

# WARNING AND MINUTES OF 2020 TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Warren are hereby notified that Vermont now has same day voter registration. Eligible residents will be able to register to vote on any day up to and including Election Day during the hours the polls are open. Legal voters of the Town of Warren may request absentee ballots for Australian ballot at the Town Clerk's office until Monday March 2nd, 2020 until 5 PM. Any authorized person may apply for an absentee ballot on behalf of an absentee voter.

The residents of the Town of Warren who are legal voters in the town are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Warren Elementary School in the Town of Warren on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon the following matters:

**Moderator, Mac Rood, called the meeting to order at 4PM**

**Article 1. To review and act upon the reports of the Town Officers for the year 2019?**

Mr. Rood reviewed the various reports located on pages 8-41 of the 2020 Town Report noting that the Town Budget on pages 16-22 would be addressed under Article 2. Motion made and seconded to approve reports as printed.

Discussion covered why Town owes delinquent taxes, request to use less water, questions on paving, request to change Knot Weed management to Invasive Species management.

Article 1 moved and seconded. Approved by a voice vote.

**Article 2. Shall the Town vote a budget to meet the expenses and liabilities of the Town including the capital expenditures and to authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?**

Robert Ackland moved that the voters approve a budget not to exceed \$3,707,211.00 motion seconded.

Mr. Ackland lead the audience in a slide presentation of the budget and proposed new expenditures. Addition of DPW position and office assistant. Paving projects both past and future were discussed. Jito Coleman spoke to the Conservation Commissions Knot Weed project last summer. Capital Budget was reduced because most of the large projects have been completed. Covered Bridge project should be completed later this summer. Concerns were voiced about the damage made to the covered bridge because of trucks ignoring signage. A warm "Thank you" was given to the Road Crew!

Motion made and seconded to end discussion. Article 2 approved by a show of hands vote.

**Article 3. Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to borrow money to pay current expenses and debts of the Town in anticipation of the collection of taxes for that purpose?**

Motion made and seconded to move Article 3. With no discussion motion made and seconded to end discussion. Article 3 was approved by a show of hands vote.

(Town Meeting took a short break to allow Representative Maxine Grad to address the audience)

**Article 4. Shall the Town vote its current taxes into the hands of the Town Treasurer?**

Motion made and seconded to move Article 4. With no discussion motion made and seconded to end discussion. Article 4 was approved by a show of hands vote.

**Article 5. Shall the Town vote to allocate \$15,000 to the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service?**

Motion was made and seconded to move Article 5. MRVAS Volunteer spoke to the audience and explained their income and expenses. Motion was made and seconded to end discussion. Article 5 was approved by a voice vote.

**Article 6. Shall the Town vote to allocate \$10,000 to the Conservation Reserve Fund for the year 2020 to be used for land conservation projects as stated in the Town of Warren Conservation Commission and Reserve Fund Charter dated 24 April 2007?**

Conservation Commission member George Schenk spoke to the activities and concerns of the commission. Motion was made and seconded to increase the allocation from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Motion was made and seconded to end discussion. Article 6 as amended was approved by a show of hands vote.

**Article 7. Shall the Town vote to spend an amount not to exceed \$84,000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund, to permanently protect 1.3 miles of the Catamount Trail, water quality of Lincoln Brook and the Mad River, and 512 acres of core forest and significant fish and wildlife habitat between Lincoln Gap and Lincoln Peak as additions to the Green Mountain National Forest?**

Motion was made and seconded to move Article 7. It was stated that this money is already within the Conservation Commissions reserve money. This Article is simply asking the voters to approve the expenditure. Motion made and seconded to end discussion. Article 7 was approved by a voice vote.

**Article 8. Shall the Town have its taxes of real and personal property paid in installments, and set the dates, and to see whether payments shall be with or without discounts, and set the amount thereof?**

(Last year voted the following: Taxes billed July 15, taxes due August 15, delinquent after November 15, with no discount)

Motion was made and seconded to move Article 8. Motion was made and seconded to end discussion. Article 8 approved by a show of hands vote.

**Article 9. Shall the Town vote its Green Mountain National Forest money go to the Warren PTO?**

Motion was made and seconded to move Article 9. Question asked as to the amount of money, answer was in the \$19,000 range. Motion was made and seconded to give the money to the Conservation Reserve Fund. Votes spoke to the many uses and children's projects this money paid for. Amendment was withdrawn. Motion was made and seconded to approve Article 9 as printed. Motion approved by a voice vote.

**Article 10 Shall the Town empower the Select Board to accept any land if given to the Town or to purchase any land within the Town?**

Motion was made and seconded to move Article 10. Motion was made and seconded to end discussion. Article 10 approved by a show of hands vote.

**Article 11. Shall the town vote to start next year's Town Meeting at 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Warren Elementary School?**

Motion made and seconded to move Article 11. After brief discussion, Motion made and seconded to end discussion. Article 11 approved by a show of hands vote.

**Article 12. Shall the town vote to cease mailing Town Reports to all eligible voters, but instead make reports available by mailing list, pick up at public places and publication on town web page.**

Motion was made to move Article 12. Discussion was that the law requires every household to receive a Town Report. We have been reducing the number distributed because of the amount of reports being thrown out and not read or wanted. Motion made and seconded to end discussion. Motion 12 approved by a show of hands vote

**Article 13. The following items will be voted on by Australian ballot between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 3, 2020.**

- 1. The Election of all Town and School Officers required by law.**  
Because none of the offices were contested the Board of Civil Authority declared all candidates winners.

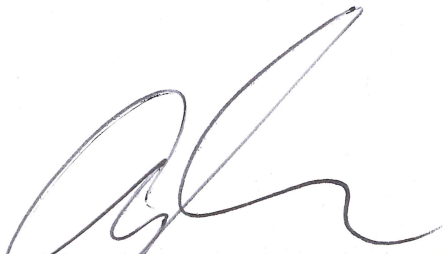
L. Macrae Rood reelected Moderator for one year, Randy Graves reelected Selectmen for 3 years. Robert Ackland reelected Selectmen for 2 years. Dayna Lisaius re elected as Town Treasurer and Trustee of Public money for 3 years. Jeffrey Campbell re elected as Grand Juror for 1 year. Wayne Kathan reelected Town Agent for 1 year. Sharon Conti elected to Warren Cemetery Commission for a 5-year term. Laurie Jones was elected to a 3-year term to the Warren Library Commission, David Ellison was reelected to a 3-year term to the Warren Library Commission and David Green-Leibovitz was elected to a 1-year term (3-year seat) to the Warren Library Commission. Robert Cummisky was reelected to a 3-year term as Lister.

**Article 14. To transact any other business that may come before the meeting. (Non-Binding Article)**

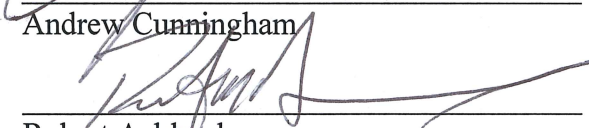
Motion that the Town of Warren issue a vote of no confidence in Harwood Union Unified District Superintendent Brigid Nease. Motion seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Thank you's were given to the Mad River Valley Free Wheeling service, Friends of the Mad River and Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice.

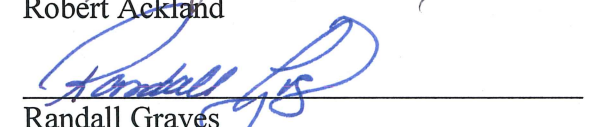
Motion made and seconded to end Town Meeting. So moved by a voice vote.



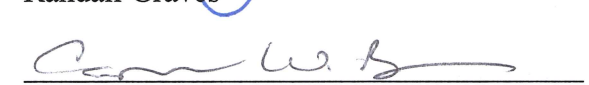
Andrew Cunningham



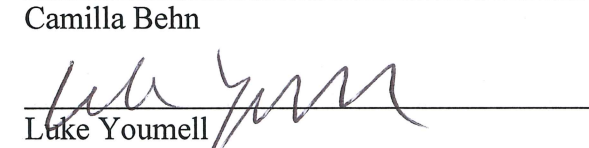
Robert Ackland



Randall Graves



Camilla Behn



Luke Youmell

Town Meetings 2020

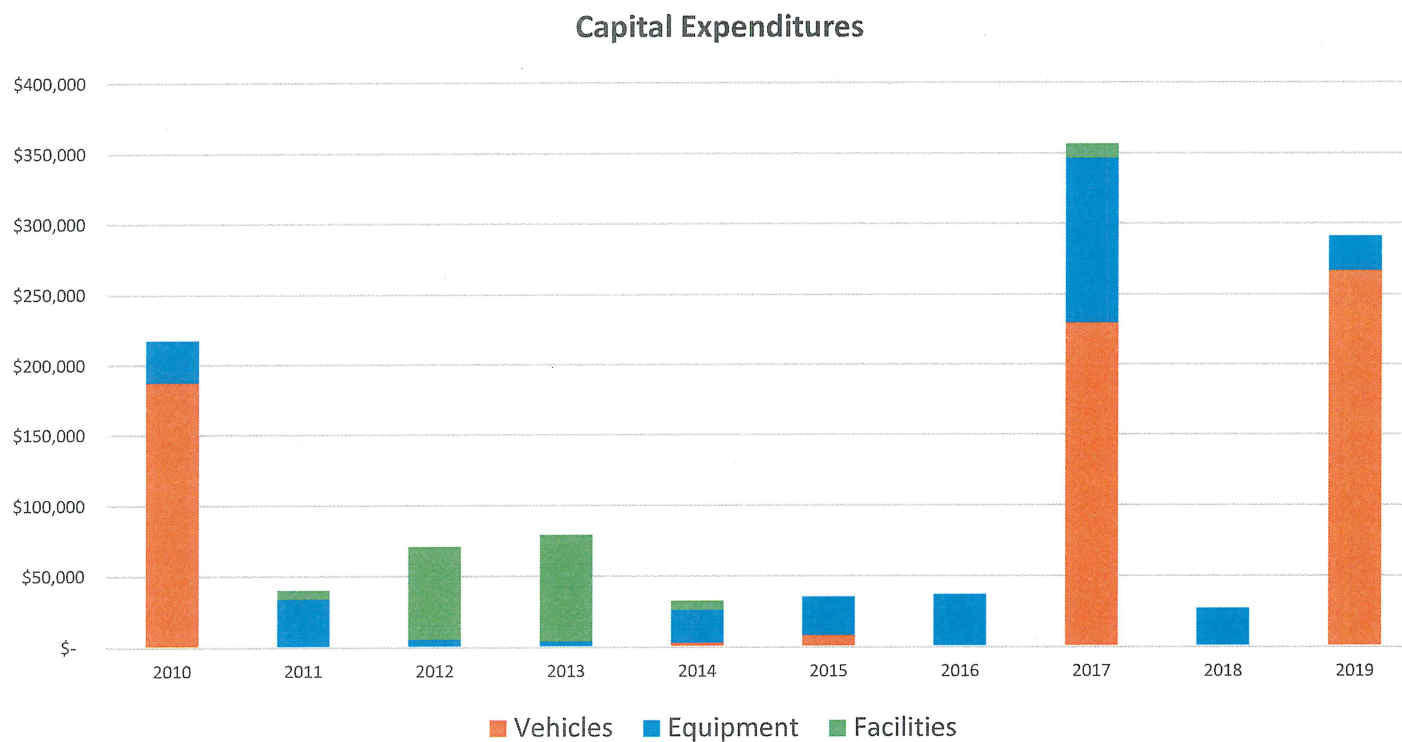
MRVAS Request for  
Donations



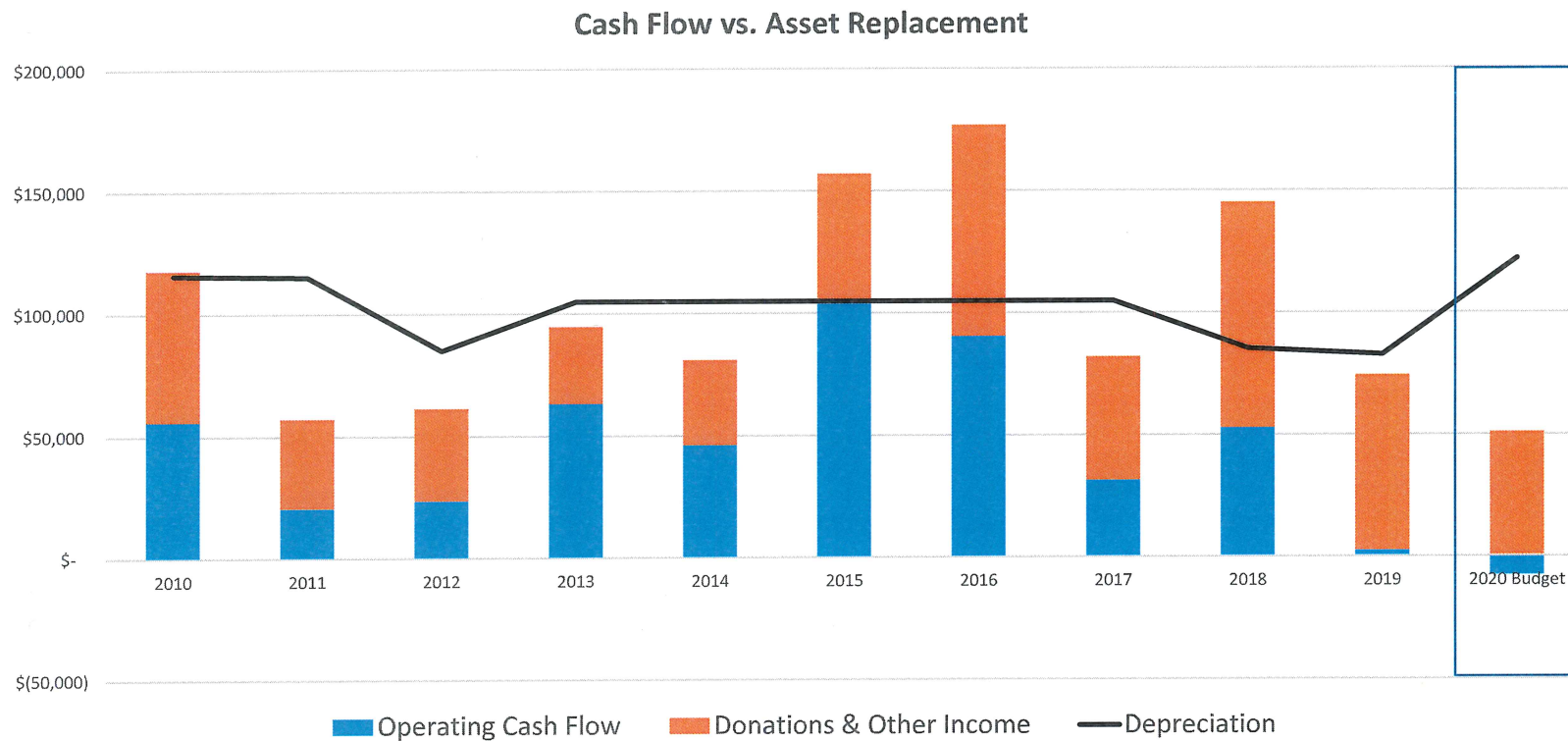
## Key facts about MRVAS:

- 50 years providing emergency medical services (EMS) to the Mad River Valley
- All volunteer squad with 70+ active dispatchers, drivers, rescue members and medical personnel
- Received 457 emergency 911 calls in 2019
- 98% of all calls were covered by MRVAS personnel
- 503c charitable organization, receiving no federal, state or local assistance

MRVAS had to spend \$1.2 million over the past ten years to maintain its EMS response capability.

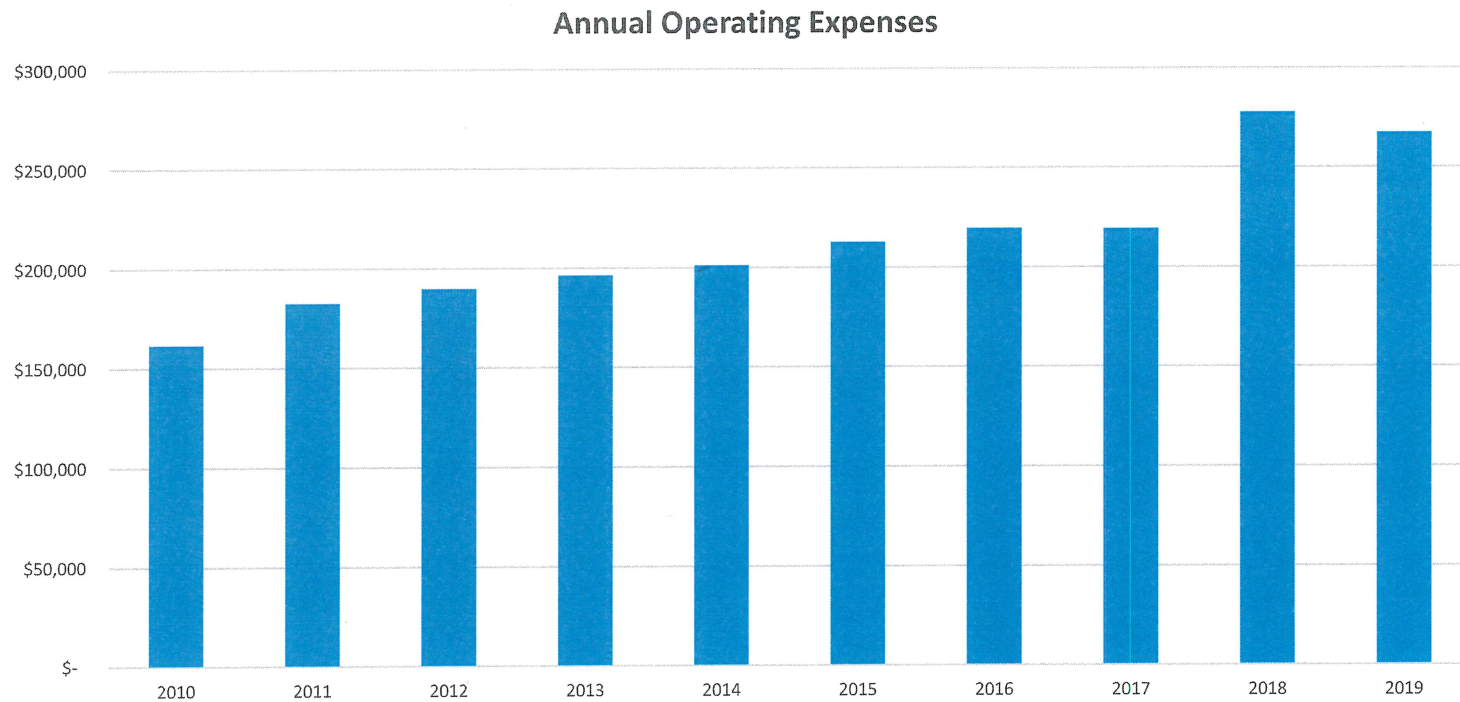


Historically, MRVAS has been able to replace its capital assets through a combination of operating cash flow and donations. But going forward that appears challenging...

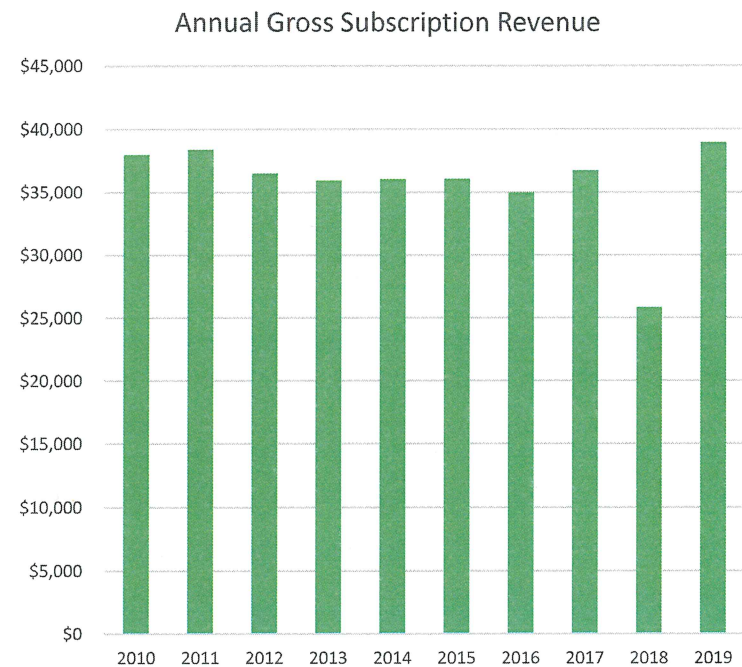
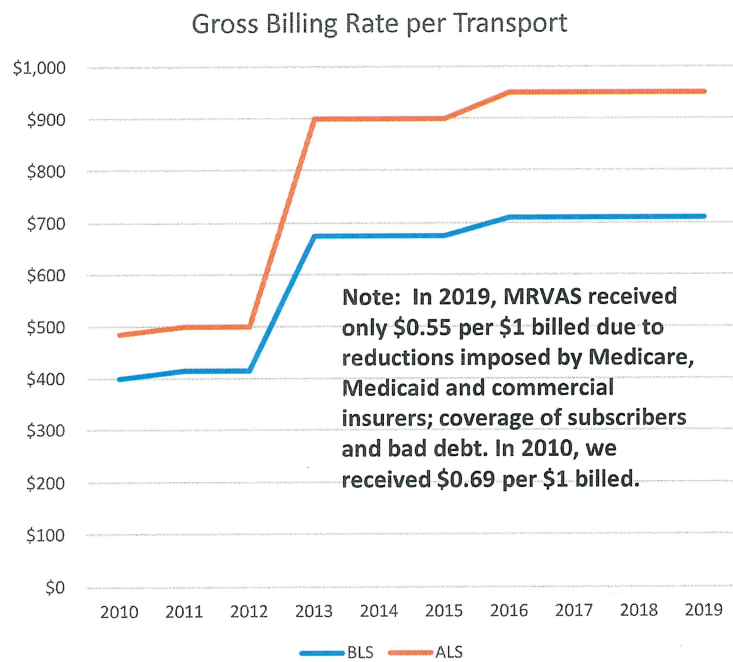




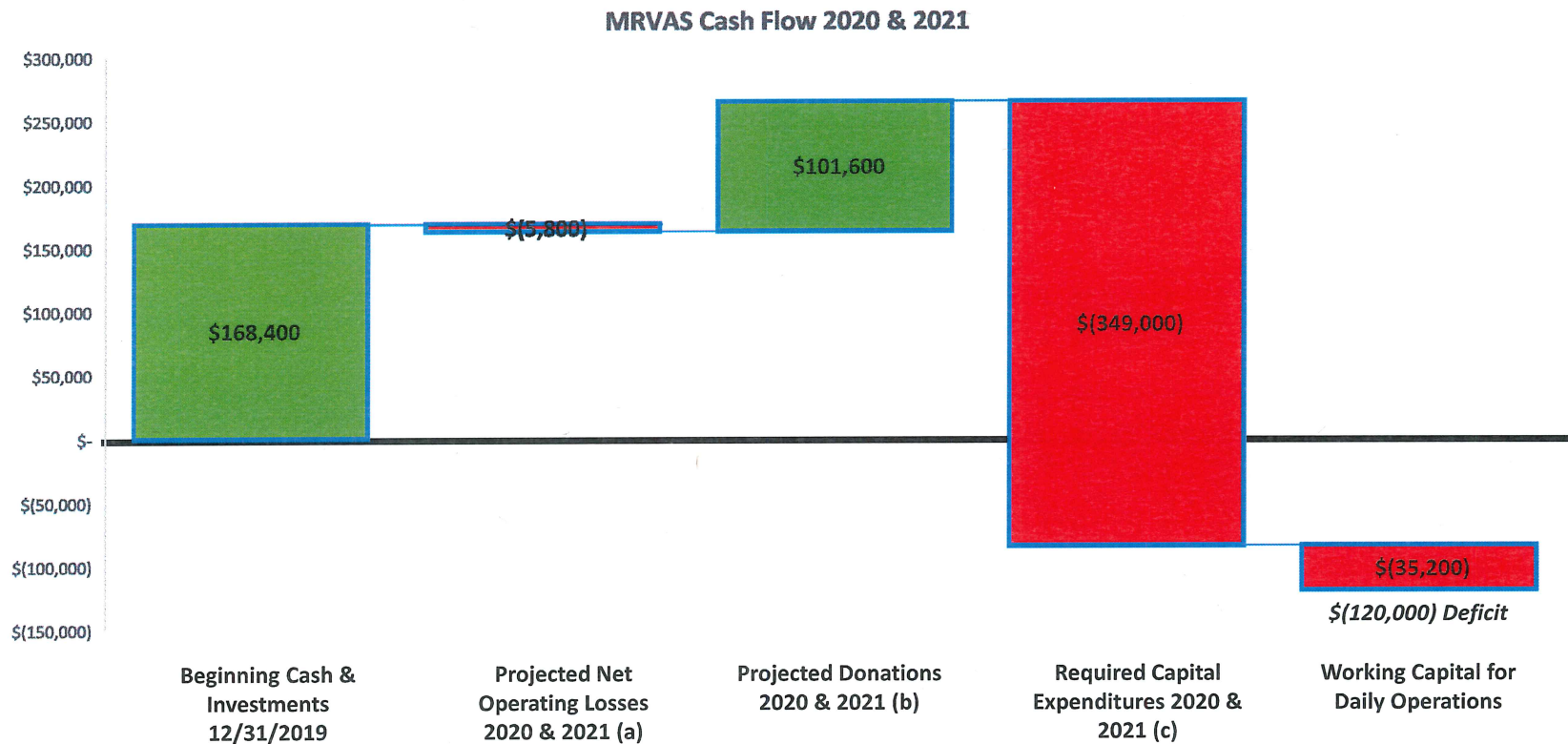
Operating expenses have grown 65% since 2010 due to the cost of complying with new state protocols and higher prices on medical supplies...



... But we have been hamstrung in growing revenue due to our inability to raise rates and flat subscriber income.



Required capital expenditures in 2020 and 2021 are projected to create a deficit which could jeopardize day-to-day operations.



Notes:

- (a) MRVAS is budgeting a \$7,900 loss before depreciation, donations and other income in 2020. We are projecting \$2,100 in income in 2021.
- (b) Donations from individuals and businesses have averaged \$50,800 per year from 2010-2019.
- (c) Includes \$300,000 to replace ambulance MR 2 in 2021 which have been in service for 15 years. Other items include \$25,000 to convert a decommissioned ambulance into a replacement rescue rig; \$12,000 to comply with new state of Vermont nitrous oxide protocols and \$12,000 to pay off the financing of a gurney for Mad River 1.

- We are asking each town to donate \$15,000 in 2020 and 2021 to ensure we have adequate cash flow to cover required capital investments and have enough cash on hand for day-to-day operations.
- Failing to replace ambulance Mad River 2 would reduce our ability to respond to Valley emergencies and increase hospital transport times by 20 to 40 minutes when neighboring agencies are called.
- MRVAS subscriber benefits do not apply on non-MRVAS transports.
- Ambulance replacements are projected for 2026 and 2029 which may require additional outside financial assistance.