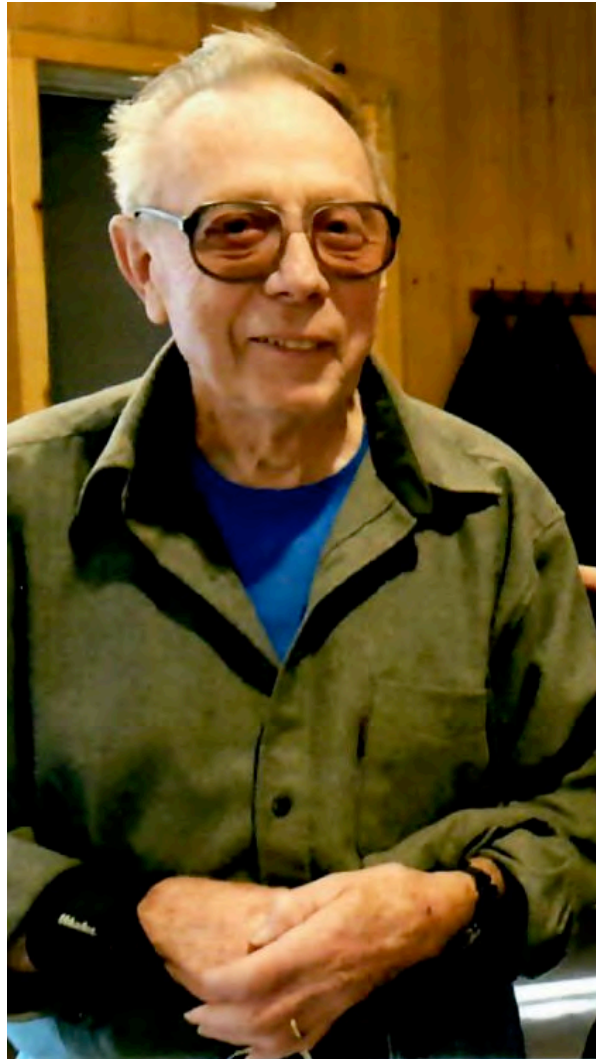

Town of Goshen 2017

Annual Report



Chet Lulek

retires after 33 years of town service

This year's annual report is dedicated to Chet Lulek who retired from the Board of Health in May 2017.

The Selectboard and all other elected officials, committee members and townspeople are grateful for the 33 years Chet served on Board of Health. In addition to that leadership role, Chet served the town as a member of the Board of Assessors from 1983-1988.

This level of civic engagement is inspiring to others and we thank Chet for being a terrific role model.

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Government Officials

Select Board

Angela Otis, Chair
Wayne Glaser, Vice Chair
Nina Pinger, Clerk resigned August 2017
James Heroux, Clerk, Elected October 2017

State Representative

Stephen Kulik

District Office

The James Building, Room 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

24 Beacon Street, Room 238
Boston, MA 02133
Tel: (617) 722-2380 Fax: (617) 722-2847

State Senator (Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden & Franklin District)

Adam G. Hinds
State House 24 Beacon St, Room 309, Boston, MA 02133
Tel: (617) 772-1625 Fax: (617) 722-1523
District Office
100 North Street, Suite 410, Pittsfield, MA 01201
Tel: (413) 344-4561 Fax: (413) 767-2373 adam.hinds@masenate.gov

United States Representative

Richard E. Neal
Springfield
300 State Street, Suite 200
Springfield, MA 01105
(413)785-0325
neal.house.gov

United States Senators

Ed Markey
1500 Main Street, 4th Floor
Springfield, MA 01101
(413)785-4610
www.markey.senate.gov

Elizabeth Warren
1550 Main Street, Suite 406
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)788-2690
www.warren.senate.gov

Governor

Charles Baker
Office of the Governor, State House, Room 280, Boston, MA 02133
(617)725-4005 Fax (617)727-9725
www.mass.gov/gov

Lt. Governor

Karyn Polito
Office of the Lt. Governor, State House, Room 280, Boston, MA 02133
(617)725-4005 Fax (617)727-9725
www.mass.gov/gov

Elected Officials - FY 2017		
Elected Official	Term	Expiration
Almoners	3 Years	
Stephen M. Estelle		2019
Michael Rock		2017
Kristine Bissell		2018
Assessors	3 Years	
Diane Bushee		2019
Cassandra L. Morrey		2017
Gina M. Papineau		2018
Board of Health	3 Years	
Elizabeth Bell-Perkins		2019
Chester Lulek		2017
John P. Rooney Jr.		2018
Chesterfield/Goshen Regional School Committee	3 Years	
Sabrina Willard		2017
Jessica Judd		2018
Edward Sturtevant (Appt. 9/30/2016))	2 Year	2019
Finance Committee		
Nancy Grove (Resigned 10/24/2016)	3 Year	2019
Pearl Judd (Resigned 10/25/2016)	3 Year	2019
Kristine Bissell (Appt. 10/24/2016)		2019
Angela Otis	3 Years	2018
Dawn Scaparotti	2Year	2017
Ann Marie Deres	1 Year	2017
Hampshire County Councilor	2 Years	
Diane E. Bushee		2018
Hampshire Regional School Committee	3 Years	
Kristen Estelle		2017

Elected Officials - FY 2017		
Library Trustees	3 Years	
Melanie Dana		2019
Marcia Shaw		2019
Rosemarie Clark		2018
Arlene Harry (Appt. 2/1/2016)		2018
Rosemary Beinz (Appt. 6/20/2016)		2017
Vacant		2017
Moderator	1 Year	
Robert Labrie		2017
Planning Board	5 Years	
Roger Culver		2018
Joseph Frye		2019
Lisa Newman		2021
Dana Stiepok		2020
Thomas Carins III		2017
Select Board	3 Years	
Angela Otis		2018
Diane E. Bushee		2017
Wayne Glaser		2019
Town Clerk	3 Years	
Gina M. Papineau		2018
Tilton Fruit Farm Supervisors	1 Year	
Roger Culver		2017
Richard K. Polwrek		2017
Robert O. Goss		2017

APPOINTMENTS - FY2017		
	Term	Term Expires
Administrative Assistant Melissa Papillon	1 Year	2017
Administrative Assistant Backup Cynthia Roberts(Resigned 1/5/2017)	1 Year	2017
Animal Control Officer Gary Papineau	1 Year	2017
Animal Control Officer Supervisor Warren Kirkpatrick	1 Year	2017
Animal Inspector Roger Culver	1 Year	2017
Assistant Assessor (Appt. by Assessors) Gina M. Papineau	3 Years	2018
Assessor's Clerk (Appt. by Assessors) Evelyn Kellogg-Culver	1 Year	2017
Assistant Town Clerk (Appt. by Town Clerk) Kristen Estelle	1 Year	2018
Assistant Town Collector Susan Warriner	1 Year	2017
Assistant Treasurer Vacant	1 Year	2017
Board of Registrars Audrey Bissell	1 Year	2017
Rose-Marie Carr		2017
Janice Ellis		2017

APPOINTMENTS - FY2017		
Building Inspector	1 Year	2017
Robert Walden (Resigned 4/5/2017)		
Joseph Latronica (Appt. 5/25/2017)		
Building Inspector's Clerk	1 Year	2017
Patricia Morey (Appt. 11/16/2016)		
Capitol Planning Committee		
Wayne Glaser (Appt. 8/15/2016)	2 Years	2018
Ann Deres (Appt. 8/15/2016)		2018
Dawn Scaparotti (Appt. 8/15/2016)		2018
Todd Dewkett (Appt. 8/15/2016)		2018
Jeffery Hewes (Appt. 8/15/2016)		2018
Cemetery Superintendent	1 Year	2017
Roger Culver		
Certified Public Weighers	1 Year	2017
Vacant		
Community Compact Program	1 Year	2017
Robert Labrie		
Conservation Commission	1 Year	
Sandra Papush		2017
Charles Amo		2017
Lloyd Ewing		2017
James Heroux		2017
Amanda Ewing(Appt. 7/5/2016)(Resigned 10/6/2016)		2017
Michael Duquette (Appt. 5/9/2017)		2018
Constable	1 Year	
Melissa Papillon		2017
Jacob West (Appt. 8/31/2015)		2017
Council On Aging	3 Years	
Rosemarie Clark, Director (Resigned 6/30/2017)		2017
Henrietta Munroe		2018
Nancy Grove (Resigned 10/24/2016)		2018
Elizabeth Loven (Appt. 6/7/2016)		2018
Sandy Papush		2017
Kathryn Boisvert		2017
Evelyn Kellogg-Culver		2018

APPOINTMENTS - FY2017		
CPA Committee	1 Year	
Don Boisvert - Housing		2017
Lisa Newman - Planning Board(Resigned 3/27/2017)		2017
Sandra Papush - Conservation		2017
Shannon Wade - Recreation		2017
Norene Roberts - At Large(Resigned 2/2/2017)		2017
Robert Labrie - Historical		2017
Alison Bowen - Open Space		2017
David Pesuit - At-Large (Appt. 4/24/2017)		2017
Vacant - Planning Board		
Custodian for Town Properties	3 Year	
Allan Kidston		2018
Cultural Council	1 Year	
Kathryn Boisvert		2017
Henrietta Munroe		2018
Alison Bowen		2018
Jonathan Foulkes		2018
Kristen Estelle		2017
Elderly Housing Study Committee	1 Year	
Don Boisvert		2017
Henrietta Munroe		2017
Rochelle Nahmias		2017
Maureen Krok		2017
William O'Riordan		2017
Election Warden	1 Year	
Evelyn Kellogg-Culver		2017
Electrical Inspector	1 Year	
Curt Golec		2017
Emergency Management Director	1 Year	
Larry Holmberg		2017
Emergency Response Coordinator	1 Year	
Larry Holmberg		2017
Fence Viewers	1 Year	
James Morrey		2017
Vacant Position		2017

APPOINTMENTS - FY2017		
Field Driver	1 Year	
Vacant Position		2017
Fire Chief	1 Year	
Susan Labrie		2017
Goshen Energy Committee	1 Year	
Joe D. Roberts		2017
David Christopolis		2017
Goshen Light	1 Year	
Robert Labrie		2017
Health Agent (Appt. by Board of Health)	1 Year	2017
Valarie Bird		
Historical Commission	3 Years	
Margaret Waggoner		2019
Robert Labrie		2017
Floyd Merritt		2019
Vacant		2020
Vacant		2020
HRMC Representative	1 Year	
Timothy Hogan		2017
Chester Lulek (Retired 2017)		2017
John Rooney (Appt. 3/29/2017)		2018
Legal Counsel	1 Year	
Kopelman & Paige		2017
Library Director (Appt. by Library Trustees)		
Martha Noblick	1 Year	2017
Library Aide (Appt. by Library Trustees)		
Janice Ellis		2018
Open Space Committee		
Melanie Dana	1 Year	2017
Vacant		2017
Sandra Papush		2017
Jane Larson		2017
Alison Bowen		2017

APPOINTMENTS - FY2017		
Pioneer Vally Planning Commission		
Joseph Frye	1 Year	2017
Vacant		2017
Plumbing & Gas Inspector		
Donald Lawton	1 Year	2017
Police Chief		
Jeffery Hewes	1 Year	2017
Police Sargeant		
David Martin	1 Year	2017
Police Department Secretary		
Donna Hewes	1 Year	2017
Police Officers		
Donna Hewes	1 Year	2017
William Bissell		2017
Jeffery Fish		2017
Ami Wallace		2017
Recreation Commission		
Jennifer Bisbee	1 Year	2017
Roger Culver		2017
David Bond (Appt. 4/10/2017)		2018
Shannon Wade		2017
Taylor Granger (Appt. 4/26/2017)		2018
RT 112 Advisory Representative		
Joseph Frye	1 Year	2017
Vacant		2017
David Packard		2017
Solar Mass		
Angela Otis	1 Year	2017
David Christopolis		2017
Barbara Christopolis		2017
Town Collector		
Michelle Bond	1 Year	2017

APPOINTMENTS - FY2017		
Town Hall Advisory Committee	1 Year	
Sandra Papush		2016
David Pesuit		2016
Norene Roberts		2016
Town Hall Repair Construction Phase Committee	1 Year	
Angela Otis		2017
Jacquelyn Burgin		2017
Michael Mucci		2017
Ronald Alex		2017
Sandra Papush		2017
Town Treasurer	3 Year	
Allan Kidston		2018
PH Transfer Station Technician		
Timothy Hogan	1 Year	2017
PH Assistant Transfer Station Tehcnician		
Roger Culver	1 Year	2017
Tree Warden		
Robert Goss	1 Year	2017
Trench Permit Issuing Authority		
Todd Dewkett	1 Year	2017
Wired West Communication Representative		
Robert Labrie	1 Year	2017
David Christopolis		2017
Webmaster		
Robert Labrie	1 Year	2017
Zoning Board of Appeals		
Joseph Frye	3 Year	2017
Lisa Newman		2019
William O'Riordan		2018
Roger Culver, Alternate		2019
Constracted Positions		
Accounting Clerk	1 Year	

APPOINTMENTS - FY2017		
Sabrina Fowler		2017
Town Accountant	1 Year	
HCOG - Roland Chaffee		2017
COA/FRTA Van Driver	1 Year	
Gary Theroux (Resigned 5/17/2017)		2017
Veteran's Agent		
Thomas Geryk	1 Year	2017
Custodians		
Ronald E. Loven, Jr.		
Melissa A. Papillon		
Highway Department		
Todd Dewkett		
Jon Zapka (Resigned 2/3/2017)		
Phillip Culver		
Robert Jarvie (Appt. 4/3/2017)		

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

Check the town website for changes at <http://www.goshen-ma.us/home>

Board & Committees.	Meeting Times	Meeting Place
Assessors	Wednesday 8am – 2 pm	Town Hall
Assistant Assessor	&6:30 pm – 8.00pm	Assessors' Office
Building Inspector	Tuesday & Thursday 10am - noon	Town Office
Board of Health	Monthly – 1 st Monday – 7pm	Town Office
Chesterfield/Goshen Regional School Committee	Monthly – 1 st Wednesday 5:30pm	New Hingham School
Community Preservation	Monthly- 2 nd Monday 7:00pm	Town Hall
Conservation Commission	Bi-Monthly – 1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays 6 pm	Town Office
Council on Aging	Luncheon- monthly 2 nd Tuesday-12 pm Board Meeting last Tuesday of Month 1pm	Town Hall, 2 nd Floor Town Office
Cultural Council	Annual Meeting – (held in Fall)	Town Office
Elderly Housing	Monthly – 1 st Thursday	Town Office
Finance Committee	Monthly – 2 nd Tuesday – 6pm	Town Office
Hampshire Reg. School Cmte.	Monthly – 1 st Monday – 7pm	Hampshire Reg. School
Historical Commission	Monthly – 1 st Saturday at 10:30am	Town Office
Library Trustees	Contact the library to get the next meeting date – 268-8236, ext. 111	Library/Town Hall
Open Space	Monthly – 2 nd Wednesday – 7pm	Town Office
Planning Board	Monthly – 1 st Monday – 7pm	Town Office
Police Department	By appointment – 268-3116	Town Office
Recreation Commission	Monthly – last Tuesday – 7:00pm	Town Office
Select Board	Alternate Mondays - 6pm and as needed	Town Office
Tilton Town Farm Supervisors	Monthly – 2 nd Monday - 7pm	Town Office
Town Clerk	Monday - 8am -2pm & 6pm - 8pm	Town Office
Town Collector	Wednesday – 6pm - 8pm	Town Office
Town Treasurer	Monday – 6:00pm to 8:00pm	Town Office
Zoning Board of Appeals	As necessary	Town Hall

Title	Contact Information	Address/Location
Council on Aging Director	Evelyn Culver 268-8236 ext 118	Town Office
Animal Control Officer	Don Tryon - 413 586-1508 ask to have the Goshen Animal Control Officer paged	Town Office
Electrical Inspector	Curt Golec - 413 320-1156	Mailing Address: P.O. Box 193 Leeds, MA 01053
Fire Chief	Susan Labrie - 268-7161	P.O. Box 871, 56 Main Street, Goshen
Gas & Plumbing Inspector	Donald Lawton - 268-7487	
Health Agent	Valerie Bird - 268-8404	Foothills, Williamsburg
Highway Superintendent	Todd Dewket - 268-7062	40 Main Street, Goshen
House Number Assignments	Goshen Fire Dept - 268-7161	P.O. Box 871, 56 Main Street, Goshen
Landfill/Transfer Station	268-7079 Saturdays 8:30a - 4:15p	Wing Hill Rd
Library	Monday - 3 pm - 6 pm Wednesday - 3 pm – 6 pm Saturday - 11 am –3 pm	Town Hall Second Floor
Police Chief	Jeffrey Hewes - 268-3116	Town Offices
Veterans' Agent	Tom Geryk 587-1299 1 st & 3 rd Mondays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Town Offices

To call or leave a message, dial 268-8236 and choose the extension you need.



Select Board

Nina Pinger was elected to the Select Board in May 2017 and served until August 31, 2017. Nina contributed much insight as a board member and could not complete the term due to the time demands of the role and the challenges in her work and personal life. James Heroux was elected in October to fill the vacancy.

The Board continues to be engaged in a number of important topics to residents and actively works to resolve issues and advocate for the town with local and state organizations, including increased funding for small towns.

Much time and deliberate action to finally bring high speed fiber optic broadband to town has resulted in a projected network completion sometime prior to the end of December 2019. An inter-governmental agreement with Westfield Gas & Electric was signed in September 2017 and the identification of poles and fiber routes to homes was completed. The Board secured a state grant of \$770,000 towards the engineering, design and construction of the town owned broadband network.

The West Street resurfacing project design and engineering was completed in August 2017 and bids will be opened in March 2018. The contractor winning the award will begin the project likely by summer. We are appreciative of the Transportation Improvement Project funding which will likely exceed \$3 million.

Wayne Glaser participated with Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg to apply for and secure a Community Compact Information Technology Grant totaling \$60,250. This grant will provide for implementation of an electronic document management system.

This winter began with unexpected challenges for the Highway Department and the Board spent much time addressing equipment and personnel challenges, resulting in significant reduction in the town's ability to plow and sand roads safely.

Joseph Latronica was appointed as the town's building commissioner, Don Tryon was nominated to the position of Animal Control Officer and Evelyn Culver was appointed as Council on Aging Director.

The Board appointed a new committee to develop plans for better utilization of walking paths and improvement to the town center.

This year the Board emphasized risk mitigation and process improvement, with a focused effort to identify areas of weakness in financial reporting and accounting best practices. Improvement has been made to tax title collection resulting in better collection of monies. This year has resulted in numerous accounting service challenges and is an area of prominent concern to be addressed in the upcoming months.

The Board also concentrated on necessary improvements for emergency preparedness, working to have a new generator placed at the fire station and addressing equipment shortfalls.

The board would like to thank all our employees, paid, and volunteer committee members that work so hard all year long. Your contributions do not go unnoticed and we are grateful for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Otis, Chair

Wayne Glaser, Vice-Chair

James Heroux, Clerk

BALANCE SHEET Ending June 30,2017

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary	Memo Group	Totals
	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Trust & Agency Fund	General LT Debt Fund	Memorandum Only
Assets and Other Debits						
Cash:						
Petty Cash						
Unrestricted Cash	558,355.62	613,485.98	110,728.21	217,777.61		1,500,347.42
Restricted Cash				767,231.56		767,231.56
Total Cash & Investments	558,355.62	613,485.98	110,728.21	985,009.17		2,267,578.98
Taxes, Excise, & Receivables:						
Rollback						
Personal Property	2,230.79					2,230.79
Real Estate	83,492.02					83,492.02
Real Estate Supplemental						
Tax Liens	147,737.56					147,737.56
Deferred Real Estate						
Tax Possessions/Foreclosures	10,258.10					10,258.10
Motor Vehicle Excise	14,657.62					14,657.62
Total Outstanding Receivables	258,376.09					258,376.09
User Charges & Assessments						
Charges & Uses						
Capital Improvement Charges						
Community Preservation		(1,050.35)				(1,050.35)
Other Service Receivables						
Liens Added to Tax						
Betterments						
Total User Charges & Assessments		(1,050.35)				(1,050.35)
Other Receivables:						
Due from Federal Agencies						
Due from State Agencies						
Due from Mass. School Building Authority						
Due from Other Funds	205.22					205.22
Due from Other Municipalities						
Total Governmental Receivables	205.22					205.22
Amounts to be Provided for Long Term Debt					227,896.40	227,896.40
TOTAL ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	816,936.93	612,435.63	110,728.21	985,009.17	227,896.40	2,753,006.34

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary	Memo Group	Totals
	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Trust & Agency Fund	General LT Debt Fund	Memorandum Only
Liabilities:						
Warrants Payable	3,730.57					3,730.57
Payrolls Payable						
Public Safety Details						
Payroll Withholdings	(4,631.14)					(4,631.14)
Other Agency Liabilities						
Tailings & Other Liabilities						
Deferred Revenues:						
Property Taxes	83,649.08					83,649.08
Provisions for Abatements	(169,371.89)					(169,371.89)
Tax Liens	(147,737.56)					(147,737.56)
Deferred Real Estate						
Tax Possessions/Foreclosures	(10,258.10)					(10,258.10)
Motor Vehicle Excise	(14,657.62)					(14,657.62)
Community Preservation		1,050.35				1,050.35
Other Receivables						
Due to Other Funds	(205.22)					(205.22)
Due from State and Federal				(675.00)		(675.00)
Total Deferred Revenues	(258,581.31)	1,050.35		(675.00)		(258,205.96)
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable						
Long Term Debt Service					(227,896.40)	(227,896.40)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS	(259,481.88)	1,050.35		(675.00)	(227,896.40)	(487,002.93)
Fund Equity:						
FB Reserved for Reduction of Debt Service						
FB Reserved for Overlay Release						
FB Reserved for Appropriation						
Total Fund Balance Reserved						
FB Designated for Encumbrances	20,000.00					20,000.00
FB Designated for Continuing Appropriations	(117,539.00)	(135,150.80)				(252,689.80)
FB Designated for Restricted Purposes		(122,150.00)				(122,150.00)
FB Designated for Snow & Ice Deficits						
FB Designated for Overlay Deficits						

	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary	Memo Group	Totals
	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Capital Projects Fund</u>	<u>Trust & Agency Fund</u>	<u>General LT Debt Fund</u>	<u>Memorandum Only</u>
FB Designated for Approp. Deficits to be Rasied						
Total Fund Balance Designated	(97,539.00)	(257,300.80)				(354,839.80)
FB; Undesignated Unreserved	(459,916.05)	(356,185.18)	(110,728.21)	(984,334.17)		(1,911,163.61)
Total Fund Equity	(557,455.05)	(613,485.98)	(110,728.21)	(984,334.17)		(2,266,003.41)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	(816,936.93)	(612,435.63)	(110,728.21)	(985,009.17)	(227,896.40)	(2,753,006.34)

DETAIL OF SPECIAL REVENUE, CAPITAL PROJECTS, TRUST & AGENCY FUNDS

Type	Program	7/1/2016	Rev/OFS	Exp/OFU	6/30/2017
20	AFG		17,143.00	17,143.00	
20	SAFE Senior	676.27	2,417.00	2,890.22	203.05
20	SAFE Senior	2,227.06	7,280.00	7,202.58	2,304.48
20	SAFE - TRA	5,820.27	1,800.00	587.05	7,033.22
20	BOH Sustainable Material Recovery	1,300.00	2,704.71	3,000.00	1,004.71
20	Solarize Mass		5,150.00	4,966.57	183.43
20	EMPG	(2,460.00)	2,460.00	2,460.00	(2,460.00)
20	Spetic Grant	95,774.61			95,774.61
20	Library Int Acct	345.71			345.71
20	Septic Grant Int	2,914.91	196.09		3,111.00
20	Receation	1,570.69			1,570.69
20	Traffic Enforcement	3,760.91			3,760.91
20	Dog Licenses	3,621.60	1,328.00		4,949.60
20	Wetlands	7,304.79			7,304.79
20	Cemetery Lots	11,019.84	900.00		11,919.84
20	Law Enforcement Trust	0.83			0.83
20	Police Vests	6,430.81			6,430.81
20	Firearms Permits	2,480.10	2,207.50	1,362.50	3,325.10
20	Cultural Council	5,023.91	4,400.00	5,466.54	3,957.37
20	EOEA Formula		5,282.16	5,282.16	
20	FRTA Trans Service	407.75	14,882.69	12,927.21	2,363.23
20	Caring Comm Building Grant	361.50			361.50
20	Donations - Police	1,430.00	25.00		1,455.00
20	ANCE Conservation	983.20			983.20
20	Donations - Historical	3,529.59	32.00		3,561.59
20	History Book Fund	349.50			349.50
20	Comm Septic Management	8,585.16			8,585.16
20	Gifts - Library	1,346.00			1,346.00
20	State Aid to Libraries	1,043.04	1,535.24	2,578.28	
20	Donations - Playground	442.79			442.79
20	Green Communities	35,140.00	70,700.00	53,981.10	51,858.90
20	Assessors Revolving	7,500.00		3,102.50	4,397.50
20	Ambulance Bldg Revolving	9,183.05	6,840.44	8,806.33	7,217.16
20	ZBA Revolving	704.76	2,723.00	632.54	2,795.22
20	Animal Control Revolving	1,418.17	2,083.00	743.17	2,758.00
20	Electrical Insp Revolving	210.00	3,030.00	1,365.00	1,875.00
20	Donations - Council on Aging	31.92	902.00	187.35	746.57
Special Revenue Total		220,478.74	156,021.83	134,684.10	241,816.47
30	Chapter 90		135,084.13	135,084.13	
30	Town Hall Rehabilitation	(192,209.05)	533,175.77	437,076.46	(96,109.74)

Type	Program	7/1/2016	Rev/OFS	Exp/OFU	6/30/2017
30	Highway Truck	(41,170.00)	41,170.00		
30	Police Cruiser	(43,350.00)	45,000.00		1,650.00
30	Narrow Band Radio Replacement	430.00			430.00
30	West Street Design	29,904.59		22,845.54	7,059.05
30	East St Culvert	(22,398.15)	25,000.00		2,601.85
30	Computer Technology	2,500.00		1,152.00	1,348.00
30	Transfer Container	7,500.00		5,960.00	1,540.00
Capital Project Total		(258,792.61)	779,429.90	602,118.13	(81,480.84)
80	Stabilization	480,358.88	883.02	25,000.00	456,241.90
80	Assessors Reval Stabilization	32,182.94	52.77		32,235.71
80	Fire Dept Vehicle Stabilization	130,350.09	363.68		130,713.77
80	Highway Vehicle Stabilization	21,421.30	45.03	21,421.00	45.33
80	Police Vehicle Stabilization	10,586.40	24.78	10,586.00	25.18
80	Town Building Stabilization	5,175.77	121.76	5,175.77	121.76
80	Audit Stabilization	36,500.00		6,500.00	30,000.00
80	Capital Stabilization	30,000.00	111,848.31	24,000.00	117,848.31
80	Cemetery Trust	16,793.03	57.90		16,850.93
80	Archibald McConnell Trust	1,618.60	2.82		1,621.42
80	Library Trust	53,425.98	10.47	470.13	52,966.32
80	Library Durkan Bequest	2,349.28			2,349.28
80	Library Carmela Walsh	15,210.99	247.60		15,458.59
80	John McCrae Firehouse	16,250.90	26.67		16,277.57
80	Whiting St Poor Almoners	16,127.76	26.44		16,154.20
80	Wright Fund Almoners	12,874.37	21.11		12,895.48
80	Town Clock	540.75	0.90		541.65
80	Tilton TN Farm	82,392.91	8,497.71	21,096.06	69,794.56
Trust Fund Total		964,159.95	122,230.97	114,248.96	972,141.96
90	Deputy Collector	(247.00)	2,890.00	2,306.00	337.00
90	Police Detail	12,609.25	44,509.00	47,657.00	9,461.25
90	Firearms Permits Due to State		1,062.50	387.50	675.00
Agency Fund Total		12,362.25	48,461.50	50,350.50	10,473.25
Grand Total		938,208.33	1,106,144.20	901,401.69	1,142,950.84

TOWN CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT

VITAL STATISTICS RECORDED IN GOSHEN IN

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Births	Females - 4 Males - 6	Females - 2 Males - 1	Females - 4 Males - 7	Females - 6 Males - 7
Marriages	1	4	4	5
Deaths	12	8	6	3

DOGS:

Dogs:	2014	2015	2016	2017
Single Licenses Issued	244	258	250	266
Kennel Licenses Issued	8	4	4	5

STREET LISTING :

Street Listing	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of Residents	1004	965	990	970

TOWN MEETINGS HELD IN 2017 (See pages that follow for meeting minutes)

- ❖ October 11, 2016 (Special Town Meeting)
- ❖ March 20, 2017 Annual Town Caucus)
- ❖ May 15, 2017 (Annual Town Meeting)
- ❖ June 28, 2017 (Special Town Meeting)

REGISTERED VOTERS: 713

ELECTIONS HELD IN 2017

- ❖ May 5, 2017 – Annual Town Election (Ballots Cast – 147)
- ❖ October 21, 2017 – Special Town Election (Ballots Cast – 83)

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

Gina M. Papineau
Town Clerk of Goshen

**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.

The Moderator informed the gathering that he typically will allow five minutes for any presentation or for any speaker. If the body wants and is interested in the discussion, the Moderator will ask if the body would like the speaker to continue. Also several people have requested that there be a paper ballot for some of the articles. If the majority of the assembly wants a paper ballot then we will have one.

The moderator informed the gathering that they should have a copy of the warrant, Capital Planning Summary and the Capital Plan.

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.

Discussion – Dawn Scaparotti asked what are the implications of a restriction in perpetuity. Angela Otis explained that the reason for the restriction is that the Town has put in an application for nomination to the Massachusetts Historic Register. The Mass Historic Register would like to see all buildings on the property where the Town Hall is located be included in the nomination. The restriction will not interfere with any work that needs to be done unless we receive a grant.

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.

Discussion – Sandy Papush asked what this was for. Angela Otis responded and said that in order to comply with state regulations we have to make sure that funding is available before we can award a bid. There are still some outstanding invoices that need to be paid to close out the project. Any funds left over will be moved back to the General Stabilization account.

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.

Note: The balance in the fund after all expenses have been paid will be returned to

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

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.

Discussion – Diane Bushee requested that a paper ballot be conducted. The Moderator called for a second. The majority of the gathering agreed. Before the vote, the Moderator asked for any other discussion and Sandy Papush wanted an explanation of the Capital Plan. Dawn Scaparotti asked Sandy specifically what she wanted to know. Sandy wanted to know about this article and the others containing request for borrowing money for purchases. She said she wanted to know if this was for replacing a vehicle or an additional vehicle. Dawn gave an overview of the Capital Planning Committee. She explained that the truck is a replacement and that the payments would start in 2018. The money to pay for the truck would come from the Capital Stabilization Fund. Dawn reviewed the source of funds and stated that going forward some of the accounts will be consolidated into the Capital Stabilization Fund. Keith Wright asked if the new truck would be used to plow private roads. Todd Dewkett said that this truck will

be the backup vehicle. If the truck that plows private roads breaks down it could be used to plow but typically it would not be used for those roads.

Counters: Anne Deres and James Barrett were sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Ballot Count: Yes = 25

No = 2

Passed by a requisite majority.

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.

Discussion - Diane Bushee requested that a paper ballot be conducted. The Moderator called for a second. Majority voted not to have a paper ballot. Dawn pointed out that if you review the Police Dept. Operating Summary it explains what we currently have and the life expectancy of the vehicles. The plan is to try to keep each of the vehicles for ten years. Wayne Glaser stated that one of the purposes of the capital plan is to spread the costs out over time.

Hand Count – Yes = 23

Abstain = 1

Passed 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.

Discussion – Wayne Glaser explained what was going to be purchased. The first item is a firewall which includes both software and hardware. The current firewall is five years old and they typically have a 3 to 5 years life. The second item is a software renewal license for all pc's antivirus program. The third item is for a battery backup hardware and software connected to the server. When the power goes out, the generators are not fast enough and the battery backup will take care of the time delay and keep the server running.

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.

Discussion – Keith Wright said he noticed that a number of the stabilization accounts are being zeroed out and we are just going to be using the Capital Stabilization Fund and he is wondering from an accounting standpoint why it was decided to zero out the other accounts. Dawn Scaparotti said it wasn't so much accounting-driven as simplicity of administration and to be able to consider the Capital Plan in its entirety. The only fund that is not being zeroed out at this time is the Fire Dept. Vehicle Stabilization Fund. When the account is expended, the Capital Planning Committee will do the same with the Fire Department as they are doing with all other Departments. It will be just that one account to keep track of. Keith asked if this meant when it comes time for town budget that we will have a Capital Stabilization line item. Dawn said that is correct. She explained that we had one for this year and that you will see in Article 13 that it is being reversed. In the future the way we are going to fund the Capital Stabilization is either through a budget line item, transfer funds from the General Stabilization Fund or free cash.

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.

Discussion – Keith Wright asked if this is a cut to the capital expenditures. Dawn said that it is and the reason that it came about is at the time of the town meeting, we did not have final numbers, such as the numbers from the state and the local receipts. And you all remember Proposition 2 ½. We can't go over 2 ½% of last year's levy limit without an override and when the rest of the information was received we found that we were over.

Passed Unanimously.

Moderator Labrie ask if there was any other business to come before the town, and, if not, then he had a few items. First there are some post cards on the table for people to fill out concerning Code Red which is the informational system that is used to communicate notices to the residents of the town. Rose Clark asked if the Code Red system will be able to be used to communicate with the elders in town. Moderator Labrie said that it will work the same as Black Board Connect.

Moderator Labrie said that there will be a Drug Collection at the Police Department on October 22, 2016 from 10am to 2pm. Anyone wishing to dispose of leftover medication can drop it off at the Police Department. Dawn asked if you needed to take the labels off. Chief Hewes said that you need not take them off; the drugs will be put in a sealed box and delivered to the Sheriff's Department where they will be incinerated.

James Barrett asked for an update on Wired West. Bob Labrie said that Wired West is not dead and that they are still working. The Outreach Committee of which Bob is Chair is working on communicating to the 7,000 customers of Wired West. 18 months ago the state casted a whole bunch of dispersion on Wired West and they have been fighting ever since. What's being happening for Goshen is that Bob, Angela and Wayne from the

Board of Selectmen and Dawn from the Finance Committee have been meeting because the Town of Goshen is still moving ahead with the building of a fiber network. The committee has submitted the town readiness forms last week to the state for review. Once the state has accepted the town readiness forms, the Division of Local Services will determine if we have the financial strength as a town to fund this. Then an inventory of every single utility pole in the town has to be conducted with a member from National Grid, Verizon and MBI. They need to determine if the pole can accommodate another wire.

Angela explained that there are brochures on Solarized Mass on the table if anyone is interested in the program. There are several towns that have joined together to form a larger group for better discounts. More information will be available around the November 8th election.

The Town Clerk informed the group that this is the first year that Massachusetts is having Early Voting. The dates and time for Early Voting will be on Monday, October 24 and 31st from 8am to 2pm and 6pm to 8pm and on Saturday October 29th from 9am to 12 noon.

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

A true copy of votes taken,

Gina M. Papineau
Town Clerk

TOWN OF GOSHEN
MEETING

ANNUAL TOWN

JOHN JAMES MEMORIAL HALL
15, 2017

MONDAY, May

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m., a quorum being present and 49 voters signed in.

Moderator Labrie introduced people in the audience that may or may not be known to the attendees. First he introduced Nina Pinger, the newly elected Selectboard member; Todd Dewkett, Highway Superintendent; Allan Kidston, Town Treasurer, and Roland Chaffee, Town Accountant.

The moderator also informed the group that the meeting was being recorded to aid the Town Clerk in taking minutes.

Moderator Labrie wanted to officially recognize the effort and commitment that Chet Lulek has given the Town of Goshen. Chet has decided to retire this year. Chet has spent 33 years on the Board of Health. He was also on the Board of Assessors from 1983 to 1988, and Civil Defense from 1982 to 1986.

Moderator Labrie recognized several Goshen residents who have passed away in the last year.

Marguerite Webb (Sabo)- Sister of Arlene Harry and Anne Sabo Warner. She started the Goshen School Lunch Program, was a member of the Goshen Women's Club, coordinator for the HEN program, instrumental in starting the Council on Aging, and was a member of the Handicap Accessibility Program.

Thomas Charles Bisbee- Son of Scott and Jennifer Bisbee and Grandson of Roger and Evelyn Culver.

David Korowski – Son of Esther (Mollison) and the late Peter Korowski

Maureen Beattie – Daughter of Barbara Curran

Richard G. Durant Jr. – Son of Richard Sr. and the late Phyllis Durant

Neal A. Dewey – Son of the late Theron and Mildred (Packard) Dewey

The moderator asked for a moment of silence in memory of those we lost.

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, or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously.

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 Town Employee Handbook as established in the Town's personnel policies.

Discussion: Neil Godden asked how was it done now and why is this article needed. Angela Otis said that there is a need to see that positions are filled with proper compensation and a proper job description. We have had quite a bit of turnover in the town. As an example, a Highway position became available and we did not need a foreman position but we needed a Highway Operator. The Selectmen needed the authority to write a job description without violating any regulations. Dawn Scaparotti asked why the article did not contain "Elected Officials". Angela stated that the elected officials who receive a salary include the Town Clerk, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Moderator, and the Board of Selectmen. Roland Chaffee informed the group that town meeting is the only authority to set compensation for elected officials.

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, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, and Section 4.

Passed Unanimously.

Moderator Labrie stated that we would go through the budget line by line as we have in the past. Under full disclosure, he said that you will hear him voting on the moderator salary but that if it comes under discussion he will recuse himself and the Town Clerk will take over the meeting. He noted that he is also involved with Wired West, the Fire Department and Historical Commission and that if there is discussion on any of these topics he will recuse himself.

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, 2017 through June 30, 2018, and to vote to set all Town budgets.

The moderator asked if the Finance Committee would like to make a statement before we begin the review of the budget. Dawn Scaparotti, chair of the Finance Committee, introduced the members of the Finance Committee: Kristine Bissell, Ann Deres and Angela Otis. Dawn referred to the Budget Narrative and said that the committee tried to stay within the levy limit and she was not sure if the levy limit was brought forward. This year the position of Town Administrator was added to the budget. See the Budget Narrative for the Finance Committee's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Recommendations. Dawn also noted that she is not able to participate in any discussion concerning the Selectboard salary because she is related to one of the members of the Selectboard; Angela Otis is her sister. Any discussion concerning this salary she will recuse herself and Kris Bissell will speak.

General Government:

HOLD – Line 10. Laura Barrus asked if this amount covers two selectboard members. The salary would be divided between the two. The question was asked to explain the increase. Kristine Bissell explained that the Finance Committee is recommending that the town hire a Town Administrator. At this time the Board of Selectmen are performing a lot of the day to day operations of the town. The Finance Committee is recommending that in order to assist in these duties, on a temporary basis the Selectboard Salary be increased until a town administrator is hired. Once a town administrator is hired, this salary will return to its original value. Neil Godden asked if both the Selectboard salary and the Administrative Assistant's salary would go down. Dawn said yes. She explained that the Administration Salary has been created and that the hope is to hire someone by end of year.

Line 12 Sue Labrie asked how many hours were included and was this increase in hours or hourly wage. Angela Otis said that the hourly increase was 2%. The increase is in hours per week from 27 to 30 hours per week.

Line 15 – Sue Labrie asked why the town's legal expense remains so high. She noted that it went down from 2016 but it still seems high and would like to know why. Angela Otis said that typically a town should be spending 6 or 7,000 dollars. The town is currently involved in a couple of law suits that are from prior year activity. They concern Zoning Bylaws and Board of Health judgments. She said we are actively engaged in trying to close out some of these lawsuits. She would hope that by this time next year at least one of the lawsuits would be finalized.

Line 27- Tax Possession Expense – Keith Wright asked since this expense has to do with delinquent taxes, would any of this money be able to be recouped. Allan Kidston, Town Treasurer, said that if we are able to receive payment from the taxpayer, then yes. If that does not happen than the property ends up going into foreclosure and the town then owns the property. The property would then be auctioned off and the money would go into free cash.

Kim Dresser asked about the IT expense and what does that cover. Wayne Glaser said that 60% of the expense is the service contract. From year to year anywhere from 20 to 40% would go for upgrading equipment.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$335,646 for General Government.

Passed Unanimously.

Public Safety- Line 52 Police Officers Salary – Alison Bowen asked the number of officers, number of hours and rate of pay. Chief Hewes said that all officers are now getting paid \$17.63 per hour, and a lot of the patrol hours are scheduled out on weekends and during the week. There are six officers all together.

Line 55- Police Officers Mandated Training – Kim Dresser asked that was it still in place that under Proposition 2.5, that any mandated training would have to be paid by the state. If the training is mandated by the state then they should pay the bill. Dawn asked if the schools

had any luck with the state mandated items on their budget. Dr. Jurgensen, superintendent of schools, said that they have not had any luck with this. He did say that Senator Hinds has been a good listener concerning unfunded mandates.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$203,656 for Public Safety.

Passed Unanimously.

Public Works – Line 90- Wired West Assessment – The question was asked if we are getting anything for that money. Angela said that we do not know what the future will hold. The decision has not been made yet and, as such, the assessment will have to be paid. This is a voluntary contribution for 2017; in 2018 the Wired West Committee will assess each town in the membership. If the Wired West Option does not proceed, then this assessment will no longer be budgeted.

Keith Wright asked if there was an update to the High Speed Internet Options yet. Wayne Glaser said they have not made a decision yet. The Selectboard is still going through the information and hope to have a decision very soon.

Tommy Thomas said he wanted to make a statement. He said in all his years and all his involvement with the Town, this is the finest Highway Department he has seen and he thought that they should be commended. Round of Applause from the Town.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$414,130 for Public Works.

Passed Unanimously.

Public Health & Sanitation

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$58,737 for Public Health & Sanitation.

Passed Unanimously.

Community Services – Line 118- Committee Longevity Program – Tommy Thomas asked for an explanation of what the Committee Longevity Program is. Angela Otis said that this program was voted to make a payment to those volunteers that have been in service to the town. She said she thought it was \$250.00 for 10 to 20 years and \$500.00 for those volunteers greater than 20 years.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$54,610 for Community Services.

Passed Unanimously.

Pension and Insurance

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$146,715 for Pension and Insurance.

Passed Unanimously.

Education

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,424,079 for Education.

Passed Unanimously.

Debt Service

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$29,342 for Debt Service.

Passed Unanimously.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,666,915 for sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Passed 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 any 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 \$180.00 from free cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the purpose of payment of a bill from the following account: Electrical Inspector Fees- FY-2016 \$180.00.

Note: A vote of 4/5's is required because it is a bill of a prior year.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer up to the sum of \$38,932.61 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.
Note: Majority vote is required.

Mack Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2014	\$37,435.20	\$1,497.40	\$38,932.61

Discussion: Alan Kirouac asked why are we transferring from free cash to stabilization when there appears to be enough there already. Angela said that when we voted to purchase some of these vehicles, we voted to take the money out of Free Cash to make the payments. Dawn added that at the time we did not have a capital plan and now that we do we are trying to keep better tracking of the accounts.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$38,932.61 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2014 MAC Dump Truck.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Note: 4th of 5 payments.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer up to the sum of \$8,356.12 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Police Cruiser	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2013	\$7,928.00	\$428.12	\$8,356.12

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the treasurer to expend from capital stabilization fund, the sum of \$8,356.12 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2013 Ford Police vehicle.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Note: This is the 4th of 5 payments

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer up to the sum of \$ 9,304.42 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Discussion: Margaret Waggoner asked what the difference was between Article 10 and Article 12. These two articles refer to two different vehicles.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$9,304.42 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2008 International single axle secondary plow/ dump Truck.

International Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2008	\$8,234.00	\$1,070.42	\$9,304.42

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Note: This is the 1st of 5 payments

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$10,192.50 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2017 Police vehicle.

Police Interceptor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2017	\$9,000.00	\$1,192.50	\$10,192.50

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Note: This is the 1st of 5 payments.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 15: 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 2018, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2018 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 6,000

Passed Unanimously.

Discussion: Edward Sturtvent asked if someone could explain the note. Don Boisvert said that is was a recommendation by the state. We are expecting 100% matching but the numbers are not in yet.

Reserves:

From FY 2018 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$15,000

Discussion: Joe Roberts asked if anyone saw the real estate transaction in the newspaper concerning the Williams house. We have already appropriated \$63,000 for this property. Allan Kidston said that this transaction was to help clean up the title on the

property. He said that the family is all in favor of the town owning the property and that the foreclosure should be happening very soon. Moderator Labrie said to clarify the town set aside \$73,000 for this project.

Passed Unanimously.

From FY 2018 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve
\$15,000

Passed Unanimously.

From FY 2018 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve
\$15,000

Passed Unanimously.

From FY 2018 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve
\$69,000

Passed Unanimously.

Note: Total appropriation reflects 90% of the expected 100% state match.

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to enact a bylaw establishing various revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows:

Revolving Funds

Section 1: There are hereby established in the Town of Goshen pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, Section 53E1/2, the following Revolving Funds:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend Fund	Revenue Source	Use of Fund
FRTA Van Account	Administrator of the Fund	Fees and Franklin Regional Transit Authority	Salary for Administrator, Dispatcher Driver Training, Fuel, Salary
Highland Ambulance Fuel Reimbursement Account	Highway Superintendent	Reimbursement from Highland Ambulance	To pay for the fuel used by the Highland Ambulance
Animal Control Revolving Fund	Animal Control Officer/ Town Clerk	Fees specific to dogs	Expense associated with licensing and controlling dogs.
Board of Appeals Revolving Fund	Zoning Board Appeals, Chairman	Fees specific to applications	Pay expenses associated with processing of applications.
Electrical Inspector Revolving Fund	Building Inspector or Building Inspector Clerk	Inspection Fees required under the permit process	Electrical Inspector pay

Section 2:

Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the limitation established annually by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with G.L. c.44, §53E½.

And, further, to set FY2018 spending limits for such revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2018 Spending Limit
FRTA	\$20,000
Highland Ambulance Fuel Reimbursement Account	\$12,000
Animal Control Revolving Fund	\$2,500
Board of Appeals Revolving Fund	\$6,000
Electrical Inspector Revolving Fund	\$5,000

Discussion: Evelyn Kellogg-Culver asked about the FRTA van, she was under the impression that Goshen would no longer be administering the van. The Hilltown CDC will be handling the administration of the account. Angela Otis said that at this time we are still working out the details of the transition.

Steve Estelle asked if the term Building Inspector Clerk should be changed to Building Inspector Assistant. The motion was made and seconded to change the name of Building Inspector Clerk to Building Inspector Assistant. **Passed Unanimously.**

Elaine Ulman asked about the status of hiring a new building inspector. Angela Otis said they have interviewed two candidates and will be making a decision soon.

Laura Barrus asked if the amount in the Highland Ambulance revolving was the correct amount that is needed. Todd Dewkett said that the amount is based on 1% of the total budget at the time the revolving account was created. They use approximately \$8000.00 worth of gas a year.

Sue Labrie asked if the word “dogs” should be changed to “animals”. Gina Papineau explained that the money is collected from dog licensing. Therefore the money can only be spent on dogs.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 17: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the Sidewalks By-Law, or take any other action thereto. The tenant, occupant, and in the case there is no tenant, the owner or person having the care of any estate abutting upon any highway or town way within this town, where there is now or may hereafter be a sidewalk established or set apart as such, shall clear said sidewalk of ice and snow within 24 hours after the snow and ice cease to fall. Or should the sidewalk be covered with ice that cannot be readily removed, said abutter or resident will be required to place salt or sand or other material to make sidewalk safe for pedestrians, or be subject to a \$25.00 fine per day, per storm, for

first offense and \$50 per day, per storm, for second offense, until it has been cleared.

The above provision shall be enforced by the Selectboard and may be enforced through the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 40, section 21D.

Discussion: Neil Godden asked if there was something driving this and do we not have something on the books already. Angela Otis stated that we currently do not have any bylaw concerning this. Tommy Thomas told of his issues when he was a proprietor in Williamsburg. After the state plows the road, within hours the snow turns to ice and freezes into rock. He had a hard time finding someone to take care of it. Kim Dresser asked if there is an official designation or definition of what constitutes a sidewalk. He said what has been put in is not his idea of a sidewalk: it varies in width and terrain and he would not expect anyone to be out there taking care of it. Todd Dewkett said that the sidewalk was put in by Mass Highway. Todd said he did not think the bylaw was fair. He said the town should buy another piece of equipment that would keep the center of town clean. He said he agreed with Kim that the bylaw was a joke.

Donna Hewes said that she has seen Todd in his wheelchair trying to get to the store riding on route nine in the snow with little space.

Sue Labrie gave an example of a sidewalk that was installed in Chesterfield. The side is on Route 143. The town of Chesterfield did not approach any of the abutters and did not want to put any additional burden on them. The town purchased a piece of equipment and maintains the sidewalks after each storm.

After much discussion on who is responsible for the removal of snow on sidewalks it was decided that the article should be tabled.

Margaret Waggoner made a motion to table this article until the questions that have been asked are answered.

The motion was made and seconded to table this article until the next meeting.

Town Clerk will read Article 18.

ARTICLE 18: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, c.41, § 2 and M.G.L.c. 39 §14, to establish a two year term for Moderator beginning with the 2018 Annual Town Election.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 19: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire the following land parcels and or rights in land parcels for the purpose of obtaining a secure and public right of way.

	Total # of Parcels	Area (Square Feet)
Permanent Easement	6	1895
Temporary Easement	42	37677

Further that the Select Board may acquire these parcels, or modification of these parcels or other required parcels through all legal means. This includes donations, purchases or eminent domain. The subject parcels are currently identified on plans drafted by Milone and MacBroom, Dated March 15, 2017.

Note: This allows for the construction and roadway safety improvements of the West Street Resurfacing Project.

Discussion: Alan Kirouac asked if we had a sense of the cost. Angela Otis said that we don't have a cost as of yet. But we do know that the cost of each appraisal will be approximately \$2,500 per parcel. We will have more information for the June meeting.

Passed Unanimously.

The moderator asked if there was any other discussion to come before the town.

Lorraine Brisson asked about the April 29th Broadband meeting and if the results of the survey would be revealed.

The moderator said that it was posted to the website but he thought that about 100 people attended the meeting and that 45 checked off the Westfield Gas and Electric/Wired West Option, 17 checked Comcast Option and 1 recommended neither.

Neil Godden said that he had concerns about the use or over use of the robo calls. It is being used too much to inform and should be used for emergencies. The moderator will check with Larry Holmberg.

Dawn Scaparotti informed the gathering that there is an opening on the Finance Committee and as well as other committees and that anyone interested should contact the town.

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. **Passed Unanimously.**

A true copy of votes taken,

Gina M. Papineau
Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m., a quorum being present and 34 voters signed in.

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 was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$6,500.00 from the Audit Stabilization Fund to the Selectmen's Audit Expense Account.

Note: 2/3's vote is required.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 2: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$63,000.00 from Town Hall Rehabilitation Account to the General Stabilization Fund or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 3: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000.00 from Free Cash to Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto

Passed Unanimously.

Article 4: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$27,107.85 from Free Cash to General Stabilization Fund or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 5: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,000.00 from Free Cash to purchase the service of book binding, or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 6: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$18,500.00 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purchase of a generator for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

Note: 2/3's vote is required

Passed Unanimously.

Article 7: Motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from Highway Road Improvement and \$6,000.00 from Winter Highway Salary and Expense and \$10,000.00 from Fuel Account to the West Street Project or take any other action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 8: 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") , as negotiated by the Assessors and approved by the Selectboard, and on file with the Town Clerk, between the Town of Goshen and the Goshen Senior Housing LLC, through the Hilltown Community Development Corporation, for the Goshen Elderly Housing Project, located at 41 Main Street, Goshen, shown as Map 5, Block 0, Lot 50 on the Town of Goshen's Assessor's Maps or take any action relative thereto.

Passed Unanimously.

Article 9: Motion was made and seconded to see if the town will vote to rescind the debt authorizations for the dates and unissued amounts below:

Original Authority Date	Project/ Purchase	Unissued
5/21/12	East Street Culvert	\$64,684.50
5/20/13	Highway Truck	\$2,824.00
5/20/13	Police Cruiser	\$360.00
6/10/15	Highway Truck	\$22,000.00

Passed Unanimously.

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Passed Unanimously.

A true copy of votes taken,

Gina M. Papineau
Town Clerk

TAX COLLECTOR
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Year of Tax	Type of Tax	Outstanding June 30, 2017
2017	Real Estate	\$54,204.26
2017	Personal Property	\$ 452.03
2017	Motor Vehicle	\$ 8,027.46
2016	Real Estate	\$15,618.76
2016	Personal Property	\$ 463.40
2016	Motor Vehicle	\$ 1,491.35
2015	Real Estate	\$ 5,386.66
2015	Personal Property	\$ 461.54
2015	Motor Vehicle	\$ 771.25
2014	Real Estate	\$ 2,761.79
2014	Personal Property	\$ 370.49
2014	Motor Vehicle	\$ 191.67
2013	Real Estate	\$ 2,613.43
2013	Personal Property	\$ 281.97
2013	Motor Vehicle	\$ 491.26
2012	Real Estate	\$ 607.22
2012	Personal Property	\$ 201.36
2011	Real Estate	\$ 1,224.54
2011	Motor Vehicle	\$ 80.64
2010	Motor Vehicle	\$ 203.96
Total Outstanding		\$95,905.04

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Bond

Animal Control / Animal Inspection

Below is a summary of Calls for Service and other activity completed by Animal Control/Animal Inspection since the appointment of ACO Tryon in August 2017 through December 31, 2017.

CALLS FOR SERVICE (CFS)

Animal Abuse/Neglect - (3)	Barking Dog Complaints - (2)
Citations Issued - (2)	Deceased Animals - (3)
Deer Strikes - (5)	Injured Wildlife - (2)
Leash Law Complaint - (1)	Livestock Complaints - (2)
Loose Llamas - (1)	Loose Pigs - (15)
Loose/Missing Dogs - (10)	Meetings - (8)
Training Courses - (13)	Quarantines - (1)
Warnings Issued - (13)	Wildlife Complaints - (2)

DEPARTMENT ENHANCEMENTS

The creation of the "Goshen Animal Control & Inspection" Facebook page and website have been vital in information sharing and in uniting lost animals with their owners. Since its creation, every missing or found animal has been reunited with its owners. Additionally, the Animal Control Bylaws have been updated and submitted to the Select Board. These will eventually be voted on by the town and sent to the Attorney General for review.

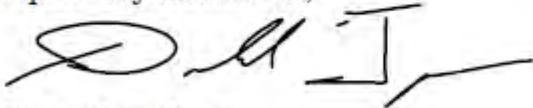
BUDGET

The ACO budget is yet to be used this fiscal year, however, the department is currently researching prices for a portable radio to be purchased by the end of FY 2018 (the current radio is on loan from the Emergency Management Director). There is also current equipment that is in need of being replaced or upgraded, but these purchases will likely be pushed off until FY 2019.

ACO EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

ACO Tryon passed the State-mandated Core Competency Training through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources in October 2017 and is scheduled to begin the Animal Control Officer Academy on March 23, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,



Officer Don Tryon
Animal Control Officer
Animal Inspector

ANIMAL INSPECTION



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

This is my sixth year as Animal and barn Inspector. I visited 30 different people and Mini farms this year.

I found all animals in good conditions. This was my count

56 Horses	5 Ponies
289 Chickens	49 Water fowl
13 Rabbits	1 Donkey
11 Llamas	2 Oxen's
16 Goats	246 Pigs
5 Sheep	30 Beef
3 Game birds (Guiney hens)	6 Dairy cows
2 work horses	

I would like to thank all of the owners for their corporation it has been a pleasure working with such great people.

Respectfully,

Roger Culver

Animal Inspector

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Each year the Assessors' Office brings change to the Town of Goshen and Fiscal Year 2017 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. The Board visited approximately 122 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.

In 2018 the Board will begin its work on the revaluation of the town for the fiscal year 2019. The Department of Revenue has changed the revaluation cycle to five years from three years. So as the Assessor's work starts in this revaluation year, the office also will be working to update its inspection schedules and processes to align with the Department of Revenue's new revaluation cycle.

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 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.

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
<u>Local Expenditures:</u>			
Appropriations	\$2,100,202.25	\$2,195,932.66	\$2,231,445.38
Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$2,055.00	\$2,059.00	\$2,049.00
State & Cherry Sheet Charges	\$11,895.00	\$11,897.00	\$1,820.00
Assessors' Overlay	\$34,753.25	\$34,635.66	\$34,473.48
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$2,148,905.50	\$2,244,524.32	\$2,269,787.86
<u>Estimated Receipts and Available Funds:</u>			
Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$229,344.00	\$215,557.00	\$229,956.00
Local Estimated Receipts	\$194,700.00	\$194,700.00	\$194,700.00
Free Cash	\$202,804.00	\$106,134.00	\$117,639.00
Other Available Funds	\$91,250.22	\$134,247.53	\$203,714.43

Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds:	\$718,098.22	\$650,638.53	\$746,009.43
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$2,978,800.47	\$3,325,025.21	\$3,210,454.81
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds	-\$718,098.22	-\$650,638.53	-\$746,009.43
Net Amount to be Raised	\$2,260,702.25	\$2,674,386.68	\$2,464,445.38
Real Property Values	\$2,047,321.75	\$2,139,722.05	\$2,176,883.69
Personal Property Values	\$52,880.50	\$56,210.61	\$54,561.69
Total	\$2,100,202.25	\$2,195,932.66	\$2,231,445.38
Tax Rate	\$14.74	\$15.66	\$15.58
Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Rate is \$15.62 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 usually out inspecting on the first and second Wednesday of each month.

Respectfully submitted:

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

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

For fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) the Building Department issued seventy-one (71) building permits; predominantly additions, renovations, re-roofing, energy conservation and residential solar installations. Also, one (1) new single family residence and a solar farm array, with total construction cost of \$3,932,890 generating \$24,531 in permit fees collected.

To date for fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017) forty-five (45) permits have been issued including two (2) new single family dwellings and a ten (10) unit senior housing project. Total construction cost to date is \$2,306,203 generating \$14,443 in permit fees.

The Building Department is staffed by Pat Morey, Administrative Assistant and Joseph Latronica, Inspector of Buildings. The Department can be reached through our office phone, 413-268-8236 X305 or by email: inspector@goshen-ma.us. Our current office hours can be found on the town website, www.goshen-ma.us.

The Department would like to recognize and thank the former Inspector of Buildings, Robert Walden, for his service to the Town of Goshen.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph P. Latronica, Inspector of Buildings

Capital Planning Committee

Capital Planning Committee Appointed

In May of 2015, as a result of a review of the FY2015 & FY2016 budget cycles, the Finance Committee made a recommendation 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. We continue to work towards that goal.

In September of 2015 the Selectboard appointed the 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 provides Fire Department input and is available to participate in several group reviews and discussions with the committee at key intervals. The Capital Planning Committee 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, 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. If time does not allow for presentation at the May meeting, information regarding funds necessary to meet annual commitments should be understood and taken into account when developing the next fiscal year's budget. This way decisions about trade-offs of limited resources can more comprehensively and transparently be discussed and considered. The Finance Committee reviews 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. 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. It is an ongoing administrative task of Accountant and Selectboard and Town Department Heads to ensure the fixed asset report remains accurate.

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 and / or required by State mandate.

Capital is defined as equipment, vehicles, technology, or improvements in excess of \$5,000. There is a comprehensive review of the town's Information Technology (IT) requirements and assets underway. This was not complete at the time of the initial draft of the Capital Plan. In order to get a handle on all the items required these assets are being captured as identified, though discreet items may be under the \$5000 definition of capital. This will be refined as the items are identified. There is a specific line code within the operating budget that gets appropriated each year for software and IT items as well. They will be categorized appropriately and delineation will be made of these items once they are better understood.

We also collected information on all major repairs and improvements to buildings etc. The Chapter 90 funded projects (state money for road work) were not included. Such projects are overseen by the Highway Department and addressed 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. All departments need to ensure their new requests get added to the capital plan each year. The document should be reviewed annually as part of the budget and appropriation process. 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 or explanatory section.

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 vehicle purchases. All Fire Department vehicle 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. During the FY 2017 special town meeting funds were contributed from free cash to add to the fund balance.

Concerns

Clearly there are more capital needs than then town has the resources to support. There needs to be a way to prioritize the requests. Beyond that, an ongoing concern is that we were not able to include critical contributions to our capital stabilization fund as part of the annual budget appropriated by the town. Contributions have been made from free cash, but best practices dictate that such critical contributions be funded each year out of the annual appropriations, to ensure the fund is growing at a rate sufficient to meet capital requirements.

Acknowledgements

We want to thank everyone who participated and continues to participate in this process for their time and invaluable input to the development of our first official Capital Plan, including the volunteers on the committee, who each have other roles in the town. Beyond reviewing all the information and participating in the committee meetings, and serving on the Selectboard, we offer a special acknowledgement and thank you to Wayne Glaser, who 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 for another participant on the committee.** Please contact the chair if you think you can contribute to this critical process and would like to donate some time to your town.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Scaparotti,
Capital Planning Committee Chair

Current Capital Planning Committee:

Ann Deres, Finance Committee
Todd Dewkett, Highway Department
Wayne Glaser, Selectboard
Dawn Scaparotti, Finance Committee
Open, At-Large Member

Cemetery Report

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The cemetery closed December 1st, but this year it did not stay quiet. A tornado touched down on February 25th on that side of town. The wind left a sea of American flags and two trees that fell. The cleanup was not bad but lots of small branches.

We had 6 head stones tip over because of the heavy freeze. I put in three new veteran markers and four headstone foundations.

There were three cremations and no full burials this year.

The cemetery opened on May 1st and was nicely mowed for Memorial Day thanks to Jim Morrey and his family.

Respectfully submitted

Roger A. Culver

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 2017 Goshen received 100% matching state funds of \$64,592.

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

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
Open	Planning Board
Sandra Papush	Conservation Commission
Shannon Wade	Recreation Committee
David Pesuit	Member at Large

CPC meets at Town Offices on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm; the public is always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Papush, Chair

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.

Some of the projects we worked on this year were, Highland Lake Dam Restoration, and West St Repair.

The Conservation Commission meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. 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 are:

Charles Amo
James Heroux
Lloyd Ewing
Sandra Papush
Mike Duquette

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Amo, Chair



Council On Aging 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Council on Aging board is sponsored by the town and by the state. The function of our board is to understand and help our senior population. One third of the population in Goshen is seniors or people over the age of sixty. Our board does different outreach programs throughout the year to benefit this group.

The biggest event we do is have a luncheon every month. This is a way to get people out of their homes to visit with others without them having to make a meal. These are some of the things we did this year: In January, we enjoyed brunch, with a game afterward. March always consists of corned beef dinner with an Irish speaker. This year we had Michael Carey entertain us. In May, we had one of our own seniors, Paul Webb, talk and show slides of his trip to Carlbrad Caverns. In June, we had a chicken barbeque and a demonstration of a drone. In July, we had a very nice Luau to honor Rose Clark, who decided to retire after serving five years as the coordinator. Rose was given a plant and a certificate of appreciation.

August is our appreciation month; we honor all of our town residents who are ninety and better. This year we gave them a bouquet of flowers. The committees were thanked for all the hours that they put in throughout the year and were given a gift certificate. The June, July and August luncheons were held at the ballfield in the pavilion. At the September luncheon, we were entertained by the elderly housing committee, who brought us up to date on the new housing that is in the process of being built. In October, fire chief Sue Labrie came to talk to us about leaving our homes quickly in an emergency. She also presented us with an emergency bag to have ready. At our November luncheon, our own town senior, Tommy Thomas, talked about his book that he published on his life and memories. Gina Papineau was also there to inform seniors about some of the tax deductions that are available. In December, Santa was supposed to arrive but we had to postpone our luncheon to the next day and he was too busy that day. Hopefully he can come next year.

We have been planning outings on the third Friday of every month and hope more folks will come out and join us. We traveled to the Pomeroy Sugar House in Westfield, but it was not a good year for sap so they had none to boil for us. We went to the Coolidge Room at the Forbes Library in Northampton. In the fall, we went to Mt. Greylock in North Adams. The bridge of flowers in Shelburne Falls is always a beautiful place to visit, and, of course, we had to hit the candy store. Going out to lunch filled other months when we couldn't depend on the weather to go far.

The COA board has monthly meetings. Peg Whalen is there to let us know more about outreach and the proper way to try to help our seniors. We invited Larry Holmberg to one of our meetings to talk a little about safety and what to do if our town has a disaster. The town did have a tornado touch down in February.

This is our second year of having muscle strengthening classes. It is very important for seniors to keep up their strength. Every month a foot clinic is also available to seniors.

In July, Evelyn Kellogg-Culver was hired by the town as our new coordinator. She had been on the board for a few years so she did have some experience.

Over the year, we did have a few of our seniors pass away: Diane Lashway, Linda LeBeau, and Ray Sarafin. Our condolences go out to their families.

I would like to thank all the COA committees for all that they do.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Culver

Goshen Cultural Council

With appropriations both from the State Legislature and the Natural Endowment for the Arts given to the Massachusetts Cultural Council,

the MCC awarded our local Goshen Cultural Council the sum of \$4,400. In the 2016-2017 grant cycle a total of \$4700(one award

not utilized) funded 13 projects that were used in “promoting excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive

sciences.”

The MCC completely revised its website and “toolkit” and all our 29 applications were received on line!

Town affiliated groups chosen for funding were: Council on Aging(Old Country Road, and Sidetracked); Hampshire Regional High School (“Life in a Changing Climate” presented by staff at Mass Audubon’s Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Spring Musical Performance, Field trip to Snow Farm Craft Center); New Hingham Regional Elementary School (Tom Ricardi, “Birds of Prey” and the Berkshire Theater Group).

Reaching out to the neighboring hill towns, grants were awarded to the

Chesterfield 4th of July Parade; Bonnie’s Program(Tanglewood Marionettes); Plainfield Congregational Church(Concerts at 7); Ashfield Community Theater(Spring Play);Double Edge Theater(The Hilltown Spectacle) and Trustees of the Reservations(Bryant Day).

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.

Please know that council members are always eager to receive feedback and suggestions so as to continue bringing to our town, programs and workshops that are of interest and enjoyment to the greater community.

Sincerely,

Goshen Cultural Council

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

ELDER HOUSING COMMITTEE

FY 2017 Annual Report

In the Spring of 2010, The Goshen Selectboard 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 Selectboard, 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.

During FY '17, HCDC used CPA dollars and other funds to close on the property, to drill a well with potable water and then pursued building permits. During the year, HCDC heard from the various funding sources that combinations of federal and state funds were approved for the construction to begin. In the Spring of 2017, with permits in place, demolition of the old parsonage and garage were accomplished with ground work for the footings and foundations of the new buildings to begin in July of 2017.

Respectfully Submitted
The Goshen Elder Housing Committee

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

Emergency Management

A report of 2017 has to start with the February tornado, an unprecedented occurrence. It was the earliest known tornado to strike Massachusetts and fortunately the damage Goshen sustained was limited as compared to Conway. After every major incident, the public safety departments (emergency Management, police, fire, highway, Highland Ambulance), the selectboard, and other responding individuals and agencies get together and discuss what was done well and what could have been done better. With Main Street impassable for almost 24 hours, one item that became apparent was the need for emergency traffic control signage and devices and a place to store this equipment. It is very hard to properly detour traffic if you can't adequately mark the route. Steps were taken in 2017 to fill these gaps with the project continuing into 2018 as funds allow.

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

Primary Function

The primary function of the Finance Committee is to coordinate the annual budget process and submit a balanced budget to Town Meeting. Additionally, we become involved in other projects which have significant financial implications for the Town.

We evaluate budgets submitted by Town departments, committees, boards, and schools and ask questions about the details behind the numbers being requested. This is to ensure we understand the information we are reviewing and the priorities within departments. Often, there are tradeoffs to be made within a 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 equally important as it relates to capital expenditures (i.e., buying or replacing equipment, vehicles and major repairs). We need to understand the short and long term financial implications of purchases and, in particular, the amount to be expended for the upcoming fiscal year and its impact on stabilization funds and appropriation requests.

Budget Preparation Process

Sometime between November and January budget requests are distributed to the largest departments and committees. Often the budget reviews begin in January with multiple meetings with the full HRHS and New Hingham school committees to understand their annual requests and exchange information about the town's financial needs. Historically, the schools' budgets are in the range of 50% - 54% of our Town's entire budget and therefore have a significant impact on what other expenses the Town can consider during a given year. As a result, working closely with the school committees and superintendent's office is essential.

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, 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, which dictate that the town may not increase its budget more than 2½ percent of the prior year's tax levy, plus and minus various adjustments. If the budget does not meet that requirement, the committee would need to recommend reductions to the budget, or use of the town's various stabilization reserves, or a debt exclusion in order to present a balanced budget within proposition 2 ½ limits.

When all pertinent information has been reviewed, the committee prepares a budget proposal for further analysis and discussion with the Selectboard. This can be an iterative process and involve multiple conversations with the Selectboard, Assessors and Town departments, especially the schools, as they have a significant impact on what other expenditures the Town can consider during a given year. The final step in budget preparation is to submit a balanced budget to the town at the annual town meeting in May for the Town's approval. 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 2018 Budget (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)

During FY 2017, we followed the process outlined above to submit a balanced budget for FY 2018 to Town Meeting. Information was prepared to support warrant articles presented at the meetings in May, June and August 2017. A copy of the final FY 2018 budget is included with this report as is the narrative explanation of the major components driving changes to the budget.

For the FY 2018 submission, most of the Town’s expenses were level funded. There were modest increases in a few line codes, with some notable exceptions, where there were substantial increases. We worked closely with the superintendent’s office and school committees to keep the school increases within 2½ percent, down from previous years’ 5% – 6% increases. It should be noted, however, that Smith Vocational costs are set independently by the Town in which it resides, and we do not have the ability to influence those at all. Those costs increased over 13%. The Highland Ambulance expense increased over 34% primarily driven by a move towards more market based salary adjustments. Additionally, the Town approved the funding of a new Town Administrator position, assuming hiring towards the end of FY 2018. Further, the Town agreed to temporarily increase payments to the chair and vice-chair of the Selectboard, in recognition of the ongoing additional time and effort they are committing to meet the increased demands of overseeing the Town.

Ongoing Projects

Beyond its primary budget development focus, the Finance Committee participated in a number of activities with financial implications this fiscal year:

- A thorough review of the town’s current assets and projected capital needs began in FY 2016 and continued in FY 2017. This will help us to understand the aging of our assets and to plan for their ongoing maintenance and replacement. 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 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 the FY 2017. Wired West, which is made up of delegates from each of the towns, was the organization leading the effort representing the towns. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has ultimate oversight of the project for the Commonwealth. 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 from Goshen. We worked closely

with the Broadband committee to understand the financial implications to our town during FY 2017 and continue to work with our Selectboard, municipal light plant manager and Wired West delegate as part of the ongoing analysis.

Concerns

- In general, increased pressures on federal budgets often cause the States to absorb more costs. As the Commonwealth feels the squeeze, it puts pressure on Cities and Towns to take on more, often through unfunded mandates. These mandates have the largest impact on education expenses and safety spending. The municipalities are forced to absorb these increases. Some municipalities can absorb expenses by cutting “fat” from budgets and making reductions, or by increasing taxes or other revenues. We have operated on such lean budgets that there is not a lot of fat to cut. We do not have many town sources of revenues and therefore we feel every trade-off we are forced to make very acutely. Given how lean our budgets have been, it is very difficult to reduce expenses and, in fact, in order to meet ongoing operating complexities, have had to make some increases.
- We have consistently been unable to include critical contributions to our capital stabilization fund as part of the annual budget. Contributions continue to be made from free cash. However, best practices dictate that such critical contributions be funded each year out of the annual operating budget appropriations, to ensure the Town has the ongoing capability to fund its capital at a rate sufficient to meet its identified requirements.
- Continued ability for the Town to meet our financial goals will necessitate the ongoing management of our school assessments at or below the 2½% level. This requires the commitment of the schools and towns to manage to this amount. In the past these increases have considerably exceeded the 2½, thereby necessitating that money be diverted from other town requirements. That has caught up to us and we are in critical need of focusing on ensuring we meet the other town needs as well.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all the people with whom we worked for investing the time to meet with us, answer 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Scaparotti,
Finance Committee Chair

Finance Committee Members:

Kristin Bissell-since Nov 2016
Ann Deres - since Dec 2015
Angela Otis - since October 2014
Stephanie Provencher - since November 2017
Dawn Scaparotti - since October 2014

**Budget Narrative for the Finance Committee's
Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Recommendations
Town Meeting May 15, 2017**

The primary function of the Finance Committee is to coordinate the annual budget appropriation process, evaluate departmental budgets (including town committees, boards, schools, etc.) and submit a balanced budget recommendation to the annual Town Meeting.

BUDGET NARRATIVE / EXPLANATIONS

Most of the Town's expenses were level funded this year. There were modest increases in a few of the lines with some notable exceptions, where the increases were substantial, as explained below:

- The School assessments increased by \$33.8K and continue to be the largest portion of our town budget. They represent about 53% of the total town appropriation requests (54% including debt service). Whereas last year's assessment increases for the schools ranged from 5% to 6%, this year the schools worked with the towns to manage their increases within the 2.5% Proposition 2^{1/2} growth limitations. The vocational assessments were driven by increased student attendance. Continued ability for the Town to meet our financial goals will necessitate the ongoing management of our school assessments at or below the 2.5% level.

- While there has been conversation for years about adding a town administrator, a position common to most surrounding communities, this has never been funded for Goshen. With the increasing time and complexities of managing the Town, this is a necessity. This work has been supported by increased volunteer time commitments by the Selectboard and others. We are not capturing what it truly costs to run our town. It is unsustainable to expect this to be done by volunteers and this work can no longer go unpaid. Further, since the make-up of the town's committees and volunteers vary over time with town elections, the skills and/or the time do not always exist to reliably provide the professional caliber Town administration required in today's municipal environment.
 - Accordingly, there is \$15K in the budget this year to begin to partially fund a part-time town administrator function. Until that person can be hired, there are **temporary** increases of \$5K in total Selectboard stipends and \$3K in the administrative assistant salary. These positions are the ones primarily assuming the additional administrative burden.

- The Highland Ambulance has adjusted the salaries paid to their EMTs and paramedics to be more market driven, in an effort to retain and attract the most qualified professionals. This is the primary driver of a 34% or \$12K increase in the Highland Ambulance assessment.

- We have incorporated a 2% raise for all town employees, and for those appointed or elected officials who receive an annual salary stipend. Last year we were unable to provide an across the board increase and feel strongly that it is a budget priority this year to recognize the ongoing hard work and commitment of our valuable personnel. The cost of is approximately \$7K.

- Health insurance costs for town employees account for another \$3.7K a nearly 16% increase, with general insurance contributing another \$0.9K, for a total increase due to insurance of \$4.6K.
- Tax Possession expense within general government is increasing \$4K to accommodate the increased activity related to delinquent property taxes.
- For 6 years, the Highway Department has requested an increase to cover overtime or part-time help in the summer. It has never received the increase. The budget this year includes a \$2.7K increase to cover such expenses.

BUDGET INCREASE SUMMARY

There is an overall increase in the FY 2018 budget of approximately \$49K, or 1.87%. This is made up of net increases across the town functions totaling \$76K, offset by decreases in debt service of \$27K. The major components are detailed above and summarized below:

- \$ 33.8K in Education due to increases in school assessments, with the largest amount being for Smith Vocational (\$20.6K for Vocational, \$15K for New Hingham and a decrease of \$1.8K for HRHS)
- \$ 19.1K in Town Government primarily driven by a financial recognition of what it costs to administer the town.
- \$ 12.0K in Public Safety due primarily to an increase in Highland Ambulance assessment reflecting a move toward more market-based wages for the EMTs and paramedics.
- \$ 7.0K distributed across salary line codes reflecting a 2% salary increase
- \$ 4.6K due primarily for increases in health insurance and some in general insurance
- \$ 4.0K due to an increase in Tax Possession Expense reflecting increased treasurer activity on delinquent property taxes.
- \$ 2.7K in Public Works for Highway Dept overtime or part-time help in the summer.

STABILIZATION ACCOUNTS AND FREE CASH

Over the years, the town has appropriated funds into stabilization accounts to assist in Goshen’s long-term financial management. A town vote is required to move funds in or out of these accounts. The approximate stabilization fund balances are listed below:

1. General Stabilization	\$ 480,359
2. Capital Stabilization	\$ 124,849
3. Fire Dept Vehicle Stabilization	\$ 130,350
4. Town Building Dept Stabilization	\$ 5,176
5. Audit Stabilization	\$ 36,500
6. Assessor Property Revaluation	\$ 32,183
7. **Free Cash**	<u>\$ 235,881</u> free cash as of 7/1/2016, certified 2/28/2017
Total Stabilization and Free Cash	\$ 1,045,298

** Free cash is a revenue source calculated and certified by the state Department Of Revenue that results from a community’s remaining, unrestricted funds from its operations of the previous fiscal year based on the balance sheet as of June 30. It typically includes actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates and unspent amounts in departmental budget line items for the year just ended, plus unexpended free cash from the previous year. Free cash is offset by property tax receivables and certain deficits, and as a result, can be a negative.

FY2018 BUDGET TOWN MEETING

	Town Approved FY 2016 Appropriations	Town Approved FY 2017 Appropriations	Department FY 2018 Requests	Finance FY 2018 Recommendation	Amount Inc/(Dec) over FY-2017	Percent Inc./Dec FY-2017
General Government						
Administration Salary	0.00	0.00	42,182.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	100.00%
Moderator Salary	158.00	158.00	158.00	162.00	4.00	2.53%
Selectboard Chair & Vice Salary	4,494.00	4,494.00	10,400.00	10,400.00	5,906.00	131.42%
Selectboard Clerk Salary	2,192.00	2,192.00	2,236.00	2,236.00	44.00	2.01%
Administrative Assistant Salary	20,762.00	20,762.45	24,352.00	24,352.00	3,589.55	17.29%
Selectboard's Expense	8,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Selectboard's Audit Expense	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Town Legal Expense	25,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Finance Committee Expense	200.00	400.00	410.00	410.00	10.00	2.50%
Accountant Assessment	16,400.00	16,800.00	17,200.00	17,200.00	400.00	2.38%
Accountant Expense	3,000.00	3,097.70	3,097.70	3,098.00	0.30	0.01%
Board of Assessors' Salary	6,431.00	6,431.00	6,623.93	6,560.00	129.00	2.01%
Assistant Assessor Salary	16,391.00	16,391.00	16,882.73	16,719.00	328.00	2.00%
Assessor's Clerk Salary	2,787.00	2,787.00	2,870.61	2,843.00	56.00	2.01%
Assessors Expense	8,100.00	8,100.00	8,100.00	8,100.00	0.00	0.00%
Assessor Consultant	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Treasurer Salary	9,539.00	14,500.00	14,860.00	14,790.00	290.00	2.00%
Asst. Treasurer Salary	1,051.00	1,051.00	1,800.00	1,073.00	22.00	2.09%
Treasurer Expense	7,162.00	5,535.00	5,640.00	5,640.00	105.00	1.90%
Tax Possession Expense	4,000.00	6,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	4,000.00	66.67%
Town Collector Salary	10,445.00	10,445.00	10,967.25	10,654.00	209.00	2.00%
Asst. Tax Collector salary	2,080.00	2,080.00	2,184.00	2,122.00	42.00	2.02%
Tax Collector Expense	11,100.00	11,100.00	11,500.00	11,100.00	0.00	0.00%
Tax Title Expense	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00%
Town Clerk Salary	6,890.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,220.00	220.00	2.00%
Asst. Town Clerk Salary	1,051.00	1,051.00	1,051.00	1,073.00	22.00	2.09%
Town Clerk Expense	4,581.00	2,000.00	4,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Town Clerk Elections	1,475.00	6,400.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	(3,400.00)	-53.13%
Registrar of Voters	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%
Conservation Comm. Expense	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	0.00	0.00%
Planning Board Expense	700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00	0.00	0.00%
Appeals Board Sec. Salary	103.00	103.00	0.00	0.00	(103.00)	-100.00%
Appeals Board Expense	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Town Building Janitor Salary	12,360.00	12,730.00	12,730.00	12,985.00	255.00	2.00%
Town Building Maintenance Exp.	50,704.00	59,640.00	51,640.00	51,640.00	(8,000.00)	-13.41%
Town Office IT Expense	17,650.00	17,650.00	17,650.00	17,650.00	0.00	0.00%
Pioneer Valley Assessment	159.00	162.05	165.94	166.00	3.95	2.44%
Hampshire Council of Governments	503.00	502.97	502.97	503.00	0.03	0.01%
Reserve Fund	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Government	299,318.00	316,513.17	366,154.13	335,646.00	19,132.83	6.04%
As a % of Appropriations	11.70%	12.09%	13.47%	12.59%	38.92%	

FY2018 BUDGET TOWN MEETING

	Town Approved FY 2016 Appropriations	Town Approved FY 2017 Appropriations	Department FY 2018 Requests	Finance FY 2018 Recommendation	Amount Inc/(Dec) over FY-2017	Percent Inc./Dec FY-2017
Public Safety						
Police Chief Salary	6,251.00	6,251.00	6,251.00	6,377.00	126.00	2.02%
Police Officers Wages	40,137.00	40,137.00	40,137.00	40,940.00	803.00	2.00%
Police Secretary Salary	2,794.00	2,794.00	2,794.00	2,850.00	56.00	2.00%
Police Department Expense	16,945.00	18,272.90	18,272.90	18,273.00	0.10	0.00%
Police Officers Mandated Training	0.00	8,532.92	8,532.92	8,533.00	0.08	0.00%
Hampshire Sheriff's Assessment	1,001.00	1,001.00	1,001.00	1,001.00	0.00	0.00%
Constable Salary	206.00	206.00	206.00	211.00	5.00	2.43%
Fire Chief Salary	7,245.00	7,245.00	7,245.00	7,390.00	145.00	2.00%
Fire Department Expense	39,315.00	39,315.00	39,315.00	39,315.00	0.00	0.00%
Volunteer Firefighters Incentives	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Emergency Mang. Director Salary	2,122.00	2,122.00	2,122.00	2,165.00	43.00	2.03%
Emergency Management Exp	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00	0.00	0.00%
Emergency Operations Center Exp.	700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00	0.00	0.00%
Highland Ambulance Assessment	30,502.00	35,206.00	47,220.00	47,220.00	12,014.00	34.12%
Building Inspector Salary	8,240.00	8,240.00	8,240.00	8,405.00	165.00	2.00%
Building Insp. Assistant Salary	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,590.00	90.00	2.00%
Building Inspector Expense	500.00	500.00	850.00	850.00	350.00	70.00%
Electrical Inspector Fees	1,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Plumbing & Gas Inspector Salary	1,267.00	1,267.00	1,267.00	1,293.00	26.00	2.05%
Plumbing & Gas Insp. Expense	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00%
Animal Control Officer Salary	2,444.00	2,444.00	2,444.00	2,493.00	49.00	2.00%
Animal Control Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Public Safety	176,919.00	189,783.82	202,147.82	203,656.00	13,872.18	7.31%
As a % of Appropriations	6.91%	7.25%	7.44%	7.64%	28.22%	
Public Works						2.00%
Highway Salaries	147,485.00	147,485.00	153,104.85	153,105.00	5,620.00	3.81%
Equipment Repair	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Fuel Expense	34,000.00	34,000.00	34,000.00	31,330.00	(2,670.00)	-7.85%
Town Garage Expense	13,250.00	13,250.00	13,250.00	13,250.00	0.00	0.00%
General Highway Expense	83,700.00	83,700.00	83,700.00	83,700.00	0.00	0.00%
Highway Road Improvement	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Winter Highway Salary & Expense	47,600.00	47,600.00	47,600.00	47,868.00	268.00	0.56%
Cemetery Superintendent Salary	902.00	902.00	902.00	921.00	19.00	2.11%
Town Property Mowing	13,550.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Tree Warden Expense	3,750.00	4,750.00	5,300.00	5,300.00	550.00	11.58%
Street Lights	4,356.00	4,356.00	4,356.00	4,356.00	0.00	0.00%
Water Specialist	500.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00%
Municipal Lighting Plant	695.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Wired West Assessment	700.00	300.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	700.00	233.33%
Total Public Works	410,488.00	409,643.00	416,512.85	414,130.00	4,487.00	1.10%
As a % of Appropriations	16.04%	15.65%	15.32%	15.53%	9.13%	

FY2018 BUDGET TOWN MEETING

	Town Approved FY 2016	Town Approved FY 2017	Department FY 2018	Finance FY 2018	Amount Incl(Dec) over FY-2017	Percent Inc./Dec FY-2017
	Appropriations	Appropriations	Requests	Recommendation		
Public Health & Sanitation						
PH Animal Inspector Salary	591.00	591.00	591.00	603.00	12.00	2.03%
PH Animal Inspector Expense	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	0.00	0.00%
Public Health Committee Salary	3,323.00	3,323.00	3,390.00	3,390.00	67.00	2.02%
Public Health Expense	956.00	956.00	500.00	500.00	(456.00)	-47.70%
PH Transfer Station Salary	7,851.00	8,987.72	8,987.72	9,168.00	180.28	2.01%
Hilltown Resource Mange. Coop.	2,398.00	4,125.14	3,300.00	3,300.00	(825.14)	-20.00%
Hilltown Resource Waste Pick-Up	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
PH Waste Disposal Expense	29,400.00	29,400.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	600.00	2.04%
Public Health Agent Assessment	10,196.00	10,196.00	10,196.00	10,196.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Public Health & Sanitations	56,295.00	59,158.86	58,544.72	58,737.00	(421.86)	-0.71%
As a % of Appropriations	2.20%	2.26%	2.15%	2.20%	-0.86%	
Community Services						
Council on Aging Salaries	985.00	985.00	985.00	1,005.00	20.00	2.03%
Council on Aging Expense	1,519.00	1,519.00	2,020.00	2,020.00	501.00	32.98%
Veterans' Agent Assessment	4,012.00	4,317.06	4,300.00	4,300.00	(17.06)	-0.40%
Veterans' Expense	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	0.00	0.00%
Veterans' Services	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Library Expense	6,909.27	7,400.00	7,960.00	7,960.00	560.00	7.57%
Recreation Commission Expense	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Historical Commission Expense	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00	0.00%
Open Space Comm. Expense	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00%
Committee Longevity Program		500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Community Services	52,250.27	53,546.06	54,590.00	54,610.00	1,063.94	1.99%
As a % of Appropriations	2.04%	2.05%	2.01%	2.05%	2.16%	
Pensions and Insurance						
County Retirement	54,132.00	60,383.00	60,228.00	60,228.00	(155.00)	-0.26%
Group Life Insurance-Town Share	200.00	380.00	380.00	380.00	0.00	0.00%
Health Insurance-Town Share	23,320.00	23,320.00	27,000.00	27,000.00	3,680.00	15.78%
Workers Compensation	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	0.00	0.00%
Unemployment Compensation	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	0.00	0.00%
Medicare Tax - Town Share	5,800.00	6,820.00	6,956.40	6,957.00	137.00	2.01%
General Insurance	43,068.00	44,068.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	932.00	2.11%
Total Pensions and Insurance	133,670.00	142,121.00	146,714.40	146,715.00	4,594.00	3.23%
As a % of Appropriations	5.22%	5.43%	5.40%	5.50%	9.35%	

FY2018 BUDGET TOWN MEETING

	Town Approved FY 2016	Town Approved FY 2017	Department FY 2018	Finance FY 2018	Amount Incl(Dec) over FY-2017	Percent Inc./Dec FY-2017
	Appropriations	Appropriations	Requests	Recommendation		
	5.15%	5.20%	2.09%			
Education	33,419.00	35,472.00	14969.00			
Goshen/Ches. Reg. Assessment	681,845.00	717,317.00	732,286.00	732,286.00	14,969.00	2.09%
Hampshire Regional Assessment	455,354.00	482,198.00	480,355.00	480,355.00	(1,843.00)	-0.38%
Vocational Tuition	144,000.00	153,018.00	173,280.00	173,280.00	20,262.00	13.24%
Vocational Transportation	37,264.00	37,781.00	38,158.00	38,158.00	377.00	1.00%
Education	1,318,463.00	1,390,314.00	1,424,079.00	1,424,079.00	33,765.00	2.43%
As a % of Appropriations	51.53%	53.11%	52.39%	53.40%	68.69%	
Debt Service						
New Hingham Reg School Debt Svc	77,258.00	24,942.00	0.00	0.00	(24,942.00)	-100.00%
HRHS Renovation Debt Service	29,991.00	28,842.00	28,842.00	28,842.00	0.00	0.00%
Short Term Interest	3,855.00	2,895.00	500.00	500.00	(2,395.00)	-82.73%
Debt Service Total	111,104.00	56,679.00	29,342.00	29,342.00	(27,337.00)	-48.23%
As a % of Appropriations	4.34%	2.17%	1.08%	1.10%	-55.61%	
Total Education including Debt	1,425,712.00	1,444,098.00	1,452,921.00	1,452,921.00	8,823.00	0.61%
As a % of appropriation	55.72%	55.17%	53.45%	54.48%	17.95%	
Capital stabilization		0.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
As a % of Appropriations		0.00%	0.74%	0.00%	0.00%	
Appropriations Before Town Amendments - Use for Levy Limit Calc	2,558,507.27	2,617,758.91	2,718,084.92	2,666,915.00	49,156.09	1.88%
Increase from FY 2017 without the offset for the decrease in debt service (27,337)					76,493.09	2.92%



GOSHEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

We added two new firefighters this year, Keith Wright and Dylan Nygren. We also gained two junior firefighters, River Williams and Michaela Rock. We thank them for answering the call and joining the Fire Department family. 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) trains weekly in preparation for the next call. Our personnel are not only trained for firefighting, but also for many types of rescue situations, extrication, medical calls, hazardous materials recognition, and traffic control. The GFD was dispatched to a variety of situations in 2017 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 95 emergency calls throughout the year, 18 fewer calls than 2016! The call breakdown was as follows:

- 52 Medical
- 14 Motor Vehicle Collisions
 - 7 Hazardous Conditions including wires and/or trees down
 - 8 Detectors Sounding (Smoke and/or Carbon Monoxide)
 - 2 Box Alarms (structure fires) - one in Ashfield and one in Chesterfield
 - 5 Brush Fires / Illegal burns
 - 1 Vehicle Fire (snowmobile in the DAR)
 - 1 Hazardous Materials spill (Spruce Corner Road)
 - 1 Rescue (dune buggy through the ice on Lower Highland Lake)
- 4 Other

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 large brush/forest fires. This type of call brings with it extra personnel and equipment. This year, Goshen had no structure fires. However, we responded to two of our mutual aid communities for fires in their towns.

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 programs to strengthen their knowledge and skills.

The Department received a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) award of \$17,143 to purchase and install a new turnout gear washing machine and drying cabinet. These allow members to wash and dry their gear in a matter of hours protecting them from the contaminants that may have adhered to their protective equipment during emergency calls.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program entered its 21st year. A State S.A.F.E. Grant in the amount of \$3,063 allowed Goshen Fire to teach 5 fire and life safety lessons at New Hingham Regional Elementary School. By continuing to educate children, we have now 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 home fires and fire deaths since the program began. The Department also received a Senior S.A.F.E. Grant in the amount of \$2,295 to teach fire and life safety lessons to Goshen's senior citizens. The grant allowed the Department to purchase and install 10-year, sealed-battery smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors in seniors' homes. If you are 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 grant has also made available temporary lock-boxes for seniors' homes which would allow Fire Department keyed access to a home for emergency calls where the occupant is unable to unlock the door for first responders.

The Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Program was in effect for its eighth 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 1,531 hours to the Town in 2017. 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 broke down to \$6.53 per hour.

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, student, 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 16 - 17.

We meet each Tuesday evening at the Goshen Fire Station at 7:00 p.m. Please come join us or call the station to find out more and help make a difference!

Many thanks to the active Department members who answered the calls in 2017:

Will Bissell*	Bill Connell	Kim Dresser	Steve Estelle
Mark George	Dale Gougeon	Bob Labrie	Hannah Labrie*
Sue Labrie	Cam Lacey	Jake Lulek	Amity Messick*
Adrien Neveu*	Monica Neveu	Dylan Nygren	Jake Niquette
Chris Roberts	Erika Roberts	Michaela Rock	Jonathan Schwaiger
Steve Tourigny	River Williams	Keith Wright	

* designates junior firefighter status

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Labrie, Fire Chief

HCG Annual Report FY2017

HCG Overview

HCG supports communities by empowering local, sustainable, and efficient economies. The organization helps cities and towns, schools, nonprofits, and businesses get the most value by pooling their buying power. HCG's Hampshire Power provides electricity services, including green and locally produced electricity. The HCG Purchasing Co-op makes it easy for towns, cities, and nonprofits to save money, time, and effort on major and everyday purchases. HCG's Group Insurance Trust helps communities keep health insurance costs low. And HCG supports communities with uniquely effective service programs: RSVP of the Pioneer Valley and the Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership. Every cent HCG earns goes back to supporting the communities of Western Massachusetts. HCG is funded by its own revenue and grants.

FY2017—Continued program expansion and revenue growth

HCG has consistently demonstrated a high return on investment for our member communities: this year has been no exception. HCG experienced continued growth in both revenue and net results with an unaudited cash year end position of \$374,891 in excess revenue.

General Fund Net: (\$548,328)

Electricity Fund Net: \$923,219

Total Net Result: \$374,891

About our Programs:

Hampshire Power

Hampshire Power is the only Massachusetts based nonprofit energy supplier. Hampshire Power offers fixed-rate, and green electricity. Hampshire Power facilitates a donation to the United Way of Hampshire County for every customer that signs up for local power.

Gross Revenue: \$6,698,867

Net Result: \$923,219

Hampshire Renewables

Hampshire Renewables net metering program is a simple way to share in locally owned and managed solar, or cow power.

1.8 MW of net metering credits sold

Energy Credits

HCG is the local choice to sell your Massachusetts Renewable Energy Credits. HCG makes it easy to maximize your energy investment. HCG has expanded its energy credit broker service to include Alternative Energy Credits (AECs) in addition to Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), beginning in 2018.

In the last few years, revenue has gone from \$3,437 (FY13), to \$103,574 (FY17). As of the end of FY17 HCG managed \$3.4 million worth of renewable energy credits.

HCG Purchasing Co-op

The Purchasing Co-op aggregates buying power to save money, time, and effort.

During FY2017, the Purchasing Co-op launched three new bids for Highway-related services and products. A new Tree Services bid was also developed for use by area towns. We collaborated on a program to add frozen local vegetables as part of our annual School and Cafeteria bid, and conducted research in the areas of Human Resource Services, as well as Custodial Supplies needs. New customers added in FY2017 included schools, towns, councils on aging, and other nonprofits. The Purchasing Co-op finished in the black for the first time ever in FY17 and continued to grow in terms of total value of goods and services sold.

Total value of goods and services sold: \$10,959,550

FY17 net results: \$12,554

HCG Group Insurance Trust

The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (GIT) delivers the highest possible level of health insurance benefits at the lowest consistent price.

GIT provides health and life insurance to over 10,000 individuals. The GIT's revenue increased from \$49,097,910 to \$53,770,883 over the past fiscal year: a 9.5% increase. 11 out of 15-member towns use the GIT in place of the state plan. Member towns secured \$2.9 million in savings through the GIT.

Hampshire IT

The Hampshire IT program offers Western Massachusetts the best information technology service at highly competitive rates. Hampshire IT is a partnership with the region's largest IT company, Paragus IT. By hiring Paragus through HCG, customers are able to receive a discounted rate on IT services.

Hampshire Web

Businesses, residents, and visitors look to your town website for important information. Hampshire web is a partnership between HCG and Virtual Towns and Schools. Pool resources to create professional websites for a fraction of the cost of contracting on your own.

RSVP of the Pioneer Valley

RSVP of the Pioneer Valley is the volunteer connector for people 55 and over. The volunteers use their expertise to benefit their communities and focus on helping seniors remain independent and in their own homes, increasing food security in the region, and building nonprofits' capacity to do great work through fundraising and program support.

Partner Organizations: 56

Volunteers: 648

Volunteer Hours Served: 100,004

RSVP trained volunteers lead free weekly Healthy Bones & Balance exercise classes, designed to increase participants' strength, mobility, flexibility, and balance.

Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership

The Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco-Free Community Partnership has a mission to encourage and support smokers in Franklin and Hampshire County to quit. It also aims to create awareness of harmful, smokeless tobacco products that are often marketed towards young people.

New Smoke Free Units: 937

Regional Accounting

As part of HCG's mission to serve our smaller communities, we provide a regional accounting service to towns without municipal accountants. These financial services include town accountant services, bookkeeping, and payables.

Community

HCG also supports the community by participating in:

- The Downtown Northampton Association
- The Awesome Foundation
- Legislative Summit

**FOOTHILLS HEALTH DISTRICT
HEALTH AGENT ACTIVITY REPORT
Jan 1- December 31 2017**

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

- ☐ Plan review, permitting and on-site inspections for all septic repairs and installations
- ☐ Witnessing of Title 5 inspections and percolation tests
- ☐ Housing code inspections and enforcement
- ☐ Infectious disease investigation and reporting
- ☐ Tobacco regulation permitting and enforcement
- ☐ On-site inspections for all beaver conflict permits
- ☐ Handling the numerous public health-related questions and complaints
- ☐ Restaurant permitting and inspections
- ☐ Application review and permitting for all temporary and seasonal food establishments
- ☐ Bathing Beach water quality test review
- ☐ Recreational Camps for children inspections
- ☐ Family Camp inspections
- ☐ Inspecting swimming pools
- ☐ Attending monthly Board of Health meetings
- ☐ Processing fees to the treasurers of each town
- ☐ Maintaining current certifications in the various areas required to perform the job.

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 VBird113@gmail.com. This past year, the bulk of the field work was performed by Ron Lauren. Ron filled in while I pursued other goals. I wish to thank Ron for his dedication and availability. I am now back as your full time Health Agent I look forward to a productive year in all the Foothills towns. Below is a breakdown of all the Towns and fees received in the Foothills for 2017 and 2016 for comparison. There are some activities that are required that do not generate a fee. Those would be housing issues that often require multiple site visits, and sometime require litigation in housing court, beaver trapping permits, school kitchen inspections and recreational camps for children inspections.

	GOSHEN	WHATELY	WILLIAMSBURG	W'HAMPTON
PERCS/TITLE 5 INSP	8/16	6/9	5/15	6/18
DWCP/WELL	4/5	13/4	8/3	9/4
FOOD INSP.	4	8	22	4
CAMP INSP.	3	1	0	1
HOUSING COMPLAINTS	3	1	4	3
Total Fees for 2017	8070	10500	8135	8050
Total Fees for 2016	6600	10325	7955	9475

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Laurin
Valerie Bird
Health Agents
Foothills Health District

Highland Ambulance EMS, Inc.
FY 2017 Annual Report

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 6 AM until midnight seven days a week. During the midnight to 6 AM time period, Highland EMT’s are assisted by Paramedics from other ambulance companies when the service of a Paramedic is required. Highland’s active roster as of June 30, 2017 consisted of 36 members including 19 Paramedics and 17 EMT’s.

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 2017 Highland responded to 626 emergency calls of which 143 were no service. These are broken down by Town as follows:

Ashfield	109	Chesterfield	80	Cummington	65
Goshen	70	Plainfield	73	Williamsburg	195
		Other	34		

Training. The following is a partial list of special training events held:

- CPR trainings for Emergency Service Personnel, Police, & firefighters.
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
- Medical Management Classes.
- ALS/BLS interface classes for area EMTs.
- Several Paramedics had the opportunity to participate in a cadaver lab to practice bone injections and advanced airways.
- Mass Casualty Incident training class for all area EMT's and 1st Responders.
- 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.
- Evacuation drill at the Sanderson Academy in Ashfield
- On April 19th, 2017 Highland hosted a Board & Finance committee meeting with all 6 of our participating towns.
- Met with the administrators of the new Swift River Addiction Center in Plainfield to discuss 911 responses.
- Highland hosted a Red Cross blood drive here at our station.
- EMT coverage at the Chesterfield Gorge for a 5K run.

Operating Expenses in FY 2017: \$622,113.06

Cash On Hand June 30, 2017

Operating Funds	- \$ 1,990.75
Ambulance Fund	\$151,173.67
Memorial Fund	\$ 7,455.30
Dresser Fund	\$ 4,062.89
Net Income	\$ 10,167.63

Our six towns contributed \$238,430 of our total operational budget, based upon town assessments. The balance came from billings to insurance companies, Medicare, Medicaid and contributions. Our collection rate is approximately 94% of our billables.

Grants. We applied for a grant through the AFG (Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant) in the Fall of 2016 for power stretchers to help reduce lifting injuries. The grant was unsuccessful due to lack of funding. We will apply again in the next round.

Building Project. During this fiscal year, Highland Ambulance completed the building of our permanent facility for its operations and moved in during July of 2016. On July 17th, 2016, Highland held a formal open house and flag raising ceremony dedicating the facility to the memory of Christopher (Kit) Smith, our long term president of the Board and the Williamsburg representative who had passed away several months prior. Anticipated costs of the entire project were close to \$1,000,000 with a mortgage loan for \$600,000 from Greenfield Savings Bank, which means that direct cash contributions and in kind donations had a value of approximately \$400,000. 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

Goshen - Donald Boisvert

Chesterfield - Spencer Timm

Plainfield - Edward Morann

Cummington - Amanda Savoie

Williamsburg - Leslie Smith

At-Large - Bernard Forgea (Cummington)

At-Large - Cassandra Morrey (Goshen)

At-Large - Douglas Mollison (Ashfield)

Highway Department

Highway Department projects for the 2017 season were as follows:

South Main road was overlaid with asphalt. This work was done by Warner Bros 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, Shaw Road, was overlaid with asphalt. This work was done by Warner Bros construction and paid for through chapter 90 funds. The highway department cut the shoulders and brush before the paving. One cross culvert was replaced as it was collapsing in the center of the road.

The highway department hired a new worker in April only to have him leave in November for a higher paying position. We have had a hard time trying to find qualified people with all licenses who are interested in working here. The last two months of last winter and first three months of this winter we have been short staffed. Equipment break downs and hauling sand in from a greater distance have made this winter the most difficult one in my time here. I hope we have light at the end of the tunnel and better days are coming.

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

2017 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 21 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 2017, 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 Farming initiative.

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.
- **Goshen Senior Housing** Hilltown CDC worked closely with the Goshen Senior Housing Committee for the past 5 years to develop a 10-unit Senior Housing rental project in Goshen. In 2017 Hilltown CDC secured all the financing needed to build this development. It should be noted that the Town of Goshen and the CPA committee approved and awarded \$130,000 in CPA funds toward the construction of this project located in the Town center across from the Town Hall. It is very likely that this project would not have been possible without the support of CPA funds. In addition, Hilltown CDC raised \$150,000 of private funds and successfully applied to the MA Department of Housing and Community Development and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston to secure the majority of the financing. The total development cost including the purchase of the land is \$2,738,554. This housing development will remain restricted to low to moderate incomes seniors 62 years of age or over. . Construction should be complete and full occupancy is expected by June 2018.

Community Transportation: In July of 2017 Hilltown CDC began operating the FRTA Senior Van previously operated out of the Town of Goshen. Hilltown CDC put a Program Manager in place, hired a dispatcher and hired two van drivers. Hilltown CC’s goal was to increase ridership and expand the van service over time. Hilltown CDC also received grants from MA DOT, Cooley Dickenson Hospital and Highland Valley Elder Services to support the van service. In the first year of operation, the ridership has doubled. The FRTA is not the final solution to the transportation needs in the Hilltowns but it is a helpful resource to ensure a minimum of transportation services are available to our seniors.

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 2017. 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 2017 Hilltown Business Directory, distributed to 16,000 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.

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 2017:

- Hilltown CDC rehabilitated 12 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 FY 2017 HCDC:

- Through extensive community engagement and planning, Hilltown CDC began operating the FRTA Senior Van in 2017 providing essential transportation services to seniors in the northern Hilltowns.
- 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

FY17 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

To Member-Town Residents of the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative:

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns attain sustainability and environmental objectives.

The member-Towns that comprise the HRMC include: Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, and Worthington. Each Town appoints two representatives to serve on the HRMC Board. Board Officers for FY17 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); John Chandler, Vice Chair (Chesterfield); and, Paul Wetzal, Treasurer (Williamsburg).

The HRMC assists hilltown member-communities with managing their solid waste including: municipal waste hauling and disposal bid administration, recycling administration, hazardous waste disposal, and, DEP compliance and technical assistance. In FY17 those services included:

- Liaison between Towns and MassDEP on compliance matters.
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event
- Program management of Transfer Station Recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste (including free recycling of mercury thermostats and re-chargeable batteries), and Freon removal from appliances.
- Transfer Station operations and compliance monitoring including informal HRMC site visits as well as the formal, annual DEP 3rd Party Inspection and Reporting.
- Preparation and submittal of DEP annual surveys and reports.
- DEP Grant Administration including grant writing and reporting.

In addition to the managing the day to day business and program operations of the HRMC, the HRMC Administrator also serves as a representative on behalf of its member Towns to the MRF Municipal Advisory Board, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee and, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group; advocates with local, regional, and State officials; and, is available to serve as a liaison to the DEP on transfer station operations and compliance related issues.

In FY17, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced their Recycling Dividend Program Grants under the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). All ten HRMC member-towns were eligible for and received grants submitted for them through the HRMC. In total, the HRMC Towns received \$ 24,200.00 in grant funding to be used to further enhance recycling programs within their communities. Grant applications for FY18 were submitted in June 2017 for a total of more than \$ 42,000 in funding requests.

The HRMC has an annual operation's assessment that is approved by each Town at their annual Town meeting. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY17, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$ 49,575. The Assessments offset base operating expenses. Recycling program collection costs (other than MRF recyclables) are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize the economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations, and program operations. In FY17, the HRMC acquired one new MRF container in an on-going plan to remove containers from the HRMC fleet (purchased 1989) that are no longer road-worthy. Cost for the new container was shared by those Towns utilizing the HRMC fleet.

During the past year, the HRMC member-Towns collectively diverted 975 tons of recyclable materials to the Springfield MRF. In addition, the Town of Plainfield diverted bulky rigid plastics; the Towns of Cummington, Plainfield, Westhampton and Williamsburg diverted EPS (Styrofoam); and, the Towns of Plainfield and Williamsburg diverted pellet bags. The Town of Williamsburg continued to serve as the HRMC regional mattress recycling facility. The Town of Westhampton served as the host-site for the HRMC's annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. In FY17, all Towns began recycling household fire extinguishers through a free program administered by HRMC in collaboration with George Propane and Pittsfield Fire.

Last year, 8 member-Towns adopted recycling goals of 50% with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of materials being recycled at their transfer stations and to reduce waste being landfilled. In 2016, the HRMC Towns had an average recycling rate of 32.1% and in 2017, 31.9% . In 2016, The Town of Goshen had a recycling rate of 31.3% and in 2017, 30%. The Town recycled 57 tons of recyclables at the MRF in 2017.

This past year, HRMC re-invigorated the Compost Bin distribution program and the Towns of Chesterfield, Westhampton, and Williamsburg offered special subsidized pricing to encourage at home composting for their residents.

For more information about HRMC programs, visit us online at www.hrmc-ma.org or by emailing hrmc@hrmc-ma.org

Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator

Goshen Free Public Library

During 2017 the trustees, including new member Jim Barrett, had a particularly busy year after director Martha Noblick fell down the library's stairs in late March and broke her femur. They arranged a town hall meeting with state representative Stephen Kulik, which was well attended by Goshen and other area residents, co-sponsored, with Paris Press, a discussion based on Virginia Woolf's book *On Being Ill*, and hired Janice Ellis, to work during the library's open hours from April until late September, while Martha was recuperating sufficiently to return to work.

The adult reading group held monthly meetings until Martha's fall (and has now resumed meeting the third Wed. of each month at 3 p.m.--new members are always welcome). In late August the library hosted a well-received program titled *The Nearly Lost art of Letter Writing*, which was funded by the Goshen Cultural Council and presented by Faith Deering, an educator from Historic Deerfield. Attendees became acquainted with the important role of letter writing in 18th and 19th century America, were introduced to letters written by several area residents, and created their own letters using quill pens.

The library is constantly adding new items to the collections, and your suggestions are always welcome and appreciated. Be sure to stop in to borrow books and DVDs, magazines, a pass for free admission to The Clark Art Museum in Williamstown, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, any of the five Springfield Museums, including the two art museums, the Springfield history museum, the science museum, and the new Dr. Seuss museum and sculpture garden, or a pass for admission to Massachusetts state parks. If there's a book or DVD you'd like to borrow, but you can't find it in our collection, we can borrow it for you through interlibrary loan, or purchase it as a new addition to the collections.

When restoration was about to begin on the Town Hall roof, everything was removed from the attic, including a beautiful craftsman period rocking chair that was likely a part of the library's original furnishings. It has now returned to the library, after being lovingly restored by one of our library trustees, Melanie Dana. Drop by during library hours, Monday and Wednesday 3-6 and Saturday 11-3, and try it out!

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Noblick, Director

Goshen Planning Board

Calendar Year 2017

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 the Checklist Committee.

The Board's representative to the CPC had to resign due to scheduling conflicts.

A draft Floodplain Bylaw developed in conjunction with the Town's Emergency Management Coordinator was still under review by other Town Committees.

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

The Board received a Right to Farm notice letter from a seller of property in Goshen, as required by the Right to Farm Bylaw. A question on the effect of a Town easement for roadworks was submitted to Town Counsel. Town Counsel reported that the taking of such an easement had no impact on the dimensions of a property.

A recently elected member of the Board resigned due to scheduling conflicts.

Respectfully submitted,

Goshen Planning Board

Roger Culver, Chairman

Joseph Frye, Secretary

Lisa Newman

Dana Stiepock

Town of 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 **693** calls for Police Services.

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. Thank you to all who have come in to get rid of unwanted and expired prescriptions and non prescription medications.

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 and we will be happy to check your property while you are gone. Security systems are also a very good idea to help identify any persons or vehicles that may have been involved 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 start the process to **renew a firearms license to carry or FID** please do this as soon as you receive this, as this needs to be done **3 months in** advance. The process for licensing is taking longer as there are more back ground 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**. Also 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 **413-268-3116 business only**. **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 2017. General maintenance and field preparation was attended to throughout the year, thanks to Roger Culver. The roofs of our buildings were repaired. A new basketball hoop was installed. Trees were trimmed around the upper ball field. Bleachers were repaired. Community use for this area and the pavilion continue to be a goal for Tilton Recreation Areas.

We had two new appointments to our committee. David Bond and Taylor Granger. Welcome!

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 2017, 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 2017 hosted by the town of Cummington at the Tilton Town Field. The success of the individual participants and town team event members resulted in a third 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. Chesterfield is next in line to host the event at Tilton Town Field and we are always seeking volunteers for the Hilltown Junior Olympics to be held September 22, 2018. 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 again this year utilized by residents for all types of activities including hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, horseback riding and organized sporting events. The Council on Aging has hosted many events there.

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

Shannon Wade

David Bond

Taylor Granger

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS 2017

Superintendent Craig Jurgensen reports that the schools in the Hampshire Regional School District have had another successful and reaffirming year while also addressing the challenges facing public schools and teachers. Collaboration and coordination between and among the District's five schools continues to strengthen. Strengthening the work we do to improve coordination, collaboration, and communication among the schools of the Hampshire Regional Public Schools will support continually improving student performance and welfare, professional development, and instructional strategies to address the needs of all learners continues to be our mission. As a District, and working in partnership with the staff of R. H. Conwell School in Worthington, all of our school staff work conscientiously with commitment and purpose to uphold our responsibility to teach students to read, write, speak well, and calculate. We are also actively embracing our obligation to address "21st Century Learning Skills" including critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration paired with an integration of emerging technologies. The following report highlights some of the programs, events, and activities undertaken to promote excellence in achievement and to support our students' success as life-long learners and responsible participants in our society.

Our District is expansive and complex. We have two regional school districts and four municipal schools (each also being its own district). The District covers over 163 square miles and has an elevation difference of 1220 feet between Southampton and Goshen – attributes that significantly impact decisions to delay or cancel school due to inclement weather. Everyday vans from Norris and HRHS, as well as buses from Durham School Services, Lecrenski's, Van Pool and other vendors, transport our students over 2100 miles. There are 38 school committee members serving on six school committees ranging in size from four to eighteen members.

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, social media overload, and threats of gun violence that undermine efforts to keep all students safe from harm. The effects on school success and adjustment can manifest as 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.

School safety and emergency preparedness planning are significant activities for all schools. We 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 as they place additional demands on fiscal resources and an already tight academic calendar. However, having to be prepared to respond is a reality we live with, and a responsibility we accept, knowing that we must work to protect our children.

Providing quality educational opportunities for students requires that schools have effective, well-trained, high quality teaching staff. The Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Awards annually recognize several of the many excellent teachers working in our District. HRHS teacher Tracey Pinkham, Southampton Special Education Teacher Jennifer Sorcinelli, and Williamsburg Fourth Grade Teacher, Nancy Millette were the recipients of the 2017 excellence in teaching awards.

Hiring thoughtful, creative, and effective school leaders continues to be pivotal to our success and the achievement of our students. In addition to hiring outstanding new teachers in 2017, there were a number of significant administrative changes. Mr. Tim Luce was hired to serve as the interim school principal of the Chesterfield-Goshen Regional Elementary School. Prior to assuming the leadership role at New Hingham, Mr. Luce was a school principal in Easthampton and Conway. Kathleen Messmer, was hired as the Interim Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Kate also serves as the District's grants manager. Kate has a rich, well-traveled, and varied background. Since 2004 she has been an English teacher and Department Chairperson at HRHS. With the departure of the District's special education administrator in August, the 2017-2018 school year started with Patti Szulborski as the interim Director of Pupil Services. When Patti left in left in November, HRSD's previous Director of Pupil Services, Laurie Farkas, having recently retired from Northampton Public Schools, returned to work with Karen Milch (HRHS Evaluation Team Leader) as interim Directors of Pupil Services. Stephanie Faas and Mary Phelan filled the Nurse Leader/Health Coordinator position.

Our work together in the schools and communities is complex, sometimes overwhelming, and yet unquestionably essential and rewarding. Together we make a positive difference in the lives of our students, their families, and the communities in which we work. We are increasingly coming together as a "Hampshire Regional Community" and engaging in a shared and coordinated commitment for improving the education we provide to our children. I am very proud of the work our teachers, support staff, and administrators have done to enhance learning opportunities and achievement outcomes for all students. 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 also be found here. The 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 your Hampshire Regional public schools.

Respectfully Submitted by
Craig Jurgensen
Superintendent of Schools

2017 HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

Because of the commitment, hard work, and collective vision of the Hampshire Regional High School community, students at Hampshire Regional are thriving in a safe and positive environment. We have continued to fine tune the program offerings at Hampshire to ensure that our students are ready to meet the varied demands of college and career by the time they graduate from HRHS.

In the spring of 2017, teachers and staff engaged in a meaningful professional development series offered by Ken Pransky on "Motivation, the Limbic System and Learning." This topic initiated conversations on how students learn best when they feel safe and when they see a meaningful connection between the lesson and their lives. Because of this, teachers pushed for additional collaboration time to create engaging lessons and to develop meaningful units for the students. This theme was bridged to the following year's professional development series, where teachers selected a topic of interest for the year, including growth mindset, collaboration, community building, technology, project-based learning, supporting students with anxiety or depression, and building relationships. Program leaders also worked to develop some new in-house credit recovery options to provide additional opportunities for students to earn back lost credit from failed classes. This program was piloted in the fall of 2017.

Still mourning the loss of their classmate, Thomas Bisbee, who died in 2016 from cardiac arrest, students organized a cardiac screening opportunity in partnership with The Kev's Foundation on May 12. The screening gave students the chance to consult with a cardiologist and provided them hands-on CPR training and relevant education on the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest in youth.

The spring brought on our usual round of standardized tests including MCAS and AP testing. Seventh grade students scored higher than the state average in both English and mathematics and demonstrated great improvements in mathematics with a higher than average growth percentile, including subgroup of students, such as students with disabilities and high-risk students. For the first time, eighth grade took the MCAS test online, as the state rolls out a new computer-based system of testing. Again, state-identified subgroups of students outperformed their peers across Massachusetts. In tenth grade, students demonstrated tremendous growth in English and math, with a growth percentile well above their peers across the state. Students are required to pass the MCAS exam in order to earn their high school diploma, and there has never been a Hampshire student unable to earn his or her diploma because of this requirement. Hampshire students also took 130 AP exams in 14 subjects. Students who earn a 3 or higher on this exam may be able to get college credit and bypass coursework in college. Students appreciate being able to take advantage of this opportunity and enjoy the challenge of the coursework.

Seventh grade geography teacher Tracey Pinkham was awarded the Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence Award for Hampshire Regional. Her collaborative nature, strong instructional skills, leadership on her middle school team, and work to build solid family and community relationships made her an ideal candidate for this accolade. Additionally, the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) awarded Andrea Belanger the Super Librarian Award.

Eleven Hampshire Regional middle school students received recognition at the State Science Fair on June 3. Students who received recognition were: Sage Antonio, Abigail Buschini, Kala Garrido, Nora Gianetti, Nathaniel Picard, Peter Tse, Jillian Scott, Jessie Paradis Stern, Michaela Rock, Sara Russell, and Kataryzna Wisnauckas.

Hampshire Regional High School graduated 114 students on June 2, 2017 after an exciting week of senior activities. Advisors Laura Pompei and Todd Bryant organized fun and engaging events for all the seniors to participate in leading up to the evening. Thomas Bisbee was remembered at the beginning of the evening and graduates received their diplomas after beautiful music and memorable speeches from class valedictorian Ida Weiss of Westhampton, class salutatorian Brody Dean of Southampton, and class officers Peyton Binnenkade, Lauren Braastad, Matthew Babyak, and Brody Dean. Four seniors did not meet the HRHS graduation requirements, but all met the graduation requirements after additional coursework by the end of the fall of 2017.

At the end of the year, Rebecca Phelps retired from her position as Choral Director. Westhampton resident and HRHS graduate, Luanne Clark, who was the office manager, also put in her notice for retirement in November. Both Luanne and Rebecca left a legacy at Hampshire Regional that will always be remembered and deeply appreciated.

Over the summer, the administrative team was quite busy hiring new staff. Gary Perrier was hired in February as the head custodian after Mike Jurkowski resigned. Aidan Talbot replaced Rebecca Phelps, and Alesia Estabrook replaced Luanne Clark. Kate Messmer was tapped as the interim Director of Curriculum, so James Belcastro was hired to teach high school English. Kara Will moved to Georgia, and Sydney Cloutier filled her position in the Wellness Department. Amy Adamski and Patricia Keane joined the math department, while Susannah Branch and Haley Richard took positions in the foreign language department. Jesse Porter-Henry returned to Hampshire as a middle school science teacher because Ali Furman resigned, and Amy Bush, Jeffrey Carriero, Dayna Dolittle, Alicja Strycharz, Lyndsey Oppenheimer, Katelyn Hanlon, Abigail Rivard, Amy Burgess, and Barry Person Junior joined the Special Education department after a number of para educators and special education teachers changed positions or moved on. Judy Thrasher was hired as

Hampshire's permanent substitute. Three new coaches were also hired: Gareth Flitcroft became the girls varsity soccer coach; Steve Croft was appointed the boys JV soccer coach; and Lee Mollison was hired as the boys varsity basketball coach.

The 2017-2018 school year welcomed 714 students to Hampshire Regional.

Grade Level	Total Enrollment
7	122
8	162
9	105
10	119
11	93
12	107
Post-high school	6
TOTAL	714

As enrollment decreases, it is important to continue to maintain strong programs and retain solid staffing to ensure that graduates have the same opportunities as their peers across the nation, and to ensure we are able to attract school choice students. Over 100 school choice students make up Hampshire's current population and they bring in additional revenue to our school system.

The School Council identified five goals for Hampshire Regional's 2017-2018 school year including goals related to supporting the whole child, communication, college and career readiness, curriculum and instruction, school safety, and the health curriculum. One specific recommendation was to explore the idea of a support program for students who are struggling with mental health. A very successful model out of Brookline, Massachusetts received a grant to support other schools to develop similar programs. Hampshire reassigned staff within the building to create a system for students to get support who are stepping down from hospitalization, or who have missed school due to serious mental

health issues. This program has provided support for a number of students and has ensured that students receive support in district as opposed to being sent out of district to meet their needs.

Students were excited to enroll in a number of new courses at Hampshire in the fall of 2017 including Exploring Computer Science, Advanced Placement Computer Science, and Guitar. The School Committee approved a new method of calculating GPA to align more consistently with college GPA calculations for the new school year. All honors courses count for five additional points towards a student's GPA, instead of ten, starting with the class of 2020. AP classes still count for ten points. Additionally, all classes with a modified curriculum will have a weight of .8 instead of 1.0. This allows for a fairer assessment of student learning and a more accurate GPA.

In September, the Hampshire community learned the sad news that HRHS graduate Mitch Ouimette, from the class of 2016, died of an opioid overdose. As Mitch was an athlete, many students knew Mitch and were shocked and saddened by his death. Students organized a charity basketball event in Mitch's memory in December.

Throughout the fall, students and staff have been working diligently to engage in meaningful teaching and learning. Town officials and school committee members came on learning walks and observed classes in all subject areas to observe many of the great things happening in classrooms. On one day, Marie Hart and Paula Czarniecki, 7th grade English teachers, arranged for author Priscilla Cummings to speak to HRHS 7th graders in October. Ms. Cummings spoke about the revision process, an important lesson for our students to know.

Juniors and seniors recognized for their hard work, commitment to service, and exceptional grades are inducted into the Hampshire Academic Society each year. The 2017-2018 members of the Academic Society, led by History teacher and program leader Grayson DeWitt, include Amanda Adams (Vice President), Colin Allard, Anna Avakian, Anthony Bartolomeo, Lillian Bigelow, Kate Blanchard, Olivia Brennan, Audrey Bronson, Rebecca Buehler, Andrew Cebula, Jake Constantine, Sarah Constantine, Byron Dudas, Nicholas Eline, Tallon Garelli, Emily Halket, Sophia Kubosiak, Kyleen Labrecque, Gwyneth Lech, Molli Loud, Nicholas Morton, Greg Norris (Co-President), Caroline O'Connor, Katelyn Pickunka, Charlotte Reynolds, Nicole Sansouci (Secretary), Sydney Shumway, Abby Tobin (Treasurer), Lydia Touchette (Co-President), Nicole Tripp, DJ Willard, and River Williams.

In addition to their work around pedagogy, teachers also used their professional development time to create a standardized format to document and formalize their curriculum. These unit plans will be placed in a shared google drive to increase

collaboration and cross-curricular opportunities. Director of Curriculum Kate Messmer and Principal Smidy have provided staff with time and support for this initiative.

With technology and social media, increased pressures to perform and conform, combined with the rapidly evolving world, there is no question that it is a challenge being a teenager today. Despite the increasing demands placed on teachers, staff, parents, students and the community at large, Hampshire has demonstrated over and over again that it is a fantastic place to grow and learn--I am incredibly thankful to be a part of this very special Hampshire community. Still, we must continue to put our students' needs at the center of all of our collective efforts, as they truly are our future. I hope that the collegial and collaborative atmosphere at Hampshire continues to be a benchmark of this school and district for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Smidy, Principal

2017 HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

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

In the winter, The Boys' and Girls Basketball Teams both made playoffs. The Boys' team fell in the first round to Palmer while the girls' team defeated Sabis International Charter School before falling to South Hadley in the Western Mass Semi Finals at the Curry Hicks Cage. Boys' Basketball Coach, Claud Salomao, retired after 18 seasons at Hampshire Regional. DJ Willard received a 2nd place finish in the Western Mass Wrestling Championships, (160 lbs weight class) and qualified for the State Championships where he finished 2nd. Michael Baldwin also competed in the Western Mass Championships and finished 4th in the 152 lb weight class. In the Indoor Track arena, Hannah Labrie qualified for the State Championships in the Long Jump. On the mountain, Evan Coltman was the lone Raider to qualify for the State Skiing Championships.

There was even more to celebrate in the spring season as the Girls' Softball Team won their 6th consecutive League Championship en route to their fourth consecutive Western Mass Championship. Katy O'Connor and Danielle McGan both reached 100 career hits. Coach Brian McGan retired after 10 Seasons as the Varsity Softball Coach. In his 10 years, Coach McGan led the softball program to 7 League titles, 6 Western Mass Titles and 2 State Championships. The spring track teams sent a number of athletes to the Western/Central Mass Championships. Missy Gagnon tied for third in pole vaulting and qualified for the state championships where she placed 19th. In the spring of 2017, the school established its first ever lacrosse club. It competed against local JV teams and prep schools. The school also established a volleyball club, which will look to compete against area JV teams in the fall of 2018.

When the leaves turned in 2017, Hampshire's winning ways continued. The Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Teams both won League Championships this past fall. The Girls finished the regular season undefeated, capturing their 4th consecutive league title and also placed 3rd in the Western Mass Championships, qualifying them for the State Championships where they placed 12th in Division 2. The Boys' team won a league title for the first time since 2013. Gymnast Catrina Touchette placed 5th all-around at the Western Mass Gymnastics Championships. The Boys' and Girls' Soccer Teams each qualified for the Western Mass Tournament where the Boys fell to Monument Mountain, while the Girls beat Hoosac Valley before eventually falling to South Hadley in the quarter finals. Hampshire Golf placed 4th in the Division 2 Western Mass Championships as Garrett Antosz tied for ninth place in the Individual Tournament.

2017 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 2017

In August of 2017, New Hingham Regional Elementary School (NHRES) Principal, Rosemary Larkin, resigned to take a new position in the eastern part of the state. Given the late date of the resignation, and the lack of time to conduct a thorough search for a new principal, Superintendent Jurgensen made the decision to hire an interim principal for the 2017-18 school year. I, Tim Luce, a retired long-time elementary principal, was pleased to be chosen for the position. During my six months at New Hingham, I have been impressed by the quality of the staff, the level of involvement by families and community members, and the amazing students. New Hingham is truly an exceptional school. The Chesterfield and Goshen communities should feel a sense of pride for their school. The process has begun to hire a permanent principal, with the decision likely being made by late April 2018.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Second Education (DESE) uses the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), as one tool to measure a school's effectiveness. Using the results from this test, DESE rates schools on a scale of one (highest performing) to five (lowest performing). Currently, Massachusetts is implementing a next generation of MCAS, so district ratings are on hold. The last rating the school was level two. This year, for the first time, all students in Grades 3-6 will take the MCAS on the computer.

This year the school has implemented a new curriculum to help children develop foundational skills in phonemic awareness, phonics/word study, high frequency words, vocabulary, and handwriting. As a result of this new curriculum, staff has seen a dramatic improvement in students' ability to decode words.

In 2017, NHRES hosted many enrichment activities for students 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: Pre-school Chinese New Year Parade, Grades 4-6 Winter Dance, Grade 6 Social, HRHS Graduate Parade, and enrichment field trips in all grades. 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.

Through the support of the PTO, New Hingham offered a variety of after-school programs that promote enrichment and continuous learning. These include CPR and a babysitting course. In addition to the enrichment programs, the PTO supported an assembly with Tom Ricardi and Birds of Prey, coffee socials on the first day of school for Grade K-6 parents and again the following week for incoming pre-school 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 Department and PTO once again kicked off The Back to School BBQ on August 31st. The Cabin Fever Dinner Dance, a community event, took place in January of 2017. This was hosted by the NHRES 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 the 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 participation in other traditional programs such as Pinwheels for Peace, Thanksgiving Share and the Spring Art and Music Festival.

The 2017 school year brought several, new talented staff members to NHRES. We welcomed Shannon Martin as fourth grade teacher, replacing Sarah Bent who is on a year's leave of absence. Jennifer Schwenk was added as a paraprofessional, replacing Karen Barker. Unfortunately we lost teacher Amanda Asselin and library paraprofessional, Dana Stiepock due to budget cuts.

On June 20, 2017 we celebrated with twenty, 6th Grade students on their successful completion of elementary school. Ms. Sullivan hosted the ceremony with personal comments on the successes of every student in the class. We would like to honor the following graduates of 2017: Casey Baldwin, Jaycee Beaulieu, Taylor Beckwith, Francis Chase, Kyla Crochier, Adrinne Dowland, Dorothy Duval, Nate Godden, Abby Gougeon, Gus Grinley, T.J. Lamere, Lindsey Ledoux, Braden Martin, Forrest McSweeney, Hannah Roche, Bryce Sibya, Aiden Soukup, Cady Spelman, Eliza Warner, and Alex Willard.

The current enrollment at New Hingham is as follows:

Grade Level	# Of Students	# Of School Choice
PK	16	-
K	19	0
1	22	6
2	14	2
3	17	2
4	14	4
5	21	2
6	16	4
Total	139	20

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,

Tim Luce, Interim Principal

TILTON TOWN FARM SUPERVISORS

The Tilton Town Farm Supervisors would like to report on some special happenings at the Tilton Fields and progress with our Timber Management Plan as created by Bay State Forestry Service.

Special Happenings:

Eagle Scout Project:

- Caelan Lamere of Boy Scout Troop 705, contacted the Open Space Committee and the Tilton Board, to seek our support for his project to construct a kiosk in between the two ballfields and to make improvements to the trails. Caelan was the project manager and did a beautiful job.

Tilton Town Farm Tour:

- In September, we invited the public to attend a tour of the Tilton trails and forest. With the help of the Open Space Committee and Bay State Forestry, a very informative and interactive tour of the property occurred.
- Bay State Forestry was able to explain our Timber Management Plan in great detail and how the plan will yield a very healthy forest.

Timber Management Plan:

- We entered into our 3rd year of our Timber Management Plan. This plan will 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.
- Our collaboration with The Open Space Committee on our Timber Management Plan has ensured open communications and has helped avoid duplication of efforts and resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Goss, Roger Culver, Rich Polwrek

Tilton Town Farm Supervisors

Treasurer's Report

For the Fiscal Year 2017: July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017

To the Residents of Goshen:

<u>Receipts</u>	
July 2016	\$277,543.12
August	485,054.44
September	79,110.10
October	214,391.88
November	340,536.55
December	154,739.17
January 2017	259,822.71
February	413,490.59
March	260,922.32
April	282,964.62
May	495,491.89
June	93,975.38
TOTAL	\$3,358,042.77

Debt Outstanding

	Outstanding Debt as of July 1, 2016	New Debt Issued during FY 2017	Retired during FY2017	Outstanding Debt as of June 30, 2017
Police 2013 Ford Explorer	\$23,784.00		\$7,928.00	\$15,856.00
Highway 2014 MAC Truck	112,305.60		37,435.20	74,870.40
Highway 2016 Ford F-550 Truck	68,000.00		17,000.00	51,000.00
Highway 2008 Int'l Plow Truck		41,170.00		41,170.00
Police 2017 Ford Explorer		45,000.00		45,000.00
Totals	\$204,089.60	\$86,170.00	\$62,363.20	\$227,896.40

Debt Authorized and Unissued

	Vote Date	Amount Authorized	Issued Retired Rescinded	Amount Unissued
Plow Truck	10/11/16	\$50,000.00	\$41,170.00	\$8,830.00
Broadband Network	6/10/15	1,400,000.00	0.00	1,400,000.00
Total Authorized & Unissued				\$1,408,830.00

Tax Title Accounts Receivable as of June 30, 2017

PROPERTY OWNER	PARCEL	TAX TITLE AMOUNT Certified by Collector
Marjorie A & Allen E. Beals	Map 1, Lot 0 30	\$37,135.79
Dexter E. Beals, Estate of & Allen E. Beals	Map 2, Lot 0 32-0	7,107.34
Gerard Blanchette	Map 10A, Lot 0 369-0	553.40
Jay & Susan Breines	Map 10A, Lot 0 702-0	1,013.99
Alan & Nancy Brownfield	Map 8, Lot 0 107-0	11,819.43
Susan Clarke, Estate of	Map 5, Lot 0 24-0	20,943.03
Susan Clarke, Estate of	Map 5, Lot 0 72-0	852.84
Alexander Condino	Map 2, Lot 0 32-0	926.80
George Harrica; c/o Edward Kaler	Map 10A, Lot 0 643-0	589.59
Steven E. Kendall	Map 8, Lot 0 109-0	33,695.87
John C. & Myra Mongeau	Map 10A, Lot 0 719-0	1,228.03
Morini, Rio A. & Josephine M.	Map 10A, Lot 0 661-0	549.05
Pedeck, Gary A.	Map 3, Lot 0 4-0	8,752.63
Pedeck, Gary A.	Map 3, Lot 0 2-0	5,614.93
Sears, Otis Leroy (Heirs of)	Map 8, Lot 0 50-0	12,810.48
Smola, Rudolph & Dorothy J	Map 10A, Lot 0 276-X	622.67
Wachira, Lianne Wambui	Map 5, Lot 0 104-0	1,813.44
Waraksa, Adolph; c/o Helen Drondoski	Map 10A, Lot 0 317-0	969.21
Wheeler, Sandra L.	Map 10A, Lot 0 616-X30	739.04
	TAX TITLE ACCOUNTS TOTALS:	\$147,737.55 *

* 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.

Subsequent to year end three accounts have been paid in full and the two largest accounts outstanding have entered into payment plans. Five accounts have been petitioned in Massachusetts Land Court for foreclosure.

Respectfully submitted, *Allan L. Kidston*, CMMT, Treasurer

TREE WARDEN

I survey the road side trees on all of the town roads several times each year.

Trees that I put on the removal list are marked with a red X. A red dot indicates a tree that is declining and will likely be on the removal list within a couple of years. The caution tape identifies trees that are a high priority. A yellow X is a tree that I have asked National Grid to remove. National grid has responded very promptly to remove any trees that threaten the utilities.

In 2016, many trees suffered from the drought. In 2017, we got a lot more rain but unfortunately a leaf fungus disease called anthracnose became prevalent because of the wet spring. Many maples had small poorly formed leaves and many of these trees dropped all of the leaves very early. Maple trees are the most common shade tree along our roads. There is no practical treatment. The disease is present every year but is usually not this severe.

Our tree warden budget is used to hire private tree companies to top 20 -30 trees. The number of trees that can be removed within our budget is limited by the size and the degree of difficulty. Our highway crew is a huge help to me picking up the wood that is left behind. The firewood size pieces are left at the base of the tree and are offered to the abutter first, So, please ask the abutter before taking wood from in front of someone else's house.

Please call, text or email if you have any questions. Cell# 1-413-320-3100. Email bobgoss1221@gmail.com

Submitted by,

Bob Goss, tree warden

Central Hampshire Veterans' Services district wide

- The Veterans' Services Director continues to work with the Massachusetts Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness on the implementation of the Integrated Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness Among Veterans. Our office is working diligently to achieve the goal of ending veterans' homelessness under the guidelines of the US interagency Council on Homelessness. As part of our collaborative work with local agencies such as Craig's Place, Soldier On, the VA Homeless Program and Amherst Community Connections, we can identify veterans in our community who are experiencing homelessness and develop housing plans in the appropriate permanent housing models for them.
 - The Director continues to serve on the veteran committee of the Three County Continuum of Care based at the Hilltown CDC in Chesterfield, which meets at least monthly to advance the use of our newly developed By Name List that has closed off gaps, preventing more people from slipping through the cracks.
 - We are active participants with Homelessness in Amherst: Systems and Providers monthly meetings to assist people facing homelessness and to prevent those who are on the verge from becoming homeless by connecting them with the benefits and services to keep them and their families in their homes.
 - We continue to have a staff presence at the Hampshire County Housing Court in Hadley in order to proactively address the needs of veterans who have fallen into homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. We also maintain a presence at the Hampshire County House of Correction to identify and plan for veterans being released from that facility and assist with re-housing those veterans. A newly developed protocol for veterans leaving the Massachusetts Department of correction facilities with guidance and input by the department director as has been implemented.
- Our Veteran services has continued its participation with the advisory committee of the John P. Musante Health Center being constructed at the Bangs community center in Amherst. Our office collaborated with Cooley Dickinson hospital in one facet of their community health needs assessment, *the condition of veterans in our local communities*. We assisted in the development and implementation of a regional survey and focus groups consisting of both veterans and another consisting of veteran family members. This confirmed our believed expectation of use of this facility by the communities' indigent veteran population we serve. The Hilltown Community Health Center in Worthington and Huntington are often used by our veteran clientele residing in that area of our district. Our engagement with the planning process is to ensure that both the services provided and the systems designed for building will meet the need of our veterans. We look forward to its opening in 2018

- Our district office has continued its involvement with the Veterans Justice Partnership <https://www.wesoldieron.org/veteran-justice-partnership/> a collaborative effort with the Northwest District Attorney's office to meet the needs of returning veterans struggling to reintegrate into the community and finding themselves in legal trouble due to the struggles of moving from combat to community life. Due in large part of the efforts of this partnership we can announce the establishment of a Veterans Treatment Court housed in Holyoke, MA. It currently handles cases from Northampton and Holyoke District Courts, and will be looking to expand in the coming months and years. The hidden wounds of war (i.e. PTSD and TBI) continue to affect our returning veterans, and the consequences of the symptoms of these conditions can often lead to poor decision making, whether out of desperation or extreme frustration with civilian systems, which in turn can get them into legal trouble. Many of these veterans, both men and women, deserve a second chance and treatment, not incarceration. Veterans Treatment Court will give them that chance. Our newest part-time staff, a veteran of the Iraq War, is working with the veterans' justice officer at the VA medical center in Leeds, Soldier On, and the District Attorney's Office in collaboration with this treatment court.
- Along side the American Legion Post 304, we honored our deceased veterans on Memorial Day. We appreciate Post 304 for taking the lead in providing a respectful service for our deceased veterans. It was a pleasure to support their efforts in Worthington, Cummington, Goshen, and Chesterfield. Our veteran's outreach efforts have proved to be successful at various local events. A couple of the more notable events include the Chesterfield 4th of July parade and the Cummington Fair. Every year we seem to be able to assist several veterans as a result of participating at these events. This year's Veterans Dinner hosted by the Chesterfield Grange was a highlight in our district delivering a delicious meal in honor of our veterans. This dinner has served as a forum for us to provide updates on veterans' benefits, programs, and services.
- Veterans' Services devotes a significant amount of time administering M.G.L. CH 115 veterans' benefits and submitting VA claims. This year four families received a combined total of \$21,846 in CH 115 benefits to help meet their basic needs. We also submitted two new VA claims as well as followed up on previously submitted claims. Based on the VA's current figures, veterans and families of Goshen receive \$115,716 for VA compensation and pension benefits annually.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Calendar Year 2017

Calendar Year 2017 History:

___9___ Applications for Special Permit
 ___1___ withdrawn
 ___9___ granted
 ___0___ denied
 _____ No action taken

___0___ Applications for Appeal of Decision of the Building Inspector
 ___0___ denied
 _____ allowed

___0___ Applications for Variance
 _____ denied
 _____ allowed
 _____ withdrawn

Comment on Changes or Developments:

Nine requests for special permits were approved with conditions; one application was withdraw without prejudice. Two approved applications were amendments of a previously approved special permit.

Respectfully submitted,

Zoning Board of Appeals

Joseph Frye, Chairman

Bill O’Riordan

Lisa Newman