

**2019**  
**ANNUAL TOWN REPORT**  
**TOWN OF GOSHEN**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**



**Financials based on Fiscal Year 2019**  
**July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

## **DEDICATION**

This year's annual report is dedicated in equal measure to the Town of Goshen's hard-working people, including the first responders and other essential employees, committee members, volunteers, community partners who have continued to work to keep all municipal functions moving forward, as well as to all within the broader Goshen Community, whose conscientious abidance by the Commonwealth's requirements have helped to keep us safe. We recognize many of you are essential employees elsewhere and have continued to work and care for your families. Without your commitment to one another the Town would not have been able to fair as well as we have so far throughout this unprecedented period.

This Annual Town Report for 2019 would typically have been made available at the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shifting priorities after the Goshen emergency declaration on March 14, 2020, this distribution was considerably delayed, even beyond the rescheduled July 25, 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Thank you to all those in the Community for your patience and understanding throughout this period.

The Goshen Select Board

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication	1
Table of Contents	2
Facts of Interest about Goshen	3
National, State, County Officials	3
Goshen Elected & Appointed Officials and Committees	4-6
Directory and Office Hours	7
Accountant	8-13
Animal Control	14
Animal Inspector	14
Assessors	15-16
Board of Health/Health Agent	16-17
Building Inspection Department	17
Capital Planning Committee	18
Community Preservation Committee	19
Conservation Commission	19
Council on Aging	20
Cultural Council	21
Emergency Management	22
Finance Committee	23-24
Fire Department	25-26
Highland Ambulance EMS	27-28
Highway Department	28
Hilltown Community Development Corporation (HCDC)	29
Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC)	29-30
Library	30
Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Report	31-32
Open Space Committee	33
Planning Board	33
Police Department	34
Recreation Commission	35
Schools - Superintendent of Hampshire Regional District	35-39
Schools - Hampshire Regional High School	39-41
Schools - Hampshire Regional Athletic Report	41-42
Schools – New Hingham Regional Elementary School	43-45
Select Board	46
Tax Collector	47
Tilton Town Farm	47
Town Clerk	48-49
Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Minutes	49-57
Treasurer	58-59
Tree Warden	60
Veterans Services	60-62
Zoning Board of Appeals	63

## Facts of Interest about Goshen

[www.goshen-ma.us](http://www.goshen-ma.us)

### History

Goshen was first settled in 1761 as a part of the Town of Chesterfield and was officially incorporated on May 14, 1781 as a separate town.

1761 Original settlement  
1781 Incorporated

### Points of Interest

D.A.R. State Forest  
Camp Howe Summer Camp  
Home of Goshen building stone (schist)  
Goshen Historical Museum

### Location

Located in Hampshire County, centrally 13 miles west of the Connecticut River in the Berkshire foothills.

### Latitude and Longitude of Town Hall

42.44°N 72.81°W

### Elevation

1450 ft (442 m) above sea level

### Area

17.7 square miles 11,328 acres

### Local Form of Government and Voting

Open Town Meeting/Select Board  
Annual Town Election – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May  
Annual Town Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May  
Goshen residents at least 18 years old with American Citizenship may register to vote at Town Clerk's Office, motor vehicle registration renewal, or the State election website.

### Population/Demographics

2019 Local Census - 979  
Federal Census 2010 - 1,054  
Federal Census 2000 - 921  
Labor Force 2016 - 654  
Median Age 2017 - 48.2  
Income per Capita 2015 - \$12,177  
Equalized Valuation per Capita 2016 - \$140,277

### Road Miles (not including DAR State Forest) 38.23

Town Roads – 24.44 miles  
State Roads – 7.37 miles  
Private Roads – 6.42 miles

### Property Tax Information

FY 2019: \$14.69  
Average Single-Family Tax Bill FY2019: \$3,576  
Total Valuation of Taxable Property FY2019: \$161,908,451

## National, State and County Officials

### Governor & Lt. Governor:

Charles Baker, Jr., Governor  
Karyn Polito, Lt. Governor  
Office of the Governor  
State House, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-725-4005 [www.mass.gov/gov](http://www.mass.gov/gov)

### Secretary of the Commonwealth:

William Francis Galvin  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-727-7030 [www@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:www@sec.state.ma.us)

### Attorney General:

Maura Healey  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-727-8400 [www.mass.gov/ago](http://www.mass.gov/ago)

### United States Senators:

Edward J. Markey  
1500 Main St, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Springfield, MA 01101  
413-785-4610 <https://www.markey.senate.gov/>  
Elizabeth Warren  
1550 Main St, Suite 406  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-788-2690 <https://www.warren.senate.gov/>

### Representative in Congress: 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District

Richard E. Neal  
300 State St, Suite 200  
Springfield, MA 01105  
43-785-0325 [neal.house.gov](http://neal.house.gov)

### State Senator: Berkshire/Hampshire/Franklin/Hampden

Adam Hinds  
State House, Room 309  
Boston, MA  
617-772-1625 [Adam.hinds@masenate.gov](mailto:Adam.hinds@masenate.gov)  
District Office  
100 North St, Suite 410  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
413-344-4561

### Representative in General Court: 1st Franklin District

*Stephen Kulik (Retired January 2019)*  
Natalie Blais (Elected November 2018)  
State House, Room 134  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-722-2400 [natalieblais@mahouse.gov](mailto:natalieblais@mahouse.gov)  
District Office  
413-362-9453

### District Attorney:

David E. Sullivan – Hampshire/Franklin District  
1 Gleason Plaza  
Northampton, MA 01060 413-586-9225

## Goshen Elected Officials - FY2019

### Almoners (3-year term)

Stephen Estelle (2019)  
Kristine Bissell (2021)  
Michael Rock (2020)

### Board of Assessors (3-year term)

Gina Papineau (2021)  
Cassandra Morrey (2020)  
Diane Bushee (2019)

### Board of Health (3-year term)

Michael Kurland (2021)  
Elizabeth Bell-Perkins (2019)  
Vacant

### Board of Library Trustees (3-year term)

Miriam Kurland (2021)  
Rosemarie Clark (2021)  
James Barrett (2020)  
Rosemary Bienz (2020)  
Melanie Dana (2019)  
Marcia Shaw (2019)

### Finance Committee (3-year term)

Angela Otis (2021)  
Dawn Scaparotti (2020)  
Ann Marie Deres (2020)  
Kristine Bissell (2019)  
Gina Papineau (2019)

### Hampshire Council of Governments (2-year term)

Diane Bushee replaced by Dawn Scaparotti

### Moderator (2-year term)

Keith Wright (2020)

### Planning Board (5-year term)

Roger Culver (2023)  
James Barrett (2022)  
Lisa Newman (2021)  
Dana Stiepok (2020)  
Joseph Frye (2019)

### School Committee -Hampshire Regional (3-year term)

David Pesuit (2020)

### School Committee - New Hingham Regional Elementary School (3 year term)

Jessica Judd (2021)  
Sabrina Willard (2020)  
Edward Sturtevant (2019)

### Select Board (3-year term)

Angela Otis (2021)  
James Heroux (2020)  
Wayne Glaser (2019)

## Goshen Elected Officials - FY2019

### Town Clerk (3-year term)

Kristen Estelle (2021)

### Tilton Town Farm Supervisors (1-year term)

Roger Culver (2019)  
Richard K. Polwrek (2019)  
Robert O. Goss (2019)

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### Administrative Support Back-up (1-year term)

Pat Morey

### Animal Control Officer Back-Up (1-year term)

Warren Kirkpatrick

### Animal Control Officer (1-year term)

Don Tryon

### Animal Inspector (1-year term)

Don Tryon

### Assistant Assessor (3-year term)

Gina Papineau

### Assessor's Clerk (1-year term)

Evelyn Kellogg-Culver

### Assistant Town Clerk (1-year term)

Gina Papineau

### Assistant Town Collector (1-year term)

Vacant

### Assistant Treasurer (1-year term)

Vacant

### Board of Registrars (1-year term)

Audrey Bissell  
Rose-Marie Carr  
Janice Ellis

### Capital Planning Committee (2-year term)

Ann Deres  
Todd Dewkett  
Wayne Glaser  
Jeffrey Hewes  
Dawn Scaparotti

### Cemetery Superintendent (1-year term)

Roger Culver

### Certified Public Weighers (1-year term)

Vacant

### Community Compact Program (1-year term)

Vacant

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### Complete Streets Committee ((1-year term)

John Bienz  
Rosemary Bienz  
Joan Griswold  
Gary Griswold  
Marya Zilberberg

### Community Preservation Committee (1-year term)

Don Boisvert – Housing  
Robert Labrie – Historical  
Sandra Papush – Conservation  
James Barrett—Planning Board  
Shannon Wade – Recreation  
Vacant – Open Space  
Vacant – At large

### Conservation Commission (1-year term)

Charles Amo  
Michael Duquette  
Lloyd Ewing  
James Heroux  
Sandra Papush

### Constable (1-year term)

Nick Cockoros  
Don Tryon

### Council on Aging (1-year term)

Evelyn Kellogg-Culver - Director  
Kathryn Boisvert  
Lorraine Brisson  
Elizabeth Loven  
Henrietta Munroe  
Sandra Papush

### Cultural Council (1-year term)

Kathryn Boisvert  
Alison Bowen  
Kristen Estelle  
Jonathan Foulkes  
Henrietta Munroe

### Custodian for Town Properties (3-year term)

Allan Kidston

### Custodians (1-year term)

Ronald E. Loven, Jr.

### Elderly Housing Study Committee (1-year term)

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

### Election Warden (1-year term)

Evelyn Kellogg-Culver

### Electrical Inspector (1-year term)

Curt Golec

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### Emergency Management Director (1-year term)

Larry Holmberg

### Emergency Response Coordinator (1-year term)

Larry Holmberg

### Fence Viewers (1-year term)

Vacant  
Vacant

### Field Driver (1-year term)

Vacant

### Fire Chief (1-year term)

Susan Labrie

### Goshen Light Goshen Energy Committee (1-year term)

Vacant

### Green Communities Committee (1-year term)

David Christopolis  
Joe Roberts  
Ira Brezinsky

### Health Agent (appointed by Board of Health)

Valerie Bird

### Historical Commission (3-year term)

Robert Labrie  
Floyd Merritt  
Margaret Waggoner  
Vacant  
Vacant

### Highway Department Superintendent (1-year term)

Todd Dewkett

### Highway Department Personnel (1-year term)

Phillip Culver

### HRMC Director (1-year term)

Kathleen Casey

### HRMC Representative (1-year term)

Timothy Hogan  
Vacant

### Inspector of Buildings (1-year term)

Joseph Latronica

### Inspector of Buildings Clerk (1-year term)

Patricia Morey

### Legal Counsel (1-year term)

KP Law

### Library Director (Appointment by Library Trustees)

Martha Noblick

### Library Aide (appointed by Library Trustees)

Vacant

### Municipal Light Plant Manager

Wayne Glaser

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### **Open Space Committee (1-year term)**

Alison Bowen  
Melanie Dana  
Jane Larson  
Patricia Morey  
Sandra Papush

### **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Rep (1-year term)**

Vacant  
Vacant

### **Plumbing and Gas Inspector (1-year term)**

Donald Lawton

### **Police Chief (1-year term)**

Jeffrey Hewes

### **Police Sargent (1-year term)**

Vacant

### **Police Department Administrative Assistant (1-year term)**

Donna Hewes

### **Police Officers (1-year term)**

William Bissell  
Donna Hewes

### **Recreation Commission (1-year term)**

David Bond  
Roger Culver  
Taylor Granger  
Shannon Wade  
Vacant

### **Route 112 Advisory Representative (1-year term)**

**Vacant**

## Goshen Appointed Officials and Committees

### **Town Accountant (1-year term)**

Eric Kinsherf

### **Town Collector (1-year term)**

Michelle Bond

### **Town Treasurer (1-year term)**

Allan Kidston

### **Transfer Station Technician (1-year term)**

Timothy Hogan

### **Assistant Transfer Station Technician (1-year term)**

Roger Culver

### **Tree Warden (1-year term)**

Robert Goss

### **Trench Permit Issuing Authority (1-year term)**

Todd Dewkett

### **Wired West Representative (1-year term)**

Robert Labrie

### **Webmaster (1-year term)**

Robert Labrie

### **Veteran's Agent (1-year term)**

Thomas Geryk

### **Zoning Board of Appeals (3-year term)**

William O'Riordan  
Michael Enright  
Steve Estelle  
Roger Culver

# Directory and Calendar

[www.goshen-ma.us](http://www.goshen-ma.us)

*(Meeting/Office Hours Subject to Change -Check website for latest information)*

## **Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector**

24/7 Dispatch: (413) 586 – 1508

## **Board of Assessors** 268-8236 ext. 302

*Office Hours - Wednesday 8AM-2PM*

*Meetings Wednesday 6:30 PM*

## **Board of Health**

268-8236 ext. 110

*Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:00 PM*

## **Building Department**

*Office Hours - Mon 6PM-8 PM, Thurs 11AM-3 PM*

Inspector of Buildings 268-8236 ext.116 and

Electrical Inspector 320-1156

Plumbing/Gas Inspector 268-7487

## **Conservation Commission** 695-3500

*Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 6:00 PM*

## **Council on Aging** 268-3316

*Luncheon - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Noon in Town Hall*

*Meetings – Last Tuesday 1:00 PM*

## **Finance Committee**

Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6:00 pm

## **Fire Department**

56 Main Street

Emergency 911

Business 268-7161

## **Hampshire Regional School District**

19 Stage Road

Westhampton, MA 01027

Superintendent 527-7200

Hampshire Regional High School

19 Stage Road

Westhampton, MA 01027

527-7680

*School Committee Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:00 PM*

New Hingham Elementary School

30 Smith Road

Chesterfield, MA 01012

296-0000

*School Committee Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 5:30 PM*

## **Highland Ambulance**

2-12 Williams Drive

Emergency 911; Business 268-7272

## **Highway Department**

8 Highland Road

268-7062

## **Historical Museum**

48 Main Street

268-7026

*Hours vary*

## **Library Board of Trustees**

268-8236 ext. 111

*Library Hours – Tues 3-6PM, Wed 3-6PM, Sat 11-3*

*Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 6PM*

## **Planning Board** 268-3316

*Meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 7:00 PM*

## **Police Department**

40 Main Street

Emergency 911

Business 268-3116

Dispatch 586-1508

## **Recreation Department** 268-3316

*Meetings – Last Tuesday 7:30 PM*

## **Selectboard/Town Administrator**

268-8236 ext. 301

*Meetings – Every Other Monday 6:00 PM*

## **Tax Collector** 268-8236 ext. 106

*Office Hours - Wednesday 6:00-8:00 PM*

## **Town Clerk** 268-8236 ext. 107

*Office Hours - Monday 9 AM-3 PM, 6-8PM*

## **Town Treasurer** 268-8236 ext. 108

*Office Hours - Monday 6:00-8:00 PM*

## **Transfer Station**

18 Wing Hill Road

268-7079

*Open Saturday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM*

## **Veterans Agent** 587-1299

*Office Hours - 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 11:30 AM-1:30 PM*

## **Voter Registration** 268-8236 ext. 107

Town Clerk's Office

*Monday 9:00 AM-3:00 PM, 6:00-8:00 PM*

Registration deadline 20 days before election.



**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

**2019 Annual Report**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and citizens of Goshen, I submit to you the following Annual Financial Report.

Our mission is to ensure that the appropriate financial and auditing controls within the Town are maintained in an efficient, cost-effective and responsive manner. We oversee all departmental appropriations assuring that departments operate within their annual budget. In addition, we are responsible for maintaining all financial records and that they are in compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric A. Kinsherf".

Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA

[www.erickinsherfcpa.com](http://www.erickinsherfcpa.com)

Town Accountant

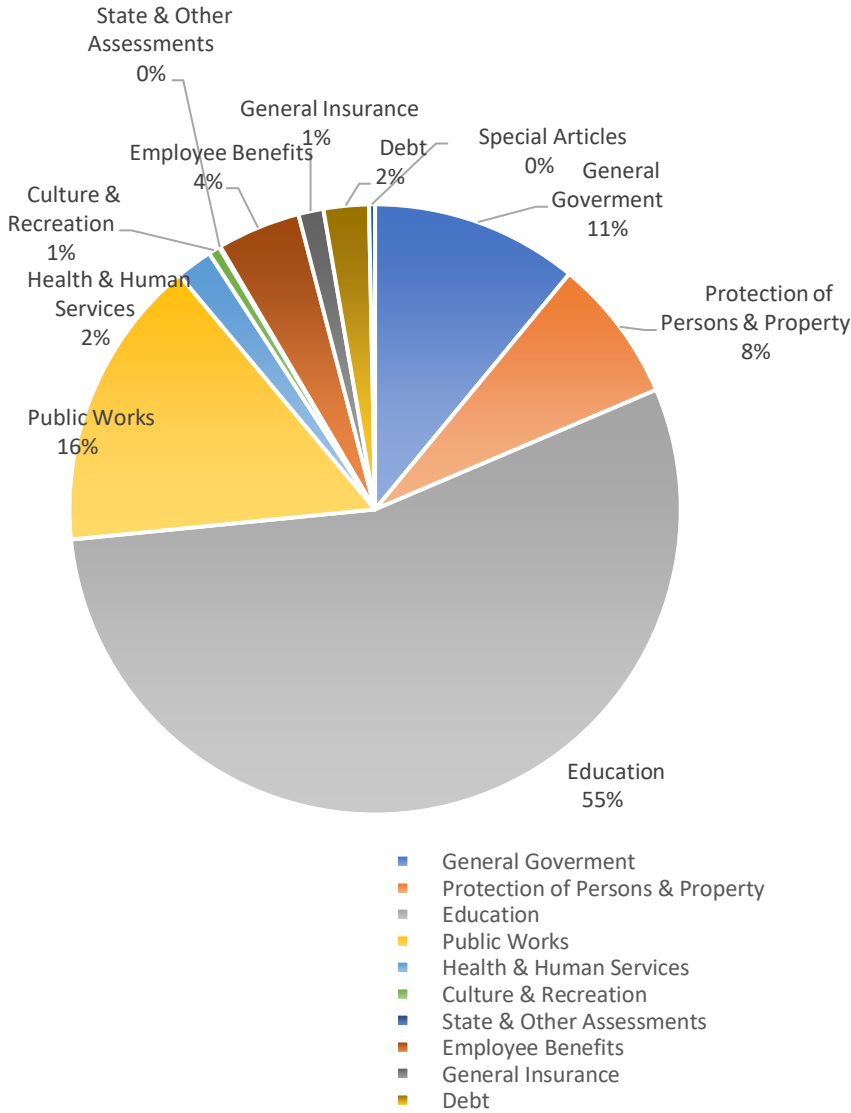
**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - All Fund Types and Account Groups**  
**AS OF JUNE 30, 2019**  
**(Unaudited)**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fund Types	Fiduciary Groups	Account	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	708,331.67	1,644,373.49	510,779.56	198,454.24		3,061,938.96
Investments						0.00
Receivables:						
Personal property taxes	3,455.72					3,455.72
Real estate taxes (includes Rollback Taxes)	73,917.45	(1,497.55)				72,419.90
Deferred taxes						0.00
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(94,189.40)					(94,189.40)
Tax liens	93,502.73	220.39				93,723.12
Tax foreclosures	23,415.87					23,415.87
Motor vehicle excise	28,968.53					28,968.53
Other receivables	205.22					205.22
Working deposit	17,801.00					17,801.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds					485,178.00	485,178.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>855,408.79</b>	<b>1,643,096.33</b>	<b>510,779.56</b>	<b>198,454.24</b>	<b>485,178.00</b>	<b>3,692,916.92</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY</b>						
Liabilities:						
Accrued payroll and withholdings	3,773.09					3,773.09
Agency Funds				26,079.20		26,079.20
Deferred revenue:						
Real and personal property taxes	(16,816.23)	(1,497.55)				(18,313.78)
Tax liens	93,502.73	220.39				93,723.12
Tax foreclosures	23,415.87					23,415.87
Motor vehicle excise	28,968.53					28,968.53
Other receivables	205.22					205.22
Notes payable					485,178.00	485,178.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>133,049.21</b>	<b>(1,277.16)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,079.20</b>	<b>485,178.00</b>	<b>643,029.25</b>
Fund Equity:						
Reserved for encumbrances	12,571.19					12,571.19
Reserved for expenditures	240,876.25					240,876.25
Reserved for continuing appropriations	137,000.00					137,000.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit	(149.54)					(149.54)
Undesignated fund balance	332,061.68	1,644,373.49	510,779.56	172,375.04		2,659,589.77
<b>Total Fund Equity</b>	<b>722,359.58</b>	<b>1,644,373.49</b>	<b>510,779.56</b>	<b>172,375.04</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,049,887.67</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Equity</b>	<b>855,408.79</b>	<b>1,643,096.33</b>	<b>510,779.56</b>	<b>198,454.24</b>	<b>485,178.00</b>	<b>3,692,916.92</b>

**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS  
SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS AND AGENCY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

	Opening Balance		Rev		Exp		Balance/Entry
<b>Trust Funds:</b>							
<i>Non-Expendable:</i>							
Archibald McConnell	\$ 1,626.27	\$	12.50	\$	-	\$	1,638.77
Lib. Carmela Walsh St	\$ 18,802.47	\$	3,211.79	\$	-	\$	22,014.26
Wright Fund Almoners	\$ 12,933.97	\$	99.49	\$	-	\$	13,033.46
<i>Expendable Trust:</i>							
Cemetery Trust	\$ 9,125.34	\$	19.70	\$	-	\$	9,145.04
Cemetery Perptual	\$ 16,908.67	\$	57.73	\$	-	\$	16,966.40
Consolidated Trust	\$ 3,097.58	\$	5.37	\$	-	\$	3,102.95
Library Trust	\$ 52,976.80	\$	10.50	\$	-	\$	52,987.30
Lib Durkan Bequest	\$ 2,349.28	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,349.28
John McCrae Firehouse	\$ 16,326.20	\$	114.81	\$	-	\$	16,441.01
Whiting St Poor Almoners	\$ 16,199.46	\$	124.60	\$	-	\$	16,324.06
Town Clerk	\$ 543.26	\$	4.18	\$	210.63	\$	336.81
Tilton Tn Farm	\$ 30,198.58	\$	5,448.37	\$	17,611.25	\$	18,035.70
<b>Agency Funds:</b>							
Police Firearms Licences	\$ 4,062.60	\$	1,887.50	\$	-	\$	5,950.10
Firearms Permits	\$ 1,125.00	\$	3,612.50	\$	3,175.00	\$	1,562.50
Due to Deputy Collector	\$ 13,749.00	\$	1,088.00	\$	1,220.00	\$	13,617.00
Dog Licenses	\$ 4,949.60	\$	-	\$	-	\$	4,949.60
<b>Total Trust Funds</b>	<b>\$ 204,974.08</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,697.04</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>22,216.88</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>198,454.24</b>

# BUDGET FY2019 EXPENDITURES



	<b>Actual Budgetary Basis</b>
Current Fiscal Year 2019:	
General Government	\$ 299,400.52
Protection of Persons & Property	\$ 208,201.53
Education	\$ 1,497,742.47
Public Works	\$ 423,829.83
Health & Human Services	\$ 52,505.89
Culture & Recreation	\$ 16,706.83
State & Other Assessments	\$ 1,899.09
Employee Benefits	\$ 120,641.85
General Insurance	\$ 36,239.50
Debt	\$ 65,370.32
Special Articles	\$ 8,638.29
<b>Total Current Fiscal Year Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 2,731,176.12</b>

TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS				
CAPITAL PROJECTS				
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019				
	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance/Entry
<b>Capital Projects:</b>				
NHRES Roof	\$ -	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 13,434.38	\$ 26,565.62
Town Hall Rehabilitation	\$ 37,992.31	\$ -	\$ 643.02	\$ 37,349.29
Landfill	\$ 67,604.63	\$ 688,876.00	\$ 773,446.74	\$ (16,966.11)
Police Cruiser	\$ 1,650.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,650.00
Book Binding	\$ 1,066.74	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,066.74
Narrowband Replace Radio	\$ 430.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 430.00
West Street Reconstruction	\$ 9,550.99	\$ -	\$ 5,115.50	\$ 4,435.49
East Street Culvert	\$ 2,601.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,601.85
Computer Technology	\$ 1,348.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,348.00
Transfer Containers	\$ 1,540.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,540.00
Highway Plow/Dump Truck	\$ -	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ -
Broadband Project	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 139,241.32	\$ 450,758.68
<b>Total Capital Projects</b>	<b>\$ 443,784.52</b>	<b>\$ 1,218,876.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,151,880.96</b>	<b>\$ 510,779.56</b>

<b>TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS</b>				
<b>SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL REVENUE</b>				
<b>FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019</b>				
<b>Special Revenue:</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Rev</b>	<b>Exp</b>	<b>Balance/Entry</b>
<b>Federal Grants:</b>				
Police Bullet Proof Vests	\$ 6,430.81	\$ 2,375.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 2,805.81
EMPG Grant	\$ -	\$ 2,460.00	\$ 2,460.00	\$ -
<b>State Grants:</b>				
Chapter 90	\$ -	\$ 109,000.00	\$ 109,000.00	\$ -
BOH Sustain Material Recovery	\$ 5,579.94	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 921.94	\$ 8,508.00
Solarize Mass	\$ 339.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 339.09
Caring Community Building	\$ 361.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 361.50
Community Septic Mgt Program	\$ 8,585.16	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,585.16
Green Community	\$ (1,022.99)	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (2,022.99)
State Elections	\$ -	\$ 661.52	\$ 661.52	\$ -
Police SAMHSA	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,799.98	\$ 700.02
FY19 Env Planning Assistance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (10,000.00)
Senior Safe Grant	\$ 4,571.38	\$ (708.00)	\$ 3,091.88	\$ 771.50
Fire/Safe Grant	\$ 1,093.38	\$ 4,162.00	\$ 4,424.86	\$ 830.52
Fire/Safe Grant	\$ 6,056.74	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,056.74
Traffic Enforcement	\$ 3,760.91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,760.91
Complete Streets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,899.94	\$ (7,899.94)
Arts Council	\$ 4,164.98	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,845.50	\$ 3,819.48
COA Formula Grant	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,999.69	\$ 0.31
Library	\$ 372.39	\$ 2,174.32	\$ 1,099.05	\$ 1,447.66
<b>Receipts Reserved for Appropriation:</b>				
Wetlands Protection Fund	\$ 7,304.79	\$ 67.50	\$ -	\$ 7,372.29
Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$ 12,219.84	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 12,369.84
ANCE Conservation	\$ 983.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 983.20
Hist Comm Gifts	\$ 3,561.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,561.59
History Book Fund	\$ 349.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 349.50
Transportations Network	\$ -	\$ 3.50	\$ -	\$ 3.50
<b>Revolving Funds:</b>				
Recreation	\$ 1,570.69	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 1,720.69
FRTA Trans Service	\$ 2,363.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,363.23
Ambulance	\$ 10,394.84	\$ 3,314.34	\$ 4,076.14	\$ 9,633.04
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 5,269.84	\$ 356.00	\$ 153.12	\$ 5,472.72
Animal Control	\$ 4,245.83	\$ 2,577.00	\$ 385.76	\$ 6,437.07
Electrical Inspectors	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 4,860.00	\$ 2,240.00
Assessors	\$ 4,397.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,397.50
Police Detail	\$ 15,329.25	\$ 73,892.00	\$ 76,045.00	\$ 13,176.25
<b>Other Special Revenue:</b>				
CPA Fund	\$ 438,990.00	\$ 134,723.74	\$ 3,478.92	\$ 570,234.82
State Septic Grant	\$ 97,594.79	\$ 2,709.42	\$ -	\$ 100,304.21
Septic Grant Interest	\$ 3,426.13	\$ 254.94	\$ -	\$ 3,681.07
COA Donations	\$ 1,335.21	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 3,275.21
Police Donation	\$ 1,455.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,955.00
Library Gifts	\$ 1,496.00	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 1,946.00
Playground Donation	\$ 442.79	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 442.79
Goshen Kids Activities	\$ -	\$ 1,399.25	\$ -	\$ 1,399.25
Library Interest	\$ 109.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 109.41
Law Enforcement Trust	\$ 0.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.83
Comm Forest Gr Tilton	\$ -	\$ 11,616.75	\$ 10,135.00	\$ 1,481.75
<b>Stabilization Accounts:</b>				
General	\$ 522,315.97	\$ 1,015.06	\$ 217,400.00	\$ 305,931.03
Assessors Property Reval	\$ 32,331.99	\$ 248.71	\$ -	\$ 32,580.70
Fire Dept Vehicle	\$ 131,077.85	\$ 364.99	\$ 121,000.00	\$ 10,442.84
Highway Department	\$ 90.42	\$ 45.20	\$ -	\$ 135.62
Police Vehicle	\$ 69.24	\$ 114.90	\$ -	\$ 184.14
Town Buildings	\$ 344.04	\$ 574.15	\$ -	\$ 918.19
Audit	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
Capital	\$ 156,555.81	\$ 745,420.93	\$ 413,770.30	\$ 488,206.44
<b>Total Special Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,528,918.87</b>	<b>\$ 1,126,123.22</b>	<b>\$ 1,010,668.60</b>	<b>\$ 1,644,373.49</b>

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

The Animal Control Officer (ACO) responds & enforces the Animal Control bylaws & regulations of the Town of Goshen to ensure the health and safety of the public in accordance with *M.G.L. chapter 140 ,sections 136A through 174D and Chapter 272, sections 77 through 80B.*

Animal Control is part of Public Safety and as such all URGENT calls are coordinated through Northampton Control Dispatch. This serves to provide a streamlined process and response and more effectively meet resident's needs.

For Urgent calls, including rabies concerns and animal bites, residents should call the Northampton control dispatch at 413-586-1508. Dispatch will contact the animal control or animal inspector.

For non-urgent calls, the Animal Control Officer is on-call 24/7 and can be reached at 413-320-8246.

Residents can also file complaints, concerns, or ask animal related questions via email [animalcontrol@goshen-ma.us](mailto:animalcontrol@goshen-ma.us).

Animal Control has an old, but dedicated vehicle fully equipped and ready to be deployed, eliminating the need to switch out specialty equipment for most calls and decreasing response times for certain incidents. Dog License Forms are available in the Clerk's office and online.

There were 79 documented Animal Control Calls for Service (CFS) and Officer Initiated activities in 2019.

Over and above the typical animal calls, last year was a very consequential year as it related to loose pigs and it continued into 2019. This took a lot of time, patience, and paperwork. I worked hard to address the issues while being respectful to both the residents and owner's rights and concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Tryon,  
Animal Control Officer

## **ANIMAL INSPECTOR**

The Select Board nominates an Animal Inspector annually and the State Division of Animal Health appoints the Animal Inspector, as it does for every city and town in the Commonwealth. The primary duty of the Animal Inspector is rabies control in the domestic animal population. He or she has the authority and responsibility to quarantine any animal.

The Animal Inspector works closely with the Animal Control Officer when there is a rabies concern, especially because of an animal bite. In such cases, the Animal Control Officer will contact the Animal Inspector. Any domestic mammal, which bites a human or another domestic mammal, must be quarantined for a period of ten days to determine the risk of rabies transmission. The Animal Inspector initiates and releases the quarantine.

Animal Inspectors are also responsible for barn inspections and may be called to assist with domestic animal disease quarantines in the event of an outbreak. The barn inspections are typically done in the late summer, early fall and must be completed by January 1. The purpose of the inspections, in addition to getting a good count of the domestic animal population, is to ensure the health and welfare of the animal.

There are 43 farms with 343 farm animals including fowl

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Cockoros  
Animal Inspector

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Each year the Assessors’ Office brings change to the Town of Goshen and FY 2019 was the end of the cyclic cycle of inspections. The Assessor’s field work rapidly progressed as spring arrived and lasted straight through the fall. The Board visited approximately 110 properties including building permits updates, abatements and our regular inspections. The Board appreciates the warmth, understanding and hospitality that was and is continued to be extended to us by our neighbors when we arrive to measure, list or inspect their homes and other buildings. These state mandated inspections help us to correct any errors or omissions that may exist on the property record cards and maintain a consistency within the town. We strive to maintain our records in the most correct and complete form possible.

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

	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>
<u>Local Expenditures:</u>			
Appropriations	\$2,231,445.38	\$2,268,490.00	\$2,378,435.61
Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$2,049.00	\$2,135.00	\$2,188.00
State & Cherry Sheet Charges	\$1,820.00	\$2,047.00	\$1,729.00
Assessors' Overlay	\$34,473.48	\$29,132.93	\$19,552.03
<b>Gross Amount to be Raised</b>	<b>\$2,269,787.86</b>	<b>\$2,301,804.93</b>	<b>\$2,401,904.64</b>
<u>Estimated Receipts and Available Funds:</u>			
Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$229,956.00	\$231,039.00	\$238,104.00
Local Estimated Receipts	\$194,700.00	\$200,700.00	\$212,700.00
Free Cash	\$117,639.00	\$235,881.00	\$155,149.68
Other Available Funds	\$203,714.43	\$283,385.00	\$470,374.93
<b>Total Estimated Receipts &amp; Available Funds:</b>	<b>\$746,009.43</b>	<b>\$951,005.00</b>	<b>\$1,076,328.61</b>
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$3,210,454.81	\$3,339,497.00	\$3,577,763.74
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds	-\$746,009.43	-\$951,005.00	-\$1,076,328.61
<b>Net Amount to be Raised</b>	<b>\$2,464,445.38</b>	<b>\$2,388,492.00</b>	<b>\$2,501,435.13</b>
Real Property Values	\$2,176,883.69	\$2,201,134.00	\$2,311,788.97
Personal Property Values	\$54,561.69	\$67,356.80	\$66,646.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,231,445.38</b>	<b>\$2,268,490.80</b>	<b>\$2,378,435.13</b>
Tax Rate	\$15.58	\$15.62	\$14.69
Fiscal Year 2020 Tax Rate is \$15.11 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](mailto: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

### **GOSHEN BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Membership:** Michael Kurland was elected Chair of the BOH and Laura Barrus and Nick Cockoros were elected to the Board. It has been a challenge identifying candidates for this Board and we are pleased to have an active three member Board. Additional members would be welcome.

**Transfer station:** Staffed by two dedicated part time employees (Roger Culver and Tim Hogan) and open on Saturdays, the transfer station has operated successfully with few problems.

- We passed the required annual state inspection.
- Participated in the annual HHW Day in October.
- Fulfilled all requirements of the annual RDP grant and received grant funding for recycling efforts.
- We are part of the HRMC.
- We attended all HRMC meetings and fulfilled all data requirements.
- Participated in regional meetings regarding new disposal contracts for recycling.
- Renewed hauling and trash disposal contracts.
- Installed a new generator to enhance resiliency.
- Reviewing charges. Challenges include the greatly increased cost of hauling and recycling disposal. Recycling previously generated fees for the town and will now require charges which must be recovered through user fees, town funding, etc.

**Budget:** BOH has spent multiple hours reviewing all aspects of the budget with Dawn Scaparotti and is attempting to identify areas for savings and estimate cost increases due to new contracts. This is a challenge. Also it is challenging to have an insufficient budget for supplies, public health supply items, drills, and support for clerical/administrative tasks as well as public health nursing.

**Health Agent:** Val Bird left her position as a shared health agent. Mark Bushee was hired as a replacement. The health agent is employed by the Foothills Health District, which is a consortium of several local towns. Goshen is a voting member. The BOH was challenged to provide services during the one-month interim period between health agents but is quite pleased with the caliber and performance of the health agents. The health agent performs inspections of septic systems, wells, housing, camps, restaurants, etc. and responds to complaints. The inspections are up to date. A challenge is compelling nonresponsive residents to comply with public health orders. The health district is now considering the development of regulations for short term lodging (such as Airbnb). It may be a challenge for the health agent to have the time to perform all of these extra inspections.

**Public Health Preparedness:** Goshen BOH members have attended meetings of MAPHCO and the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition and participated in a drill related to an influenza outbreak. We are actively participating in COVID 19 (Corona Virus) surveillance and meetings and are collaborating with regional and state organizations to respond accordingly.

Landfill: Working with the selectboard to close out the landfill remediation project and will implement mandated testing when the project is complete. There may be significant cost during the monitoring period but it is required and assures the integrity of the landfill.

Piggery permit: An inordinate amount of time and effort was spent on public nuisance and safety complaints related to escaped pigs. Many residents attended BOH meetings to voice complaints. The BOH met with the owner of the pig farm several times to resolve the problems. A public hearing was held and the BOH voted to deny a renewal permit.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kurland, Chair

Board of Health Members: Laura Barrus, Nicholas Cockoros, Michael Kurland

### **BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT**

In fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019), the Building Department issued 80 permits and conducted 3 inspections for places of assembly.

Permits issued are as follows:	<u>Fees Collected:</u>	
3 certificates of inspection	\$120	
Breakdown of permits issued:	\$15,480	
New construction = 3		
Windows/siding/doors = 11		
Roofs = 17		
Solar = 15		
Wood stove installation = 10		
Insulation = 8		
Decks/porches = 4		
Additions/remodels = 6		
Miscellaneous (demos, foundation, pools etc) = 5		
Commercial Building = 1		
	<u>Total fees collected:</u>	<u>Total Construction Costs:</u>
	\$15,600	\$2,516,454.15

The Building Department was staffed by Joseph Latronica, Inspector of Buildings, until October 31, 2019. Phil Harris took over as Building Commissioner on December 16, 2019. Pat Morey is Administrative Assistant and maintains office hours on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m. The Building Department can be reached via office phone, 413-268-8236 X116 or by email, [inspector@goshen-ma.us](mailto:inspector@goshen-ma.us). The current office hours are Mondays from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. and Thursdays 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Inspections are by appointment and are usually conducted Monday evening and/or Friday during the day. Other information may be found on the Town of Goshen website: <http://www.goshen-ma.us/home/departments/building-inspector> including downloadable permit application forms and fee schedules. Applications are also available at Town Hall Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Harris, Building Commissioner

## CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Town's formal Capital Plan was developed in 2016. Capital is defined as equipment, vehicles, technology, or improvements that cost \$5,000 or more. The Capital Plan is a living document that is intended to be updated as new information is available but at least annually. It should be reviewed as part of the annual budgeting and appropriations process. The first five years are typically considered most relevant in a capital plan. For long range planning purposes and to make it easier for the Town going forward, we have extended the information to span a 20+ year period.

### **Capital Stabilization Fund**

A capital stabilization fund was established and has been aggressively funded by free cash and consolidation of other stabilization fund balances. This has been an important step forward in planning for our Town's capital needs. However, this form of funding alone is not a best practice; nor is it a sustainable one. Best practice guidelines include funding the capitalization stabilization contribution line code in our budget annually with an amount equal to 3% – 5% of our operating budget or tax levy.

No funds can be spent from the capital stabilization account without it being approved at the Annual Town Meeting. The 5-year capital plan is presented at the Annual Town Meeting and focuses primarily on the items submitted for approval for the upcoming year, on the ATM Warrant. It also includes those capital requests submitted but not yet approved for the remaining 4-year period, 2020 - 2023.

### **Progress & Concerns**

We are delighted that the heavy lifting is behind us in terms of capturing the data and creating the model. There are more refinements to make to ensure efficiency and ease of use, but this work has strengthened our Town's financial infrastructure. It has created a tool for capturing essential information and for evaluating the financial impact of our capital decisions.

The tool is facilitating having all financial matters, both operating and capital, presented at the May Annual Town Meeting. Over time it should aid in making clear the trade-offs of limited resources so they can more comprehensively and transparently be discussed and considered.

An ongoing concern is that we were not able to include critical contributions to our capital stabilization fund this year 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. The financial rule of thumb is 3% - 5% of the Town's operating Budget or tax levy. The Finance Committee is working towards implementing this standard and it may require an override from proposition 2 ½ be passed in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M. Scaparotti,  
Capital Planning Committee Chair

Capital Planning Committee:

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

## 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.

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
Pat Morey	Open Space Committee
Bob Labrie	Historical Commission
Jim Barrett	Planning Board
Sandra Papush	Conservation Commission
Shannon Wade	Recreation Committee
Joe Roberts	Member at Large

Thank you to Alison Bowen, designee from Open Space, who resigned in June. Pat Morey was appointed to take her place in July.

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, Repair of the dump cap, and The East St. Walk Way Project.

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  
Tom Cairns  
Sandra Papush  
Mike Duquette

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Amo, Chair

## COUNCIL ON AGING

Both the town and the state have made it possible to bring more programs and events to our aging population. We are pleased that each event that we have put on has drawn a larger group. Our monthly luncheons are the most attended of all COA events. We are averaging 35-40 guests at each luncheon. The committee does the meal planning while other guests bring additional entrees and very fine desserts. We had to postpone here and there because of the weather, but when the luncheon does happen, there is more to talk about! We usually have guest speakers who give advice or educate us on important items that seniors need. Other times, we play a simple, fun game afterward.

We give a huge thank you to Care One of Northampton for furnishing us with a full lunch one month, and dessert another time. The March corned beef and cabbage meal brings in quite the crowd. People come from all around. Everyone enjoys the entertainment. Some even say it's better than going to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade!

In August, we always hold our Appreciation Picnic at the Tilton Town Field. This year we honored our oldest senior, Esther Korowski, and we presented her with the golden cane. We always honor all our seniors who are 90 plus, and we were fortunate to have four of them attend!

There is a small group of seniors who like to get together monthly to go out for lunch and sometimes an outing. We hope this group keeps building. In 2019, we went to the Holyoke Mall, Chester VT to a quilt shop, Robert Barrett Fishway, and Mike's Maze.

The coffee hour we have on the last Monday of the month has grown. Some months we just visit, but other months we play games, taste a healthy smoothie or do a craft project. One time, state representative Natalie Blais stopped by to say hi.

With the help of the Goshen Cultural Council, we put on two events. Sarah the Fiddler filled the town hall on March 31st and we all had a great time. For the second event, the Goshen Free Public Library and the COA had a great day in June despite the wind and presented the Ashfield Community Band. Following the recital, ice cream sundaes were enjoyed by all. An Ice Cream Social is always a great way to spend a day in June.

With the help of the select board, Ronnie Loven, and our donation fund, the downstairs of the town hall was refreshed with new paint and curtains.

Liz Loven decided to take a second retirement from the Council, and we quickly had Nancy Wood join us on the board. We lost three seniors this year: Sal Giammarino, Howard Parad, and Sylvia Richardson.

I would like to thank my whole team: Kathy Boisvert, Henrietta Munroe, Sandy Papush, Lorraine Brisson, Nancy Woods, and Roxanne Cunningham.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Kellogg-Culver

## **CULTURAL COUNCIL**

The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded \$4,500 to the local Goshen Cultural Council for the 2018-2019 granting year. The Massachusetts Cultural Council receives its funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The mission of the Goshen Cultural Council is to offer the Goshen community an opportunity to enjoy, learn and grow through talented performers and workshops with a view towards diversity in program planning and inter-generational activities. The Goshen Cultural Council appreciates and considers all projects but prioritizes applications that support Goshen town artists and presenters, local schools and organizations, community involvement, and new programs.

During the 2018-2019 cycle, grants were awarded to the following town-affiliated groups: Council on Aging (fiddler performance, Ashfield Community Band concert at the ice cream social and a basket weaving class), Goshen Women's Club (Sidetracked musical concert during the Summer Fest), New Hingham PTO (Science in Motion and Tanglewood Marionettes), Hampshire Regional High School (Spring Musical and Mass Audubon's program on Life in a Changing Climate), Goshen Free Public Library (Art of the Picture Book and Ukulele workshop).

The Council also presented grants to the following programs and activities in neighboring towns: Chesterfield 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Plainfield Congregational Church Concerts at 7, Ashfield Community Theater performance of "The Lion in Winter," and Cumington Village Congregational Church Friday Night Café.

The state requires that the local cultural council have at least five members, who serve no more than two consecutive three year terms. In 2019, the Chairperson, Kathy Boisvert and the Secretary, Jonathan Foulkes completed their service on the Council. Many thanks to both of them for serving as officers of the Council and for their dedication and efforts that made it possible for the Goshen community to enjoy a variety of cultural programs. Two new members, Marya Zilberberg and Nancy Wood joined the Council in 2019.

In August, the Council met to elect new officers. Nancy Wood was elected Chair and Kristen Estelle was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Mina Kim, a representative of the Massachusetts Cultural Council also attended the meeting and talked about a variety of topics, including community assessments, intergenerational programming and training for council members.

The Council held its annual meeting in November to vote on grant applications for the 2019-2020 granting year.

Council members invite your suggestions, ideas and feedback so that we may continue to offer fine programming to our community. Please contact Council members with your questions, comments or suggestions for using grant funds.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Wood  
Alison Bowen  
Rose Carr  
Kristen Estelle  
Marya Zilberberg

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

2019 was a quiet year for natural and man-made disasters, which was good news. The good news we received was that Goshen was awarded a \$10,000 competitive grant for an emergency management project. A committee made up of Angela Otis, Mike Rock and I looked at the categories available to us and agreed that a trailer mounted light tower was the best fit for the town. It could be used for both emergencies and planned events. As the year closed, the contract was awarded and we await delivery.

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](mailto:Lholmberg@crocker.com) or by calling 413-296-4247.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Holmberg  
Emergency Management Director

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee has made great strides in strengthening the financial analysis and the financial information presented to the Town and with our May 2019 report on the FY 2020 budget has met its commitment to provide material in advance of the Annual Town Meeting. The Committee welcomes suggestions and will continue to refine the process.

The addition of a comprehensive capital planning process several years ago has positioned us to make decisions based on evaluating the tradeoffs between short-term and long-term considerations. The Selectboard chair's work with the new accountant has led to significant improvements in the Town's financial data and hence our ability to rely on reports and have data for analysis and review. We continue to work toward implementing best practices to strengthen our overall financial position.

The state of the Town's finances is good and will grow stronger with each fiscally sound choice made by the town. The town continues to face financial challenges in the near future including the replacement of the New Hingham School roof, construction of the broadband network, the need to address the inadequate Town highway department salt shed and housing of our town highway and police vehicles and the replacement of a fire pumper truck. Additionally, for FY 2021, the Town may need to consider a permanent increase to our operating budget which will necessitate a Proposition 2 ½ budget override. In the course of our work this year the following topics rise to the top as issues to address and consider. .

### **Potential Override for FY2021**

Both regional schools worked to reduce their budgets in response to the needs of the 5 member towns for HRHS and the 2 towns for New Hingham. To balance the budget once the final school assessments requests were established, Goshen had to cut in excess of \$120K from its FY 2020 budget requests. Another \$10K - \$15K was never submitted as we knew there would not be enough to fund it. In the future, in order to meet the reasonable requests of **both** the schools and the town, an override from the limitations of Proposition 2 ½ may be necessary. An override for the following fiscal year, FY 2021, is something we may need to consider. This could add another \$50k to \$150K to the annual amount raised each year. This is another reason why we need to manage any additional debt exclusions very carefully.

### **Capital Plan Funding & Best Practices**

The Towns formal Capital Plan was developed by the Capital Planning Committee in 2016 and is updated annually. The Finance Committee, who has consistently had two members participating on the Capital Committee, has worked collaboratively to coordinate funding and understand budget implications. We have been aggressively funding the plan through free cash and other stabilization fund balances. This has been an important step forward in planning for our Town's capital needs. However, this form of funding alone is not a best practice; nor is it a sustainable one. Best practice guidelines include funding the capitalization stabilization contribution line code in our budget annually with an amount equal to 3% – 5% of our operating budget or tax levy. For Goshen, this represents between \$85K - \$120K annually. This year we diverted \$12K from other budget line codes and we were able to add another \$10K for a total budget of \$22K for this line code for FY 2020. We must begin funding at the \$90K level from our operating budget each year going forward, in addition to using some free cash, to adequately position the Town to meet our ongoing and long-term capital needs. This is especially important so that we do not need a debt exclusion and to increase taxes for each large capital request.

### **Municipal Bond Consideration**

With the large expenditures that we have facing us in the upcoming years, we need to consider consolidating our borrowing and issuing a municipal bond. This would require a rating agency review, typically by Standard & Poors. There are certain criteria that these agencies use in evaluating a Town for a bond rating including stabilization account balances, revenues, expenses, debt ratios, management practices. To receive the best possible rating, which provides better borrowing terms, we need to implement best practices on multiple levels to include: annual audits, developing policies and procedures across many financial functions, understanding the various relevant financial ratios, etc. We will continue to work with the Treasurer and Selectboard on this and will continue to take this into consideration when making recommendations regarding cash flow and funding of our capital expenses.



**Potential Override for FY2021**

Both regional schools worked hard to reduce their budgets in response to the needs of the 5 member towns for HRHS and the 2 towns for New Hingham. In order to balance the budget once the final school assessments requests were established, Goshen had to cut in excess of \$120K from its FY 2020 budget requests. Another \$10K - \$15K was never submitted as we knew there would not be enough to fund it. In the future, in order to meet the reasonable requests of both the schools and the town, an override from the limitations of Proposition 2 ½ may be necessary. An override for the following fiscal year, FY 2021, is something we may need to consider. This could add another \$50k to \$150K to the annual amount raised each year. This is another reason why we need to manage any additional debt exclusions very carefully.

**Tax Impact of Debt Exclusions**

While the Town has already approved debt exclusions for the broadband, landfill repair, and New Hingham School Roof, the impact of those votes has yet to be factored into our tax assessments because the borrowing has not yet occurred, or the first payments have not been made.

**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 prior to and after the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) actions are listed below:

	<b>Before ATM</b>	<b>After ATM Articles</b>
1. General Stabilization	\$ 304,916	\$ 264,916
2. Capital Stabilization	\$ 284,206	\$ 663,491
3. Fire Vehicle Stabilization	\$ 131,078	\$ 10,078
4. Audit Stabilization	\$ 30,000	\$ 15,000
5. Assessor Property Revaluation	\$ 32,332	\$ 32,332
6. Town Building Stabilization	\$ 344	\$ 344
7. Free Cash**	\$ 249,936	\$ 421
<b>Total Stabilization and Free Cash</b>	<b>\$1,032,812</b>	<b>\$ 986,583</b>

**FY 2020 Budget Appropriated at the May 2019 Annual Town Meeting**

Category	<b>FY 2020</b>
General Government	\$ 349,907
Public Safety	\$ 211,404
Public Works	\$ 431,332
Public Health& Sanitation	\$ 65,138
Community Services	\$ 63,969
Benefits and Insurance	\$ 166,723
Capital Stablization Fund	\$ 22,000
Education	\$ 1,559,560
Debt Services	\$ 29,024
<b>Total Budget Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 2,899,057</b>

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Scaparotti,  
Finance Committee Chair

Committee Members: Kristine Bissell, Ann Deres, Angela Otis, Gina Papineau, Dawn Scaparotti



## GOSHEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Goshen Fire Department (GFD) continues to work toward improving our facilities, equipment, and ourselves. The Goshen Firefighters' Association has purchased exercise equipment to help firefighters stay fit. Town voters approved the replacement of the 2007 Chief's vehicle and the 1986 Brush truck. We look forward to their arrival in 2020 and thank taxpayers for their support.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program entered its 23rd year. A State S.A.F.E. Grant in the amount of \$2,854 allowed Goshen Fire to teach 5 fire and life safety lessons at New Hingham Regional Elementary School. By continuing to educate children, we have raised a 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 \$2,100 to teach fire and life safety lessons to Goshen's Senior Citizens. This 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 battery detectors, please call the Fire Department at 268-7161 and leave a message. The grant has also made available temporary lock-boxes for Seniors' homes. These allow Fire Department keyed access to a home for emergency calls where the occupant may be unable to unlock the door for first responders.

Two of our junior firefighters, Hannah Labrie and River Williams, turned 18 and graduated to the rank of firefighter! Both have moved away to college and we wish them all the best. We also added two new junior firefighters to our roster, Dillon and Mason Neveu. Because of normal attrition, the Department continually needs to add members to the roster to maintain coverage and we are always ready to welcome those willing and able to give it a try.

Our personnel meet weekly and devote hours to training and maintaining equipment in order to be ready for the next call. Training not only includes firefighting but also many types of rescue situations, extrication, medical calls, hazardous materials recognition, and traffic control. The GFD was dispatched to a variety of situations in 2019, utilizing much of our training and equipment. In all, the Department responded to 108 emergency calls throughout the year, 4 more calls than in 2018. The call breakdown was as follows:

- 63 Medical
- 10 Motor Vehicle Collisions (2 of these calls required extrication)
- 13 Hazardous Conditions including wires and/or trees down
  - 8 Detectors Sounding (Smoke and/or Carbon Monoxide)
  - 8 Structure Fires (2 in Goshen, the others were mutual aid to other towns)
  - 2 Rescues
  - 1 Brush Fires / Illegal burns
  - 1 Vehicle Fire
  - 2 Other

This year, Goshen had two structure fires, one devastating and the other resulting in minimal damage. Phil and Jessica Judd's home was a total loss after a quick moving, overnight fire that had nearly fully engulfed the home before we arrived. The family credits their escape to having a working smoke detector, which woke them up, and the SAFE home escape drill training taught by our Fire Department. We also responded as mutual aid to other communities for 6 structure 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 mutual 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 Volunteer Firefighter Incentive Program was in effect for its tenth year. Active adult firefighters who attended at least 50% of our training sessions and responded to calls earned a stipend commensurate to their level of participation. These active Department members dedicated more than 1,885 hours to the Town in 2019. 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 was equivalent to \$5.31 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, electrician, 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 call in 2019:

Bill Connell	Kim Dresser	Steve Estelle	Dale Gougeon
Bob Labrie	Hannah Labrie	Sue Labrie	Cam Lacey
Jill Lacey	Jake Lulek	Adrien Neveu*	Dillon Neveu*
Mason Neveu*	Monica Neveu	Dylan Nygren	Chris Roberts
Erika Roberts	Michaela Rock*	Jonathan Schwaiger	River Williams
West Williams*	Keith Wright		

\* designates Junior Firefighter status

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Labrie, Fire Chief

## HIGHLAND AMBULANCE EMS, INC

**Operations:** Highland Ambulance is the primary ambulance service provider for the towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Plainfield and Williamsburg. Highland also provides primary back-up in the town of Worthington in support of Hilltown Ambulance of Huntington. Paramedics are on duty at Highland's station in Goshen from 6 AM until midnight, seven days a week. During the midnight to 6 AM time period, Highland EMT's are occasionally assisted by Paramedics from other ambulance companies when the service of a Paramedic is required. Highland's active roster as of June 30, 2019 consisted of 37 members including 18 Paramedics and 19 EMT's. Our Service Director and Assistant Service Director are two full-time paramedics and we have one full time EMT to solidify our staffing pattern. We have increased our administrative assistant's hours to help with increasing clerical and bookkeeping duties.

Dr. Peter Morse of Cooley Dickinson Hospital is our Medical Director.

**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
- 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 fires
- 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
- Providing CPR programs to community members

**Emergency Responses:** During 2019 Highland responded to 675 emergency calls. These are broken down by town as follows:

Ashfield: 106 or 15.7 %      Chesterfield: 62 or 9.2%  
Cummington: 73 or 10.8%      Goshen: 80 or 11.9%  
Plainfield: 101 or 14.96%      Williamsburg: 201 or 29.8%  
Other: 52 or 7.72%

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

CPR and First Responder trainings for Emergency Service Personnel, Police, & Firefighters  
Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)  
Medical Management Classes  
ALS/BLS interface classes for area EMTs  
Emergency Vehicle Operations Class (EVOC)  
Basic EMT refresher courses  
Paramedic refresher courses  
12 Lead EKG and Advanced EKG courses  
Bio-hazard class  
Fire Rehab class

**Community Involvement:** Here are some of the ways Highland participated in our communities in support of them;

- Ambulance coverage for community events including the Chesterfield 4th of July Parade, the Cummington Fair and the Ashfield Fall Festival
- Safe Day at Sanderson Academy, New Hingham and Anne T. Dunphy schools
- In January of 2019 Highland hosted a Board & Finance committee meeting with all 6 participating towns.

- Met with the administrators of the Swift River Addiction Center in Plainfield to discuss 911 responses
- EMT coverage at the Chesterfield Gorge for a 5K run also EMTs for the Junior Olympics in Goshen and a Polar Plunge fundraiser at the DAR State Forest.

**Operating Expenses in FY 2019: \$708,555.60**

**Cash on hand June 30 2019:**

- Operating Funds \$62,871.52
- Ambulance Fund \$184,183.57
- Memorial Fund \$31,875.57
- Dresser Fund \$4,079.53
- Donations \$ 96,568.38

Our six towns contributed \$388,828.56 of our total operational budget, based upon town assessments. The balance came from billings to insurance companies, Medicare, Medicaid and contributions.

**Building:** There were some small repairs /changes, that were not anticipated but needed to be completed in the new facility. These expenses were met either through our current budget or from donations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Highland Ambulance Board of Directors:

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ashfield - Patricia Thayer  | Goshen - Cassandra Morrey      |
| Chesterfield - Spencer Timm | Plainfield - Edward Morann     |
| Cummington - Amanda Savoie  | Williamsburg - Denise Banister |

- At Large - Bernard Forgea (Cummington)
- At Large - unfilled
- At Large - Douglas Mollison (Ashfield)

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Highway Department projects for the 2019 season were as follows:

- The paved portion of Loomis road was overlaid with a new top coat of asphalt. This work was done by Warner Bros Construction and was paid for using road improvement funds. The highway department cut the brush and cleaned the ditches before the paving.
- This year’s chapter 90 funds were used on Sears’s road. The highway department replaced some bad culverts and cut the shoulders. The brush was cut and all waterways cleaned out. A new top coat of blacktop was applied by Warner Bros Construction and the shoulders had gravel applied by the highway department where it was needed.

I am sure everyone has noticed our climate is changing. We get more severe rain events that are challenging our culverts. In the winter we are getting more ice storms and less snow. The Town is being proactive and taking the steps necessary to receive some much-needed grant funding to help us try and stay ahead of the weather.

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

## **HILLTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HCDC)**

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 services have 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 regional grant programs that secure state and federal grant funds to ensure Hilltown residents receive an equitable share of resources. Hilltown CDC works with the community to identify and secure financial resources to serve the community development needs of the region.

In 2019, Hilltown CDC helped the Hilltown region care for the elderly, provided support to local farmers and provided transportation for seniors who need it. Services available to Goshen residents also included Housing Rehabilitation, Hilltown Elder Network (HEN), Hilltown East Ride Senior Van, and financial support to the Goshen Food Pantry. Hilltown CDC continues to manage and provide affordable senior housing at our senior housing development in Goshen.

HEN staff provided transportation for medical visits and other purposes for seniors. Funding is also provided by Highland Valley Elder Services, and the Eleanor Schwartz Charitable Foundation. Please visit [www.hilltowncdc.org](http://www.hilltowncdc.org) for more information.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Christopolis  
Executive Director  
Hilltown Community Development Corporation

## **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 2019 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); John Chandler, Vice Chair (Chesterfield); and, Paul Wetzel, 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 2019, those services included:

- Liaison between Towns & MADEP on compliance matters & annual DEP inspections.
- 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), books, and Freon evacuation.
- Transfer Station operations and outreach.
- Preparation and submittal of DEP annual surveys, grant submittals, and reporting.
- Financial administration including transitioning from HCG services to a new accounting firm.

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

In 2019, 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 \$ 46,900.00 in grant funding to be used to further enhance recycling programs within their communities. The Town of Goshen

received a \$ 4,550 RDP grant to be used for recycling equipment and programs at the transfer station.

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 FY19, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$ 61,170. 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.

During the past year, the HRMC member-Towns collectively diverted 921 tons of recyclable materials to the Springfield MRF. In addition, the Towns of Plainfield and Westhampton diverted bulky rigid plastics; and the Towns of Cummington, Plainfield, Westhampton and Williamsburg diverted EPS (Styrofoam). The Town of Williamsburg continued to serve as the HRMC regional mattress recycling facility. The Town of Westhampton continued to serve as the host-site for the HRMC's annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.

Eight of the ten member-Towns have 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 2019, The Town of Goshen had a recycling rate of 31.2% compared with a rate of 26.3% in 2018. The Town recycled 52 tons of recyclables at the MRF in 2019.

For more information about HRMC programs, visit us online at [www.hrmc-ma.org](http://www.hrmc-ma.org) or by emailing [hrmc@hrmc-ma.org](mailto:hrmc@hrmc-ma.org)

Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator

### **Goshen Free Library**

In addition to our regular open hours (Tues. and Wed. 3-6 and Sat. 11-3) we hosted a variety of community programs this past year. We joined with the Goshen COA to host an ice cream social in June with The Ashfield Community Band providing entertainment. We held several game afternoons and an evening of games on New Year's Eve, an author talk and reception with local author, Siegfried Haug, who presented his book *Bad Sleep*. We also held a poetry reading, a program of Storysongs, a ukulele workshop at which each participant tried his/her hand at playing a ukulele, and a series of summer reading club programs on *The Art of the Picturebook*.

We would like to establish a group that meets regularly to play Scrabble or other board and/or card games. If you would like to be part of such a group or would like to join a reading group, please drop by the library to express your interest and to let us know what days and times work well for you, so we can establish a schedule.

One of the more popular items at the library is our library passes for free admission to a number of local museums/state parks. We have passes for Historic Deerfield, the Clark Art Museum, Wistariahurst Museum, Hancock Shaker Village, The Eric Carle Museum of Picturebook Art, and all of the Massachusetts State Parks. Passes can be borrowed for one week by coming to the library during open hours.

We are constantly adding new books, movies, periodicals, museum passes, etc. to the library's collections and would like to have your suggestions. Please drop in to borrow something from the collections, to make a suggestion for a new acquisition, or to place an interlibrary loan request. We can place requests for you from libraries throughout the state.

If you would like to be on our mailing list for email notifications of upcoming library programs/events, please send your request to [goshenfreelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:goshenfreelibrary@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Noblick, Library Director

## MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT (MLP)

Pole attachment surety bonds were completed and paid.

Utility company pole attachment license agreements were completed, submitted and paid.

Network fiber design was reviewed, adjusted and completed.

Utility company aerial license agreements were reviewed, completed and submitted.

Connect America Fund II process was started through Westfield Gas & Electric and submitted to the FCC to qualify for additional grant monies.

The procurement and RFP assessment process for fiber and network build begins.

Make Ready pole assessment by utility companies is completed. This indicates that 127 poles need to be replaced. 46 pole replacements are challenged and 19 challenges were upheld leaving 108 poles to be replaced. Total Make Ready costs are now estimated to be \$1,259,783. Utility company Make Ready pole remediation began in the last quarter of 2019.

State grant monies originally provided Goshen with \$770,000 as partial funding for Goshen's fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) town-owned network. In addition, the town voted to borrow up to \$1.4 million to cover the remaining costs of building the town's FTTH network.

"Make-ready" costs have far exceeded the estimates from the initial project cost assessment. ("Make-ready" costs are what the town must pay the utility companies to replace poles and move lines on poles, in order to meet current regulatory standards for additional network equipment and fiber.) The original make-ready project cost estimates were \$550,000 and were included in the total state grant monies of \$770,000 indicated above. The current make-ready project costs will likely total \$1.3 - \$1.4 million dollars, far exceeding the earlier estimates.

The original make-ready cost projections were created using computer modeling, without actual visits to the towns. While make-ready projections were accurate for many towns, Goshen's were not, as computer modeling could not forecast the large amount of work required for utility companies to bring Goshen's infrastructure into compliance with current standards. The town and the state have worked together to obtain extra grant monies to cover the \$750,000 - \$850,000 make-ready funding gap. The state has already approved additional grant funding monies to the town with an initial supplemental of \$532,337; and, the state has agreed to provide additional grant monies to cover the rest of the make-ready funding gap at project completion.



See the chart below for revised funding sources and totals as of December 2019:

Project Categories	State Grant Funds	CAF II FCC AWARD	Municipal Funds	Total Amount
Professional Services Allocation (original state grant award monies)	\$320,000			\$320,000
Construction Allocation (original state grant award monies)	\$450,000			\$450,000
Supplemental Make Ready Funds recently provided by the State to the Town	\$532,337			\$532,337
Potential Additional Make Ready Funds available at project true-up (see #1 below)	\$177,446			\$177,446
CAF II - Federal FCC grant monies award obtained through partnership with Westfield Gas & Electric (see #2 below)		\$261,762		\$261,762
Current Municipal Contribution via debt exclusion authorization			\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$1,479,783</b>	<b>\$261,762</b>	<b>\$1,400,000</b>	<b>\$3,141,545</b>

Shaded Items are new grant monies awarded to the Town in December 2019, totaling \$971,545.

- 1) The final amount awarded is dependent on the actual make ready billed amounts after project completion. If the final excess make ready costs are larger or smaller, the amount will be adjusted accordingly.
- 2) These monies are provided in equal 1/10 disbursements over the 10 years following project completion. Funds are conditional upon meeting some federal reporting & other requirements.

For current information look at Town News and Announcements on the home page or Capital Projects/Broadband on the Town Website: [www.goshen-ma.us](http://www.goshen-ma.us)

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Glaser

## **OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

The Open Space Committee was appointed to address the goals and objectives of the 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The OSRP focuses on ensuring that Goshen retains its rural character through the conservation of important natural and cultural resources and improving the quality of its recreational resources for current and future generations. A copy of the OSRP is available in the library or by contacting the committee.

Some time has been spent in searching for funding for a consultant to assist with an update to the 2012 OSRP which expires this year. We hope to apply for a LTA grant from PVPC which will be available next year.

Hilltown Land Trust and DCR are planning an outreach campaign to OpenSpace Committees. Goshen has been asked to participate and possibly host one of three educational and networking workshops regarding land conservation. Goshen has responded and let them know that Goshen is interested in hosting the January 2020 workshop.

Trail maintenance on the North and South Loops at the Tilton Farm Recreation Area is ongoing. The committee appreciates the work Roger Culver, a Supervisor at Tilton Farm, has done in clearing downed trees and brush on the North and South Loop trails, as well as keeping the South trail mowed. Melanie Dana and Monica Neveu of the Fire Dept. did a site visit and planned for replacement of the bridge at the top of the North Loop. Monica will organize a work party in the spring to complete the work. A path circumventing the upper ballfield was investigated and implemented so hikers don't have to walk across the ballfield (esp. during events) to get to the kiosk.

Open Space is a 7 person committee. Since we have been down to 4 members for most of the year, we have decided to change the committee size to 5 so that we can more easily function. We will request a warrant article for the next town meeting for the size change.

Two newer projects we are involved in are a state climate change resiliency grant through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program and supporting the work of the Complete Streets Committee.

The Open Space Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 4 pm in the Town Offices. New members and volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted  
Sandra Papush

## **GOSHEN PLANNING BOARD**

During the course of the year, various members of the Planning Board represented the Board on the Community Preservation Committee, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC).

With the assistance of the PVPC the Board prepared and presented to Town Meeting a bylaw amendment regulating adult use marijuana establishments. The amendment was approved by Town Meeting. This bylaw governs the location, operation, and security of marijuana establishments within Goshen.

During the course of the year the Board reviewed and approved 1 plan of land.

Respectfully submitted,

Goshen Planning Board

Roger Culver, Chairman  
Joseph Frye, Secretary  
Jim Barrett  
Lisa Newman  
Dana Steipock

## 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 **666** calls for Police Services. Currently there are 5 Officers that work for the department:

Chief Jeffrey Hewes  
Officer William Bissell  
Officer Donna Hewes  
Officer Erik Loik  
Officer Brendan Smith

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**.

The new 2019 Ford Explorer police cruiser was delivered in October and put into service. This is an all-wheel drive vehicle and works great with our road conditions.

**House Numbers.** Please check to make sure your assigned home and property numbers are visible. This will help emergency services find you more quickly during an emergency.

**A REMINDER** to residents when you receive 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 it needs to be done **3 months in** advance. The process for licensing is taking longer as there are more background checks for applicants and more applications being submitted throughout the state. Call the police department to make your appointment. **If you let your permit expire there is no grace period.** The fee for Firearms Licenses is **\$100.00** made out to the Town of Goshen.

**GOT DRUGS** We now have a **Med Return 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.

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 something 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 SAFETY! 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 continues to maintain our Tilton Town Field recreation area in 2019. General maintenance and ballfield preparation was attended to throughout the year, thanks to Roger Culver. New dirt was put down on both fields. We supported Youth basketball by covering referee fees and supplying basketball trophies. Community use for this area and the pavilion continues to be a goal for Tilton Recreation Areas. Shannon Wade continues to be designated to represent the Recreation Commission at the CPA Committee. We welcomed Joan Griswold to our committee at the end of the year.

Our fields were again enjoyed by two softball leagues again this past year. Last fall the ball fields were used by the Rocky Hill Softball League. This is an adult 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 and supplied them with team shirts. No youth baseball utilized our fields in 2019. 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 40th Annual Hilltown Junior Olympics on September 21, 2019. This is held annually at the Tilton Town Field and hosted by a different town every year. This year's host was Worthington. 136 children ages 4-14 participated in the event with 40 of them from Goshen. The success of the individual participants and town team event members resulted in a second 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. We are always seeking volunteers for the Hilltown Junior Olympics which is held annually in September.

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 as well.

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    Joan Griswold

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

The Hampshire Regional member school districts have had another year of strong performance and growth with continued efforts towards shared services and resource utilization. While last year saw a significant changing of the guard in the central office, senior building leadership remained consistent for the most part. This afforded a strong mix of experiences that brought in new ideas while preserving essential institutional knowledge. This year all senior leadership positions remain consistent and we have collectively developed a district strategy that is both specific to the broad needs of the region as a whole but flexible enough to allow for each school and member district to engage in the manner that best fits their needs.

This year the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) garnered significant publicity as it increased statewide education funding by approximately \$1.5 Billion dollars over the next seven years through changes to the Chapter 70 formula, grant programs, and rural aid. Nonetheless, based on the profiles of the member school districts of Hampshire Regional coupled with their "hold harmless" status related to student numbers, they will not see much increase. At the last minute, the SOA added a provision requiring every district, regardless of funding status, to complete a report by April 1, 2020 detailing how their funds will be utilized to service students. Fortunately, DESE has ensured districts that those districts receiving little added aid will submit a very abbreviated report

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 some of the many excellent teachers working in our District. HRHS Math teacher Louis Potorski,, Williamsburg Special Education Teacher Pamela Berube, and Norris Second Grade Teacher Elizabeth Cauley were the recipients of the 2019 excellence in teaching awards.

Student safety continues as a priority for the schools and multiple efforts have been made to improve safety and security in the schools. Norris Elementary School has updated its fire alarm system and entry doors through the town's capital funding process. Hampshire Regional High School has added a security window to the entry through a competitive school security grant. New Hingham Elementary school has added cameras and a secure entry system to multiple doors through Rural Aid funding. Physical upgrades aside, all of the member schools have been actively engaged with their town's emergency services departments and conducting lockdown and reunification drills

The central office is made up of a number of fairly small support departments that all serve an essential role in making the Hampshire schools as exceptional as they are. Following are reports from each of these departments.

### **Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**

The office of the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for the Hampshire Regional School District is pleased to present an annual report for 2019. In addition to supervising the district's federal entitlement grants (Title I, IIA, III, and IVA), the office programs professional development (PD) for the district's staff, oversees the district's English Language Learner (ELL) program and monitors the district's civil rights' compliance. Working with the superintendent, principals, and teachers, the office selects curriculum materials, advises instructional practices, and oversees assessment systems.

The emphasis of the year's PD was improving students' academic and behavioral outcomes across the district. A significant concern about increasing levels of student anxiety and its effect on student performance prompted this office to bring Lynn Lyons, LICSW, a nationally recognized student anxiety expert, to present "Managing Anxiety: Strategies to Interrupt the Worry Cycle," to the district's elementary staffs at the district PD day on January 18, 2019. This topic was also the focus of the middle and high school's first PD day on October 15, 2019. Ms. Lyons addressed the faculty in the morning, consulted with counselors and psychologists in the afternoon, and in the evening, offered a presentation to families focused on managing anxiety.

The intervening summer months provided elementary and middle school teachers the opportunity to complete professional development around the state's new social studies standards. This PD was partially underwritten by a competitive "Teaching Social Studies" grant funded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The grant was awarded to Hampshire Regional which partnered with the Western Massachusetts Writing Program to secure the grant. July and August also offered the opportunity to work with teachers to revise and edit the social studies and science standards on the elementary report cards.

Professional development in the elementary schools for the 2019-2020 school year was designed to support elementary teachers with their implementation of the new math curriculum, *Bridges* mathematics. The *Bridges* curriculum was selected by a committee with representation from each of the elementary schools and the director of curriculum. Both EdReports.com and Learninglist.com found the *Bridges* curriculum addressed one-hundred-percent of the Common Core State Standards. Teachers who were not tasked with teaching this new curriculum organized professional learning communities (PLCs) for their respective specialties and worked with building principals and the curriculum director to develop goals for those PLCs.

Hampshire Regional High School's professional development during 2019 saw the completion of the efforts of five PLCs (Technology I, Technology II, Ninth Grade Experience, Growth Mindset, and Community Building) that had been meeting since 2017. The beginning of this academic year saw the implementation of a new comprehensive enterprise for both the middle and high school staffs intended to establish a "gradual release model" for students. This professional initiative is planned for both this year and next. The goal is to develop a comprehensive program (7-12) to prepare students for graduation and to help students attain the requisite level of responsibility needed for success after graduation. In grade-level teams, the staff of the MS/HS will consider six areas of concern shared by teachers and

students including social expectations, homework and summer work, grading, communication, assessments, and accountability. Each of the grade-level teams will define the expectations in those six areas as students' progress from the seventh- to the twelfth- grade. A formal plan will be created that will enable teachers gradually to release their level of responsibility and to shift accountability to students as they grow and mature into young adults ready to graduate from Hampshire Regional High School.

A review of the federal grants awarded to the Hampshire Regional School District by DESE was another major concern of this office during 2019. The director of curriculum spent seven months preparing materials for the "Tiered Focused Monitoring" (TFM) process. The TFM is a comprehensive evaluation of federal grants management that occurs every six years for school districts across the state that receive Title grant funding. The TFM procedure was completed for Hampshire Regional School District's Title grant schools including Hampshire Regional High School (Titles I, IIA, III, and IVA), William E. Norris School (Titles I, IIA, III, and IVA), the Anne T. Dunphy School (Titles I, IIA, III, and IV), Westhampton Elementary (Title IIA and Title III), and New Hingham Elementary (Title II).

Additional work of this office during 2019 included completing a state review of the district's English Language Learners' program and its Civil Rights procedures. The director of curriculum also attended local, regional, and state meetings that informed the varied responsibilities of this office and are critical to supporting the academic, social, and emotional lives of the students of the Hampshire Regional School District.

### **Office of Pupil Services**

The director of pupil services, in collaboration with Principal Pluta, has been working to build capacity for the language-based program at Norris Elementary School. Over the summer we hired a highly qualified teacher for the program and have contracted with Landmark College to provide professional development to classroom teachers in language-based classroom strategies and approaches. This professional development will occur over the course of this school year and next. In addition, the pupil services director has worked with a building-based team at Norris, comprised of the principal, school psychologist, language-based teacher, and the educational team leader (ETL), to develop entry and exit criteria for the program and to review student data in order to identify students in need of early intervention. This group will expand to include the reading specialists and special education teachers to formalize early identification and intervention for struggling learners beginning in Kindergarten.

The director has collaborated with the Special Education Parent Advisory chair to hold parent forums and trainings. The director completed and submitted the district's self-assessment for Tiered Focus Monitoring which focused on the district's compliance with special education laws and regulations. In preparation for the site visit in May, 2020, the director has arranged a parent orientation meeting in March with a DESE representative that will review the process and allow for questions.

### **Office of Health Services**

Our health services team consistently provides safe and compassionate care to our school community. Four of our nurses maintain their certification as CPR instructors and four also became instructors for the Stop the Bleed course in 2019 to offer district staff with emergency training. We have many students with complex medical needs that our district nurses monitor and treat on a daily basis, including at least one diabetic student in each school. We were able to use grant funds to host Joslin Diabetes Center in June 2019 for training to keep us current with best practices and the newest available technology. Our health services team worked together with IT and administration to draft guidelines for continuous glucose monitoring in the school setting as diabetes management technology advances, and we have also been working with cafeteria staff to improve carbohydrate count calculations for these students to ensure safe insulin dosages are administered. From Jan 2019 to Dec 2019, district nursing staff had a total of 9,346 student encounters, and completed 4,036 health screenings. Moreover, all district nurses are continuing our work on a shared goal to improve communication, collaboration, and the overall working relationship with pediatric providers that serve our student population. Lastly, our HRHS nurses have implemented an attendance initiative to improve communication with primary care providers around students with chronic absenteeism.

## **Schools' Business Office**

The business office is responsible for all finance, operations, personnel, and contract functions for the five unique member districts of Hampshire Regional Schools. The business office manages a combined operating budget of roughly \$30 million across many unique programs to support nearly 1,750 students and 300 employees throughout the region. We are happy to report that while every audit year provides opportunities for improvement, there were no material findings in the past fiscal year and all of our programs are in full compliance.

This year, business director Bobbie Jones has been soliciting increased feedback on the budgeting process from member towns and working to improve communications. This includes a detailed explanation of how the central office funding and budgeting process dovetails with each school as well as how other programs and agreements offset costs. Bobbie also offered detailed explanations at each school committee meeting regarding how agreements with other entities such as Worthington interrelate within the central office budget.

## **Office of District Technology**

Technology continues to have an essential role in the academic mission of our schools as we embrace an ever growing industry of digital curriculum resources and online tools for teaching and learning. In addition, our administrative support systems continue to play a critical role in running the business side of our educational mission, as well as complying with mandatory state reporting and electronic record archiving. Below are some highlights of technology related happenings around the District this year.

### **Digital Curriculum**

The implementation of new math and ELA curriculum in member schools this year brought with it a host of online materials and electronic resources for both staff and students to use. These resources enhance our educational goals and utilize our investment in classrooms projectors, interactive whiteboards, document cameras and student laptops.

### **Data Management:**

In order to maintain data integrity across all of our mission critical systems, we have implemented automated data syncing strategies between our student information system, special education system, emergency alert system and student nursing system. These efforts ensure accurate, consistent and up to date information across all of our systems.

### **Fleet Management**

As the number of computers and devices across the district continues to grow, it is important to implement a way to efficiently manage those devices. To accomplish this, automated update servers and mobile device management systems were deployed in member schools this year. These systems automate maintenance tasks and provide for remote management of devices.

As of this report, the total number of laptops and computers in member schools is 1,131 computers (Anne T. Dunphy 99; Hampshire Regional 587; New Hingham Regional 142; Norris 207; Westhampton Elementary 85; Central Office 11).

In addition to computers, member schools also have a mix of iPads, printers, interactive projectors, 3D printers, Wi-Fi access points, document camera and audio systems.

## **Looking Ahead**

The role of schools within the larger community is becoming more complex with increasing regulatory requirements and unfunded mandates making the environment more and more challenging. While the state has made efforts to change the state funding formula and add rural aid, local budgets are increasingly stretched to meet the needs of students. While the Student Opportunity Act was heralded as a win for education proponents throughout the state, the increases in funding only impacted a small number of districts and added a reporting burden to schools not receiving additional aid. While this can be discouraging at times, we are aware that the schools receiving the

preponderance of this aid are among the neediest and least served throughout the state. As you can see above, and will see through individual school reports, our dedicated educators will continue to rise to the challenge of meeting the needs of children and provide a safe space for them to grow and receive a world class education. Whenever you have a question or wish to become involved in your community schools, please call our office or the principal of your local school.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Aaron Osborne

Superintendent of Schools

### **HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

The last year of the decade proved to be full of engagement, learning, and growth for students and staff at Hampshire Regional High School.

School and student safety continues to be a priority at Hampshire Regional. Administration, the school council, and school committee intentionally shifted the focus from reactive measures to proactive security and safety actions including:

- Hosting a “Hidden in Plain Sight” Exhibit for families to see how teen may be hiding different drug or alcohol related products in their bedrooms during the month of January;
- Presenting the reunification seminar at the Massachusetts School Administrators Association Conference;
- Hosting thoughtful discussions about student breath alcohol testing and prevention during the fall;
- Changing the room numbers throughout the building to make more sense for all visitors, but mostly for emergency responders.

Additionally, the school was awarded two grants for safety. The first was a \$60,000 grant to renovate the entryway to ensure sightlines from the main office to incoming visitors: a practice that the local and state police highly recommend as one of the best prevention measures. The entryway renovations were completed on December 31. The second was a grant through MIIA to replace the current walkie talkies. The new walkie talkies can now communicate directly with emergency responders.

Student wellness is also a focus of Hampshire Regional High School. Students in the 9th grade health class succeeded in obtaining a grant to purchase a new salad bar for our cafeteria, which our whole community has enjoyed. The school’s advisory program went through a transformation over the summer and is now based on thematic months including civic engagement, social justice, self-advocacy, and skill building. A popular incentive program was also developed and students enjoy participating in the quarterly celebrations for their advisories hard work for the prior 10 weeks.

State testing shifted, and all students took the MCAS test online in the spring of 2019. The change resulted in more technical support required at the school-based level. The format of questions also changed for students to engage them in a more challenging way. Questions included different types of responses such as multiple choice with one correct answer, multiple choice with multiple correct answers, short answer where students need to type a response, constructed response which warrants a longer answer, and “technology enhanced questions” which required students to move different text boxes around to construct the correct answer. The new format of testing proved difficult for our middle school students, with scores falling slightly below the state in ELA and math. Grade 10 students were more successful, as they outperformed the state in all three subject tests.

The spring also brought about some challenges to the school’s time on learning. After a number of delays due to weather, the schedule shifted from a four minute passing time to a one minute passing time in order to comply with



the expected 990 hours of time on learning for high schools in a school year. The 2019-2020 school schedule was adjusted to a three minute passing time and additional time on learning in the morning to ensure that this would not occur in the future. Students seems to have adjusted well to this schedule shift.

Regardless of the challenges of the spring, students still thrived in their academics and extracurricular activities. Notably, Rebecca Buehler of Southampton was named as a National Merit Scholar, the first to graduate from Hampshire in over a decade. Twenty five exchange students visited Hampshire from France in the spring and again in the fall, and students in the upper level Spanish classes traveled to Spain enriching the experience of our students in our world language classes. Science Fair and Rube Goldberg night displayed fantastic work from our middle school students and juniors and seniors respectively. All students in 9th grade were CPR certified in their health class. The spring musical, *Into the Woods*, was a beautiful production starring Emma Kuntz of Williamsburg as the witch, Ryan Bell of Southampton as Jack, and Hannah Labrie of Goshen as Cinderella.

Math teacher Louis Potorski was awarded the Harold Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence from Hampshire in May. Lou was an ideal candidate for this accolade due to his willingness to continue growing his craft even after teaching for 24 years, the development of the new Computer Science courses under his guidance, and his supervision of the Peer Mentoring program at HRHS.

Hampshire Regional High School graduated 89 students at John M. Greene Hall on Friday, June 7 after a number of senior trips and activities. Advisors Kirsti Wiemokly and Dan Korpita organized fun events for seniors to participate in before graduating. Memorable speeches were given by class valedictorian Rebecca Buehler of Southampton, the class salutatorian Anna Avakian of Westhampton, class President Jake Constantine, class Vice President Dan Kelly, class Secretary Nick Eline, and class Treasurer Kyleen Labrecque. Although a small class, all students in the class met the graduation requirements and were able to walk at the commencement ceremony.

At the end of the year, there were a few notable staff departures and one retirement. The community celebrated Pat Parent on her retirement after 30 years of working in special education. Cindy Streker, Elizabeth Caretti-Ramirez, and Laura Pompei in the World Language department moved on from Hampshire, as did Cinde Messer from the mathematics department. New hires include Dylan Rickles as a middle school special educator, Marissa Axtell as a middle school science educator and Rachael Philbrick as a high school math educator. Mr. Rickles, Ms. Axtell and Ms. Philbrick all taught in the Springfield Public School system before coming to HRHS. Scott Evans, Mariana Lara Albert, and Ana Rueda-Hernandez were hired for the World Language Department. Mr. Evans taught in Greenfield, Ms. Lara Albert taught in Vermont, and Ms. Rueda-Hernandez taught in Holyoke prior to accepting positions at Hampshire Regional. Casey Keefe was hired as a long-term sub while school counselor Sarah Pietrzak was on leave through November. Clarke School for the Deaf hired Linda Mondschein for Hampshire's inclusive program. Jessica Blais, Melinda Conway, Reilly Griffin, Summer McAuslan, and Madison McCarthy were hired as para educators. The newly created van driver position was filled by Dan Charko.

Hampshire Regional welcomed 742 students in the fall.

Grade 7	121 students
Grade 8	143 students
Grade 9	109 students
Grade 10	139 students
Grade 11	104 students
Grade 12	120 students
Post Grad	6 students

Due to the state curriculum frameworks changing, students were offered some different classes for the 2019-2020 school year. Specifically, civics was added to the Massachusetts history curriculum, so students are now taking United States and Massachusetts Government and Civic Life in 8th grade and World Geography and Ancient Civilization II in 7th grade. After restructuring some classrooms, "Tier 2" support class was also offered starting in the fall. This Academic Support class is for any student, but prioritized for students who have a 504 plan or has identified needs that are not on IEPs. Also, honors chemistry, Algebra 2A and Algebra 2B, AP English Language and Composition and AP Capstone were all added to HRHS' program of study to meet students at their different levels of learning.

To tie into the civics theme, about sixty students engaged with Representative Sabadosa, Representative Blais, and Senator Hinds in HRHS' first Town Hall held on October 18. It was an unique opportunity for students to ask questions and learn how to get involved from their local elected official. This student-led activity was driven by junior Eli Touchette and moderated by Eli and Kala Garrido.

Later that month, HRHS' Academic Society inducted many new members. The induction was well run by Co-Presidents Gideon Touchette and Annie Curran, Treasurer Jacqueline Babyak, and Secretary Naomi Golasinski with support from Advisor Grayson DeWitt. Emma Civello provided the music and they keynote speaker was English Program Leader Kimberly Bush.

Congratulations: Katelyn Bean, Colin Boyle, Emelia Brennan, Maggie Brisbois, Cameron Cebula, Morgan Dunham, Emily Godden, Bryce Illingsworth, Katherine Joyner, Max MacFadzen, Anna Madden, Leah Martin, Kaylie Novak, Zoe Paradis Stern, Jessie Paradis Stern, Caitlyn Pellegrini, Caitlin Reardon, Eliza Reynolds, Sara Russell, Elias Touchette, Peter Tse, Michael Urbanek, and Katarzyna Wisnauckas. Also, five students were named National Merit Program Commended Students from the Class of 2020. This accolade is given to students who performed well on the PSATs taken last year. Congratulations were awarded to Mitchel Belden, Emma Civello, Jessica Fish, Aine McDonald, and Abigail Meunier.

To support our school's mission of developing students into contributing members of the community, Hampshire Regional offered a leadership development program for junior students in partnership with Springfield College. In total, thirty student participants enrolled. The program is taught by Masters level students from Springfield College. Their curriculum was developed with support from Mr. Plourd and me with a focus on critical thinking, advocacy for self and others, and situational leadership.

I'm continuously impressed at our school's students, staff, families, and communities and our collective ability to focus on learning and engagement. Despite the national and local challenges particularly tied to finance and budgets and leadership, Hampshire Regional High School has been able to maintain strong programming and an exceptional environment for our students. It is my sincere hope that our communities can continue to support all schools in our district, both programmatically and financially, in order to set our students up for success after they graduate and move on to the next chapter of their lives.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen Smidy, Principal

## **Hampshire Regional Athletic Report**

### **Girls Basketball**

In Coach Amy Cyr's final season, and in the Girls' Basketball Team's final game, the Raiders won to qualify and clinch the 5th seed in the Western Mass Tournament where they lost in the quarter-final round to Greenfield High School.

### **Indoor Track**

For the first time in program history the Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track Teams won League Championships with a strong mix of support coming from veteran returners and new members on both squads!

### **Wrestling**

Congratulations to Michael Baldwin, Kobe Clifford and Alex Willard who earned 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes (respectively) in their weight classes at the D3 Western Mass Championships. As a team the Wrestling Raiders placed 4th.

### **Alpine Skiing**

For the first time in program history, the Girls' Alpine Ski Team were the League Champions! Katelyn Dunn, Summer Duda and Talya Gilman-Solomon, along with Edward Przybyla and Dawson Kelly from the boys' team, all represented Hampshire Regional at the State Championships.

### **Softball**

The Softball Team was an impressive force in 2019, not only winning their League and earning the Division 2 number one seed, but adding another Western Mass Championship to the trophy case. With only two seniors on the roster the girls will look to pick-up where they left off this spring.

### **Baseball**

The Baseball Team had the opportunity to travel to Coopertown's New York along with Division 1 West Springfield where they faced off in a showcase at the National Baseball Hall of Fame before spending time as a team exploring the museum.

### **Soccer**

The girls' and boys' soccer teams both qualified for the Western Mass Division 3 Tournament and received 2nd and 5th seeds respectively. The boys' team won two playoff games by a combined score of 11-0 before losing in the semi-finals to the tournament number one seed. Similarly, the girls' team won their first two tournament games by a combined score of 16-1 before losing in double overtime in the semifinals.

### **Cross Country**

For the second straight year, both the boys' and girls' cross country teams won league championships. This also makes it the sixth year in a row for the girls' team. At the Western Mass Championships, the boys' placed 5th overall and the girls' 4th. Senior Chris Vayda was the Boys Division 2 WMass Champion for the second consecutive year. Joining Chris to compete at the State Championships was Sylvie Mahon-Moore, Maddie Jenkins, and Delaney Marek.

### **Gymnastics**

Hampshire Regional placed 3rd at the Western Mass Championships with Hailey Raffa leading the way as a top finisher in both vault (8.8) and beam (8.5).

### **Golf**

The Golf Team was one of the youngest in the region this fall, boasting a handful of athletes Lettering for the first time in their career. Despite an inexperienced squad, the team finished just shy of making a Western Mass Tournament appearance and look forward to picking up in 2020 where they left off in 2019.

### **Club & Co-op Sports**

Hampshire Regional continues to grow its extracurricular sports programs with the second-year Field Hockey Club playing a complete JV-level schedule. In terms of cooperative agreements with surrounding schools, Hampshire Regional students now have the opportunity to participate in Nordic Skiing through a new cooperative agreement with Mohawk Regional, adding to the options of lacrosse through an agreement with St. Mary's and Football, Ice Hockey and Swimming & Diving opportunities that were renewed with Easthampton High School.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Plourd, Athletic Director

**New Hingham Regional Elementary School**  
**Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School District**  
**2019 Annual Principal's Report**

It is my privilege to submit this annual report of New Hingham Regional Elementary School. Our elementary school continues to provide learning experiences focused on the development of the whole child under the support and dedication of the staff, school committee, school council, the New Hingham parent/teacher organization, and the communities of Chesterfield and Goshen.

First and foremost, it is my pleasure to announce that the New Hingham roof project is complete! The official work by LaRoche Construction began in the late fall and continued through January. While there were some minor issues along the way that needed to be addressed, the project was a complete success. The towns of Chesterfield and Goshen approved to spend up to \$800,000 on the replacement, which allowed the towns and school committee to pursue options for both metal and asphalt shingles. Upon the recommendation of town officials and meaningful deliberation among school committee members, the school community opted for an asphalt shingle roof replacement with an extended warranty that protects the investment. The final cost to replace the entire roof was \$257,000. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Chesterfield and Goshen for supporting this important project.

During the 2019-2020 school year, New Hingham teachers began implementing new curricula in English language arts and mathematics. Both programs are aligned to the Common Core standards and offer teachers high quality, rigorous resources to meet the diverse needs of our students. Throughout the year, teachers participated in professional development opportunities related to the implementation of the new resources and how to enhance in the learning in classrooms. As we move forward into the 2020-2021 school year, our professional development will continue to be aligned with the new programs and how we can effectively differentiate instruction to meet the needs of each student. In addition to the academic curricula, New Hingham implemented a new social-emotional resource called "Choose To Be Nice". As stated in their mission, "Choose To Be Nice" is a social enterprise dedicated to encouraging and inspiring kindness. Our mission is to eliminate negative behaviors that are so pervasive in our society today. It is our mission to make the world a nicer, kinder place one individual, one interaction, one school, one company and one community at a time. We're improving the way people interact with each other by reminding them that they have a choice about how to 'be' in the world. And it all starts with a simple promise." The program offers monthly themes with essential core values that are discussed throughout our school community. As I plan for the 2020-2021 school year, it is my hope to offer a new class for all students as it relates to social-emotional skills, which is essential for our young learners.

I am very proud of our kindergarten teacher, Jennifer Murphy, in all that she has contributed to promoting literacy. The Western Massachusetts Writing Project was one of 15 organizations honored by the Library of Congress for their implementation of best practices in literacy promotion, and Ms. Murphy was honored to accept the award on behalf of the WMWP. The organization is among a small number of organizations working to expand literacy and promote reading in the United States that was awarded the 2019 Library of Congress Literacy Awards at the National Book Festival gala. WMWP is a local site of the National Writing Project, sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Last year, the Legislature approved a new "rural school aid" account championed by local Senator Adam Hinds as a way of addressing the financial challenges of rural school districts. The budget called for \$1.5 million in additional funding for 33 rural school districts, most of which are in western Massachusetts. The new account provided additional funding to qualifying school districts with enrollment of fewer than 21 students per square mile and per capita income below the state average, with priority given to districts serving fewer than 11 students per square mile. New Hingham received \$17,962 and we used the funding in areas that positively impacted teaching and learning, school safety, and family engagement. During the 2019-2020 school year, we received \$23,776 and it is projected that we will receive the same amount, if not additional funding, during the 2020-2021 school year.

While we have seen a decrease in enrollment over the years, as most schools have throughout Massachusetts, we still have healthy class sizes and we are working to increase our enrollment, especially in the earlier grade levels. The current enrollment at New Hingham is as follows: PreKindergarten = 14; Kindergarten = 22; Grade 1 = 16; Grade 2 = 18; Grade 3 = 18; Grade 4 = 16; Grade 5 = 16; Grade 6 = 12. The total enrollment is 132.

Every school is required to create a school improvement plan that outlines specific goals to improve teaching and learning. The former school improvement plan was primarily based on standardized test data and it was my goal to create a more meaningful plan for our faculty and the community. Our theory of action is that if we cultivate a collaborative learning community focused on continuous improvement with issues related to curriculum and instruction, teaching all students, family engagement, and professional culture, then we will have a shared vision and purpose for our work leading to more effective practice and increased student achievement. The new School Improvement Plan (SIP) establishes a direction for New Hingham Regional Elementary School and provides a clear focus for the future by identifying priorities with key actions for positive change and forward progress. The plan continues our focus on providing the best educational opportunities for all New Hingham students to learn, grow, and find future success.

As we implement the plan, we will communicate with the community about the progress on our priority goals. In addition, stakeholders will have opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback in regard to the progress of the plan, and we will work with teachers and school council to refine the plan as needed. It is important to note that, in addition to the school improvement plan, the principal, in collaboration with the school council, will be creating a school safety plan. The plan was developed collaboratively with the school council, teachers, and principal. All the members believe that this work should be a shared commitment to educational achievement, and the four goals that constitute our plan are necessary to make our school more successful. The foundation of the school improvement plan is built on key practices that are connected to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) educator and administrator professional standards. These standards offer clear language and direction that provide clarity on the standards that bring safety, academic and social emotional growth, and professional improvement.

The school improvement plan is centered around four standards, and elements within each standard have been chosen to connect key practices to what research has shown moves students forward in a positive direction either academically, socially, or both.

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
2. Teaching All Students
3. Family and Community Engagement
4. Professional Culture

Goal 1 - Curriculum, Planning, and Assessment: We will promote the learning and growth of all students by providing and aligning high-quality instruction, designing and administering authentic and meaningful student assessments, analyzing student performance and growth data, and using this data to improve instruction.

Key Actions:

- Implement “Bridges to Mathematics” (PreK-5) and “Big Ideas” curricula (6) with fidelity across all grade levels to ensure vertical alignment.
- Implement “Journeys” English language arts curriculum (K-6) with fidelity across all grade levels to ensure vertical alignment.
- Create a schoolwide assessment schedule with benchmark and progress monitoring dates, as well as meetings for educator data analysis to improve instruction.
- Implement “FastBridge” and universal screening assessments to monitor performance levels and growth.
- Utilize curriculum and assessment data to target student interventions in mathematics and reading every 6-8 weeks.

Goal 2 - Teaching All Students: We will promote the learning and growth of all students by nurturing a safe learning environment which encompasses engaging all students. Students and staff will play an active role in creating a community that supports diverse learning styles, needs, interests, and levels of readiness.

Key Actions:

- Implement social-emotional learning resources from responsive classroom and “Choose To Be Nice.”
- Design, implement, and sustain a student peer mediation team with regular training and a weekly schedule that allows for ongoing conflict resolution.
- Provide professional development opportunities that focus on specific academic differentiation practices that support the learning of all learners and appropriately utilize staff within the classroom to support diverse learning needs.
- Evaluate and improve the multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) framework for student interventions, both academic and behavioral/social-emotional.

Goal 3 - Family and Community Engagement: We will promote the learning and growth of all students through effective partnerships by enhancing opportunities for two-way communication between and among all students, families, staff, administrators, and the community.

Key Actions:

- Provide exposure to diverse opportunities that reflect both global and local cultural values through the enhancement of curricular activities and community partnerships by including families and multigenerational community members.
- Implement consistent training across various roles to support the language and application of concepts with positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS), responsive classroom, and our social-emotional curricula in an effort to create a shared understanding of core values.
- Regularly report students’ strengths and challenges regarding students’ needs in a manner that builds and supports relationships between staff and families.

Goal 4 - Professional Culture: We will consistently and effectively collaborate to improve shared responsibility for the performance of all students, as well as continue to build stronger professional relationships between colleagues.

Key Actions:

- Collaborate with colleagues through weekly team meetings.
- Participate in professional development for new curricula.
- Create a sustainable training program for staff to use common language for social / academic expectations and system for behavior, social emotional and health communication.
- Continue to utilize professional learning communities to analyze standards and continue to develop rigorous standards-based units that support the learning of each student.
- Create a common planning schedule that maximizes regular and ongoing teacher professional development in literacy and math through collaborative work with the specialists.

We look forward to a successful partnership among the administration, staff, school council, school committee, and community members in helping us to achieve these goals and offer the best educational opportunities for all New Hingham students. Overall, we appreciate our relationships with stakeholders who support and strengthen our school community. It has been a privilege serving as your community’s principal for the past two years and I look forward to our future work together. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jmcmillan@hr-k12.org](mailto:jmcmillan@hr-k12.org) or (413) 296-0000. For more information, please feel free to visit our new school website at [www.newhingham.org](http://www.newhingham.org).

## SELECT BOARD

The Board was actively engaged in topics and community projects important to our residents, worked to resolve issues and to promote the town with local, regional and state organizations. We welcomed Kristine Bissell who was elected in August 2019, replacing James Heroux who served since October 2018.

The most significant topic this year was Broadband. The Select Board, as Municipal Lighting Plant board, engaged Westfield Gas and Electric to complete the design and build of the network that will provide high speed internet and telephone service to residents and businesses in town. The anticipated start date for building the network is February 2021. See Municipal Lighting Plant report for the milestones.

The Board continues to make progress implementing best practice standards for information technology hardware and software. This includes maintaining regular and scheduled maintenance to improve the security and operability of our systems and to provide communication to residents through the website.

We were fortunate to fill many open positions including Building Commissioner, Tax Collector, Community Preservation Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Recreation Commission, Interim Town Administrator, Minutes Recorder and Emergency Management Planning Committee

The Board developed and implemented a policy defining the circumstances, measures and standards around snow and ice removal on private ways and were grateful for the input from all those with a vested interest.

The landfill cap repair was completed in November 2019 and the Board is appreciative of the support from Clean Water Trust in approving a low interest loan and principal forgiveness amounting to close to \$100,000 in savings.

Significant improvement to safeguard the town's assets and deploy strong financial reporting and accounting practices was a focus of the Board. Additionally, we have been working with the external audit firm to meet the 3 year annual audit requirement in anticipation of bond borrowing for Broadband. The chair supported the external audit firm in a timely and comprehensive review.

We continue to look for opportunities in shared regional services, increased rural school funding, bridge and infrastructure support, and state grants.

In the final phase of Green Communities funding, we installed a PV solar panel array on the fire station roof. This renewable energy source is providing the town with reduced electricity costs through solar incentive credits and provides the ability to apply our excess energy production to other town accounts.

Additionally, we completed the conversion to LED streetlamps, a more safe and effective energy source.

Homeland Securities Disaster Recovery Training for Rural Communities was attended, and certification received. Appreciation goes to Mike Rock for coordinating this.

We also are utilizing an American With Disabilities grant to assess our town property.

We close our report with tremendous appreciation for our dedicated employees and volunteers-all of whom work with limited resources and who collectively make Goshen a wonderful place to call home.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Otis, Chair

**TAX COLLECTOR**

Year of Tax	Type of Tax	Outstanding June 30, 2019
2019	Real Estate	\$ 57,834.00
2019	Personal Property	\$ 2,121.00
2019	Motor Vehicle	\$ 23,859.00
2018	Real Estate	\$ 13,320.00
2018	Personal Property	\$ 935.00
2018	Motor Vehicle	\$ 2,513.00
2017	Real Estate	\$ 563.00
2017	Personal Property	\$ 400.00
2017	Motor Vehicle	\$ 441.00
2016	Real Estate	\$ 483.00
2016	Motor Vehicle	\$ 595.00
2015	Motor Vehicle	\$ 723.75
2014	Motor Vehicle	\$ 125.42
2013	Motor Vehicle	\$ 491.26
2011	Motor Vehicle	\$ 80.64
2010	Motor Vehicle	\$ 158.96

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Day

**TILTON TOWN FARM SUPERVISORS**

The Tilton Town Farm Supervisors would like to report on improvements made throughout the year to the farmhouse and land.

Timber Management Plan:

- We entered into the 5th year of our Timber Management Plan with Bay State Forestry. This plan promotes 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.
- The collaboration with The Open Space Committee on our Timber Management Plan has ensured open communications and has helped avoid duplication of efforts and resources.

Farmhouse @ 27 Wing Hill Road:

- Not having the farmhouse rented for the beginning part of the year turned out to be a blessing in disguise. When fire destroyed the home of Phil & Jessica Judd in January and with the overwhelming help from family and friends, the Judd's were able to move into the house the day after their fire. The Judd family rented the farmhouse for the rest of 2019.
- We continued to make improvements to the exterior of the house throughout the year.

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



## TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk's Office is one of the oldest elected offices in the Town serving the residents of Goshen since 1781. The Town Clerk administers the Oath of Office to over 75 elected and appointed members of local committees and boards and provides a copy of the Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Law as required by law. The Clerk is also responsible for maintaining the Conflict of Interest exam certifications from all town employees and members of all boards and committees.

### 2019 Statistics

The Town Clerk is Registrar of Vital Statistics; registering all births, deaths and marriages that occur within Goshen and those events occurring elsewhere, to town residents. The Town Clerk is responsible for the examining and certification of all vital records by signing and affixing the town seal.

**Births:** The Town of Goshen was blessed to welcome three newborns into the community in 2019: two males and one female.

**Marriages:** The lives of two couples were joined in marriage, with the issuance and recording of their marriage in the Town in 2019.

**Deaths:** Our deepest condolences to all families who lost a loved one this year. In 2019, the Town of Goshen recorded five deaths.

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**Dogs:**           Single Licenses Issued: 250  
                          Kennel Licenses Issued: 5

### Elections and Meetings

The Town Clerk is the Chief Election Official overseeing all aspects of elections whether they are town, state or federal and is responsible for the certification of all election results that are sent to the Secretary of State. She is Clerk, Ex-Officio of the Board of Registrars. The Town Clerk nominates appointment of approximately 20 Election Officials each year. The Clerk conducts the Annual Town Census (Street List); entering all town residents into the state database.

**2019 Street Listing:** 979 Residents

**Registered Voters:** 741

**Town Meetings held in 2019:** (See pages that follow for meeting minutes)

- ❖ March 18, 2019 (Annual Town Caucus)
- ❖ May 20, 2019 (Annual Town Meeting)

### Elections held in 2019:

- ❖ May 4, 2019 (Annual Town Election; 88 ballots cast)
- ❖ June 5, 2019 (Special Town Election; 105 ballots cast)
- ❖ July 15, 2019 (Special Town Election; 41 ballots cast)

Many thanks to the entire election staff for their professional help during elections. It takes a team to run an election and it could not be done without the assistance of Evelyn Kellogg-Culver, who is the Election Warden, as well as Kit Rock, Election Clerk. These individuals are at the polling location for several hours assisting the voters, processing absentee ballots, and assisting with the tallying of votes at the end, just to name a few of their duties. All of the election workers, the two Constables and the three residents on the Board of Registrars are to be commended for their careful, pleasant and efficient manner and for being there when needed. I also thank my assistant, Gina Papineau, for all of her guidance and helpfulness.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle  
Town Clerk of Goshen

**TOWN OF GOSHEN - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
JOHN JAMES MEMORIAL HALL  
Monday, May 20, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m., a quorum being present and 79 voters signed in.

Moderator Wright informed the group that the meeting was being recorded to aid the Town Clerk in taking minutes. He explained the handout he had created called "Guide to Town Meeting."

Moderator Keith Wright recognized several Goshen residents who have passed away in the last year:

Homer Bissell  
Bryan Clarke  
Mildred Barrus  
Roger Brown  
Joni Martino

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

Dawn Scaparotti, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave a ten minute presentation giving an overview of the operating budget.

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.  
**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.  
**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 4: 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020, and to vote to set all Town budgets.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

General Government:

There was an amendment made and seconded to reduce General Government by \$4,560 to reflect a total of \$345,347. Dawn explained that there was an increase in employee benefits, and this is the budget area they would reduce to make that happen. A voter mentioned that the \$4,560 could be taken out of the Reserve Fund specifically.

**The amendment to reduce the General Government Line from \$349,907 to \$345,347 with the \$4,560 coming from the Reserve Fund passed unanimously.**

Public Safety:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$211,404 for Public Safety.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Public Works:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$431,332 for Public Works.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Public Health & Sanitation:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$65,138 for Public Health & Sanitation.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Community Services:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$63,969 for Community Services.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Pensions and Insurance:

There was an amendment made and seconded to increase Pensions and Insurance by \$4,560 to reflect a total of \$171,283. This is the increase in employee benefits mentioned in the General Government section. Specifically, Line 130, Health Insurance- Town Share, would be increased to \$34,730.

**The amendment to increase Pensions and Insurance from \$166,723 to \$171,283 with the \$4,560 going into the Health Insurance- Town Share line item passed unanimously.**

Capital Stabilization Fund:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$22,000 for Capital Stabilization Fund.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Education:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,559,560 for Education.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Debt Service/ Debt Exclusion:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$29,024 for Debt Service/ Debt Exclusion.

**Passed Unanimously.**

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,899,057 for sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

**Passed Unanimously.**

The motion was made and seconded to move Articles 27-29 up so that they could be discussed and voted on next.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Hampshire Regional School District Administration to enter into a five year contract consisting of a three year base with the option to renew two additional years to provide bus transportation to Hampshire Regional High School, Chesterfield - Goshen Regional School, Southampton Public Schools, Westhampton Public Schools, Williamsburg Public Schools, and Vocational Transportation.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: This will replace a 5 year contract, of the same type, that is ending. If the School District is unsatisfied for any reason after three years they do not have to renew. This helps to keep prices down but also lets us get out after three years as the school district has the choice to renew, not the bus company, for the 2 additional years.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to approve a borrowing by the Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School Committee of \$440,000 to pay for the cost of a new roof at New Hingham Regional Elementary School, including payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that such approval shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the Town at an election of a Proposition 2½, so-called, debt exclusion question, authorizing the Town to raise the amounts necessary to pay the interest and principal on such borrowing outside the limits of Proposition 2½; and, further, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c.71, §16(d), to disapprove the Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School Committee's May 1, 2019 vote to approve a borrowing of up to \$800,000 for replacement of such roof.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: The Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and Select Board support Article 28.**

**Note: If this borrowing were authorized, Goshen's share of a new shingle roof would be \$220,000. Estimates for this option are not based on actual bids but are based on an architect's estimate of probable cost. The Regional School District Committee has voted to authorize a borrowing up to \$800,000 for roof replacement purposes. Approval of this article would simultaneously reject the Chesterfield-Goshen School Committee's vote. Any new borrowing by the District would have to be authorized by the Regional School District School Committee. If Article 28 is approved by Town Meeting, it is the Town's intent to make a motion to pass over Article 29.**

Discussion: The Finance Committee presented an explanation of the 5 Year Capital Plan and the financial implications to the town of both an asphalt and a metal roof. There was much debate, with voters expressing opinions on both sides. The motion was made and seconded to move the question.

The voice vote was too close to call, so voters were asked to hold their cards up for a count. The card count was: 38 Nay, 35 Aye and 1 Abstention.

**Failed for a requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.71, §16(d) to approve the Chesterfield-Goshen School Committee's May 1, 2019 vote to borrow \$800,000 for the purpose of replacing the roof at the New Hingham Regional Elementary School, including payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; provided, however, that such approval shall be expressly contingent upon the approval by the Town at an election of a Proposition 2½, so-called, debt exclusion question, authorizing the Town to raise the amounts necessary to pay the interest and principal on such borrowing outside the limits of Proposition 2½.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: Due to the many competing fiscal demands facing the Town, Article 29 is NOT recommended or supported by the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, or the Select Board.**

**Note: Goshen's estimated share would be \$400,000 for a metal roof. Estimates for this option are not based on actual bids but are based on an architect's estimate of probable cost. If Article 28 passes, it is the Town's intent to make a motion to pass over this article. If Article 29 is moved, and the article fails, such vote shall constitute a disapproval of the Regional School District School Committee vote.**

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 5: 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 6: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$224,000.00 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Account.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: To fund the Capital Stabilization account for FY2020 Capital Plan.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer \$23,000.00, from the Audit Stabilization Account to the Audit Expense account.

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: For the purpose of completing town audits in FY2020.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$8,000.00 from Free Cash to Audit Stabilization account.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: To begin to replenish the Audit Stabilization account in preparation for annual audits.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 9: 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 \$220,000.00, in FY2019, for a period of up to ten (10) years or less, in accordance with the capital plan, to fund the purchase of a Single Axle Secondary Plow/Dump Truck for the Highway Department.

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

**Note: This purchase was already approved at the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting. This article is to transition procurement strategy from a one time cash expenditure to a 10 year borrowing to enhance cash flow and take advantage of low interest rates. This note refers to articles 9 &10.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$220,000 from the Highway Department Plow/Dump Truck capital project account to the Capital Stabilization account. Passage of this Article is contingent upon the approval of Article 9.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from Free Cash the sum of \$8,876.25 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	\$642.25	\$8,876.25

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 3rd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$9,715.50 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2017 Police Ford Interceptor.

Police Ford Interceptor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2017	\$9,000.00	\$715.50	\$9,715.50

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 3rd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from Free Cash the sum of \$7,500.00, in FY2019, to reimburse the Town of Chesterfield for a 2013 Chevrolet Eldorado pickup truck for use by the Chesterfield-Goshen Emergency Management personnel.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: This will be a shared Emergency Management vehicle for use by the Towns of Chesterfield and Goshen.**

**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 account, the sum of \$40,000.00 to pay for the replacement of the Town Office server and other Office computer hardware, software licenses and all necessary labor to complete the transitions.

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: We expect to spend approximately \$30,000.00 of this is for the Server replacement and \$10,000 if for Office IT replacements. These actions are necessary to replace old hardware and software that allow for best practice standards that will maintain the town's ability to receive software and hardware maintenance and upgrade patches, on an ongoing basis, to maintain security, licensing and functionality compliance.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 15: 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 \$55,000.00 for a period of up to Five (5) years or less, in accordance with the capital plan, to fund the purchase Police Utility AWD vehicle to replace the Ford 2010 Crown Victoria.

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: This is to replace an older police vehicle to continue with the same number of vehicles that the Police Department currently owns. Annual payments will be made from the Capital Stabilization account.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 16: 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 \$33,000.00 for a period of up to Five (5) years or less, in accordance with the capital plan, to fund the purchase a Ford F350 Super Duty ¾ ton pickup truck to replace a 1986 military surplus 1 1/4 ton pickup truck.

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: This is to replace an older pickup truck that is used daily to assist with road maintenance & hauling. Annual payments will be made from the Capital Stabilization account.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 17: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the treasurer to expend from the capital stabilization account, the sum of \$21,000.00, to pay for 3 all band Digital Portable radios.

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: These radios meet the new state standards for communications equipment.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 18: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the treasurer to expend from the fire department vehicle stabilization account, the sum of \$70,000.00, in FY2019, to pay for the replacement of 1987 brush truck.

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: The Fire Department will purchase a "skid" unit to put in back of a new pickup truck to be used as new brush truck. The skid contains the pump, water tank, and hose which sits in the bed of a pickup truck. Any amount over the \$70,000 expenditure above will be paid for by Fire Department Association Funds.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 19: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the treasurer to expend from the Fire Department Vehicle stabilization account, the sum of \$51,000.00, in FY2019, to pay for the replacement of 2007 Fire Department SUV.

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: Replaces 2007 Ford Explorer first responder vehicle which is typically first on the scene.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 20: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization account, the sum of \$16,000.00, in FY2019, to pay for a new well for the Fire Department.

**Note: 2/3rds vote is required.**

**Note: This replaces a shallow well with non-potable water, that damages equipment, with a drilled artesian well that would provide the fire station with potable water and protect the town's investment in plumbing and equipment.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 21: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to expend from the General Stabilization account the sum of \$40,000.00 for the purpose of demolishing and removing a Town-owned, uninhabitable structure located at 149 South Chesterfield Road; and further to transfer the care, custody and control of 149 South Chesterfield Road from the Tax Title Custodian, held for tax title purposes, to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes and for the purpose of conveyance, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems to be in the best interests of the Town.

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

**Note: This property was acquired by the Town in December 2015 through a Tax Title process. The Town is in the process of preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the hope that the property can be sold as is to a qualified bidder. In the event the property can be sold as is, funds from the General Stabilization account will not be used. If the Town is not successful in selling the property as is, the building will need to be removed at the Town's expense, and the property would subsequently be sold in order to recoup some or all of the Town's expense.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 22: 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 2020, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2020 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 5,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Reserves:**

From FY 2020 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$16,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

From FY 2020 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$16,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

From FY 2020 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$16,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

From FY 2020 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$74,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

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



ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to approve the transfer of funds from the Williams-Boltwood House Restoration account, originally approved by the May 17, 2010 Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$73,746.00, to the Historical Resources Reserve and Budget Reserve, as originally appropriated from each fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: Due to the complicated and lengthy circumstances involving the transfer of ownership and clear title (which never occurred), it is the recommendation of the CPC that the funds be returned to their original sources.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 24: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §54E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2020 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows.

<b>Program or Purpose</b>	<b>FY 2020 Spending Limit</b>
FRTA	\$20,000
Highland Ambulance Fuel Reimbursement Account	\$12,000
Animal Control Revolving Fund	\$7,500
Board of Appeals Revolving Fund	\$6,000
Electrical Inspector Revolving Fund	\$5,000

There was an amendment made and seconded to change the wording to Fiscal Year 2020 instead of Fiscal Year 2019.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 25: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,138.29, in FY2019, from Free Cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the purpose of payment of a bill from the following account: Animal Control Officer Expense.

**Note: A 4/5ths vote is required for a bill of a prior year at an ATM.**

**Note: For mileage reimbursement.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 26: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into a ten (10) year contract, commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by MassDEP, through a competitive bid process, for recycling processing services for the Town, for funding for these services and subject to the Select Board's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and to take any vote or votes.

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Note: Current 10 year contract will be ending and this will replace that contract. This article authorizes the Select Board to enter into a contract of more than three years.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

*Articles 27, 28 & 29 are inserted after Article 4.*

**ARTICLE 30: Local Option Adult Use Marijuana Excise Tax:**

Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.64N, § 3(a), as recently amended by Section 13 of Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, and to authorize the Town to impose a 3 percent local sales tax upon the sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the Town to anyone other than a marijuana establishment.

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

**Note: This is to ensure the town's ability to collect local sales taxes if a retail dispensary is duly authorized and licensed at a future date.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 31: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to amend its General By-laws and include thereof:**

No person shall inhale, ingest, or otherwise use or consume marijuana or THC (as defined in M.G.L. c. 94C, § 1, as amended) while in or upon any street, sidewalk, public way, footway, passageway, stairs, bridge, park, playground, beach, recreation area, boat landing, public building, schoolhouse, school grounds, cemetery, parking lot, or any area owned by or under the control of the Town; or in or upon any bus or other passenger conveyance operated by a common carrier; or in any place accessible to the public. Whoever is found in violation of this by-law shall, when requested by an official authorized to enforce this by-law, state their true name and address to such official.

This By-law may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity including, but not limited to, enforcement or complaint pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, § 21, or by noncriminal disposition pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D, or any police officer. The fine for violation of this By-law shall be three hundred dollars (\$300) for each offense. Any penalty imposed under this By-law shall be in addition to any civil penalty imposed under M.G.L. c. 94C, § 32L

This By-law shall not alter or affect the jurisdiction of the Board of Health under the provisions of M.G.L c.111, §31 or any other applicable law, including but not limited to the regulation of combustion and inhalation of tobacco and non-tobacco products in workplaces and public spaces in the Town.

**Note: Majority vote is required**

**Note: This by-law would prohibit the public consumption of Marijuana or Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) as prescribed above.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 32: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to delete in the Town of Goshen Zoning By-Law Section IV(D) "TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA" in its entirety and replace with Section IV(D) "MEDICAL/ADULT USE MARIJUANA", establishing standards for the siting of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and Marijuana Establishments in the Town of Goshen.**

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

**Note: The complete text of the proposed Zoning By-Law may be found in the Town Clerk's office, on the Town website and as a handout at the Annual Town Meeting.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle  
Town Clerk

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

For the Fiscal Year 2019: July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

<u>Receipts</u>	
July 2018	\$84,499.49
August	325,135.27
September	72,311.72
October	303,106.48
November	416,036.24
December	272,593.02
January 2019	445,263.00
February	387,143.67
March	100,547.05
April	275,900.99
May	819,957.03
June	302,499.78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,804,993.74</b>

<u>Debt Outstanding</u>				
	Outstanding Debt as of July 1, 2018	New Debt Issued during FY 2019	Retired during FY2019	Outstanding Debt as of June 30, 2019
Police 2013 Ford Explorer	\$7,928.00		\$7,928.00	
Highway 2014 MAC Truck	37,435.20		37,435.20	
Highway 2016 Ford F-550 Truck	34,000.00		17,000.00	17,000.00
Highway 2008 Int'l Plow Truck	32,936.00		8,234.00	24,702.00
Police 2017 Ford Explorer	36,000.00		9,000.00	27,000.00
Clean Water Trust (Landfill Cap)		416,476.00	0.00	416,476.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$148,299.20</b>	<b>\$416,476.00</b>	<b>\$79,597.20</b>	<b>\$485,178.00</b>

<b>Debt Authorized and Unissued</b>				
	<b>Vote Date</b>	<b>Amount Authorized</b>	<b>Issued Retired Rescinded</b>	<b>Amount Unissued</b>
<b>Broadband Network</b>	<b>6/10/15</b>	<b>1,400,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,400,000.00</b>
<b>Plow Truck</b>	<b>10/11/16</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>41,170.00</b>	<b>8,830.00</b>
<b>Highway Truck</b>	<b>05/21/18</b>	<b>250,000.00</b>	<b>250,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Landfill Cap</b>	<b>05/21/18</b>	<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Landfill Cap</b>	<b>09/17/18</b>	<b>355,000.00</b>	<b>116,476.00</b>	<b>238,524.00</b>
<b>Highway Truck</b>	<b>05/20/19</b>	<b>220,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>220,000.00</b>
<b>Hwy Pick-up</b>	<b>5/20/19</b>	<b>33,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>33,000.00</b>
<b>Police Vehicle</b>	<b>5/20/19</b>	<b>55,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>55,000.00</b>
<b>Total Authorized &amp; Unissued</b>				<b>\$1,955,354.00</b>

**Tax Title Accounts Receivables of June 30, 2019**

<b>PARCEL</b>	<b>TAX TITLE AMOUNT Certified by Collector</b>
Map 1, Lot 0 30	<b>\$14,760.25</b>
Map 2, Lot 0 32-0	<b>\$7,497.14</b>
Map 8, Lot 0 107-0	<b>\$13,157.87</b>
Map 5, Lot 0 24-0	<b>\$24,277.67</b>
Map 5, Lot 0 72-0	<b>\$947.18</b>
Map 2, Lot 0 32-0	<b>\$1,017.55</b>
Map 10A, Lot 0 643-0	<b>\$674.15</b>
Map 8, Lot 0 109-0	<b>\$17,693.18</b>
Map 10A, Lot 635-X	<b>\$409.61</b>
Map 10A, Lot 682-0	<b>\$303.24</b>
Map5A, Lot 0 165-0	<b>\$1,007.56</b>
Map 10A, Lot 0 719-0	<b>\$1,338.51</b>
Map 10A, Lot 0 661-0	<b>\$636.21</b>
Map 3, Lot 0 4-0	<b>\$9,626.48</b>
Map 3, Lot 0 2-0	<b>\$6,467.57</b>
Map 8, Lot 0 50-0	<b>\$3,556.07</b>
Map 10A, Lot 0 276-X	<b>\$717.01</b>
Map 10A, Lot 0 317-0	<b>\$1,058.16</b>
Map 10A, Lot 0 616-X30	<b>\$788.24</b>
<b>TAX TITLE ACCOUNTS TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$105,933.65 *</b>

\* 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 one account has been paid in full and the three of largest accounts outstanding have maintained their payment plans. Six accounts have been petitioned in Massachusetts Land Court for foreclosure, one of which was foreclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan L. Kidston, CMMT, Treasurer

## **TREE WARDEN**

I survey the roadside trees on each town road on a regular basis and after storms. I identify and take notes on dead or dying trees that could be a potential hazard. Our budget is not sufficient to remove all marked trees each year. I create a priority list and concentrate on those trees first each year.

Trees to be removed are marked with a red or orange "X". National grid has been very good about removing trees that are a threat to the utility wires.

The trees that I ask National Grid to remove are marked with a yellow "X".

When the trees are taken down, the brush is chipped and the wood is left near the stump. The abutting land owner is encouraged to use the wood if they want it. There is no money in the budget for me to hire a tree company to haul it away.

Please call or text me at 413-320-3200 if you have any questions.

Submitted by,

Bob Goss, Tree Warden

## **VETERANS SERVICES**

### **2019 Accomplishments**

Continued 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, identifying veterans experiencing homelessness, and developing appropriate permanent housing models for them. We are participating with the three County Continuum of Care to address the need for permanent housing for community veterans. We are partnering with Valley CDC in providing support services to the newly built housing in Northampton and projected permanent housing they are looking to build in Amherst. We have assisted dozens of formally homeless veterans move into permanent housing again this year, with 5 veterans utilizing the newly acquired Continuum vouchers for homeless veterans that are not VA health eligible but are still in need of supportive housing services. The supportive services are being provided by ServiceNet through an agreement with our office, VA and HUD.

We have become a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach Partner in November in order to more directly assist Veterans and families access to this federal program. We are working hard to get the word out that our office can now provide this service and our applicants no longer need to go to Holyoke or Greenfield DTA offices to apply.

We continued our work at the Hampshire County Housing Court in Hadley on a weekly basis to address the needs of veterans in Hampshire County who are at risk of homelessness, preventing eight veterans including three veterans with families from falling into homelessness. We have found it is much easier to keep our people in housing than it is to rehouse them after an eviction or other legal processes.

We participated in several outreach events such as the Western Mass. Stand Down, Cummington Fair, 3-County Fair and the Big E, as well as outreach tables at UMass Basketball and Hockey sporting events on Veterans' Day weekend.

### **Challenges**

We made significant gains in overall outreach on veterans' benefits; namely VA filings, however, our department seems to be struggling with finding eligible veterans and their dependents for assistance through our chapter 115 benefits program. The numbers are down district wide. It is expected that 1 in 1,000 residents within a Massachusetts community are eligible for our program. The Department's objective is ongoing and efforts need to be doubled to ensure all who need assistance receive it.

Due to the Mission Act, signed summer of 2019, the Federal Government is reducing medical services to area veterans and requiring them to access health care in the community which will require more coordination by veteran's services department. We believe we need to look for a member of our staff to go to training and become a SHINE Representative in order to more directly assist Veterans and families to access the ever-changing medical insurance challenges. The federal government has made significant changes to the VA Healthcare system nationally and in Western Mass., and we will need to provide the best information as possible as our older veterans are being compelled to use more and more health services in the community.

## **Hill Towns**

In 2019, our district played a significant role in providing services to veterans and their families within the hill towns of our district. The district hill towns include, Williamsburg, Chesterfield, Worthington, Goshen, Cummington, Chester, and Middlefield.

As expected, our community outreach efforts have helped us connect with veterans who we've been able to help in one way or another. We have nine hill town veterans who are receiving VA health benefits as a result of our outreach at the Cummington Fair and Three County Fair. We've helped other veteran's initiate VA compensation claims after meeting them at these events.

This year we've seen an increase veteran's reaching out for help with billing issues within the VA's "Community Care" program. This is the program that replaced the "Veterans' Choice" program as a result of the 2018 legislation known as the, "Mission Act".

In most cases we've been able to fix these problems with a phone call. We've had to submit an appeal for payment in some of the more complicated cases. Whenever a large-scale program is implemented there are always imperfections to be worked out. We're confident that many of these issues will be less prevalent as the Community Care program ages.

## **Goshen**

In 2019, the total VA compensation & pension benefits issued to Goshen residents was \$79,104. The total of M.G.L. CH 115 veterans' benefits paid out to help veterans and their families for FY 2019 is \$31,516.47. As expected, Goshen received a 75% reimbursement for all M.G.L. CH 115 benefits that were paid out.

Over the past year we have had some real challenges and have accomplished plenty. We continued 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, identifying veterans experiencing homelessness, and developing appropriate permanent housing models for them, i.e. Soldier On's Gordon H Mansfield veterans community in Leeds.

In our role at the Hampshire County Housing Court in Hadley on a weekly basis to address the needs of veterans who are at risk of homelessness, we prevented three veterans and their families from falling into homelessness. Two of the cases were resolved by connecting the families with the VA HUD/VASH (VA supportive housing) program in order to get a voucher. The voucher allows the veteran to pay 30% of their family income and to be provided with a case manager to assist with ongoing challenges. The third veteran's case was resolved by providing one-time rental arrearages.

The Department of Veterans' Services has continued its participation in all of the above programs in order to continue striving for our goal to end veterans' homelessness. The Three County Continuum of Care is continuing its work with the veteran "by name list" even as we go through changes in the collaborative agency that houses the Continuum of Care from the Hilltown CDC to Community Action of the Pioneer Valley. We look forward to working with this new partner that many feel is a very good match with the mission and the current activities and priorities of Community Action of the Pioneer Valley. Our department also is at the table with the town of Amherst homelessness committee led by the Department of Public Health and the Amherst housing trust, identifying veteran guests at Craig's Place or those living in encampments within the town limits and assisting them to permanent housing.

Our district wide objectives for the coming year are for one, to significantly increase our outreach efforts in low-income housing developments in our towns' Housing Authority properties to ensure we haven't missed residents eligible for our benefits and services. It is estimated that we should be regularly serving 1 veteran or their dependent in

the community for every 1000 citizens. We meet that standard in many of our communities but not all and we hope to reach that goal district wide in the coming year. Secondly we are planning to become a SNAP Outreach Partner in order to more directly assist Veterans and families access to this federal program. Currently, veterans and their families either need to go to Holyoke or Greenfield to a DTA office for in person applications. We plan to assist our clientele with the ability to do it right in any of the offices that we working. We plan to begin in the spring or early summer of 2019.

A few of the more notable events that we supported in the small towns in the district this year include, Purple Heart ceremonies, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, and the Cummington Fair. The Town of Middlefield and the Town of Worthington both became Purple Heart Communities this year. The Middlefield ceremony took place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Bell Cemetery. A police escorted convoy traveled from the Springfield Vet Center to Bell Cemetery to honor the grave of Revolutionary soldier, Sgt. Elijah Churchill. Sgt. Churchill was the first recipient of the Badge of Military Merit awarded by Gen. George Washington. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, The Worthington COA was gracious enough to host the Worthington Purple Heart ceremony at their annual potluck luncheon. The District Director, Steve Connor, was pleased to present the proclamation for the town.

On Veteran's Day, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWI. A ceremony was held at the Williamsburg Veterans' War Memorial. As part of the ceremony we participated in a national tolling of the bells, referred to as, "The Bells of Peace". Roy Beals tolled the bell in remembrance of those who served in WWI. Our guest speaker was Haydenville native, Bethany Ouimet. She spoke of her father, Carl Hemenway's, service with the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment during WWI.

As usual, we set up a veterans outreach booth at the Cummington Fair. The fair has always been a successful forum to provide information to veterans' and their families. We work with representatives from other veterans' organizations such as, the VA, the Vet Center, employment service reps. and education reps. As to be expected, VA benefits and services were the most common topic of discussion. This year was particularly successful in terms of helping veteran's sign up for VA Health benefits right on the spot. We are looking forward to continued success and productivity in the months to come.

One of the primary objectives of Central Hampshire Veterans' Services is to administer state veterans' benefits in accordance with M.G.L. CH 115. In CY 2018, the Town of Goshen helped five veterans and their dependants with, needs based, financial assistance. The total amount of benefits issued by the town was \$26,549.85. The town received a reimbursement of \$19,527.64 from the state for benefits issued.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Gerrick

## **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a volunteer board appointed by the Select Board. It currently consists of 3 members (chair, 1 member and 1 alternate). A vacancy exists for the second member.

The Board hears and decides on requests for special permits, requests for variances and appeals on the decisions of the Building Inspector.

The Board reviews applications, conducts public hearing, when applications are presented, receives input from abbuttes and the general public before deliberating and rendering decisions.

During the 2019 calendar year, one application for a special permit was filed and one was allowed. One application for a variance was filed and denied. There were no appeals on decisions of the Building Inspector.

Applications for hearings may be obtained at the Office of the Town Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

William O’Riordan, Chair

Steve Estelle, Member

Roger Culver, Alternate



**2019**  
**ANNUAL TOWN REPORT**  
**TOWN OF GOSHEN**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**



**Financials based on Fiscal Year 2019**  
**July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**