

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

WORCESTER COUNTY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESTABLISHED: 1660 – Quaboag Plantation
INCORPORATED: March 3, 1848
LAND AREA: 20.67 Square Miles
POPULATION: 3,279

LOCATION: Central Massachusetts bordered on the North-by-North Brookfield, Northwest by New Braintree, West by Ware, Southwest by Warren and Southeast by Brookfield.

TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES: Generally hilly terrain with elevation ranging from 598 feet above sea level to 1,206 feet above sea level. A relatively wide valley crosses the southern portion of the Town where the Quaboag River flows. Wickaboag Pond is the only major body of water.

ELEVATION AT TOWN HALL: 633 ft above sea level

SCHOOL SYSTEM:

Quaboag Regional School (Warren – West Brookfield)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd Massachusetts

Jim McGovern, Congressman

1-508-831-7356 Worcester Office

UNITED STATES SENATOR:

Elizabeth Warren, Senator

1-617-565-3170 Boston Office

Edward J. Markey, Senator

1-617-565-8519 Boston Office

STATE SENATORIAL DISTRICT: Franklin, Hampden,
Hampshire, Worcester Counties

Anne M. Gobi, Senator

1-617-722-1540

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT: 5th Worcester

Donnie Berthiaume, Representative

1-617-722-2090 ext. 8803

TYPE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Town Meeting

Board of Selectmen – Three (3) Members

ADA COORDINATOR

The *Architectural Barriers Act of 1968* (42 USC, 4151 et seq.) requires certain federally assisted buildings to be constructed so as to be accessible to physically handicapped persons and the *Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990* (42 USC, 12101 et seq.) prohibits discrimination against the disabled individuals in private and public employment, public accommodations, public transportation, government services and telecommunications.

The Town continues to strive to meet all federal and state requirements.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Swain, ADA Coordinator

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is a seven-member board appointed by the Select Board for three-year overlapping terms. We are charged with the responsibility of advising the Select Board and the citizens of West Brookfield on all municipal matters, and review and make recommendations on all articles and budgets appearing on any town meeting warrant. During the calendar year of 2014, the Committee met thirty-three times. All meetings are posted and along with the minutes may be found on the West Brookfield web page.

One member, Roger Slobody, resigned last year, and we thank him for his dedicated service. Lori Loughlin was appointed to fill the vacancy. In May, the committee reorganized with Richard Gobi as Chairman and Kevin Paquette as Vice Chairman.

This year the Committee took on many important issues vital to the long range financial planning and stability of the Town. In December 2011, at the request of the Select Board, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services (DLS) completed a Financial Management Review for the Town. Based on some of those recommendations contained in the final report we, along with the Select Board, are working toward the implementation of its recommendations.

The Committee recommended a change in the date of the annual town meeting from May to June in order to have a clearer picture of State reimbursements so that more accurate decisions on spending can be made. This change was subsequently adopted by our Select Board and this year's meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00pm.

In the past, the Town has often spent a considerable amount of its newly certified free cash at the fall meeting to further fund department budgets and address new expenditure requests. In accordance with the Financial Review, it is our recommendation that no free cash be expended in the fall special town meeting. Instead, the town would retain free cash and use it later to help fully fund departmental budgets when they are approved at the Annual Town Meeting in June, when meeting attendance is generally higher. Except for unforeseen issues, it is our recommendation that all budgets are fully funded at the June meeting and that Special Town Meetings be used only for fund transfers and non-spending articles.

Another major impact on long-term costs is health insurance. We conducted a thorough review of eligibility and plans this year and have recommended changes that will result in substantial savings to both our employees and the Town. These recommendations bring our health benefits in line with surrounding towns.

In the past, the Highway Department workers were the only hourly employees to use a time clock system. All other departments submitted their payroll in written form. In an attempt to standardize the system for payroll reporting, we recommended the implementation of an electronic palm reader reporting system. Once fully operational, this system will provide a uniform manner of recording payroll as well as vacation, personal and sick days. This information will be reviewed at the department level by department heads, and submitted electronically to the Town Treasurer facilitating an increased level of accountability and accuracy.

At last year's Town Meeting, we were reluctantly forced to recommend drastic cuts in the Highway, Police, Fire, and Library budgets, primarily due to a last minute larger than expected increase in the School contribution request. Their request was significantly above the state mandated minimum town contribution limit. In the following months, as further funding figures were received, we were able to recommend the reinstatement of those cuts at a follow-up town meeting later in the year.

At last year's Town Meeting, the Water Commissioners successfully modified their budget transferring Water Department employee health insurance costs to the municipal budget. The Advisory committee is in opposition to this and unanimously recommends that the Water Department pay for its employee health insurance from revenues received through the sale of water to its customers. The Town has received a legal opinion that employee health insurance benefits are an operating expense of the department, and as such, should be paid for through the income of the water works. This is also an issue of fairness as over half of the Town's residents are on private wells and do not directly benefit from the water system. It should be noted that the Water Department retains all of its revenue for its own use and that the Town has no access to those funds for other municipal expenses.

During this past year, it has become clearer to us that the Town needs full time management. In some instances, departments run independently with little or no oversight of expenditures and employees, contrary to the best interests of the Town and its finances. Our part time Town officials do an admirable job within the constraints of the existing structure, but we believe there is room for improvement, which would result in an enhanced delivery of services and budget oversight. While the Select Board form of government has served us well over the years, town government has grown to the point where it needs full time management. With a Town budget now exceeding 6-million dollars and growing, we have recommended that the Select Board establish a committee to research the benefits of creating a Town Manager's position.

The Advisory Board would like to thank the Select Board for their support and entertaining many of our recommendations. We would also like to thank all who have provided feedback, information and assisted us in researching methods of improving town government.

It is our hope that the citizens of West Brookfield understand that our recommendations are forwarded after thoughtful consideration and are in the best interests of the Town as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Gobi, Chairperson
Kevin Paquette, Vice Chairman
Bradley Hibbard
Philip Landine
Tom Long
Lori Loughlin

ANNUAL SALARY

Adams-White, Renee	\$12,545.01		Creamer, Madison	\$210.00
Allard, Eric	\$125.35		Czub, Melinda	\$1,242.28
Allen, Sarah	\$37,848.99		Dacey, Paul	\$360.00 D
Alm, Wyatt J.	\$7,547.55		Daley, James	\$72,850.76
Anderson, Ashley	\$1,225.52		D'Andrea, Alyece	\$210.52
Anderson, Beverly	\$1,849.26		Davis, Jon	\$223.25
Anderson, Scott	\$3,614.65		Desantis, Christopher	\$2,025.00 D
Arsenault, Keith	\$8,955.80		DiMaio, Elisabeth	\$28,534.74
Arsenault, Marie	\$57,761.55		Dimasio, James	\$600.00
Ashworth, Cian	\$480.34		Dolan, Jane	\$1,936.55
Ayers, Brian	\$17,753.29	D+	Dorman, Kevin	\$2,599.98
Ayotte, James	\$180.00	D	Dorman, Melvin	\$1,100.00
Bacon, Patricia	\$85.00		Dunivan, Kevin	\$4,117.06
Ball, Justyna	\$3,200.46		Dunn Jr., Shawn	\$2,314.50
Barrett, Nicholas	\$2,011.50		Dustin, Brian	\$328.97
Barrett, Teresa	\$33,205.49		Edwards, Clayton	\$2,015.84
Belloveau, Mark	\$787.50	D	Fontaine, Keith	\$160.00
Benson, Robert	\$6,673.71		Fox, Phillip	\$1,846.16
Berard, Jesse	\$540.00	D	Frew, Betty	\$19,697.12
Blodgett, Kenneth	\$76.50		Frew, Michael	\$2,633.98
Bonnayer, Jeannine	\$81,660.38	D+	Frizzell Sr., John	\$880.00
Boos, James	\$6,508.91		Fullam, Brandon	\$315.00 D
Borlikoski, Charlotte	\$110.50		Garin, Mary	\$34.00
Brown, Marissa	\$8951.79		Goodman, Philip	\$9,105.72
Brown, Trevor	\$150.00		Gorham, Patrick	\$1010.82
Burns-Jackson, Mary	\$30,389.12		Goudreau, Margaret	\$5,558.28
Cassavant, Daniel	\$2,250.62		Grabosky, John	\$6,900.30
Cassavant, Beverly	\$102.00		Grimshaw, Carrie	\$18,679.38
Cassavant, Duane	\$56,474.96		Guzik, Kurtis	\$310.00
Cassavant, Mark	\$922.32		Guzik, Paige	\$200.00
Cassavant, Ryan	\$980.38		Haire, Carol	\$110.50
Cassavant, Wesley	\$59,237.12		Hartung, Kara	\$23,826.61 D+
Charron, Brian	\$7,654.59		Higgins, Jane	\$625.00
Charron, Craig	\$56,317.11	D	Hilliker, Cody	\$2,777.72
Churchey, David	\$15,979.64	D+	Hopkins, Joseph	\$557.41
Ciejka, Joseph	\$3,081.56		Horne, Randy	\$810.00 D
Convery, Karen	\$1,048.32		Iwaniec, Eric	\$8,252.97 D+
Courtemanche, Elaine	\$2,850.12		Judycki, Amanda	\$76.44
Couture, John	\$1,107.11		Judycki, Kally	\$6,137.04

Kemp, Tessa	\$1,021.50		Perrault, Kendall	\$540.00	D
Kennan Jr., Richard	\$35,962.08		Pierce, David	\$8,070.56	D+
Kenniston, Beverly	\$4,038.25		Pilch, Stephen	\$48,712.97	
Kent Jr., Edward	\$321.92		Plante, Madison	\$1,089.25	
King, William R.	\$110.50		Plante, Sydney	\$4,093.75	
Korzec, Jessica	\$210.00		Potvin, Robert	\$85.00	
Kozik, Elizabeth	\$114.75		Rex, Jonathan	\$121.78	
Kuranda, Dariusz	\$2,401.92		Roberts, Teri	\$27,919.52	
LaCroix, Pauline	\$110.50		Robinson, Paul	\$6,730.38	
Landry, Joseph	\$3,200.75		Rust, James	\$2,766.96	
Landry, Kathleen	\$153.00		Santos Jr., Daniel	\$5,281.69	
Laperle, Charles	\$81,062.45	D+	Sarja, Andrew	\$402.30	
Lapine, Gary	\$900.00		Sauve, Geraldine	\$5,395.37	
Lazarick III, Joseph	\$9,966.08	D+	Searah, Dana	\$2,100.73	
Leger, Ashley	\$2,713.62		Seeton, Nancy	\$102.00	
Letendre, Matthew	\$80,506.39	D+	Shattuck, Leah	\$3,712.38	
Long, Christine	\$9,151.84		Simeone, Gary	\$9,226.31	
Long, Mark	\$500.00		Sokol, Gregory	\$310.00	
Lupacchino, Patricia	\$1,172.13		Spencer, Melody	\$1,184.82	
Lupacchino, Paul	\$14,721.43		Spera, Robert	\$1,437.36	
Manseau, Cory	\$263.84		Stentiford, Caroline	\$102.00	
Marchessault, Ron	\$2,260.86		Swain, Johanna	\$64,713.85	
Maska, Jenna	\$351.50		Swain, S. Patrick	\$8,863.80	D+
Mawhinney, Eric	\$1,998.72	D	Takorian, Holly	\$35,381.80	
McCall, Daniel	\$3,759.45		Taylor, Jeffrey	\$14,764.97	
McCarthy, Michael	\$1,131.71		Thomasian, Cody	\$270.00	D
Melanson, Tammi	\$34,952.60		Thomasian, John	\$6,400.00	
Merriam, Jesse	\$2,659.80		Thurber, Glenn	\$380.64	
Mulliken, Susan	\$630.00	D	Tivnan, John	\$72.25	
Murphy, James	\$225.00	D	Tivnan, Madelyn	\$872.85	
Nadon Sr., Barry	\$3,984.12		Tomasino, Susan	\$102.00	
Nadon Jr., Barry	\$1,500.00		Topor, Randy	\$360.00	D
Norden, Cynthia	\$33,624.37		Vayda, Diane	\$1,500.00	
O'Donnell, Mark	\$56,132.53		Ward, Edwin	\$540.00	D
O'Donnell Jr., C. Thomas	\$91,824.13		Waterman, Gregg	\$50,204.42	
Onofre, Gerber	\$453.28		Whitehouse, Louise	\$110.50	
Paquette, Eleanore	\$110.50		Woodward, Shane	\$3,754.58	
Paquette, Jason	\$880.00		Wrobel, Demitria	\$3,149.75	
Paquette, Lester	\$385.00		Wrobel, Jean	\$25,378.90	
Peddle, Barry	\$1,327.50	D			
			TOTAL	\$1,608,417.38	

*D = Police Detail *D+ = Salary + Detail *See Police Section for breakdown

ASPARAGUS & FLOWER HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The 12th annual event was held on Saturday, May 17 on the Town Common from 10am – 4pm. As a result of publicity by Ruth Lyon and Melinda Czub, thousands once again attended this event. We thank the “Chronicle” TV program for also featuring the event.

Co-sponsors continue to be the West Brookfield Historical Commission and the Quaboag Historical Society. Over 100 vendors, non-profit organizations, and exhibitors took part in the event.

Events included the Frog Jumping Contest, kids’ games, Face Painting, Clowning for Kidz, Crafts by Country Bank and Spencer Bank, a Story Walk by the Library and equipment from the Fire Department.

Hay bales provided seating near “Asparagus Alley,” the food court, while Dick Chase and his associates provided the music.

The Information Booth displayed tote bags, drink coasters, and fresh asparagus for sale.

Students assisted with vendor parking. We thank Marc Varnum for the use of his parking lot.

The Committee approved donations for the following:

- ♦ The Jimmy Fund – on behalf of Rudy Arn for his portrayal of Diederick Leertouwer.
- ♦ The Clowning for Kidz Foundation for its participation.
- ♦ Improvements to the ball field on the Common.
- ♦ The C.E.R.T. organization for assisting with pedestrian safety.

After ten-years, Dick Rossman has resigned and Amy Dugas will take over as chairman.

Committee Members: JENNIFER BUJNEVICIE, MELINDA CZUB, AMY DUGAS, GEORGE AND ELAINE HIBBARD, CHRISTINE HOLBROOK, LAUREN KOSTANTIN, RUTH LYON, DICK ROSSMAN

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Rossman

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Our town has 2,479 parcels:

- 1,381 Residential Improved Parcels
- 799 Vacant Parcels
- 93 Commercial/Industrial/Mixed Use Parcels
- 99 Chapter 61, 61A, 61B – Chapter Land Parcels
- 150 Personal Property

The value of all taxable property of Fiscal Year 2015 was \$336,687,567. The Fiscal Year tax rate is \$14.98 per thousand.

The new tax rate reflects \$52,071.00 new growth.

The Assessors conducted a complete Revaluation of all property in the town for Fiscal Year 2015 with the assistance of a real estate consulting firm. In the past, the Revaluation has resulted in large increases in the assessed value of properties because the adjustments were made every three years. However, the state Department of Revenue now requires interim year adjustments, which have resulted in much smaller fluctuations in assessed values.

In addition, the Assessors continue to implement the state law passed by the legislature (Chapter 59, Section 2D), which allows towns to issue supplemental real estate tax bills to property owners who make improvements to their property equal to more than fifty percent (50%) of the property's prior value. These bills are triggered by the issuance of occupancy permits and prorated according to the date on the occupancy permit.

The Assessors continue to work very closely with the Building Inspector, as the Town requires building permits on almost all improvements made to your property. These building permits aid in correctly valuing a property's worth. Upon notification by the Building Inspector of permits issued, the Assessors will visit the property to verify and photograph it. Prior to our inspection, the property owner will receive a questionnaire from our office for them to complete. This will assure us that our records are correct. ***We ask that anyone who receives one of these questionnaires takes the time to complete it and return it to us.*** When these forms are not returned to our office, we cannot make the

necessary changes to ensure that the information will have on file is accurate.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

The bulk of information used in the Assessor's Office is indexed by address. ***It is essential that you inform our office of any changes in your address as soon as the change occurs.*** It certainly will help us to serve you more efficiently and prevent the necessity of duplicate mailings at an added cost to the taxpayers.

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX BILLS

Many people come to our office with questions regarding their Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills. The Registry of Motor Vehicles sends computerized data to all towns and the bills are then printed and mailed from the Tax Collector's Office. The information you receive on your bill is based on data the Registry of Motor Vehicles has in their files for any calendar year beginning January 1. Please pay particular attention to the **"Garaging Location"** on your insurance form. If you have any changes in this location or in any other information, you must notify the Registry of Motor Vehicles so that your license, registration and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills are correct. This also ensures that you receive a bill at your correct address.

In addition, if you have sold a motor vehicle during the year, you may apply for an abatement of your excise bill by completing an application and providing our office with proof of sale, as well as a copy of the Plate Return Receipt, or new registration if you transferred your license plates.

Our door is always open and we welcome any comments or questions. We are proud to provide a very personalized service to you and enjoy the opportunity to meet with many of you throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Kenniston, Chairman
Kevin Dorman
Michael Frew
Renee Adams-White, Assessor Assistant
Elisabeth DiMaio, Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF HEALTH

During the past year, the Board of Health has generated approximately \$15,750.00 through various required permit fees. The fees are as follows:

Septic Permit	\$250.00	Perc Test	\$175.00
Septic Installers	\$50.00	Septic Haulers	\$100.00
Trash Haulers	\$100.00	Retail Food	\$75.00
Food Service	\$100.00	Food Catering	\$75.00
Milk Store	\$25.00	Body Art	\$180.00
Tanning	\$25.00	Outdoor Boilers	\$75.00
1-Day Food Permit	\$25.00	Sports Camp	\$50.00
Farmer's Market (includes Asparagus Festival)			\$50.00

The Board has enacted a \$75.00 per hour/inspection charge for food inspections due to violations. The Board has enacted a \$75.00 per hour/inspection for extra Septic related inspections.

The Board of Health issued:

Perc Permits	24
Septic Permits	18
Food Permits	31
Milk Permits	13
Tanning Permit	1
Septic Installer Permits	19
Campground/Mobile Home Park/Motel Permits	2
Pool Permit	1
Septage Hauling Permits	6
Trash Hauling Permits	5
Farmer's Market/Seasonal Food Permits	14
Bathing Beach Permit	1
Outdoor Wood Boilers	0
One Day Food Permits	15
Body Art Permits	0
Sports Camp Permit	1

The West Brookfield Board of Health contracts its' medical services with Harrington Hospital.

The Town of West Brookfield has a low interest loan program for the repair of septic systems. Contact the Administrative Assistant for further information.

The Department of Environmental Protection was petitioned by the board to lower the number of required monitoring tests at the Capped Wigwam Landfill and was granted a permit to do so. Unfortunately, there was a change in the Department of Environmental protections allowable level of 1,4 Dioxane. Because of this change, we had elevated levels in one of our landfill test wells. We then tested private drinking water wells down gradient of the landfill. One well on New Braintree Road, the Wickaboag Sportsmen Club, failed and the board immediately issued a non-drinking order. The board, with the help of the Water Department, has applied for a low interest loan for \$136,300.00 through the Department of Environmental Protection to install a water line to the Wickaboag Sportsmen Club. As of this date, we are on the draft of intended use list for the 2015 season.

Hazardous Waste Day is once a year in September at the North Brookfield Transfer Station. **Latex paint is not accepted. Dry the latex paint in the can with a mix and dispose of with the normal trash.**

Sharps may be dropped off at the Board of Health for disposal during normal business hours, provided they are in the proper containers, which may be purchased at any pharmacy for a minimal amount.

The Board continues to revise and prepare for all emergencies, if you wish to become a volunteer for the Board of Health, please contact us at the number below.

The Board of Health wishes to remind all residents that it meets on the **2nd and 4th WEDNESDAYS** of each month at **7:00 PM**, in the West Brookfield Town Hall, Room LL4. The public is invited to attend.

The Board of Health telephone number is 867-1421 Ext. 310.

Office hours are Monday 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM,

Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and

Wednesday evening from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

Title V Agent: John Thomasian
Health Agents: Joanne Petterson-Bernier, Earl Bernier
and Lee Jarvis
Administrative Assistant: Sarah J. Allen

Respectfully submitted,
Melvin Dorman, Chairman
Jason Paquette
John Frizzell

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

As always our Board placed priority on the effectiveness of financial management of the Town. This was accomplished while attempting to maintain or improve the standing portfolio of essential municipal services.

COMMUNITY:

- ♦ William Jankins told the Board that he had spoken with David Callahan, Senator Brewer, and Representative Gobi about naming the two ponds located on Lake View Avenue “Aube Ponds” in memory of Richard Aube. The Board voted to approve his request. Bill stated that the Historical Society would erect signage accordingly.
- ♦ The Asparagus & Flower Heritage Festival was held on May 17, 2014.
- ♦ On April 15th, the Board executed an Arbor Day Proclamation officially designating April 25th as Arbor Day. The Board also approved an American Chestnut Planting Program.
- ♦ On April 29th Betsy Johnson, President, wrote the Board to ask permission to host a 5K Road Race to benefit the Central NE Equine Rescue Inc.; a nonprofit 501© 3 organization. Anthony Piazza also wrote the Board to request permission to host a 5K Road Race to raise money for the local Little League. The Board approved both request and asked them to work with the Police Chief on the details.

- ♦ The Board agreed to allow off street parking on Wickaboag Valley Road and the installation of a kiosk by the East Quabbin Land Trust at Pynchon’s Grismill.
- ♦ On July 22nd, Richard Rossman stated that the Historical Commission has agreed to fund the second phase of the restoration project at the Old Indian Cemetery. Richard provided the Board a report from Fannin & Lehner Preservation Consultants, which outlined phase one of the gravestone/monument conservation for their review.
- ♦ On August 5th, Al Collings asked the Board permission to install a plaque at the Town Beach naming the launch area the “Stephen M. Brewer Boat Launch” in commemoration of the Senator’s retirement. Noting that the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife had no issues, Al asked the Board to approve the installation since the signage will be on town property. The Board provided permission.
- ♦ On November 25th, Mr. Foley, along with his Assistant Coach Beth & LWPA President Al Collings, met with the Board to discuss a new rowing program at Eagle Hill School in Hardwick. Mr. Foley stated that a very small team of 10 kids – two four-person rowing shells and a small aluminum coach’s launch would like to use Lake Wickaboag. They would row during two seasons per year; from shortly after the ice breakup in the spring through early June, and then again from early September through the end of October. Practice would be from 4pm to 6pm each weekday. Rowers would volunteer time cleaning with the LWPA. The Board welcomed the rowers. Al Collings stated that the LWPA would reach out with education materials for the lake residents.
- ♦ White Christmas was held on December 7, 2014.

FINANCES:

- ♦ On January 28th upon the recommendation of the building Inspector, the Board voted to “Double permit fees when work is started without a permit” effective immediately.
- ♦ The Board voted to allow the Highway Superintendent to deficit spend in the Town’s Snow and Ice Account on March 4th.

- ♦ Upon clearance from legal counsel, the Board executed a Host Customer Agreement with SOLTAS Energy. The Town will receive \$16,000 in electrical energy credits each year for the next twenty years.
- ♦ On March 24, the Board voted to institute a “freeze” on FY2014 budgets. All non-essential services and products should not be purchased. Department Heads should put forward a strong effort to refrain from unnecessary purchases.
- ♦ On April 15 the Board voted to adopt the revised Fee Schedule submitted by the Fire Chief effective July 1, 2014. (*The Selectboard agreed not to include the fees for cooking & tents pending further information.)
- ♦ Executive Secretary Johanna Swain announced that she had worked with the Town Accountant Marie Arsenault to apply for a Foundation Reserve and subsequently were awarded \$23,200. She noted that these funds are unrestricted state aid and may be used for any municipal purpose.
- ♦ The Board announced that the Town had received \$35,098 for pot hole repair from the MassDOT’s Winter Rapid Recovery Road Program.
- ♦ On May 13th upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Board voted to cut the following budgets by 7% for FY15: Fire, Police, Highway, and Library.
- ♦ On August 5th the Board read an award letter given to the fire department from the DCR for \$2,000 of grant money under the 2014 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program.
- ♦ September 2nd Ms. Lamica stated that due to a change to the FY14 town assessments \$58,481 would be returned to the Town of West Brookfield & \$48,211 to the Town of Warren.
- ♦ On September 2nd Kevin Paquette, Advisory committee member, stated that a 60 kw generator new will cost approximately \$15,414. He further stated that the switching device on site can be used. “I have an electrician coming tomorrow. This generator should run the entire Fire Station and Town Hall. I will need to get a plumber and electrician.” The Board agreed to have the Emergency Management

Director inquire with the Homeland Security Council about potential grants for acquisition and installation of a generator.

- ♦ On September 30th at the request of the Police Chief, the Board voted to allow Gravel Builders to construct a counter desk area within the police station for the sum of \$2,883; in an effort to provide more safety for those in the department.
- ♦ Nick Frank, WBES Playground committee, provided the Board with an overview of their need for a playground including costs, materials, donations, reductions in cost due to a similar project in Warren and additional parking spaces. Phil Landine, Advisory Committee member, asked if the \$55,000 request could be split between the Fall and Spring town meetings. Nick Frank stated that if the Town provided \$30,000 now they could start the process and the remaining \$25,000 could be used in the Spring towards paving. The Board agreed to support \$30,000 on the STM Warrant.
- ♦ Advisory Board members Kevin Paquette and Tom Long asked the Board for permission to hire an electrician to work with them to assess the needs of the Fire Station and Town Hall with regards to generator(s). The Board voted to allow the Advisory Committee to work with Prizio Electric for \$700; to be paid out of the Town Building Maintenance.
- ♦ The Board held a Tax Classification Hearing on November 18th and voted to adopt a single tax rate.

LEGAL:

- ♦ Town of West Brookfield v. Douglas Aspinall, Worcester Housing court No. 14CV322: After judgment was entered in favor of the town, Mr. Aspinall appealed; the case is currently pending in the Massachusetts Appeals Court.
- ♦ Josephine Turturro, et al v. Zoning Board of Appeals and West Brookfield Solar, LLC, Worcester Superior court Civil Action No. 2012-01616: This case was dismissed without prejudice when the parties informed the court that they had reached a settlement; the case is now closed.

- ♦ S. Patrick Swain et al v. Town of West Brookfield Police Department, et al, Worcester Superior Court Civil Action No. 14-1232: This case is currently pending.

LIQUOR LICENSES:

- ♦ On February 4th Lisa Gilman approached the Board to request a BYOB License for Haymakers Grille. She stated that her sister is TIPS Certified and that she was enrolled in the upcoming class. The Board voted to approve a BYOB License for Haymakers Grille.
- ♦ On August 5th the Board voted to approve a one (1) day liquor license for the Lions Club for October 4, 2014, with a rain date of October 5, 2014 and to waive the \$25 fee.
- ♦ The Board voted to approve the following Liquor License renewals:
 - Ye Old Tavern, 7 East Main Street
All Alcoholic Innholder - \$1,125.00 License Number 136800001
 - Salem Cross Inn, 253 West Main Street
All Alcoholic Innholder - \$1,125.00 License Number 136800004
 - Adams-Coney-Frew American Legion Post #244, 5 Ware Road Post Office Box 252
All Alcoholic Innholder - \$350.00 License Number 136800005
 - Country Corner Citgo, Inc., 118 West Main Street
All Alcoholic Innholder - \$450.00 License Number 136800008
 - Colonial Heights Spirits, Inc., 139 West Main Street
All Alcoholic Retail Package Store - \$675.00 License Number 136800011
 - Northeast Pizza, 208 West Main Street
Wine and Malt Common Victualler - \$450.00 License Number 136800013
 - AJT Enterprise dba main Street Liquors, 11 East Main Street
All Alcoholic Retail Package Store - \$675.00 License Number 136800014
 - China Wok Restaurant, 154A West Main Street
All Alcoholic Common Victuallar - \$1,125.00 License Number 136800017
 - George's Pizza, 4 East Main Street
All Alcoholic Common Victuallar - \$450.00 License Number 136800018
- ♦ The Board also approved expanded hours for CITGO and Colonial Heights Spirits.

STAFFING:

- ♦ On January 28th the Board voted to have the Highway start managing the cemeteries effective April 1, 2014.
- ♦ On February 12th Mr. Keith Arsenault then presented the Board with a letter stating his intent to retire on March 15, 2014. Mr. Arsenault requested a “vouch the cash” audit to be completed prior to his retirement.
- ♦ On April 15th the Board of Assessors presented the Board with a revised job description for the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors. The Board asked the Personnel Board; which is the Selectboard by default, to change the step and grade from a 5/7 to a 7/5. The Board voted to adopt the newly revised job description and to change the grade/step from a 5/7 to a 7/5.
- ♦ On April 15th the Board read a letter from the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission commending Fire Chief Paul Lupacchino for passing a uniform credentialing for Chiefs. “This level signifies that the applicant has strived to obtain the specialized knowledge and competencies necessary to be an effective fire service leader.” The Board offered their congratulations to the Chief.
- ♦ On April 16th the Board reviewed the applications for the two (2) part time cemetery caretaker’s positions. The Board voted to hire applicants Wyatt Alm and Shane Woodward.
- ♦ On May 27th the Board acknowledged the retirement of Lieutenant David Tebo and the promotion of Firefighter Brian Charron to Lieutenant. The Board also witnessed the pinning of the following Firefighters: Phillip Fox, Wyatt Alm, Michael McCarthy, and Joseph Hopkins.
- ♦ The Department of Agricultural Resources sent the Board an email urging them to appoint an Alternate Inspector. The Board took the information under advisement.

POLICY:

- ♦ On March 10th the Board adopted two (2) policies as written by Counsel: policy on Professional Conduct and Policy on Computer, Network and Telephone Access and Usage

- ♦ On April 15th, at the request of the Stormwater Authority, the Board adopted the following Water Flow Runoff policy:
“All applications to any town board, committee or department which may cause an alteration of the ground surface or cause an increase of surface water flow from the property to an adjacent property (including wetlands and roads or streets) shall be referred to the Stormwater Authority and/or Conservation Commission for action (or sign-off). Such applications shall also indicate the applicability or not of the Town’s Flood Plain Bylaw to the application.”
- ♦ A mandatory department head meeting was held on September 4th at 9am to review new policies and procedures.
- ♦ On September 30th at the request of the Police Chief, the Board implemented a Nasal Narcan Policy.
- ♦ The Board continues to work on a policy for implementation of time clocks town wide.

TOWN FLEET:

- ♦ On November 10th the Board voted to spend \$56,110 to purchase a highway truck.

Respectfully submitted,
 Barry J. Nadon, Jr.
 Diane Vayda
 Sarah J. Allen

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Single Family Dwellings	3
Sheds	4
Additions	7
Roofing	29
Garages	4
Windows/Siding	16
Renovations/Remodeling	16
Stoves/Pellet/Wood	28
Pools/In-ground/Above –ground	4
Signs	4
Decks	5
Demolition	0
Barns	3
Pavilion/Gazebo	0
Antenna/Cell Tower	0
ADA Ramp	0
Solar	16
Weatherization/Insulation	9
Treatment Plant	0
Sheet Metal	1
Total	149
Total Permit Income	\$73,470.00
Estimated Value on Permits	\$13,851,712.00

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeff Taylor, Building Inspector

BURIAL GROUND COMMISSION

The Board of Cemetery Commissioners consists of:
Teri Roberts and Dave Swekla.

The Cemetery Commissioners have the oversight of three separate cemeteries: the Old Indian Cemetery on Cottage Street, the Methodist Cemetery on Lyons Road and the Pine Grove Cemetery on Church Street. The Cemetery Commissioners would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the West Brookfield highway Department for their diligent maintenance and upkeep of the town's cemeteries.

The Cemetery Commission extends sympathy to those of you who have experienced a loss of a loved one over the past year. We also wish to thank individuals who have taken special interest in providing care of the lots and surroundings.

We had fourteen burials in Pine Grove during 2014:

From West Brookfield

Madeline Cregan	Mary Merrill
Wilfred Rivers	Peter Wrobel
Robert Kingsland	Eva Benson
Alma King	

Out of Town

Irene Roberts	Springfield, MA
Owen Brewer	Scituate, RI
Rachel Puchalski	Charlton, MA
Judith Dobeck	Panama City, FL
Edward Spencer	Southbridge, MA
John Dunn	Williamstown, VT

As a reminder, in respect for our deceased, dogs are not allowed at any time on cemetery grounds. Also, please report any vandalism or suspicious activity to the West Brookfield Police Department.

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Roberts
Dave Swekla

COMMON COMMITTEE

Two thousand fourteen has been a busy and exciting year for the West Brookfield Town Common. This year the common had been the site of several events including the popular Asparagus Festival, the 49th Annual Congregational Church tag sale, the weekly summer concerts at the Helen Schackley Bandstand, the white Christmas celebration, and the 3rd Annual Harvest Festival sponsored by the West Brookfield Lion's Club. The Farmer's Market held on the common weekly throughout the summer and fall months has grown in size and popularity. The ball fields continue to be enjoyed by young athletes participating in T-ball and youth soccer. An effort by the West Brookfield Little League with financial support from the Asparagus Festival Committee is being planned to revitalize the ball field and backstop on our common.

A lawn care program of an organic-based fertilizer and lime application has been established with the help of the West Brookfield Highway Department. Several diseased trees have been recognized and removed from the common with help from Tree Warden Jim DiMaio. The Committee would like to thank Jim Daley and the West Brookfield highway Department for maintaining the lawn and trees on the common.

We would like to bid farewell to Betty DiMaio and Martha Salem-Leasca for their hard work and dedicated service as members of the West Brookfield Common Committee.

We would like to welcome Rayne Petruzzi and Suzanne LePage as the two new members of the West Brookfield Common Committee.

It has been a pleasure to serve as members of the West Brookfield Common Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. Richard, Chairman
Suzanne LePage, Secretary
Rayne Petruzzi, Treasurer

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

During the year, the Conservation Commission was involved with numerous permits, site visits, and meetings regarding the enforcement of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act. We held public hearings for seven Notices of Intent and two Requests for Determination. We issued three Certificates of Compliance, and one emergency certificate.

Please visit our website at <http://wbrookfieldma.com>. All forms as well as instructions for completing them are located at this site and can be downloaded for your convenience. Minutes of our meetings can be viewed here.

The Conservation Commission wishes to remind all property owners that Massachusetts General Law states that *any work proposed within 100-feet of any wetland (intermittent streams, lakes, marshes, bogs, or seasonally wet areas) and 200-feet from any permanent stream requires a filing of a Request for Determination of Applicability.*

An Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program is also in place to assist and encourage the retention of the Commonwealth's best farmland. The program is a permanent solution for maintaining an agricultural land base for local food production. Any interested landowners should contact the Commission for more information.

The Conservation Commission meets the **first Wednesday** of the month at **7:00pm** in the Lower Level Conservation Office in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordon DeWolf, Chair
Richard Provencher
Brian Silva
Jesse Serrano
Christine M. Long, Secretary
Eric Tunley
James Talvy

COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission statement for the Council on Aging of the West Brookfield Senior Center is to enhance the lives of our senior citizens by providing information, referral services, and opportunities for socialization and recreation.

We continue to provide outreach and individual services that help seniors and their families cope with problems related to aging. Our Medicar program involves volunteer drivers who provide transportation to and from medical appointments. We offer several regularly held clinics including flu shots, blood pressure, and podiatry, as well as other medical screenings and informational seminars throughout the year.

Other services include SHINE counseling, Fuel Assistance, Fallon Health Insurance information, AARP tax preparation, and office hours held at the Senior Center for those interested in speaking with the Veterans' Agent.

In the year 2014, we added time to exercise into our schedule. Zumba, Revive in Forty-Five and a Keep Moving Walking program have proved to be successful and enjoyable.

Many thanks to Country Bank and Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center for partnering with us by offering educational programs in their areas of expertise.

We are grateful for the funding from the Friends of the Council on Aging, Country Bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank and the Irving England and Jane England Charitable Trust.

We very much appreciate the continued support of Town Departments and the community at large.

Please feel free to contact us at our email address:

louluo53@wbrookfieldseniorcenter.net

- *Please remember this is your senior center to use and enjoy. We thank all our volunteers who have spent many hours setting up and cleaning up for all the special programs during the day, nights, and weekends. We are so lucky for so many volunteers who make the West Brookfield Senior Center the best place to be.*

Respectfully submitted,
 Cynthia Norden, Director
 Beverly Cassavant, COA Chair

EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

“Earth Material Excavation Requiring a Permit” – More than 500 cubic yards of soil excavated in any one year. Excavation incidental to the construction of buildings or other accessory uses and expansions may be exempt provided that the quantity of materials removed shall not exceed that displaced by the portion of the building or accessory use below grade and all required permits by the West Brookfield Bylaws and/or Zoning Bylaws have been issued. Other exceptions are excavation in the course of customary agricultural use of land for a farm, garden, or nursery; excavation material subject to a license issued under MGL Chapter 40, Subsection 21 (7), excavation in compliance with the specific requirements of an approved subdivision plan, and excavation in the normal use of a cemetery.

“Earth Material” includes soil, sand, gravel, stones, topsoil, peat, muck, loam, bedrock, or other earth materials from any land in town.

The Earth Removal Board continues to manage four (4) active permits relative to earth material excavation under Section XII, section 2 of the Town’s General Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,	
Jason Paquette, Chairman	Health
Bob Lipovsky	Planning
Diane Vayda	Selectmen
Gordon DeWolf	Conservation
Kevin Dorman	Zoning

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Listed below is a compilation of electrical permits and completed inspection for 2014:

Photovoltaic Installations	14
Boilers	2
Renovations	16
Fire Alarms	2
Pools	4
Services	6
Burglar Alarms	8
Garage	1
Hot Tub	1
Sewer Pumps	2
New House	1
Addition	1
Generators	4
HVAC Systems	5
Commercial Installations	6
Barn	1

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Dunivan, Electrical Inspector

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for assisting town agencies in both handling and preventing of disasters, whether natural or man-made. The office is responsible for the creation and updating annually of the Community Emergency Management Plan and insuring the town's compliance with regulations adopted by both Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

We continue to work with the town of Warren on our local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT members are volunteers with varying backgrounds, but a common desire to help their communities. The CERT meets monthly at the high school and has been used at several events over the past year, such as White Christmas and the Quaboag Triathlon. CERT is funded through state grants, and members receive training on such subjects a traffic direction, First Aid/CPR, and shelter operations. Anyone interested in volunteering for the CERT should contact either the West Brookfield, or Warren Police Department, or either towns Emergency Management Department.

Respectfully submitted,
 C. Thomas O'Donnell, Jr., Director of Emergency Management

FIRE DEPARTMENT

For the year 2014, the West Brookfield Fire Department responded to 134 emergency calls as follows:

2	Structure Fires	26	Smoke Alarm Activation nothing found
20	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	Fire Alarm Activations with fire
9	Motor Vehicle Accidents - with HazMat	2	Water Flow Alarms improper maintenance
0	Recreational Vehicle Accident	2	Carbon Monoxide Alarms with service required
4	Chimney Fires	3	Assist Emergency Medical
4	Public Assist	7	Carbon Monoxide Alarms nothing found
1	Brush or Permits Out of Control	4	Illegal Burns
3	Toned Response no service required	1	Electric Pole/Transformer Fire
9	Hazardous Waste Discharges other than from car accident	4	Smell of Gas requiring mitigation

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Cooking Fire | 3 | Smell of Gas nothing found |
| 5 | Smoke/Fire Investigation | 1 | Gas Grill Fire |
| 1 | Possible Lightning Strike | 1 | Appliance Malfunction |
| 6 | Accidental Fire Alarm Activation | 1 | Strike Team Activation Drill |

We provided Mutual Aid ten (10) times as follows:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | Brookfield | 5 | Warren |
| 1 | North Brookfield | 1 | Ware |
| 1 | Oakham | 1 | District 7 Brush Strike Team |

We received Mutual Aid zero (0) times in 2014 from neighboring communities.

I start my report with respect by dedicating this report to a past Chief of the Department that lost his valiant battle with many illnesses over many years. Chief Peter J. Wrobel Jr. passed away on 11 November. His dedication to the West Brookfield Fire Department goes unmatched by many, serving 33 years, 13 of those years as Chief.



Chief Wrobel brought new technologies to our area at the time he served and at a time when traditions were deep rooted in the Fire Service. He will be best remembered for bringing



the Large Diameter 4" Supply hose to the fire service. He placed West Brookfield Fire ahead of all area departments with this technology. He broke tradition and stood firm in his belief that it would change the fire service, and it did! Chief Wrobel placed this hose on a power reel on Engine 2, still in service today, a reel that carries a quarter –mile of hose, with this he could extend the water distribution system or water source that much closer to the incident. Known today as

the “minimal standard supply hose”. Chief Wrobel and the West Brookfield Fire Department demonstrated its use in 1984 to the tri-state community of Chiefs from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The fire service in our area and across state lines owes Chief Wrobel recognition for his willingness to stand while others mocked his beliefs. I am sure he is now watching over us all with a smile on his face knowing he has gotten the last laugh, that he was willing to break tradition for the betterment of all. Chief Wrobel, rest in peace and watch over us with your guiding hand.



In 2014, the Fire Department sustained its pro activeness in maintaining our fire personnel at the ready for the lowest cost possible, training new and seasoned members, maintaining equipment and our aging fleet. Our newest fire truck will be 10 years old at the time you read this report with our oldest 38 years old. All vehicles and equipment are maintained

to the best of our ability as funding allows. We will need to look at replacing Engine 2, our 1984 Class A Pumper, over the coming years. We will ask to have money set aside for this purchase. This truck will have a replacement cost of near \$500,000.



The Tanker, which we acquired for free has been retrofitted, with the approval at town meeting , with its quick dump and will serve our community very well. Remember, this truck came to us



for free, valued if purchased today for \$375,000, and has put us into position for a better ISO PPC (Public Protection

Rating) the rating to help lower your fire insurance costs. We will need storage for this valuable piece of equipment and will look to pain this

truck for mainenance and preservation. Its aluminum body will need attention soon to keep it in the great shape it is in. If this is not done, like your own car it will corrode and deteriorate and it is our wish to preserve it, as well as to have it match the rest of the fleet so that it can service the town for many years to come.

In 2014, Membership, our greatest asset, grew with the addition of 3 members. Joe Hopkins, a seasoned Firefighter, that returned to the area and Fire Service; and two others, Christopher Lucia and Eric Allard, three great additions to our team. My respect goes out to them for stepping forward to protect residents of our community, their dedication to serve, time and support given to myself, my officers, and our department is truly appreciated, Thank you!

2014 became a challenging year for leadership as well. We were faced with a need to promote an Operations Lieutenant as the span of control within our department grew. This was a good sign as that meant membership was on a rise. All membership was encouraged to apply for the position. The candidates placed their interest in the position in writing and took part in an evaluation process that brought them threw a written exam, oral written exam, and an oral interview in front of a panel of area Chiefs. I thank those Chiefs for their time and assistance with this very important evaluation. The outcome of this process yielded a highly qualified individual. Firefighter Brian Charron was promoted to Lieutenant of Operations and is a highly experienced Firefighter. He has expertise in Hazardous Waste release mitigation and continues to serve as the Town's Hazardous Wast Coordinator. Lt. Charron has specialized training in his career as an Aircraft Firefighter with 104th Fighter Wing of the MA Air National Guard. He has and continues to demonstrate a high level of leadership qualities. We welcome him to the rank of Lieutenant and look to him to fill an officer's role within our department for many years to come.

On the heels of this promotion we experienced and untimely medical retirement of one of our seasoned Lieutenants. Lieutenant David Tebo was having to give up his passion of firefighting after 11 years of service with our department. This was due to a physical disability received during his service to our country in the US Army. It was a hard decision on Lt. Tebo's part, and a real loss to our department. If he conintued with the physical demands that firefighting requires he would most certainly sign his fate, a fate tha would place him in a wheelchair for the the rest of

his life. Though this disability was preventing Lt. Tebo from being physically fit to continue his service with us, mentally his heart and desire to serve has not wavered. Lieutenant Tebo had to retire his position and his active membership from our department, but retains our respect and continues to assist in any way he can. He voluntarily observes training exercises and offers his observations for all our benefits. He assists with new recruits, studying for written exams or just being there for them and seasoned firefighters, or just to talk over tough calls or laugh about the in-house relations amongst the membership. I cannot express my utmost appreciation for Lieutenant Tebo's service in mere words, but will always admire and appreciate his selfless dedication to our department, community and country. I expect him to continue to grace us with his presence like all our retired Firefighters, and all to assure we are maintaining his expectations.

INSPECTION UNIT: In addition to Fire Suppression duties, the Department continues to conduct numerous Safety and Code Compliance Inspections under Fire Prevention Unit. We also issue permits under various State required programs. These required inspections and issuance of permits are performed primarily by Deputy Chief Benson, assisted by myself, but over the last year, we have through efforts of their own certified two additional inspectors. Lieutenant Brian Charron and Firefighter Ashley Anderson, both have become state certified fire inspectors. They assist our department in code compliance enforcement and certification inspections. I thank them for their additional efforts given to our department. They and the entire department are committed to prevention of fire.

The Department conducted one hundred and twenty-seven (127) inspections (up 17 from 2013) consisting of the following:

2014 Inspect the Installations or Removal of:

- 14 - OIL BURNERS
- 2 - OIL TANK
- 16 - ABOVE GROUND PROPANE TANK
- 2 - UNDER GROUND PROPANE TANK
- 5 – DIESEL PORTABLE TANK INSPECTIONS
- 5 – TANK TUCK INSPECTIONS
- 12 - QUARTERLY REST & NURSING HOME INSPECTIONS

Other Inspections Performed

- 47 - SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS
- 12 - COMMERCIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
- 6 - LIQUOR LICENSE BUILDING SAFETY
- 2 – STATE ELEVATOR SAFETY
- 4 - TOWN OWNED SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Permits Issued for:

- 1 - BON-FIRE
- 181 – BRUSH BURNING
- 1 - FLAMMABLE LIQUID

Thank you, Deputy Chief Benson, Lieutenant Charron and Firefighter Anderson for your dedication and commitment to the Safety and Code Compliance Unit of our Department. For more permit requirements and changes to the Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide laws and regulations, please go to www.mass.gov/dfs and click on “Division of Fire Safety.” You will find the latest Fire Regulations and Code Requirements.

This year, we are echoing our message again to homeowners and landlords for the need to replace your Smoke & Carbon Monoxide detectors. It has been 10 years since the requirement for this detection went into place. Many of these detectors have a seven (7) year life span, and have an internal timer programmed into the detector that will cause the detector to sound a reminder in the form of a beep that mimics a low battery, or in most cases cause homeowners to call for assistance thinking Carbon Monoxide is present.



Please be aware of the alarm indication your individual detector gives as well as its age. The date of manufacture and its alarm beep sequence are printed, in most cases, on the back of the detector and should be reviewed. If found that the detector has been in service for over 7-years, the detector should be discarded and replaced. By keeping these guidelines in mind, it will reduce the amount of miss-understood alarms and the need for evaluation.

Our other permit process that most Firefighters take part in is the issuing of Brush Burning Permits. In 2014, 181 Burning Permits were issued, down 128 from 2013. We feel this decrease is from a short spring and the extensive cleanup over the previous two years from two major snowstorms, storms that brought down many trees and left wooded debris in need of removal. We continue to prepare for a catastrophic event as the debris in the woods continues to accumulate. Again, our priority for combating these major fire dangers will be by preventing fires from the beginning, preserving Firefighters lives, and protecting homes from progressive heavily fueled brush fires.



Please tend to your campfires, never turn you back on it, and never leave it alone. ***Please***, when extinguishing your recreational fires make sure it is completely out! We hope our low number of incidents is from our prevention programs and conscientious residents taking the necessary

precautions when burning brush, and having that campfire with family and friends.

As a reminder, in 2010, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) took over the control of outdoor burning activities and dictates when we can or cannot burn brush during the brush-burning season. The ability to burn is governed by the daily air quality that disperses smoke to the atmosphere and fire conditions. You can check the air quality by logging into the DEP Air Quality Map at

<http://public.dep.state.ma.us/MassAir/Pages/MapForecast.aspx?&ht=1&hi=108>

to confirm a good air quality day, or get there from our web page.

If it is not a good air quality day, burning will be suspended until the quality resumes to the proper level of “good.” Remember air quality affects those individuals with breathing difficulties. Considerate to your neighbors and mindful that what you do has an effect on others.

The DEP delegates the responsibility to the Fire Chief, and/or his designee, to monitor and issue orders for extinguishment of any fire that causes a compromise to air quality for another person, including a cooking fire. I would like to ask everyone to continue to be considerate of your neighbor when lighting outdoor cooking or recreational campfires, also, in return, have consideration for those who enjoy this controlled campfire activity.

Understand that *if you are requested to extinguish* your fire, you are being requested to do so under these delegated orders from the DEP.

The Department also responds to hazardous waste releases. We responded to nine (9) calls in 2014. This action is in coordination with our Hazardous Waste Division. Lieutenant Charron has been appointed as our Hazardous Waste Coordinator, he does a tremendous job in coordinating action plans, our response to containment, cleanup – doing all we can to mitigate the impact to the environment. This comes with mountains of paperwork and correspondence with other State Agencies. I thank Lieutenant Charron for his dedication to this ever-increasing responsibility, his attention to detail and willingness to be available at a moment’s notice is much appreciated.

EQUIPMENT WITH EXPIRATION DATES: This has been an ongoing challenge and a battle we seem to be winning. With cooperation of the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board, we were successful in putting a yearly plan in place to spread out the cost in replacing all this much-

needed expiring equipment. In doing so, we are avoiding the need for large sums of money that would need to be allocated at Town Meeting, ultimately driving up tax rates. This has been avoided. Fire Department has been maintaining our older fleet of vehicles and putting off replacements of those trucks by providing good maintenance programs. I will need your (the residents) continued support. The support I thank you in advance for, to assist us in providing the necessary safety equipment and tools to the Firefighters in order to do the job. Each Firefighter deserves my due diligence in providing this much needed safety equipment and I know I can count on you to help continue to provide it.

We would like to extend our appreciation for the support you, the residents of West Brookfield, extend to our efforts and we will do all we can to continue to do our best to meet your expectations. We thank you for recognizing that if the Fire Department is asking you for assistance, a yes vote at a Town Meeting is needed, it is because we need your assistance so we can help you. Fire insurance rates are based off the capabilities of your Fire Department, through its efforts in reducing fire threats within the community as well as what we do in anticipation and preparation for fire. We have taken many steps towards what we can do to reduce your fire insurance rates and bring you the best protection we can for the tax dollar given to us for our operation. We will be requesting a new evaluation in the future, a lengthy process and a lot of work on every firefighter. We invite you to the station to view the work we have done to preserve your fleet of equipment and see for yourself the hard work Firefighters do in maintaining the equipment in ready condition. See the gear you provide for our protection or just come down so we can thank you directly.



In 2014, we applied and received a VFA grant, Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant from the DCR, Department of Conservation and Recreation. It was a matching grant of \$2,000. This grant allowed us to finish a three-year long project of equipping our Firefighters with wild land gear. This gear was specifically designed lighter weight to protect firefighters from fire in the wildfire setting, but more importantly, provide them with proper gear to fight these types of fires,

reducing stress to their bodies put on them fighting wild fires in structural gear. This gear will allow them to negotiate uneven terrain and sometimes mountain-like terrain easily and in turn lessen the risk of a cardiac condition brought on by the extreme fatigue associated with wearing heavier structural personal protection for this type of fire suppression.

Another responsibility is Public Education in Fire Safety. The Fire Department again was fortunate to apply for and obtain, for the 18th year, the S.A.F.E. (Students Awareness of Fire Education) Grant (\$3,523). This program, coordinated within the school system, provides Fire and Life safety messages during the school year. Fire personnel visit the school starting in or around January and ending at the conclusion of the school year. We provide Fire Safety tips that we hope are brought home and shared with the entire family.



In addition to Fire Safety messages, this program teaches CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) to the entire 5th Grade. CPR Instructors from the Fire Department, and supplies given free for the entire class from the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, and we thank them for this support. I thank Firefighter Dan McCall in his assistance with the SAFE class this year especially during the CPR portion. CPR is a great addition to the safety of our community. Over fifty children have been trained and are able to perform CPR when a Cardiac Arrest emergency arises. Our hats are off to the 5th grade, Great Job! We would like to *thank* Principal Colleen Mucha for her cooperation and support to our Public Education efforts; and to the 5th Grade Teachers, Mr. Ryan Hibbard and Mrs. Karen Oliveira, for allowing us time in their classrooms and for the support they give in assisting with the teaching of our important safety messages.

We also in 2014, received the first Senior Safe Grant (\$2,495) allowing us to assist seniors in fire safety. We are developing a program that will get Firefighters into senior's homes to assist with smoke and carbon monoxide detector maintenance and installation. Provide safety inspections and help evaluate and eliminate fire risk with in their home. We also visit seniors at the Senior Center and housing to conduct fire safety seminars in these locations as well.

Training continues to become more demanding, with the introduction of new technologies, additional fire codes, and regulations, and training new recruits. It continues to become a never-ending upgrade. Our Training Officer, Scott Anderson, with the assistance of the Operations Officers continued to head up this task in 2014. I again thank him for his diligent efforts in organizing monthly trainings and helping the Operational Officers Lieutenant Joe Landry, Lieutenant Brian Charron and Lieutenant David Tebo (retired) in keeping all Firefighters abreast of the latest techniques and hazards we will face, and I thank those officers as well for their important work in assisting the Training Lieutenant, Deputy Chief Benson, Assistant Chief Santos and myself, with the operations of the Department.

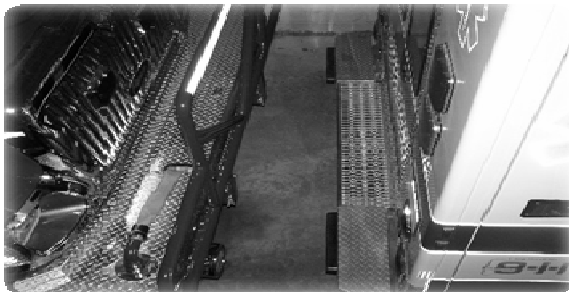
It is with regret I inform you that at the conclusion of 2014, Training Lieutenant Scott Anderson made a decision to resign from his position as his full time career has offered him a promotion within his field. He regretfully stepped down from his position as he felt he could not put 100% effort into the position and was committed the position deserves and requires more than what he can give at this time. We regretfully accepted his resignation, and thank him for his many years of dedication to the Training Division as its leader and wish him well in his new promotion within his full time career. Over the years, his groundbreaking efforts brought the Training Division to a level we had not had the luxury to experience prior to his organization of the training efforts. His coordination with the Massachusetts Fire Academy, our training coordinators at Fire District 7 and with the Training officers of all our local departments were pivotal to our success as a department. Scott has promised to stay as active as time allows as a member and to build off of his over 20 years of dedication to our department. I thank him for all his efforts and support through his position and as one of our senior members of the department.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING: In 2014, four (4) members of our department took part in Advanced Rescue Training provided by Homeland Security through the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Training spanned over a three-month period. This training was given to individuals willing to be part of the Fire District 7 Technical Rescue Team, included was the City of Worcester. Lieutenant Brian Charron, Firefighter Dan McCall, and Firefighter Cody Hilliker completed this training in High and Low Angle Rope Rescue, as well as Confined Space

Rescue. They are now team members of the District 7 Regional Tech Rescue Team. They may be called anywhere the team is activated, as well as we can call on the of District 7 team members for assistance in our town for these highly skilled rescue needs. CONGRATULATIONS to these members! They have done well and should be proud of their accomplishments.

In 2014, the Department has seen many joys. We have graduated three (3) firefighters from the District 7 Firefighting training supported by the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Firefighter Philip Fox, Firefighter Wyatt Alm and Firefighter Patrick Gorham have graduated from this training consisting of over 300 hours each of classroom and practical training. GREAT JOB, be proud of your accomplishments and I appreciate all your efforts in becoming the best in your trade, keep up the good work.

I would also like to acknowledge Assistant Chief Dan Santos for his assistance in the operational duties and administration of the Department. Assist Chief Santos provides Command presence on emergency scenes and maintains assurance that all Firefighters are ready for the call. He oversees and assures that all station equipment is maintained mission ready. I can count on him for any assistance needed



to keep the Department ready for duty. I count on him for his operational command skills, my second set of eyes and ears that keep everyone going home after the call. *Thank you, Assistant Chief Santos!*

**I report this once again,
and I cannot stress this enough,**

space continues to be a huge need and I wish you all to be aware of the conditions that exist in our station. Many safety concerns exist with many outdated conditions (i.e., bays designed for trucks that carried half the equipment and water we do now and were two-thirds the size). We provide 18-inches of space from the side of the truck and the nearest wall, 6-inches from the back of one truck and the front of the next, truck exhaust is discharged in proximity of Firefighters donning protective clothing that produces known carcinogens to cause health issues and more.

We continue to look aggressively for the solution to this issue, and have been put off for other capital improvements the town needed (i.e., school and highway expansion). This is something we cannot avoid for much longer. We are willing to work with all emergency services and place us under *the* same roof ultimately reducing operation costs along with maintenance costs as well. Please help us resolve this need and provide the safety, facility, and resources we should be providing for the people that provide the safety and security you need, expect and deserve.

While waiting for a much-needed emergency complex we are trying to maintain and upkeep the current station. We have upgraded the furnace to natural gas, and eliminated the asbestos in that area of the station. We will be looking to replace the single pane steel sash windows to help make the station more energy efficient.



Another thanks, we would like to extend is, to those residents who live near a fire hydrant that shovel out their hydrant during the harsh winter months and keeping it available at a moment's notice. I would like to report all hydrants get the same consideration, but not all hydrants do get the attention they should by their residents. Some hydrants have snow deliberately put on them and that puzzles

us every year. That is when it becomes a true tragedy and an issue that will be enforced. We would like to ask if you do have a hydrant within 1,000 feet of your home to make it a joint neighborhood effort to keep it clear. Lives and property have been lost because the hydrant was covered in snow and inaccessible. I ask you to take the lead, form an alliance, meet with your neighbor over a cup of coffee, catch up with your neighbor and help each other by helping us and clear the snow from this vital piece of life-saving equipment. I would like to remind you, or maybe you were unaware that you do get a reduction in the cost of your fire insurance for that hydrant. Please make the hydrant available for that time we may need it to help you. We only need 3-feet all the way



around and a path to it from the street, but the more room the better.
Thank you!

Something else I must share with you. Many that know me, personally, know I don't like to bring attention to myself as the leader of our department. I feel every Firefighter is a leader. Our department is great, not because of myself, but because of the membership, the pride and respect all department members have and have earned through their dedication and service to our community. As the Fire Chief, I cannot ask for a better department full of dedicated individuals, who make up the best Fire Department you could ask for. I try leading by example as many of my mentors in the past have done for me. I am proud to share with you that this year I have taken the time for myself to ultimately demonstrate to our department you can accomplish great things within the West Brookfield Fire Department. This year, I was honored to be recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Fire Service Commission as a Credentialed Fire Chief in the Commonwealth. I became West Brookfield's first Credentialed Fire Chief. This recognition is not for me but our department and for the residents we serve. I will do all I can to represent West Brookfield to the best of my ability.

*A reminder to our community: the Fire Department is
a CALL VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT*

All of our duties are performed on this basis.

HOUSE NUMBERS – I also will ask everyone to

PLEASE check your house number.

Is it up? Is it visible from the street?

It is a Mass General Law 148 sec 59, and it is also
a Town Bylaw.

This small item will assist us in getting emergency services to you quickly. Please consider Luminous Numbers for night time conditions. Countless minutes can tick by trying to find you without them displayed. PLEASE, FOR YOUR SAFETY!



The Fire Department is a department many times not thought about until needed. The men and women of the Department are the true reason everyone can rest at night knowing that, if the call arises and an emergency strikes, these individuals are on call and ready to respond. I take much pride in saying I lead one of the most dedicated groups of Firemen in the Fire Service. I *thank* the officers for their assistance in leading the Department, and thank each Firefighter for their service. I thank them for their dedication, commitment to serve, and willingness to risk the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of their neighbor, family, or friend!

I would also like to say, if there are any men and women from our community who feel they possess the desire, dedication, commitment to serve, and are physically fit to perform Firefighting duties and are interested in joining our dedicated department – please contact us at (508) 867-1408. Leave a message and we will get back to you. You can also come to the station on any Monday night, we are there, and one of the Fire Officers or Firefighters would gladly talk over this opportunity with you. We need you! We need your help!

Your 2014 Fire Department members are as follows:



Chief Paul Lupacchino
Deputy Chief Robert Benson
Assistant Chief Daniel Santos
Lieutenant Joe Landry
Lieutenant David Tebo (retired)
Training Lieutenant Scott Anderson
Firefighter/Lieutenant Brian Charron

Firefighter Dana Searah
Firefighter Jessie Merriam
Firefighter Patricia Lupacchino
Firefighter Brian Dustin
Firefighter Dan McCall

Firefighter Andrew Sarja (LOA)
Firefighter Clayton Edwards
Firefighter Cody Hilliker
Firefighter Ashley Anderson
Recruit Firefighter Patrick Gorham (R)
Recruit Firefighter Philip Fox
Recruit Firefighter Wyatt Alm
Recruit Firefighter Michael McCarthy
Recruit Firefighter Richard Pinkman
Recruit Firefighter Joseph Hopkins
Recruit Firefighter Christopher Lucia
Recruit Firefighter Eric Allard
Honorary Bagpiper Warren Tirrell

I would like to thank Warren Tirrell, once again, our honorary bagpiper, who voluntarily provides his talent to our department. His gifted talents in providing the unforgettable sound of the pipes are cherished. He joins the members during services on the occasion when the department honors members and past honorary members upon their passing, and during other department functions. ***Thank you***, Warren, you are truly a good friend!

I would like to say ***thank you*** to all the departments that supply direct assistance when called upon, especially the rescue Squad, Police Department, also the Highway and Water Departments, the Central Dispatch Center, and all other departments who assist us in getting our job done daily and during emergencies.

Most of all we thank our families, who put up with us bolting out the door and their willingness to be there upon our return, sharing us with the community, and supporting us in our calling. They truly know the sacrifice given for the service we provide, but they are the behind the scenes givers. When dinner is on the table, or the birthday candles lit, song singing it never fails a tone for a response comes in, and we leave, they are there upon our return to smile and ask if we are okay.

In closing, I would like to *thank* the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and all the Town Departments for the support they have extended to the Fire Department. I would like to *thank* the community for their support, but most of all I would like to thank the Firefighters of the West Brookfield Fire Department, who stand behind me with unwavering support, dedication, and confidence in this most honorable position in the Fire Service as Chief. I will represent you, protect you, and lead you with honor. I *thank you* for the opportunity to serve you as your Chief. The Town of West Brookfield remains safe because of you!

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Lupacchino, Fire Chief

GAS/PLUMBING INSPECTOR

The following is a compilation of Gas and Plumbing Inspections performed during 2014:

GAS INSPECTIONS

Boiler	9	Room/Space Heater	8
Conversion Burner	2	Test	2
Cook Stove	8	Unit Heater	3
Direct Vent Heater	1	Unvented Room Heater	1
Dryers	1	Water Heater	6
Fireplace	4	VC Gas Liner	7
Furnace	10	Gas Valves	1
Generator	3	Chimney Liner	1
Oven	1		

PLUMBING INSPECTIONS

Bathtub	21	Toilet	33
Cross Connect Device	5	Urinal	1
Dishwasher	7	Washing Machine Connection	12
Floor/Area Drain	2	Water Heater All Types	33
Kitchen Sink	12	Water Piping	16
Lavatory	36	Boiler	4
Shower Stall	9	Shower Valve	4
Service/Mop Sink	2	Hair Sink	2

Respectfully submitted,
 Joseph Ciejka, Gas & Plumbing Inspector
 Edward Kent, Assistant Inspector

HARBOR MASTER

Due to hot, humid weather this summer's lake activity was below average. Lake draw down due to heavy rain worked well with no flooding. The red flag system also did its job when the lake was treated.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Borlikoski, Harbor Master

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The winter of 2014 had forty-four (44) snow events, which is the most we have had in the past several years. The first snow event was on November 24th and the last one was on April 16th, let's hope we do not get a repeat in 2015.

After the spring cleanup, the Highway Department started on Phase II of the Ragged Hill Road Project. The following work was completed on the one mile section of Ragged Hill Road:

- 204 trees were cut and all stumps were removed
- One mile of Ragged Hill Road was box widened from 16 feet to 20 feet
- 19 new drainage structures were installed
- 120 feet of 36" diameter pipe replaced
- 60 feet of 24" diameter pipe replaced
- 120 feet of 24" diameter pipe installed
- 1,460 feet of 12" diameter pipe installed
- 500 feet of perimeter 12" perforated pipe installed
- 1,150 ton of gravel was used to box widen the road and grade the road for proper run off
- Full depth reclamation 11,800 sq/yds., road graded and compacted

The road was paved with 1,704.5 tons of dense binder. This project was funded by \$232,855.58 of Chapter 90.

Several other roads were chip sealed:

- Pierce Road (1.67 miles) 10% rubber
- Old Warren Road (.53 miles) conventional chip seal
- Laurel Street, Birch Street and Oak Street conventional chip seal

In the fall, we focused on cutting trees and brush and getting the vehicles and equipment ready for another winter season.

On January 8, 2015, the town received a letter from our new Governor, Charles D. Baker. The Town of West Brookfield's Chapter 90 funding for FY15 has been increased from \$233,984.00 to \$350,975.00. This is great news; however, it is still not enough. Please review the updated Road Project List:

RAGGED HILL ROAD:

From 124 Ragged Hill Road to Tucker Road Intersection

- .65 mile section
- Ledge removal
- Utility poles moved
- Additional drainage replacement of existing drainage
- Box required
- Reclaim and pave 2-1/2

Estimated Cost: \$150,000+

Completion Date: FY2016

LYON/KENNEDY INTERSECTION:

Including Ragged Hill Road to Tucker Road Intersection

- Pave 1-1/2 top and back up shoulders

Estimated Cost: \$300,000

Completion Date: FY2016/2017

SCHOOL STREET/CHURCH STREET/NEW BRAINTREE ROAD/RT. 67:

- Additional paving to be done during construction of the \$1.5 million dollar TIP Project #604739

Estimated Cost: \$200,000
Completion Date: Spring FY2016

WICKABOAG VALLEY ROAD:

Bridge replacement over Sucker Brook

- TIP Project #604468

Estimated Cost: \$2,606,400
Completion Date: Spring FY2016

LYON ROAD:

.75 miles Scenic Road

- Extensive reconstruction
- Tree and ledge removal
- Box widen
- Utility poles moved
- Additional drainage required
- Reclamation and pave

Estimated Cost: \$350,000
Completion Date: FY2018

SNOW ROAD:

1.3 miles

- Replace existing drainage
- Add additional drainage
- Reclaim and pave

Estimated Cost: \$450,000
Completion Date: FY2020

COTTAGE/LAKE STREETS:

.9 miles

- Water line replacement
- Gas line replacement
- Drainage improvements
- Tree removal
- Tree planting
- New sidewalks
- Curb in areas
- Reclaim and pave

Estimated Cost: \$400,000
Completion Date: FY2021/2022

WEST MAIN STREET/RT. 9 (TO PIERCE ROAD):

Route 9 between the Ware Town Line and Pierce Road (2.1 miles)

- Widen to provide appropriate bicycle accommodation and resurface
- Drainage improvements are proposed to remove stormwater runoff and snowmelt from the highway
- Guardrail will be replaced as required
- New signage and pavement markings will be included

Estimated Cost: \$4,856,942
Completion Date: FY2020

KENNEDY ROAD:

4.64 miles Scenic Road

- Extensive drainage problems
- Box widen in places
- Reclaim and pave

Estimated Cost: \$450,000
Completion Date: FY2023

RIDGE ROAD:

.40 miles

- Extensive drainage problems
- Tree removal
- Reclaim and pave

Estimated Cost: \$180,000
Completion Date: FY2024

PLEASANT/HIGH STREETS:

.250 miles

- Tree removal
- Water pipe replacement
- Additional drainage required
- Curb and sidewalk replacement
- Reclaim and pave

Estimated Cost: \$230,000
Completion Date: FY2025

MADDEN ROAD:

- Drainage improvements
- Reclaim and pave

Estimated Cost: \$150,000
Completion Date: TBA

Other roads and streets on Reconstruction Project List with undetermined work, cost, and completion date are as follows:

- Shea Road
- Cross/West Streets
- Mechanic Street
- Keep/Myrick Streets
- Sherman Street
- Wickaboag Valley Road

***Completion dates based on Chapter 90 funding
*** Could be moved forward in schedule*

I would like to express my gratitude to the residents of West Brookfield, the Board of Selectmen and all other Town Department employees for their continued support.

I would also like to thank both full and part time Highway Department employees for their dependability and commitment during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
James Daley, Highway Superintendent

DROP-OFF CENTER PRICE LIST

Wigwam Road

Hours of operation:

Wednesday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

**** Saturday's ONLY: December through March ****

TVs 27" and under	\$ 10.00	TVs over 27"	\$20.00
Radios	\$ 5.00	Stereos	\$ 5.00
VCRs	\$ 5.00		
Large Console TVs: <i>Priced accordingly by attendant</i>			
Microwaves	\$ 5.00	Refrigerators	\$20.00
Stoves	\$20.00	Dishwashers	\$15.00
Washers	\$20.00	Dryers	\$20.00
Water coolers	\$10.00	Air Conditioners	\$20.00
Computers	\$ 10.00	Monitors	\$ 10.00
Keyboards	\$ 5.00	Copiers	\$ 20.00
Printers	\$ 10.00		
Tires with rims	\$ 5.00	Used Motor Oil	Free
Tires – no rims	\$ 3.00	Scrap Metal	Free
Large Tires: <i>Priced accordingly</i>		Anti-Freeze	Free
Brush	No larger than 3-inch diameter by 4-foot lengths		Free
Leaves	No bags, please		Free
Grass Clippings			Free
Propane Tanks			\$ 5.00
Larger Tanks	<i>Priced accordingly by attendant</i>		

Batteries must have caps attached.

Any motor must have fluids drained. THE DROP-OFF CENTER IS FOR RESIDENTIAL USE ONLY. RULES AND REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MARKET FLUCTUATES.

***No Contractors * No Construction Materials * No Trash**

*** Any littering will be subject to a fine and/or
Drop-Off privilege denied**

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission held meetings in the Commission Office, Room 201 in Town Hall.

Early in the year, a new webmaster was hired to update the Commission website www.westbrookfield.org. The site was reorganized and new information was added.

Fannin-Lehner completed Phase I of conservation of thirty gravestones in the Old Indian Cemetery on Cottage Street. The commission paid \$13,500 for the conservation and documentation required by the Mass. Historical Commission (MHC) using funds from the J. Irving and Jane L. England Trust. We also approved funding for conservation of an additional thirty gravestones in Phase II. The documentation required by MHC includes before and after photos of each gravestone along with details including inscription, condition, and treatment.

Commission members participated in the installation of trail markers and the preparation of a trail guide for the John Pynchon Mill site on Sucker Brook. Members hosted a gathering prior to the Mill site dedication on November 1st, which was attended by forty people. Two descendants of John Ayres, who built the mill and was the first miller in 1669, attended.

In the spring, a stone carver was hired to remove the brick, stone and concrete encasing Franklin Mile marker 68 on the Town Common. The Commission truly thanks the Highway Dept. for their assistance in this project. The plan was to have the deteriorated lettering re-carved. It was not known that the Mass. Dept. of Transportation (DOT) has jurisdiction of these mile markers. They currently have the marker and will reinstall it without recarving the inscription.

Other activities during the year included:

- ♦ Selection of a Scenic Road sign that will be used to designate all scenic roads in town.
- ♦ Awarded the Historical Commission Scholarship to Colleen Jenkins.

- ♦ Purchased a new Center Historic District sign for the east end of the common.
- ♦ Nominated the “Fountain Restoration Committee” for a Mass. Historical Commission Preservation Award.
- ♦ Participated in the annual Asparagus & Flower Heritage Festival.
- ♦ Participated in Quaboag Historical Society Open House at the museum.
- ♦ Participated in meetings on tree removal on the common.
- ♦ Participated in meeting on School Street redesign.
- ♦ Donated “A History of West Brookfield” to the Library Raffle.

The Commission, once again, thanks the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust for the generous gift received. This enabled us to fund the projects described and continues to motivate us to do more to recognize and preserve the history of our town. We also appreciate the support of the town.

The 2014 members and associate members are:

Craig Burgess	Anne-Marie Nolan
Dave Fitzgerald	Anne Phillips
Louise Garwood	Barbara Rossman
Ed Londergan	Richard Rossman

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Rossman, Chairman

HOUSING AUTHORITY

We hereby submit our annual report to the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the people of the Town of West Brookfield.

The West Brookfield Housing Authority held eleven (11) regular meetings and three (3) special meetings during 2014. The West Brookfield Housing Authority meets on the **third Tuesday** of each month in the Community Building at Olde Village Place, 29 East Main Street. The meetings are held at 10:00 am and are open to the public. All meetings are posted with the Town Clerk. Our annual meeting is held in May.

All housing authorities have four (4) members elected by the voters of the town and one (1) member appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts. Our elected members are Beverly Anderson (Chairman), Ken Miller (Vice-Chairman), James Pierce and Peggy Walker. Our state-appointed member is Michael Frew.

The West Brookfield Housing Authority has three (3) employees: Maintenance Manager Keith Bordeau, Administrative Assistant Laurie Sokol, and Executive Director Fiona Andrewes.

The Authority currently administers 36-one bedroom units under the State's Chapter 667 program and 6-three bedroom units and 4-two bedroom units under the State's Chapter 705 program. Also located on our site is a Ch. 689 program that is administered by the Bridge of Central Massachusetts. All of these programs are funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development and are operated under state guidelines. The West Brookfield Housing Authority processes applications for state-aided elderly housing from persons who are sixty years of age or older. As in the past, handicapped persons continue to be eligible for state-aided housing for the elderly regardless of age. The Authority also processes applications for state-aided family housing from persons who qualify. Preference is given to local residents and local veterans. This past year, we housed three (3) elderly tenants, one (1) non-elderly handicapped tenant, and one (1) family tenant. Anyone who wishes to live at Olde Village Place should fill out an application, which can be obtained from the office. Tenant selection is made from our waiting list and all state guidelines are adhered to in the tenant selection process.

Two thousand fourteen was a very busy year for projects here at the housing authority. We received capital improvement awards from the Department of Housing and Community Development, which enabled us to carry out much needed upgrades. We had the whole development power washed and painted in September. We upgraded the main

bathroom at the Bridge, which expanded the shower stall for easy access for wheelchair bound tenants. National Grid completed an energy audit, which provided us with energy saving appliances, lights, recommendations, etc. Our goal is to constantly improve the living environment for all our tenants residing in all our developments.

Last summer, the board approved and voted the policy to move forward to make the West Brookfield Housing Authority a non-smoking development. This will take effect on February 1, 2015.

We want to acknowledge the many years of service both Michael Frew and Peg Walker gave to the housing authority. Peg Walker as a board member and Michael Frew as our state-appointed member. We were sorry to lose them both. They brought many years of experience and knowledge and were assets to our board. We will miss them both. We were very fortunate to appoint Roy Roberts as our interim board member and welcome him.

We wish to continue to express our gratitude and appreciation to the West Brookfield Police, Fire, and Rescue Departments for their caring dedication to the safety and security of our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

The West Brookfield Housing Authority

Beverly Anderson

Ken Miller

James Pierce

Roy Roberts

LAKE WICKABOAG PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (LWPA)

Beginning with this year, the Executive Committee of the LWPA has decided to suspend the usual fall/winter newsletter and to use this annual report to give friends and members of the association the status of projects and issues about the lake.

Pond Dredging

The year began with the dredging of the second pond on Cottage Street after the completion of the pond next to the town beach. SumCo Corporation was able to remove 6,900 cubic yards of material and deposit it at the town landfill. The Callahan family, as well as Bill and Cindy Lyons, made substantial financial contributions to complete the project as originally designed.

Dredging the lake side pond

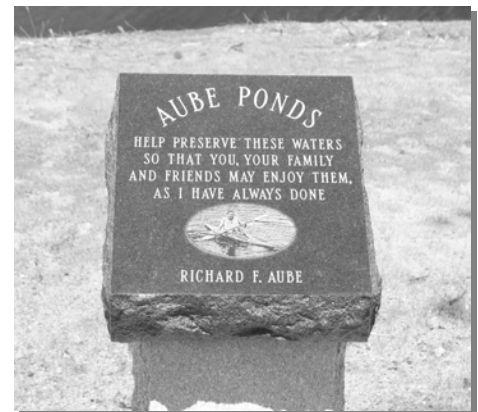


Members of LWPA participated in some finish landscaping, and the organization was the recipient of a donation from SumCo for our efforts.

Landscaping by LWPA members

Once the entire project was complete, the ponds were designated “Aube Ponds” in memory of Dick Aube, a long-time resident of the town and a lover of Lake Wickaboag.

Pond dedication to Dick Aube



The special efforts of the Stormwater Authority, Johanna Swain, Gordon DeWolf, and Jim Daley made this dredging project a great success.

Weed and Algae Management

Lycott Environmental was again selected as our contractor for weed and algae management. With the Lycott staff, we conducted several weed surveys of the lake. Our initial analysis again identified a large portion of variable milfoil in the north end of the lake and pondweed in several areas of the shoreline. Lycott administered two applications, and a September weed survey indicated that most of the milfoil and pondweed had disappeared. However, because the weeds grow in some very shallow water areas that cannot be treated effectively, we will continue to see them reappear in various areas of the lake in the future. Another alga, Chara, has been present in the lake for several years. Chara is a beneficial algal, and we don't treat for it unless it becomes excessive. Let us know if you have a problem with it at your home. Finally, in September we had another partial lake algae bloom. The tests conducted did not indicate any toxic quantities, and we chose not to treat that late in the season.



2014 LWPA Activities and Annual Meeting

In addition to the lake monitoring, we hosted another successful lake clean up, published a spring newsletter, and supported dam maintenance activities.

At our annual meeting in August, over 80 friends and supporters of Lake Wickaboag heard about Lake Wickaboag before 1620. Michael Bingham spoke about the geology and formation of the lake. Don Duffy discussed the Native Americans before contact with European settlers, and David Tall Pine White reviewed the proposed Nipmuck Community & Education Center-Suitability Study and Master Plan. At the annual meeting, we also recognized retiring Senator Stephen Brewer for his many years of public service and his support for our town and the lake.

Construction and Dedication of the Stephen M. Brewer Boat Launch

The boat launch ramp at the town public beach was named the “Stephen M. Brewer Boat Launch” and after a complete rebuild of the ramp by the MA Department of Fish & Game,



Office of Fishing & Boating Access, we dedicated the ramp on a cool and windy day in October. Our special thanks to Jack Sheppard, David Diotalevi, and Terry Smith for planning and completing this project.



The Stephen M. Brewer Boat Launch, dedicated October 8, 2014. The launch was completely rebuilt with funding from the MA Department of Fish & Game, Office of Fishing and Boat Access

North End Lake Dredging Project

Representatives of the LWPA have been actively participating with the West Brookfield Board of Health and other interested town residents in a project to dredge part of the north end of the lake. Apex Companies LLC was hired as the project consultants. Permits for the project have been prepared and an initial submission was made to the MA Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA). To complete this filing and others, we need to select a site and develop a plan for depositing the dredge material. Initially, the dredge material was to be deposited at the town landfill subject to approval at a town meeting. However, a site along Wickaboag Valley Road has been proposed, and we are evaluating both sites to see which would be preferable for the placing of the material. With the help of former Representative Anne Gobi (now Senator Anne Gobi) and retiring Senator Steve Brewer, a \$25 million lake and pond provision in an Environmental Bond Bill was approved by both the MA

House and Senate and signed by Governor Deval Patrick. We are working with Senator Gobi to obtain the release of \$5.0 million of the funds designated for our Lake Wickaboag dredging project.

2015 Activities

During 2015, we will continue our lake-monitoring program. We will conduct another lake clean up and will again include the Pynchon land purchase off of Wickaboag Valley Road in the list of sites to visit. In the future, we would like to extend the cleanup program to include the entire town and will be looking for volunteers for that effort.

West Brookfield Annual Budget for Lake Needs

Fiscal Year July 1 to June 30

Line Item	2013 – 2014 Actual	2014 – 2015 Estimate
Weed Management	\$10,200	\$10,500
Algae Management	4,500	4,500
Water Testing / Project	92	219
TOTAL	\$14,792	\$15,219
Budget	15,219	15,219
Over (Under) Budget	\$ 427	0

Weed and algae treatments are funded by appropriation in the West Brookfield town budget. In past years, we have been able not only to fund the treatments but also to fund studies of the lake environment. With overall belt tightening in the fiscal year 2014 budget process, the weed and algae treatment budget was reduced. We expect the budget to remain level for fiscal year 2015. Because of this, we estimate that we will have only enough funds for one copper treatment during the summer of 2015. While there has been an overall decline in the weed population, new species arrive and old ones return, and algae will always be with us. Therefore, we need to continue to provide funds for the management of excessive aquatic vegetation.

Dam and Sluice Gate

After the November opening of the dam and sluice gate at the south end of the lake, Dave Healey, LWPA Executive Committee member, and Luke Wright, CEO Ware River Power Company, inspected the dam. They reported that some repairs to the bottom of the dam and new flashboards are needed. The project is estimated to cost \$6,700 and will be completed before the dam is closed for the 2015 boating season.



The Eagle Hill School Rowing Program

In spring and fall of 2015, there is proposed a new activity for Lake Wickaboag. The Eagle Hill School in Hardwick is organizing a rowing program for students, and the coaches have determined that Lake Wickaboag would be ideal for their rowing activities. The program was reviewed and accepted by the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen. Two four-oared boats and a coaching launch would be on the lake from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm weekdays beginning just after the ice has thawed in late March or early April until about June first and then again from shortly after Labor Day until the ice returns sometime in November. An outline of the program will be distributed to lake residents in March of 2015.

LWPA remains committed to achieving the best water quality for Wickaboag. We thank all town officials and the town residents for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Albert F. Collings, President
Mary Beth Czaja, Vice-President

LIBRARY

Reminiscent of 2011, this past year was “one of transition” at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library, with the departure of Director, Carrie Grimshaw. Holly Takorian assumed the role of Interim Library Director, while providing Adult Services with the assistance of the part-time staff.

The search was on for a Library Directoragain!

Monthly Children’s programs included Story Hour, Toddler Playgroup, Craft Club, American Girl Club, and Lego Club. In September, the Annual First Grade Field Trip to the Library welcomed 34 students from the West Brookfield Elementary School. They received their Library Cards and toured the Library after reading stories with Mary, the Children’s Librarian. As the Library’s liaison with the Elementary School, Mary read to the schoolchildren monthly and also participated in the WBES “Community Reading Day” by reading to one of the Kindergarten classes.

The Library continued its outreach to the community by collaborating with the Elementary School Librarian, Wendy O’Shea, donating books, and library supplies to the school. The Library also worked with local boy scouts, girl scouts, tutors, and families who home school, by offering space for their meetings, as well as books & magazines.

The Library received a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Collaborative for Educational Services, which sponsored a monthly music program, “Musical Fun for Families with Brianne Miers,” from January through May. The Collaborative also sponsored a monthly music program with Renee Coro, “Tune in Together,” from September through December. This program was extremely popular with families in the community. Additionally, the Collaborative donated children’s books in June, which were given to each child by Mary, during several children’s programs. She also read to the two WBES preschool classes, gifting each student with a book. Other programs for the year included magician, Nicole Portwood in April. In December, Bemis Farms Nursery led a family gingerbread house-making program, which was

generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Sangita Desai, (best known for her henna tattoos), debuted a new program, “Holiday Wreath Decorating.”



Our popular Summer Reading Program began in July with the science theme, “Fizz, Boom, Read”. Children of all ages enjoyed crafts each Thursday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and the Creative Performance Series provided family entertainment every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 pm. A total of 106 children’s programs in 2014 attracted 2,618 participants.

Performers included:

- Magician Debbie O’Carroll’s “The Planet Magic Show”
- Teaching Creatures’ “Live Animal Program”
- Pumpernickel Puppets’ “The Frog Prince”
- Ed Popielarczyk “Magic Show” and “Magic Workshop”
- Wingmasters’ “North American Birds of Prey”
- Museum of Science’s “Animal Invaders”



“Fizz, Boom, Read” was made possible at your local library through the following local businesses and institutions:

- Country Bank for Savings
- Dr. Thomas Cahill
- Eastern States Exposition
- Friendly’s
- The Friends of the Library
- Gremarco Industries
- Hannaford
- Hearst Foundation
- North Brookfield Savings Bank
- Spencer Savings Bank
- Webster First Federal Credit Union
- West Brookfield Local Cultural Council Grant
- Yankee Candle
- Massachusetts Library System
- Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Boston Bruins

Adult Library programs were popular throughout the year, with the addition of a weekly “Knitting Group”; the continuation of “Lawyer for a Night” with local Counselor-at-law, James HOFFEY, offering patrons free legal assistance & advice; and the Monthly Book Discussion Group, led by Director, Carrie Grimshaw, tackling such literary works as Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451”, Edith Wharton’s “Ethan Frome” and Marisa Silver’s “Mary Coin”. Both the knitting & book discussion groups encourage new members to join.

The Quaboag Historical Society funded the program, “Herstory New England: Remarkable New England Women, 1789-1900” featuring Roger Kolb, commemorating Lucy Stone Day in March.

The West Brookfield Cultural Council awarded the Library a total of \$2,250.00 to fund the Summer Reading Program, “Cake Decorating for Beginners” with Linda Walker & “Sublime Sunflowers” with Gregory John Maichack.

West Brookfield and the surrounding towns are fortunate to be “home” to a wealth of talented individuals from artists, authors, craftsmen, musicians, photographers and beyond! The sky is the limit!

Other highlights – local authors’ book signings/readings:

- Jonathan Cook (w/contributor Suzanne LePage) - “Beer Terrain: Field to Glass From the Berkshires to the Maine Coast”
- Donn Fleming - “The Mangrove Murders”
- Brianna Lamb - “Smiles and Shadows: A Collection of Poems and Short Stories”
- Donald Duffy - “The Quaboag and Nipmuck Indians”
- K.G. Keough-Huff & Sarah Craig - “Sarah’s Hope”
- Robert Tougias - “The Quest for the Eastern Cougar: Extinction or Survival?”
- Michael Tougias - “A Storm Too Soon, a True Story of Disaster and Survival”
- Jonathan Hall & Toto the Tornado Kitten - “Oh Toto! Where Did You Go?”



Other programs:

- “Ghostology 201: The Darker Side Revealed” with Agawam Paranormal (part 2 of the series)
- “Indian Cooking” with Sangita Desai
- “Caricatures” with Mark Penta



Young Adult programs:

- Tie-Dye
- “Tales From Beyond” with Gregory McAdams
- “The Hunger Games” (Basic Survival Course)
- “The Hunger Games 2: Catching Fire” (Advanced Techniques & Primitive Skills Course) with Matt Gabriel from Animal World Experience. Both generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library

In keeping with tradition, Tina Bemis from Bemis Farms Nursery returned in December with another creative holiday workshop, “Evergreen Wall Cones,” also generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



The Library offered two pastel art exhibits in the second floor meeting room: Ginette Greenleaf-McVeigh’s “Historic West Brookfield” & Brian Higgins’ “Scene in Pastel,” both of whom are local residents.



“Town Hall”
Ginette Greenleaf-McVeigh



“After the Shower”
Brian Higgins

The England Trust gifted the library \$9,000, which was set aside for future building maintenance emergencies. The West Brookfield Historical Commission funded half of the Old Sturbridge Village passes, with a little help from the Friends and the Library donations account. The Commission also donated a “Winter Bandstand” commemorative ornament and a copy of their book, “A History of West Brookfield, 1675-1990” to the Friends of the MGPL White Christmas Raffle Table.

The Board of Library Trustees is composed of a group of elected officials who, along with the Director, make important library decisions involving the operating budget, building maintenance, and library advocacy on local and state levels. These individuals donate their time to support the library and to ensure its significance for future generations. The Board consisted of Virginia Allen, Mary Magnante, Alexandra McNitt, Melanie Merrill (secretary), Jeff Robbins, Peter Scribner, and Paul Spencer (Chair). They, along with the staff, would like to thank our dedicated Library volunteers: Alyssa Bettencourt, Jessica Dwelly, Sean Jackson, Kathleen Kasper, Brianna Lamb, Ashley Leger, Jessica Peltz, and the Friends of the Library.

The Friends of the Library (FOL), led by Elizabeth Jay, hosted two events. The Annual Book Sale was held in June. Special thanks to members of the North Brookfield Church of Jesus-Christ of Latter Day Saints for their assistance. Prior to the Sale, books were donated to the West Brookfield Elementary School Library. The Annual White Christmas Raffle’s proceeds proved to be unparalleled! The record number of donations by local businesses/residents and exceptional community participation made for a memorable day and profitable fundraising effort! The Friends of the Library included: Marie Andrea, Gale Audette, Nancy Brown, Jennifer Bujnevicie, Laverne Cholewa (Treasurer), Monica Frew, Elizabeth Jay, Amanda Judycki, Lisa Remiszewski, and Kathleen Zazula. In addition to these two fundraising events, the FOL supported the Library in multiple ways, including, but not limited to: sponsoring website service, programming, purchasing outdoor plants for the patio, ramp & fountain, as well as the following Museum Passes:

- Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens
- Ecotarium
- Eric Carle Museum
- Old Sturbridge Village (in conjunction with the Historical Commission & Library Donations account)
- Worcester Art Museum (which now houses the Higgins Armory collection)

Other passes offered by the Library:

- Mystic Aquarium
- USS Constitution
- Massachusetts ParksPass

The Staff is dedicated to the Library and strives to provide its patrons with exemplary service, support, exciting programs, and resources. They take pride in the Library's appearance with the goal of maintaining an inviting, comfortable environment. Our part-time staff of pages augments the full-time staff (Mary Beth Jackson, Children's Services and Holly Takorian, Adult Services), and was comprised of: Karen Convery, Elaine Courtemanche, Amanda Judycki, Kally Judycki, Ashley Leger, and Melody Spencer. Last, but not least, our custodian, John Grabosky and snow-removal crew, Cian Ashworth and Cory Manseau.

It bears repeating that West Brookfield and the local area towns are able to boast a plethora of artists, of various media, to whom we are proud to offer a venue where they are able to share their diverse talents.

We would like to acknowledge all of our benefactors, businesses and individuals who continually offer their support to the Library. We are most grateful, as we strive to remain a viable institution in the community.

At the end of 2014, the search for a Library Director resumed

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Takorian, Interim Library Director

LIST OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS

* Indicates Chairperson. () Indicates Term of Office

ADVISORY BOARD (7 MEMBERS – 3 YR TERMS)

Roger Slobody	(2015)	Resigned
Vacancy	(2015)	
Brad Hibbard	(2015)	
Richard Gobi	(2016)	
Tom Long	(2016)	
Kevin Paquette	(2016)	
Lori L. Loughlin	(2017)	
Phil Landine	(2017)	

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Brad Quigley *	(2015)	
Tim Morrell	(2015)	
Arthur Maskell	(2015)	
Gordon DeWolf	(2015)	
Matthew Koziol	(2015)	
Barry Nadon, Sr.	(2015)	Alternate
Steven Gould	(2015)	Alternate
Kevin Blaine	(2015)	Alternate
Lisa Long	(2015)	Alternate

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COORDINATOR

Johanna Swain	(2015)
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ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/DOG OFFICER

Leah Shattuck	(2015)	
Sydney Plante	(2015)	Assistant

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Leah Shattuck	(04/30/15)
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ASPARAGUS & FLOWER HERITAGE FESTIVAL

George Hibbard	(2015)
Melinda Czub	(2015)
Amy Dugas	(2015)
Elaine Hibbard	(2015)
Jennifer Bujnevicie	(2015)

ASSISTANT ASSESSOR

Renee Adams-White	(2015)
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ASSISTANT TOWN CLERKS

Tammi Melanson	(2015)
Geraldine Sauve	(2015)
Teresa Barrett	(2015)
Christine Long	(2015)
Robert Spera	(2015)

ASSISTANT TOWN TREASURER

Vacancy	(2015)
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BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Beverly J. Anderson	(2015)
Madelyn Tivnan	(2016)
Jane R. Dolan	(2017)

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Jeff Taylor	(2015)
John Couture	(2015) Alternate

BURIAL GROUND COMMISSIONERS

Vacancy (2015)
Dave Swekla (2016)
Teri A. Roberts (2017)

CABLE TELEVISION COMMITTEE, LOCAL ACCESS

Barry Gillogly (2015) Director

CENTRAL MASS. REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tim Morrell (2015)
Wesley Slobody (2015) Alternate

CMRPC REGIONAL PLANNING TASK FORCE

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2015)

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Johanna Swain (2015)

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Paul Lupacchino (2015)

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lyn Tivnan (2015)
Mandy Morrison (2015)
Teresa Barrett (2015)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (3 YR TERMS – CHP 40, SEC 8C)

Gordon DeWolf	(2015)
James Talvy	(2015)
Christine M. Long	(2016)
Eric Tunley	(2016)
Brian Silva	(2017)
Richard Provencher	(2017)
Jesse Serrano	(2017)

(COA) WB SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

Cynthia Norden	(2015)	Director
Betty Frew	(2015)	Assistant Director

COUNCIL ON AGING

Connie Pratt	(2015)
Carolyn Boucher	(2015)
Gloria Hanks	(2016)
Elizabeth Bliss	(2016)
Irene White	(2016)
Eric Tunley	(2016)
Beverly Cassavant	(2017)
Catherine Buzzell	(2017)

COUNCIL ON AGING SMC ELDER BUS BOARD

Cynthia M. Norden	(2015)
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CUSTODIAN OF PROPERTY

Teri A. Roberts	(2015)
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CULTURAL GRANTS COUNCIL

Joan Veinot (2015)
Fern Maskell (2015)
Kate Kane (2015)
Richard Ullman (2015)
Barry Gillogly (2015)
Paula Slade (2015)
Cynthia Laub (2015)

EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

Bob Lipovsky (2015) Planning
Jason Paquette (2015) Health
Diane Vayda (2015) Selectmen
Gordon DeWolf (2015) Conservation
Kevin Dorman (2015) Zoning

E-911 COORDINATOR

Paul Lupacchino (2015)

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Kevin Dunivan (2015)
Keith Fontaine (2015) Alternate

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2015)

ETHICS COMMISSION LIAISON

Sarah Allen (2015)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Johanna Swain (2016)

FIRE CHIEF

Paul Lupacchino (2015)

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Robert Benson	Deputy Chief
Daniel Santos	Assistant Chief
Wesley Cassavant	Captain, Retired
Joseph Landry	Lieutenant
Scott Anderson	Training Lieutenant
David Tebo	Lieutenant, Retired
Brian Charron	Lieutenant

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Paul Lupacchino	(2015)
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GAS PIPING & GAS APPLIANCES/PLUMBING INSPECTOR

Joseph Ciejka	(2015)
Edward Kent	(2015) Alternate

HARBORMASTER

Joseph Borlikoski	(2015)
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HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR

Brian Charron	(2015)
Vacant	(2015) Alternate

HIGHWAY CLERK

Tammi Melanson	(2015)
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HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

James P. Daley	(2015)
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HISTORICAL COMMISSION (7 MEMBER BOARD)

Richard Rossman	(2015)	Rotating 3-yr term
Craig Burgess	(2015)	
Barbara Rossman	(2016)	
David Fitzgerald	(2016)	
Anne Marie Nolan	(2016)	
Louise Garwood	(2017)	
Ed Londergan	(2017)	

HISTORICAL CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Vacant	(2015)	
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INSECT & PEST CONTROL INSPECTOR

James DiMaio	(2015)	
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LAKE WICKABOAG DREDGING ADMINISTRATORS

Melvin Dorman	(2015)	
John Frizzell	(2015)	
Jason Paquette	(2015)	

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Vacancy	(2015)	
Holly Takorian		Interim Director

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Timothy Morrell	(2015)	
Gordon DeWolf	(2015)	
Sonia Burke	(2015)	

**MUNICIPALITIES ORGANIZED FOR REGIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
(MORE) REPRESENTATIVES**

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2015)	
Sarah Allen	(2015)	Alternate

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Tracy Ashworth	(2015)
Eric Von Bleicken	(2015)
Lisa Durkee	(2015)
Jaclyn Von Bleicken	(2015)
Adam Conn	(2015)

OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Timothy Morrell	(2015)	Planning
Vacant	(2015)	Historical
Mary Beth Czaja	(2015)	LWPA (Ex-Officio)
Ralph Carlson	(2015)	LWPA
Gordon DeWolf	(2015)	Conservation
Vacant	(2015)	Recreation (Ex-Officio)

PARKING CLERK

Teresa Barrett	(2015)
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POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

C. Thomas O'Donnell

SERGEANT

Charles LaPerle	(2016)	Lifetime* 3 yr rollover – 13, 16
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FULL TIME POLICE OFFICERS

Matt Letendre	(2016)	Lifetime* 3 yr rollover [13, 16]
Jeanine Bonnayer	(2015)	[13, 14,15]
Craig Charron	(2015)	Appt 3/4/13 [15]

PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS

David Pierce	(2015)	Lifetime* 3 yr rollover [03,06,09,12,15]
Marissa Brown	(2015)	Lifetime* 3 yr rollover [06,09,12,15]
Brian Ayers	(2015)	Lifetime* 3 yr rollover [06,09,12,15]
Kara Hartung	(2016)	Lifetime* 3 yr rollover [13,16]
Joseph F. Lazarick	(2015)	[14,15]
David J. Churchey	(2015)	[14,15]

CONSTABLES

C. Thomas O'Donnell	(2015)
Arthur Tatro	(2015)
John Healy	(2015)
David Pierce	(2015)
Harold Parker	(2015)
Marissa Brown	(2015)
Charles LaPerle	(2015)
S. Patrick Swain	(2015)
Alan R. Jesky	(2015)

POLICE DEPARTMENT CLERK

Tammi Melanson	(2015)
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POLL WORKERS

Louise Whitehouse	(2016)
Eleanore Paquette	(2016)
Nancy Seeton	(2016)
Michael Frew	(2016)
John Tivnan	(2016)
William King	(2016)
Betty Frew	(2016)
Carol Haire	(2016)
Pauline LaCroix	(2016)
Charlotte Borlikoski	(2016)
Johanna Swain	(2016)

Mary Garin (2016)
Patricia Bacon (2016)
Susan Tomasino (2016)
Christine Long (2016)
Caroline Stentiford (2016)
Beverly Cassavant (2016)
Teresa Barrett (2016)
Robert Spera (2016)
Geraldine Sauve (2016)
Kathleen Landry (2016)

QUABOAG HIGH SCHOOL MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2015)

QUABOAG SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2015)

QUABOAG VALLEY BUSINESS ASST. CORP REP.

Alexandra McNitt (2015)

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Teresa Barrett (2015)
John Schlosstein (2015)
Steven Gogos (2015)
Jerry Czub (2015)

REGIONAL TASK FORCE

Diane Vayda (2015)
Sarah Allen (2015)
Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2015)

REPRESENTATIVE TO CENTRAL DISPATCH

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2015)

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ROCK HOUSE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2015)

REGIONAL HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT COOPERATIVE (RHE COOP)

Diane Vayda (2015) Board of Directors Rep.

REGIONALIZATION TASK FORCE

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2016)

John Frizzell (2015)

Dan McCall (2015)

William Mansfield (2015)

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2015)

Mike Frew (2015)

RIGHT TO KNOW MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR

Brian Charron (2015)

ROAD PROJECTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Diane Vayda (2015)

James Daley (2015)

Jeff Robbins (2015)

Bill King (2015)

Keith Arsenault (2015)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OFFICER

Teri Ann Roberts (2015)

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

James Daley (2015) Highway

Suzanne LePage (2015) Member at Large

John Frizzell (2015) Health

Johanna Swain (2015) Selectmen

Gordon DeWolf (2015) Conservation

Robert Benson (2015) Water

Timothy Morrell (2015) Planning

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Marie Arsenault (2016)

TOWN COUNSEL

Petrini & Associates (2015)

TREE WARDEN

James DiMaio (2015)

TRIATHLON COMMITTEE

Rachel Wilson (2015)

Billie Moberg (2015)

Amanda Ostrout (2015)

Felix Kurilov (2015)

James Wilson (2015)

VETERAN'S AGENT

S. Patrick Swain (4/15/14) Contracted Service

Gary W. Lapine (2015) 9/16/14

WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Anna May Zabek (2015)

WHITE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

Richard Rossman (2015)

Charlotte Boos (2015)

Barbara Rossman (2015)

Michelle Niemiec (2015)

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

(APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE PRIOR TO MARCH 1ST)

George Hibbard	(2015)	
Douglas Aspinall	(2015)	Associate Member(*1AM is Chairs choice)
Bob Levite	(2015)	Associate Member (*AM's - rotating 2 yr term)
Richard Ullman	(2016)	
Kevin Dorman *	(2017)	

ZONING OFFICER

Gary Simeone	(2015)
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LIST OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

* Indicates Chairperson. () Indicates Term of Office

MODERATOR

Trevor Brown	(2015)
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TOWN CLERK

Sarah J. Allen	(2016)
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2015)*
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Diane S. Vayda	(2016)
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Sarah J. Allen	(2017)
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TOWN TREASURER

Teri Roberts	(2016)
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TAX COLLECTOR

Teresa M. Barrett	(2016)
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BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Kevin G. Dorman (2015)
Michael H. Frew (2016)
Beverly P. Kenniston (2017)

BOARD OF HEALTH

Melvin F. Dorman (2015)
John E. Frizzell, Sr. (2016)
Jason Paquette (2017)

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Peter Scribner (2015)
Alexandra McNitt (2015)
Melanie Merrill (2016)
Jeffrey R. Robbins (2016)
Mary Magnante (2017)
Paul D. Spencer (2017)

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Lester Paquette, Sr. (2015)
Robert E. Benson (2016)
Barry J. Nadon, Sr. (2017)

COMMON COMMITTEE

Rayne Petruzzi (2015)
Robert Joseph Richard (2016)*
Suzanne Lepage (2017) Until 2015

HOUSING AUTHORITY (5 YEAR TERMS)

James F. Pierce	(2015)	
Kenneth B. Miller	(2016)	
Beverly Anderson	(2017)	
Peggy Walker	(2018)	Resigned 9/16/14
Michael H. Frew	(12/12/15)	State Appt 5yr term Resigned 9/16/14
Roy Roberts	(2018)	Appt until 2015 election
Vacancy	(12/12/15)	State Appt 5yr term

PLANNING BOARD

Keith Arsenault	(2015)	
Wesley Slobody	(2016)	Until 2015
Robert Lipovsky	(2017)	
Timothy S. Morrell	(2018)	
Robert J. Brodak	(2019)	

QUABOAG REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regina Morgan	(2015)
Leane M. Pierce	(2015)
Daniel Korzec	(2015)
Vacant – Warren	(2015)
Heather Bish	(2016)
Craig Burgess	(2016)
Paula Messier	(2016)
Robert Souza	(2016)
Clifford G. Fountain	(2017)
Andrew Schwenker	(2017)
Tracy L. Waz	(2017)
James C. Wilson III	(2017)

LOCAL ACCESS TELEVISION

WBTB Channel 11

As WBTB is soon to include all three Access Channels (Public, Education and Government), I am recommending that the department designation be in line with those communities that support these three channels and for the name Local Access to be referred to as WBTB PEG Access Television or PEG Access for short.

EQUIPMENT –

Public Access:

1. All broadcast equipment has been transferred to Channel 192 located in the WB Elementary School.
2. New broadcast equipment including video server, bulletin board controller, and servers to accommodate future video on demand were installed.
3. Additional upgrade equipment included DSLR still/video camera and zoom lens, desktop and laptop video editing workstations.

Education Access:

1. General broadcast equipment from Public Access was transferred and installed in Data Room at the WB Elementary School.
2. A new digital video server has also been installed.
3. Two consumer grade HD video cameras, along with wired and wireless microphones and accessories, as kits, were added to be used by the newly formed video club for sixth graders and by Bob Datz, who is acting as an adjunct instructor for the club. In addition to learning about how to create thought out video projects, the club in turn tapes school events, which for now are played on Public Access, but will air on the Education channel when Charter completes the fiber optic connection there (by end of March).
4. Ethernet connectivity converters - These devices will allow live or recorded video from any classroom to the broadcast equipment.

Government Access:

1. No new equipment was added this past year. However, video feeds from the Meeting Room were rechanneled up to the main studio in order to:
 - a. Continue broadcasting live Selectmen's Meetings
 - b. To record said meetings for replay until the next scheduled meeting
 - c. To add the town bulletin board to be played on this channel too.

PROGRAMMING –

1. Public Access maintained its multi-age oriented programming to 11 to 14 different programs per day repeated on two-week cycles.
2. As mentioned above, Education Access will build on the video club, parents, and teachers for programming relevant to the children and their parents in the community. In addition, School Committee meetings held at WBES have already been taped and aired, for now, on Public Access. Though the negotiations with Warren Public Access were not successful in their sharing School Committee meetings from the high school or Warren grade school that will be resolved when the Comcast takeover of Charter happens.
3. The Government Access encourages any committee that uses the Meeting Room to allow their meetings to be broadcast to the community.

BULLETIN BOARD –

1. The Bulletin Board continues to service the community and local non-profits. Since the removal of free bulletins for the *for-profit* and promotion for underwriters, there have been no takers.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR 2014 –

Volunteers:

We are fortunate to have a knowledgeable volunteer, Bob Datz, to not only assist in operating Education Access, but he also has been making time to assist in programming on Public Access. His separate arrangement with the Elementary School for the Video Club dovetailed

nically with being involved with Education Access operations. Though his time is limited, it is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Gillogly, Director

PARKING CLERK

During 2014, twenty-nine (29) parking violations were noted. Two hundred forty dollars (\$240.00), was collected and turned over to the Treasurer.

Most violations were attributed to the *Winter Parking Ban*. Parking violations were at a high increase. Please obtain a beach sticker from the Police Department.

Please be advised that from November 1st through April 1st there is a parking ban in effect during the hours of 1:00am to 6:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Barrett, Parking Clerk

PLANNING BOARD

The year 2014 proved busy for the Planning Board of West Brookfield. Improvements to the Town Zoning Bylaws were approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The Planning Board approved six lot subdivision applications.

The Planning Board welcomed Mr. Wesley Slobody to the Board and appointed him to serve as Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Alternative Representative.

The Board is currently meeting on the **second Monday** of the month and on an as needed basis for the convenience of those who require Planning Board approval of your projects.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Morrell, Chairman
Robert Lipovsky, Robert Brodak, Keith Arsenault & Wesley Slobody

POLICE DEPARTMENT



During 2014, the Police Department remained active in a number of areas. The department responded to 3,853 calls for service during the year. As has been the case for the past few years, while violent crime has remained fairly low, medical and other general service calls continue to be the mainstay of our business.

This past year marked an effort on the part of the department to return to sponsoring events with other town agencies. In addition to the annual holiday meal put on by the Police Association, and Senior Bingo, this year the department, along with the Quaboag Student Council, Rec. Dept., and others sponsored a “Spectacular” Halloween night on the common. This event was very well received, and gave people who live away from the center of town a chance to participate in the Halloween festivities.





In May, after the gauntlet had been thrown down by the members of the Fire Department, members of the Police Department participated in the Cold Water Challenge. This internet challenge was used to raise money for many different projects and charities. Proceeds from our dip in Lake

Wickaboag went to the Fallen Officers Memorial in Boston. We are planning several more programs for 2015. Please follow us on Facebook or on our Twitter page (@WBrookfieldPD) for future updates.

During the past year, we continued our close working relationships with other state and local Police Departments, as well as our local agencies: the Highway Department, Fire, Rescue, the Warren/West Brookfield CERT, and the Quaboag Regional School System. We look forward to continuing these partnerships, and developing new ones in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief C. Thomas O'Donnell, Jr.

The following are examples of calls for service handled by the Department in 2014:

911-Hang up	37	Alarms	106
Animal calls	126	Assist citizen	176
Assault	7	Assist other agencies	141
Burglary	10	Building check	156
Computer crimes	3	Complaint/non-specific	107
Disturbance	41	Disabled vehicle	75
Domestic Disturbance	21	Assist Fire Dept	69
Fraud	7	Gunshots	13
Harassment	3	Hazardous incident	9
Harassment Prevention Order	2	Identity theft	2
Larceny	21	Lockout	55
Medical Assist	455	Missing persons	7
Motor Vehicle accident	79	Complaint – MV operations	74
Motor Vehicle Investigation	122	Motor Vehicle stop	714
Officer initiated/non-specific Activity	184	Property damage/vandalism	18
Lost/found property	14	Psychiatric emergency	23
Run away	1	Serve restraining order	14
Safety hazard	100	Stolen vehicle	3
Serve summons	72	Suspicious activity	91
Threat	3	Trespass	2
Traffic control	304	Serve warrant	33
Welfare Check	73		

Of the 714 motor vehicle stops conducted by the Department, in 2014, had the following results:

Citations	139	Arrests	7
Criminal Complaints	13	Written Warnings	266
Verbal Warnings	331		

In 2014, the Department processed the following License to Carry and Firearms Identification Card applications:

LTC	82	FID	18
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During 2014, criminal charges were filed against seventy-three (73) persons and two (2) were taken into protective custody. What follows is a breakdown of the charges filed:

Larceny	6	Negligent Operation MV	4
Witness Intimidation	2	Kidnapping	1
Warrant Arrests	15	Assault/Battery	11
Trespass	1	Threat to Commit Crime	4
Assault/Battery on Police Officer	1	Unlicensed Operation MV	5
Disturbing the Peace	3	Reckless Operation MV	1
Leaving Scene of Property	1	OUI	7
Damage Accident			
Suspended License	5	Restraining Order Violation	2
Identity Fraud	1	Forgery	1
Possession of Liquor under 21	5	Furnishing Liquor to Underage Person	1
Malicious Destruction of Property	5	Conspiracy	2
Possession of Fireworks	2	Indecent Exposure	1
Open Container of Alcohol	1	Illegal Dumping	1
Failure to Stop for Police	1	Failure to Register as a Sex Offender	1
Level III Sex Offender	1	Possession of a Firearm w/o FID/LTC	1
Living in a Rest Home			
Improper Storage of a Firearm	1		

Respectfully submitted,
Chief C. Thomas O'Donnell, Jr.

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

The Uniform Procurement Act MGL Chapter 30B and Massachusetts Statutes for Construction Contracts summarize the procurement procedures necessary for the purchase of supplies and services, for the disposal of surplus property, for advertising and awarding contracts for construction projects including but not limited to work on bridges, roads, construction materials, streets, parks, sewers, water mains, landfills, and other improvements.

Below is a summary of the changes that appear in the FY2015 budget. These changes were effective 1 July 2014.

Two (2) changes that will have a significant impact on daily operations are:

The threshold for purchases requiring the solicitation of price quotations under M.G.L. c 30B, s4 has been **increased** from \$25,000 to **\$35,000**;

and, the threshold for purchases requiring advertised, sealed bids or proposals under M.G.L. c30B, ss5 and 6 has been increased from \$25,000 to **\$35,000**.

The Town of West Brookfield continues to strive toward total compliance with all areas of these statutes.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Swain, Procurement Officer

STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Land uses in Town affect our streams, lakes, and drinking water supplies. A Stormwater Bylaw was approved at the Annual Town Meeting on May 9, 2006. Stormwater Regulations were approved at 12/06/2006 Stormwater Authority Public Hearing and amended at 2/6/2013 Public Hearing. The purpose of the Bylaw and the Regulations are to protect public health, safety, and welfare by establishing

requirements and procedures to manage stormwater runoff and to prevent water pollution from new development and redevelopment. The Stormwater Authority is tasked with enforcement of the Bylaw and the Regulations. They also review on an ongoing basis to determine if updates are needed.

Significant projects reviewed by the authority in 2014 were a solar farm at 94 Ragged Hill Road (Ragged Hill Orchards), solar arrays at Route 9, East Main Street by West Brookfield Solar LLC and Rear Route 9/Gilbertville Road by Seaboard Solar. The Authority has also reviewed two gravel operations, and monitors and inspects permitted projects.

Since Lake Wickaboag is the receiving water body for a major portion of the Town's stormwater runoff, the Authority is committed to activities that promote the water quality and health of the lake.

The Town applied for and was awarded EPA funds via a second 319 Grant from Mass DEP. The "Two Ponds Project" included wet detention basins, sediment forebays, and vegetated swales on either side of Lakeview Road near the Town Beach and football field for better pollutant trapping efficiency and improved maintenance capability. As with the prior 319 Grant, a public outreach and education component is also included. The project was completed in 2014.

As fund-raising for the Lake Wickaboag dredging project continued throughout the year, under the leadership of the Lake Association, the Stormwater Authority heard regular updates and will continue to be involved as the Board of Health moves forward with design and permitting.

The Authority consists of seven members, one member from each of the following Town Boards – Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Water Department, Highway Department and a citizen-at-large. Our meetings are held the **first Wednesday** of the month at **9:00 AM** in the Town Hall Lower Level meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon DeWolf, Chairman

Johanna Swain	Tim Morrell	Jim Daley	Bob Benson
John Frizzell	Suzanne LePage	Al Collings,	Special Agent

Tax Collector

Totals represent posting activity year to date January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

Fiscal Year	2015	2014	2013	2012	Totals
Real Estate Tax	\$2,208,548.42	\$2,512,439.53	\$34,328.91	\$12,953.36	\$4,768,270.22
Interest on Real Estate	\$1,006.74	\$10,459.63	\$6,024.01	\$2,800.34	\$20,290.72
Personal Property Tax	\$56,368.51	\$110,531.04	\$3.70	\$0.00	\$166,903.25
Interest on Personal Property	\$2.20	\$67.42	\$0.41	\$0.00	\$70.03
Motor Vehicle/Trailer Excise	\$0.00	\$372,125.03	\$28,264.83	\$5,812.98	\$406,202.84
Interest on MV/Trailer Excise	\$0.00	\$798.33	\$3,009.69	\$1,224.30	\$5,032.32
Total Receipts	\$2,265,925.87	\$3,006,420.98	\$71,631.55	\$22,790.98	\$5,366,769.38

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Barrett, Collector of Taxes

TOWN CLERK

2014

Annual Town Meeting
Warrant
and the
Advisory Committee
Report

ELECTION - Tuesday, May 6th 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
West Brookfield Senior Center
73 Central Street

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - Tuesday, May 13th, 7:00 p.m.

West Brookfield Elementary School
89 North Main Street

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING FOR YOUR PERSONAL REFERENCE.

West Brookfield Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is a seven member board appointed by the Board of Selectpersons for three-year overlapping terms. We are charged with the responsibility of making reports or recommendations to the town on all municipal questions as well as reviewing and making recommendations on all articles that appear in any warrant presented to the voters of West Brookfield. The Committee meets on a regular basis throughout the year to fulfill our responsibilities. Meeting notices and agendas are posted on the bulletin board at the Town Hall. Meeting times and approved minutes may also be found on the West Brookfield web page.

Several members departed the Committee this past year. In May, Diane Vayda was required to leave the Committee upon being elected Selectwoman. In January, Chairman Jack Tivnan and Roy Roberts left the Committee after many years of dedicated service. We are grateful for the countless hours these members devoted to the voters of West Brookfield and wish them well in their future endeavors. Their historical knowledge, experience and spirited discussion are deeply missed. Tom Long took over as Chairman and Brad Hibbard and Kevin Paquette were appointed to fill the vacancies. There is currently one opening on the Committee and we welcome your interest in joining us.

Although the Legislature voted to minimally increase state aid to the cities and towns of the Commonwealth, it still remains at a very low level. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommended a zero percent cost of living salary adjustment, excepting step and grade increases, and that departments limit any increases in expenses realizing the challenges being experienced through increased costs and regulation.

The Committee met with representatives of all town departments to review their budgets and discuss ways to operate more effectively and efficiently as we move forward. As examples, the Highway Department will be taking over the responsibility of mowing the common, cemeteries and library lawns at a significant savings to the town; police and fire departments continue to hold off on vehicle purchases; and the police department significantly decreased personnel costs to offset negotiated raises. During the year we asked all departments to review their fee schedules to bring them in line with surrounding towns in an attempt to cover the costs of providing these services. We appreciate the cooperation received from department heads and the continued support and dedication of our town employees. We continue to welcome any and all suggestions toward improving the efficiency of town government.

Initial information from representatives of the Quaboag Regional School District indicate that West Brookfield's share of the state mandated school

district minimum contribution budget for fiscal year 2015 will be \$2,592,933 or 3% more than the foundation budget we approved for fiscal year 2014. The School District requested an additional \$322,385 in discretionary funds above the mandated minimum requirement. Funding the discretionary request at this level would create a severe financial hardship resulting in deep cuts and layoffs within our town departments. At the time of this writing the Advisory Committee continues to meet with school representatives and our counterparts in the Town of Warren in an attempt to reach consensus on an appropriate recommendation for the district's discretionary request. We will provide our recommendation at the May Town Meeting.

As of this writing, the preliminary operating budget figures for fiscal year 2015, excluding debt, are as follows:

Town Department operating budget requests	\$3,204,007.85
Education budget requests	\$3,322,142.00
Total omnibus budget	\$6,526,149.85
Article requests for funds	\$409,999.00
Total warrant requests	\$6,936,148.85
Raise & appropriate funds available	\$6,278,959.00
To be funded from other sources	\$ 657,189.85
Total funding needs	\$6,936,148.85

Due to the continued prudent financial management decisions of this and prior Advisory Committees, the Town of West Brookfield maintains limited financial resources for funding budget priorities during challenging times such as these. Free cash on hand at the time of this writing is \$157,539 a portion of which could be used to fund financial needs above our expected FY15 income estimate, referred to as "raise & appropriate". "Free cash" is the term for monies that have not been spent by town departments and are returned to the General Fund at years' end. Department heads have been prudent in their spending and most continue to return funds on an annual basis. Also included in free cash is Chapter 90 reimbursement, income received in excess of that projected at the May Town Meeting and other sources.

West Brookfield is fortunate to have accumulated financial reserves for funding budget items in times of decreased state aid. These funds reside in three Stabilization accounts.

The *General Stabilization Fund* is reserved for capital projects. The Advisory Committee has recommended that the balance remain above \$1 million. Due to funding needs at the FY14 May Town Meeting the current balance of the fund is \$956,769.61.

The *Fire Truck Stabilization Fund* was established for the future purchase of a new fire truck. It is our goal to increase this account by approximately \$30,000 annually. There is currently \$248,388.97 in this account.

The *Water Stabilization Fund* was created from the receipt of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) settlement funds from various oil companies. Since the original receipt of these funds it has been the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that they be used for upgrades to our aging systems, with the caveat that \$1.5 million remain in reserve until there is a higher degree of confidence that the town will not have to defend or fund future MTBE claims. With the costs associated with the construction of the new well field and other water department capital expenditures the reserve has reached a critically low level of \$454,571.48. The Advisory Committee recommends that the balance of this fund remain in reserve for the reasons stated above.

Past studies have identified and recommended the need for approximately \$2.5 million to fund road repair projects. Accordingly, a ten-year schedule detailing future roadway needs was developed. A copy of the “Highway Department Project List” outlining these needs can be found on the town website. The Highway Department has been working toward addressing these needs with the continued repair and upgrading of identified roadways and the completed rebuild of Wigwam Road in FY14. The reconstruction of Ragged Hill Road began in FY14 and will continue throughout FY15. As our roads continue to deteriorate and the town’s ability to fund these projects becomes increasingly difficult, the town may need to consider a future debt exclusion to address these needs. The Advisory Committee recommends increased funding for road improvements with an additional \$110,000 for fiscal year 2015.

The Advisory Committee will be reviewing capital project needs in greater detail during the following years as the economy improves and increased funding becomes available. We continue to seek additional resources through grants and other sources.

While the economy is beginning to show slow signs of improvement, we must continue to carefully manage our budget priorities given our increasing financial needs and limited resources.

Respectively submitted,

Tom Long, Chairperson

Richard Gobi

Brad Hibbard

Phil Landine

Roger Slobody

Kevin Paquette

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
*******Annual Town Meeting*******

Worcester, SS.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West Brookfield in the County of Worcester, Greetings.

In the NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the WEST BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER on 73 Central Street in said WEST BROOKFIELD ON TUESDAY, the SIXTH day of MAY 2014 at 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM, then and there to elect by ballot the following Town Officers in article #1, and at the WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on 89 North Main Street in said WEST BROOKFIELD on TUESDAY the THIRTEENTH day of MAY 2014 at 7:00 PM, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1

To bring in their votes for one (1) Selectman for 3 years, one (1) Treasurer for 2 years, one (1) Assessor for 3 years, one (1) Board of Health Member for 3 years, one (1) Water Commissioner for 3 years, three (3) Library Trustees for 3 years, one (1) Library Trustee for 2 years, one (1) Common Committee Member for 3 years, one (1) Common Committee Member for 1 year, one (1) Planning Board Member for 5 years, one (1) Planning Board Member for 2 years, one (1) Housing Authority Member for 5 years, four (4) Quaboag Regional School Committee Members for 3 years, one (1) Quaboag Regional School Committee Member for 1 year or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by Town Clerk)

Article 2

To hear and act upon the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to determine the compensation to be paid to the following elected Town Officers:

	FY'14 Approved	FY'15 Recommended
Moderator	\$150.00	\$150.00
Selectmen, each member	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Selectmen, Chairman	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Town Treasurer	\$30,257.77	\$29,077.00
Tax Collector	\$32,734.65	\$31,097.92
Assessors, two members	\$2,400.00	\$2,800.00

Assessors, Clerk	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Board of Health, two members	\$880.00	\$880.00
Board of Health, Chairman	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Town Clerk	\$27,137.00	\$27,544.06
Water Commissioners	\$385.00 each	\$385.00 each

or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, such sums of money as listed in the Advisory Committee Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request and as amended as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2015, and to vote that any State reimbursements which result in available funds to the Quaboag Regional School District, in excess of the approved budget, shall be used to reduce the Town’s assessment, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury **a sum of money** to pay West Brookfield’s share of the principal and interest payments owed on bonds for the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer)

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to place the following question on the Annual Election Ballot in FY16:

Shall the town vote to have its elected Treasurer become an appointed Treasurer of the Town? Yes __ No __

Or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Personnel Board)

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay cemetery related expenses which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Burial Grounds Commission fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$16,000.00 in fiscal year 2015, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Burial Grounds Commission)

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the Stormwater Authority use of a revolving fund, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Stormwater Authority fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$25,000.00 in fiscal year 2015, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Stormwater Authority)

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the Tree Warden use of a revolving fund, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Stewardship Programs, such expenditures not to exceed \$10,000.00 in fiscal year 2015, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Tree Warden)

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to employ their Licensed Water Commissioners at Grade 1 Step 1 (**\$10.92** per hour) for standby duty and emergency work in the absence of the Superintendent in Fiscal Year 2015, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Overlay Surplus the sum of **\$20,000.00** to be placed into the Revaluation Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Assessors)

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning By-laws as follows: amend Section 4.33, Location of Accessory Buildings, by adding new subsections 1 and 2; amend Section 3.2, Schedule of Use Regulations, Section 3.22.1; and amend Section 1.4, Definitions; all as set forth below:

Accessory Structures

- Amend Section 4.33, Location of Accessory Buildings, by adding new subsections 1 and 2 (see text in italics).

4.33 Location of Accessory Buildings: No accessory building shall be located in a front yard except for property abutting the shoreline of Lake Wickaboag or Brookhaven Pond, in which case an accessory building may be allowed by Special Permit issued by the Board of Appeals.

1. Accessory buildings containing six hundred (600) square feet or less of gross floor area may be located in required side and rear yards but not closer than ten feet (10') to a property line.

2. For lots in residential use that have at least four acres and five hundred feet (500') of frontage, accessory buildings of any size may be located within twenty feet (20') of the side or rear lot line provided the principal structure complies with all yard requirements.

- Amend 3.2, Schedule of Use Regulations, section 3.22.1, Residential, by eliminating the three-car limit on garaging of motor vehicles, as follows:

	RR	RN	G
3.22 Residential			
Single-family detached dwelling, together with such accessory structures as are normally incidental thereto, including garage. Garaging or parking of one commercial vehicle with a maximum gross vehicle weight of 10,000pounds shall be permitted accessory use, garaging or parking of larger commercial vehicles or more than one commercial vehicle may be allowed by a special permit.	Y	Y	Y

Definitions

In Section 1.4 Definitions, delete definition 14, Yard: Front, Side, Rear, and definition 16, Frontage, and add the following new definitions as follows:

- 14) Minimum Yard - A required open space, unoccupied and unobstructed by any structure or portion of a structure, except the following:
- fences, walls, poles, posts and other customary yard accessories, ornaments and furniture;
 - in front yards only, eaves, steps, non-covered porches and signs.
 - accessory buildings as permitted by Section 4.33.

Yard, Front - A yard extending across the full width of a lot lying between the front lot line and the principal building. The minimum front yard extends from the front lot line for the depth specified in section 4.2. On a corner lot, the two (2) yards lying between the main building and the intersecting streets shall both be deemed front yards.

Yard, Rear – A yard extending across the full width of the lot lying between the rear line of the lot and the rear line of the main building extended to the side lines of the lot. The minimum rear yard extends from the rear lot line for the depth specified in section 4.2.

Yard, Side - The portion of the yard situated between the main building and the side line of the lot, extending from the front yard to the rear yard. The minimum side yard extends from the side lot line for the depth specified in section 4.2.

16) Frontage - The horizontal distance measured along the front lot line between the points of intersection of the side lot lines with the front lot line. The minimum required frontage shall be uninterrupted and continuous along one street. For corner lots, frontage shall be measured between one side lot line and the mid-point of the arc made by the corner radius. A lot shall only be deemed to have frontage along a street (as defined under definition #13) to which it has both legal and physical access.

17) Lot Width - The shortest distance from side lot line to side lot line. At no point, between the front lot line and the rear of the principal structure located on the lot, shall the lot have a width less than eighty percent (80%) of the minimum frontage required.

or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Planning Board)

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury **a sum of money** to be deposited into the “Town Building Maintenance Account”, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury **a sum of money** to be placed in the “Town Road Maintenance Account”, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Highway Department)

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to amend the number of Library Trustees to six (6) to be in compliance with G.L. c.78 s 10 which states that the number of Trustees must be divisible by three, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Library Board of Trustees)

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury **a sum of money** to be used to supplement the Town’s Chapter 90 money, which is used for road construction/reconstruction and repair; or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Highway Department & Board of Selectmen)

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MA General Law Chapter 148 Section 26I:

“Section 26I Automatic Sprinkler Systems in New or Rehabilitated Multiple Dwelling Units.

In a city, town or district which accepts the provisions of this section, any building hereafter constructed or hereafter substantially rehabilitated so as to constitute the equivalent of new construction and occupied in whole or in part for residential purposes and containing not less than four dwellings units including, but not limited to, lodging houses, boarding houses, fraternity houses, dormitories, apartments, townhouses, condominiums, hotels, motels and group residences, shall be equipped with an approved system of automatic sprinklers in accordance with the provisions of the state building code. In the event that adequate water supply is not available, the head of the fire department shall permit the installation of such other fire suppressant systems as are prescribed by the state building code in lieu of automatic sprinklers. Owners of buildings with approved and properly maintained installations may be eligible for a rate reduction on fire insurance.”

or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury **a sum of money** to be placed into the “Highway Expense Account” to be used to purchase and place fertilizer on the Town Common or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Common Committee/Highway)

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to amend the words underlined and in bold in CHAPTER IV, Advisory Committee of SECTION 2 of the General Bylaws as follows:

The Selectmen in office when this Bylaw is adopted shall, within thirty (30) days after such Bylaw becomes effective, appoint from the citizens of the town three person whose term of office shall expire at the adjournment of the first annual meeting following the time when this Bylaw becomes effective; **two** of whose term of office shall expire at the adjournment of the second annual meeting following the time when this Bylaw becomes effective; and **two** of whose term of office shall expire at the adjournment of the third annual meeting following the time when this Bylaw becomes effective. Annually, thereafter, the selectmen in office at the close of an annual town meeting shall, within thirty (30) days,

appoint two or in some cases three members whose term of office shall expire at the close of the third annual meeting after their appointment. Said committee shall choose its own officers and shall, with the exception of its secretary, serve without pay.

Or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Town Clerk)

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be deposited into the “Reserve Fund” to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift or purchase, the real property shown on Assessor's Map 53, Block 0158, located on **16 Cedar Drive**, consisting of approximately .23 acres, said land to be used for general municipal purposes, or to do anything in relation thereto.
(Sponsored by the Selectmen)

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift or purchase, the real property shown on Assessor's Map 51, Block 0023, located on **24 Mill Road**, consisting of approximately .24 acres, said land to be used for general municipal purposes, or to do anything in relation thereto.
(Sponsored by the Selectmen)

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Surplus the sum of **\$33,865.00** to be placed into the “Water Department Maintenance & Expense Account” to purchase a new truck for the Water Department, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Article by petition)

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Surplus the sum of **\$23,000.00** to be placed into the “Water Department Maintenance & Expense Account” to be used to reclaim and repave Leland Road, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Article by petition)

AND you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies at the BULLETIN BOARD located on the Cottage Street side of the exterior of the TOWN HALL, in said Town, FOURTEEN (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, the time and place of meetings, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 15th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.

_____ A TRUE COPY. ATTEST:

Selectmen of West Brookfield

Constable

Worcester, SS April_____, 2014 AM PM

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD by posting an attested copy of the same on the Bulletin Board in the front entrance of the WEST BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable of WEST BROOKFIELD

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION RESULTS
MAY 6, 2014**

The polls opened at 8:00 AM.

SELECTMAN

3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE

SARAH J. ALLEN	283
PHILIP J. LANDINE	234
BLANK	5
WRITE IN	1
	523

TREASURER

3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE

TERI A. ROBERTS	339
ROBERT J. ROLLEND, JR.	129
BLANK	54
WRITE IN	1
	523

BOARD OF ASSESSORS
 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE
BEVERLY P. KENNISTON 429
BLANK 92
WRITE IN 2
 523

BOARD OF HEALTH
 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE
JASON L. PAQUETTE 399
BLANK 120
WRITE IN 4
 523

WATER COMMISSIONER
 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE
BARRY J. NADON, SR. 397
BLANK 123
WRITE IN 3
 523

LIBRARY TRUSTEE
 3 YEARS VOTE FOR TWO
MARY R. MAGNANTE 411
PAUL D. SPENCER 289
BLANK 861
WRITE IN 8
 1569

LIBRARY TRUSTEE
 2 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE
MELANIE MERRILL 394
BLANK 128
WRITE IN 1
 523

COMMON COMMITTEE
 3 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE
BLANK 474
WRITE IN 49
 523

COMMON COMMITTEE	
1 YEAR VOTE FOR ONE	
RAYNE A. PETRUZZI	373
BLANK	144
WRITE IN	6
	523

PLANNING BOARD	
5 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE	
ROBERT J. BRODAK	343
BLANK	179
WRITE IN	1
	523

PLANNING BOARD	
2 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE	
BLANK	499
WRITE IN	24
	523

HOUSING AUTHORITY	
5 YEARS VOTE FOR ONE	
PEGGY J. WALKER	415
BLANK	108
WRITE IN	0
	523

**QUABOAG REGIONAL
DISTRICT SCHOOL
COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
ELECTION IS AT LARGE
3 YEARS YOU MAY VOTE FOR
ANY FOUR CANDIDATES**

The two candidates with the highest vote totals in each town will be elected

MEMBERS FROM THE TOWN OF WARREN	
CLIFFORD G. FOUNTAIN	287
ANDREW D. SCHENKLER	156

MEMBERS FROM THE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD	
GINA M. LAVALLEE	235
TRACY L. WAZ	341
JAMES C. WILSON, III	261
BLANK	812
WRITE IN	0
	2092

MEMBERS FROM THE TOWN OF WARREN 1 YEAR VOTE FOR ONE	
WRITE IN	517
BLANK	6
	523

The polls were open from 8:00 AM-8:00PM.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS
MAY 13, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. made the following motion:

I move the Town vote to allow the following non-voters to sit with the Board of Selectmen:

Barbara Saint Andre	Town Counsel
Johanna Swain	Executive Secretary

And to allow the following non-voters to speak:

Barbara Saint Andre	Town Counsel
Johanna Swain	Executive Secretary
Jim Daley	Highway Superintendent
Brett Kustigian	Superintendent of Schools
Camie Lamica	Business Manager, Quaboag School District

The motion was second.

The vote: unanimous approval

Article 2

Voted unanimously to receive the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Sarah J. Allen made a motion to amend (Selectmen, each member) to (Selectmen, one member).

The motion was second. The vote: unanimous approval.

Article 3

Voted unanimously to determine the compensation to be paid to the following elected Town Officers:

	FY'14 Approved	FY'15 Recommended
Moderator	\$150.00	\$150.00
Selectmen, one member	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Selectmen, Chairman	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Town Treasurer	\$30,257.77	\$29,367.77
Tax Collector	\$32,734.65	\$31,097.92
Assessors, two members	\$2,400.00	\$2,800.00
Assessors, Clerk	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Board of Health, two members	\$880.00	\$880.00
Board of Health, Chairman	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Town Clerk	\$27,137.00	\$27,544.06
Water Commissioners	\$385.00 each	\$385.00 each

Article 4

The following motions to amend the omnibus budget were made:

1. I move the town vote to approve a total budget of \$188,137.72 for the Library out of Free Cash (Elizabeth M. Stevens). The motion was second. The vote: Majority Approval.
2. I move the town vote to approve a total budget of \$105,913.53 for the Fire Department out of Free Cash (Kimberly Moynahan). The vote: Majority Approval.
3. I move the town vote to delete the line item that was added to the Water Department Expenses defined as Town Invoiced for Retirement/Insurance of \$49, 200.00 and decrease the expenses from \$288,750.00 to \$239,550.00 (Barry Nadon Sr.). (Amended to be placed in the town insurance line item and funded through free cash).The vote: Unanimous Approval.

Voted majority to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,046,210.89**, transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$343,251.25**, transfer from Overlay Surplus the sum of **\$100,000.00** and transfer from the FEMA FY13 Reimbursement the sum of **\$26,556.56**, such sums of money as listed in the Advisory Committee Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request and as amended as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2015, and to vote that any State reimbursements which result in

available funds to the Quaboag Regional School District, in excess of the approved budget, shall be used to reduce the Town's assessment.

Article 5

Voted Majority to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$158,134.00** to pay West Brookfield's share of the principal and interest payments owed on bonds for the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School.

Article 6

Voted Majority to place the following question on the Annual Election Ballot in FY16:

Shall the town vote to have its elected Treasurer become an appointed Treasurer of the Town? Yes __ No __

Article 7

Voted unanimously pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay cemetery related expenses which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Burial Grounds Commission fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$16,000.00 in fiscal year 2015.

Article 8

Voted Majority pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the Stormwater Authority use of a revolving fund, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Stormwater Authority fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$25,000.00 in fiscal year 2015.

Article 9

Voted unanimously pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the Tree Warden use of a revolving fund, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Stewardship Programs, such expenditures not to exceed \$10,000.00 in fiscal year 2015.

Article 10

Voted unanimously to authorize the Water Commissioners to employ their Licensed Water Commissioners at Grade 1 Step 1 (**\$10.92** per hour) for standby duty and emergency work in the absence of the Superintendent in Fiscal Year 2015.

Article 11

Voted unanimously to transfer from Overlay Surplus the sum of **\$20,000.00** to be placed into the Revaluation Account.

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 12. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval

Article 12

Voted two thirds majority to amend its Zoning By-laws as follows: amend Section 4.33, Location of Accessory Buildings, by adding new subsections 1 and 2; amend Section 3.2, Schedule of Use Regulations, Section 3.22.1; and amend Section 1.4, Definitions; all as written in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Standing vote:

Yes-48

No-21

Abstained-13

Article 13

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be deposited into the “Town Building Maintenance Account”.

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 14. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval

Article 14

Voted unanimously to transfer from General Stabilization the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be placed in the “Town Road Maintenance Account”.

Article 15

Voted unanimously to amend the number of Library Trustees to six (6) to be in compliance with G.L. c.78 s 10 which states that the number of Trustees must be divisible by three.

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 16. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval

Article 16

Voted unanimously to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$60,000.00** to be used to supplement the Town’s Chapter 90 money, which is used for road construction/reconstruction and repair.

Article 17

Voted to pass over Article 17.

Article 18

Voted Majority to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be placed into the “Highway Expense Account” to be used to purchase and place fertilizer on the Town Common.

Article 19

Voted unanimously to amend the words underlined and in bold in CHAPTER IV, Advisory Committee of SECTION 2 of the General Bylaws as written in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 20. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval

Article 20

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$23,808.71** and **transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of \$1,191.29** to be deposited into the “Reserve Fund” to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund.

Article 21

Voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift or purchase, the real property shown on Assessor's Map 53, Block 0158, located on **53 Cedar Drive**, consisting of approximately .23 acres, said land to be used for general municipal purposes..

Article 22

Voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift or purchase, the real property shown on Assessor's Map 51, Block 0023, located on **24 Mill Road**, consisting of approximately .24 acres, said land to be used for general municipal purposes.

Article 23

Voted unanimously to transfer from Water Surplus the sum of **\$33,865.00** to be placed into the “Water Department Maintenance & Expense Account” to purchase a new truck for the Water Department.

Article 24

Voted unanimously to transfer from Water Surplus the sum of **\$23,000.00** to be placed into the “Water Department Maintenance & Expense Account” to be used to reclaim and repave Leland Road.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

**STATE PRIMARY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	VOTE FOR ONE
EDWARD J. MARKEY	200
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>52</u>
	252

GOVERNOR	VOTE FOR ONE
DONALD M. BERWICK	31
MARTHA COAKLEY	121
STEVEN GROSSMAN	93
WRITE IN	7
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>0</u>
	252

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	VOTE FOR ONE
LELAND CHEUNG	25
STEPHEN J. KERRIGAN	158
MICHAEL E. LAKE	25
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>43</u>
	252

ATTORNEY GENERAL	VOTE FOR ONE
MAURA HEALEY	150
WARREN E. TOLMAN	87
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>15</u>
	252

SECRETARY OF STATE	VOTE FOR ONE
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN	203
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>49</u>
	252

TREASURER	VOTE FOR ONE
THOMAS P. CONROY	49
BARRY R. FINEGOLD	81
DEBORAH B. GOLDBERG	85
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>37</u>
	252

AUDITOR	VOTE FOR ONE
SUZANNE M. BUMP	185
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>67</u>
	252

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	VOTE FOR ONE
JAMES P. MCGOVERN	197
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>55</u>
	252

COUNCILLOR	VOTE FOR ONE
WRITE IN	28
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>224</u>
	252

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	VOTE FOR ONE
ANNE M. GOBI	226
WRITE IN	24
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>2</u>
	252

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	VOTE FOR ONE
MATTHEW CASTRIOTTA	150
GEORGE YIANTSIDIS	71
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>30</u>
	252

DISTRICT ATTORNEY	VOTE FOR ONE
JOSEPH D. EARLY, JR.	199
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>53</u>
	252

REGISTER OF PROBATE	VOTE FOR ONE
STEPHEN G. ABRAHAM	188
WRITE IN	2
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>62</u>
	252

REPUBLICAN PARTY

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	VOTE FOR ONE
BRIAN J. HERR	128
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>51</u>
	179

GOVERNOR	VOTE FOR ONE
CHARLES D. BAKER	107
MARK R. FISHER	65
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>7</u>
	179

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	VOTE FOR ONE
KARYN E. POLITO	150
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>28</u>
	179

ATTORNEY GENERAL	VOTE FOR ONE
JOHN B. MILLER	139
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>40</u>
	179

SECRETARY OF STATE	VOTE FOR ONE
DAVID D'ARCANGELO	131
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>48</u>
	179

TREASURER	VOTE FOR ONE
MICHAEL JAMES HEFFERNAN	123
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>56</u>
	179

AUDITOR	VOTE FOR ONE
PATRICIA S. SAINT AUBIN	118
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>61</u>
	179

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	VOTE FOR ONE
WRITE IN	19
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>160</u>
	179

COUNCILLOR	VOTE FOR ONE
JENNIE L. CAISSIE	123
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>56</u>
	179

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	VOTE FOR ONE
JAMES P. EHRHARD	86
MICHAEL J. VALANZOLA	82
WRITE IN	2
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>9</u>
	179

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	VOTE FOR ONE
DONALD R. BERTHIAUME, JR.	79
STEPHEN J. COMTOIS, II	53
JENNIFER J. GAUCHER	37
WRITE IN	0
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>10</u>
	179

DISTRICT ATTORNEY	VOTE FOR ONE
WRITE IN	12
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>167</u>
	179

REGISTER OF PROBATE	VOTE FOR ONE
STEPHANIE K. FATTMAN	122
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>56</u>
	179

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
****Special Town Meeting******

Worcester, SS.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West Brookfield in the County of Worcester, Greetings:

In the **NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the **WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 89 NORTH MAIN STREET** in said **WEST BROOKFIELD** on **WEDNESDAY** the **TWELFTH** day of **NOVEMBER 2014**, at **7:00PM** then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Bylaws CHAPTER II Town Meetings SECTION 1 to read:

“The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday of May of each year. The polls shall be open during such hours as the Selectmen shall determine subject to the provisions of State Law, for the purpose of election of Town Officers and for voting upon such other matters as may be voted for on the official ballot. The annual adjourned meeting for consideration of all other business shall be held on the first Tuesday in June at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.”

Or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to place the following question on the Annual Election Ballot in FY16:

Shall the town vote to have its elected Tax Collector become an appointed Tax Collector of the Town? Yes __ No __

Or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Personnel Board)

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from FREE CASH a **sum of money** to be used towards the renovation and/or purchase and installation of a generator for the Town Hall and Fire Station; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury **a sum of money** to be placed into the Police Expense budget to restore the 7% cut made at the Annual Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen & Advisory Committee)

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from FREE CASH **a sum of money** to be placed into the Highway Expense budget to restore the 7% cut made at the Annual Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen & Advisory Committee)

Article 6

To see if the town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 4 of the Annual Town Meeting so as to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,268,827.85, transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$120,634.29, transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from Overlay Surplus and transfer the sum of \$26,556.56 from the FEMA Reimbursement for fiscal year 2013 to be placed into the Omnibus Budget Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Selectmen)

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from FREE CASH the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be used towards the purchase and installation of a new playground at the West Brookfield Elementary School; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen & School District)

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$990.00** to pay for an additional user on the VADAR system; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$773.79** to pay interest due to Worcester County Retirement; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Treasurer)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WARRANT FOR STATE ELECTION

SS.

To the Constables of the **Town of West Brookfield**

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said city or town who are qualified to vote in the State Election to vote at

PRECINCT 0
POLLING LOCATION 1
SENIOR CENTER
73 CENTRAL STREET

on **TUESDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014**, from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices and questions:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS.....	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.....	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
ATTORNEY GENERAL.....	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARY OF STATE.....	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
TREASURER.....	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
AUDITOR.....	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS.....	SECOND DISTRICT
COUNCILOR.....	SEVENTH DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT.....	WORCESTER, HAMPDEN, HAMPSHIRE & MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	5 TH WORCESTER DISTRICT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY.....	MIDDLE DISTRICT
REGISTER OF PROBATE.....	WORCESTER COUNTY

QUESTION 1: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 6, 2014?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that the state's gasoline tax, which was 24 cents per gallon as of September 2013, (1) be adjusted every year by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index over the preceding year, but (2) not be adjusted below 21.5 cents per gallon.

A **YES VOTE** would eliminate the requirement that the state's gas tax be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index.

A **NO VOTE** would make no change in the laws regarding the gas tax.

QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 6, 2014?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would expand the state's beverage container deposit law, also known as the Bottle Bill, to require deposits on containers for all non-alcoholic non-carbonated drinks in liquid form intended for human consumption, except beverages primarily derived from dairy products, infant formula, and FDA approved medicines. The proposed law would not cover containers made of paper-based biodegradable material and aseptic multi-material packages such as juice boxes or pouches.

The proposed law would require the state Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to adjust the container deposit amount every five years to reflect (to the nearest whole cent) changes in the consumer price index, but the value could not be set below five cents.

The proposed law would increase the minimum handling fee that beverage distributors must pay dealers for each properly returned empty beverage container, which was 2¼ cents as of September 2013, to 3½ cents. It would also increase the minimum handling fee that bottlers must pay distributors and dealers for each properly returned empty reusable beverage container, which was 1 cent as of September 2013, to 3½ cents. The Secretary of EEA would review the fee amounts every five years and make appropriate adjustments to reflect changes in the consumer price index as well as changes in the costs incurred by redemption centers. The proposed law defines a redemption center as any business whose primary purpose is the redemption of beverage containers and that is not ancillary to any other business.

The proposed law would direct the Secretary of EEA to issue regulations allowing small dealers to seek exemptions from accepting empty deposit containers. The proposed law would define small dealer as any person or

business, including the operator of a vending machine, who sells beverages in beverage containers to consumers, with a contiguous retail space of 3,000 square feet or less, excluding office and stock room space; and fewer than four locations under the same ownership in the Commonwealth. The proposed law would require that the regulations consider at least the health, safety, and convenience of the public, including the distribution of dealers and redemption centers by population or by distance or both.

The proposed law would set up a state Clean Environment Fund to receive certain unclaimed container deposits. The Fund would be used, subject to appropriation by the state Legislature, to support programs such as the proper management of solid waste, water resource protection, parkland, urban forestry, air quality and climate protection.

The proposed law would allow a dealer, distributor, redemption center or bottler to refuse to accept any beverage container that is not marked as being refundable in Massachusetts.

The proposed law would take effect on April 22, 2015.

A YES VOTE would expand the state's beverage container deposit law to require deposits on containers for all non-alcoholic, non-carbonated drinks with certain exceptions, increase the associated handling fees, and make other changes to the law.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws regarding beverage container deposits.

QUESTION 3: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 6, 2014?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would (1) prohibit the Massachusetts Gaming Commission from issuing any license for a casino or other gaming establishment with table games and slot machines, or any license for a gaming establishment with slot machines; (2) prohibit any such casino or slots gaming under any such licenses that the Commission might have issued before the proposed law took effect; and (3) prohibit wagering on the simulcasting of live greyhound races.

The proposed law would change the definition of "illegal gaming" under Massachusetts law to include wagering on the simulcasting of live greyhound races, as well as table games and slot machines at Commission-licensed casinos, and slot machines at other Commission-licensed gaming establishments. This would make those types of gaming subject to existing state laws providing

criminal penalties for, or otherwise regulating or prohibiting, activities involving illegal gaming.

The proposed law states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would prohibit casinos, any gaming establishment with slot machines, and wagering on simulcast greyhound races.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the current laws regarding gaming.

QUESTION 4: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 6, 2014?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would entitle employees in Massachusetts to earn and use sick time according to certain conditions.

Employees who work for employers having eleven or more employees could earn and use up to 40 hours of paid sick time per calendar year, while employees working for smaller employers could earn and use up to 40 hours of unpaid sick time per calendar year.

An employee could use earned sick time if required to miss work in order (1) to care for a physical or mental illness, injury or medical condition affecting the employee or the employee's child, spouse, parent, or parent of a spouse; (2) to attend routine medical appointments of the employee or the employee's child, spouse, parent, or parent of a spouse; or (3) to address the effects of domestic violence on the employee or the employee's dependent child. Employees would earn one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked, and would begin accruing those hours on the date of hire or on July 1, 2015, whichever is later. Employees could begin to use earned sick time on the 90th day after hire.

The proposed law would cover both private and public employers, except that employees of a particular city or town would be covered only if, as required by the state constitution, the proposed law were made applicable by local or state legislative vote or by appropriation of sufficient funds to pay for the benefit. Earned paid sick time would be compensated at the same hourly rate paid to the employee when the sick time is used.

Employees could carry over up to 40 hours of unused sick time to the next calendar year, but could not use more than 40 hours in a calendar year. Employers would not have to pay employees for unused sick time at the end of

their employment. If an employee missed work for a reason eligible for earned sick time, but agreed with the employer to work the same number of hours or shifts in the same or next pay period, the employee would not have to use earned sick time for the missed time, and the employer would not have to pay for that missed time. Employers would be prohibited from requiring such an employee to work additional hours to make up for missed time, or to find a replacement employee.

Employers could require certification of the need for sick time if an employee used sick time for more than 24 consecutively scheduled work hours. Employers could not delay the taking of or payment for earned sick time because they have not received the certification. Employees would have to make a good faith effort to notify the employer in advance if the need for earned sick time is foreseeable.

Employers would be prohibited from interfering with or retaliating based on an employee's exercise of earned sick time rights, and from retaliating based on an employee's support of another employee's exercise of such rights.

The proposed law would not override employers' obligations under any contract or benefit plan with more generous provisions than those in the proposed law. Employers that have their own policies providing as much paid time off, usable for the same purposes and under the same conditions, as the proposed law would not be required to provide additional paid sick time.

The Attorney General would enforce the proposed law, using the same enforcement procedures applicable to other state wage laws, and employees could file suits in court to enforce their earned sick time rights. The Attorney General would have to prepare a multilingual notice regarding the right to earned sick time, and employers would be required to post the notice in a conspicuous location and to provide a copy to employees. The state Executive Office of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Attorney General, would develop a multilingual outreach program to inform the public of the availability of earned sick time.

The proposed law would take effect on July 1, 2015, and states that if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would entitle employees in Massachusetts to earn and use sick time according to certain conditions.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the laws regarding earned sick time.

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

Given under our hands this _____ day of _____, 2014.
(month)

A true copy

attest: _____

Sarah J. Allen, Town Clerk

Selectmen

POSTED ON THE TOWN CLERK'S OUTSIDE BULLETIN BOARD

Constable

_____,
(month and day)2014.

**STATE ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014**

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	VOTE FOR ONE
EDWARD J. MARKEY	700
BRIAN J. HERR	674
WRITE IN	3
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>55</u>
	1432

GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOV.	VOTE FOR ONE
BAKER and POLITO	822
COAKLEY and KERRIGAN	514
FALCHUK and JENNINGS	59
LIVELY and SAUNDERS	8
McCORMICK and POST	17
WRITE IN	2
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>10</u>
	1432

ATTORNEY GENERAL	VOTE FOR ONE
MAURA HEALEY	694
JOHN B. MILLER	676
WRITE IN	3
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>59</u>
	1431

SECRETARY OF STATE	VOTE FOR ONE
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN	832
DAVID D'ARCANGELO	498
DANIEL L. FACTOR	44
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>57</u>
	1432

TREASURER	VOTE FOR ONE
DEBORAH B. GOLDBERG	617
MICHAEL JAMES HEFFERNAN	703
IAN T. JACKSON	36
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>75</u>
	1432

AUDITOR	VOTE FOR ONE
SUZANNE M. BUMP	661
PATRICIA S. SAINT AUBIN	620
MK MERELICE	45
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>105</u>
	1432

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	VOTE FOR ONE
JAMES P. MCGOVERN	1000
WRITE IN	22
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>410</u>
	1432

COUNCILLOR	VOTE FOR ONE
JENNIE L. CAISSIE	990
WRITE IN	13
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>429</u>
	1432

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	VOTE FOR ONE
ANNE M. GOBI	874
MICHAEL J. VALANZOLA	532
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>25</u>
	1432

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	VOTE FOR ONE
DONALD R. BERTHIAUME, JR.	832
MATTHEW CASTRIOTTA	536
WRITE IN	2
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>62</u>
	1432

DISTRICT ATTORNEY	VOTE FOR ONE
JOSEPH D. EARLY, JR.	1028
WRITE IN	18
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>386</u>
	1432

REGISTER OF PROBATE	VOTE FOR ONE
STEPHEN G. ABRAHAM	591
STEPHANIE K. FATTMAN	756
WRITE IN	1
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>84</u>
	1432

QUESTION 1.	
YES	838
NO	559
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>35</u>
	1432

QUESTION 2.	
YES	266
NO	1156
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>10</u>
	1432

QUESTION 3.	
YES	495
NO	921
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>16</u>
	1432

QUESTION 4.

YES	696
NO	712
<u>BLANK</u>	<u>24</u>
	1432

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Marie Arsenault made the following motion:

I make a motion that Geraldine Sauve act as Town Clerk for this meeting only.
The motion was second. The vote: unanimous approval.

Diane Vayda. made the following motion:

I move the Town vote to allow the following non-voters to sit with the Board of Selectmen:

Barbara Saint Andre	Town Counsel
Johanna Swain	Executive Secretary

And to allow the following non-voters to speak:

Barbara Saint Andre	Town Counsel
Johanna Swain	Executive Secretary
Jim Daley	Highway Superintendent
Camie Lamica	Business Manager, Quaboag School District

The motion was second.

The vote: unanimous approval

Article 1

Voted unanimously to amend the Town's Bylaws CHAPTER II Town Meetings SECTION 1 to read:

“The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday of May of each year. The polls shall be open during such hours as the Selectmen shall determine subject to the provisions of State Law, for the purpose of election of Town Officers and for voting upon such other matters as may be voted for on the official ballot. The annual adjourned meeting for consideration of all other business shall be held on the first Tuesday in June at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.”

Article 2

Voted majority to place the following question on the Annual Election Ballot in FY16:

Shall the town vote to have its elected Tax Collector become an appointed Tax Collector of the Town? Yes ___ No ___

Article 3

Tom Sheriden made a motion to make sure that no malware is in the computer that controls the generator. The motion was second. The vote: majority approval.

Voted unanimously to transfer from FREE CASH the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be used towards the renovation and/or purchase and installation of a generator (certified free from malware) for the Town Hall and Fire Station.

Article 4

Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$14,618.36** and transfer from FREE CASH the sum of **\$41,513.36** to be placed into the Police Salary budget to restore the 7% cut made at the Annual Town Meeting and to cover overtime.

Article 5

Voted unanimously to transfer from FREE CASH the sum of **\$33,601.56** to be placed into the Highway Expense budget to restore the 7% cut made at the Annual Town Meeting.

Article 6

Voted unanimously to amend the vote taken under Article 4 of the Annual Town Meeting so as to vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,268,827.85, transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$120,634.29, transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from Overlay Surplus and transfer the sum of \$26,556.56 from the FEMA Reimbursement for fiscal year 2013 to be placed into the Omnibus Budget Account.

Article 7

Voted unanimously to transfer from FREE CASH the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be used towards the purchase and installation of a new playground at the West Brookfield Elementary School.

Article 8

Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$990.00** to pay for an additional user on the VADAR system.

Article 9

Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$773.79** to pay interest due to Worcester County Retirement.

Article 10

Voted unanimously to transfer from FREE CASH the sum of **\$4,000.00** to temporarily repair the boiler/heating system located at the Highway Facility.

Article 11

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Road Machinery Account the sum of **\$9,389.41** and to transfer from FREECASH the sum of **\$46,720.59** into the Highway Expense Account to be used to purchase a 2015 Ford F450 Cab & Chassis with Rack Body 4WD.

Article 12

Voted unanimously to transfer from FREE CASH the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be placed into the Tax Title Expense Account.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah J. Allen, Town Clerk

TREASURER

CALENDAR YEAR END BALANCE

Balances of Cash/Investments -December 31, 2014	\$	1,820,893.43
Receipts - January 1 to December 31	\$	7,499,643.52
Transfers from Trust Fund	\$	156,205.74
Payments per Warrants	\$	(8,338,417.14)
	\$	<u>1,138,325.55</u>

CASH as of DECEMBER 31, 2014

Country Bank for Savings – General Fund	\$	280,696.63
Country Bank for Savings – Deputy Collect	\$	6,978.69
Country Bank for Savings – Tax Collect	\$	42,972.66
Country Bank for Savings – Water	\$	12,790.25
Country Bank for Savings – Septic Rehab	\$	34,039.01
Country Bank for Savings – CD Long	\$	652,267.81
Country Bank for Savings – CD Short	\$	44,681.02
North Brookfield Savings Bank – General Fund	\$	125.67
Mass Municipal Depository Trust – General Fund	\$	674,453.44
Century Bank & Trust – Tax Collect Lock Box	\$	14,825.90
UniBank – Tax Collect	\$	35,574.37
UniBank – Town Clerk	\$	208.01
Morgan Stanley – Cash	\$	88,459.72
	\$	<u>1,888,073.18</u>

TAX TITLE

Tax Title Redemptions	\$	51,184.47
Interest	\$	169.43
Legal and Court Fees	\$	451.46

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES \$ 3,640.40

The following pages are the Trust Fund balances from our accounting software.

Respectfully submitted,
Teri Roberts, Town Treasurer

Filter by: Segment 1: 82

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2014 Start Date: 7/1/2013 end: 6/30/2014

Ledger History - Allocated Trial Balance - General Ledger

Account Number	Allocated	Debits	Credits	Ending
82-1050-0000	311,158.37	1,178.15	704.40	311,632.12
82-1721-0799	10,439.85	0.00	8,416.75	2,023.10
82-1721-0899	11,583.19	156.07	0.00	11,739.26
82-2671-0799	-22,023.04	8,260.68	0.00	-13,762.36
82-3570-0491	-158,346.94	0.00	550.00	-158,896.94
82-3571-0491	-1,937.77	0.00	0.00	-1,937.77
82-3571-0610	-5,304.96	0.00	0.00	-5,304.96
82-3572-0491	-13,506.39	0.00	0.00	-13,506.39
82-3572-0610	-1,051.83	0.00	0.00	-1,051.83
82-3573-0610	-1,000.42	0.00	0.00	-1,000.42
82-3574-0610	-928.36	0.00	0.00	-928.36
82-3574-0699	-48,405.25	0.00	0.00	-48,405.25
82-3575-0699	-10,891.84	0.00	0.00	-10,891.84
82-3576-0698	-12,494.74	0.00	0.00	-12,494.74
82-3577-0697	-980.58	0.00	0.00	-980.58
82-3580-0696	-29,132.41	0.00	0.00	-29,132.41
82-3582-0630	-27,176.88	704.40	628.15	-27,100.63
	0.00	10,299.30	10,299.30	0.00

17 Account(s) totaling:

Filter by: Segment 1: 84

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2014 Start Date: 7/1/2013 end: 6/30/2014

Ledger History - Allocated Trial Balance - General Ledger

Account Number	Allocated	Debits	Credits	Ending
84-1050-0000	567,758.78	95,799.34	75,242.56	588,315.56
84-2251-0422	-53,462.19	24,000.00	6,021.66	-35,483.85
84-2871-0799	-241,980.98	1,000.00	7,763.75	-248,744.73
84-3570-0192	-25,439.45	0.00	595.57	-26,035.02
84-3570-0491	-42,802.61	12,696.55	4,656.91	-34,762.97
84-3570-0630	-9,298.25	0.02	217.68	-9,515.91
84-3571-0491	-5,832.19	0.00	181.90	-6,014.09
84-3572-0491	-2,187.31	0.00	175.40	-2,362.71
84-3572-0491	-9,847.49	0.00	546.74	-10,394.23
84-3572-0610	-714.75	0.00	41.36	-756.11
84-3573-0491	-6,312.64	0.00	147.79	-6,460.43
84-3573-0610	-747.41	0.00	40.92	-788.33
84-3574-0610	-27,198.15	0.00	2,874.60	-30,072.75
84-3574-0699	-632.25	0.00	36.54	-668.79
84-3575-0610	-3,742.41	0.00	1,220.85	-4,963.26
84-3575-0699	-312.20	0.00	7.31	-319.51
84-3576-0610	-1,733.38	0.00	295.57	-2,028.95
84-3576-0698	-15,625.41	422.09	4,863.86	-20,067.18
84-3577-0610	-2,232.36	0.00	344.78	-2,577.14
84-3577-0697	-10,324.58	0.00	2,930.67	-13,255.25
84-3577-0699	-3,082.72	0.00	95.13	-3,177.85
84-3578-0610	0.00	22,073.90	44,401.61	-22,327.71
84-3578-0699	-18,700.73	0.00	9,437.81	-28,138.54
84-3579-0171	-84.22	0.00	1.97	-86.19
84-3579-0691	-5,262.62	0.00	123.20	-5,385.82
84-3580-0691	-64,164.90	14,050.00	7,718.28	-57,833.18
84-3580-0696	-1,737.53	0.00	40.67	-1,778.20
84-3581-0630	-863.79	0.00	20.22	-884.01
	-4,196.00	1,000.00	780.26	-3,976.26
	-9,240.26	0.00	216.33	-9,456.59
30 Account(s) totaling:	0.00	171,041.90	171,041.90	0.00

Filter by: Segment 1: 85

Parameters: Fiscal Year: 2014 Start Date: 7/1/2013 end: 6/30/2014

Ledger History - Allocated Trial Balance - General Ledger

Account Number	Allocated	Debits	Credits	Ending
85-1050-0000	1,945,665.29	40,418.54	307,269.74	1,678,814.09
85-3570-0000	-1,108,711.63	165,000.00	24,059.18	-967,770.81
85-3571-0000	-253,453.89	8,050.00	5,841.12	-251,245.01
85-3572-0000	-583,499.77	134,219.74	10,518.24	-459,798.27
	0.00	347,688.28	347,688.28	0.00

4 Account(s) totaling: 0.00

Combined Balance Sheet
June 30, 2014

	General Fund (01)	Other Special Revenue (13 & 14)	Water Fund (28)	Water Capital Project (80)	Trust & Agency Funds (82-84-85-89)	Memorandum Only
ASSETS:						
Cash & Investments	\$1,732,696.85	\$281,123.35	\$220,777.60	\$332,958.60	\$2,606,167.42	\$5,173,723.82
Receivable:						
Real Estate Taxes	\$291,283.65					\$291,283.65
Personal Property Taxes	\$22,541.12					\$22,541.12
Less Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	(\$338,061.17)					(\$338,061.17)
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$200,449.19					\$200,449.19
Tax Liens Receivable	\$190,314.17					\$190,314.17
Tax Possessions Receivable	\$111,571.55					\$111,571.55
Land of Low Value	\$11,217.62					\$11,217.62
Water Rates Receivable		\$67,737.43				\$67,737.43
Special Revenue Receivable						\$0.00
Due from Commonwealth Amounts Provided For		\$632,081.11				\$632,081.11
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,222,012.98	\$913,204.46	\$288,515.03	\$332,958.60	\$2,606,167.42	\$6,362,858.49
LIABILITIES:						
Warrants Payable	\$173,247.77					\$173,247.77
Due to Agency Fund						\$0.00
Other Liabilities	\$6,865.04					\$6,865.04
Tailings	\$8,053.10					\$8,053.10
Note Payable						\$0.00
Deferred Revenue:						
Property Real & Personal	(\$24,236.40)					(\$24,236.40)
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$200,449.19					\$200,449.19
Tax Liens	\$190,314.17					\$190,314.17
Tax Possession & Land of Low Value	\$122,789.17					\$122,789.17
Water Rates			\$67,737.43			\$67,737.43
Special Revenue						\$0.00
Commonwealth of Mass.		\$632,081.11				\$632,081.11
Fund Balances:						
Reserved for Encumb.	\$318,847.71	\$281,123.35				\$599,971.06
Reserved for Expend.	\$330,999.56		\$70,177.66	\$332,958.60	\$2,606,167.42	\$3,340,303.24
Snow & Ice Deficit	(\$56,168.04)					(\$56,168.04)
Undesignated	\$950,851.71		\$150,599.94			\$1,101,451.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$2,222,012.98	\$913,204.46	\$288,515.03	\$332,958.60	\$2,606,167.42	\$6,362,858.49

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Arsenault

TREE WARDEN

The focus of the Town of West Brookfield's Shade Tree Program is to provide diverse native shade trees that are safe and ecosystem services such as: aesthetics, water quality, heating and cooling amelioration, and to a certain degree wildlife habitat. In general, most of the town's shade trees are of good health. However, there are a number of older trees that are dying and have interior stem decay that pose a hazard to public safety and risk to private property and continuous interrupted utility supply. West Brookfield residents are becoming keenly aware of the town's hazardous trees and routinely report dead, dying, and dangerous trees and forest insects that are infesting trees and forests. Forest insects and diseases are adversely impacting sugar, red and Norway maple and white ash trees. In November, the state quarantined the entire state from moving white ash forest products due to the emerald ash borer, a highly destructive invasive species, which will eventually spread throughout Massachusetts and West Brookfield and cause severe, if not complete, mortality to our green, white, and black ash trees.

This past year, the Town responded to the following Public Shade Tree Program needs:

- ♦ Twenty (20) public shade trees were planted as part of the fourth Annual West Brookfield Arbor Day Tree Replacement Program. The West Brookfield's Elementary School and Town Highway Department participated by planting the shade trees. The West Brookfield Selectmen officially proclaimed and endorsed the Arbor Day Celebration. West Brookfield Lions Club, Jim Rust; First Congregation Church, National Grid, Northern Tree Service, and Palmer Paving donated most of the shade trees that were planted this year.
- ♦ The town planted approximately seventy-five (75) blight resistant American Chestnuts at the Tucker Road ecological restoration project in cooperation with The American Chestnut Society. Chestnuts were planted, protected from animal damage, and monitored for survival and growth by the following volunteers: Lester Paquette, Phil and Ed Ye, Alex and Bob Richards, Adrian Appointe, and Betty DiMaio.

- ♦ The town removed approximately fifty-six (56) public shade trees that were deemed hazardous, dead, or dying.
- ♦ Fifteen (15) stumps were ground, topsoil replaced, and grass planted as remedial efforts to improve aesthetics in the downtown section of West Brookfield.
- ♦ A number of public shade trees had dead, dying, or obstructive limbs pruned for safety purposes.
- ♦ The Town's Highway Department with assistance from local tree service contractors and National Grid responded to wind events that caused public shade tree damage and related safety problems to many sections of West Brookfield.
- ♦ National Grid removed over twenty (20) large trees and pruned five (5) trees that were interfering with power transmission and ultimately reduced the amount of damage to the utility lines that occurred from extreme weather.
- ♦ Thirty (30) hazardous public shade trees were identified for removal because they were dead, dying or pose a public safety and personal property threat. A public meeting was held to discuss these trees resulting in full public support for removal of all the identified hazardous trees. Removal is scheduled for 2015 – 2016.
- ♦ Phase 1A (145 trees) associated with the Kennedy, Lyon, and Ragged Hill Road Reconstruction Project were removed for hazards, risks, road widening and drainage.
- ♦ The Tucker Road Town Forest Stewardship Project was completed. The town decided to continue with Phase II of the thinning on the east side of Tucker Road. Project completion is slated for FY15 with the proceeds going towards the town's tree replacement and hazardous tree removal programs.

There is a continued need to coordinate with West Brookfield's residents, conduct public shade tree inventory, remove hazardous trees, manage the town lands sustainably, and implement the Arbor Day Celebration and the Tree Replacement Programs.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jim DiMaio, Tree Warden

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts continues to be among the leading states providing assistance to qualified veterans from conflict and war eras. Programs such as the Valor Act and the Chapter 115 programs were developed to assist qualified veterans in seeking benefits to improve their and their family's lives.

Fund raising events are being planned to seek donations, which have been not only generous in the past, but gracious as well, to support future veteran events. The Veteran Lunch sponsored by the Council on Aging, and the Veterans Dinner supported by Salem Cross Inn family have proven to be favorites with the veterans.

Applications for future events such as the Honor Flights for the WWII and Korean War Veterans are available, as well as applications for Guardians and Volunteers for this program. As this is an extremely popular program nationwide, acceptance is based on first come/first served basis.

In the short time of which I have been the Veteran Services Officer for the Town of West Brookfield, I continue to be amazed at how many veterans do not realize the various programs established to assist them. Therefore, I will endeavor to make the "outreach" to all veterans and their families, a major part of my function.

My office hours are from **10:00AM until Noon** every **Wednesday** at the West Brookfield Senior Center. I can be reached at (508) 867-2106 to set up appointments for your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary W. Lapine, Veterans' Service Officer

WATER DEPARTMENT

The Water Department is pleased to submit the following Annual Report of the year 2014. The Water Commissioners are Robert E. Benson, Chairman; Barry Nadon, Sr., Lester Paquette, Superintendent Wesley Cassavant; Richard Kennan, Operator; and Jean Wrobel, Administrative Assistant, and we welcome James Boos to our team as Operator in Training as of October 20th 2014, with Richard Kennan resigning as of October 10th 2014 and returning to the North Brookfield Water Department.

We may be reached by calling (508) 867-1421 Ext. 306 or the Filtration Plant at (508) 867-1412.

The Water Department would like to inform you that the Leland Road Water Treatment Plant is up and running with a couple of checklist items to be finished before final inspection.

The new meter project is still ongoing with just over one hundred meters to be changed out. So please, if you received a letter from the Water Department to change your meter, please contact the Water Department as soon as possible to comply with the progress of the new meter program. Thank you for your cooperation.

We continue to update our system. We had one (1) service leak, also added one (1) new house service, and added one (1) new sprinkler service to the Ye Old Tavern and thank you for all your support. We would like to thank the Highway Department for their help during the year. Also, we would like to say good luck to Richard Kennan in his new job and welcome James Boos to the West Brookfield Water Department. Please call (508) 867-1412 with any questions you might have.

Respectfully submitted,
The West Brookfield Water Department

"In accordant with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race; color; national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs.)"

To file a complaint of discrimination, write-

USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 Or Call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 795-6382 (TTD)

WHITE CHRISTMAS IN WEST BROOKFIELD

On December 7, 2014, the 22nd annual event was held on a chilly, early winter day, the town's heralding in of the holiday season. Preparation for the festivities began in early September and the committee, and others, set off running to meet deadlines for advertisers and printing of our signature booklet. Without the dedication and enthusiasm of this small group the day and its activities would not have transpired, kudos to all for a tremendous job.

Thanks are extended to all of the businesses, churches, elementary school, Library, the Senior Center, Fire Department, and Historical Society Museum who participated with Open Houses, craft shows, and refreshments. Thanks are also extended to the Common Committee for allowing us the use of that beautiful space and to Troop 118 for their assistance. The town and its citizens really came together to show their pride and their sense of community.

Children's activities included a puppet show, elf hunt with prizes for those lucky enough to find the correct number of elves hidden away throughout town, and gingerbread cookie decorating. Lots of smiling faces could be seen especially when they encountered Father Christmas and his escort.

The horse drawn wagon ride was again a highlight of the afternoon and it went off without a "hitch" despite the possibility of a few icy patches around the Common.

A new addition to the day was the Gingerbread Tea. A lovely way to relax and rest those tired feet! All who were able to participate were very impressed and hoped it would be an event that would continue.

The lighting of the 90-foot tree and sing along was well attended followed by the concert in the Great Hall where Senator Steve Brewer and Senator-elect Ann Gobi presented the Good Citizenship Award to the family of Pasqualina "Lee" Lyons, thus closed another successful White Christmas in West Brookfield.

Along with the sale of the 4th in the series Christmas ornament featuring our bandstand and a grant from the West Brookfield Cultural Council the committee is still holding its own financially.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Boos, Chairperson

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals for 2014 granted two Special Permits, one Denial, and one Extension.

The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Lower Level Conference Rooms.

The Board was represented as follows:

Chairman – Kevin Dorman
Members – George Hibbard and Dick Ullman
Alternate Member – Doug Aspinall

The Board advises any applicants to purchase a Zoning Bylaw Booklet before completing the application and submitting it to the ZBA. A letter from the Zoning Enforcement Officer stating that a Building Permit has been denied must be issued before an application can be accepted for a hearing. Applications can be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office. The application must be signed by the Tax Collector stating that all taxes are up to date, as well as other required documents and plans. Applications are reviewed by the Board at their monthly meeting prior to scheduling a public hearing. At this time, the Zoning Board has only one special permit under appeal.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Dorman, Chairman
George Hibbard, Member
Dick Ullman, Member
Doug Aspinall, Alternate

ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Regular office hours were maintained to assist the Building Inspector to expedite permit-required projects in assuring compliance to the Town of West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. During the 2014 year, this office has taken and responded to 122 phone calls and 291 email requests.

Eleven (11) projects were documented and referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for special permit or variance.

This office sent out ten (10) letters to property owners for either specific zoning infractions or requesting that they comply with the Zoning Bylaws to avoid further action and possible fines or inquiry into complaint(s) this office received. In most cases, these infractions were corrected immediately, however, in some cases, further communication and follow up was needed and some required working with other boards. Two issues are still being worked out with the property owners. Town Counsel has not been involved with either of these cases, which I will continue to work with the property owners to yield the requested resolution regarding our bylaws.

Worked successfully with the Planning Board to effect changes to the Zoning Bylaws as voted and passed by the town residents this past year at our annual town meeting.

Cooperation and compliance with Zoning Bylaws, decisions of the zoning Enforcement Officer, ZBA, Planning Board and respect for neighbors is appreciated and helps to reduce the cost to the Town of West Brookfield when issues can be settled without the need for Town Counsel.

Copies of the Town of West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws are available from the Town Clerk or you may go to the town web site to view or print them.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary M. Simeone, Zoning Enforcement Officer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ADA COORDINATOR	4
ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	4
ANNUAL SALARY	8
ASPARAGUS & FLOWER HERITAGE FESTIVAL.....	10
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	11
BOARD OF HEALTH	13
BOARD OF SELECTMEN.....	15
BUILDING INSPECTOR.....	22
BURIAL GROUND COMMISSION	23
COMMON COMMITTEE	24
CONSERVATION COMMISSION.....	25
COUNCIL ON AGING	26
EARTH REMOVAL BOARD	27
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR	28
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.....	28
FIRE DEPARTMENT	29
GAS/PLUMBING INSPECTOR.....	46
HARBOR MASTER	47
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	47
DROP-OFF CENTER PRICE LIST	53
HISTORICAL COMMISSION.....	54
HOUSING AUTHORITY.....	55
LAKE WICKABOAG PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (LWPA).....	57
LIBRARY.....	63
LIST OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS.....	70
LIST OF ELECTED OFFICIALS.....	82
LOCAL ACCESS TELEVISION	85
PARKING CLERK.....	87
PLANNING BOARD.....	87
POLICE DEPARTMENT.....	88
PROCUREMENT OFFICER.....	92

STORMWATER AUTHORITY.....	92
TAX COLLECTOR.....	94
TOWN CLERK.....	95
TREASURER.....	132
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET.....	136
TREE WARDEN.....	137
VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE.....	139
WATER DEPARTMENT.....	140
WHITE CHRISTMAS IN.....	141
WEST BROOKFIELD.....	141
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.....	142
ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.....	143