2020

Three years after flood waters tore through central Vermont on July 1, 2017 prompting the President to declare Federal Disaster #4330 across multiple counties, Granville has satisfactorily completed repairs on the last of our road damage caused by that event. We are ready to “close the books” on this one.

Initially, FEMA approved seven Granville projects in DR#4330 with an estimated cost of \$600,000. By December 2017, four of the smaller repair projects were done: Emergency Measures; Miscellaneous Ditch Repairs (on eight town roads); Maston Hill Road culvert replacement; Kennedy Road culvert. In 2018, the Maston Hill Road Slide underwent extensive repairs and addition of a guardrail. The most difficult and costly project, Post Office Road Large Culvert replacement (near Connecticut Trail) which required hiring a Project Design Team (Dubois & King) and a construction contractor (Dubois Construction), was completed by fall 2019. The final project to be undertaken, West Hill Road Slide, was finished by Harvey's P&E on May 29, 2020. On June 4, 2020, Vermont Agency of Transportation inspected and approved all seven completed projects.

These FEMA projects are not simply a replacement of what was there before the flood. Often, major improvements result since FEMA recognizes and will pay for the latest state road design and construction standards - if they are adopted in writing by the town. Some examples are: stone ditching on all grades over 5%; guardrails where there were none; the large precast concrete culvert on Post Office Road sufficient to allow fish passage; relocation of the West Hill Road six feet toward the hillside to place it on a more stable base. Granville will continue to suffer floods, but these improvements will help reduce future damage and repair costs.

Granville paid a total of \$534,274 for all work approved by FEMA under DR#4330. Town Treasurer Kathy Werner negotiated multiple bank Lines of Credit over three years to pay contractor invoices as they were presented. Keeping track of disaster finances is a complicated undertaking, but Kathy and I kept separate records which we coordinated periodically to keep on track. Granville must pay all bills up front, and periodically we are reimbursed according to the shares established by written agreement. In the case of DR#4330, Granville received eight reimbursements to cover federal and state shares as projects were completed. FEMA (75% share) paid a total of \$400,706 and Vermont Emergency Management (share 17.5%) paid \$93,498. We have had no disputes with either FEMA or the State of Vermont over any of our financial records.

Granville taxpayer's share (7.5%) of total costs is \$40,071, plus \$5202 for extra costs on West Hill Road Slide. Since this is a “small project” by FEMA definition, FEMA pays based on the original cost estimate, whether or not final costs are over or under. In this case final costs overran the estimate, thus Granville's financial burden for DR#4330 totals \$45,273. Taxpayers have already approved and paid \$30,000 based on budgets adopted at Town Meetings. In Fiscal Year 2020-2021, an additional \$20,000 was approved to satisfy the town's obligations. So, the town will have a surplus of \$4727 left over.

Attached is a spreadsheet titled “Status of FEMA and State Payments – DR#4330” which displays costs and reimbursements for the past three years. More can be found in Town Reports for Years 2018-2020.

Norm Arseneault, Granville FEMA Coordinator
Starting with Flood of June 28, 1998 and ending July 1, 2020