
Town Of Goshen

2016

Annual Report



John James Memorial Town Hall
1911-2016

The John James Memorial Town Hall was built between 1909-1911 by local masons, regional carpenters and contractors and designed by Williams J Howes, architect of Holyoke Ma. Opening day was July 4 1911. It is of the Neoclassical Revival Style, with a prominent west facing portico and four pairs of Tuscan columns. The beauty of three local stones: tan quartzite, white quartz and Goshen schist make this an exceptionally admired building.

The building was designed to hold all Town functions with a meeting hall on the first floor, and a second story library, dining room and kitchen. The Town Hall was expanded with a rear addition in 1935-1936 in compatible style to accommodate a town vault and two offices. In 1998, an elevator was added on the north side of the building.

In March 2016, the town hall rehabilitation project began, which encompassed three major areas of work: replacement of the original slate roof; repairs to the masonry parapets and stone pedestal walls at west steps; and repairs to the west (front) façade and south entry porticos.

The Front Cover of this Annual Report was taken just after project completion in the Fall of 2016.

General Information:

Page:

Elected Officials	-----	4-6
Appointments	-----	7-13
Government Officials	-----	14

Reports

Select Board	-----	15-16
Town Accountant	-----	17-25
Town Clerk	-----	26-53
Tax Collector	-----	54
Animal Control Officer	-----	55
Animal Inspector	-----	56
Board of Assessors	-----	57-58
Building Inspector	-----	59
Capital Planning	-----	60-63
Cemetery	-----	64
Community Preservation Committee	-----	65
Conservation Commission	-----	66
Council on Aging	-----	67-68
Cultural Council	-----	69
Elder Housing Committee	-----	70-71
Emergency Management	-----	72
Finance Committee	-----	73-81
Fire Department	-----	82-84
Goshen Energy Committee	-----	85
Hampshire Council of Governments	-----	86-91
Health Agent	-----	92
Highland Ambulance EMS	-----	93-95
Highway Department	-----	96
Hilltown Community Development Corporation	-----	97-99
Library	-----	100
Planning Board	-----	101
Police Department	-----	102
Recreation Commission	-----	103-104
Solarize Mass	-----	105
Superintendent of Schools	-----	106-122
Tilton Town Farm	-----	123
Town Hall Rehabilitation	-----	124
Treasurer	-----	125-126
Tree Warden	-----	127
Zoning Board of Appeals	-----	128

Elected Officials - FY 2016

Elected Official	Term	Expiration
Almoners	3 Years	
Stephen M. Estelle		2016
Michael Rock		2017
Kristine Bissell		2018
Assessors	3 Years	
Diane E. Bushee		2016
Cassandra L. Morrey		2017
Gina M. Papineau		2018
Board of Health	3 Years	
Elizabeth Bell-Perkins		2016
Chester Lulek		2017
John P. Rooney Jr.		2018
Chesterfield/Goshen Regional		
School Committee	3 Years	
Sabrina Willard		2017
Jessica Judd		2018
Mary Packard		2016
Finance Committee		
Henrietta Munroe (Resigned 11/8/2015)	1 Year	2017
Nancy Grove	3 Year	2016
Pearl Judd	3 Year	2016
Angela Otis	3 Years	2018

Dawn Scaparotti	2Year	2017
Hampshire County Councilor	2 Years	
Diane E. Bushee		2016
Hampshire Regional School Committee	3 Years	
Kristin Estelle		2017
Library Trustees	3 Years	
Melanie Dana		2016
Marcia Shaw		2016
Rosemarie Clark		2018
Jonathan Foulkes(Resigned 2/29/2016)		2017
Arlene Harry (Appt. 2/1/2016)		2018
Rosemary Beinz (Appt. 6/20/2016)		2017
Moderator	1 Year	
Robert Labrie		2016
Planning Board	5 Years	
Roger Culver		2018
Joseph Frye		2019
Lisa Newman		2016
Dana Stiepok		2020
Thomas Carins III		2017
Select Board	3 Years	

Angela Otis		2018
Diane E. Bushee		2017
Scott A. Bisbee		2016
Town Clerk	3 Years	
Gina M. Papineau		2018
Tilton Fruit Farm Supervisors	1 Year	
Roger Culver		2016
Richard K. Polwrek		2016
Robert O. Goss		2016

APPOINTMENTS - FY2016		
	Term	Term Expires
Administrative Assistant	1 Year	
Melissa Papillon		2016
Administrative Assistant Backup	1 Year	
Cynthia Roberts		2016
Animal Control Officer	1 Year	
Gary Papineau		2016
Animal Control Officer Supervisor	1 Year	
Warren Kirkpatrick		2016
Animal Inspector	1 Year	
Roger Culver		2016
Assistant Assessor	3 Years	
Gina M. Papineau		2018
Assessor's Clerk	1 Year	
Evelyn Kellogg-Culver		2016
Assistant Town Clerk	1 Year	
Kristen Estelle		2016
Assistant Town Collector	1 Year	
Susan Warriner		2016
Assistant Treasurer	1 Year	
Vacant		2016
Board of Registrars	1 Year	
Audrey Bissell		2016
Rose-Marie Carr		2016
Janice Ellis		2016

Building Inspector	1 Year	2016
Robert Walden		
Building Inspector's Clerk	1 Year	2016
Vacant		
Capital Planning Committee		
Wayne Glaser (Appt.9/21-2015)	1 Year	2016
Jeffrey Hewes (Appt. 9/21/2015)		2016
Dawn Scaparotti (Appt. 9/14/2015)		2016
Todd Dewkett (Appt. 9/22/2015)		2016
Angela Otis (Appt. 9/14/2015)		2016
Cemetery Superintendent	1 Year	2016
Roger Culver		
Certified Public Weighers	1 Year	
Vacant		2016
Conservation Commission	1 Year	
Sandra Papush		2016
Charles Amo		2016
Lloyd Ewing		2016
James Heroux		2016
Vacant		2016
Constable	1 Year	
Melissa Papillon		2016
Jacob West		2016
Council On Aging	3 Years	
Rosemarie Clark		2017
Henrietta Munroe		2018

Nancy Grove		2018
Vacant		2017
Sandy Papush		2016
Kathryn Boisvert		2017
CPA Committee	1 Year	
Don Boisvert – Housing		2016
Lisa Newman - Planning Board		2016
Sandra Papush - Conservation		2016
Shannon Wade – Recreation		2016
Robert Labrie – Historical		2016
Alison Bowen - Open Space		2016
COA/FRTA Van Driver	1 Year	
Eleanor Loomis		2016
Gary Theroux		2016
Custodian for Town Properties	1 Year	
Allan Kidston		2016
Cultural Council	3 Year	
Kathryn Boisvert		2016
Henrietta Munroe		2018
Alison Bowen		2018
Jonathan Foulkes		2016
Kristen Estelle (Appt. 9/1/2015)		2016
Elderly Housing Study Committee	1 Year	
Don Boisvert		2016
Henrietta Munroe		2016
Rochelle Nahmias		2016
Maureen Krok		2016
William O'Riordan		2016
Election Warden	1 Year	
Evelyn Kellogg-Culver		2016
Electrical Inspector	1 Year	

Curt Golec		2016
Emergency Management Director	1 Year	
Larry Holmberg		2016
Emergency Response Coordinator	1 Year	
Larry Holmberg		2016
Fence Viewers	1 Year	
James Morrey		2016
Vacant Position		2016
Field Driver	1 Year	
Vacant Position		2016
Fire Chief & Fire Warden	1 Year	
Susan Labrie		2016
FRTA Van Program Administrator	1 Year	
Rosemarie Clark		2016
Goshen Energy Committee	1 Year	
Joe D. Roberts		2015
David Christopolis		2015
Goshen Light	1 Year	
Robert Labrie		2015
Historical Commission	3 Years	
Margaret Waggoner		2016
Robert Labrie		2017
Floyd Merritt		2016
Vacant		2016
Vacant		2016
HRMC Representative	1 Year	
Timothy Hogan		2016

Chester Lulek		2016
Legal Counsel	1 Year	
Kopelman & Paige		2016
Library Director		
Martha Noblick	1 Year	2016
Open Space Committee		
Melanie Dana	1 Year	2016
Vacant		2016
Vacant		2016
Jane Larson		2016
Alison Bowen		2016
Pioneer Vally Planning Commission		
Joseph Frye	1 Year	2016
Vacant		2016
Plumbing & Gas Inspector		
Donald Lawton	1 Year	2016
Police Chief	1 Year	
Jeffery Hewes		2016
Police Sargeant		
David Martin	1 Year	2016
Police Department Secretary		
Donna Hewes	1 Year	2016
Police Officers		
Donna Hewes	1 Year	2016
William Bissell		2016
Jeffery Fish		2016
Ami Wallace		2016

Recreation Commission		
Jennifer Bisbee	1 Year	2016
Roger Culver		2016
Vacant		2016
Shannon Wade		2016
Vacant		2016
RT 112 Advisory Representative		
Joseph Frye	1 Year	2016
Vacant		2016
David Packard		2016
Solarize Mass		
Angela Otis	1 Year	2016
David Christopolis		2016
Barbara Christopolis		2016
Town Collector		
Michelle Bond	1 Year	2016
Town Accountant		
HCOG - Roland Chaffee		2016
Town Hall Repair Construction Phase Committee		
Angela Otis	1 Year	2016
Sandra Papush		2016
Jacquelyn Burgin (Project Manager)		2016
Ronald Alex (Architect)		2016
Michael Mucci (General Contractor)		2016
Town Treasurer		
Allan Kidston	1 Year	2016
PH Transfer Station Technician		
Timothy Hogan	1 Year	2016
PH Assistant Transfer Station Tehcnician		
Roger Culver	1 Year	2016

Tree Warden		
Robert Goss	1 Year	2016
Trench Permit Issuing Authority		
Todd Dewkett	1 Year	2016
Veteran's Agent		
Thomas Geryk	1 Year	2016
Wired West Communication Representative		
Robert Labrie	1 Year	2016
David Christopoli		2016
Webmaster		
Robert Labrie	1 Year	2016
Zoning Board of Appeals		
Joseph Frye	3 Year	2017
Lisa Newman		2016
William O'Riordan		2018
Roger Culver, Alternate		2016
Highway Department		
Todd Dewkett		
Jon Zapka		
Phillip Culver		
Custodians		
Ronald E. Loven, Jr.		
Melissa A. Papillon		

Government Officials

Select Board

Angela Otis, Chair
Diane Bushee, Vice Chair
Wayne Glaser, Clerk

Stephen Kulik

DISTRICT OFFICE

The James Building, Rm 305
16 Main Street
Williamsburg, MA 01096
Tel: (413) 977.3580 Fax: (617) 722.2847
Mailing Address: PO Box 49
Haydenville, MA 01039
STATE HOUSE OFFICE
State House, Room 238
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: (617) 722-2380 Fax: (617) 722-2847

State Senator (Berkshire, Hampshire & Franklin District)

Adam G. Hinds
24BeaconSt.
Room309
Boston, MA, 02133
Phone: (617) 722-1625 **Fax:** (617) 722-1523
District Office
100 North Street
Suite 410
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone: (413)344-4561 or (413)768-2373

United States Representative

Richard E. Neal
300 State Street, Suite 200
Springfield, Ma 01105
(413)785-0325 Fax: (413)747-0604

United States Senators

Edward J. Markey
1550 Main Street, 4th Floor
Springfield, Ma 01103
(413)785-4610

Elizabeth Warren
1550 Main Street, Suite 406
Springfield, Ma 01103
(413)788-2690

Governor

Charles Baker
Office of the Governor, State House, Room 280, Boston, Ma 02133
(617)725-4005 Fax (617)727-9725
Email:Goffice@state.ma.us

Select Board

Wayne Glaser was elected to the Select Board after Scott Bisbee's term was completed. We thank Scott for his commitment and are energized by the skills and insight Wayne is bringing to the team.

The Board continues to be engaged in a number important topics to residents and actively work to resolve issues and advocate for the town with local and state organizations.

Much time and diligent review is being dedicated to an acceptable and financially sound solution to bring high speed fiber optic broadband to Goshen. While the town voted unanimously in 2015 to approve borrowing to build a network, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute placed a pause on the proposed process for all towns. Subsequently, MBI issued a Request For Proposal, with the intent of finding a one size fits all solution to design, build and operate a network. The response did not achieve that goal and MBI is now working with each town to consider customized, alternate options utilizing the allocation committed by the state. We expect to have a town forum to update residents and present current information on a viable solution.

Thanks to Don Bosivert and the Elder housing committee and CPC, the Hilltown Community Development Corporation gained approval and funding to construct a 10 unit Housing project across the street from the town offices.

The Green Community Committee efforts continue and the volunteer work of Joe and Dave will result in savings to the town. Efficient lighting and sensors have been placed in town buildings and insulation work is close to complete.

Efforts to proceed with the West Street project resulted in approval for funding through the Transportation Improvement Project. Design is in its final stage and the anticipated timeline for putting this project to bid, is September 2017. Mass DOT has been a strong partner.

Risk mitigation and reliability were the focus of technology infrastructure improvements this year. Network storage and back-up, e-mail spam filtering, replacement of old network switches and firewall equipment have provided for functioning Wi-fi in the town offices and Town Hall and eliminated weekly failures and wasteful or redundant IT service hours.

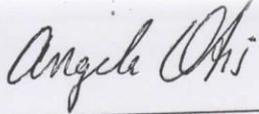
Robert Walden was appointed the town's new building inspector and the Board hired an administrative assistant who is working on Wednesday evenings as well as Thursday mornings so as to provide availability for those who prefer to seek information or permit applications during the day.

The Town Hall Rehabilitation work kept us extremely busy and we appreciate the patience of all residents as we limited parking and some usage of the town hall during this major operation, which was completed in September 2016.

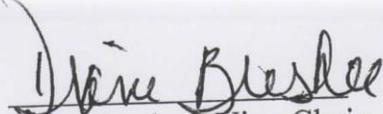
The board would like to thank all our employees, paid and volunteer committee members that work so hard all year long to keep our Town running smoothly.

We would like to thank Melissa Papillon and also Cindy Roberts, who resigned her administrative assistant, for their dedication to the Board and town's work.

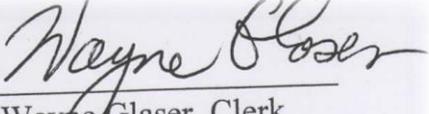
Respectfully submitted,



Angela Otis, Chair



Diane Bushee, Vice-Chair



Wayne Glaser, Clerk

Town of Goshen
Combined Balance Sheet - All Funds & Account Groups
June 30, 2016

	Governmental Funds			Fiduciary Funds	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	Long-Term Debt	
Assets						
Cash	925,836.94	892,710.57	(393,103.93)	755,408.64		2,180,852.22
Investments						0.00
Taxes Receivable						
Personal Property						
Levy of 2016	463.40					463.40
Levy of 2015	461.54					461.54
Levy of 2014	623.31					623.31
Levy of 2013	281.97					281.97
Levy of 2012	276.42					276.42
Levy of 2011	300.24					300.24
Levy of 2010	0.00					0.00
Levy of Prior Fiscal Years	0.00					0.00
Real Estate						
Levy of 2016	67,919.40					67,919.40
Levy of 2015	13,325.34					13,325.34
Levy of 2014	4,058.45					4,058.45
Levy of 2013	3,128.45					3,128.45
Levy of 2012	2,483.41					2,483.41
Levy of 2011	1,256.65					1,256.65
Levy of 2010	(2.06)					(2.06)
Levy of Prior Fiscal Years	0.00					0.00
Tax Liens	107,675.11					107,675.11
Tax Possessions	10,258.10					10,258.10
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions						
Levy of 2016	(24,500.17)					(24,500.17)
Levy of 2015	(23,910.21)					(23,910.21)
Levy of 2014	(17,964.21)					(17,964.21)
Levy of 2013	(19,488.25)					(19,488.25)
Levy of 2012	(29,408.77)					(29,408.77)
Levy of 2011	(15,512.48)					(15,512.48)
Levy of 2010	(17,206.26)					(17,206.26)
Levy of Prior Fiscal Years	0.00					0.00
Other Receivables						
Motor Vehicle Excise						
Levy of 2016	7,727.98					7,727.98
Levy of 2015	3,182.04					3,182.04
Levy of 2014	895.11					895.11
Levy of 2013	507.51					507.51
Levy of 2012	446.04					446.04
Levy of 2011	604.60					604.60
Levy of 2010	486.46					486.46
Levy of Prior Fiscal Years	167.91					167.91
Community Preservation						
Levy of 2016		1,640.21				1,640.21
Levy of 2015		(173.55)				(173.55)
Levy of 2014		(486.15)				(486.15)
Levy of 2013		(515.02)				(515.02)
Levy of 2012		(485.91)				(485.91)
Levy of 2011		(32.11)				(32.11)
Levy of 2010		2.06				2.06
Levy of Prior Fiscal Years		-				0.00
Due from Commonwealth - Chapter 90		-				0.00
Due from Other Funds	74,691.05	312.91	626,070.02	447,314.45		1,148,388.43
Other Departmental Receivables	(125.00)					(125.00)
Amounts to be Provided for - Long-term Debt					1,693,958.10	1,693,958.10
Total Assets	1,078,940.02	892,973.01	232,966.09	1,202,723.09	1,693,958.10	5,101,560.31

Liabilities & Fund Balances						
Liabilities						
Warrants and Accounts Payable	352.57	0.00		0.00		352.57
Due to Other Funds	(498,872.74)	(452,556.72)	36,761.30	(233,720.27)		(1,148,388.43)
Deferred Revenue						
Property Taxes	53,413.83					53,413.83
Motor Vehicle Excises	(14,017.65)					(14,017.65)
Tax Liens & Tax Possessions	(117,933.21)					(117,933.21)
Community Preservation		50.47				50.47
Chapter 90 Highway		0.00				0.00
Long-Term Debt						
Bonds Issued - Inside Debt Limit					(204,089.60)	(204,089.60)
Bonds Issued - Outside Debt Limit					0.00	0.00
Bonds Authorized and Unissued					(1,489,868.50)	(1,489,868.50)
Due to Other Governments						
Due to Deputy Collector				247.00		247.00
Due to Off-Duty Detail				(12,609.25)		(12,609.25)
Total Liabilities	(577,057.20)	(452,506.25)	36,761.30	(251,395.83)	(1,693,958.10)	(2,938,156.08)
Fund Balances						
Encumbrances	0.00					0.00
Continuing Appropriations						0.00
Expenditures	(117,639.00)					(117,639.00)
Capital Expenditures			(269,727.39)			(269,727.39)
Endowments				(229,751.88)		(229,751.88)
Designated		(440,466.76)		(721,575.38)		(1,162,042.14)
Undesignated	(384,243.82)					(384,243.82)
Unreserved						
Total Fund Balances	(501,882.82)	(440,466.76)	(269,727.39)	(951,327.26)	0.00	(2,163,404.23)
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	(1,078,940.02)	(892,973.01)	(232,966.09)	(1,202,723.09)	(1,693,958.10)	(5,101,560.31)

Town of Goshen
Combining Balance Sheet - Special Revenue
June 30, 2016

	Highway - Chapter 90	Special Revenue	Community Preservation	Totals
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash	0.00	226,149.11	666,561.46	892,710.57
Other Receivables			(50.47)	(50.47)
Due From Special Revenue			312.91	312.91
Total Assets	0.00	226,149.11	666,823.90	892,973.01
<u>Liabilities & Fund Balances</u>				
Liabilities				
Warrants and Accounts Payable		0.00		0.00
Deferred Revenue				
Community Preservation			50.47	50.47
Chapter 90 Highway				0.00
Due to General Fund		(1,561.72)		(1,561.72)
Due to Special Revenue		(312.91)		(312.91)
Due to Capital Projects			(433,000.00)	(433,000.00)
Due to Trust & Agency		(17,682.09)		(17,682.09)
Total Liabilities	0.00	(19,556.72)	(432,949.53)	(452,506.25)
Fund Balances				
Unreserved				
Designated	0.00	(206,592.39)	(233,874.37)	(440,466.76)
Total Fund Balances	0.00	(206,592.39)	(233,874.37)	(440,466.76)
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	0.00	(226,149.11)	(666,823.90)	(892,973.01)

Town of Goshen
Special Revenue Fund Detail
June 30, 2016

Highway

Comm MA Strap Grant				-
			Total	-

State Grants

FB STATE FIRE DEPT SAFE GANT - SENIOR				(676.27)
FB STATE FIRE DEPT SAFE GRANT				(4,027.06)
FB STATE FIRE DEPT SAFE GRANT - TRAILER				(4,020.27)
FB STATE (EMPG) GRANT				2,460.00
FB TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT				(3,760.91)
FB POLICE VESTS				(6,430.81)
FB CULTURAL COUNCIL				(5,023.91)
FB COUNCIL ON AGING				0.00
FB STATE REC TRAIL GRANT				0.00
FB CARING COMM. BUILD GRANT				(361.50)
FB COMMM SEPTIC MGT PROG				(8,585.16)
FB GREEN COMMUNITIES				(35,140.00)
FB STATE BOH SUSTAIN MATERIAL				(1,300.00)
			Total	(66,865.89)

Reserved for Appropriation

FB WETLANDS PROT FUND				(7,304.79)
FB SALE OF CEM LOTS				(11,019.84)
FB ANCE CONSERVATION				(983.20)
FB HIST COMM GIFTS				(3,529.59)
FB HISTORY BOOK FUND				(349.50)
			Total	(23,186.92)

Revolving

FB FRTA TRANS SERVICE				(407.75)
FB REVOLVING - AMBULANCE				(9,183.05)
FB REVOLVING - ZBA				(704.76)
FB REVOLVING - ANIMAL CONTROL				(1,418.17)
FB REVOLVING - ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR				(210.00)
			Total	(11,923.73)

Town of Goshen
Special Revenue Fund Detail
June 30, 2016

<u>Other Special Revenue</u>							
							(95,744.61)
							(2,914.91)
							(1,430.00)
							(1,570.69)
							(0.83)
							(2,480.10)
							(442.79)
							(31.92)
						Total	<u>(104,615.85)</u>
						Grand Total	<u>(206,592.39)</u>
<u>Community Preservation</u>							
							0.00
							(91,075.00)
							0.00
							(36,075.00)
							(73,746.00)
							(21,573.57)
							0.00
							0.00
							0.00
							(178.00)
							0.00
							(200.00)
							(11,026.80)
							-
						Total	<u>(233,874.37)</u>

Town of Goshen
Combining Balance Sheet - Trust & Agency
June 30, 2016

	Non-Expendable	Expendable	Agency	Totals	
Assets					
Cash	231,372.12	524,036.52	0.00		755,408.64
Due from General Fund		429,627.74			429,627.74
Due from Special Revenue	6.53		17,675.56		17,682.09
Due from Trust Funds	4.62				4.62
Total Assets	<u>231,383.27</u>	<u>953,664.26</u>	<u>17,675.56</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,202,723.09</u>
Liabilities & Fund Balances					
Liabilities					
Warrants Payable	0.00				0.00
Due to General Fund	(1,631.39)	(49,214.24)			(50,845.63)
Due to Trust Funds		(182,874.64)			(182,874.64)
Due to Deputy Collector			247.00		247.00
Due to Off-Duty Details			(12,609.25)		(12,609.25)
Due to Other Governments			(5,313.31)		(5,313.31)
Total Liabilities	<u>(1,631.39)</u>	<u>(232,088.88)</u>	<u>(17,675.56)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(251,395.83)</u>
Fund Balances					
Reserved					
Endowments	(229,751.88)				(229,751.88)
Unreserved					
Designated		(721,575.38)			(721,575.38)
Total Fund Balances	<u>(229,751.88)</u>	<u>(721,575.38)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(951,327.26)</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	<u>(231,383.27)</u>	<u>(953,664.26)</u>	<u>(17,675.56)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(1,202,723.09)</u>

Town of Goshen
Trust & Agency Fund Detail
June 30, 2016

Expendable Trust

Fund Bal Stabilization								(455,358.88)
Assessors Prop Reval Stabiliza								(32,182.94)
Fire Dept Veh Stabilization								(130,350.09)
Highway Dept Stabilization								(21,421.30)
Pol Dept Veh Stabilization								(10,586.40)
Town Building Stabilization								(5,175.77)
Audit Stabilization								(36,500.00)
Capital Stabilization								(30,000.00)
							Total	<u>(721,575.38)</u>

Non-Expendable Trust

Fund Bal Archibald McConnell								(15,210.99)
Fund Bal Lib. Carmela Walsh St								(3,083.93)
Fund Bal Wright Fund Almoners								(16,250.90)
Fund Bal Cemetery Trust								(53,425.98)
Fund Bal Cem Perpetual Care								(82,392.91)
Fund Bal Consolidated Trust								(12,874.37)
Fund Bal Library Trust								(1,618.60)
Fund Bal Lib. Durkan Bequest								(2,349.28)
Fund Bal John McCrae Firehouse								(9,086.38)
Fund Bal Whiting St Poor Almon								(16,793.03)
Fund Bal Tilton Twn Farm Clock								(16,124.76)
Fund Bal Tilton Tn Farm								(540.75)
							Total	<u>(229,751.88)</u>

FB DEPUTY COLL FEES								247.00
FB LIB GIFTS								(1,346.00)
FB LIB INTEREST ACCT								(345.71)
FB OUTSIDE POLICE DETAIL								(12,609.25)
FB TN CLERK DOG LICENSES								(3,621.60)
							Total	<u>(17,675.56)</u>

								<u>(969,002.82)</u>
							Grand Total	

Town of Goshen
Combining Balance Sheet - Long-term Debt Group
June 30, 2016

	Long-Term Debt	Totals
<u>Assets</u>		
Amounts to be Provided for - Long-term Debt	1,693,958.10	1,693,958.10
Total Assets	1,693,958.10	1,693,958.10
<u>Liabilities & Fund Balances</u>		
Liabilities		
Long-Term Debt		
Inside Debt Limit		
East Street Culvert	0.00	0.00
Highway -Dump Truck	(112,305.60)	(112,305.60)
Highway -Dump Truck	(68,000.00)	(68,000.00)
Police - Cruiser	(23,784.00)	(23,784.00)
	<u>(204,089.60)</u>	<u>(204,089.60)</u>
Outside Debt Limit		
Bonds Authorized and Unissued		
East Street Culvert	(64,684.50)	(64,684.50)
Highway -Dump Truck	(24,824.00)	(24,824.00)
Police - Cruiser	(360.00)	(360.00)
Broadband	(1,400,000.00)	(1,400,000.00)
	<u>(1,489,868.50)</u>	<u>(1,489,868.50)</u>
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	(1,693,958.10)	(1,693,958.10)

Town Clerk

VITAL STATISTICS RECORDED IN GOSHEN IN 2016

BIRTHS: The Town of Goshen was blessed to welcome eleven newborns into our community with the recording of four females and seven male infant in 2016.

MARRIAGES: The lives of four Goshen couples were joined in marriage, with the issuance and recording of their marriage in the Town in 2016.

DEATHS: Our deepest condolences to all families who have lost a loved one this year. In 2016 the Town of Goshen recorded six deaths in our community.

DOGS:

SINGLE LICENSES ISSUED: 250
KENNEL LICENSES ISSUED: 4

STREET LISTING 2016: 990 Residents

TOWN MEETINGS HELD IN 2016 (See pages that follow for meeting minutes)

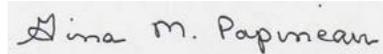
- ❖ February 29, 2016 (Special Town Meeting)
- ❖ March 21, 2016 (Annual Town Caucus)
- ❖ May 16, 2016 (Annual Town Meeting)
- ❖ June 27, 2016 (Special Town Meeting)
- ❖ October 11, 2016 (Special Town Meeting)

REGISTERED VOTERS: 731

ELECTIONS HELD IN 2016

- ❖ March 1, 2016 – Presidential Primary (Ballots Cast – 387)
- ❖ May 7, 2016 – Annual Town Election (Ballots Cast – 110)
- ❖ September 8, 2016 – State Primary (Ballots Cast – 128)
- ❖ November 8, 2016 – State Election (Ballots Cast – 638)
- ❖

I would like to extend a thank you to the Board of Registrars (Audrey Bissell, Rose Marie Carr and Janice Ellis) and to the Town's election workers whose diligence in their duties makes the election process a smooth and enjoyable one.
Respectfully submitted,



Gina M. Papineau
Town Clerk of Goshen

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF GOSHEN

WARRANT FOR A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: SS

Date: February 29, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., a quorum being present (34 voting members checked in).

The Moderator then informed the group that we had a few deaths in our community. Theresa Johnson was a member of the Open Space Committee, Community Preservation Committee, Pioneer Valley Planning Committee, Cultural Council and a Library Trustee.

Moderator Labrie also stated that James Brazeau had passed away. James was a member of the Planning Board for a number of years and a member of the 225th Anniversary Committee.

Moderator Labrie asked for a moment of silence in memory of Theresa Johnson and James Brazeau.

The warrant being duly posted and returned, the Moderator then dispensed with the formal reading of the warrant and moved to Article 1. The Moderator informed the group that the meeting was being recorded.

ARTICLE 1: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to approve a transfer of \$63,000.00 as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Account, for the purpose of additional funding for the rehabilitation of the exterior building envelope of the Goshen Town Hall. Funds to come from the CPA Fund Balance.

Said funds to be expended under the direction of the Goshen Select Board and the CPC.

After three years from the date of appropriation, unless extended for cause by approval of the Goshen Select Board and the CPC, unexpended funds shall be returned to the CPA accounts from which they were appropriated.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to approve a transfer of \$73,746.00 from the Williams-Boltwood House Project to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Account, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for the purpose of additional funding for the rehabilitation of the exterior building envelope of the Goshen Town Hall, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: If article 2 passes then article 3 is not needed.

Diane Bushee asked that Article 2 be removed from the warrant. The Moderator said at the request of the Select board, Article 2 will be withdrawn.

ARTICLE 3: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to approve a transfer of \$73,746.00 from General Stabilization to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Account for

the purpose of additional funding for the rehabilitation of the exterior building envelope of the Goshen Town Hall.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Discussion: Elaine Ulman asked if someone could explain what the issue is about the funding of this account. Why is money coming from two different accounts? Angela Otis, Selectboard member and a member of the Town Hall Rehabilitation Committee, explained that the project was put out to bid and that the bids came in a little bit more than they anticipated. She explained that \$75,000 was given to the town from the Mass Historical Commission. Beyond that the town voted to move money from the Town Building Stabilization Account to Town Hall Rehabilitation and that the remainder was funded from the CPC application that was approved at a town meeting. As with any project like this, a contingency was needed and when they opened the bids they realized that they needed more. By law they needed to have these funds available in order to award the bid. Angela said that after the \$73,746 is moved there will still be approximately \$500,000 in the General Stabilization Account. Angela said that the Town has applied to the Mass Historical Commission for some additional funding. When the funding comes in they will be able to return the money back into the General Stabilization Account. To clarify, Elaine stated that the funds that have been appropriated for the Williams House will be left in place. Elaine asked what the basic cost of the project is. The estimated cost is \$693,560. Elaine said that this figure was higher than any other figure that we've talked about for allocating funds.

Norene Roberts explained that the \$75,000 came from Secretary Gavin's office and not the Mass Historical Commission.

Moderator Labrie introduced Jacquelyn Burgin who is the project manager for the Town Hall Rehabilitation Project. The Moderator said if anyone has any specific questions as Jacquelyn was here to answer them.

Jonathan Foulkes asked if the name of the General Stabilization Account should be changed to Fund. Moderator Labrie said the wording was fine and that everyone understood what account was being used and said that if Jonathan wanted to make a motion to change the name he could.

Jonathan made a motion to amend the article to change the name of the General Stabilization Account to the General Stabilization Fund. The motion was seconded.

The Moderator read the amended article:

To see if the Town will vote to approve a transfer of \$73,746.00 from General Stabilization Fund to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Account for the purpose of additional funding for the rehabilitation of the exterior building envelope of the Goshen Town Hall, or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed by a requisite majority. One abstention.

The article as amended:

Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to approve a transfer of \$73,746.00 from General Stabilization Fund to the Town Hall Rehabilitation Account

for the purpose of additional funding for the rehabilitation of the exterior building envelope of the Goshen Town Hall.

Discussion:

The question was asked why article 2 was withdrawn. Sandy Papush explained that the article was put on due to the need to get all possible funding sources on the warrant. This was done without the CPC committee meeting due to the time constraints. When CPC met they did not approve the article to use the Williams-Boltwood House Project funds for this project.

Margaret Waggoner asked if the town has a fund for maintaining the buildings that it owns. Angela Otis said that there is in fact a Town Building Maintenance account that is an operating budget. Most of the money is used for the Town Offices but it is developed annually to maintain a building such as the Town Hall. They are also in the process of developing a Capital Plan on a going forward basis for the next 15 to 20 years.

Passed Unanimously.

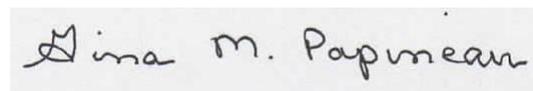
Deb DeCarli talked about Massachusetts becoming the 25th state to join Keep America Beautiful and it coincides with Earth Day. She has reached out to Home Depot for some supplies and the Town will be accepting specially marked trash bags for free at the Transfer Station for the cleanup day. She is hoping that this might become an annual event.

Bob Labrie talked about the Meltdown. It is happening and will be really quick this year. He is suggesting that anyone wishing to participate purchase their tickets soon.

Norene Roberts said she wanted to thank Deb DeCarli for her efforts to organize the cleanup.

There being no further business to come before the town, a motion was made, and seconded to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gina M. Papineau
Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

TOWN OF GOSHEN

WARRANT FOR A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

HAMPSHIRE: ss

Date: October 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m., a quorum being present (27 voting members checked in).

The warrant being duly posted and returned, the Moderator then dispensed with the formal reading of the warrant and moved to Article 1. The Moderator informed the group that the meeting was being recorded.

Article: 1 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$27.37 from Goshen Recreation Commission Expense Account to an account known as "Bills of Prior Years", for the purpose of payment of a bill

Note: 9/10 vote is required.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 2 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to approve a preservation restriction in perpetuity on the Goshen Town Offices (formerly, the Goshen Center School) to comply with a requirement of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 3 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$5,175.77 from The Town Building Stabilization account to the Town Hall Rehabilitation account.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 4 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to create the following revolving funds under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016.

REVOLVING FUND	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY2017 Spending Limit
Pilot Agreement Processing Fee Account	Board of Assessors	Fee received for the Pilot Agreement for the CEC Solar Array	To pay for the expenses associated with the processing and review of the Pilot Agreement	\$7,500.00

Note: The Balance in the fund after all expenses have been paid will be returned to the General Fund.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 5 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will accept the provisions of Chapter 54, Section 16A of the Mass General Laws which will allow the Town Clerk to appoint a person to fill a vacancy created by the absence of election officer at the polls on Election Day.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 6 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6.81 from the Council on Aging Expense Account to an account known as “Bills of Prior Years” for the purpose of payment of a bill.

Note: 9/10 vote is required.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 7 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will authorize the treasurer, with the approval of the Select board, to borrow a sum of \$50,000.00 for a period of Five (5) years or less, in accordance with the capital plan, attached herewith, to fund the purchase of a Single Axle Secondary Plow/Dump fully outfitted for the Highway Department.

Note: 2/3’s Vote is required.

**Ballot Count: Yes = 25
No = 2**

Article: 8 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select board, to borrow a sum of \$45,000.00 for a

period of Five (5) years or less, in accordance with the capital plan, attached herewith, to fund the purchase of a New Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle fully outfitted for the Goshen Police Department.

Note: 2/3's Vote is required.

Hand Count – Yes = 23

Abstain = 1

Article passes by a requisite majority.

Article: 9 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will authorize a \$7,500.00 purchase for a metal storage container to be used at the transfer station for recycling bottles and cans to replace the HRMC owned container, and transfer \$4,500.00 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to partially fund this purchase. The remaining \$3,000.00 will be funded from a grant awarded to Goshen specifically for the purchase of recycling equipment, in accordance with the Select board vote and capital plan attached herewith.

Note: a 2/3's vote will be required.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 10 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will authorize and transfer \$2,500.00 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for computer technology purchases necessary for the Goshen Town Offices, in accordance with the Select board vote and the capital plan attached herewith.

Note: a 2/3's vote will be required.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 11 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the entire balance from the Highway Vehicle Stabilization Fund to the Capital Planning Stabilization Fund.

Note: The estimated balance is \$21,421.00.

Note: a 2/3's vote will be required.

Passed Unanimously.

Article: 12 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the entire balance from the Police Vehicle Stabilization Fund to the Capital Planning Stabilization Fund.

Note: The estimated balance is \$10,586.00.

Note: a 2/3's vote will be required.

Passed Unanimously.

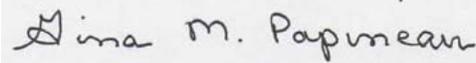
Article: 13 Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to amend its prior vote taken under Article 5 of the May 2016 Annual Town Meeting, pursuant to which the Town voted its fiscal year 2017 operating budget, excluding the amount appropriated for the school, by reducing the amount appropriated to the Capital Stabilization fund from \$17,000.00 to \$0 for a new operating budget total of \$1,227,444.91.

Note: a 2/3's vote will be required.

Passed Unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the town, a motion was made, and seconded to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gina M. Papineau
Town Clerk

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The Select Board Appointed a Capital Planning Committee in September of 2015 to develop a capital planning process and comprehensive capital plan for the Town. The goal is to work towards having all financial matters, both operating and capital, be presented at the Annual Town Meeting, typically held in May. This way decisions about trade-offs of limited resources can more readily and comprehensively be discussed and considered. The original committee worked through June of 2016. All appointments were as follows:

Todd Dewkett	Highway Department Head
Wayne Glazer	Town At-Large Member
Jeffery Hewes	Police Chief and Department Head
Angela Otis	Select Board Representative
Dawn Scaparotti	Finance Committee Representative and chair of capital committee
Ann Deres	Appointed in August 2016.

Sue Labrie, Fire Chief was invited to be on the committee. Sue was unable to participate as an ongoing committee member, due to scheduling conflicts, however, Sue provided her capital input and was available to participate in several group reviews and discussions, given the key nature her capital requests. The Town's Treasurer, Alan Kidston, and Accountant, Roland Chaffee, and Town Clerk, Gina Papineau, are also consulted for their input. The Finance Committee reviews the work of the CPC and the plan is submitted to the Selectboard for review and approval, prior to the Town's approval.

With Wayne Glaser elected to the Selectboard and Angela Otis already a select board member serving on the Capital Planning Committee, to avoid any conflicts of interest, or the appearance of any conflicts, Angela resigned from the capital planning committee. Jeff Hughes also resigned at that time, but continues to work closely with the committee. We want to thank everyone who participated and continues to participate in this process for their time and invaluable input on the committee. Wayne Glaser has spent many hours developing the complex spreadsheets and is acknowledged for his expertise and that time consuming work.

CAPTIAL PLAN SPREADSHEET

The Capital Plan is a living document that is intended to be updated periodically as new information is available. The first five years are typically considered most relevant in a capital plan. For planning purposes and to make it easier for the Town going forward, we have extended our information for a 30-year period. There is a summary spreadsheet and one for each of the 7 main departments within the Town, currently as follows:

Education, Highway, Fire, Police, Public Health, Information Technology and Town Buildings.

The spreadsheet presented at the October 11, 2016 Special Town Meeting concentrates primarily on the FY 2017 items submitted for approval on the Oct 11, 2016 Warrant dated September 19, 2016. It also includes those capital requests submitted but not yet approved for the remaining 4 years period, 2018 - 2021. All the items in 2018 – 2021 will be further reviewed, the Information Technology section in particular.

Police Department Operating Statement

There are 6 officers within the police department: Police Chief-Jeff Hughes; sergeant-Dave Martin; and 4 officers - William Bissell, Jeffrey Fish, Aimee Wallace, and Donna Hewes, who also serves as the department administrator. Most have served from 15 – 30 years with the newest officer joining 1 year ago.

All officers are paid, part-time positions. All officers are paid the same hourly wage. In addition, the police chief receives an annual stipend for running the department. Most officers have full time jobs outside the department and do their patrols on evenings and weekends. The number of hours actually worked each week varies, based on dispatched 911 calls, incidents and activities. There are approximately 43 hours / week of officer time budgeted annually. Beyond that, there are approximately 3 hours / week of administrative support time budgeted and 7 hours per week of chief oversight and work. Most of the 43 hours budgeted for police duty is patrol work, but incident responses must come from that as well. On weeks where incidents require substantial time, the patrol hours are adjusted to stay within budget. Depending on the call, there are one or two officers who report to the calls. It is the police chief who administers these hours, based on weekly incidents, required activity, and budget constraints.

The Police Department is a 24 hour a day, 7 day per week operation, though all officers are part-time. In that most of the officers have full time jobs, the chief covers about 30 hours /week. When officers are not available, the State Police cover the calls and assist as appropriate.

The department responded to 862 calls in FY 2016 across many incident classifications including traffic accidents, larceny, suicide, domestic, trespass, vandalism, wires down, warrant arrest, breaking and entering for building and auto, suspicious vehicle, neighbor dispute, etc.

Since the early 1970's the Municipal Police Institute Inc. has published and updated the Police Manual Policies and Procedures that are used by all municipal chiefs in Massachusetts. We follow these policies and procedures. We follow all state and federal mandates relating to equipment, procedures and training. Many of these mandates are unfunded, but we are required to follow them, nonetheless. These mandates relate to patrols, officer training, citations, as well as arrest protocols and emergency responses. Every year the Municipal Police training committee sets forth mandated training. Training is also offered by the Northwestern District Attorneys Law Enforcement Assistant Program for department's professional development and educational needs and to help fulfill state wide training requirements.

Police Department Facilities

From approximately 1994 - 2014, the Police department was housed in an independent facility at the former DAR State Headquarters, at 555C East Street. This location included vehicle garaging and storage facility for \$188 / year. Around 2014 the police headquarters were moved to the basement of the Town Office Building, 40A Main Street. There are no garage or on-premises storage. There are two storage containers housed at the Highway garage. These contain such things as rescue ambulance. Some equipment is stored on site in a mobile storage unit. When not on patrol or at the Town Offices, and in the Winter, the Police vehicles are housed at the Chief's home.

Police Department Vehicle Fleet and Equipment

Fire Department Operating Statement

The Goshen Fire Department is all volunteer. There are currently 22 firefighters and 4 junior firefighters on the roster. Officers include a Chief, Deputy Chief, 2 Captains, and 2 Lieutenants. Susan Labrie has served as Fire Chief since 2006 and receives an annual stipend. Firefighters receive a small semi-annual incentive based on their participation in both training and emergency calls.

The Fire Department is committed to protecting the people, property, and environment within our service area. We are responsive to the needs of our citizens and visitors by providing rapid, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety, and well-being of the community. We accomplish our mission through fire prevention, fire safety awareness education, fire suppression, emergency medical services, and other related emergency and non-emergency activities. We actively participate in our community, serve as role models, and strive to effectively and efficiently utilize all of the necessary resources at our command.

The Department responds to approximately 100 emergency calls per year (approximately 50% of those are medical). Vehicle response is based on the type of call, equipment needed, and personnel available. Operating guidelines state that the highest ranking officer goes direct to the scene while all others respond to the station to respond with vehicles. All Department vehicles are equipped with a mobile VHF radio (typical Hampshire County communication) and a Simulcast mobile radio for communication in Franklin County and State wide mobilization.

Fire Department Facilities

The Fire Station is located at 56 Main Street. It is a metal building that was constructed in 1988 with a 40-year life expectancy. The building includes 3 vehicle bays and one meeting space that includes a sink and microwave and a restroom. Above the meeting room is an office, closet, and recreation space. The building is beginning to show its age at 28 years. The metal roof has rusted screws and needs sealant applied at the seams. The metal siding, which runs nearly to the ground, is rusting. The building does not have potable water and the water from the shallow well is corrosive. The plumbing has begun to spring leaks from the effects of the corrosive minerals in the water supply. The water supply from the well often freezes in the winter as it enters the building through the slab.

Highland Ambulance was operating out of the Goshen Fire Station for the past 12 years and moved out in July, 2016 to their own facility on Williams Drive. Since then, Fire Department members have been working diligently to spruce up the facility by painting walls and replacing carpeting.

Fire Department Vehicle Fleet and Equipment

Engine 2:

Purpose – Engine 2 is a pumper with a 1,500 gpm pump and 1,250 gallon water tank. It is the primary attack engine and is used as a pumper or water supply unit in mutual aid situations. (The truck does not technically qualify as a tanker because tankers require a minimum 1,500 gallon water tank.) Guidelines are for Engine 2 to respond to all structure fires, alarms sounding (smoke and CO), vehicle fires, and vehicle accidents. It may respond to other situations based on whether the equipment on board will be useful. Because it has a light tower on top of the truck, it is used to light emergency scenes or night time training. It carries important equipment such as the thermal imager to see heat signatures and vehicle extrication equipment. It also carries portable generators and lighting units.

Note: It is recommended that pumpers and pumper/tankers be replaced after 25 years of service.

Responds to approximately 40 calls per year. Used for training approximately 35 times per year.

Specifications:

- **2008 Darley on Spartan Gladiator Chassis – Diesel**
- **Seats 6 personnel**
- **1,250 Gallon Water Tank**
- **1,500 GPM Pump**
- **Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS)**
- **6” Gravity Dump in Rear Compartment**
- **1,600’ of 4” Large Diameter Supply Hose (Z-valve in rear for long supply lay)**
- **500’ of 3” Supply Hose**
- **2 ½” and 1 ¾” handline hose**
- **Deck Gun (large volume nozzle on top on truck)**
- **Light tower unit attached to truck**
- **Air conditioning – cab can be used to rehab firefighters suffering from heat related symptoms**
- **Carries specialty equipment:**
 - **6 SCBA units**
 - **Thermal Imaging Camera**
 - **Portable Deluge (portable large volume nozzle)**
 - **Positive pressure ventilation fan**
 - **Amkus Extrication Equipment**
 - **Chimney fire equipment**
 - **Two Honda 2,000 Watt Generator/Portable Light Units**
 - **Gas/CO Detector**
 - **Traffic cones**
 - **Chain saw**
 - **K-12 saw (cuts through most materials)**

Engine 7 1995 Kovatch

Purpose – Engine 7 is the primary water supply engine or the secondary attack engine with a 1,500 gpm pump and 750 gallon water tank. It responds to mutual aid calls for an engine company. Guidelines are for Engine 7 to respond to all structure fires and chimney fires. It will also respond

to vehicle fires and vehicle collisions if enough personnel are available. It carries heavy duty chimney fire cleaning equipment that will not fit on Engine 2. It may respond to other situations based on whether the equipment on board will be useful.

Responds to approximately 25 calls per year. Used for training approximately 30 times per year.

Specifications:

- **Received from military surplus program for \$0 (\$20,000 invested in repairs and equipment)**
- **1995 KME Diesel**
- **Seats 5 personnel**
- **750 Gallon Water Tank**
- **1,500 GPM Pump**
- **1,200' of 4" Large Diameter Supply Hose**
- **500' of 3" Supply Hose**
- **2 ½" and 1 ¾" handline hose**
- **Carries a 2,100 gallon portable dump tank (for water supply during a tanker shuttle)**
- **Carries specialty equipment:**
 - **5 SCBA units**
 - **Negative pressure ventilation fan**
 - **Heavier chimney fire equipment including steel rods and brushes**

Rescue 1

Purpose – Rescue 1 responds to medical calls and all other calls if enough personnel are available to respond with it. It is used at structure fires for rehabilitation, and at motor vehicle incidents to protect the scene. It also responds to rescue situations.

Responds to approximately 75 calls per year. Used for training approximately 35 times per year.

Specifications:

- **2002 Ford**
- **Seats 3 personnel**
- **Rolling Stretcher, scoop stretcher, stair chair**
- **Carries specialty equipment:**
 - **1 SCBA units**
 - **Inflatable Rescue Boat**
 - **2 Cold Water Rescue Suits and 2 Personal floatation devices (PFDs)**
 - **Life safety rope and utility rope**
 - **Older set of Amkus Extrication Equipment (25+ years old)**
 - **Cribbing blocks for stabilizing things such as vehicles on their side or roof**
 - **Gas/CO Detector**
 - **First Responder medical equipment**
 - **AED and oxygen**
 - **Snacks and water for rehabilitation of firefighters at extended scenes**
 - **Traffic cones and Emergency Scene Ahead signs**
 - **Night vision binoculars**

Brush 1

Purpose – Brush truck that responds to brush fires, illegal burns, and outside smoke investigation calls. May also respond to structure fires to supply water from a hard to access source. For instance, Brush 1 can set up a water supply at Lower Highland Lake from the far end of Aberdeen Road and supply water to an attack engine set up at Camp Howe through a supply line up the Camp's lake access road. Responds to mutual aid wildland fire calls and State Task Force unit activation calls for wildland fires.

Responds to approximately 10 calls per year. Used for training approximately 16 times per year.

This truck and its pump have had several mechanical issues and failures over the last several years. It is recommended that it be replaced in the very near future.

Specifications:

- **Received from military surplus program for \$0**
- **1986 Chevrolet 4 x 4 (5/4) Diesel Pickup**
- **Seats 2 personnel**
- **200 Gallon Water Tank**
- **12 GPM High Pressure Pump (400 psi)**
- **9 HP Honda 12V start gas engine provides pump and roll capability**
- **400' of ½" High Pressure Hose on a 12V Electric Hose Reel**
- **Carries specialty equipment:**
 - **Hand tools for cutting fire breaks**
 - **Sets of wild fire turnout gear (different from structural firefighting gear)**
 - **Chain saw**

Car 1

Purpose – Responds to all Fire Department calls (when Chief is in Town). Used for all Fire Department inspections. Also, used to travel to monthly Hilltown Mutual Aid meetings and monthly Hampshire County Fire Defense meetings as well as Fire Department training exercises.

Car 1 responds to emergency calls to provide quick response direct to the scene to begin to size up the situation for additional response such as mutual aid and to begin mitigation.

The Chief, if available, will respond to the scene ahead of the other units and may terminate a call based on it being a false alarm before the FD vehicles leave the station or mutual aid is dispatched. Car 1 also acts as the mobile Incident Command Unit at emergency scenes.

Responds to approximately 80 calls per year.

Specifications:

- **2007 Ford Explorer 4x4**
- **Seats 5 personnel (4 comfortably)**
- **8 cylinder**
- **Tow hitch**
- **Carries specialty equipment:**
 - **1 SCBA units**
 - **Gas/CO Detector**
 - **ABC and air pressurized water extinguishers**
 - **First Responder medical equipment and oxygen**
 - **Collapsible traffic safety cones to protect scene prior to engine/rescue response**

-
- **Utility rope and throwable water rescue device**

Other Equipment

- **ATV (received from military surplus program)**
- **ATV towable trailer (purchased by the Goshen Firefighters' Association)**
- **Cargo trailer (purchased by the Goshen Firefighters' Association)**
- **Portable floating water pump**
- **Rope rescue harnesses and rope**

Station Equipment

- **Plymovent diesel exhaust removal system**
- **SCBA cylinder filling station**
- **Turnout gear washing machine**
- **Large stationary air compressor**

Fire Department Funding

Operating Budget: Our FY 2016 annual operating costs were \$39,315 and the FY 2017 budget was level funded. The budget covers the building's utilities (electricity, heat, telephone, and internet), vehicle, building, and equipment maintenance, radio and pager purchase and repair, purchase of equipment, personal protective gear, office supplies, and payment of Hampshire County and Western Mass Fire Department dues. This money is raised and appropriated annually at the May Annual Town Meeting and is primarily covered through the Town Tax Levy.

Capital Budget: We are working with the Capital Planning Committee to develop a plan to replace our equipment in a timely manner. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) sets the industry standards that we strive to meet. The ISO (Insurance Services Organization) sets the fire suppression rating schedule for communities and there could be insurance implications if equipment is not replaced in a timely manner. The Fire Department Stabilization account has a balance of \$130,350 as of July 1, 2016. These funds will be used to help fund Fire Department needs. The Fire Department will also receive funds appropriated to the general Capitalization Stabilization Fund once the Fire Department Stabilization account is depleted since it is no longer receiving additional funding.

Grant Funds: The Fire Department applies for Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) funds on an annual basis. The grant funds have been reduced over the years are very competitive. Goshen received AFG grant funds to help purchase Engine 2 and all of its equipment, a thermal imager, SCBA and Oxygen bottle filling stations, a vehicle diesel exhaust removal system, and a firefighter turnout gear washing machine and drying cabinet. The Department also applies annually for Massachusetts SAFE and Senior SAFE fire prevention grants allowing the Department to teach fire and life safety.

Highway Department Operating Statement

The highway department consists of three full time employees, including the working superintendent. Todd Dewkett, the Highway Superintendent, is going into his fifth year serving Goshen. He has developed a 10-year plan to try and improve all town roads. The Superintendent reports to the Select board and brings his recommendations forward to them.

Our responsibility is to maintain Goshen's 26 miles of roads in the summer and winter, ensuring safe passage. To do this, we must plow, sand and salt the roads in the Winter, sweep the roads in the Spring, grade and gravel all gravel roads, pave and tar or patch roads in the Spring and Summer .We are responsible for maintaining drainage and culverts and for mowing the sides of the roads and clearing fallen trees if on Town Property.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing a plan to maintain and improve the roads, to requisition in the most cost effective way all salt, sand, supplies, etc. All vehicles must be maintained and washed of salt and sand to extend their useful life. The workers within this area have some knowledge in truck repair and do as much of the maintenance of the vehicles as possible. When necessary, they go out for repair.

The Town is divided into three separate plow routes with each worker responsible for one route; Outside of winter, the work is assigned according to need. Spring time we want to add gravel and grade all gravel roads. Gravel is lost during plowing of the gravel roads and needs to be replaced every year. Sweeping is put out to bid as we do not own a street sweeper. Patching all hard surface roads usually follows grading then we move on to summer projects. Normally we will concentrate on the areas where the chapter 90 money is scheduled to go. This would consist of shoulder cutting checking all culverts and replacing any that need it and cutting brush to try and improve site lines. On several roads we have been installing sub drainage to attempt to keep the road in better condition for a longer period of time.

Highway Department Facilities

There is a maintenance and sand storage facility off East Street. The town garage is 30 by 60 foot concrete block structure. The concrete blocks are beginning to fall apart at ground level and are nearing their life span. We are only able to store two trucks in this building and during the winter months all other equipment is outside in the weather. This is very challenging to get the outside equipment running and then cleaned off during ice and snow events. The equipment parked outdoors needs to be plugged in so block heaters keep the engine warm enough to start. This is a constant problem as the heaters are very expensive and do not last very long.

The sand and salt storage shed is a poll style building that is 40 by 60 feet. This building has a metal roof that the screws have worked in the sun so it leaks. We make attempts every year to replace the screws and chalk the spots to try and keep the material dry. This building gives us a storage capacity of five hundred tons of sand and fifty tons of salt. That might sound like a lot but you need to consider it takes about fifty tons of a sand salt mix to do the complete town once. In ice storms we run low on material very quickly. Just as a comparison most towns have a storage shed that is 60 by 100 feet.

Highway Department Vehicle Fleet and Equipment

In the winter, we have three primary Dump / Plow trucks:

1. 2014 Mack ten wheeler – (Primary1) This truck has an eleven foot front plow and an eleven foot wing plow. It has an all-season body that is able to carry eighteen tons of material and can go from hauling to sanding by opening a door in the floor of the body and one over the Shute.
2. 2016 F-550 smallest of the three - (Primary 2) this truck has a nine foot six inch V-plow and a four yard all-season body. This handles most of the private roads and smaller town roads (**got this in mid-2016** to replace the 2005 F550 – which will be released after this winter)
3. 2005 International 7400 single axle truck – (Primary3) this truck has an eleven foot front plow and a ten foot wing plow. It has a ten foot all-season body and can carry ten tons of material. This truck was purchase used and not that well cared for before Goshen bought it so this has been **submitted for replacement in 2019**.

Secondary Winter and Key Summer:

4. The 1996 FORD L 8000 Secondary Plow/ Dump Truck – a single axle dump truck with an eleven foot front plow and an all-season body that is in very rough shape. We use as the spare plow in the winter when a primary truck is broken down. It is also used for hauling sand. In the summer this truck is very important for hauling gravel and provides us a third large dump truck, therefore providing one for each worker. This is **in the capital plan for 2017** for replacement with a newer used plow/sander/dump truck.

Other equipment includes:

5. 2012 Komatsu excavator. **Estimated replacement in 2037**
6. 2002 Komatsu loader. **Estimated replacement in 2020.**
7. 2000 John Deere grader
8. 1985 Chevy military pick-up
9. 1990 military super single dump truck
10. 1973 ford tractor with a three point hitch sweeper and leaf blower
11. 1976 ford tractor with a triumph sickle bar mower and a five foot brush hog
12. One military compressor with jack hammer.

The highway department has several other pieces of small equipment: three chainsaws, two pole saws, two weed wackers, a plate tamper, jumping jack, mig welder, arch welder combination generator, drill press, large hand operated bearing press, blacktop saw, power washer, magnetic drill, transit, one inch and half inch air guns, hand operated crimper to make hydraulic lines and two tool boxes off wrenches and sockets.

Highway Department Funding

Operating Budget: FY 2017= \$ 386,035 which covers salaries, equipment and building maintenance, supplies (such as winter salt and sand; summer tar, sand and stone) . Winter Highway salaries and supplies = \$ 47,600 of the \$386,035. This money is raised and appropriated annually at the May Town Meeting and is covered through the Town Tax Levy.

Capital Budget: We are working with the Capital planning committee to develop a plan to keep dependable equipment working on town roads in the most cost effective way possible and to address our long-term facility needs. These funds are being established in stabilization accounts raised and appropriated by the Town.

Grant Funds: Occasionally there are funds available for equipment purchases or road work. The last grant received was for the work on the East street culvert and it was a Hazard Mitigation Grant. We are currently working on a TIP Grant to get West Street reconstructed.

Chapter 90 State Funds: There is a formula used by the State to distribute “Chapter 90” money to the Towns to help maintain the roads and bridges. This number varies up and down annually based upon a weighted state formula primarily comprised of three factors:

1. Town road mileage – Weighted 58.33%. Goshen has 26 miles of road.
2. Population – Weighted 20.83 % - Goshen census = 1054
3. Employment Within the Town – Weighted 20.83% - 161 employed within the Town (15.2%)

Goshen received \$109,774.00 in Chapter 90 money in 2016. Currently the State puts up two hundred million dollars a year and that \$109,774.00 is our share. The program is based on reimbursement for projects submitted and approved by Mass DOT. Then, we bid the work, get it completed, pay the bills and then apply to get the money back.

TOWN OF GOSHEN
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
JOHN JAMES MEMORIAL HALL

Date: May 16, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m., a quorum being present (51 voters being signed in). The moderator asked that everyone qualified to vote be sure to sign in with the Town Clerk. The Moderator also informed the group that the meeting was being recorded to aid the Town Clerk in taking minutes.

The moderator noted that the warrant was duly posted and returned and then dispensed with the formal reading of the warrant and moved to Article 1.

ARTICLE 1: Motion made and seconded to choose all necessary officers to serve for the ensuing year.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to act on the reports of the Town officers.

Discussion – Tommy Thomas said that we do not have a copy of the reports. Selectman Diane Bushee informed the group that the Annual Report had to go back to the printer due to some errors in the reports. Moderator Labrie said that since he already read the article and that it was moved and seconded the only option was for the town to vote it down and not pass it and that it will be placed on the Special Town Meeting which is scheduled to occur before the end of the fiscal year, June 30th.

Failed for a requisite majority.

ARTICLE 3: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to permit the Select Board to set the compensation of Town employees and appointed officials, in accordance with the merit system as established in the Town's personnel policies.

Discussion: Alison Bowen asked what the merit system is. Selectman Angela Otis stated that there is a personnel policy that awards town employees based on a performance review.

Angela informed the group that there are no salary increases this year. The question was asked as to what the system is now. Angela stated that there is a performance review that is performed for each Town Employee. Moderator Labrie asked if this was different from years past. This article is voted on annually.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 5: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, and to vote to set all Town budgets, excluding Goshen/Chesterfield Regional Assessment, Hampshire Regional Assessment, and Vocational Tuition.

Moderator Labrie explained that he would read each item on the budget and if anyone has an issue to say hold and that we would come back to it after he was finished with the section.

HOLD – Line 22 Treasurer Salary and Line 30 Town Clerk– Alan Kirouac said that it had been stated earlier there were no increases in salary so he would like to know why there is a 52% increase in this salary. Dawn Scapartotti explained that there are no merit increases on any of the salaries this year. After reviewing all of the salaries they found that two were way out of whack, the Treasurer and the Town Clerk. They were only a fraction of the salary of other towns in our region. As an example, the town clerk hourly wage works out to \$8.83. Angela said that it was also based on a third party, Hampshire Council of Governments, who collected data from Hampshire and Franklin counties.

Line 33 Town Clerk Elections - Angela explained that the increase is due to the fact that we have more elections this year. The number will vary over the four years.

General Government - Passed by requisite majority.

HOLD - Line 53 Police Officers Mandated Training – Jonathan Foulkes asked if the Police Department actually asked for \$3.00. Angela said that it was a typo and should have been \$8532.92. Moderator Labrie asked for the correct total and percent of the FY2017 Request column and it was \$191,209.04 and 7.21%. Nancy Grove asked how many officers does this cover. Angela said six part time officers.

Public Safety – Passed Unanimously.

Public Works- Passed Unanimously.

Public Health & Sanitation – Passed Unanimously.

HOLD – Line 116 Community Longevity Program – Alan Kirouac asked what this program was. Diane Bushee explained that it is a program that the Select Board has been working on to honor employees that do not get any compensation and have been doing it for more than 10 years. The Board of Selectmen is still working on the details.

Community Services – Passed Unanimously.
Pensions and Insurance – Passed Unanimously.
Debt Service – Passed Unanimously.

Discussion – Diane Bushee asked if we needed to have an account set up before we appropriated the money. Roland Chaffee Town Accountant said that we did not have to.

Capital Stabilization – Passed Unanimously.

Total Budget excluding schools - \$1,244,444.91 **Passes Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 6: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the chief elected officials to apply for Massachusetts Small Cities Programs, or other Federal or State monies, and to expend any monies as received as set forth in the appropriate application.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$39,681.31 from Free Cash to the Highway Vehicle Stabilization Fund.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Highway Vehicle Stabilization Fund the sum of \$39,681.31 to be expended by the Treasurer for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2014 Mack Dump Truck.

Mack Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
	\$37,435.20	\$2,246.11	\$39,681.31

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$8,570.17** from Free Cash to the Police Department Vehicle Stabilization Fund.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Police Department Vehicle Stabilization Fund the sum of **\$8,570.17** to be expended by the Treasurer for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2013 Ford Police vehicle.

Police Cruiser	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
	\$7,928.00	\$642.17	\$8,570.17

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for Community Preservation projects, and other expenses in Fiscal Year 2017, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$5,000

Passed Unanimously.

Reserves:

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$15,000

Discussion: Keith Wright asked someone to explain the Community Preservation annual revenues and what is being done with the money right now. Sandy Papush explained that there is a 3 % surcharge on top of the real estate taxes that we pay. The money has been spent on the following projects: ~\$400,000 on the Town Hall, heating system in the Town Hall, historical documents, playground, 1937 Dodge Fire Truck, cemetery restoration, and Elderly Housing.

Passed Unanimously.

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$15,000

Passed Unanimously

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$15,000

Passed Unanimously

From FY 2017 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$70,000

Passed Unanimously

-SCHOOLS-

Moderator Labrie asked Craig Jurgensen, Superintendent, to introduce the representatives from the school department. Rosemary Larkin, Principal of New Hingham, Roberta Jones, Assistant Business Manager, and Kristen Smidy, Principal of Hampshire Regional.

CHESTERFIELD/GOSHEN REGIONAL SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLE

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will approve the Chesterfield/Goshen Regional School District budget Fiscal Year 2017, and raise and appropriate from available funds \$717,317 to pay its assessed share of that budget.

Discussion: The question that was asked was why the increase. Principal Larkin said that one Special Ed teacher was added and contractual raises. Dawn Scaparotti said that she noted that all of the educational increases were a total 94% of the total appropriation. She also stated that we are limited to 2.5% to comply with proposition 21/2. When increases in budgets go above the limit there has to be decreases elsewhere in the budget. She stated that continued increases of 5 and 6 percent are going to be hard for us to sustain and meet our requirements for the town. The question would be are there any opportunities for reductions. She asked for help from the schools in reducing their budget. She asked if the salary and benefits could be negotiated.

Passed Unanimously

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLE

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will approve the Hampshire Regional School District budget Fiscal Year 2017, and raise and appropriate from available funds \$482,198 to pay its assessed share of that budget.

Passed Unanimously

VOCATIONAL TUITION AND TRANSPORTATION

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$153,018 for Vocational Tuition from available funds to pay its assessed share of that budget.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 15: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,781 for Vocational Transportation from available funds to pay its assessed share of that budget.

Passed Unanimously

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to create the following revolving funds under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2016.

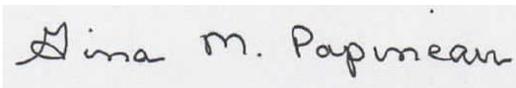
REVOLVING FUND	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund	FY2017 Spending Limit
FRTA Van Account	Administrator of the Fund	Fees and Franklin Regional Transit Authority	Salary for Administrator, Driver Training, Fuel, Salary for Drivers, and one-on-one Drivers @ \$0.55/mile	\$20,000.00
Highland Ambulance Fuel Reimbursement Account	Highway Superintendent	Reimbursement from Highland Ambulance	To pay for the fuel used by the Highland Ambulance	\$12,000.00
Animal Control Revolving Fund	Animal Control Officer/ Town Clerk	Fees specific to dogs	Expense associated with licensing and controlling dogs	\$2,500.00
Board of Appeals Revolving Fund	Zoning Board of Appeals, Chairman	Fees specific to applications	Pay expenses associated with processing of applications	\$6,000.00
Electrical Inspector Revolving Fund	Building Inspector or Building Inspector Clerk	Inspection Fees required under the permit process	Electrical Inspector pay	\$5,000.00

Note: Any amount over the spending limit will be transferred to the General Fund.

Each revolving fund was voted on separately and each one passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gina M. Papineau
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF GOSHEN
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

JOHN JAMES MEMORIAL HALL

Date: June 27, 2016

Town Clerk, Gina M. Papineau, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., a quorum being present (27 registered voters). In the absence of Moderator Robert H. Labrie, nominations were made for the position of Temporary Moderator for the meeting. The name of Stephen M. Estelle was placed in nomination. There were no other nominations, and Steve Estelle was sworn to the position of Temporary Moderator for the meeting by the Town Clerk.

Moderator Estelle called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Moderator informed the gathering that the meeting was being recorded. He also asked if everyone had signed in at the front desk.

Moderator Estelle informed the group that he would be stepping down for Article 5 due to the fact that it is payment to the Assistant Town Clerk with whom he has a relationship.

Moderator Estelle dispensed with the formal reading of the warrant and moved to Article 1.

Article 1: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$7,000 from the Selectmen's Audit Expense to the Audit Stabilization Fund.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Discussion: Alison Bowen asked what the Audit Stabilization Fund was. Angela Otis explained that it was an account used to pay for the audit of the Towns' books and that we tend to put away \$7000 every year to pay for it.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 2: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to act on the reports of the Town officers.

Discussion: Norene Roberts asked if we were going to do what we normally do when we see errors in the Town Reports and let the Town Clerk know so that the vote is subject to the correction of errors. Moderator Estelle asked the Town Clerk if that is what we do and the Town Clerk responded yes.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 3: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$100.00 from Free Cash to the account known as “Bills of Prior Years” for the purpose of payment of a bill from the following account: Town Building Maintenance-FY2015 \$100.00 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Safety Boiler Inspection Program.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 4: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to approve the appropriation, as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), of Community Preservation funds of \$50,000 for the Goshen Senior Housing project. This request is for the construction phase and is contingent upon receipt of sufficient funds from MA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to accomplish the project. CPA funds to come from the CPA Community Housing Fund. After two years from date of appropriation, unless extended for cause by approval of the Goshen Elder Housing Committee and the Community Preservation Committee, unexpended funds shall be returned to the CPA Community Housing Fund.

Such funds to be expended under the direction of Hilltown Community Development Corporation (HCDC) and Goshen Elder Housing Committee.

Discussion: Norene Roberts stated that in 2013 the Town voted to give \$50,000 to the Elderly Housing Committee to pay Laura Baker’s fee and Norene asked if this was an additional \$50,000 to pay Laura Baker’s fees or was it for construction. Dave Christopolis said that this was for construction.

Passed by a requisite majority.

Moderator Estelle had to recuse himself from the meeting at this point. The Article was read by the Town Clerk.

Article 5: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$500.00 from Town Clerk Expense Account to Assistant Town Clerk salary.

Passed by a requisite majority.

Moderator Estelle resumed presiding over the meeting.

Article 6: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$20,000.00 from Winter Highway Salary and Expense to Capital Stabilization Fund.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Discussion: Alison Bowen asked if this was money that was not used this year. Angela Otis answered yes. She explained that due to the fact that this was a mild winter, there was extra money left in the account and we are able to transfer it to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 7: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000.00 from Fuel Account to Capital Stabilization Fund.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Discussion: Keith Wright asked why we are saving money here too. Angela Otis said "mild winter".

Passed Unanimously.

Article 8: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,861.21 from Free Cash now in the Treasury to Fire Department Expense Account to purchase a hot water heater for the Fire Department.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 9: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,585.00 from free cash now in the Treasury to Highway Garage Expense Account to purchase a furnace for the Highway Department.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 10: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$62,841.31 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization fund.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Discussion: Keith Wright asked for an explanation for this article. Dawn Scaparotti explained that every year there is free cash left. There is an effort underway to plan for the town's capital future. The

Capital Plan is for a 20 year period. There will be a meeting in the fall to go over all of the items that are being reviewed. Nothing will be spent out of the fund without the Town's approval at Town Meeting.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 11: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize and approve an agreement for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes ("PILOT") pursuant to M.G.L. c. 59, § 38H(b), and M.G.L. c. 164, § 1, or any other enabling authority, as negotiated by the Board of Selectmen and on file with the Town Clerk, between the Town of Goshen and CEC Solar #1052, LLC, for both real property and personal property associated with a privately owned and operated solar photovoltaic facility to be located on property located at 194 Berkshire Trail East, Goshen, which is owned by Lashway Lumber, Inc., shown as Map 11, Block 0, Lot 2 on the Town of Goshen Assessors' Maps for a term of up to twenty-five (25) years on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems to be in the best interest of the Town, upon mutual agreement to be indicated in writing by the Parties, the agreement may be extended for four (4) five year terms, and to take all actions necessary to implement and administer such agreement.

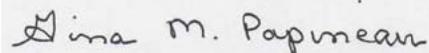
Discussion: Joe Roberts asked what was going on here. Diane Bushee explained that the Assessors negotiated this agreement with the aid of a consultant Roy Bishop. The Assessors negotiated a price of \$15,500.00 a year. The Town will also receive a \$7,500.00 administration fee to cover the cost of the consultant and Town Council fees. The Assessors will be doing all the paperwork for the next 25 years. At the end of the 25 years, the Town and the solar company will negotiate a renewal if both parties agree. Alison Bowen asked where the solar energy is going to go. Diane said that it is going into the grid. David Christopolis asked if the contract could be renegotiated if conditions change in the future.

Tommy Thomas wanted to commend the Boards of Selectmen and Assessors for their work on this project.

Passed Unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:31.

Respectfully submitted,



Gina M. Papineau Town Clerk

**Tax Collector
2016**

Year of Tax	Type of Tax	Outstanding June 30, 2015
2016	Real Estate	\$ 69,559.61
2016	Personal Property	\$ 463.40
2016	Motor Vehicle	\$ 7,728.14
2015	Real Estate	\$ 13,151.79
2015	Personal Property	\$ 461.54
2015	Motor Vehicle	\$ 3,182.04
2014	Real Estate	\$ 3,572.30
2014	Personal Property	\$ 623.31
2014	Motor Vehicle	\$ 895.11
2013	Real Estate	\$ 2,613.43
2013	Personal Property	\$ 281.97
2013	Motor Vehicle	\$ 507.51
2012	Real Estate	\$ 1,997.50
2012	Personal Property	\$ 276.42
2012	Motor Vehicle	\$ 446.04
2011	Real Estate	\$ 1,224.54
2011	Personal Property	\$ 300.24
2011	Motor Vehicle	\$ 604.60
2010	Motor Vehicle	\$ 486.46
2009	Motor Vehicle	\$ 167.91

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Bond

Animal Control Officers
animalcontrol@goshen-ma.us

I was appointed to the position of Animal Control Officer for the Town of Goshen in June of 2014.

Massachusetts state law requires all Animal Control Officers be certified or work under a certified officer. I would like to thank Warren Kirkpatrick of Ashfield for allowing me to work under his certification, and for his assistance in some matters pertaining to the job. Warren has been Ashfield's Animal Control Officer for 31 years and has been certified since the requirement was mandated in 2012.

As a reminder , all dogs 6 month or older must be vaccinated and then licensed by the Town Clerk by March 31st and, according to Goshen Animal Control by laws, if they are not licensed by June 1st a \$25.00 late fee will be due at the time of licensing. This is also Massachusetts state law. Anyone not obtaining a license will be cited and an additional late fee of \$50.00 will be added after 30 days of citation's issue date. Please also note that anyone owning 4 or more dogs must obtain a kennel license; contact me for details. Also, please note that Mass law requires cats over the age of 6 months be vaccinated. In addition, Goshen requires all dogs be retrained if off owner's property. This is also a statewide requirement. Dog owners will be held fully responsible for any damages or injuries caused by their unrestrained dogs.

I, as Animal Control Officer, take these and all other animal regulations very seriously and encourage residence with any complaints or concerns or just general questions to contact me. I will do all I can to address your questions or concerns.

10 citations issued for dog license violation. 1 citation for dog running at large

1 case of cat neglect (resolved). 3 dog bites to a person

4 reports of possible rabies exposure. 2 dog bites to another dog

1 animal (skunk) tested positive for rabies. 2 loose pigs

3 complaints of barking dogs. 1 report of noisy roosters

1 wounded bird 2 missing cats

1 very aggressive cat

Gary Papineau

Animal Control Officer

Animal Inspector

This is my fourth year as Animal Inspector. I had three new places to visit this year. I visited twenty nine places in all. All places were in good conditions and neat.

61 Horses and ponies
265 Chickens
9 Rabbits
13 Llamas
2 Goats
10 Sheep
5 Turkey
6 Boars
44 Feeders

2 Work Horses
46 Water fowl
2 Donkeys
2 Oxen
2 Dairy Animals
9 Beef
40 Breeder pigs
60 Piglets
16 Sows

I would like to thank all of the owners for their cooperation.

Roger A. Culver
Animal Inspector

Board of Assessors

Each year the Assessors 'Office brings change to the Town of Goshen and Fiscal Year 2016 was no different. The Assessor's field work rapidly progressed as spring arrived and lasted straight through the fall. We have completed a full cyclic review of all properties in town which occurs every nine years. Fiscal Year 2017 brought the start of a new cycle for the Board as we begin our preparations for our revaluation year by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The Board visited approximately 153 properties including building permits updates, abatements and our regular inspections. The Board appreciates the warmth, understanding and hospitality that was and is continued to be extended to us by our neighbors when we arrive to measure, list or inspect their homes and other buildings. These state mandated inspections help us to correct any errors or omissions that may exist on the property record cards and maintain a consistency within the town. We strive to maintain our records in the most correct and complete form possible.

The Board of Assessors is not only responsible for all the real property in town; it is also responsible to assess the personal property in the town as well. As always the Board of Assessors must abide by the rules issued and governed by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Each year, just before the tax rate is set, the Board of Selectmen must hold a Classification Hearing that is advertised and open to the public, during which the assessors make a presentation recommending either a split rate or a single rate. Each year we have recommended a single rate. All property in Goshen that is assessed uses the same tax rate whether it is residential, commercial, industrial or personal.

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
<u>Local Expenditures:</u>			
Appropriations	\$2,075,285.75	\$2,100,202.25	\$2,195,932.66
Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$1,494.00	\$2,055.00	\$2,059.00
State & Cherry Sheet Charges	\$11,597.00	\$11,895.00	\$11,897.00
Assessors' Overlay	\$25,430.75	\$34,753.25	\$34,635.66
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$2,113,807.50	\$2,148,905.50	\$2,244,524.32

<u>Estimated Receipts and Available Funds:</u>			
Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$221,444.00	\$229,344.00	\$215,557.00
Local Estimated Receipts	\$183,500.00	\$194,700.00	\$194,700.00
Free Cash	\$162,395.00	\$202,804.00	\$106,134.00
Other Available Funds	\$116,928.11	\$91,250.22	\$134,247.53
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds:	\$684,267.11	\$718,098.22	\$650,638.53
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$2,947,552.86	\$2,978,800.47	\$3,325,025.21
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds	-\$684,928.11	-\$718,098.22	-\$650,638.53
Net Amount to be Raised	\$2,262,624.75	\$2,260,702.25	\$2,674,386.68
Real Property Values	\$2,026,147.44	\$2,047,321.75	\$2,139,722.05
Personal Property Values	\$49,138.31	\$52,880.50	\$56,210.61
Total	\$2,075,285.75	\$2,100,202.25	\$2,195,932.66
Tax Rate	\$14.52	\$14.74	\$15.66
Fiscal Year 2017 Tax Rate is \$15.58 per thousand.			

The Board continues to meet each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:30 PM. You are always welcome to stop in at our meeting or contact us at (413) 268-8236, extension 302; voicemail is available or feel free to email us at assessors@goshen-ma.us. During the summer months of June, July, August and part of September, the Board is out doing regular inspections with the exception of the last Wednesday of the month when we are in the office. Be sure to check our agenda for any changes.

Respectfully submitted:

Cassandra L. Morrey
Gina M. Papineau, MAA
Diane E. Bushee

Building Inspection Department

<u>Town</u>	<u>Total Permits</u>	<u>New Homes</u>	<u>Total Permit Fees Collected</u>
Goshen	59	1	\$22,569.18

The Town of Goshen issued 59 Building Permits in 2016 representing, 1 new house; 1 remodel; 1 addition; 3 garages; 2 decks/porches; 7 roofs; 6 wood stoves; 13 weatherizations; 3 siding; 9 solar installations; 7 miscellaneous repairs and 6 demolitions. In addition to the Building Permits, our office was involved in numerous zoning issues. The number of electrical permits processed in 2016 was 25.

A large number of the permits issued were for energy conservation projects such as insulation and solar collectors, including one very large solar farm.

We want to remind everyone that a permit is required to install wood stoves, pellet stoves, wood boilers or stove inserts. The building department can ensure that the installation is safe and legal. Make sure your installer has a permit and do not use your stove until it has been inspected.

The Building Department is making a concerted effort to close out open permits. We will be contacting owners who have outstanding open permits. Please call our office at 413-268-8236 Ext. 116 if you have an open permit so we may assist you in obtaining the necessary documentation that you are entitled. We can also be reached by email: Inspector@goshen-ma.us

The Building Inspection Department is presently located in the Goshen town offices at 40 Main Street with office hours on Wednesday, 6 - 8pm and Thursday, 10am - 2pm. Residents may call at any time. Permit applications are available at the Goshen town offices.

Thank you to the Select Board and all town departments for their assistance this past year.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert T. Walden, Building Inspector

Capital Planning Committee

Capital Planning Committee Recommended and Appointed

In May of 2015, as a result of a review of the FY 2016 budget cycle, the Finance Committee recommended to the Selectboard that a capital planning process be put in place. The committee proposed that all financial requests, both operating and capital, be presented at the May Annual Town Meeting. This way decisions about trade-offs of limited resources can more comprehensively and transparently be discussed and considered.

In September of 2015 the Selectboard appointed such a committee. The appointments included the department heads with the largest capital needs, a town at-large member, a representative from the Selectboard and one from the Finance Committee. While the Fire Department is among those that have the highest capital needs, the Fire Chief was not able to participate as a member of the committee on an on-going basis due to scheduling conflicts, but she provided Fire Department input and was available to participate in several group reviews and discussions with the committee at key intervals. The Capital Planning committee (CPC) appointments were as follows:

Todd Dewkett	Highway Department Head
Wayne Glaser	Town At-Large Member
Jeff Hewes	Police Chief and Department Head
Angela Otis	Selectboard Representative
Dawn Scaparotti	Finance Committee Representative and chair of capital committee

The work establishing the process and plan was done by this original committee that worked through June of 2016. When Wayne Glaser was elected to the Selectboard in May 2016, it resulted in two of the three Selectboard members serving on the Capital Planning Committee. To avoid any conflicts of interest, or the appearance of any conflicts, the Chair of the Selectboard, Angela Otis, resigned from our committee. She continues to provide input from the Selectboard. Jeff Hughes also resigned at that time, but continues to work with the committee to provide the Police Department needs. The committee was reappointed around September of 2016 with Ann Deres appointed to fill one of the open positions.

Goal of the Committee

The Selectboard requested that the committee develop a capital planning process and comprehensive capital plan for the Town. The goal is to work towards having all financial matters, both operating and capital, presented at the Annual Town Meeting, typically held in May. This way decisions about trade-offs of limited resources can more comprehensively and transparently be discussed and considered. The Finance Committee reviews the work of the Capital Plan and the plan is submitted to the Selectboard for review and discussion of capital purchase prioritization prior to presentation to the Town.

Developing the Plan

The work began in October 2015, with administrative sessions to design a way to capture the information that we would be collecting. Capital is defined as equipment, vehicles, technology, or improvements in excess of \$5,000. It was clear that a thorough review of the town's current assets was essential to help us understand the aging of our assets and to plan for their replacement. We worked with the fixed asset report and department heads to understand the current assets, their useful lives and to identify future anticipated requests.

To help us put together a draft of our capital plan, we asked those departments with capital needs to make their best projections of their needs over the next ten years. The first five years are typically considered most relevant in a capital plan. For planning purposes and to make it easier for the Town going forward, we have extended our information to span a 20+ year period where assets are replaced as necessary.

We also collected information on all major repairs and improvements to buildings etc. The Chapter 90 funded projects (state money for road work) overseen by the Highway Department will be recorded separately from the final capital plan but may be identified as part of this process in the future.

Capital Plan Document

The Capital Plan is a living document that is intended to be updated periodically as new information is available. The document should be reviewed annually. All departments need to ensure their new requests get added to the capital plan each year. The work to date includes a document for capturing the requests and for projecting the financial implications of those requests. There is also a narrative component.

Spreadsheets

There is a summary spreadsheet and one for each of the 7 main departments within the Town, currently as follows: Education, Highway, Fire, Police, Public Health, Information Technology, and Town Buildings. Assumptions were made about capital costs, inflation factors, borrowing rates, useful asset life, amortization schedules. These combine to show the current year impact and all future year impacts of every purchase.

The spreadsheet presented at the October 11, 2016 Special Town Meeting focused primarily on the FY 2017 items submitted for approval on the Warrant. It also included those capital requests submitted but not yet approved for the remaining 4 year period, 2018 - 2021. All the items in 2018 - 2021 will be further reviewed.

Capital Plan Narratives

The narratives are designed to provide information that might be helpful when projecting, evaluating, and approving the capital needs of each department. For

example, the narratives will provide general information on how the departments operate and use their capital assets, such as facilities, vehicles and equipment and their annual operating budgets.

Review of Capital Asset Requests

The purpose of developing a Capital plan is to provide a way to put each request in perspective relative to the other needs of the Town. It allows us to evaluate all of the Town's needs over a period of time and show the financial impact of the various purchases. It should allow us to evaluate tradeoffs and anticipate the timing of purchases and plan for large purchases.

There was a general discussion about the basis of our prioritizations of the requested capital items. We discussed the concept of frequency of use as a delineator. The difficulty is that while some items may be limited to 6 – 12 times per year, they are often needed and critical at the time of use. There is no perfect way and we must prioritize as the Town has limited resources. The department heads got together to provide their best information and to work with one another to make their best case for where their needs fall in the hierarchy.

Capital Stabilization Fund

In the past, capital requests came to the Selectboard periodically and were evaluated one at a time and warrant articles were developed to go to the floor of the next town meeting. If money was available, the purchases were authorized. Funds were set aside in stabilization accounts for each department but there was no overall planning for the Town's needs.

The goal is to be able to budget each year for a contribution to one consolidated capital stabilization fund. There will be a budget line item included in each annual budget to reserve for the capital plan. Until the fund is built up sufficiently to cover the 5 year capital plan, contributions from Free Cash will be necessary. Such a transfer is voted on via warrant articles at Town Meeting. If the purchases are more than what is in the capital stabilization fund at the time, the funds would be requested from the General Stabilization Account.

There was a lengthy discussion about the creation of a single Capital Stabilization Account and how it would work with the stabilization accounts already established for each department.

It was agreed that eventually one account will be used to fund the purchases and financing of all future capital items for the Town. Any items drawn from this fund will be for items on the Town's capital planning document. This document is a living document intended to be updated annually as part of the annual budgeting process. No money would be released from these funds without a Town vote. The Town would still vote on each discreet item to be paid out of this fund every year via warrant article at the annual May and June Town Meetings.

During the course of our meetings it was agreed that we would not put *any more* money into any of the Fire, Highway or Police stabilization accounts and that the

current stabilization accounts for the Police and Highway departments would be consolidated into a new Capital Stabilization Account. Eventually this would be the only stabilization account used to fund all capital purchases approved by the Town.

On an interim basis, the Fire Department stabilization account *would not be* consolidated into the new capital stabilization account but *no more funds* would be contributed to the Fire Department Account. The fire stabilization account has the most money in it to date. In that the case had already been made to the town to reserve funds for required future Fire Department purchases, those funds will remain isolated. We will use the Fire Department Stabilization balances only for Fire Department purchases. All Fire Department purchases will be drawn from the Fire Department Stabilization fund first; once depleted, funds will be taken from the Capital Stabilization account.

Transfers to accomplish the consolidation of the funds as outlined above and to establish the capital stabilization fund were presented and approved via Town vote on warrant articles submitted in October 2016 meeting

We want to thank everyone who participated and continues to participate in this process for their time and invaluable input to the Capital Plan. A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers on the committee, who each have other roles in the town. In addition to the committee members, the following people were also consulted for their input at various times. Alan Kidston, Treasurer; Roland Chaffee, Accountant; Gina Papineau, Assistant to the Assessor (and Town Clerk), Diane Bushee, Assessor (and Selectboard member) Chet Lulek, who covered the transfer station needs; Ron Loven who outlined the building repairs; Roger Culver the cemetery improvements and Melissa Papillon who has helped schedule and post the meetings.

A special acknowledgement and thank you to Wayne Glaser. Beyond reviewing all the information and participating in the committee meetings, he invested hundreds of hours developing all the spreadsheets with complex formulas that capture and calculate the intricate financial data. We acknowledge that his time, commitment and expertise have been invaluable in this process.

The work continues. There is an open position on the committee and an opportunity to contribute to your town. Please contact the chair if you are interested. dawnsaparotti@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Scaparotti
Capital Planning Committee Chair

Cemetery Report

The cemetery closed on December 1st and reopened May 1st. It was a very easy winter which made it easy for spring clean-up. A small section of stone wall fell down so I needed to repair that. I repaired and painted the fence.

I sold 9 lots this year.

There was 1 full burial and 2 cremations.

I put in 5 headstones.

We are investigating the lot on the corner of Cape Street and Dresser Hill which the town owns. It's a possibility that it could be big enough for 80 to 100 lots, if and when the town needs to expand the cemetery.

I would like to thank the Morrey family for the mowing and cleaning up of the fall leaves. Cleaning up the leaves in the fall makes it easy to get started in the spring.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger A. Culver

Goshen Community Preservation Committee

Goshen voters approved the Community Preservation Act (CPA) at the May 2007 Town Election with a 3% surcharge on real estate taxes and an exemption for those who qualify for low-income housing or low or moderate income senior housing. Communities that adopt the CPA in Massachusetts are eligible to receive up to 100% matching funds from the Community Preservation Fund, an independent state trust fund.

The duties of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) are to study the needs, possibilities and resources of the Town regarding community preservation. The CPC reviews applications and makes recommendations to Town Meeting for project funding.

In November 2016, Goshen received 100% matching state funds of \$63,605.

Goshen has received 100% state matching funds every year since CPA was approved in 2007.

At Special Town Meeting in June, CPC recommended funding \$50,000 for the construction phase of elder housing project which passed unanimously. At Special Town Meeting in February, CPC recommended funding \$63,000 for additional town hall exterior envelope rehabilitation which passed unanimously.

The CPC is a seven member committee, made up of one member from each of the following boards and commissions:

Don Boisvert	Affordable Housing Representative
Alison Bowen	Open Space Committee
Bob Labrie	Historical Commission
Lisa Newman	Planning Board
Sandra Papush	Conservation Commission
Shannon Wade	Recreation Committee
Open	Member at Large

CPC meets at Town Offices on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm; the public is always welcome. There is an opening for a Member at Large.
Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Papush, Chair

Goshen Conservation Commission

The Goshen Conservation Commission administers the regulations for wetland resource areas covered under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The Conservation Commission signs off on all building / demolition permit applications to make sure that there are no wetland issues. A site visit is scheduled prior to signing the application, so it is important to allow time for this. If wetlands are involved in a project, a filing is often required and a public meeting / hearing is held.

The Conservation Commission meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6pm at Town Offices. Site visits are usually scheduled at these meetings. We encourage prospective applicants to allow adequate time to complete the necessary paperwork, schedule a site visit and have their project reviewed at a regularly scheduled meeting. If there are any questions about wetland resource areas or any information is needed, please contact us or come to a meeting.

Conservation Commission is a five member board. Members, with one opening, are:

Sandra Papush
Charles Amo
James Heroux
Lloyd Ewing

I have resigned as Chair effective 12/31/2016. Charles Amo has agreed to serve as Chair beginning 1/1/2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Papush, Chair

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging is funded by grants from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Highland Valley Elder Services and the town of Goshen. We are allowed to use the town office space, utilities and the copier. We also use the Town Hall for luncheons and activities upon prior request. We provide our own paper which we use for grant writing, correspondence and reports. We send out birthday cards and condolences to everyone over 60. We collaborate with the Northern Hilltowns COAs Consortium to send out newsletters to everyone over 60. We have volunteers who give medical rides. We have a contract with FRTA for van service. The van is for all the hilltowns. We have a foot clinic on the fourth Tuesday of every month for all hilltown seniors. We have 3 paid staff –coordinator, newsletter editor/clerk and a special needs agent.

This year has seen a lot of change. We could not meet at the Town Hall while it was being renovated, we expanded our activities and programs, and our luncheons menus have changed.

We were fortunate to meet at alternative sites. We met at the Congregational Church in April and October. We had picnics at the Tilton ball field in June, August and September. We had a brunch at Rose Clark's in July. We also had a treat at Brewmaster's Tavern in May. The board assumed the preparation and cost of most of the meals. We think this increased the attendance at our lunches. Alan Carr donated his time and prepared an Italian dinner for us in April at the church. We funded an art class in June. It was well attended –19 students in all. This activity was intergenerational. Some folks were younger, and the group also included people from other communities. We learned painting with watercolors. We also sponsored a concert in April with a grant from the Cultural Council: Old Country Road (vintage country music), which was well attended. About 80 people, young and old, came to see them from many towns in Western Mass.

Along with Chesterfield, through a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services, we had a muscle strengthening class that ran for 12 weeks. We started with about 20 participants from Goshen and a few from Plainfield, Westhampton and Williamsburg, but lost a few along the way before it ended. Joan Griswold from Goshen was our instructor. She gave us exercises to do at home. We started at the Ambulance building and moved to the Town Hall when it reopened.

We had 6 trips by van to various places in Western Mass. 6 –9 people got together to go to the Beneski Museum, the Smith College bulb show, the chocolate kitchen, the Bridge of Flowers and Kringle Candle. We always ate out as well to everyone's delight.

We had 10 board meetings. Sandy Papush acted as chair for the first half of the year and Henrietta Munroe the second half. Evelyn Culver was our secretary. The others were Nancy Grove, Kathy Boisvert and Liz

Loven. We participated in 9 Consortium board meetings. We took part in a fair in October to introduce the members of 6 communities to a new program for Community Credits. Participants would earn credits by doing tasks for others then use the credits to get help with their own needs.

We congratulated members over 90 with gift certificates for groceries at our annual picnic and we thanked all who supported us. We thank the Cultural Council for their support.

On July 14, 2016, we lost a very prominent member of the COA.

Marguerite Webb passed away at Linda Manor in Leeds at the age of 97. She was a founding member of the Goshen Council on Aging and instrumental in obtaining the funding for our town from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which had just been open to seniors. Our first grant of \$700 was approved in 1988.

We consider ourselves very lucky to have had her leadership for so many years. With a small committee of three, she began blood pressure and flu clinics in collaboration with the Worthington Health Center. She prepared meals for the luncheons at her own home then brought them to the town hall. The meals were served downstairs at the time because the upstairs dining room was being used as a classroom. Crowds of 40 – 45 were not unusual then. Her meals were very popular.

She was widowed in her 40s and persevered in raising four children alone. She taught 4-H cooking classes when her children were young. Then later on she started the school lunch program at the Goshen Center School. Her work history included Len's Fine Foods, Rockridge Retirement Home, the Williamsburg Market and Smith College, from which she retired at age 75.

Marguerite had a beautiful voice and sang in the COA Hilltown Chorus for years. She was also coordinator for the HEN program. She was a member of the Handicap Accessibility Committee, which was responsible for installing the elevator. She volunteered as an EMT for several years. There have not been many like her. We greatly appreciate all that she did for our town and miss her dearly.

Respectfully submitted by

Rose Clark

Goshen Cultural Council

The Massachusetts Cultural Council is a state agency which receives annual appropriations from the State Legislature and the Natural Endowment for the Arts. These appropriations are then passed on to the local Cultural Councils to be used in “promoting excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences.” In the 2015-2016 grant cycle, the Goshen Cultural Council was awarded \$4,300. With several grants from the previous year not being utilized, the total amount for granting was \$5,535.

Twenty six applications were received and 20 of those applications were partially or fully funded. Town affiliated groups chosen for funding were: Goshen Town Library (Dinosaurs in the Connecticut River Valley and The Almost Lost Art of Letter Writing); Goshen Historical Society (Geological History of Goshen and Vicinity); Goshen Council on Aging (Old Country Road –Vintage Country Music); Hampshire Regional High School (Otha Day- Drum to the Beat, Spring Musical Performance); New Hingham Regional Elementary School (Nature’s Classroom, Brett Oochcunis –How To Make a Mistake).

In-town applicants receiving grants were: Lynn Paterson (East Meets West Concert); Melanie Dana (Youth Concert Series).

Reaching out to the neighboring hilltowns, grants were awarded to the Chesterfield 4th of July Parade; David Perkins (Kaiuani Lee-A Sense of Wonder); Hilltown Choral Society (Winter Choral Performances); Plainfield Congregational Church (Concerts at 7); Bonnie’s Program (Tanglewood Marionettes); Ashfield Community Theater (Spring Play); Hilltown Families; Maureen Shea (Grasshoppas in the Park before Dark); Christina Gabriel (Folk Dance Group); Fran Ryan (Winter Bears).

We invite you to visit two Massachusetts Cultural Council websites:
massculturalcouncil.org offers updates, events listings, available services
mass-culture.org offers applicants assistance in applying for grants.

Respectfully submitted,

Goshen Cultural Council

Kathy Boisvert, Alison Bowen, Kristen Estelle, Jonathan Foulkes and Henrietta Munroe

Elder Housing Committee

In the Spring of 2010, the Goshen Select board appointed an Elder Housing Committee to start the process of examining the possibilities of providing “affordable” housing to seniors in Goshen. The Board appointed Rochelle Nahmias, Maureen Krok, Henrietta Munroe, William O’Riordan, and Don Boisvert to this committee. Given that the Hilltown Community Development Corporation (HCDC) has considerable experience in developing senior housing in our hilltowns, the committee chose to collaborate with HCDC in this endeavor. In May of 2011, HCDC received a \$50,000 HUD grant to explore the need for senior housing in Goshen. The results of the study in 2012 concluded that Goshen has a need for ten to twelve units for its seniors.

Based upon a recommendation by the towns Community Preservation ACT (CPA) committee, in June of 2013, the town’s annual meeting approved an \$80,000 grant to the HCDC for the purposes of continuing work towards establishing elder housing in Goshen.

In July 2014, HCDC and the committee agreed upon the site of the existing parsonage to the Congregational Church as an ideal location. In October 2014, two successful percolation tests were successfully completed and HCDC in behalf of the committee made an offer to purchase the property from the Congregational Church. The Church membership made a counter-offer which was accepted by the committee and HCDC.

Representatives of the Committee and/or representatives of HCDC made outreach contacts with the Goshen Council on Aging, the Goshen Conservation Commission, the Select board, the Goshen Women’s club, the Goshen Historical Commission and the Goshen Historical Society regarding our plans to site a senior housing complex on the parsonage lot.

In February of 2015, a final option to purchase was completed with a 12 month term plus a 6 month possible extension at the buyer’s discretion. Following agreement, boundary and topographical surveys were completed. Meetings with the project architect, the engineer and the landscape architect occurred to develop preliminary drawings. An environment site assessment was completed with the determination that there are no environmental issues or hazards identified.

In the summer of 2015, the committee and a representative of HCDC met with the zoning board of appeals to pursue waivers as a result of seeking to implement multiple units on a non-conforming lot. The ZBA subsequently granted the necessary waivers. Now, HCDC, in behalf of the Committee was ready to pursue funding agents for the project.

Based upon a recommendation by the towns Community Preservation Act (CPA) committee, in June of 2015, the town's annual meeting approved an additional \$50,000 grant to the HCDC for the purposes of actual construction of elder housing units.

HCDC, in behalf of the committee, submitted proposals to multiple federal and state funding sources with the hope and expectation that they would fully fund this endeavor.

At the close of the fiscal year, HCDC and the committee were anxiously waiting to hear regarding funding requests.

Respectfully Submitted
The Goshen Elder Housing Committee

Maureen Krok
Henrietta Munroe
Rochelle Nahmias
William O'Riordan
Don Boisvert

Office of Emergency Management

For several years, Goshen has used an emergency notification system to notify residents via telephone (landline or cell), email, or text of important information during an emergency. In 2016, we changed vendors based on cost and features. The new system, *CodeRED*, allows us to better tailor where and to whom notifications go. It is important that we have up-to-date information on how to contact you. This includes phone numbers, email addresses, and your physical address. This information may be managed directly by you by going to the Town's website, clicking on the *CodeRED* icon and following the directions that appear. If you have questions concerning the system, please contact Melissa Papillon, the Select Board Administrative Assistant or me.

This year we completed the 5-year review of Goshen's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan looks at the risks Goshen faces, how likely they are to happen, and what we can do to lessen their impact on the Town. These risks include ice and snowstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, high winds, etc. The plan was approved at both the state and federal level and makes Goshen eligible to receive federal hazard mitigation grants. Thank you to Sue Labrie, Roger Culver, Todd Dewkett, Scott Bisbee, and Noreen Roberts for their assistance.

Regular activities continue even with the disasters and the paperwork that goes with them. These include writing and updating local emergency response plans and working with our regional partners to develop and exercise multi-town and multi-discipline response plans. These partners include the Hampshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee (HREPC), the Medical Reserve Corps of Hampshire County (MRC), the Hampshire Emergency Animal Response Team (HEART), the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition, the American Red Cross, the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council, and others.

It is important to remember that disasters may strike at any time and you should be prepared to take action when they do. In school, we teach children what to do if a fire strikes based on a plan that they make. Does your family have a plan? Do you practice it? Everyone should prepare for an emergency, large or small, by making a family emergency plan that includes a "Go-Kit" containing items such as food, clothing, medications, copies of important documents, pet supplies, etc. Please contact me if you would like more information about creating a family emergency plan or a "Go-Kit".

Finally, during a large-scale emergency such as a hurricane or ice storm we open up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at the Town Hall. The EOC may be opened 24/7 for the duration of the immediate emergency but in order to do this, we need a trained group of people. The work involves tracking of incidents, record keeping, monitoring the situation, public information and assisting in finding needed resources. The work is not hard or dangerous but it can be critical especially when federal funds become available like what happened with Tropical Storm Irene or the Halloween Snowstorm. If you would be interested in helping the Town by becoming part of the EOC Team or want more information, please contact me at Lholmberg@crocker.com or by calling 413-296-4247.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Holmberg

Emergency Management Director

Finance Committee

BACKGROUND

The primary function of the Finance Committee is to coordinate the annual budget process, evaluate departmental budgets (including town committees, boards, schools, etc.) and submit a balanced budget to Town Meeting. The Finance Committee asks questions about the details behind the numbers requested by the schools and departments. This is to ensure we understand the types of expenses being requested so that we know what is discretionary and what is absolutely necessary. Often there are tradeoffs to be made within the department and between departments. Knowing the details helps in the process as well as documents the information in the event of department or committee turnover. This is also important as it relates to capital expenditures (i.e., buying or replacing equipment, vehicles and major repairs).

Concurrent with reviewing the budget requests, the finance committee receives financial data from other sources, (the Town Accountant, Board of Assessors, Town Clerk, the Commonwealth) that include such things as current year expenditures, revenues, stabilization account balances and estimates of the upcoming years local, state and county revenues and charges, new assessment growth and abatements, town census numbers. This information is needed to analyze the budget and assess whether or not the submitted budget requests fall within Proposition 2½ requirements. If not, the committee would need to recommend reductions to the budget, or use of the town's various stabilization reserves, or a tax override.

When all the budget requests and tax levy information have been reviewed, the committee prepares a budget proposal to submit to the select board for further analysis and discussion. Often the Board of Assessors and Town Clerk are involved as they are responsible for providing key numbers in the tax levy calculation and submitting it to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The final step in budget preparation is to submit the budget to the town at the annual town meeting in May. This is where appropriations are presented, discussed and perhaps amended.

Later in the fiscal year, the committee may receive requests for "extraordinary or unforeseen" financial needs from some departments. This sometimes happens when an unexpected expense occurs that will cost more than the amount remaining in the department's account and needs to be covered by the Town's: "reserve fund," which the finance committee oversees.

After the fiscal year ends (June 30th), the funds that have not been spent are returned to the town's coffers. After certification by the state (which is a detailed and complicated calculation), this "excess" money becomes "free

cash,” which becomes available for the next fiscal year. These funds can be used to offset expenses not covered by tax appropriations or returned to one of the several stabilization accounts.

FY 2016 ACTIVITY

The finance committee worked with town personnel, including the select board and assessors to submit a balanced budget for FY 2017 to Town Meeting. Information was prepared to support warrant articles presented at the meetings in May, June and October 2016. A copy of the final FY 2017 budget is included with this report. There were difficult trade-offs to be made in order to ensure we remained within the limitations required by Proposition 2½, which requires that the town may not increase its budget more than 2½ percent of the prior year’s tax levy plus and minus various adjustments. To live within these requirements we were unable to provide salary increases to town employees, though we did include salary adjustments to 2 critical positions to bring them more in line with the market. We were unable to meet all the requests within the town highway department or to meet all town tree warden requests. Of equal concern is that we were not able to budget anything for critical contributions to our capital fund. There is a growing strain on our budget when any line code increases more than 2 ½ %, especially if they do so consistently, and especially if there are limited increases in new growth in the town. Unfunded state mandates continue to stress our budgets. These mandates have the largest impact on education expenses and often to safety spending. As with other municipalities, increases in school contracted salary and benefits, increases in health benefits costs for town employees, catch up in county retirement funding, and new costs associated with a new facility for the ambulance added to the budget pressures for our town.

Beyond its primary budget development focus, the Finance Committee participated in a number of activities with financial implications this year. The following are several important observations or recommendations that we made as part of our review and participation in these activities:

- Each month every department manager should review a copy of the monthly expenditure and revenue report. The most current report is posted on the bulletin board in the town offices. It is an important monthly tool to help departments track and manage their spending as it details actual expenditures to date, compares them to budget and shows remaining funds available to spend.
- A thorough review of the town’s current assets and projected capital needs over the next several years is necessary. This will help us to understand the aging of our assets and to plan for their maintenance and replacement. A capital planning team was appointed by the Selectboard in May of 2015. It consists of 5 members, the head of the highway department, Todd

Dewkett; the chief of police, Jeffrey Hughes; a select board member, Angela Otis; a Finance Committee representative, Dawn Scaparotti and an at-large member, Wayne Glaser. This critical responsibility is underway and details will be presented each year at the May and June town meetings. There will be a budget line item included in each annual budget to fund the capital plan. More detailed information is available in the Capital Planning Section of this Town Report.

- A comprehensive review of town salaries is underway. It is needed to align salaries paid to town officials to reasonable and customary wages for a town of our size and given the responsibilities of each position. This will help us keep and attract the best possible people to these positions. Further there are many responsibilities performed by the Finance Committee, Select board and others that are typically handled in other municipalities by a town administrator. This is an area of concern for 2 reasons. First, since the make-up of these committees vary over time with availability and town elections, the skills and/or the time do not always exist on these committees to reliably provide these services. Secondly, from a fiscal perspective, we are not capturing what it truly costs to run our town. With the increasing complexities of projects and financial implications, it is in our Town's best interest to address this shortfall.

- A complex project is underway to bring broadband to over 40 unserved and underserved communities in Western Massachusetts, including Goshen. This project has taken tumultuous turns during this year. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has ultimate oversight of the project for the Commonwealth. Wired West has been the organization originally leading the effort representing the towns. As initially conceived, about one third of the cost to build a network that serves our town will be funded through the State, with two thirds required to come from Goshen. We are working closely with the Broadband committee to understand the financial implications to our town.

- In a January 2015 meeting with the Selectboard, the Finance committee highlighted some very important follow-up items necessary as a result of the external audit of FY 2013 financial results. Financial audits are conducted every two years. By January 2017, when the Select board reviewed the FY 2015 audit with the Finance Committee and others, many of the previous issues were addressed and the Select board is working with appropriate departments on any necessary follow-up.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all the department heads and staff with whom we worked for investing the time to meet with us, answering our questions and providing the additional detail we requested. It is clear that they have a keen sense of the town's financial limitations and work diligently

to try to manage within tight financial constraints. They have a thorough understanding of their department's needs and submit requests that reflect their best estimates of what is needed to carry out the town's operations.

We want to issue a special thank you to Nancy Grove, Pearl Judd and Henrietta Munroe, who all resigned their positions on the Finance Committee since our last report. Henrietta resigned in November of 2015 to serve her other Goshen committees and volunteer activities and spend time with her ailing and lovely daughter. Nancy Grove and Pearl Judd, who both resigned in October of 2016, started a new chapter in their lives outside of Goshen. Their dedication and life-long service to the Town are acknowledged and appreciated.

We continue to look for volunteers with financial and computer skills who can serve on this critical committee for the town.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Scaparotti, chair

The current Finance Committee includes:

Kristin Bissell - since Nov 2016

Ann Deres - since Dec 2015

Angela Otis - since October 2014

Dawn Scaparotti - since October 2014

	FY 2015 Appropriations	FY 2016 Appropriations	FY 2017 Requests	FY 2017 Recommendation
General Government				
Moderator Salary	153.00	158.00	158.00	158.00
Selectboard Salary	6,491.00	6,686.00	6,686.00	6,686.00
Administrative Assistant Salary	20,157.00	20,762.00	20,762.45	20,762.45
Selectboard's Expense	8,000.00	8,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Selectboard's Audit Expense	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Town Legal Expense	10,000.00	25,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Finance Committee Expense	200.00	200.00	400.00	400.00
Accountant Assessment	16,000.00	16,400.00	16,800.00	16,800.00
Accountant Expense	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,097.70	3,097.70
Assessors' Salary	6,244.00	6,431.00	6,431.00	6,431.00
Assistant Assessor Salary	15,914.00	16,391.00	16,391.00	16,391.00
Assessor's Clerk Salary	2,706.00	2,787.00	2,787.00	2,787.00
Assessors Expense	7,900.00	8,100.00	8,100.00	8,100.00
Assessor Consultant	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Treasurer Salary	9,261.00	9,539.00	15,140.00	14,500.00
Asst. Treasurer Salary	1,020.00	1,051.00	1,800.00	1,051.00
Treasurer Expense	4,900.00	7,162.00	5,535.00	5,535.00
Tax Possession Expense	4,000.00	4,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Town Collector Salary	11,139.00	10,445.00	10,445.00	10,445.00
Asst. Tax Collector salary	1,020.00	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,080.00
Tax Collector Expense	10,800.00	11,100.00	11,100.00	11,100.00
Tax Title Expense	1,000.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Town Clerk Salary	6,689.00	6,890.00	6,890.00	11,000.00
Asst. Town Clerk Salary	1,020.00	1,051.00	1,051.00	1,051.00
Town Clerk Expense	6,000.00	4,581.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Clerk Elections	in town clk expense	1,475.00	6,400.00	6,400.00
Registrar of Voters	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Conservation Comm. Expense	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
Planning Board Expense	700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00
Appeals Board Sec. Salary	100.00	103.00	103.00	103.00
Appeals Board Expense	1,000.00	600.00	0.00	0.00
Town Building Janitor Salary	11,177.00	12,360.00	12,730.00	12,730.00
Town Building Maintenance Exp.	42,500.00	50,704.00	60,640.00	59,640.00
Town Office IT Expense	11,000.00	17,650.00	17,650.00	17,650.00
Pioneer Valley Assessment	159.00	159.00	162.05	162.05

Hampshire Council of Governments	503.00	503.00	502.97	502.97
Reserve Fund	26,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Total Government As a % of Appropriations	258,803.00	299,318.00	314,792.17	316,513.17
	10.45%	11.70%	11.88%	12.09%

Public Safety

Police Chief Salary	6,069.00	6,251.00	6,251.00	6,251.00
Police Officers Wages	38,968.00	40,137.00	40,137.00	40,137.00
Police Secretary Salary	2,713.00	2,794.00	2,794.00	2,794.00
Police Department Expense	15,900.00	16,945.00	19,698.12	18,272.90
Police Officers Mandated Training		0.00	8,532.92	8,532.92
Hampshire Sheriff's Assessment	1,001.00	1,001.00	1,001.00	1,001.00
Constable Salary	200.00	206.00	206.00	206.00
Fire Chief Salary	7,034.00	7,245.00	7,245.00	7,245.00
Fire Department Expense	36,500.00	39,315.00	39,315.00	39,315.00
Volunteer Firefighters Incentives	9,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Emergency Mang. Director Salary	2,060.00	2,122.00	2,122.00	2,122.00
Emergency Management Exp	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
Emergency Operations Center Exp.	700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00
Highland Ambulance Assessment	25,162.00	30,502.00	35,206.00	35,206.00
Building Inspector Salary	8,000.00	8,240.00	8,240.00	8,240.00
Building Insp. Secretary Salary	3,850.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Building Inspector Expense	1,500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Electrical Inspector Fees	1,700.00	1,700.00	0.00	0.00
Plumbing & Gas Inspector Salary	1,230.00	1,267.00	1,267.00	1,267.00
Plumbing & Gas Insp. Expense	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Animal Control Officer Salary	2,373.00	2,444.00	2,444.00	2,444.00
Animal Control Expense	1,000.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Total Public Safety As a % of Appropriations	165,510.00	176,919.00	191,209.04	189,783.82
	6.69%	6.91%	7.21%	7.25%

Public Works

Highway Salaries	143,189.00	147,485.00	156,172.00	147,485.00
Equipment Repair	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Fuel Expense	34,000.00	34,000.00	34,000.00	34,000.00
Town Garage Expense	13,250.00	13,250.00	13,250.00	13,250.00
General Highway Expense	93,700.00	83,700.00	83,700.00	83,700.00
Highway Road Improvement	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Winter Highway Salary & Expense	47,100.00	47,600.00	47,600.00	47,600.00

Cemetery Superintendent Salary	902.00	902.00	902.00	902.00
Town Property Mowing	13,500.00	13,550.00	13,000.00	13,000.00
Tree Warden	3,150.00	3,750.00	7,650.00	4,750.00
Street Lights	3,300.00	4,356.00	4,356.00	4,356.00
Water Specialist	500.00	500.00	500.00	300.00
Municipal Lighting Plant	695.00	695.00	695.00	0.00
Wired West Assessment		700.00	700.00	300.00
Total Public Works	413,286.00	410,488.00	422,525.00	409,643.00
As a % of Appropriations	16.69%	16.04%	15.94%	15.65%

Public Health & Sanitation				
PH Animal Inspector Salary	574.00	591.00	591.00	591.00
PH Animal Inspector Expense	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00
Public Health Committee Salary	3,226.00	3,323.00	3,323.00	3,323.00
Public Health Expense	956.00	956.00	956.00	956.00
PH Transfer Station Salary	7,622.00	7,851.00	8,987.72	8,987.72
Hilltown Resource Mange. Coop.	2,398.00	2,398.00	4,125.14	4,125.14
Hilltown Resource Waste Pick-Up	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
PH Waste Disposal Expense	29,400.00	29,400.00	29,400.00	29,400.00
Public Health Agent Assessment	10,196.00	10,196.00	10,196.00	10,196.00
Total Public Health & Sanitations		55,952.00	56,295.00	59,158.86
As a % of Appropriations	2.26%	2.20%	2.23%	59,158.86 2.26%

Community Services				
Council on Aging Salaries	956.00	985.00	985.00	985.00
Council on Aging Expense	1,519.00	1,519.00	1,519.00	1,519.00
Veterans' Agent Assessment	3,899.00	4,012.00	4,317.06	4,317.06
Veterans' Expense	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Veterans' Services	42,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Library Expense	5,430.00	6,909.27	7,400.00	7,400.00
Recreation Commission Expense	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Historical Commission Expense	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Open Space Comm. Expense	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Committee Longevity Program			500.00	500.00
Total Community Services	62,629.00	52,250.27	53,546.06	53,546.06
As a % of Appropriations	2.53%	2.04%	2.02%	2.05%

Pensions and Insurance

County Retirement	51,998.00	54,132.00	60,383.00	60,383.00
Group Life Insurance-Town Share	200.00	200.00	380.00	380.00
Health Insurance-Town Share	31,000.00	23,320.00	23,320.00	23,320.00
Workers Compensation	5,700.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00
Unemployment Compensation	500.00	550.00	550.00	550.00
Medicare Tax - Town Share	5,400.00	5,800.00	6,820.00	6,820.00
General Insurance	41,500.00	43,068.00	44,068.00	44,068.00
Total Pensions and Insurance	136,298.00	133,670.00	142,121.00	142,121.00
As a % of Appropriations	5.51%	5.22%	5.36%	5.43%

Education				
Goshen/Ches. Reg. Assessment	648,426.00	681,845.00	717,317.00	717,317.00
Hampshire Regional Assessment	409,814.00	455,354.00	482,198.00	482,198.00
Vocational Tuition	177,000.00	144,000.00	153,018.00	153,018.00
Vocational Transportation	37,264.00	37,264.00	37,781.00	37,781.00
Education	1,272,504.00	1,318,463.00	1,390,314.00	1,390,314.00
As a % of Appropriations	51.40%	51.53%	52.46%	53.11%

Debt Service				
New Hingham Reg School Debt Svc	75,908.00	77,258.00	24,942.00	24,942.00
HRHS Renovation Debt Service	31,853.00	29,991.00	28,842.00	28,842.00
Short Term Interest	2,800.00	3,855.00	2,895.00	2,895.00
Debt Service Total	110,561.00	111,104.00	56,679.00	56,679.00
As a % of Appropriations	4.47%	4.34%	2.14%	2.17%

Total Education including Debt	1,380,265.00	1,425,712.00	1,444,098.00	1,444,098.00
As a % of appropriation	55.76%	55.72%	54.49%	55.17%

Capital stabilization			20,000.00	0.00
As a % of Appropriations			0.75%	0.00%

Funded through Taxes:

Appropriations Before Town Amendments	2,475,543.00	2,558,507.27	2,650,345.13	2,617,758.91
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Amendments from Town Meeting

Police Cruiser 2013-Principal	7,928.00	7,928.00	7,928.00	7,928.00
Highway 2014 Mack Truck Principal	37,435.20	37,435.20	37,435.20	37,435.20
Police cruiser 2013-Interest	1,070.30	856.22	642.17	642.17

Highway 2014 Mack Truck Interest	3,743.52	2,994.82	2,246.11	2,246.11
Total Amendments	50,177.02	49,214.24	48,251.48	48,251.48

Grand Total Appropriations & Amendments	2,525,720.02	2,607,721.51	2,698,596.61	2,666,010.39
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Salaries to Provide Town Services	369,657.00	380,677.00	349,621.17	343,655.17
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Calculation to ensure the appropriations are within the Levy Limit:

Total Appropriations Before Town Amendments

Less:

Debt Exclusions		56,679.00	56,679.00
New Hingham FY 17		24,942.00	24,942.00
HRHS Renovation FY 17		28,842.00	28,842.00
Cherry Sheet receipts		215,557.00	215,557.00
Local Receipts		194,700.00	194,700.00
		464,041.00	464,041.00



Goshen Fire Department

Once again, this was a year of little change to our roster. We added one new Firefighter, Collin Cichy, and gained three Junior Firefighters: Adrien Neveu, Will Bissell, and Amity Messick. The Department continually needs to add members to the roster to maintain coverage and we are always ready to welcome those willing to give it a try.

The Goshen Fire Department (GFD) is continually training in preparation for the next call. Our personnel are not only trained for firefighting, but also for many types of rescue situations, medical calls, hazardous materials recognition, and traffic control. The GFD was dispatched to a variety of situations in 2016 utilizing much of our training and equipment. Department members never know what the call may be, but devote hours to training in order to be prepared. In all, the Department responded to 111 emergency calls throughout the year, three more than 2015. The call breakdown was as follows:

- 81 Medical
 - 7 Motor Vehicle Collisions (1 involved mutual aid for extrication in Ashfield)
 - 6 Hazardous Conditions including wires and/or trees down
 - 5 Detectors Sounding (Smoke and/or Carbon Monoxide)
 - 5 Box Alarms (structure fires) - one chimney fire in Goshen, the rest were mutual aid -2 in Chesterfield, 1 in Williamsburg, and 1 in Ashfield
 - Brush Fires / Illegal burns
 - 1 Rescue
 - 1 Cooking Fire
 - 1 Odor of propane

Fire departments rely on each other for help through the use of mutual aid at significant events such as structure fires, vehicle collisions requiring extrication, or brush fires. This type of call brings with it extra personnel and equipment. Four out of five structure fire calls listed above had the GFD responding to our mutual aid communities. Likewise, one brush fire deep in the woods in Goshen brought their aid to us.

In addition to our weekly in-house training, we continue to have monthly Tri-Town drills with Chesterfield and Williamsburg (our automatic aid fire departments). This provides us with the opportunity to train and become familiar with their equipment and personnel, allowing a seamless operation at mutual aid scenes. Department members also attend Hampshire County Fire Defense Firefighter Training classes and

Massachusetts Fire Academy training to strengthen their knowledge and skills.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program entered its 20th year. A State S.A.F.E. Grant in the amount of \$3,337 allowed Goshen Fire to teach five fire and life safety lessons at New Hingham Regional Elementary School. By continuing to educate children, we have raised a fire safe generation. Some of the students we taught have had children of their own and we are now working on a second fire safe generation! The State has seen a drastic reduction in fire deaths since the program began. The Department also received a Senior S.A.F.E. Grant in the amount of \$2,417 to teach fire and life safety lessons to Goshen's senior citizens. The grant allowed the Department to teach fire and life safety to seniors and to purchase and install 10-year, sealed battery smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors in seniors' homes. If you are a Senior Citizen and would like a firefighter to change detector batteries, or replace old battery-operated detectors with new 10-year sealed detectors, please call the Fire Department at 268-7161.

The Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Program was in effect for its seventh year. Active firefighters who attended at least 50% of our training sessions and responded to calls earned a stipend commensurate to their level of participation. Department members dedicated more than 1,731 hours to the Town in 2016. The Incentive Program was a great way for the community to acknowledge and thank the firefighters that gave so much of themselves. Reimbursement for the year averaged \$5.86 per hour.

Highland Ambulance moved out of the Goshen Fire Station and into their own facility at 12 Williams Drive in July 2016 after 12 years of cohabitation. GFD members have been donating their time to renovate the interior of the Station by repairing sheetrock, painting walls and doors, staining wood wainscoting and trim, and replacing flooring to make the inside of the station look new again.

When *someone* dials 911, we all assume *someone* will come to help.... Right?

That *someone* who responds to your call for help could be your neighbor, a family member, or a person who lives on the other side of Town. They could be a school teacher, delivery person, office worker, truck driver, accountant, or nurse. The alarm bell continues to sound for new volunteers to join the Fire Department family. If you haven't joined because you weren't asked, **we are asking**. Our members all have busy schedules, but we still find the time to meet, train, and respond to calls for the

sole purpose of helping others. The Department also has a Junior Firefighter program for responsible individuals aged 15 –17.

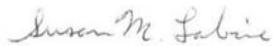
We meet each Tuesday evening at the Goshen Fire Station at 7pm. Please come join us or call the station to find out more and help make a difference!

Many thanks to those who answered the calls in 2016 as members of the GFD:

Will Bissell*	Collin Cichy	Mitchell Cichy	Bill Connell
Kim Dresser	Steve Estelle	Mark George	Dale Gougeon
Phil Judd	Bob Labrie	Hannah Labrie*	Sue Labrie
Cam Lacey	Jake Lulek	Amity Messick*	Adrien Neveu*
Marianne Neveu	Monica Neveu	Jake Niquette	Chris Roberts
Erika Roberts	Jonathan Schwaiger	Steve Tourigny	

*designates junior firefighter

Respectfully submitted,



Susan M. Labrie, Fire Chief

Goshen Energy Committee

The Goshen Energy Committee met throughout 2016 to focus on expending the balance of the Green Communities grant awarded to the Town. Administering the grant became a challenge for the volunteer committee, so the Select Board approved using administrative funds from the grant to hire a staff person from the Hampshire Council on Governments to help administer the grant. Bernie Kubiak was hired in the spring of 2016 to help administer the grant.

In 2016, the committee worked with Bernie and the select board to correct the lighting plan. There were a number of issues related to the initial retrofitting that was completed. There are still a couple items that need to be corrected at the fire house. Bernie is working with the contractor to complete this work. We also worked with Guardian Energy Management Solutions to perform weatherization to the Town Offices, Town Hall, Highway Garage and Fire House.

We discovered vermiculite in the Highway Garage which delayed our ability to insulate the attic space. We have obtained a quote to have the vermiculite removed. Once this is done we will be able to weatherize the Highway Garage.

The last items we are exploring to spend out the grant include window quilts in the Town Offices, new doors on the Town Offices and Town Hall and removal of vermiculite from the Highway garage and replaced with insulation. We are also looking into pipe insulation in boiler room, anti-idling equipment for fire/highway/police and small solar panel arrays.

The total grant award to the town was \$141,400. There is roughly \$50,000 left to spend. All these activities will save the Town of Goshen money on energy usage and make the working environments safer and more comfortable for town employees and the public accessing town buildings.

Submitted by

Dave Christopolis
Chair, Energy Committee

“Fiscal Year 2016 was a year of challenges and triumph. While our entrepreneurial spirit was put to the test, we rallied together to make 2016 the most financially successful year in the history of the HCOG. With new programs and renewed focus, we are ready to tackle the challenges ahead and continue to serve our constituents and keep more money in our local economy.”

—Todd Ford, Executive Director

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Council Overview

The Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) is a collective body made up of representatives from 15 Hampshire County towns. HCOG has two key focuses: to improve life in Hampshire County, and to provide our small towns with the advantage of economies of scale typically available only to larger cities. We accomplish these goals by promoting the local economy, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and aggregating the buying power of our communities. HCOG is not funded primarily by grants or taxes, but rather by fee-for-service programs that generate revenue sufficient to support its operating costs. Modest membership fees are also collected from member communities.

The mission of the Hampshire Council of Governments is to offer a robust suite of programs and services that combine the best practices of government and the private sector in support of municipalities, non-profits, and local businesses. Providing these services regionally saves participating entities the cost of an added employee and associated benefits to perform the same services and ensures that the appropriate MA laws are adhered to.

2016—Challenges: Growth!

HCOG has consistently demonstrated a high return on investment for our member communities: this year has been no exception. There was a continuation of high value provided as dues remained low. In fiscal year 2016 (FY16), the total estimated value secured for member towns was \$3,823,201. During the same period, member towns paid a collective \$23,083.99 in dues to HCOG.

About our Programs:

HCOG Revenue

HCOG’s revenue is derived primarily from our fee-for-service programs. Total revenue in FY16 (including grants with specific designated purposes) was \$8,694,687.

HCOG Expenses

The total expenses in FY16 (including grants with specific designated purposes) was \$8,270,310.

The Financial situation of the HCOG improved in FY16 with a year-end positive balance of \$89,738. The Year-Over-Year growth from FY15 to FY 16 shows an increase in net revenue of \$496,819.

	FY15	FY16	YOY Growth
General	\$ (536,781.00)	\$ (612,821.00)	\$ (76,040.00)
Hampshire Power	\$ 129,700.00	\$ 702,559.00	\$ 572,859.00
Total	\$ (407,081.00)	\$ 89,738.00	\$ 496,819.00

About our Programs:

Hampshire Power

Hampshire Power provides fixed rate electricity supply to businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities across the Commonwealth. It is the only nonprofit energy supplier in Massachusetts. Hampshire Power helps towns, homeowners, and businesses stabilize the cost of energy while keeping energy dollars in the local economy.

In FY16, Hampshire Power started serving an additional **six CCAs** bringing our total to **17 towns and cities**. The total number of meters served over that time was close to 90,000. **Between FY15 and FY16 Hampshire Power net revenue increased by 442% with a year over year growth of \$572,859.**

Late in FY16 HCOG started a Referral Rewards Program with the **United Way**. We encourage new customers to donate their rebate/referral rewards to the United Way of Hampshire County. In FY16, **\$300** was raised for the United Way

In FY16 Hampshire Power also partnered with **Meter Genius** to offer an online portal for customers to view electricity usage, receive specific suggestions aimed at reducing usage, and reward those that have decreased their electricity usage over time.

Hampshire Solar

Hampshire Solar is a partnership between the HCOG and Nexamp's Community Solar program to offer a simple way to subscribe to a share of a community solar farm in Massachusetts.

This program helps municipalities, businesses, and homeowners support clean energy projects located in Massachusetts. Subscribers receive a 15% savings on net metering credits, which brings real savings to their electricity bills. In this way, people who can't install solar on their own roof or property can enjoy some of the benefits of solar. Hampshire Solar is tailored to each customer, and participation requires no upfront cost and no long term contract.

In FY16, Hampshire Solar customers received 1,424.5 kilowatts of electricity—enough to power 118 homes—through solar power, as opposed to fossil fuels. That's like taking 200 cars off the road or planting 24,025 trees.

Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) Brokering

The solar market in Massachusetts has an incentive program to encourage the adoption of solar. SRECs are generated by solar owners and given values dictated by the market. For each 1,000kWh of electricity generated from a solar array, one (1) SREC is created. These SRECs are bought by electric utilities and suppliers to meet Renewable Portfolio Standards. For the solar owner, these SRECs are a key component of solar ownership financial return and are often brokered by large, out-of-state firms. Most solar owners do not have the volume or contacts to sell their own credits. That's where a SREC aggregator comes in.

HCOG bundles these SRECs together and sells them on the quarterly and annual SREC market for the maximum amount possible.

The program, which started in FY12 with fewer than 50 customers, has grown quickly. In FY16, HCOG brokered 4,215 SREC credits for 782 customers. These SRECs were valued at \$1.4 million dollars, earning a commission of \$70,000.

Hampshire Purchasing Cooperative

For 35 years, the Hampshire Purchasing Cooperative has coordinated and administered a formal bidding process on behalf of municipalities, school districts, and non-profit entities throughout Massachusetts. The Cooperative bids offer cost-savings opportunities in a diverse assortment of products and services such as Office Supplies, General School and Arts and Crafts supplies, Fuels, Food and Cafeteria products, Highway and Public Works supplies and services, Medical and EMS supplies, Hazardous Waste services, and more. Bid participation is free.

During FY16, participants saved an estimated \$791,000 on purchases of over \$9.5 million dollars' worth of supplies and services purchased. This

represents an increase in purchases from FY15 of over \$2.4 million dollars, or 34%. Revenue generated totaled over \$113,000, which represents a 22% increase over FY15.

Revenue generated by the Hampshire Purchasing Cooperative is based on vendor fees associated with purchases made by participants and has increased nearly every year since FY12. We anticipate continued growth as the Purchasing Cooperative continues to seek new value-added products and services for our participants.

Hampshire Web

Hampshire Web is a regional bid on municipal web site design and implementation. Municipalities can upgrade their websites starting at an affordable \$4,200, with the option of a multi-year payment plan, providing a break to a town's annual budget. More robust websites are available with a significant discount thanks to our buying power. Businesses, residents, and visitors look to town websites for important information, and this program can offer online bill payment, emergency notifications, an events calendar, and meeting minutes, all in compliance with the new Public Records law.

Hampshire I.T.

Hampshire I.T. offers award-winning I.T. services at highly competitive rates provided by Paragus I.T. of Hadley. Hampshire I.T. also provides free detailed I.T. assessments to all communities in western Massachusetts. In FY16, eight municipalities and non-profits saved over \$37,700 compared to the price they would have paid by contracting individually. As more participants join the program, the hourly rate declines, and the additional savings benefit is secured by all.

RSVP of Hampshire and Franklin Counties

RSVP of Hampshire & Franklin Counties links volunteers age 55+ with opportunities to serve in our community. RSVP provides expert matching services for interested volunteers, helping them to find long term satisfaction in their volunteer roles. RSVP staff also share their volunteer management knowledge through workshops, presentations, and one-on-one mentorship of volunteer managers, increasing the region's capacity to support volunteer programs. Each year, RSVP works with more than 650 volunteers and 50 agencies to fill volunteer needs and make a measurable difference in Western Massachusetts.

In the last grant year (April 2015-March 2016), 679 RSVP members served 100,000 volunteer hours, an estimated contribution of \$2.9 million to the local community. RSVP volunteers provided home-delivered meals and monthly brown bags of groceries to more than 650 seniors.

They supported 6 food pantries serving thousands of local residents. 1000 seniors benefitted from an array of RSVP volunteer-led services, including enrichment classes, transportation, companionship, and money management. RSVP's Healthy Bones and Balance Program leaders held weekly exercise classes at 25 sites for 660 seniors, enabling them to better avoid falls and maintain their strength and independence.

Through special events and fundraising programs, volunteers raised over \$200,000 in support of 28 local organizations. An additional group of skilled volunteers in the "Experience on Call" program provided area non-profits with planning and project support, assistance with marketing, grant writing, fundraising, volunteer management, and other essential tasks.

Hampshire County Group Insurance

The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT) is a self-insured joint purchase Trust that provides medical insurance to 69 municipal groups in Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Worcester County. HCGIT currently covers approximately 11,000 active employees, dependents, and retirees. It is the second largest (based on the number of municipal groups) joint purchase Trust in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The HCGIT plan rates have consistently been significantly below state plan rates with the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) while offering significantly better benefits to its subscribers. For FY16, the HCGIT plan rates offered an overall savings to its subscribers of \$7.5 million when compared to the most popular State GIC plan.

A unique benefit that the HCGIT offers to its member units is a full time Wellness resource. The Wellness Director coordinates biometric screenings, flu clinics, and health and wellness challenges/events for our subscribers.

Regional Accounting

The Regional Accounting program provides professional municipal accounting services to towns, quasi-governmental entities, and non-profits. Services include warrant input, journal entries, reconciliation of cash and receivables, year-end closing entries, Tax Rate Recapitulation, Free Cash certification, and Schedule a preparation. Our program helps to ensure accurate record keeping, timely report filing, and compliance with state and federal laws.

In FY16 the Regional Accounting Program served the Town of Goshen, the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Advisory Committee, WiredWest, New Century Theatre, the Northampton Community Arts Trust, and the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust. The Regional Accounting staff provided

over 750 hours of service to these organizations at an average cost of \$32/hr.

Tobacco Free Community Partnership

The Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco Free Community Partnership (TFCP), servicing all 44 towns in both counties, is funded by the Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The program supports communities' efforts to help people quit using tobacco, prevent youth from starting, and protect everyone from secondhand smoke. In addition to the many services it offers to local communities, the TFCP also supports The 84, a statewide youth movement for high school-aged youth who want to take a stand against the tobacco industry.

Last year, TFCP supported local Boards of Health considering robust tobacco regulations, including policies restricting sales of flavored tobacco products to adult-only retailers. Flavored tobacco products are considered by the U.S Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Surgeon General to be "starter" products that aid in the establishment of smoking patterns for youth and can lead to a long-term addiction. When a Board of Health passes a policy restricting the sales of flavored tobacco to adult-only tobacco retailers, they are doing much to protect the health of youth in their community. By the end of FY16, 15 towns in Franklin and Hampshire County had adopted these important policies

Goshen

Goshen is represented by Councilor Diane Bushee.

The Town saved \$25,182.23 through HCOG services in FY16.

The Town used the following services for total savings: Purchasing Cooperative, Hampshire Solar, Grant Administration, Regional Accounting, Tobacco Free Partnership, Group Insurance Trust.

Unused services included Hampshire Power, Hampshire I.T., Hampshire Web, and RSVP.

**Foothills Health Agent
January 1- December 31, 2016**

The following is a general breakdown of the many responsibilities handled on a regular basis by your Board of Health and the Health Agent:

- Witnessing percolation tests and Title 5 inspections for all new and replacement septic systems
- Permit review and on-site inspections for all septic repairs and installations
- Housing code inspections and enforcement
- Infectious disease investigation and reporting
- Tobacco regulation enforcement
- On-site inspections for all beaver conflict permits
- Handling the numerous public health-related questions and complaints
- Restaurant inspections

I may be reached at 268-8404. In-person help must be scheduled in advance. Written messages or mail should be directed to me at: PO 447 Haydenville, MA 01039, or via email at RondLaurin@Gmail.com. I look forward to another productive year in all the Foothills towns. Below is a breakdown of all the Towns and fees received in the Foothills.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Laurin
Valerie Bird
Health Agents Foothills Health District

	GOSHEN WHATELY		WILLIAMSBURG	W'HAMPTON
PERCS/TITLE 5 INSP	4/6	6/8	6/10	10/14
DWCP/WELL	9/4	11/5	5/1	7/4
FOOD INSP.	4	8	22	4
CAMP INSP.	3	1	0	1
HOUSING COMPLAINTS	2	4	5	5

Total Fees for 2016 6600 10325 7955 9475

Highland Ambulance EMS Inc.

Operations. Highland Ambulance is the primary ambulance service provider for the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg. Highland also provides primary back-up in the town of Worthington in support of Hilltown Ambulance of Huntington. Paramedics are on duty at Highland's station in Goshen from 6am until midnight, seven days a week. During the midnight to 6am time period, Highland EMTs are assisted by Paramedics from other ambulance companies when the service of a Paramedic is required. Highland's active roster as of June 30, 2016 consisted of 36 members including 19 Paramedics and 17 EMTs.

Dr. Raymond Conway, our long term Medical Director, retired and is replaced by Dr. Peter Morse, MD.

Mission. The mission of Highland Ambulance EMS, Inc. is to provide the full range of emergency medical services to the member communities. These services include:

Providing training and certification testing for all first responders

Providing mandatory inoculations for all first responders

Running blood pressure clinics for residents of the six towns

Developing and practicing emergency response plans with the schools and camps in the member towns

Conducting health and safety classes for the schools

Working with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Homeland Security to develop emergency response plans for the member towns

Providing mutual aid and paramedic intercept services to the neighboring communities

Providing transport services

Providing standby service for major emergency situations, e.g. house fire

Providing standby service for major community events such as the Chesterfield Parade, the Ashfield Fall Festival and the Cummington Fair

Responding to all 911 calls that may require emergency medical services

Emergency Responses. During FY 2016 Highland responded to 652 emergency calls of which 150 were no service. These are broken down by Town as follows:

Ashfield	118	Chesterfield	101	Cummington	78
Goshen	75	Plainfield	60	Williamsburg	178
Other	42				

Out of these responses, 341 required advanced life support (ALS) services.

Training. The following special training events were held:
CPR trainings for Emergency Service Personnel, Police, & firefighters.
New National (NCCR) EMT recertification classes for area EMTs.
Medical Management Classes.
ALS/BLS interface classes for area EMTs.
Paramedic transition class to conform to National Core Curriculum.
Patient lifting and moving class for Ashfield fire personnel.
Basic EMT refresher courses.
Paramedic refresher courses.

Community Involvement. Highland provided support to our communities including:
Ambulance Coverage for Community events including the Chesterfield 4th of July Parade, the Cummington Fair, the Ashfield Fall Festival, Hilltown Junior Olympics, the Ashfield Klondike Fair.
Evacuation drill at the Sanderson Academy in Ashfield
Lock down drill at the Anne T. Dunphy School in Williamsburg and the New Hingham Regional Elementary School in Chesterfield.

Operating Expenses in FY 2016 \$522,235.01

Cash On Hand June 30, 2016

Building Fund	\$ 79,228.89
Cash Operating Account\$	10,730.19
Cash Payroll Account	\$ 5,000.00
Ambulance Fund	\$150,684.46
Memorial Fund	\$ 24,710.80
Dresser Fund	\$ 3,702.83
Cap Reserve	\$ 7,022.78
Total Checking/Savings	\$281,079.95

Grants. \$25,400 from the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grants for the purchase of two automated CPR devices called LUCAS IIs. They can help improve the chance of survival for cardiac arrest patients. \$1,200 from Florence Bank towards the construction of our new facility.

Building Project. During this fiscal year, Highland Ambulance initiated the building of our permanent facility for its operations. From its very beginning, it was clear that Highland Ambulance was “borrowing” the Goshen Fire House and would need to eventually establish itself elsewhere. Highland Ambulance chose a lot at 12 Williams Drive in Goshen for its facility. At the end of the Fiscal Year, the project was nearing

completion and a dedication/open house was scheduled for July 17th. The Board of Directors decided to dedicate the building to the memory of our long-term president of the Board, Christopher (Kit) Smith. Anticipated costs of the entire project will be in the range of \$800,000 with a mortgage loan for up to \$600,000 from Greenfield Savings Bank. The Board and staff are deeply appreciative for all the dollar donations and in-kind services we received over the year to make possible the construction of our new facility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Highland Ambulance Board of Directors

Ashfield	Patricia Thayer
Plainfield	Edward Morann
Chesterfield	Spencer Timm
Williamsburg	Leslie Smith
Cummington	Amanda Savoie
Goshen	Donald Boisvert
At-Large	Cassandra Morrey
At-Large	Bernard Forgea
At-Large	Douglas Mollison

Highway Department

Highway department projects for the 2016 season were as follows: South Chesterfield Road was overlaid with asphalt. This work was done by Lane Construction and was paid for using Chapter 90 funds. The highway department cut the brush and cleaned the ditches before the paving.

The second project was working to widen upper Loomis Road. The highway department dug as far as we could, exposing a lot of ledge. Then a hoe ram from George D Judd and Sons came out and broke tons of ledge out so we could widen the travel surface and improve site lines. I would like to thank the Judd family as they donated most of this work to help the Town.

The third project was the installation of eleven hundred feet of sub-drainage pipe and stone on the West Street end of Ball Road. This section turns to mud every spring so our goal is to give that water some place to go and hopefully have a drier road.

As I am writing this I know Jon Zapka is leaving the Highway Department to operate his own business. I would like to thank Jon for his dedicated service to the Town over the years.

I do appreciate your calls alerting us to problems that you see and would like to thank everyone for helping throughout the year.

Sincerely

Todd R. Dewkett

Superintendent

2016 Hilltown Community Development Corporation

The Hilltown Community Development Corporation (Hilltown CDC) was created in 1981 with a mission to *“improve the quality of life for hilltown residents by addressing economic, housing, educational, social and community needs while preserving the rural character of the area.”* Its core service area includes the ten towns of Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg and Worthington. In recent years its small business assistance program has expanded to serve 20 Hilltowns. Hilltown CDC’s four major program areas are affordable housing, small business assistance, social services and community development/planning. Hilltown CDC also administers a regional grant program that secures federal grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure housing and services are provided to the homeless through a Continuum of Care (CoC) model which serves Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties.

Hilltown CDC works with the community to identify and secure financial resources to serve the community development needs of the region. In 2015, Hilltown CDC helped the hilltown region care for the elderly, provided safe affordable housing to seniors and low income families, improved many hilltown homes and began initiatives that support local agriculture such as the Keep Framing initiative and the formation of a Transportation committee looking at the transportation needs of the hilltown region.

Social Services: Hilltown CDC’s **Hilltown Elder Network (HEN)** Program delivered in-home caregiving assistance (primarily chore and transportation assistance) to low-income Hilltown elders at no cost to the participants. HEN staff provided transportation for medical visits and other purposes, including snow removal. Community Development Block Grant funding was awarded allowing Hilltown CDC to provide CDBG funded HEN services. This grant allowed these services to be delivered through calendar year 2016. Funding is also provided by Highland Valle Elder Services, Hampshire County United Way and the Eleanor Schwartz Charitable Foundation.

The following social service programs provided assistance to residents in the hilltowns with CDBG funds:

The Health Outreach Program for Elders(HOPE), administered by Hilltown Community Health Centers (HCHC), provided free in-home nursing care and podiatric services to homebound elders.

The Hilltown Food Pantry distributed food to hilltown individuals. The Pantry is administered by the Northampton Survival Center at the Goshen Town Hall.

Child Care Subsidies, hilltown families were provided subsidies through this program to assist them with child care expenses.

Economic Development/Small Business Assistance:

Provided individualized business consulting and/or training to hilltown businesses, ranging from one hour to 30 hours per business.

Published the 2016 Hilltown Business Directory, distributed to 13,000 hilltown households in 21 towns, with contact information and descriptions of 317 hilltown businesses in 94 categories. The Directory is also on-line at www.hilltowncdc.org.

Affordable Housing: We actively pursue opportunities to preserve and create affordable housing to meet the needs of low and moderate income Hilltown residents.

Westhampton Woods Senior Housing: Hilltown CDC owns and operates Westhampton Woods Senior Housing which provides 15 apartments for low-to-moderate income seniors over 60 years old.

Rental Housing: Hilltown CDC completed the renovation of 24 units of scattered affordable rental housing in six properties located in Williamsburg, Westhampton and Chesterfield in 2016. Hilltown CDC hired a local contractor to complete this project.

New Project Development:Hilltown CDC is working with the Town of Goshen and its Senior Housing Committee to develop 10 rental units of affordable senior housing. Hilltown CDC has securing \$2.5 million to develop this project. We will begin construction in spring of 2017. We hope to complete the project by December 2017.

Housing Rehabilitation Program: This program provides zero percent interest, deferred-payment loans to income eligible homeowners for use in making a wide variety of repairs to their homes, including roofs, septic systems, electrical, plumbing, and heating. In addition, the program provides a source of steady year round employment for area contractors. In 2016:

Hilltown CDC rehabilitated 21 homes in the Towns of Williamsburg, Cummington, Chesterfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Peru and Plainfield.

Community Planning: We also work closely with municipalities and community groups in our service area to plan for, raise funds for and/or manage a range of projects. During 2016 HCDC:

Received a grant from MADAR to begin implementing our Keep Farming in the Hilltowns initiative where we worked with a number of local farmers, buyers and local residents to develop a community action plan based on agricultural needs. We plan to begin implementation 2017.

We also secured funding to engage the local community and conduct a study on rural transportation needs. We are working across 15

hilltowns inclusive of the Northern and Southern Hilltowns. Phase I includes administering a community survey to be followed up by focus groups and interviews. Our goal is to develop a rural transportation business plan with a pilot period where we will experiment with a few different transportation models in 2017.

Hilltown CDC entered into a fiscal sponsorship agreement to support new Art and Culture programming in the region. We helped sponsor the Hilltown Chautauqua series held at the Bryant Homestead. See <http://hilltownchautauqua.org/> for more information.

Please visit www.hilltowncdc.org for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Christopolis

Dave Christopolis,
Executive Director
Hilltown Community Development Corporation

Goshen Free Public Library

Despite the fact that scaffolding surrounded the town hall building during much of 2016, visitors continued to find their way into the library to use the collections and attend programs, and more than 200 new books and DVDs were added to the collections.

The library's adult reading group met the last Tuesday afternoon of each month throughout the year, with the exception of one cancellation due to inclement weather, and in March, State Representative Stephen Kulik came for a town hall meeting that was attended by residents of Goshen, Cummington, Plainfield, Chesterfield, Ashfield, and Worthington. The library received grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for two family programs, *Dinosaurs in the Valley* and *The Nearly Lost Art of Letter Writing*, but both were postponed until the spring / early summer of 2017, due to the difficulty of scheduling them during the town hall renovations. In May, we were pleased to welcome Rosemary Bienz to the library's Board of Trustees.

Library hours changed part way through the year, to Monday and Wednesday 4:30-8, and Saturday 10-1. Stop by to join our reading group, borrow books or movies, place a request for an item through interlibrary loan, access the internet, download a book to your E-reader, or suggest new acquisitions for the library's collections!

Respectfully submitted,

Martha N. Noblick, Director

Goshen Planning Board

During the course of the year various members of the Planning Board represented the Board on the Rt. 112 Scenic Byway Committee, Community Preservation Committee, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and various other ad hoc committees.

The Board executed a Depository Agreement from Clean Energy Cooperative relating to decommissioning escrow.

The Board produced a final draft of a new Floodplain Bylaw in conjunction with the Town's Emergency Management Coordinator.

During the course of the year the Board reviewed and approved 4 plans of land.

Tom Cairns joined the Board following Town Elections.

Respectfully submitted,

Goshen Planning Board

Roger Culver, Chairman

Joseph Frye, Secretary

Lisa Newman

Dana Steipock

Tom Cairns

Goshen Police Department

The Officers of the Goshen Police department continue to serve the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with hard work and dedication. This year we answered **841** calls for Police Services. This is a decrease of **21** calls from last year's **862**.

The police station is located at **40A Main Street** in the rear of the town office building. Please use the entrance at the rear of the building where the blue awning is that says **POLICE**. The Mailing address for the Police department is **P.O. Box 23 Goshen, MA 01032**.

GOT DRUGS? We now have a **MedReturn Drug Collection Unit located at the police station** for your unwanted prescription and non-prescription medications, vitamins and veterinary medications. Sorry: no liquids, syringes, IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs can be accepted. Simply stop in or call to make an appointment to drop off.

Home Security. Please make sure to keep homes secure and locked at all times and make sure your house numbers are visible. If leaving town for an extended period of time be sure to let your neighbors know you will be gone so they can keep an eye on your property. Also you can contact the police department to let us know you will be gone. Security systems are also a very good idea and you may get a discount on your home owner's insurance, check with your agent.

A REMINDER to residents: when you receive your notice from the firearms record bureau to start the process to **renew a firearms license to carry or FID** please do this as soon as you receive it as this needs to be done **3 months** in advance. The process for licensing is taking longer as there are more background checks for applicants and more applications being submitted throughout the state. Call the police department to make your appointment. If you let your permit expire there is no grace period. The fee for Firearms Licenses is **\$100.00** made out to the Town of Goshen.

We encourage all residents to report suspicious activities **when they occur** by calling **911**. **If a vehicle is involved, try and get a plate number / description of person.** Remember: if it looks suspicious, report it. Our non-emergency number is **413- 586 -1508**. The Station number is **413-268-3116, businessonly**. **OFFICERS SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED AT THEIR RESIDENCES OR BY THEIR PERSONAL PHONE. THIS IS FOR OFFICER SAFTEY!** Please use the numbers provided above and an officer will be toned to assist you. All calls must go through our dispatch.

Respectfully submitted,



Chief Jeffrey Hewes

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission continued to improve our Tilton Town Field recreation area in 2016. General maintenance and field preparation was attended to throughout the year, thanks to Roger Culver. A new refrigerator was purchased for the pavilion and the ice machine was repaired. Community use for this area and the pavilion continue to be a goal for Tilton Recreation Areas. Additionally, the basketball hoop was repaired in the town center and a new stationary hoop was purchased and will be erected at the Tilton Town Field.

Our fields were enjoyed by a number of leagues again this past year. Last fall the ball fields were used by the Rocky Hill Softball League. This is an adult fall coed softball league made up of six local teams. The Commission continued to support the Goshen Women's Softball Team, a member of the Pioneer Valley Women's Softball League. Due to the combined Goshen/Chesterfield baseball and the small number of teams for 2016, no youth baseball utilized our fields. We hope that they will return in the future.

With the support of the Goshen Recreation Commission, the town of Goshen's children participated in the 37th Annual Hilltown Junior Olympics in 2016 hosted by the town of Goshen and held at the Tilton Town Field. The success of the individual participants and town team event members resulted in a First Place Trophy for the Town of Goshen. We would like to thank our town representative Kerri Baldwin for her willingness to volunteer her time to this valuable endeavor. Additionally, our member, Jennifer Bisbee, has been orchestrating this event regionally for many years and is now handing off the responsibilities to new people. Thank you, Jenny, for all of your hard work. Chesterfield is next in line to host the event so we will be seeking volunteers for the Hilltown Junior Olympics to be held September 23, 2017. The Goshen Recreation Commission also supported the New Hingham basketball season by covering the costs of the referees.

We are very pleased to see the Tilton Town Field Recreation area utilized by residents for all types of activities including hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, horseback riding and organized sporting events again this year.

We are always looking for new members willing to join in the efforts to promote recreational activities in the Town of Goshen. The Goshen

Recreation Commission is in need of new membership and would benefit greatly from support of our townspeople who have connections to the youth and youth-related activities, as well as other recreational desires. Please give joining our committee some thought.

Goshen Recreation Commission:

Roger Culver- Chair

Jennifer Bisbee

Shannon Wade

Solarize Mass

The Towns of Windsor, Cummington, Goshen and Worthington partnered to apply for a Solarize Mass grant. Approval allowed us to qualify for a group purchasing agreement resulting in discounts on solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. The more homes that sign up to purchase a solar PV, the deeper the discount.

The four towns submitted an application to Mass Clean Energy Center in April 2016 to become a funded Solarize Mass Community and were approved and contracted in June 2016.

An installer request for proposal was issued in August 2016 and 8 installers bid on the proposal. With the assistance of Mass CEC, the WCGW reviewed and scored the proposals and 3 installers were selected as finalists. Upon installer presentations and face-to-face interviews, *Sun Bug* was selected as the installer meeting the highest overall quality and value, pricing structure and implementation plan.

In addition to the community discount for solar purchase, there are a number of additional benefits as part of this program:

- Mass Solar Loan Program reduces the annual interest rate paid by solar system owners and provides a 20% - 30% reduction of loan principal for consumers with annual incomes below certain thresholds.
- Federal tax credits
- State tax credit
- Solar Renewable Energy Credits (based on energy produced per year)
- Electric bill savings
- Free site assessment

There are a series of solar program education events planned, including a booth at Cummington Fair and town Lunch and Learn workshops.

The deadline for signing a contract for solar purchase through Solarize WCGW is April 30, 2017. Installations will begin as soon as New England weather permits.

We want to thank MassCEC, Sun Bug and the terrific partners in Worthington, Cummington, Goshen and Windsor who volunteered time and “energy” to make solar (PV) systems an option for town residents.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Otis, Municipal Representative
Dave Christopolis, Solar Coach

Superintendents of the Schools 2016

Writing the annual report requires a thorough look back over a recently ended calendar year that spans the end of one school year and the beginning of another. The work we do together in our schools and communities is complex in the moments, days, and years by which we measure our success and evaluate our challenges as we work to get a firm hold of the long-view. Every school day – 180 times between the start of the school year and our last day – our school buses from Durham, Lecrenski, and Van Pool drive students over 2500 miles to and from school and our own vans at HRHS and Norris provide additional transportation to preschool children and students with special needs. Our work is sometimes overwhelming but it is also essential and rewarding. Education is the foundation of our society and provides us with a shared opportunity to enhance our understandings and commitments to each other. Together we make a positive difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities in which we live and work. We are increasingly coming together as a learning community, learning about the experiences of one-and-other and appreciating what we share as we also seek to understand what makes us unique. The November defeat of a ballot initiative that would have removed the cap placed on Massachusetts charter schools reaffirmed our commitment to public education. Together, with support from all of our towns, we are holding firm to our basic beliefs and expanding our shared commitment to improve the education we provide to all of our children.

Quality educational opportunity requires quality teaching staff. Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented on April 28 to HRHS English teacher Kim Bush at HRHS, Chesterfield-Goshen Fifth Grade Teacher, Julie Britain, and Westhampton Fourth Grade Teacher, Sarah Overstreet. In an unprecedented honor, three teachers received Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The PAEMST program, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy recognizes outstanding teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science. Each awardee received a citation signed by President Obama and a \$10,000 award. Congratulations were certainly in order for John Heffernan and Karen Schweitzer from Anne T. Dunphy in Williamsburg and Chemistry Teacher Keith Wright at HRHS.

Teachers and administrators across the state recognize that children are coping with increasingly complex challenges to their behavioral health and social emotional development. Experts cite (and school staff recognize) these stressors to include: peer relationships, academic pressure, higher incidence of children exposed to trauma, and social media overload. The affects on school success and adjustment can be anxiety, depression, and emotional stress. Our schools are responding by partnering with social service agencies, providing targeted professional development, integrating social emotional learning into the core values of our schools, and evaluating effective programs and curriculum to support our students. It is clear that social emotional learning is as important to student success as more traditional curricular offerings. That said, schools must always be looking forward as we prepare our students to be “21st century learners” with

the promise of making them “future ready” lifelong learners. We are often reminded that we are preparing students for jobs and careers that don’t exist yet, in some cases jobs that haven’t even been imagined. We know, however, that critical thinking, cooperation, communication, and creativity are essential for our students to succeed. To ensure our instructional practice includes these foundational skills, teachers at all levels and throughout all of our schools continually review and revise their curriculum and teaching practices.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approved new standards, called the "Digital Literacy and Computer Science" standards (DLCS), to address technology skills in the 21st century. These standards replace a set of outdated technology standards that had been in place since approx. 2008. The DLCS standards articulate a progression of critical skills and learning outcomes, by grade level, for all students, K through 12. These desired outcomes are based on the fact that technology exists in most industries today as well as the devices we encounter in our everyday lives. Students are being exposed to key concepts of these new standards via existing units of study. Specifically, these include science units involving the engineering design process; the use of programmable robots as a manipulative to teach physical science; text to speech and speech to text applications to assist struggling learners. In addition to the new DLCS standards, we are expanding use of digital curriculum materials. In order to address these needs, we have to develop sustainable technology budgets to support the use of technology in our schools. The District has been working on such an approach, but it is a multi-year (and multi-faceted) effort that will require continued revision and refinement.

In March Governor Baker signed into law the Opioid Bill which, among other actions, required all schools to have policies regarding substance abuse prevention and education of students about the dangers of substance abuse. These policies were approved by all school committees and implemented as required. On June 3, Governor Baker signed “An Act to Improve Public Records” into law. These amendments to the public records law required the designation of at least one Records Access Officer who is responsible for coordinating and responding to public records requests. For our District, Bobbie Jones (Assistant School Business Manager) and the School Superintendent are so designated.

School safety and emergency preparedness planning continue to be significant activities. All of our schools are fortunate to be located in communities with responsive local police, fire, ambulance, and other emergency management personnel. Working together with the Massachusetts State Police, as well as local police and fire departments, our individual schools continue to tighten daily procedures (including those that are in place to protect students on their way to and from school) and improve coordinated District actions to respond to emergencies. We continue to refine our procedures and make changes where necessary including updates to our Medical Emergency Plans and Emergency Operations Procedures. It is regrettable these actions are necessary and place additional demands on an already tight academic calendar but it is a reality we live with, and a responsibility we accept, knowing that we must work conscientiously to protect our children.

As the 2015-2016 school year came to an end, school administrators and elected officials throughout the Commonwealth explored and validated a “Rural Schools Initiative”, originally conceived by Mohawk Superintendent Michael Buonocoti, and formed a “Rural Schools Coalition” to advocate for additional funding and support for the states rural schools. The Coalition began focusing attention on the financial needs of rural communities in supporting public schools, as well as increasing awareness and expanding understanding that costs are outpacing available funding in many small towns. The impact of state and federal initiatives and mandates disproportionately impacts small schools and towns. Ultimately, the Coalition wants the legislature to modify the Chapter 70 funding formula and provide additional funding to support rural education in much the same way that urban schools are supported.

I encourage you to visit the individual school’s or Superintendent’s website (www.hr-k12.org) for current news and information about our students and District activities, as well as a detailed explanation of school budget development. School Committee meeting agendas and minutes can be found here. This website will also provide you with links to individual school websites and to useful information from numerous resources. I also recommend the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s website for data about individual schools and school districts, as well as guidance on educational initiatives and news. Whenever you have a question or wish to become involved in your community schools, please call me or the principal of your local school.

Thank you for your support and commitment to our local Hampshire Regional public schools.

Sincerely,
Craig Jurgensen
School Superintendent

2016 Special Education Annual Report

Federal and state law requires that students from 3-22 years of age who are identified as having a disability are provided with individually designed instruction to meet their unique learning needs. The Hampshire Regional School District provides services to 390 students with disabilities on Individualized Education Programs (IEP). Students in each of the six schools receive special education services both in and out of the general education classroom. These services are provided by special education certified teachers and related service providers. Current related services include: occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, nursing/medical services, counseling, autism consultation, clinical consultation, vision therapy, and teacher of the deaf services.

School	Total Enrollment	Special Education Students
Hampshire	748	134
Chesterfield-Goshen	140	31
Westhampton	131	27
Williamsburg	159	24
Southampton	524	103
Worthington	60	8
Smith Vocational HS	109	49
Out of District	13	13
Westfield Vocational HS	2	1
Total	1886	390

During the 2016 school year the district completed a series for Corrected Action Plans in response to findings on the 2014 Coordinated Program Review for each school. School Principals and the Director of Pupil Services worked together to implement corrective action plans, which included professional development and ongoing monitoring to reach one hundred percent compliance. Program Quality Assurance, a branch of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, continues to monitor compliance.

The Hampshire Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Counsel (HRSEPAC) meets regularly as a group and annually with principals. The activities of HRSEPAC include advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; development, and

evaluation of special education programs. The HRSEPAC continues to recruit representatives from all districts.

A second cohort of teachers, one from Westhampton and one from Chesterfield-Goshen, are enrolled in a Level One Orton Gillingham Instructor Program. The Pupil Services Director and Principals are working together to implement the use of Orton Gillingham approach to teaching reading in each school. Southampton teachers are finishing a two-year Level Two training. The long-term goal is to have a teacher in the district qualified to be an Orton-Gillingham trainer. Having a specialized reading program in each school improves services to students with learning disabilities. There have been no out of district placements for reading disabilities since the implementation of Orton Gillingham in our schools.

Special Education Professional Development grant funds have been dedicated to supporting students with social, emotional and behavioral challenges again this year. There has been a sharp increase of students with significant social and emotional needs. Administration, staff and families work together with outside agencies to meet the varied needs of our students and to support school success for all students. Southampton, Hampshire Regional and Williamsburg have started programs to support students with social-emotional learning needs. Each school was able to hire trained special educators with expertise and experience in behavior management and social/emotional supports to help keep students in their home schools with support. Southampton has a specialized preschool program designed to meet the needs of students with moderate to severe special needs. This program is in its second year and continues to be at capacity.

The district has completed focused professional development to support staff in meeting students' diverse and intensive needs. Trainings on the following topics have been offered in 2016: De-escalation and Restraint Techniques, Functional Behavior Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plans, Social Thinking, Social Pragmatics, Working with students and families with Anxiety, Social Emotional Development, Autism and Mindfulness.

At HRHS, the Life Skills program has undergone program evaluation and change. The middle school program is designed to teach and assess whether students will take an academic or life skills/vocational course of study in high school. The Transition to Adulthood program for students who are 18-21 years old includes an option for to participate in Holyoke Community College's Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Program. For students seeking a work experience, working with a job coach to secure competitive employment is an important part of school programming. A Peer Mentoring program was added to support students with disabilities as they develop relationships with typical students with whom they can interact throughout their school day.

The Clarke Mainstream program at HRHS expanded into the eighth grade this year. There are two sophomores and four seniors. HRHS has implemented numerous changes and improvements to provide for greater information access of auditory information including video display monitors for announcements

and information-sharing throughout the school. HRHS also added a high school language-based learning disabilities teacher to meet the needs of students transitioning to high school from the middle school. Middle School and High School teachers who work with Clarke Mainstream program students and language based learning disabled students have had focused professional development during the 2015-2016 school year.

Respectfully submitted by,
Irene H. Ryan, MSW, CAGS
Director of Pupil Services

Hampshire Regional High School 2016

2016 marked another successful year of teaching and learning at Hampshire Regional High School. Students and staff continue to thrive in a positive, safe environment. Because of the support from our local community, Hampshire Regional offers many rigorous and engaging programs for all of our students to be prepared for life after high school.

After much preparation, Hampshire Regional High School completed its decennial accreditation visit for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) in the spring of 2016. Students, staff, school committee, parents and community members participated in the evaluation visit. NEASC accreditation is required to ensure that our school is considered on par with other high schools in the country. The reputation of the community strongly benefits from having an accredited local high school. NEASC accreditation requires a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the school including core values and learning expectations, curriculum, instruction, assessment, school culture and leadership, school resources, and community resources. NEASC reaccruited Hampshire Regional High School noting the following commendations:

Hampshire Regional's core values and learning expectations

Hampshire Regional's rigorous academic and elective programs

The availability of adequate instructional materials, technology supplies and facilities

The practice of differentiation and using data to inform instructional practices

The constructive feedback that is provided to students to allow them to revise their work for continued growth

The multiple forms of assessments used to inform instructional practices

The safe, accepting and inclusive environment

The high academic and social expectations for all

The variety of opportunities for students to personalize their learning

The varied intervention strategies used for students

The extensive use of technology by student support services

The developmental counseling program

The dependable funding which sustains and adds new programs

The capital plan that addresses building maintenance repairs

The communication and cooperation between all stakeholders in the budget process

The efforts of the maintenance staff to maintain a safe and clean learning environment

In addition to the NEASC evaluation visit, students participated in a number of assessments in the spring. In March, May and June, 7th, 8th, and 10th graders completed the MCAS in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Biology. Hampshire Regional is in the 66th percentile relative to other schools for our performance and is ranked as a level two school according to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Based on their performance, 38 seniors earned the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship which entitles students to four years of a tuition waiver at any Mass. Public college / university. An additional 41 seniors were invited to apply for the Stanley Z. Koplik Award. This award qualifies students for a tuition waiver to a state university. These students must also complete two additional academic achievements such as 2 AP scores of 3 or better or 2 SAT subject tests or 1 AP score and 1 SAT subject test. In May, 76 students completed 118 AP tests in Chemistry, Psychology, Spanish Language and Culture, Computer Science, Physics, English Literature and Composition, Calculus AB and BC, US History, Modern European History, Biology, Music Theory, and French Language and Culture. 78% of exams earned a passing grade, which may allow students to earn college credit for the course.

Students were engaged in many academic and extracurricular opportunities throughout the spring. Middle school students showed off their hard work at the annual science fair. Upperclassmen were certified in CPR with the assistance of Fire Chief Chris Norris and the Westhampton Fire Department. Students enrolled in the Independent Living course were responsible for taking care of baby simulators, which was certainly an eye opening experience for many. In Human Oppression, students were tasked with creating meaningful Public Service Announcements to raise awareness towards an organization of their choice. The spring musical for Hampshire was *Peter Pan*, starring seniors Delaney Reynolds as Peter Pan and Dan Sullivan as Captain Hook. Hampshire's girl's softball team won the State Championship for the second year in a row. Notably, the Hampshire Regional School Committee approved the consolidation of a bus route and the addition of a late bus three days a week for students to stay after school and get transported to their town's elementary school at 4pm. The late bus gives more students access to participate in after school programs and seek out extra help from teachers without an additional cost to towns.

Kim Bush, high school English teacher from Southampton, received the honor of being named as the Grinspoon Teacher of the Year from Hampshire Regional. Mrs. Bush was nominated for this award because of her

sound instructional practices, her strong advocacy for all students to succeed and her involvement in the Hampshire community.

On June 3, 2016, 130 seniors graduated from Hampshire Regional High School. Valedictorian Samantha Tripp of Southampton played her flute as part of her remarks, and Salutatorian Alexander Kubosiak of Southampton reminisced about the learning and opportunities he experienced at Hampshire Regional. 83% of students from the class of 2016 planned to go to a two or four year school, 8% joined the military or attended a specialized school, and 9% were undecided or heading into the workforce.

At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, Hampshire recognized two faculty members, Ann Trytko and Virginia Elliott for their years of service as they retired. Ms. Trytko worked in the Wellness Department as a PE teacher, but was well known throughout the state for her work as Hampshire's Athletic Director. Ginger Elliott taught in Spanish in the foreign language department and was heavily involved in the school community throughout her career. Dale Nicodemi, Math teacher, also retired in November.

The 2016-2017 school year welcomed 753 students to Hampshire Regional.

Grade	Number of Students
7	159
8	138
9	119
10	95
11	113
12+	124
Total	748

Hampshire welcomed quite a few new staff members for the 2016-2017 school year. John Plourd, previously the program leader for the wellness department, was hired as the Director of Student Activities taking over athletics for Ann Trytko, but also adding advisory and extracurricular activities to the responsibilities of the position. The special education and guidance department welcomed Chris Nadeau, Erin Mahon-Moore, Dawn Young, Sarah Wollschlager, Danielle Martineau, Alison Labrecque,

and Jeffery Carriero. Kari Manning and Steve Croft were hired for the wellness department. Sonia Jimenez, Deena Lashway, and Haley Richard accepted teaching positions in the foreign language department. Ellen Doyle was hired as the English Language Learners teacher. Stephanie Faas accepted the shared position as a nurse between Hampshire and Norris Elementary School. Dale Nicodemi's vacancy was filled by Stacy Benham, and Keith Wright accepted the high school chemistry position. Keith was notified he was selected for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is a high honor, as only one high school science teacher from every state is selected to receive this award each year.

Students had the opportunity to enroll in a number of new courses at Hampshire Regional included history quarter courses for junior year with specialized topics such as the Great Depression, World War II, Civil Rights, and Modern America. Hampshire also started to offer English elective courses such as High School ELA Plus and Holocaust Literature. Health 9 was reinstated as a required course for ninth graders and the math department added a College Prep level of Pre-Calculus.

New members were elected to Hampshire Regional's School Council. School Committee member Margaret Larson, parent Bill Curran, and Guidance Leader Amy Scully were joined by new members parents Luci Dalton, Eileen Hamel and Melissa Adams and teachers Kelly Carpenter, Tonya Aitken, and Keith Wright.

In September of 2016, Hampshire Regional suffered an unspeakable loss when senior Thomas Bisbee died unexpectedly due to a heart condition. The learning community came together to support each other and his family through this very difficult time. The senior class and Thomas' friends were especially affected by his death and many took advantage of the support systems offered through Hampshire Regional to work through their emotions. Students showed and continue to prove immeasurable courage by motivating one another to work hard and meet their goals because that's what their friend would have wanted for them. Thomas will be remembered at the 2017 graduation ceremony and in the yearbook.

One of Hampshire's School Improvement Plan goals is to support the whole child, and there have been different events and programs developed to follow through with this goal. Dr. Ruth Pote gave a well-received talk to parents and staff at open house to discuss the effects of drug use on the developing teen brain. Hampshire Regional's SADD hosted a Distractology Program that taught inexperienced drivers about the dangers of distracted driving. It was sponsored by Finck & Perras Insurance

Agency out of Easthampton and Arbella Insurance and was developed at UMass Amherst with support from the District Attorney's office. Another significant support was the addition of the Social Emotional special education teacher who created a program to provide support services to middle school students. Because of this teacher's work in collaboration with administration, the special education department and guidance department, Hampshire has been able to support students locally instead of sending them to private schools for special education services.

As schools are increasingly charged with developing students socially and emotionally as well as academically, I reflect on the work done by the staff at Hampshire Regional and the support that towns have provided. Our students are truly well on their way to being contributing members of our community due to the collaboration and commitment of all stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Smidy

2016 Hampshire Regional Athletic Department

It was another exciting and successful year for athletics at Hampshire Regional.

In the winter, both our girls and boys basketball teams qualified for the Western Massachusetts Tournament. The girl's team reached the semi-finals and played at the Curry Hicks Cage. Senior Chelsea Mousette and junior Katy O'Connor both capped the 1,000 point milestone for their careers.

On the wrestling mat, Nick Hoskin and Matt Carrier both took home Western Massachusetts Runner-Up honors, while Brandon Weyant was not only a Western Massachusetts Champion, he also won the title of All State Champion.

There was even more to celebrate in the spring season as Coach Brian McGan lead the softball team to its second straight Western Massachusetts Championship, and even more impressively, its second straight State Championship. Senior standout Alexis Ferris came within two strikeouts of setting the Hampshire Regional all time strikeout record and received the female Western Mass Pitcher of the Year Award.

With the conclusion of the spring season, we also saw the Athletic Directing career of Ann Trytko comes to a close. After dedicating 11 years to Hampshire Regional Athletics, Ann retired to spend more time with her grandchildren. The Athletic Directing responsibilities have been transferred to Hampshire's newly created position, "Director of Student Activities". A 2006 graduate from Hampshire Regional, John Plourd was hired over the summer and not only has the honor of directing Hampshire Regional Athletics, but all manner of student activities as Hampshire's first Director of Student Activities.

When the leaves turned in 2016, Hampshire's winning ways continued. The boy's and girl's soccer teams both qualified for the Western Massachusetts Tournament. The boy's team celebrated a league championship and each teams had players receive All-League, All-Western Mass and All-State honors.

Perhaps the most proud moments of the calendar year came with our girl's cross country team and the co-op football team with Easthampton receiving the State Sportsmanship Awards in their respective sports. Coach Sue Tracy and the girls accepted their award at the Western Mass

championship meet while Coach Matt Bean and his team traveled to Gillette Stadium to accept their award at the during halftime of the state high school superbowl.

2016 came to an end and we are left with memories and examples of Hampshire's students standing out above the crowd. Hampshire Regional continues to be a place where students are able to show off their prowess as athletes and as top-tier individuals.

Respectfully Submitted,

John P. Plourd
Director of Student Activities

**New Hingham Regional Elementary School
Annual Principal's Report
January – December 2016**

New Hingham Regional Elementary School continues to be a school that develops successful learners through a student-centered, integrated learning environment combining academics and the arts. The Massachusetts Department of Education ranks schools from level one (highest performing) to level five (lowest performing). Through positive teacher-student relationships and high expectations for all students, NHRES has achieved a level two performance rating on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System and our current school percentile is 55, which is our overall performance relative to other schools that are similar. In addition, I will continue to look forward to working alongside staff, students and community members who are energetic and committed to ensuring student success and lifelong learning.

Beginning in September 2016, Massachusetts has adopted the new Science Standards that include both science and engineering content and practices. Teachers have been working in district level teams to prepare curriculum for the standards, share unit plans, and to support implementation. In addition to science, we are continuing our work on both district and school initiatives that support math curriculum, writing instruction, and reading at all grade levels. Staff members also participate in-house professional learning opportunities not only to enhance teaching methods, but also to meet their professional goals. Our three leadership teams continue to support initiatives to build upon areas of strengths and weaknesses in math, ELA and school culture. Highlights of the team's work that benefitted our school were developing and implementing behavior management supports and common area protocols, classroom instructional practices from *Making Thinking Visible*, Math Family Night, introduction to Math Number Talks, and other staff professional development that focuses on enhancing instructional practices. Additional professional development was provided to staff on strengthening implementation and analysis of the Benchmark Assessment System, an assessment tool used to evaluate students reading and comprehension levels.

In 2016, NHRES hosted many enrichment activities for student and families. It would be impossible to list all of the special events and enrichment opportunities hosted by classroom teachers, but a few are as follows: Gr. 6 Senat Tournament, Preschool Chinese New Year Parade, Grades 4-6 Winter Dance, Gr. 6 Social, HRHS Graduate Parade, and enrichment field trips in all grades (CT Science Center, Eric Carle and Berkshire Museum, Storrowton Village, Mystic, and Academy of Music). The 6th grade end of year celebration and field trip was to Nature's Classroom in Becket for three days in May. This was a rewarding experience for all students and

it gave them the opportunity to connect as a class and to create memories for the years they spent at New Hingham.

Besides academics, supporting students through our Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) instruction also known as Response to Intervention (RtI) continues to grow and improve. Ms. Parker and Ms. First along with the expertise of classroom teachers and specialists continue to assess students in reading and math for all grade levels. Data teams meet to review student progress in order to maximize instructional support for all students. Supporting student behavior is a component of this model and we continue to address the needs of our students. Initiatives this year included a Video “Flash Mob” starring NHRES students that focused on behavior expectations in the Hallway, Lunch, and Recess. Additionally, students participate in whole school monthly team-building assemblies to strengthen our core values.

Technology continues to move forward at NHRES. At the end of the 2016 school year we were able to enhance our infrastructure through grant funding. This included updating existing wiring and wireless points throughout the building. In addition, a new swipe card system has been installed in the six outer doors to increase security measures within the building.

This year we welcomed the addition of the New Hingham Dental Outreach Program in conjunction with the Hilltown Community Health Center. This partnership provides a vital service to our families. Many parents took advantage of the program’s onsite dental services available for their children. This program continues to grow and will remain onsite during the 2016-17 school year.

Through funding from the PTO, New Hingham offered a variety of after-school programs that promote enrichment and continuous learning. These include: Practical Engineering, Lego Robotics, Hip-Hop Dance, Lego Building, Chess, Chinese, Art in the Garden, Soccer, Studio Art and Gardening Club. In addition to the enrichment programs, grant funding through the PTO supported an assembly featuring Brett Oochunis presenting “All Kinds of Kindness”, coffee socials on the first day of school for K-6 parents and again the following week for incoming preschool parents. Other events and traditions that are funded in whole or part by the PTO include: coffee social at the Halloween Parade, Thanksgiving Share, Holiday Bazaar, Literacy Night, and the Spring Concert and Art Show.

The New Hingham School Council, Chesterfield Fire Dept. and PTO once again kicked off The Back to School BBQ on August 31st. A new event added to our community events was the Cabin Fever Dinner Dance on February 25, 2016. This was hosted by the NH School Council and

funded in part by a multigenerational grant from Highland Valley Elder Services to the Chesterfield and Westhampton COAs, Chesterfield Public Library, CFCEs of Westhampton and Chesterfield, Davenport Childcare, and the New Hingham PTO. To promote wellness, Nurse Brown hosted two, 5-week before-school programs for students to learn and value the importance of a healthy lifestyle through our Jump Up and Go program, which was supported through Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts Grant Program. The Student Awareness of Fire Education program (S.A.F.E) for all grades continues at NHRES under the supervision of Sue Labrie, Goshen Fire Chief. Our music program under the direction of Ms. Hatfield showcased our students' talents by performing day and evening concerts, along with participating in other traditional programs such as Pinwheels for Peace, Thanksgiving Share and the Spring Art and Music Festival.

Community partnerships continue to be an important component of our school. We currently partner with the Chesterfield and Goshen COA and have hosted a senior tea and luncheon. Community members were invited and accepted our offer to have breakfast with students during National Breakfast week. New this year on the 3rd Wednesday of the month NHRES is hosting a parent/community breakfast/lunch. Through the dedication and support of the Chesterfield Recreation Committee, students are provided with numerous sports opportunities at the school and other non-profit groups such as the Boys and Girl Scouts hold meetings and events here as well. Bonnie's Program is in full swing and continually supports community members by providing before and after-school day-care for families in Chesterfield and Goshen.

The 2016 School year brought many, new talented staff members to NHRES, but unfortunately we had to say goodbye to Tara Buckingham, Hillary Koncal, Elizabeth Gaulin, and Emma Haskell. They will be missed at NHRES, however, we wish them all the best as they embark on new careers and life changes. In turn, we welcome Rachel Cenedalla our new school secretary, Carrie Foley our new special education teacher, Kelsey Bourdon and Lynne Betters our new preschool paraprofessionals, Mary Bourdon our new special education paraprofessional and Grade 2 interim, Amanda Asselin. Each of these staff members brings their own style and expertise to the students and community members at New Hingham. They have been a wonderful addition to the staff and have established themselves as active team members.

On June 14, 2016 we celebrated with 26 sixth-grade students on their successful completion of Elementary School. Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Evans hosted the ceremony with their personal comments on the successes of every student in the class. We would like to honor the following graduates of 2016: Emma Brown, Ellen Chevalier, Kylie Cleggett,

Julia D’Astous, Lindsay Ethier, Jeffrey Fish, Phoebe Harold, Janessa Jones, Delaney Kukucka, Stormy Layman, Candace Lachance, Taylor Morin, Connor Mott, Cody Papillon, Lauren MeiLi Perkins, Larissa Riley, Michaela Rock, Natalie Rooney, Lucas Smith, Stephen Smith, Nevaeh Stone, Shelby Trombley, Tyler Vanasse, Chediego Wescott, Lauren Williams, and West Williams.

In the fall of 2016, we welcomed students in grades PK-6. Currently we have:

Grade Level	# Of Students	# Of School Choice
PK	15	
K	22	5
1	14	2
2	19	2
3	12	3
4	19	3
5	19	4
6	20	3
Total	140	22

NHRES staff and I are extremely grateful for the opportunity to educate your children. We would like to thank the towns of Chesterfield and Goshen, School Committee, School Council, New Hingham PTO, Central Office staff, and community members for providing us with the resources and enrichment that has contributed to our school’s success.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary L. Larkin

Rosemary Larkin, Principal

Tilton Town Farm Supervisors

The Tilton Town Farm Supervisors would like to report on the improvements to the Tilton farmhouse and progress with our Timber Management Plan as created by Bay State Forestry Service.

Here are the improvements:

To the Farmhouse:

Repairs were made to the electrical system to ensure its safety and compliance with electrical code

The 1st stage of 2 stages to replace the roof. We hope to complete stage 2 in the Spring of 2017

Repairs were made to the structure of the front porch and to the overall condition of the well

Tilton Supervisor Roger Culver oversaw and assisted in a tremendous amount of clean up to the property with the removal of stumps, brush, and other debris

Timber Management Plan:

We entered into our 2nd year of our Timber Management Plan to promote healthy regeneration to the forest while improving wildlife habitat and existing hiking trails. We also continued to treat and remove invasive species located on the property.

We collaborated with The Open Space Committee on our Timber Management Plan to ensure open communications and to avoid duplication of efforts and resources. The collaboration continued as the Open Space Committee held a dedication ceremony of a bench on Tilton land in memory of Terry Johnson.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Goss, Roger Culver, Rich Polwrek
Tilton Town Farm Supervisors

Goshen Town Hall Rehabilitation Committee

The committee was charged with oversight of the town hall rehabilitation project upon M.G.L. Ch 149 procurement of an architect, project manager and general contractor.

The scope of work on this building, originally constructed in 1911, encompassed three major areas of work: replacement of slate roofs and felts, repairs to front façade masonry, parapets and stone pedestals walls and repairs to the two side entrance porticos, columns and ramp.

Work was extensive and time consuming due to deteriorated conditions. The existing slate roof served the building for 100 years but broken slates had allowed water penetration and damage to interior walls and windows. Cement plaster was crumbling and stone and slate pieces were falling off the building.

As is typical in New England, warmer temperatures did not prevail in the Spring and while roof work could be completed right at the start, façade and column stripping was delayed.

We are delighted to note that Goshen schist was used to cap the pedestal walls and to provide a perfect match to existing stone, sills and lintels.

Funding for this rehabilitation was made possible through the following:

- \$75,000 in 2015, from Emergency Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund application completed by Norene Roberts, approved by Selectboard
- \$64,893 in 2016, from Emergency Massachusetts Preservation Fund
- \$433,000 of Community Preservation Act town approved funds 2015/16
- \$100,000 from Town Stabilization account

We appreciate the patience of town residents, Council on Aging and the Librarian as we limited parking spaces and, often times, even access to the building while repairs were being completed.

In 2013, Norene Roberts, David Pesuit and Sandy Papush began this journey and it was their efforts along with Joe Roberts' that laid the groundwork.

The support of the Community Preservation committee and the town people provided for the continued social, recreational, educational and political gatherings we so enjoy.

Please make use of this historic building!

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Otis

Additional Committee Members:

Sandy Papush

Joe Roberts (Resigned) Norene Roberts (Resigned)

Treasurer's Report

For the Fiscal Year 2016: July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Receipts	
July 2015	\$ 428,845.25
August	246,431.70
September	52,579.50
October	204,046.37
November	396,675.68
December	47,523.51
January 2016	463,814.84
February	379,553.58
March	215,994.76
April	226,745.47
May	411,491.11
June	87,291.11
TOTAL	\$ 2,697,641.84

Short Term Debt Outstanding

	Outstanding Debt as of July 1, 2015	New Debt Issued during FY 2016	Retired during FY2016	Outstanding Debt as of June 30, 2016
Highway International Plow Truck	\$149,740.80		\$7,928.00	\$23,784.00
Police Vehicle Ford Explorer	31,712.00		37,435.20	112,305.60
Highway Ford F-550		68,000.00		68,000.00
Totals	\$181,452.80	\$68,000.00	\$45,363.20	\$204,089.60

**Tax Title Accounts Receivable
as of June 30, 2016**

PARCEL	TAX TITLE AMOUNT Certified by Collector
Map 1, Lot 0 30	\$27,271.85
Map 2, Lot 0 32-0	5,131.59
Map 10A, Lot 0 369-0	411.93
Map 10A, Lot 0 702-0	817.17
Map 8, Lot 0 107-0	9,179.22
Map 5, Lot 0 24-0	12,458.80
Map 5, Lot 0 72-0	666.33
Map 2, Lot 0 32-0	764.27
Map 10A, Lot 0 643-0	432.31
Map 8, Lot 0 109-0	24,441.15
Map 10, Lot 0 11-0	700.75
Map 10A, Lot 0 722-X	1,265.91
Map 10A, Lot 0 719-0	1,031.21
Map 10A, Lot 0 661-0	391.77
Map 3, Lot 0 4-0	7,028.29
Map 3, Lot 0 2-0	4,157.20
Map 8, Lot 0 50-0	8,001.54
Map 10A, Lot 0 276-X	453.05
Map 5, Lot 0 104-0	1,599.68
Map 10A, Lot 0 317-0	808.37
Map 10A, Lot 0 616-X30	662.72
TAX TITLE ACCOUNTS TOTALS:	\$107,675.11 *

* Tax Title Amounts are past due real estate taxes outstanding, Collector's fees, and interest as certified by the Tax Collector and turned over to the Treasurer for collection. All amounts subject to 16% interest and additional legal fees and redemption costs.

Respectfully submitted,
Allan L. Kidston
Treasurer

Tree Warden

I want to start this report by thanking the highway crew for their help in cleaning up after the National Grid and private tree crews who were topping the trees that I had marked. The highway crew also responds in emergency situations when trees fall in the roadways. National Grid did top all of the trees that I had on my list a year ago. I have a new list for them now.

My plan is to continue to focus on the trees that I identify as hazard trees. The trees that I mark are dead or dying or have a structural defect that makes them a risk to fail and cause damage. It is sad to see how many of our large street trees are struggling to survive. The dry conditions last year were severe. Hopefully this year we will get a normal rainfall.

Each year we will work toward removing more of the standing butt logs. The tree crews can top more trees if they don't drop the bottom section. The firewood size pieces are left at the base of the tree and are offered to the abutting home owner first. So, please ask the abutter before taking wood from in front of someone else's house.

Please call, text or email me if you have any questions or if you see an unmarked tree for which you have questions. There are more trees marked than we can afford to remove each year, therefore we remove the ones that take priority.

I can be reached at 413-329-3100 or bobgoss24@gmail.com.

Submitted by,

Bob Goss, tree warden

Zoning Board of Appeals

Calendar Year 2016 History:

___4___ Applications for Special Permit
 ___ ___ withdrawn
 ___4___ granted
 ___0___ denied
 ___ ___ amended

___0___ Applications for Appeal of Decision of the Building In-
spectator
 ___ ___ denied
 ___ ___ allowed

___0___ Applications for Variance
 ___ ___ denied
 ___ ___ allowed
 ___ ___ withdrawn

Comment on Changes or Developments:

Four requests for special permits were approved with conditions.

Earlier appeals in two other cases were substantially denied, although the courts are still hearing one aspect of the appeal in one case. In the other case the court agreed with the plaintiff that the property was grandfathered and the case has been closed.

The final approval of a Comprehensive Permit request by the Hilltown Community Development Corporation for elderly housing was approved and executed.

The Chairman of the ZBA met with the Selectboard and other Town officials to discuss certain issues relating to a right of way on West Shore Drive.

Respectfully submitted,
Zoning Board of Appeals
Joseph Frye, Chairman
Bill O’Riordan
Lisa Newman
Roger Culver, Alternate



**John James Memorial Town Hall
42 Main Street Goshen, Ma**

**Town Of Goshen
40 Main Street
Goshen, Ma 01032**

(413)268-8236

www.goshen-ma.us