

Town of Goshen

Massachusetts

2021 Annual Town Report



Goshen DAR Sunrise from the top of Moore Hill, Winter Scene
Photo from the Bob Labrie Collection

Reports through December 2021
Financials based on Fiscal Year 2021
July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Thank you for your service to Goshen and congratulations on your retirement!

Evelyn Culver has been the lynch pin in our Council on Aging Program as the COA Coordinator for nearly 5 years. She has been involved with the COA either on the board or as a dedicated participant for over 20 years. During the pandemic in particular, Evelyn and her team worked consistently to stay in touch with our seniors and many have come to rely on her. While she retired in March of 2022, and not during this 2021 reporting period, we would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude and offer our timely congratulations. Evelyn has served in some capacity in the Town for nearly 40 years.

Roger wears many hats, including volunteering as Evelyn's right hand in COA sponsored events. While he is continuing to serve in multiple capacities on the Recreation Commission, Planning Board and as Cemetery Superintendent, he retired from his post in the transfer station in 2021, where many looked forward to seeing him and his helping hands every Saturday for many years.



Evelyn and Roger Culver

Dedication

Our 2021 Annual Report is dedicated to all those committed individuals who live and work in the Town of Goshen.

Those individuals include the first responders and other essential employees, committee and board members, volunteers, and our community partners who have continued to work to keep all municipal functions moving forward throughout the pandemic. We also recognize many of you are essential employees elsewhere and have continued to work and care for your families.

We also want to recognize all those within the broader Goshen community, whose conscientious abidance by the Commonwealth's COVID-19 guidance and regulations have helped to keep us all safe. Without your commitment to one another the Town would not have been able to fair as well as we have throughout this unprecedented period.

Sincerely,

The Goshen Select Board

Angela Otis, Chair

Wayne Glaser, Vice Chair

Kristine Bissell, Clerk

Table of Contents

Dedication	0
Table of Contents	1
Facts of Interest about Goshen	2
National, State, County Officials	2
Goshen Elected & Appointed Officials and Committees	3-5
Directory and Office Hours	6
Animal Control	7
Animal Inspector	7
Assessors	8-9
Board of Health/Health Agent	10-12
Building Inspection Department	13
Capital Planning Committee	14-15
Community Preservation Committee	16
Conservation Commission	16-17
Cemetery	17
Council on Aging	18
Cultural Council	19-20
Emergency Management	21
Finance Committee	22-24
Fire Department	25-27
Highway Ambulance EMS	27-29
Highway Department	29
Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC)	30
Historical Commission	31
Library	31
Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Report	32
Open Space Committee	33
Planning Board	34
Police Department	35
Recreation Commission	36
Schools – Hampshire Regional District - Superintendent	37-39
Schools – Hampshire Regional High School - Principal	40-43
Schools – New Hingham Regional – Principal Report	43-46
Select Board	47-48
Tax Collector	48
Tilton Town Farm	49
Town Accountant	50-55
Town Clerk	56-57
Annual Town Meeting Warrant and Minutes	58-67
Treasurer	68-69
Tree Warden	70
Veterans Services	70-71
Zoning Board of Appeals	72

Facts of Interest about Goshen

www.goshen-ma.us

History

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

- 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
- Goshen Town Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places

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 Caucus - 2nd Monday in April
- Annual Town Meeting – 3rd Saturday in May
- Annual Election – 1st Saturday in June
- Goshen residents at least 18 years old with US Citizenship may register to vote at Town Clerk's Office, motor vehicle registration renewal, or the State election website.

Population/Demographics

2021 Local Census	988
Federal Census 2020	960
Federal Census 2010	1,054
Federal Census 2000	921
Labor Force 2020	615
Labor Force 2019	680
Unemployment Rate:	3.7%
2020 Income per Capita	\$16,413

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 please update

- FY 2021: \$16.61
- FY 2021 Average Single-Family Tax Bill: \$4,092
- FY 2021 Average Property Valuation: \$246,336
- FY 2021 Total Town Valuation: 177,116

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

Secretary of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
617-727-7030 www.sec.state.ma.us

Attorney General

Maura Healey
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
617-727-8400 www.mass.gov/ago

United States Senators

Edward J. Markey

1500 Main St, 4th 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 www.warren.senate.gov/

Representative in Congress 1st Congressional District

Richard E. Neal
300 State St, Suite 200
Springfield, MA 01105
413-785-0325 www.neal.house.gov/

State Senator Berkshire/Hampshire/Franklin/Hampden

Adam Hinds
State House, Room 309
Boston, MA 02133
617-772-1625
Adam.hinds@masenate.gov
District Office
413-344-4561

Representative in General Court 1st Franklin District

Natalie Blais
State House, Room 134
Boston, MA 02133
617-722-2400
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

Town of Goshen Elected Officials - FY2021

Almoners (3-year term)

Stephen Estelle (2022)
 Kristine Bissell (2024)
 Michael Rock (2023)

Moderator (2-year term)

Keith Wright (2022)

Planning Board (5-year term)

Roger Culver (2023)
 James Barrett (2022)
 Corey Carvalho (2026)
 Keith Wright (2025)
 Joseph Frye (2024)

Board of Assessors (3-year term)

Gina Papineau (2024)
 Cassandra Morrey (2023)
 Diane Bushee (2022)

School Committee -Hampshire Regional (3-year term)

Paul Marcinek (2023)

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

Barton Gage (2024)
 Heather Crocker Aulenback (2023)
 Neil Godden (2022)

Board of Health (3-year term)

Tiffany Marcinek (2024)
 Joshua Lafond (2023)
 Laura Barrus (2022)

Select Board (3-year term)

Angela Otis (2024)
 Kristen Bissell (2023)
 Wayne Glaser (2022)

Board of Library Trustees (3-year term)

Ruby Hutt (2024)
 Rosemary Bienz (2023)
 Melanie Dana (2022)
 Steve Daiber (2022)
 Kathy Boisvert (2023)
 Vacant (2024)

Town Clerk (3-year term)

Kristen Estelle (2024)

Finance Committee (3-year term)

Angela Otis (2024)
 Dawn Scaparotti (2023)
 Mary Packard (2023)
 Kristine Bissell (2022)
 Gina Papineau (2022)

Tilton Town Farm Supervisors (1-year term)

Roger Culver (2022)
 Richard K. Polwrek (2022)
 Robert O. Goss (2022)

Goshen Appointed Officials, Committees, and Employees

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

Warren Kirkpatrick (2022)

Board of Registrars (3-year term)

Connie Schwaiger (2023)
 Rose-Marie Carr (2022)
 John Bienz (2024)

Animal Control Officer (1-year term)

Kate Nevins (2022)

Capital Planning Committee (3-year term)

Gina Papineau (2024)
 Todd Dewkett (2024)
 Dawn Scaparotti (2022)
 Vacant
 Vacant

Animal Inspector (1-year term)

Nick Cockoros (2022)

Assistant Assessor (indefinite appointed by Board of Assessors)

Gina Papineau

Cemetery Superintendent (1-year term)

Roger Culver (2022)

Assessor's Clerk (1-year term)

Pat Morey (2022)

Certified Public Weighers (1-year term)

Vacant

Assistant Town Clerk (1-year term)

Gina Papineau (2022)

Community Compact Program (1-year term)

Vacant

Board of Health

Special Public Health Pandemic Liaison to the Board of Health
 Michael Kurland (2022)

Goshen Appointed Officials, Committees and Employees, - FY 2021 - cont.

Community Preservation Committee (1-year term)

Norene Roberts – Historical (2022)
 Sandra Papush – Conservation (2022)
 James Barrett—Planning Board (2022)
 Joan Griswold – Recreation (2022)
 Pat Morey – Open Space (2022)
 Joe Roberts – At large (2022)

Conservation Commission (3-year term)

Charles Amo (2022)
 Michael Duquette (2024)
 Tom Cairns (2023)
 Sandra Papush (2024)
 Vacant

Constable (2-year term)

Nick Cockoros (2023)
 Kate Nevins (2024)
 Charlie Amo (2024)

Council on Aging (3-year term)

Evelyn Kellogg-Culver –Coordinator (2022)
 Kathryn Boisvert (2024)
 Lorraine Brisson (2023)
 Henrietta Munroe (2022)
 Sandra Papush (2022)
 Nancy Wood (2023)

Cultural Council (3-year term)

Nancy Wood (2022)
 Jane O’Riordan (2023)
 Marya Zilberberg (2022)
 Rose Marie Carr (2023)
 Carla Raymond (2024)

Custodian for Town Properties (3-year term)

Allan Kidston (2024)

Custodian

Ronald Loven, Jr.

Election Warden (1-year term)

Kit Rock (2022)
 Shannon Wade (2022)

Electrical Inspector (1-year term)

Curt Golec

Emergency Management Director (1-year term)

Larry Holmberg (2022)

Emergency Response Coordinator (1-year term)

Larry Holmberg (2022)

Fence Viewers (1-year term)

Vacant
 Vacant

Field Driver (1-year term)

Vacant

Fire Chief (1-year term)

Cameron Lacey (2022)

Fire Warden (1-year term)

Cameron Lacey (2022)

Health Agent (appointed by Board of Health)

Mark Bushee

Historical Commission (3-year term)

Norene Roberts (2022)
 Sandra Greenwood (2024)
 Joe Roberts (2024)
 Ed Greenwood (2023)
 Vacant

Highway Department Superintendent (1-year term)

Todd Dewkett (2022)

Highway Department Personnel

Philp Culver
 Christopher Rooney

HRMC Director (1-year term)

Kathleen Casey

HRMC Representative (1-year term)

Laura Barrus
 Vacant

Inspector of Buildings (1-year term)

Phil Harris

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

Minute Taker (Interim)

Linda Clapp

Municipal Light Plant Manager

Wayne Glaser

Municipal Coordinator for the Enhanced 911 System

Cameron Lacey

Open Space Committee (1-year term)

Melanie Dana
 Patricia Morey
 Sandra Papush
 Lorraine Brisson
 Jane Hillman

Goshen Appointed Officials, Committees and Employees, FY 2021 cont.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Rep (1-year term)

Vacant

Vacant

Plumbing and Gas Inspector (1-year term)

Donald Lawton

Police Chief (Acting, 1-year term)

William Bissell

Police Sargent (1-year term)

Vacant

Police Department Administrative Assistant (1-year term)

Vacant

Police Officers (1-year term)

Beth Bezio

Fred Bezio

Eric Haiberman

Brian Tennyson, Jr.

Recreation Commission (1-year term)

Talon Zdaniewicz

Roger Culver

David Bond

Matt Gougeon

Joan Griswold

Mitchell Cichy

Route 112 Advisory Representative (1-year term)

Vacant

Special Projects Assistant

Rose Marques

Town Accountant (1-year term)

Eric Kinsherf

Town Administrator (interim)

Dawn Scaparotti

(2022)

Town Collector (1-year term)

Eric Moulton

Assistant Town Collector (1-year term)

Lisa Lafond

Town Treasurer (3-year term)

Allan Kidston

(2024)

Assistant Treasurer (1-year term)

Lisa Lafond

(2022)

Transfer Station Technician (1-year term)

Timothy Hogan

Assistant Transfer Station Technician (1-year term)

Dustin Mollison

Tree Warden (1-year term)

Robert Goss

Trench Permit Issuing Authority (1-year term)

Todd Dewkett

Veteran's Agent (1-year term)

Vacant

Zoning Board of Appeals (3-year term)

William O'Riordan

(2024)

Steve Estelle

(2022)

Corey Carvalho

(2023)

Roger Culver, Alternate

Town Contacts and Office Hours

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

413-268-8236 ext. 302

Office Hours – Tuesday 8 AM – 2 PM

Meetings Wednesday 6:30 PM

Board of Health

413-268-8236 ext. 110

Meetings 1st Monday 7 PM

Building Department

Inspector of Buildings 413-268-8236

Electrical Inspector 413-320-1156

Plumbing/Gas Inspector 413-268-7487

Office Hours –

Mon 6 PM – 8 PM, Thurs 11 AM – 3 PM

Conservation Commission

413-695-3500

Meetings – 1st & 3rd Monday 6 PM

Council on Aging

413-268-3316

Luncheon – 2nd Tuesday Noon in Town Hall

Meetings – Last Tuesday 1 PM

Finance Committee

Meetings 2nd Tuesday 6 PM

Fire Department

56 Main Street

Emergency 911

Business 413-268-7161

Hampshire Regional School District

19 Stage Road

Westhampton, MA 01027

Superintendent 413-527-7200

Hampshire Regional High School

19 Stage Road

Westhampton, MA 01027

413-527-7680

School Committee Meetings 1st Monday 7 PM

New Hingham Elementary School

30 Smith Road

Chesterfield, MA 01012

413-296-0000

School Committee Meetings 1st Wed. 5:30 PM

Highland Ambulance

12 Williams Drive

Emergency 911;

Business 413-268-7272

Highway Department

8 Highland Road

413-268-7062

Historical Museum

48 Main Street

413-268-7026

Library Board of Trustees

413-268-8236 ex 111

Library Hours –

Tues 3 – 6 PM, Wed 3– 6 PM, Sat 11 AM – 3 PM

Meetings – 3rd Wednesday 5 PM

Planning Board

413-268-3316

Meetings – 1st Monday 7 PM

Police Department

40 Main Street

Emergency 911

Business 268-3116

Dispatch 586-1508

Recreation Department

413-268-3316

Meetings – Last Tuesday 7:30 PM

Select Board/Town Administrator

413-268-8236 ext. 301

Meetings – Every Other Monday 6 PM

Tax Collector

413-268-8236 ext. 106

Office Hours – Wednesday 6– 8 PM

Town Clerk

413-268-8236 ext. 107

Office Hours – Monday 9 AM– 3 PM, 6– 8 PM

Town Treasurer

413-268-8236 ext. 108

Office Hours – Monday 6 – 8 PM

Transfer Station

18 Wing Hill Road

413-268-7079

Open Saturday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Veterans Agent

413-587-1299

Voter Registration

413-268-8236 ext. 107

Town Clerk's Office

Monday 9 AM – 3 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Registration deadline 20 days before election

Animal Control

There were 72 Animal Control Calls for Service (CFS) and Officer Initiated activities in FY 2021.

ACO Kate Nevins is the Goshen Animal Control Officer, she is available for any animal calls or concerns needing assistance on-call basis. For urgent animal concerns, please contact Northampton Dispatch at 413-586-1508 or the Animal Control Officer directly. Dog License Forms are available in the Town Clerk's office and online. To schedule kennel license inspections, please contact the Animal Control officer.

Goshen Animal Control provides public education regarding bylaws and safety concerns involving animals, investigates all animal complaints in Goshen, responds to concerns regarding nuisance wildlife, and provides a variety of reports, including bite reports, incident reports and monthly reports.

Respectfully Submitted,

ACO Kate R. Nevins, Animal Control Officer
aconevins@gmail.com

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. The Animal Inspector 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 animal, must be quarantined for a period of ten days to determine the risk of rabies transmission. The Animal Inspector initiates and releases the quarantine.

The Animal Inspector is 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 inspections, in addition to getting a good count of the domestic animal population, is to ensure the health and welfare of the animals.

For 2021, I observed 409 healthy animals within 30 farms in the Town of Goshen. They were apportioned in the following categories:

• 219 Chickens	• 11 Waterfowl
• 33 Goats	• 3 Donkeys
• 2 Llamas/alpacas	• 32 Beef Cattle
• 42 Horses	• 57 Swine (feeders)
• 10 Sheep	TOTAL Animals: 409

These observations were reported to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources in December within the 2021 Farm Inspection Booklet for the Town of Goshen.

I also designed an informational flyer to assist local farmers in complying with the Department's animal ear tag requirements and another to provide poultry owners with information regarding free testing for poultry.

Under the requirements of Massachusetts rabies guidelines, I placed a five-year-old cat in quarantine for 45 days. It had been attacked by an animal of unknown origin. It was provided a rabies booster shot and re-examined at the end of the quarantine period. Since the cat was found to be in excellent health, it was released from quarantine.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Cockoros, Animal Inspector

Board of Assessors

This year the Assessors' Office brings change to the Town of Goshen, and FY 2021 was a better year in the Assessors' Office. The Assessors' field work moved along with 114 inspections completed. The Board appreciates the warmth, understanding and hospitality that was and continues to be extended to us by our neighbors when we arrive to measure, list or inspect their homes and other buildings, especially during these unprecedented times. These state-mandated inspections help us to correct any errors or omissions that may exist on the property record cards and maintain 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 for assessing 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 Select Board must hold a Classification Hearing that is advertised and open to the public. During the hearing, 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.

Summary of 2019, 2020 and 2021:

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
<u>Local Expenditures:</u>			
Appropriations	\$2,378,435.61	\$2,467,144.21	\$2,728,677.80
Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$2,188.00	\$2,357.00	\$2,374.00
Debt & Interest Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,976.00
State & Cherry Sheet Charges	\$1,729.00	\$2,017.00	\$1,968.00
Assessors' Overlay	\$19,552.03	\$19,838.67	\$19,764.69
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$2,401,904.64	\$2,491,356.88	\$2,755,760.49
<u>Estimated Receipts and Available Funds:</u>			
Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$238,104.00	\$243,575.00	\$251,556.00
Local Estimated Receipts	\$212,700.00	\$212,700.00	\$212,700.00
Free Cash	\$155,149.68	\$249,514.54	\$225,675.00
Other Available Funds	\$470,374.00	\$490,715.50	\$55,163.10
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds:	\$1,076,327.68	\$1,196,505.04	\$745,094.10
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$3,577,763.74	\$3,864,395.25	\$3,615,281.48
	-	-	
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds	\$1,076,327.68	\$1,196,505.04	-\$745,094.10
Net Amount to be Raised	\$2,501,436.06	\$2,667,890.21	\$2,870,187.38
Real Property Values	\$2,311,788.97	\$2,393,987.03	\$2,651,719.38
Personal Property Values	\$66,646.16	\$73,157.18	\$76,958.00
Total Tax Levy	\$2,378,435.13	\$2,467,144.21	\$2,728,677.38
Tax Rate	\$14.69	\$15.11	\$16.61
Fiscal Year 2022 Tax Rate is \$16.13 per thousand.			

The Board continues to meet each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to stop in at our meeting or contact us at 413-268-8236, extension 302. Voicemails may be left, and emails may be sent to 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, second and third Wednesday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Board of Health

Membership: Michael Kurland served as the Chair of the Board of Health at the beginning of this reporting period. Laura Barrus and Nick Cockoros were the other 2 members of the BOH. Nick, an important contributor for years on the BOH, needed to leave to focus on his health and was replaced by Josh Lafond in 2021. Tiffany Marcinek was elected and began serving as the chair in 2021. Michael was appointed by the Select Board to serve as the Special Public Health Liaison to the Board of Health advising on pandemic related matters.

The Board has been extremely active this past year related to a number of issues. Our biggest challenge was the volume of work which needed to be accomplished due to the myriad activities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic (which was further complicated by the illnesses of two of our members).

Transfer station: Staffed by two employees and open on Saturdays, the transfer station has operated successfully with few problems. Long time dedicated staff member Roger Culver retired this past year and he will be sorely missed. We passed our required annual inspection. We participated in the annual Hazardous Waste Day in October. We fulfilled all of the requirements of our RDP grant and received grant funding which essentially covered our HRMC assessment. Attended all HRMC meetings and fulfilled all data submission requirements. We worked closely with HRMC administrator Kathleen Casey and Town Administrator Dawn Scaparotti to bid out hauling and disposal contracts and recommended awarding contracts to the lowest compliant competitive bidders by the Select Board.

Challenges have included the transition to new contractors; the greatly increased charges due to an increase by the State in hauler wage rates and the sharp decrease in recycling reimbursement. We went from receiving money for our recyclables to paying money to dispose of them. This is a challenge for the Town and we must review our charges and assure that they cover costs and are in line with other Towns. One major accomplishment was the long needed replacement of our plastics recycle deck. It was replaced with an outstanding structure by a local contractor and received rave reviews by our inspector and was paid for by grant funding.

Budget: BOH has spent many hours reviewing all aspects of the budget with Dawn Scaparotti and assuring that our funding can cover all aspects of accomplishing our many responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner. This is a true challenge as the expectations of a local BOH have increased greatly and identified needs include clerical support and a public health nurse. There are plans for addressing these needs. Fortunately, all of the resources spent in dealing with COVID-19 were taken care of by COVID grant funding received by both the Town of Goshen as well as the Foothills Health District.

Health Agent: (See separate report provided by Health Agent Mark Bushee). The services of the Health Agent are provided under contract through the Foothills Health District (Goshen, Williamsburg, Westhampton, and Whately). Mark is responsible for inspections of septic systems, wells, housing, camps, restaurants, etc and confirming all are up to date. He is also responsible for coordinating the public health response to COVID-19 and performed a magnificent job this past year.

Public Health Preparedness: Goshen BOH members attended meetings of MAPHCO and the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition and participated in drill exercises and planning for a vaccination clinic in conjunction with Williamsburg.

Landfill: We worked with the Select Board, Tighe and Bond (Engineers), DEP, and the Conservation Committee to assure that the landfill project was completed appropriately and will implement recommended testing as required.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Our biggest challenge this past year was performing multiple public health functions related to outbreak management and containment as necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Working many hours each week following the almost daily updated guidance provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, we joined with many partners in responding to this public health emergency. Through the end of calendar year 2020, Goshen experienced 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19 which required the isolation and quarantining of many close contacts of confirmed cases. We were in constant contact with many towns and MADPH while performing contact tracing in order to prevent the spread of this contagious virus. Contact tracing was initially performed by the Chair of the Goshen BOH utilizing a state data base system called MAVEN. We were then able to arrange to obtain contact tracing services provided by public health nurses through the City of Northampton for approximately 4 months. After that point we were extremely fortunate to be able to work jointly with the Foothills Health District (FHD) to hire an outstanding nurse (and coincidentally Goshen resident) Connie Schwaiger who worked diligently for countless hours each day tracking down contacts. She successfully made contact with almost every single “close contact” of COVID-19 confirmed cases. Our partners in this gargantuan outbreak management task included but were not limited to the following. Larry Holmberg (Goshen’s Emergency Management Director) was an outstanding colleague in tirelessly fulfilling his duties as per our Incident Management Plan and structure. He procured necessary PPE, supplies and resources and provided professional guidance in all aspects of outbreak management and control as well as enabling our Town government to remain functioning in a safe manner. We worked closely with the Board of the Foothills Health District to obtain grant funding for our initiatives and to procure many of the necessary resources and share much expertise in our endeavor. We received support and guidance from the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition as well as the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition. We also formed close partnerships with the Hampshire Regional School District and New Hingham School in order to help protect our children and staff. We also worked closely with Dawn Scaparotti who administered the extremely complicated CARES grant received by Goshen and worked tirelessly to procure necessary supplies and safety items and develop necessary policies and procedures to keep Town government functioning and our staff safe. At the end of the calendar year our focus included developing the resources for vaccinating the residents of our Town.

Lessons learned: It takes a full team effort to assure the public health of our citizens, particularly during a pandemic. We discovered that fully meeting our statutory obligations requires additional collaborative agreements, funding by the State, additional staffing to assure resiliency and a robust and diverse Board. Additional qualified residents must join the BOH to assure its effectiveness and ability to respond. Additionally we learned that the Massachusetts DPH does NOT have the personnel or resources to assist us in an emergency. The BOH is legally responsible for carrying out the directives of the Commonwealth. They provide the guidance- we implement the directives. We must assure that our BOH is poised to provide that level of service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Kurland and Tiffany Marcinek

Board of Health, Chairs

Board of Health - Foothills Health Agent

During 2021, the department witnessed 10 percolation tests. Septic system permits were issued for 11 new systems or system components. Six inspections or re-inspections of food establishments were completed. A total of \$13,300 was collected in fees.

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

- Witnessing percolation tests for all new and replacement septic systems
- Permit review and on-site inspections for all septic repairs and installations
- Housing code inspections and enforcement
- Infectious disease investigation and reporting
- Tobacco regulation enforcement
- On-site inspections for all beaver conflict permits
- Handling the numerous public health-related questions and complaints
- Camp inspections
- Bathing Beach test review
- Food establishment permitting and inspections

I may be reached at 413-268-8404. For in-person help, please schedule in advance. Written messages or mail should be directed to me at: P.O. Box 447 Haydenville, MA 01039; or via email to Foothills@Burgy.org. I look forward to another productive year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Bushee, Health Agent
Foothills Health District

Building Inspection Department

In fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), the Building Department issued 67 permits and conducted 1 inspection for places of assembly.

Breakdown of permits issued:

- New construction = 1
- Windows/siding/doors = 6
- Roofs = 13
- Solar = 8
- Wood stove installation = 6
- Insulation = 8
- Decks/porches = 4
- Additions/remodels = 5
- Miscellaneous (demos, foundation, pools etc.) = 10
- Garage/barns/storage = 6

Total fees collected:

\$1,424,396.00

Total construction costs:

\$8,710.85

The Building Department was staffed by Phil Harris, Building Commissioner, and Pat Morey, Administrative Assistant. The Building Department maintained office hours on Monday evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Despite the pandemic, the Building Department continued to review and issue building permits and to conduct inspections by appointment. The Building Department Fee Schedule was updated effective September 1, 2021.

The Building Department can be reached via office phone, 413-268-8236, extension 116, or by email, inspector@goshen-ma.us. Our current office hours are **Mondays 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.** and **Thursdays 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.** Town Offices are open to the public but still under a mask mandate, at the time of this writing.

Inspections are by appointment and are usually conducted on Monday evenings and/or Fridays 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 in the Town Hall Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Harris, Building Commissioner

Capital Planning

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. 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. This year with the passage of the Proposition 2 ½ override, we have met this milestone.

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 facilitates 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.

With the passage of the Proposition 2 ½ Override in Sept of 2020 our ongoing concern that we were not able to include critical contributions to our capital stabilization fund as part of the annual budget appropriated by the town has been addressed. Contributions will still need to be supplemented each year with Free Cash to ensure the fund is growing at a rate sufficient to meet capital requirements.

Reconstituted Capital Planning Committee

At the July 25, 2020 Town Meeting the Town voted to amend its General By-Laws pursuant to M.G.L. c.41, §106B, to establish a Capital Planning Committee, that will replace any previous Capital Planning Committee. This change created a Capital Planning Committee that would conform to the current M.G.L. requirements with respect to a structure for the Capital Planning Committee and the Committee needs to be reappointed.

The following is the language that outlines the membership as well as purpose and role of the Capital Planning Committee.

The Capital Planning Committee shall be made up of five members, each appointed for 3 year staggered terms. All members shall be appointed by the Select Board, and initially, one member shall be appointed for (1) one year, two members for (2) two years and two members shall be appointed for (3) three

years. Two members are to be appointed from amongst the Finance Committee by the Select Board. The remaining three committee members are appointed by the Select Board based upon the best available candidates with an appropriate background and knowledge to fulfill the needs and duties of the Committee. All appointments shall be based upon the beginning and ending of the fiscal year for the terms described above. Any vacancy for an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner so as to complete the term of the original appointment.

The fundamental purpose of the Capital Planning Committee shall be to enhance the Town's capacity to identify, prioritize, and understand the financial implications of capital projects with a useful life of at least five (5) years, and an aggregate cost of at least \$5,000. And, to develop a capital plan relative to the aforementioned purpose. Further, the Capital Planning Committee will work with the Finance Committee to develop policies consistent with best practices.

▶ The Capital Planning Committee should solicit requests from each municipal department that would have a capital request meeting the above criteria. The departmental requests should include a brief statement of justification of the request including why it is needed; what is the useful life of the item, what is the estimated cost of the item and why it is necessary in the year for which it is being requested.

▶ The Capital Planning Committee shall gather information, review and prioritize recommendations regarding capital project needs and expenditures that will be funded by annual appropriations in accordance with the financial constraints of the Town.

▶ Develop and present a capital plan budget and multi-year capital program to the Finance Committee and Select Board with the recommendations of the Capital Planning Committee for what should and should not be included in any given year.

▶ In conjunction with the Finance Committee analyze the municipality's ability to afford major expenditures by examining recent and anticipated trends in revenues, expenditures and debt burden and propose a method of payment that will be supported by the ability of the Town to pay for it with current revenue; available reserves; debt or debt excluded and debt overrides from the limits of Proposition 2 ½.

▶ The funding strategy for the Capital Stabilization account should be consistent with best practices such as targeting 3% - 5% of the levy limit or 3% - 5% of the annual budget, prior to debt exclusions.

▶ The Capital Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, should recommend a method for financing each project.

If you are interested in serving in one of the open positions on the Capital Planning Committee, please contact the Angela Otis, the Chair of the Select Board as they are the appointing authority or Dawn Scaparotti, the current chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Scaparotti,
Capital Planning Committee Chair

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. Every year after approving CPA, Goshen has received a 100% state match 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. There have been no applications received this year.

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

John Otis	Affordable Housing Representative (appointed by SB)
Pat Morey	Open Space Committee
Norene Roberts	Historical Commission
Jim Barrett	Planning Board
Sandra Papush	Conservation Commission
Joan Griswold	Recreation Committee
Joe Roberts	Member at Large (appointed by SB)

Although CPC did not meet during the pandemic, plans are to begin meeting again in 2022. CPC meets at Town Offices (check the town website for day and time). 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.

All projects that might involve wetlands need to submit an RDA (Request for Determination), to schedule a site visit prior to signing the application, so it is important to allow time for this. If wetlands are involved in a project, filing an NOI, (Notice of Intent) may be required. A public meeting/hearing is held for both applications.

RDA:

This most simple permit application is suitable for many situations, including requesting a determination if a planned project is near or has potential to impact wetland resources. Formally it is known as a WPA (Wetlands Protection Act) Form 1-Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA). There is no application fee for an RDA. However, once the application has formally been submitted and a meeting date provided by the Commission, a notice of the application hearing must be placed at the applicant's expense in a local newspaper at least five business days before the meeting.

NOI:

One other commonly used wetland permit is the WPA (Wetlands Protection Act) Form 3 – Notice of Intent (NOI), which addresses any work proposed within, or adjacent to, wetland or river resource areas. There are application fees for an NOI. Once the application has formally been submitted and a meeting date provided by the Commission, a notice of the application hearing must be placed at the applicant's expense in a local newspaper at least five business days before the meeting.

Some of the projects worked on this year were: several septic upgrades, Solar Arrays, East St. Walkway and lake front renovations.

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

The Conservation Commission is a five-member board. We currently have four members and are looking for new members. Please call Charles Amo, Chair, if you are interested or have any questions, or attend a meeting.

Members are: Charles Amo, Tom Cairns, Mike Duquette, and Sandra Papush.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Amo, Chair

Cemetery Report

The Veteran Honor Guard performed their duties at the cemetery on Memorial Day, but the town did not have a parade or program because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The cemetery is closed December 1st through May 1st.

There were:

- 8 cremations
- 1 full burial
- 8 lots sold
- 5 new head stones

The American flags have been put out for many years by Roger Culver and his grandchildren, but this year his great grandson Elliott also helped, marking the third generation of Culvers taking care of the cemetery.

A few stones had to be straightened out in the old section due to frost.

The Morrey family has continued to do a great job of mowing and taking care of the fall leaves.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Culver

Council on Aging

This was year two of dealing with Covid-19. In February 2021, the vaccine shots were open to anyone 75 and older. We worked with Mike Kurland of the Board of Health to inform seniors where and when they could receive their vaccines. Mike even went out to help some make appointments, especially seniors without computers. The COA board delivered care bags to seniors ages 80 to 90+. Fifty- two seniors received bags of useful items, plus a few different kinds of sweets. In March, the COA made up more bags for the group between 75 and 79 years of age. These bags were partly funded by the CARES Act, sponsored by the government.

The curbside luncheons continued though the spring and into the fall and winter. Meals were made at the Spruce Corner Restaurant, and desserts came from Red's Bakery, both in Goshen. These meals served between 50 and 60 hungry seniors each time.

When summer arrived, we were able to have a few outside events, as long as we wore masks and socially distanced. An ice cream social was held at Tilton Field, where we served 94 sundaes while listening to the Hilltown band "Sidetrack". In August, the COA and the Cultural Council sponsored Sarah the Fiddler at Tilton Field under a new tent that the Recreation Commission bought. It helped keep us cool.

Another August event was our traditional Appreciation Luncheon, where we served a barbeque chicken box lunch. We always honor our 90+ citizens, and we were thrilled to have 7 out of our 12 90+ seniors attend. Norman Hathaway was able to attend, even though he lives in Chesterfield now, and cards were sent to Ginny Otis and Floyd Merritt.

In the fall, the virus was still going strong, but we continued to be supportive when we could. The Ashfield Band played outside of the church, and we served cider and donuts. An Afternoon Tea and Harp music event was held at the library, and we helped with the snacks. The COA board started a caroling event, only being able to visit a few this year, but there is a lot of interest for next year. When the holiday season approached, we realized that some were facing even more difficult times, and so we delivered a few fruit baskets.

Our condolences to the families of seniors we lost this year: Anthony J. Thomas Jr., Margaret Papineau, Margaret Waggoner, James Russell Sr., and Chet Lulek.

I would like to thank my board of directors: Henrietta Munroe, Sandy Papush, Kathy Boisvert, Lorraine Brisson, and Nancy Wood, and also honorary members Roxane Cunningham and Roger Culver. They all do so much.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Kellogg-Culver

Cultural Council

The Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded \$4,800 to the Goshen Cultural Council for 2021. 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 toward 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.

In April 2020, due to the Covid pandemic, the Council approved an extension until December 31, 2021, for 2020 grantees to complete their projects. Only four of the 2020 grantees were able to do their projects and submit reimbursement requests during 2020. An additional seven of the 2020 grantees were able to complete their performances or projects during 2021 and received funding for their grants. Twelve 2020 grantees could not complete the projects and did not receive any funding. Those unused funds will be available for granting in 2023.

The State Council extended deadlines for applications for the 2021 grant year and filing reports for 2020. The Goshen Cultural Council met in January 2021 to review applications. The Council received fewer applications for funding during 2021 than it had in previous years. At the meeting, the Council approved grants to 16 of the 19 applicants, including the following town-affiliated groups: Council on Aging (hip-hop chair dance exercise), New Hingham PTO (Folktales from Asia), Hampshire Regional High School (Spring Musical), and Goshen Free Public Library (harp performance). The Council accepted grant applications for the following programs and activities in nearby towns: Friends of Williamsburg Libraries (book discussion and webinar on racism and bias), Double Edge Theater Summer Spectacle in Ashfield, Hilltown Families Suggests online newsletter, Sevenars Music Festival in Worthington, Windsor Jazz-Blues Workshop, Valley Jazz Voices, Culomba Quartet Concert in Conway, and the Charlemont Speaker Forum. Grants were also approved for the following: John Root for a Zoom program on pollinators, the Nolumbeka Project to provide education on Native American history in area schools, and The Rites of Passage, a multi-disciplinary art installation and theater performance in Great Barrington.

In June 2021, Kristen Estelle completed her term on the Council, and Carla Raymond was appointed to fill that position. Many thanks to Kristen for serving on the Council and for being the Secretary-Treasurer for the Council.

In August 2021, the Council met to elect officers. Nancy Wood was elected Chair and Carla Raymond was elected Secretary-Treasurer. The Council reviewed and approved its current priorities for the coming year. The Council also discussed the Direct Grant program but decided to continue to award grants on a reimbursement basis.

Also in August, the State Council introduced a new online grants management system that local councils and applicants must use starting with the 2022 grant cycle. The State Council hosted webinars about the new system. Nancy Wood attended the webinars and added information to the Goshen Cultural Council's profile on the new system.

In October 2021, the Council met and voted on the amount of the state allocation for 2022 to be used as administrative funds and approved using locally raised funds for grants in 2022. In December of 2021, the Council met and reviewed applications for the 2022 grant cycle.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Wood, Rose Carr, Jane O'Riordan, Carla Raymond, and Marya Zilberberg

Office of Emergency Management

While 2021 was not a “normal” year because of the pandemic, things were getting more hopeful. As a town, we continued to manage the response to COVID as a team, both in a public health aspect and an administrative aspect. The work Mike Kurland performed and continues to perform in taking the point in the COVID response is inspiring. The same can be said for Dawn Scaparotti and her team dealing with the administrative/financial portion of the response with the CARES Act, ARPA, and FEMA reimbursements.

On a personal note, I was selected to represent emergency management for all 101 Western Massachusetts communities to the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC). The Council receives hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to fund trainings and equipment purchases and develop emergency planning templates for police, fire, emergency management, public health, and public works. It’s an honor to have been selected especially since I represent a small town and I’m replacing the Emergency Management Director from Springfield.

Fortunately, no major disaster hit the town or the area, but it is important to remember that disasters may strike at any time, and we should be prepared to take action when they do. School officials teach children what to do in case of fire, 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”.

Beginning in early 2022, the Goshen Emergency Planning Committee will be updating the Town’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. This plan is a playbook outlining our response to a major disaster. While we concentrate on the public safety entities (fire, police, EMS, Board of Health, highway, emergency management), others are also involved, including the Select Board, Council on Aging, Animal Control, and IT.

Responding to a disaster is a team effort. A response to a major incident requires more than one department, let alone one person. Emergency Management needs a trained group of people to staff the Emergency Operation Center, sometimes on a 24-hour basis. The work involves tracking of incidents, record keeping, monitoring the situation, providing 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. If you would be interested in helping the Town by becoming part of the EOC Team, or if you want more information, please contact me at emd.goshen.ma@gmail.com or call 413-296-4247.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Holmberg, Emergency Management Director

Finance Committee

FY 2022 Budget, June 12, 2021 Annual Town Meeting

Throughout the Pandemic, which continued in to 2021, we have continued to work on behalf of our Town's residents and taxpayers to understand the financial issues facing the Town and our community partners. We are recommending funding strategies and an FY 2022 Budget that incorporates this information and positions us to move steadily toward our financial and operational goals.

This year's recommendations build on the progress we have made in the last several years. In addition to meeting the assessments by our community partners for next year, the primary focus for the municipally controlled expenses is to:

- Take the first step of several to align Town stipends, salaries, and wages to those of our neighboring communities. We began with those positions that were furthest from market rate.
- Establish a trust for our future Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability and begin funding from Free Cash. This aligns with best practices and Governmental Accounting Standards Board guidance (GASB).
- Create an account from Free Cash to capture and pay the costs to run the MLP Fiber Optic Broadband Network until the network is fully operational and sustained by user fees.
- Allocate from Free Cash funds to address the remaining trees on the town roads identified by our Tree Warden that need to be taken down to eliminate any potential danger and damage to fiber optic cables and electric wires that are outside the Town right-of-way (which National Grid will continue to address).
- Increase the Technology line-code for necessary software to strengthen cyber-security.
- Increase the Reserve Fund for some potential unfunded mandates being discussed by the Commonwealth whose impacts are unknown at the time of budget development.
- Continue the proactive funding of capital stabilization which positions us to meet future needs

Annually the Finance Committee produces a report (available in hard copy and on the Goshen website) that is produced by the Finance Committee as part of the Annual Town Meeting. It is intended to provide information that:

- informs voters about the potential impacts of their voting options
- explains many of the challenges and considerations that come with developing a balanced budget
- includes relevant statistics and analysis to add context to our spending

We have made recommendations that are aligned with best practices to maintain and strengthen the long-term operational and financial stability of the Town. We are making very good progress towards our goals and have a much stronger financial foundation from which to move forward.

The Approved FY 2022 budget is summarized below, by category and traditional departments:

Category	FY 2022 Approved Budget	
Community Partner Assessments, w school debt	\$ 2,045,962	62%
Municipal Department Expenses	\$ 1,105,439	33%
Municipal Capital Stabilization	\$ 94,300	3%
Municipal Debt	\$ 57,406	2%
Total FY 2022 Budget with Debt	\$ 3,303,106	100%

Traditional Departments	FY 2022
General Government	\$ 431,221
Public Safety	\$ 229,137
Public Works	\$ 456,524
Public Health & Sanitation	\$ 79,643
Community Services	\$ 98,194
Pensions and Insurance	\$ 194,668
Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 94,300
Education	\$ 1,644,546
Municipal Debt /Debt Exclusion	\$ 57,406
School Debt / Debt Exclusion	\$ 17,466
Total Debt Exclusions	\$ 74,872
Total FY 2021 Budget with Debt	\$ 3,303,106

Broadband Funding and Policy Decisions

The Finance Committee participated in many discussions regarding the policies for the new Fiber Optic Broadband Network. We provided input to the MLP Manager and MLP Board regarding our perspective on the financial implications of policy decisions, based on the information available at the time. Many of the ongoing financial implications are a function of the number of people who sign up for the internet (take-rate). Many assumptions were made to model various scenarios. Final costs and revenues will not be known until we know the actual numbers of homes that sign up for the service. Some policy decisions may need to change and some will evolve based once the sign-up is complete at the end of 2021.

Capital Plan Funding & Best Practices

The Town's formal Capital Plan was developed by the Capital Planning Committee in 2016 and is updated annually. In 2021 there were no meetings. The Finance Committee, who has consistently had two members participating on the Capital Committee, has worked collaboratively to coordinate funding

and understand budget implications. In the last several years we have been aggressively funding the plan through Free Cash and other stabilization fund balances. With the passing of the Proposition 2 ½ override we are able for the first time to meet the \$92K threshold outlined in best practices guidelines. Those guidelines provide an amount equal to 3% – 5% of our operating budget or tax levy. For Goshen, this represents an annual figure of \$92K - \$155K. With our \$92K appropriation in this line code, we have reached a milestone and an important step forward in planning for our Town’s future capital needs.

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 & Poor’s. There are certain criteria that these agencies use in evaluating a town for a bond rating including stabilization account balances, Free Cash, 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 Select Board to take this into consideration when making recommendations regarding cash flow and funding of our operating and capital expenses.

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 (two thirds majority) is required to move funds in or out of these accounts. The approximate stabilization fund balances prior to and after the June12, 2021 Annual Town Meeting actions are:

	Before	After
	July 2020 ATM	July 2020 ATM
1. General Stabilization	\$ 267,587	\$ 267,587
2. Capital Stabilization	\$ 717,633	\$ 916,403
3. Fire Vehicle Stabilization	\$ 10,997	\$ 2,397
4. Audit Stabilization	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
5. Assessor Property Revaluation	\$ 32,753	\$ 32,753
6. Town Building Stabilization	\$ 1,260	\$ 1,316
7. Free Cash**	<u>\$ 224,675</u>	<u>\$ 92,407</u>
 Total Stabilization and Free Cash	 \$1,336,743	 \$ 1,327,863

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Scaparotti,
Finance Committee Chair

Committee Members: Kristine Bissell, Angela Otis, Mary Packard, Gina Papineau,

Goshen Fire Department

2021 was yet another challenging year, to say the least, as the COVID-19 pandemic pressed on, some times worse than others. The consistent commitment and dedication of our members of the Goshen Fire Department played a huge role in the safety of the town and the department. As always, our volunteer members continually stepped up to the challenges that yet another difficult year brought. Our firefighters accepted personal risk as they responded to all types of emergency calls with the continued danger of potential COVID-19 exposure. With COVID-19 cases still in our area, the Department continued to hold in-person training while following the CDC and Town guidelines to avoid potential transmission among our members.

On a happier note, as the Town's new appointed chief I would like to recognize the endless years of dedication to recently retired Chief Susan Labrie and Captain Bob Labrie. Their combined years of skills and knowledge will forever be a staple in our department.

We would like to thank the taxpayers of Goshen for their support and the voters for their approval of the replacement of our 2001 Ford Rescue Truck. The new/used vehicle, a 2012 Dodge 5500 with an ambulance body was formally one of Highland Ambulance's trucks. The Goshen Firefighters' Association matched a \$2,000 Volunteer Firefighters' Assistance (VFA) Grant to help offset the cost of another skid unit assembly that was installed in the back of our UTV (Utility Terrain Vehicle) that we acquired from state surplus. The skid unit is a self-contained unit that consists of a water tank, pump, hoses, (and its associated plumbing), as well as tool and hose storage.

For the health and safety of our members, we applied for and received a Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant for \$8,500. With this, we purchased additional SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) masks. As well as a new Inset Multi Gas Meter that is a replacement for our dated CO2 Meter. The purchase of additional SCBA masks plays a critical role in the world we live in today. These will provide our trained interior firefighters their own mask rather than sharing masks within the department.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program entered its 25th year. We received a State S.A.F.E. Grant in the amount of \$3,065, which allowed Goshen Fire to teach three in-person fire and life safety lessons at New Hingham Regional Elementary School. This year we are happy to be able to step back into the school and continue this program. With the continuation of this educational program to the 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 \$2,055 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 a 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 413-268-7161 and leave a message. The grant has also made available temporary lock-boxes for seniors' homes. These allow secure Fire Department keyed access to a home for emergency calls where the occupant may be unable to unlock the door for first responders.

We've added two new firefighters, Dylan Tanner and Kayla Jones. We've had three of our junior firefighters reach the age where they graduate to adult firefighter status: Michaela Rock, Adrien Neveu, and Emily Godden. Two of these members moved on to enter and complete the Hampshire County Basic 6 Program and become qualified interior firefighters for our department. The Department continually needs new members to maintain coverage, and we 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 Department was dispatched to a variety of situations in 2021, utilizing much of our training and equipment. In all, the Department responded to 126 emergency calls throughout the year, nine more call than in 2020. The call breakdown was as follows:

- 77 Medical
- 15 Detectors Sounding (Smoke and/or Carbon Monoxide)
- 9 Motor Vehicle Collisions
- 6 Hazardous Conditions(Including wires and/or trees down)
- 9 Other
- 1 Rescue
- 4 Brush Fires /Illegal burns
- 1 Chimney Fire
- 2 Vehicle Fires
- 2 Structure Fires (One was mutual aid to other 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), as well as training with other surrounding towns, thereby building on our mutual aid system that has been in place for years. 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 has been in effect for 12 years. 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. This was equivalent to \$6.02 per hour. In total, Department members dedicated more than 2,500 hours to the Town in 2021. The Incentive Program is a great way for the community to acknowledge and thank the volunteer firefighters that give so much of themselves.

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 to 17.

We meet each Tuesday evening at the Goshen Fire Station at 6:30 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 2021:

Bill Connell	Mike Cunningham	Kim Dresser	Francis Dunham
Steve Estelle	Emily Godden	Nate Godden*	Cam Lacey
Bob Labrie	Hannah Labrie	Sue Labrie	Dillon Neveu*
Jill Lacey	Jake Lulek	Adrien Neveu	Michaela Rock
Marianne Neveu	Mason Neveu*	Monica Neveu	Keith Wright
Jonathan Schwaiger	River Williams	West Williams*	Kayla Jones
Dylan Tanner			

* designates Junior Firefighter status

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Lacey, Fire Chief

Highland Ambulance EMS, Inc.

We continued to be challenged this year with the evolving Covid situation. It seems this virus is here to stay in some form or another. It requires special precautions to keep our staff and patients safe. We must use full PPE equipment on each call as well as careful decontamination of the ambulance and equipment after each transport.

We have received our new state-of-the-art ambulance that is ready to provide the most up-to-date emergency services to all our communities. This is possible with the help of our towns' annual assessment to our capital fund and the generous donations that have come in from our citizens. We have already begun to plan for our next ambulance.

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 a.m. until midnight seven days a week. During the midnight to 6 a.m. time periods, Highland EMTs 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, 2021, consisted of 26 members, including 11 paramedics and 15 EMTs. 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.

Highland's affiliate medical direction is provided by Cooley Dickinson Hospital, and Dr. Peter Morse is our current Medical Director.

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

- Providing training and certification for first responders.
- Developing and practicing emergency response plans with the schools and camps in 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 member towns.
- Providing mutual aid and paramedic intercept services to the neighboring communities.
- Providing transport services.
- Providing standby service for major emergency situations, such as structure 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 FY 20/21, Highland responded to 689 emergency calls. These calls are broken down by town as follows:

- Ashfield: 148
- Chesterfield: 64
- Cummington: 53
- Plainfield: 75
- Goshen: 94
- Williamsburg: 234
- Other: Mutual Aid Requests, 21

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

- Participated in giving vaccinations at the Northampton Senior Center
- Staff training in a hybrid format
- Driver training of the new ambulance
- Handtevy Pediatric Provider Course
- Cummington Fair- Covid response
- Power stretcher and load system training
- Surgical cricothyrotomy course
- Obstetrics and birthing class

Community Involvement: **(Due to Covid most of the events listed below did not happen.)** Here are some of the ways Highland would normally have participated in our communities in support of them: Ashfield Fall Festival, Chesterfield 4th of July Parade, School safety programs, and Junior Olympics.

Operating /expenses in FY 20/21: \$785,348.20

Cash on hand June 30, 2021:

Operating Fund: \$148,433.25

Ambulance Fund: \$1,260.14

Memorial Fund: \$43,090.57
Dresser Fund: \$4,100.49
Donations: \$180,785.00

Our six towns contributed \$460,416.90 of our total operational budget, based upon town assessments. The balance came from billings to insurance companies, Medicare, Medicaid, and contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Highland Ambulance Board of Directors:

Ashfield - Patricia Thayer
Chesterfield - Spencer Timm
Cummington - Amanda Savoie

Goshen - Cassandra Morrey
Plainfield - Edward Morann
Williamsburg - Denise Bannister

Cummington - At Large - Bernard Forgea
Goshen - At Large - Nate Rosewarne
Ashfield - At Large - Douglas Mollison

Highway Department

Highway Department projects for the 2021 season were as follows:

Chapter 90 funds were used on Spruce Corner road. The Highway Department cut the shoulders, brush and waterways were cleaned out where it was necessary. A new top coat of blacktop was applied by Palmer Paving, and the shoulders had gravel applied by the Highway Department where necessary.

This year we started installing drainage on Fuller Road, starting at the Chesterfield town line and working back into Goshen. We used the existing ditch line and installed an eight-inch drainage pipe three feet below the existing road grade. Three-quarter-inch stone was set both above and below the pipe then a layer of fabric to keep silt away from the pipe. The finished ditch is filled with riprap to allow water from the surface to flow into the ditch. This section of road experiences terrible conditions during mud season. It's our hope that we are giving the water a place to go, and, by so doing, the road will be in better condition during the spring. The funds for this work came from the general highway account. The cost of drainage pipe has skyrocketed from a 20-foot length costing \$60 to now costing \$180. If this test works, we will need to find funding to improve more of the gravel roads in a similar manner. This work was completed using our equipment and labor to help keep costs down.

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

Sincerely,

Todd R. Dewkett, Highway Superintendent

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative

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

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 2021 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); John Chandler, Vice Chair (Chesterfield); and, Paul Wetzels, Treasurer (Williamsburg, January - September) and Tom Poissant, Treasurer (Ashfield, for the remainder of the year).

In 2021, HRMC services included:

- Conducting annual DEP transfer station inspections and work as a liaison between the towns and MADEP on transfer station compliance matters.
- Work with regional entities to challenge increased prevailing wage rates for hauling.
- 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.
- Outreach on transfer station operations and recycling initiatives.
- Submittal of member-town DEP annual surveys, grant applications, and reports.
- Financial administration of HRMC programs and services.

The day to day business and program operations of the HRMC are managed by a contracted Administrator, who also serves as a representative to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Municipal Advisory Board (Vice-Chair), the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group. The Administrator also interfaces with local, regional, and State officials. Board meetings are held on alternate months. The January, March, May, and July meetings were all held virtually to meet Covid-19 social distancing protocols.

The HRMC has an annual operation's assessment that is approved by each town at their annual town meetings. The annual Assessment Budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY21, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$ 64,886. The Assessments offset base operating expenses. HRMC recycling program collection costs are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the towns to best maximize economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations and program operations.

In 2021, all HRMC member towns were eligible for and received Recycling Dividend Program Grants (RDP) under the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. Applications were submitted for them through the HRMC. In total, the HRMC towns received \$49,350 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programs. Goshen was awarded \$4,900. This year, the Town used RDP funds to purchase a new paper receiver box for the transfer station.

During the past year, the HRMC member towns collectively diverted 902 tons of recyclable materials to the MRF; the Town of Goshen recycled 54 tons in 2021. 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 2021, the Town of Goshen had a recycling rate of 27.8% compared with 30.9% in 2020.

Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator

Historical Commission

In 2021, the pandemic-related lockdown of the Historical Commission and of the Goshen Museum continued.

In August 2021, we planned to have the Goshen Museum open during weekends. After consulting with the Select Board and the Board of Health, this plan was cancelled because of the threat posed by the Omicron variant of Covid. Omicron put an end to the 2021 plans to have commission meetings as well. The Curator put a notice on the front door of the Museum that invited visitors to contact her by phone or email for information about family histories. The Commission answered a dozen inquiries this way and sold five of Anne Sabo Warner's Bicentennial History, Goshen Massachusetts 1781-1981. The Curator also conducted several private tours of the Museum by appointment. Interested persons may call Norene at 413-268-7562 to make an appointment.

Ed Greenwood became a member of the Goshen Historical Commission. This still leaves one position on the Historical Commission unfilled. For information on the Historical Commission, call Joe or Norene Roberts at the above number.

The 1981 bicentennial history is available for the reduced price of \$15. Please call Norene if you wish to purchase a copy.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Roberts, Chair

Library

After being closed due to Covid, the library fully reopened at the end of June 2021. During the time we were closed, we provided curbside delivery for those who wished to borrow library materials.

In August we hosted an evening of ukulele music presented by David Maloof, who also provided instruments and instructions to those interested in playing a ukulele. In early October, with funding provided by the Goshen and Massachusetts Cultural Councils, we hosted an afternoon tea, accompanied by music presented by harpist Piper Shaw Pichette.

Did you know the library has passes for free or reduced admission to several local museums, including Historic Deerfield, The Clark museum, Hancock Shaker Village, The Eric Carle Museum of Picturebook Art, and MassMoca? Contact the library for additional details regarding borrowing the library's passes.

For information regarding recent acquisitions, notices of upcoming programs, etc. consult the library's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Public-Library-of-Goshen-Massachusetts-109398403860024/>

If you would like to be on our mailing list for an occasional newsletter and email notifications of upcoming library programs/events, please send your request to goshenfreelibrary@gmail.com.

We appreciate receiving suggestions of books, movies, etc. that you would like to see included in the library's collections. Please visit the library or send your ideas to the email noted above.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the library soon.

Respectfully submitted, Martha Noblick, Library Director

Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Report



General Events: COVID-19 has impacted the work that needs to be completed by Triwire Engineering, the company subcontracted to build out the network and do customer installations. Additionally, Triwire went through bankruptcy in the fall of 2021 and was purchased by a larger company, ITG Communications. This transition contributed to a general slowing of some functions as the two companies integrated.

Utility Company Work: All National Grid, Verizon and MBI Axia/KCST/Local Linx make ready and make ready remediation work was completed in 2021. This included replacing poles and moving wires to accommodate the Goshen fiber optic line installation, while adhering to current regulatory and engineering standards.

Distribution Network Construction: This Includes fiber optic cable, wire cable strand, grounding rods, network extensions, splice cases & MST installation on the roads. Additionally, this work includes splicing, testing, verification and certification of each fiber along every road back to the network hut. This work began in February 2021 and continued through the end of 2021 and into 2022. The splicing and testing required to complete the release of each Fiber Service Area (FSA) has lagged behind the actual construction due to lack of skilled technical employees to complete the work in a timely manner. This has negatively impacted the time frame for activation of FSA3.

Network Hut: Work was mostly completed in 2021. All the network electronics were installed, tested and provisioned. A failover generator with propane fuel was connected to provide electricity during utility company power outages. A grounding halo to protect against electrical disruption was installed. Battery UPS devices were installed to bridge power from electrical outages until the generator power begins. Fiber optic cable from all locations in town were connected back to the hut through an underground vault and connected to the MBI middle mile. Splicing, testing, verification and certification of all fiber optic connections will continue throughout 2021 and into 2022.

Customer Installations: In preparation for customer installations, underground service consultations and trenching began in June and continued through early November. This work will resume in spring 2022 when the ground has sufficiently thawed to continue. Customer installations began Labor Day week in 2021, when FSA2, the central part of town, went live. In FSA1, the eastern part of town, customer installations began in the middle of November 2021. Each customer installation is unique for each location and averages 4 hours of work. One installer can finish two installations per day. By the end of 2021 over 200 Goshen premises had been connected and over 400 premises had signed up for service.

SOURCES OF FUNDING RECEIVED & IN USE BY THE END OF 2021	
Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development (EOHED) Grants	\$1,279,837.00
Debt Override Borrowing Approved by Town	\$1,400,000.00
US American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) tranche 1	\$158,271.00
Subtotal:	\$2,838,108.00

For a complete list of current (late 2020 & beyond) project updates go to

[https://www.goshen-ma.us/news/?filter_categories\[\]=98](https://www.goshen-ma.us/news/?filter_categories[]=98)

Wayne Glaser, MLP Manager

Open Space Committee

During the first three months of 2021, Open Space completed the final items required for completion and state approval of the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). These items were completed with assistance from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) for which we received a grant that covered the funding. Goshen received final state approval in March. The current updated OSRP covers the period 2021 - 2028.

Open Space met with Lorraine Brisson about joining and forming a subcommittee to look at rehabilitation of Memorial Park. In addition to the park, the tennis courts and parking lot need to be addressed. This will be a lengthy process and broken into phases. Goshen also has the benefit of utilizing elements of the design submitted by the Conway School of Design. We have decided to name the project "Re-imagine Goshen Center", as it better reflects the essence of the project and excitement of what can be accomplished.

Research into grants and funding is ongoing. Lorraine has contacted Nick Dines about joining the subcommittee and preparing a preliminary design.

There will be a full presentation to the town and a visioning session for feedback on the project that can be incorporated into the design.

Other projects:

Bryan Osetek of the snowmobile club repaired the broken board on the South Loop bridge in November. Thank you for your help.

Open Space will be working with the Goshen Planning Board on updating the floodplain bylaw.

Hilltown Land Trust has presented several projects that are on the horizon for open space protection that we will be working on as well.

We are very happy to welcome new members Lorraine Brisson and Jane Hillman. It's great to have a full committee as well as an exciting town center project!

The Open Space Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. in the back office at Town Offices. We welcome and encourage new members and volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Papush, Chair

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).

In the election in 2021, Corey Carvallo and Keith Wright joined the Board as new members. At a subsequent Board meeting Jim Barrett was elected Chairman and Treasurer, and Joe Frye was elected Secretary. The Board thanked Roger Culver for his long service as Chairman.

During the course of the year, the Board approved six plans of land as Approval Not Required under Goshen subdivision regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Town of Goshen Planning Board
Jim Barrett, Chairman
Joseph Frye, Secretary
Roger Culver
Corey Carvallo
Keith Wright

Town of Goshen Police Department

In June 2021 Chief Jeffrey Hewes and Officer Donna Hewes retired after many years of service to the Town of Goshen. During their tenure they offered programs benefiting the children in Goshen and Chesterfield through the D.A.R.E program at New Hingham Elementary School and the Bicycle & Helmet Safety program. They also helped to create the Trunk or Treat program for Halloween. Thank you for your many years of service and congratulations on your retirement.

Five officers have joined the Police Department over the last year, and each brings valuable experience to the department. The officers are: Beth Bezio, Fred Bezio, Eric Haberman, Brian Tennyson, and Jeffrey Fish. If you see any of our team out and around the Town, feel free to say "Hello".

Beth Bezio serves as the police chief for the Town of Ashfield and assists with gun licensing and administrative support. Fred Bezio brings six years of experience from the Town of Ashfield. Eric Haberman worked with the Hampden County Sheriff's Law Division and with the Town of West Springfield as a reserve officer. Brian Tennyson also works part time as a reserve officer with the Town of Bernardston and is a Goshen native. Jeffrey Fish has rejoined and brings many years of service with the City of Easthampton and Town of Westhampton.

All officers are working through the state-mandated Bridge Academy and will become full-time certified. This consists of over 300 hours of classroom and hands-on training. The added training costs are being shared with the other towns where the officers also work.

There has been an increase in reports of telephone schemes that have resulted in monetary losses. As a reminder, DO NOT provide any personal information over the telephone or provide gift cards if asked by a caller. Just hang up.

Renewals for your License to Carry (LTC) should be started 30 days prior to your expiration date to allow sufficient processing time. The fee for licensing is \$100, and there is no charge for anyone 70 years or older. Call the office to schedule an appointment.

Any unwanted or out-dated prescriptions for medication can be dropped off at anytime during the year with an appointment.

Emergencies should be reported to 911, and non-emergencies may be called in to 413-586-1508. The police station is located at 40 Main Street, at the rear of the building, and the office phone number is 413-268-3116, and the email address is goshenmapd@gmail.com. The mailing address is PO Box 23, Goshen, MA 01032.

Respectfully submitted,

William Bissell, Acting Police Chief

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission continued to maintain our Tilton Town Field recreation area in 2021. General maintenance and ballfield preparation was attended to throughout the year as needed by Talon Zdanewicz and Matt Gougon.

With COVID 19 restrictions still in place for most of the year, the town fields were not utilized as they have been in the past. There was limited softball with an adult tournament in September/October and no little league gatherings or Hilltown Junior Olympics. The Council on Aging hosted an ice cream social, Sarah the Fiddler, and an appreciation luncheon with activities. A couple of local college students taking an astronomy class asked to use the field one evening to complete an assignment. We continue to see many local people using the area and access to the DAR for outdoor recreation.

The designated representative from the Recreation Commission to the CPA Committee is now Joan Griswold.

The Recreation Committee purchased a large tent that will be helpful year after year to provide shade for various outdoor events.

The Goshen Recreation Commission is in need of new membership and would benefit greatly from support of our townspeople who have connections to youth and youth-related activities, as well as other recreational desires. We ask that anyone interested in being a part of this committee please contact Joan Griswold at joan@bybhealth.com.

Goshen Recreation Commission

Talon Zdanewicz - Chair, Mitchel Cichy, Roger Culver, Matt Gougon, and Joan Griswold

Schools – Hampshire Regional District – Superintendent Report

As the new Superintendent of Schools, I'd like to thank the school committees, local town administrators, Select Boards, and families for welcoming me into this role. It is truly a privilege to lead this district. I have been visiting the schools and observing classrooms frequently and am impressed with the districts' sense of community, level of collaboration, strive for academic excellence, focus on students' mental well-being, and consistent flexibility. Teaching and learning during the past 18 months have been challenging due to Covid-19 restrictions, staffing shortages, enacted safety protocols, and evolving DESE guidance. Physical safety and mental health have been our greatest priorities in 2021, as well as addressing the identified areas of academic regression over the past 18 months. Schooling continues to look different due to the mitigating safety measures we have in place, but as Covid-19 case counts decrease in the county and state, we look forward to a return to normalcy.

The Hampshire Regional member school districts continue to work toward a district with a shared vision of continued collaboration, common programming, instructional leadership focused on strengthening teaching, and sharing services and resources to better support each student. School committees are collaborating on a Five Districts Working Agreement that would clarify the employment and evaluation of the Superintendent and streamline policy revisions.

The 2021 Pioneer Valley Teaching in Excellence Award from the Grinspoon Foundation is a highly coveted award and recognizes the accomplishments and best teaching practices of our outstanding educators. This year's recipients were Jennifer Murphy from New Hingham Regional Elementary School and Bob Smith from the William E. Norris Elementary School in Southampton. Congratulations! 2022 award recipients will be announced shortly.

While the details of the year are summarized by the school principals in their individual reports, I would like to provide a few highlights from Central Office, which is made up of a number of fairly small support departments that all serve an essential role in making Hampshire schools as exceptional as they are. Following are reports from each of these departments:

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 budget of roughly \$30 million across many unique programs to support nearly 1,650 students and 362 employees throughout the region. While 2021 presented many challenges to the business office, through hard work and diligence, over \$1.25 million in COVID-19 funding was managed throughout the district, in addition to districts' operating budgets and regular entitlement grants. There was a flurry of spending as a result of COVID-19, and we successfully handled purchasing all necessary products and hiring maintenance services to ensure a safe school environment.

Additionally, in an effort to improve communication pertaining to the budgeting process, feedback was sought from school committees and community members. Seeking transparency, the Central Office budget was presented to all school committees prior to any school budgets in order for school committees to view the Central Office budget before having to approve a budget in its entirety. Transparency and open communications will be an ongoing effort of the school business office. My sincere gratitude to Business Administrator Bobbie Jones, Central Office staff, and building principals for all of their hard work!

Health Services

The primary focus of our health services team over the past year has been pandemic response: keeping our school communities safe and meeting the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic under the leadership of Stephanie Faas, Director of Health Services and our Nurse Leader. We have worked collaboratively with local boards of health and COVID-19 contact tracers to handle the ongoing case management of positive individuals, close contacts, and symptomatic individuals. Our nurses and administrators routinely completed contact tracing when positive individuals were in school while infectious. They also worked with staff and families to offer quarantine, isolation, and testing guidance as needed to ensure compliance with COVID-19 school protocols. Developing and implementing mitigating strategies and health/ safety protocols plays a critical role in our pandemic response. Multiple vaccination clinics were offered throughout the year with the assistance of our nurses who donated their time. Thank you to Anne Chaput (WES), Tracy Dale (Norris), Joann Duggan (Norris), Amy Dunham (NHRES), Karen Hendry (ATD), Lori McAvoy (ATD), Sam Pease (RH Conwell), Cyndy Domina and Lindsey Sojkowski (HRHS)!

While the pandemic has monopolized our time, the district nurses continue to provide safe and competent care to all of the students in our school communities. The Nurse Leader partnered with the HRHS athletic department this winter to coordinate a nutrition education seminar for middle/high school athletes stressing the importance of nutrition, fitness, and underfueling. Two of our school nurses, Cyndy Domina (HRHS) and Karen Hendry (ATD), held multiple CPR classes for staff in the district. We are also very proud of Tracy Dale (Norris) who passed the test required by the National Board for Certification of School Nurses to attain the prestigious National Certified School Nurse (NCSN) credential!

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction/Grants

There were significant increases in competitive grants awarded and entitlement grants received in 2021, written by Kate Messmer, in large part due to the pandemic. ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) monies were disbursed to each of the districts, as well as monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CvRF) and the State Coronavirus Prevention Fund. Competitive grants awarded included the Summer and Vacation Learning Grant, The Remote Learning Technology Grant, the After-School-Out-of-School Time Grant (ASOST), and the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) grant. The District was awarded \$184,235 through the Emergency Connectivity Fund Grant to fund mobile hotspots and laptops in order to ensure equitable access for students and staff to high-speed internet. There were also a number of Cultural Council grants awarded from the district's regional towns to support academic enrichment activities. In FY21, the total amount of entitlement grants was \$1,707,616; the total amount of competitive grants awarded in FY21 was \$602,199. Thus far in FY22, the total amount of entitlement grants received is \$1,150,923, and the total amount of competitive grants awarded is \$180,870.

Focused and engaging professional development enhances the mastery of teaching. One emphasis of this year's professional development for staff focused on social justice and equity across the schools. The districts worked with the National Center for Community and Justice (NCCJ) to prepare for the district's upcoming curriculum audit this spring, raising awareness around deconstructing curricular bias and increasing inclusive teaching practices in their schools. During the summer, HRHS staff was offered workshops on active pedagogy and technology, curriculum mapping and addressing curricular bias. Principals reviewed DESE's "Acceleration Roadmap" tool, which provided a focused and phased approach to supporting students as they returned to school for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, training was provided on the implementation of the Fastbridge Assessment System. In January, elementary teachers met in grade-level and content-specific cohorts to review the state standards and analyze student performance data.

Pupil Services

The Director of Pupil Services, Nancy Parlakulas, concluded a successful special education Tiered Focus Monitoring cycle with an on-site visit from DESE's Office of Public School Monitoring in the spring of 2021, which was previously postponed due to COVID-19. All 22 special education compliance areas reviewed were found to be compliant with federal and state special education laws and regulations, and no negative findings were reported. In addition, the director secured \$319,920 in grant funding to supplement the costs of special education programming and services for all the district schools.

At the start of this school year, Hampshire Regional High School's Clarke Mainstream Program welcomed two new Clarke teachers of the deaf, one Clarke speech and language pathologist, and five new students. The Mainstream program is a collaboration between Clarke Mainstream Services and Hampshire Regional High School and serves students in grades 9 to 12 from Hampshire and a variety of outside communities, including Springfield, Holyoke, Greenfield, Southbridge, and Westfield. Sending districts pay tuition for their students to attend the Mainstream program.

Technology

As in many other aspects of life during the pandemic, the role of technology took on an essential role in our District's mission to educate students. At no other time have we relied so heavily on the use of laptops, iPads, and virtual platforms for teaching, learning, communicating and conducting business in our schools. The challenges of virtual learning were navigated through Zoom, Google Classroom, and Seesaw. This change drove a fundamental shift in the way the District structured its technological infrastructure and the types of supports that were necessary to be successful.

Under the guidance of our Technology Director Kim Florek, all schools in the District transitioned to a one-device-per-student model (1-to-1) in order to meet the demands of remote learning in 2021. During that time, approximately 1,500 student laptops and iPads were individually configured and assigned to students in grades PreK to 12. In order to protect the District's inventory of laptops and iPads that students were taking home, a Device Protection Plan (DPP), a type of insurance, was developed and offered to families at Hampshire Regional High School and the William E. Norris School. One of the most ambitious remote-learning technical challenges last year was the implementation of synchronous remote learning at both the William E. Norris School and the Hampshire Regional Middle/High School. "Zoom Stations" allowed for full remote participation in class for students who were at home.

In order to support the increased usage of the school's networks, the internal and external networks of all schools in the district were upgraded. These enhancements included reconfigurations of wireless networks and the implementation of internet fiber services at the Anne T. Dunphy School and the Westhampton Elementary School.

We are fortunate to have so much support from our communities and families, and we thank the towns for their collaboration throughout this year. Thank you for your support, advocacy and commitment to the Hampshire Regional public schools.

Sincerely,

Diana Bonneville, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Schools – Hampshire Regional High School – Principal’s Report

2021 continued to be greatly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic and was a year full of transitions, flexibility, and perseverance for students, staff, and our communities alike. After starting off primarily in a remote learning model in the fall of 2020, January of 2021 brought in-person education back for all of our students at Hampshire Regional High School. In January, many of our students came back to school in-person for two half days per week. Some students came four half days per week, while others chose to stay fully remote. Come April, most students started coming in-person four half days per week, and by the end of April, they were back in-person five full days a week. By the end of the year, approximately 10% of our students were still learning remotely while the other 90% were back in the school building full time.

We are so impressed with how our students, staff, and families alike persevered through many schedule iterations; remote, hybrid, and in-person learning; COVID restrictions; masking; and many new protocols in the school building. The amount of resilience that our school community – staff, students, and families – has shown throughout the past 18 months is incredible and admirable. Despite many challenges, I am proud to share that 30 juniors met all of the requirements for Academic Society, and were inducted into the Society in April of 2021. These students have maintained a minimum of a 3.7 GPA, completed their community service requirement, and consistently demonstrated excellent character and leadership.

Over 150 high school students took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in May and June. For the first time, many of the AP exams were fully administered online, while some continued to be paper exams in school. Our 7th, 8th, and 10th graders took MCAS again this year, this time in June (MCAS usually begins in March and goes throughout April and May). Middle school students took a shortened version of MCAS this year, while our 10th graders were still required to pass the full math and English tests in order to earn their high school diplomas in 2023.

In June, HRHS held its first ever outdoor musical and it was a huge success! Students spanning grades 7 to 12 performed scenes from *Frog and Toad*, *Chicago*, and *Little Women* over the course of three days out on Dorunda Field.

For the first time in many years, Commencement was held at HRHS in 2021. Ninety-seven students from the Class of 2021 graduated on June 3 out on Dorunda Field at a beautiful and unique ceremony. Bringing Commencement back to Westhampton was very special, and we look forward to continuing to hold this event at Hampshire Regional moving forward. Speakers at Commencement included Valedictorian Elias Touchette, Salutatorian Peter Tse, Class President Caitlin Reardon, Vice President Jillian Scott, Secretary Zoe Paradis Stern, Treasurer Maxwell Abel, and Class Advisors Kim Hallett and Chris Butler. Despite COVID restrictions, we were able to offer unique and exciting events for our seniors, including an outdoor Senior Banquet at the Log Cabin, a senior bonfire at the Westhampton Public Library, a class camping trip, and the traditional senior walk-throughs at the elementary schools.

June 18, 2021, brought an end to remote and hybrid learning. We were able to offer many exciting programs this summer, including two brand new programs.

- One of our new programs, called Next Level Performance Academy, had 20 students enrolled and ran two days per week. Students were able to identify their own focus areas and develop individual plans to work toward those goals.
- The other new program, called Raider Camp, was held over the course of two sessions in July and August. This program was for incoming 7th graders, and in total, almost 75% of our

incoming 7th graders participated. Raider Camp was run by HRHS staff members in addition to high school Student Council members, who facilitated team building activities and many other activities to get our new students acclimated to HRHS.

- At the end of August, we held a program specifically to help our students who stayed fully remote in 2020-2021 reintegrate into the school building. Fourteen students participated in this program that supported them as they returned to in-person schooling.
- We had two special education programs running in July – one is a program for incoming 7th graders to support them in their transition from elementary school to middle school. The other is our life skills program, where students work in the community, host an art gallery, and continue to practice the skills that they learn throughout the year.
- Finally, we held our typical credit recovery program for students who did not earn credit for one or two courses during the school year. Twenty-one students participated in credit recovery and recovered 26 credits in total.

We celebrated five retirements in 2021. Starr Adams was a para educator at HRHS for 23 years and retired in June. Bobbie Smith worked as a special education teacher here for 21 years. Dave Aultman was a custodian here at Hampshire for 24 years and officially retired on August 31. Patti Richmond worked here for the past 18 years as a school counselor and retired on August 26. Dara Adams-Smith was our band director for the past 22 years, and retired from her post on October 29. All are greatly missed in the halls of HRHS!

Kristen Smidy, who served as the Principal of Hampshire Regional since 2013, left her post at the end of July to become the Superintendent of the Gateway Regional School District. After working for the past three years as the Associate Principal at HRHS, I was fortunate enough to step into the Principal role. A new High School Assistant Principal, Alex Seid, was brought on board after teaching in Springfield for over 15 years.

We had many new hires for the 2021-2022 school year. Xavier Pease was hired in the spring to be Hampshire's full-time athletic trainer. John Plourd, the Director of Student Activities for the past six years, moved back into a full-time teaching role, and Jim Kelley has taken over the DSA position. Beth Rochon was hired as our new school counselor to replace Patti Richmond. Adam Burt, who was previously a para educator at HRHS, became a special education teacher. Jules Marciano, also previously a para educator here, is now a high school math teacher. CJ Holt was hired to teach physical education and health for this school year while Kari Daly is on parental leave. To replace retiree Dara Adams-Smith, Allison Ingraham was hired as our new band director. We also have many new para educators this year, including three Hampshire graduates: Morgan Cloutier, Karen Fisher, Joe Gentile, Sylvia Montague, Steven Musante, Nick Reid-Lastowski, and Dawn Young. Clarke School for the Deaf hired three new staff members who work full-time at Hampshire in our inclusive program: Brittany Dorn and Lila West are both teachers of the deaf, and Karen Cahalane is a speech language pathologist. We have two new faces in the cafeteria this year: Jennifer Mott and Jennifer Hathaway. Our two new nighttime custodians are Max Lyman and Nick Romanski.

The 2021-2022 school year marks Hampshire Regional's 50th birthday! Hampshire opened in September of 1971, and we are so excited to celebrate Hampshire's birthday this year. Hampshire is truly a special place to be – one that is progressive and always moving forward, but still steeped in tradition with deep ties to the community. Twenty-two staff members are graduates of Hampshire Regional between the years of 1974 and 2019, including teachers, para educators, principal, a van driver, and a school resource officer. We are looking forward to inviting the community to our 50th birthday party in the spring of 2022!

All students came back into the school building full time in September. While school certainly looks different than it has in the past, students, families and staff alike were thrilled to return to some sense of normalcy. Notable differences in the school day include universal mask wearing, new lunch locations, social distancing during lunch, mask breaks, more outdoor education, and frequent hand sanitizing. In addition to our new 7th graders, we welcomed 60 new students (some school choice, some re-enrolling at HRHS after a year away) to Hampshire Regional.

Our students continue to push themselves and consistently demonstrate determination, competitiveness, and academic excellence. This year, we have 111 high school students enrolled in at least one of our 18 AP courses, with many students taking more than one. Students also have the opportunity to take online AP courses if we do not offer it here at the school. Five of our current seniors were named *Commended Students* in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program: William Cook, Madeleine Manganelli, Eleanor Meunier, Nora Mulvehill, and Sarah Unger (out of approximately 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation). One senior, Suzannah Buehler, was named a *Semifinalist* in the National Merit Scholarship Program (only 16,000 students nationwide are named as Semifinalists!). In November, our Junior Achievement team took first place in the Stock Market Challenge run by the Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts.

We were excited to be able to offer as many “typical” school activities as possible this past fall. Our seniors in the class of 2022 were able to purchase and then paint their own parking spots as part of the senior painting party in late August and early September. Our athletic program was up and running in a mostly typical fashion, including gymnastics, golf, cross country, soccer, and our co-op football team. Many of our clubs are running again this year, including the Yearbook Committee, Junior Achievement, Chess Club, As Schools Match Wits, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Student Council, World Cultures Club, Club Kindness, Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA), Insingeraiders, and more.

In an effort to hold a modified version of Open House, we held our first ever outdoor Open House on September 30. Staff members were stationed by middle school teams and departments out on the track, and students and families were able to walk the track and speak with all of their teachers individually. We also held an Activity Fair at this event so that students and families could see what we offer outside of school hours. Finally, 7th grade parents, and parents of students new to HRHS, were offered tours of the building by Student Council students. The event was festive, fun, and well-attended!

Our middle school teams were excited to have “in-school field trips” in October. The teambuilding activities on these days were facilitated by Next Level Adventures, in addition to Hampshire teachers. These were great opportunities for our students to begin connecting (or reconnecting) with one another after a year of not being able to connect in these ways.

In November, Drama Company had their first in-person performance since the pandemic began and presented three performances of *Much Ado About Nothing* in front of live audiences. The HRHS Musical held auditions, and the group has been working hard to prepare for the spring musical in 2022. HRHS Choral Director, Aidan Linden, held our first in-person choral concert in November, and while it was a shortened version of our typical concerts, it was wonderful for families to be able to see their students perform in person again.

I cannot fully express my deep gratitude and appreciation for the amount of work that the staff at Hampshire Regional High School has done over the past 12 months. Our staff seamlessly transitioned between remote, hybrid, and full in-person learning. They sought out additional professional development and honed their technology skills in ways nobody had ever imagined necessary. Many

have stepped into new roles (in addition to their typical roles) to be class advisors, extracurricular advisors, and coaches, in order to offer these important activities for students. They have dealt with multiple schedule iterations to best support our students' academic, physical, and mental health needs. Although 2021 was certainly a year full of challenges for everybody, Hampshire Regional truly is a special place to be. We are so fortunate to have so much support from our communities and families, and we thank the towns for their collaboration throughout this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Hotz, Principal

Schools - New Hingham Regional Elementary School - Principal's Report Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School District

It is my privilege to submit this annual report of New Hingham Regional Elementary School. As I write this year's report, it is remarkable to reflect on the continued transformation of public education. Last year, the primary focus was on reopening schools during a global pandemic, and it was incredibly difficult to encapsulate in words the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on society as-a-whole, especially public schools. Despite a challenging 2020-2021 school year, we ended the year on a positive note and entered the summer season with a sense of normalcy, particularly due to the widespread availability of the COVID vaccine, low case counts, and loosened mask use requirements. As Fall 2021 approached, we felt confident that we would return to a "normal" school year. At the beginning of the year, we held our second annual all-school field trip to Pine Hill Orchards, moved desks slightly closer for collaborative groupings, and re-focused all of our energy on teaching and learning; however, as we progressed through the autumn months, new variants emerged, case counts increased, mandates and guidelines continually changed, and the prospect of a more typical school year began to fade.

Since October 2020, New Hingham has remained committed to a full in-person learning model and, despite the ever-evolving pandemic, we knew that any other model would have devastating implications on the emotional, social, and academic well-being of children. Fortunately, we had far more information than we had the previous year; therefore, we continued our collaborative work to ensure the best possible environment for children and staff with a strong focus on health and safety measures.

One essential component of an effective school community is a positive environment for faculty/staff. Due to changes in our school community and the negative impact of the pandemic, it was imperative for the staff to develop a shared set of core values that would lead us to collaborate toward our common goals of optimal student outcomes and optimal professional practice. Through several collaborative professional development sessions, we created the following core values:

1. Empathy: We will approach our work and each other with tenderness, kindness, and compassion.
2. Camaraderie: We will build a comfortable community developed by caring relationships, intentional communication, and collaboration.
3. Optimism: We will assume the best in each other and recognize that, through each of our interactions, we all have different perspectives.
4. Respect: We will foster a sense of belonging by showing support of each other, recognizing that our actions and choices have an impact on others.

5. Creativity: We will share ideas, take risks by trying new things, and evaluate/fine tune our personal and professional practice to foster continual growth.

In addition to the creation of our core values, there are several celebratory accomplishments for which we are also proud. While we still have some work ahead of us with our MCAS (i.e., state-wide standardized test) achievement levels, we experienced extremely high levels of student growth in both English language arts and mathematics. In addition, our student school climate survey data indicated that students feel a strong sense of belonging and positive attitude about New Hingham, and our scores were significantly higher than the state average. Students have also reported their love of the new ceramics class with our art teacher, Mr. Quiles, which is in addition to art, music, PE, and technology.

In any school setting, it is typical for students to require “Tier II Intervention,” which are additional programs and strategies provided to students who require support beyond classroom instruction. We have a robust intervention program with a newly-created full-time math interventionist, as well as a reading interventionist, who provide students extra support in their respective content areas. In the past, students who needed extra support in both areas were only able to receive support in one area due to scheduling conflicts; therefore, we re-created our master schedule and students are now able to receive extra support in both areas, if needed, without missing core academic instruction or specials.

Technology and the internet, when utilized responsibly, are invaluable tools in the world of education. Unfortunately, many of our students and families were impacted by the digital divide due to limited technology and internet access; however, our community has made many gains. The towns’ commitment to the broadband project helps eliminate the equity issue and affords the opportunity to energize learning experiences in new ways by enhancing and extending learning beyond the classroom and bridging gaps in communication. Over the past several years, we have worked to ensure that students and staff have the most up-to-date technology to enhance teaching and learning. Through the use of grant and local funding, we purchased a new fleet of laptops for students in grades 3-6, interactive projectors for teachers, and iPads for our early childhood students. Some of our previous inventory was perfect for personal use, but it was insufficient for school use due to operating system requirements, so we donated thirty-two laptops to families and staff members in need within the school community.

Fall 2021 Enrollment	
PreKindergarten	30
Kindergarten	25
1st Grade	12
2nd Grade	19
3rd Grade	17
4th Grade	16
5th Grade	18
6th Grade	14
Total	151

In the past year, we have increased our student enrollment primarily due to incoming school choice and our tuition-free PreKindergarten program. The PreKindergarten program has been completely funded through the reallocation of staffing within our existing budget, and it provides families the opportunity to enroll their child in a full-time program with highly-qualified staff. There are several reasons for offering a tuition-free program. A significant amount of learning takes place between the ages of three and five. During this time, a PreK program benefits children by providing early learning activities that support students’ social development and academic growth. Our program also affords us the opportunity to identify student need and provide early intervention services with the goal of minimizing the need for future special education support, if possible. Investing in young children in their early years has numerous benefits, both developmentally for the child and financially for the school district, in the long term.

As our building quickly approaches twenty-five-years of age, maintenance items are beginning to appear more often. In an effort to provide both towns a forecast of the school’s needs, we now have a ten-year capital improvement plan that will be discussed on a yearly basis. While some capital items can certainly wait a few years, other items will be more pressing and require immediate attention. Within the capital improvement plan, we were able to recently complete an overdue HVAC controls replacement, funded by grants, and glycol replacement, funded by grants and local funding.

School funding and budgeting continue to be an important topic of conversation, and it is imperative for all stakeholders to advocate for our rural schools. Several years ago, the legislature approved “rural school aid” as a way of addressing the financial challenges of rural school districts. In the initial distribution, we were one of thirty-three rural school districts to receive funding; however, additional districts are now eligible and, despite the increase in the state budget for this initiative, New Hingham’s funding has decreased from approximately \$26k to \$16k. The formula is calculated by using students per square mile and per capita income below the state average, with priority given to districts serving fewer students per square mile. While this is a step in the right direction, there is a significant amount of work that needs to be completed for more equitable school funding formulas. For now, we will continue to use the funding for capital improvements and initiatives that positively impact our learning community. All of the aforementioned collaborative work would not be possible without the dedication and commitment from all staff members, both veteran and new. As we prepared for the 2021-2022 school year, we welcomed the following staff members who have all made a positive impact in our school:

- **Maia Anthony**, Paraprofessional
- **Meg Danek**, PreKindergarten Teacher
- **Nickolas Desmarais**, Custodian
- **Amy Dunham**, Nurse
- **Rylie Greenwood**, Kindergarten Teacher
- **Leah LaBarre**, Cafeteria Assistant
- **Jessica Liimatainen**, Paraprofessional
- **Pauline Stokes**, Speech Pathologist
- **Helena Thomas**, Paraprofessional
- **Kathryn Wickline**, Paraprofessional
- **Erika Wildman**, PreKindergarten Teacher

In June 2021, we acknowledged the retirement of **Ronald Loven** and **Donna Brown**. “Ronnie” served as one of our custodians for nearly twenty years and Donna served as our school nurse for seventeen years. We wish Ronnie and Donna the best in their retirement!

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award, also known as the Grinspoon Award, is distributed annually to honor Western Massachusetts educators for their dedication and excellence. This year, I was honored to present the award to **Jennifer Murphy**, one of our Kindergarten teachers. Ms. Murphy truly understands her teaching philosophy, which effectively reflects her personal values and beliefs. As our educational landscape constantly changes, she accepts this as an opportunity for learning and growth, seeking and implementing the best practices for all of her students. Ms. Murphy is collaborative, committed, visionary, open minded, inspiring, and a champion in the field of elementary education.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we transitioned our annual sixth-grade graduation from the gymnasium to the large field behind the school. This allowed us to celebrate the following sixth-grade graduates in a COVID-style outdoor ceremony on an evening that graced us with a spectacular sunset: **Madison Baldwin, Cian Beals, Sam Bond, Madelyn Carter, Julia Clark, Bella Paige Foster, Ryan Gougeon, Lily Hughes, Benjamin Judd, Riley Ketcherside, Thomas Moore, Hailey Paszko, Jayden Shutt, Kelsey Tourigny, Jonathan Wallace, Seamus Woofenden, and Chandler Woodward**. We wish this talented group of students success in middle/high school.

As always, we appreciate our local neighbors and elected officials who support and strengthen our school community. It has been a privilege serving as your community’s principal for the past four 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 or (413) 296-0000. For more information about New Hingham and current events, please feel free to visit our school website at www.newhingham.org.

Yours in education,

Jesse McMillan

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 with particular focus on the impact of climate events on our roads.

Most significantly, for the second year, we managed town government in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our gratitude is extended to all departments, committees, boards and essential workers whose teamwork continued throughout the year to address agenda items, hold elections, prepare for an outdoor annual town meeting, attend critical training, and continue the business of the Town. Appreciation goes to the Council on Aging for their focus on senior well-being, providing exercise class remotely, healthy meals and addressing the everyday needs that arise.

Keeping up with the ever evolving COVID guidance and regulations from the Department of Public Health, Department of Revenue, MEMA and FEMA, which included frequent documentation and reporting so as to secure approval for funds for the town, was led by Dawn Scaparotti for reporting, Michael Kurland for the Board of Health Command Center. Both were supported by the Emergency Management Director, Larry Holmberg. The demands and time commitment were extreme. The funds awarded total an anticipated \$ 316,000 in ARPA funds and nearly \$105,000 in Cares Act and FEMA funding.

The Select Board, as Municipal Light Plant Board, engaged Westfield Gas and Electric to build the network that will provide high speed internet and telephone service to residents and businesses in the town. The construction began in February 2021 and more than 90% of subscribers will be connected by May of 2022. The Board, along with Finance Committee, worked to determine the projected annual expenses, revenue and service fees, and set policies for the network. Wayne Glaser, as MLP manager drove the scheduling, validation, resident communication and invoice approval of the build out /connectivity. This was a full time role in and of itself, for which we are grateful. See Municipal Lighting Plant report for the milestones achieved. The pandemic exacerbated the need to provide residents the ability to work remotely and underscored the reality of a lack in basic function. These issues were highlighted and presented to state legislators.

This year we appointed Cameron Lacey to Fire Chief and William Bissell to Interim Police Chief and were fortunate to appoint experienced part time police officers as well. as an assistant to the treasurer and to the collector.

To reduce taxpayer burden, the Board met regularly with the Treasurer and Collector regarding properties in Town possession or with delinquent taxes to resolve outstanding amounts. Three properties were successfully sold at auction.

The Town received a Complete Streets Grant to improve the walkability and connectivity for pedestrians and bikers on East Street from the Town Center. In addition to drilling a new well at the Fire Department, much needed work was done on the Fire Department Building due to water and rodent damage including exterior panels on the side of the building.

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

We close our report with tremendous appreciation for our General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Public Health, Community Services and Education employees, committees, boards, and commissions, all of whom work to do their best with limited resources.

Respectfully submitted,

The Goshen Select Board

Angela Otis, Chair

Wayne Glaser, Vice Chair

Kristine Bissell, Clerk

Tax Collector

	Outstanding as of 07/01/20	Committed	Collected	Abatements/ Exemptions/ Refunds/ Adjustments	Outstanding as of 6/30/2021	Collection Rate to Commitment	Collection Rate to Outstanding
Real Estate Taxes							
Fiscal Year 2021		\$ 2,651,720	\$ 2,557,795	\$ 9,789	\$ 84,135	97%	
Fiscal Year 2020	\$ 65,383		\$ 40,115		\$ 25,269		61%
All Previous Years	\$ 32,409		\$ 20,144		\$ 12,265		62%
Personal Property							
Fiscal Year 2021		\$ 76,958	\$ 76,958		\$ 0	100%	
All Previous Years	\$ 95				\$ 95		0%
CPA Account							
Fiscal Year 2021		\$ 79,751	\$ 79,949	\$ 766	\$ (963)	101%	
All Previous Years	\$ 603		\$ 299		\$ 304		50%
Motor Vehicle Excise							
Fiscal Year 2021		\$ 153,652	\$ 128,878	\$ 1,193	\$ 23,581	85%	
Fiscal Year 2020	\$ 19,351	\$ 12,932	\$ 29,391	\$ 747	\$ 2,145		93%
All Previous Years	\$ 6,558		\$ 971		\$ 3,996		39%

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Committed – Amount of tax due

Collected – Amount of tax collected

Abatements – A reduction in the tax assessed on our property for the fiscal year.

Exemptions – A relief from taxation authorized by statute and granted by the Assessors to certain taxpayers, such as Veterans, the elderly, and the blind.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Moulton, Tax Collector

Tilton Town Farm Report

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

Tilton Trails:

- Our collaboration with The Open Space Committee continues to benefit all people who use the hiking trails on the Tilton Land.

Tilton Land:

- We continue to enhance the open fields near and around the farmhouse and barn on the property.
- We are also pursuing our next steps with our Forest Management Program, under guidance from Bay State Forestry Service.

Farmhouse @ 27 Wing Hill Road:

- Due to the “Covid” effect on the cost of building supplies and shortages of those supplies, the Board decided not to pursue any construction improvements to the Tilton farmhouse and barn this year.
- The Board was very happy to welcome Jeffrey Haskell and Savannah Colon and their family as the new tenants in the Tilton Town farmhouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Town Accountant

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
Town Accountant
www.erickinsherfcpa.com

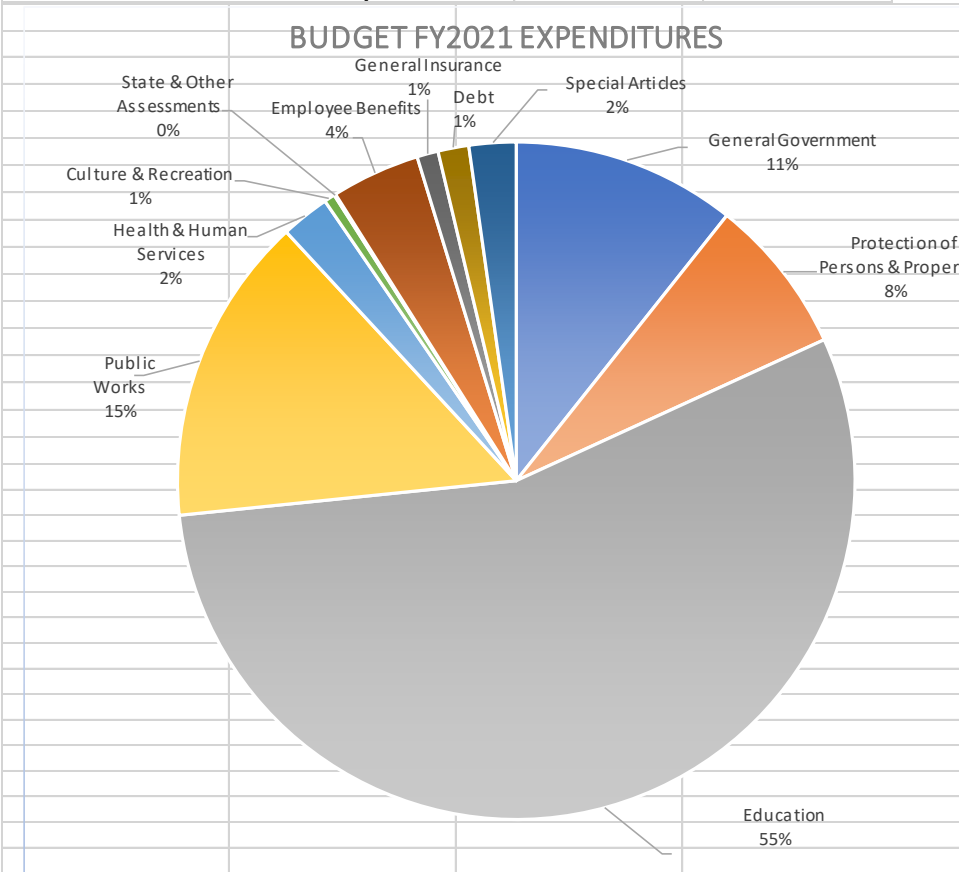
TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS						
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups						
as of June 30, 2021						
(Unaudited)						
	Governmental Fund Types			Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	976,535.49	1,885,751.00	613,275.23	221,470.29		3,697,032.01
Investments						0.00
Receivables:						
Personal property taxes	103.13					103.13
Real estate taxes (includes Rollback Taxes)	124,687.39	(3,757.26)				120,930.13
Deferred taxes						0.00
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(110,403.62)					(110,403.62)
Tax liens	45,705.07	767.73				46,472.80
Tax foreclosures	44,602.62					44,602.62
Motor vehicle excise	30,768.93					30,768.93
Other receivables						0.00
Due from other governments	31,426.00					31,426.00
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds					675,559.00	675,559.00
Total Assets	1,143,425.01	1,882,761.47	613,275.23	221,470.29	675,559.00	4,536,491.00
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY						
Liabilities:						
Accrued payroll and withholdings	2,153.49					2,153.49
Undistributed Receipts	17,500.00					17,500.00
Agency Funds				27,580.20		27,580.20
Deferred revenue:						
Real and personal property taxes	14,386.90	(3,757.26)				10,629.64
Tax liens	45,705.07	767.73				46,472.80
Tax foreclosures	44,602.62					44,602.62
Motor vehicle excise	30,768.93					30,768.93
Other receivables						0.00
Due from other governments	31,426.00					31,426.00
Due to other governments						0.00
Bonds payable			1,290,500.00			1,290,500.00
Notes payable					675,559.00	675,559.00
Total Liabilities	186,543.01	(2,989.53)	1,290,500.00	27,580.20	675,559.00	2,177,192.68
Fund Equity:						
Reserved for encumbrances	6,021.82					6,021.82
Reserved for expenditures	198,448.09					198,448.09
Reserved for continuing appropriations	255,787.03					255,787.03
Reserved for debt service	11,329.00					11,329.00
Reserved for appropriation deficit	(967.99)					(967.99)
Undesignated fund balance	486,264.05	1,885,751.00	(677,224.77)	193,890.09		1,888,680.37
Total Fund Equity	956,882.00	1,885,751.00	(677,224.77)	193,890.09	0.00	2,359,298.32
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,143,425.01	1,882,761.47	613,275.23	221,470.29	675,559.00	4,536,491.00

**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -
BUDGETARY BASIS - (NON-GAAP) -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

		Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Amounts	Variance with
	Carry Forward	Original Budget	Final Budget	Budgetary Basis	Carried Forward to Next Year	Final Budget Positive (Negative)
Revenues:						
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 2,708,912.69	\$ 2,708,912.69	\$ 2,697,230.36	\$ -	\$ (11,682.33)
Sale of Tax Foreclosure	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Excise & Other Taxes	\$ -	\$ 142,000.00	\$ 142,000.00	\$ 162,075.94	\$ -	\$ 20,075.94
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 13,939.33	\$ -	\$ (1,060.67)
Charges for Services-Trash Disposal & Sewer	\$ -	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 34,534.00	\$ -	\$ 15,534.00
Licenses, Permits & Fees	\$ -	\$ 26,500.00	\$ 26,500.00	\$ 51,860.86	\$ -	\$ 25,360.86
Other	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 15,566.06	\$ -	\$ 11,566.06
Fines & Forfeits	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,613.86	\$ -	\$ (3,386.14)
Interest from Investments	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,169.08	\$ -	\$ 969.08
Intergovernmental-Comm. of Mass.	\$ -	\$ 249,182.00	\$ 249,182.00	\$ 249,214.00	\$ -	\$ 32.00
Total Revenues	\$ -	\$ 3,170,794.69	\$ 3,170,794.69	\$ 3,228,203.49	\$ -	\$ 57,408.80
Expenditures:						
Current Fiscal Year:						
General Government	\$ -	\$ 420,095.00	\$ 402,319.45	\$ 308,103.62	\$ 2,239.64	\$ 91,976.19
Protection of Persons & Property	\$ -	\$ 224,327.00	\$ 224,327.09	\$ 215,875.70	\$ 773.47	\$ 7,677.92
Education	\$ -	\$ 1,617,796.00	\$ 1,617,796.00	\$ 1,592,309.83	\$ -	\$ 25,486.17
Public Works	\$ -	\$ 487,220.00	\$ 488,420.00	\$ 425,592.02	\$ 2,221.62	\$ 60,606.36
Health & Human Services	\$ -	\$ 62,531.00	\$ 69,202.76	\$ 67,072.65	\$ -	\$ 2,130.11
Culture & Recreation	\$ -	\$ 16,526.00	\$ 16,576.00	\$ 14,947.11	\$ 287.09	\$ 1,341.80
State & Other Assessments	\$ -	\$ 2,143.00	\$ 2,396.70	\$ 2,146.70	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Employee Benefits	\$ -	\$ 155,327.00	\$ 156,927.00	\$ 122,059.75	\$ -	\$ 34,867.25
General Insurance	\$ -	\$ 37,998.00	\$ 37,998.00	\$ 29,224.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 8,274.00
Debt Service:						
Principal & Interest on LT Debt	\$ -	\$ 37,856.00	\$ 37,856.00	\$ 37,853.14	\$ -	\$ 2.86
Interest on ST Debt	\$ -	\$ 13,999.00	\$ 13,999.00	\$ 4,550.00	\$ -	\$ 9,449.00
Special Articles	\$ -	\$ 264,024.21	\$ 264,626.34	\$ 64,626.35	\$ 200,000.00	\$ (0.01)
Total Current Fiscal Year Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 3,339,842.21	\$ 3,332,444.34	\$ 2,884,360.87	\$ 206,021.82	\$ 242,061.65
Other Expenditures:						
Prior Year Articles	\$ 72,657.80	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 24,870.77	\$ 55,787.03	\$ -
Prior Year Encumbrances	\$ 37,453.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,453.46	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Expenditures	\$ 110,111.26	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 62,324.23	\$ 55,787.03	\$ -
Total Expenditures	\$ 110,111.26	\$ 3,347,842.21	\$ 3,340,444.34	\$ 2,946,685.10	\$ 261,808.85	\$ 242,061.65
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ (110,111.26)	\$ (177,047.52)	\$ (169,649.65)	\$ 281,518.39	\$ (261,808.85)	\$ 299,470.45
Other Financing Sources (Uses):						
Operating Transfers In	\$ -	\$ 55,163.10	\$ 55,163.10	\$ 55,163.10	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Transfers (Out)	\$ -	\$ 108,813.89	\$ 108,813.89	\$ 108,813.89	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$ -	\$ (53,650.79)	\$ (53,650.79)	\$ (53,650.79)	\$ -	\$ -
Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	\$ (110,111.26)	\$ (230,698.31)	\$ (223,300.44)	\$ 227,867.60	\$ (261,808.85)	\$ 299,470.45
Audit Adjustments						
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year		\$ 729,014.40	\$ 729,014.40	\$ 729,014.40	\$ -	\$ -
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$ (110,111.26)	\$ 498,316.09	\$ 505,713.96	\$ 956,882.00	\$ (261,808.85)	\$ 299,470.45

**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES -
BUDGETARY BASIS - (NON-GAAP) -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

	Actual
	Budgetary Basis
Expenditures:	
Current Fiscal Year:	
General Government	\$ 308,103.62
Protection of Persons & Property	\$ 215,875.70
Education	\$ 1,592,309.83
Public Works	\$ 425,592.02
Health & Human Services	\$ 67,072.65
Culture & Recreation	\$ 14,947.11
State & Other Assessments	\$ 2,146.70
Employee Benefits	\$ 122,059.75
General Insurance	\$ 29,224.00
Debt	\$ 42,403.14
Special Articles	\$ 64,626.35
Total Current Fiscal Year Expenditures	\$ 2,884,360.87



**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL REVENUE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

	Fund Balances June 30, 2021	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance/Entry
Special Revenue:					
Federal Grants:					
Police Bullet Proof Vests	\$ 5,180.81	\$ 5,180.81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,180.81
EMPG Grant	\$ (2,063.42)	\$ (2,700.00)	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,063.42	\$ (2,063.42)
Police SAMHSA	\$ 118.53	\$ 500.01	\$ -	\$ 381.48	\$ 118.53
Fire VFA	\$ 1,191.10	\$ 1,191.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,191.10
Covid 19	\$ (16,135.12)	\$ (16,386.42)	\$ 83,625.00	\$ 83,373.70	\$ (16,135.12)
State Grants:					
Chapter 90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 123,281.35	\$ 123,281.35	\$ -
BOH Sustain Material Recovery	\$ 11,482.17	\$ 12,110.08	\$ 4,550.00	\$ 5,177.91	\$ 11,482.17
Solarize Mass	\$ 339.09	\$ 339.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 339.09
Fire Safety Equipment Grant	\$ (2,240.00)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,240.00	\$ (2,240.00)
Caring Community Building	\$ 361.50	\$ 361.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 361.50
Community Septic Management Program	\$ 8,585.16	\$ 8,585.16	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,585.16
Green Community	\$ 327.01	\$ 327.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 327.01
State Polling	\$ 1,945.30	\$ 351.99	\$ 1,593.31	\$ -	\$ 1,945.30
Municipal Vulnerability	\$ 13.92	\$ 2,710.43	\$ -	\$ 2,696.51	\$ 13.92
Online Permitting	\$ 3,292.03	\$ -	\$ 3,292.03	\$ -	\$ 3,292.03
Election State Grant	\$ 319.17	\$ -	\$ 319.17	\$ -	\$ 319.17
Senior Safe Grant	\$ 2,007.26	\$ 3.01	\$ 4,235.00	\$ 2,230.75	\$ 2,007.26
Fire/Safe Grant	\$ 2,817.85	\$ 5,120.77	\$ 1,739.00	\$ 4,041.92	\$ 2,817.85
Fire/Safe Grant	\$ 10,795.74	\$ 9,031.74	\$ 1,764.00	\$ -	\$ 10,795.74
Fire Turnout Gear	\$ 0.01	\$ (2,482.95)	\$ 2,482.96	\$ -	\$ 0.01
Traffic Enforcement	\$ 3,760.91	\$ 3,760.91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,760.91
Complete Streets	\$ (231,245.62)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 231,245.62	\$ (231,245.62)
Arts Council	\$ 9,059.31	\$ 5,734.39	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 1,475.08	\$ 9,059.31
COA Formula Grant	\$ (21.97)	\$ 0.42	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,022.39	\$ (21.97)
Library	\$ 2,677.95	\$ 597.23	\$ 2,896.30	\$ 815.58	\$ 2,677.95
Receipts Reserved for Appropriation:					
Wetlands Protection Fund	\$ 7,702.29	\$ 7,702.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,702.29
Sale of Cemetery Lots	\$ 13,719.84	\$ 12,969.84	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 13,719.84
ANCE Conservation	\$ 983.20	\$ 983.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 983.20
Hist Comm Gifts	\$ 5,561.59	\$ 3,561.59	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,561.59
History Book Fund	\$ 349.50	\$ 349.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 349.50
Transportations Network	\$ 6.30	\$ 5.70	\$ 0.60	\$ -	\$ 6.30
Revolving Funds:					
Recreation	\$ 1,720.69	\$ 1,720.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,720.69
Ambulance	\$ 8,978.09	\$ 10,424.29	\$ 5,180.10	\$ 6,626.30	\$ 8,978.09
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 6,469.47	\$ 6,027.64	\$ 1,243.00	\$ 801.17	\$ 6,469.47
Animal Control	\$ 8,854.88	\$ 7,593.74	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 668.86	\$ 8,854.88
Electrical Inspectors	\$ 6,938.00	\$ 3,998.00	\$ 2,940.00	\$ -	\$ 6,938.00
Assessors	\$ 4,397.50	\$ 4,397.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,397.50
Police Detail	\$ (22,086.95)	\$ 21,393.05	\$ 129,624.00	\$ 173,104.00	\$ (22,086.95)
Other Special Revenue:					
CPA Fund	\$ 862,120.66	\$ 709,270.89	\$ 153,149.77	\$ 300.00	\$ 862,120.66
State Septic Grant	\$ 100,804.20	\$ 100,804.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,804.20
Septic Grant Interest	\$ 3,950.67	\$ 3,869.17	\$ 81.50	\$ -	\$ 3,950.67
COA Donations	\$ 6,791.38	\$ 3,361.38	\$ 4,390.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 6,791.38
Police Donation	\$ 1,955.00	\$ 1,955.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,955.00
Library Gifts	\$ 2,169.40	\$ 1,946.00	\$ 223.40	\$ -	\$ 2,169.40
Playground Donation	\$ 442.79	\$ 442.79	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 442.79
Goshen Kids Activities	\$ 913.80	\$ 913.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 913.80
Library Interest	\$ 109.41	\$ 109.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 109.41
Law Enforcement Trust	\$ 0.83	\$ 0.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.83
Police MED Program	\$ 3,174.41	\$ 1,874.41	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -	\$ 3,174.41
Comm Forest Gr Tilton	\$ 1,481.75	\$ 1,481.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,481.75
Stabilization Accounts:					
General	\$ 267,789.63	\$ 267,263.49	\$ 526.14	\$ -	\$ 267,789.63
Assessors Property Reval	\$ 32,759.01	\$ 32,740.50	\$ 18.51	\$ -	\$ 32,759.01
Fire Dept Vehicle	\$ 11,140.85	\$ 10,812.27	\$ 328.58	\$ -	\$ 11,140.85
Town Buildings	\$ 1,329.81	\$ 1,287.07	\$ 42.74	\$ -	\$ 1,329.81
Audit	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Capital	\$ 717,654.32	\$ 663,954.05	\$ 108,863.37	\$ 55,163.10	\$ 717,654.32
Total Special Revenues	\$ 1,885,751.01	\$ 1,932,550.32	\$ 655,869.83	\$ 702,669.14	\$ 1,885,751.01

**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS
CAPITAL PROJECTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

	Fund Balances June 30, 2021	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance/Entry
Capital Projects:					
NHRES Roof	\$ 24,646.21	\$ 24,646.21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,646.21
Town Hall Rehabilitation	\$ 37,349.29	\$ 37,349.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,349.29
Landfill	\$ 73,190.54	\$ 73,295.54	\$ 10,796.00	\$ 10,901.00	\$ 73,190.54
Police Cruiser	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ -		\$ 1,650.00
Police AWD SUV	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.31	\$ -		\$ 0.31
Book Binding	\$ 1,066.74	\$ 1,066.74	\$ -		\$ 1,066.74
Narrowband Replace Radio	\$ 430.00	\$ 430.00	\$ -		\$ 430.00
West Street Reconstruction	\$ 4,110.49	\$ 4,110.49	\$ -		\$ 4,110.49
East Street Culvert	\$ 2,601.85	\$ 2,601.85	\$ -		\$ 2,601.85
Computer Technology	\$ 1,348.00	\$ 1,348.00	\$ -		\$ 1,348.00
Transfer Containers	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 1,540.00	\$ -		\$ 1,540.00
Highway Plow/Dump Truck	\$ (190,500.00)	\$ (212,500.00)	\$ 22,000.00		\$ (190,500.00)
Highway Pickup Truck	\$ (6.00)	\$ (6.00)			\$ (6.00)
Broadband Borrowing+Last Mile Grant	\$ (634,652.20)	\$ (32,760.09)	\$ 83,435.43	\$ 685,327.54	\$ (634,652.20)
Total Capital Projects	\$ (677,224.77)	\$ (97,227.66)	\$ 116,231.43	\$ 696,228.54	\$ (677,224.77)

**TOWN OF GOSHEN, MASSACHUSETTS
SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS AND AGENCY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

	Fund Balances June 30, 2021	Opening Balance	Rev	Exp	Balance/Entry
Trust Funds:					
<i>Non-Expendable:</i>					
Archibald McConnell	\$ 1,647.75	\$ 1,646.81	\$ 0.94	\$ -	\$ 1,647.75
Lib. Carmela Walsh St	\$ 25,051.74	\$ 15,859.50	\$ 9,192.24	\$ -	\$ 25,051.74
Wright Fund Almoners	\$ 13,097.39	\$ 13,097.38	\$ 0.01	\$ -	\$ 13,097.39
<i>Expendable Trust:</i>					
Cemetery Trust	\$ 9,172.25	\$ 9,164.00	\$ 8.25	\$ -	\$ 9,172.25
Cemetery Perpetual	\$ 17,052.09	\$ 17,022.32	\$ 29.77	\$ -	\$ 17,052.09
Consolidated Trust	\$ 3,114.44	\$ 3,111.62	\$ 2.82	\$ -	\$ 3,114.44
Library Trust	\$ 53,664.13	\$ 53,256.17	\$ 407.96	\$ -	\$ 53,664.13
Lib Durkan Bequest	\$ 2,349.28	\$ 2,349.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,349.28
John McCrae Firehouse	\$ 16,531.06	\$ 16,521.71	\$ 9.35	\$ -	\$ 16,531.06
Whiting St Poor Almoners	\$ 16,411.06	\$ 16,404.14	\$ 6.92	\$ -	\$ 16,411.06
Town Clerk	\$ 339.77	\$ 339.49	\$ 0.28	\$ -	\$ 339.77
Tilton Tn Farm	\$ 35,459.13	\$ 26,575.82	\$ 15,871.25	\$ 6,987.94	\$ 35,459.13
Agency Funds:					
Police Firearms Licenses	\$ 8,042.10	\$ 6,925.10	\$ 1,117.00	\$ -	\$ 8,042.10
Firearms Permits	\$ 887.50	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 2,725.00	\$ 3,112.50	\$ 887.50
Due to Deputy Collector	\$ 13,701.00	\$ 13,701.00	\$ 876.00	\$ 876.00	\$ 13,701.00
Dog Licenses	\$ 4,949.60	\$ 4,949.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,949.60
Total Trust Funds	\$ 221,470.29	\$ 202,198.94	\$ 30,247.79	\$ 10,976.44	\$ 221,470.29

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.

2021 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 certifying all vital records by signing and affixing the town seal.

Births: Goshen happily welcomed six newborns into the community in 2021 - one male and five females.

Marriages: Two couples were joined in marriage, with the issuance and recording of their marriage in Goshen in 2021.

Deaths: Our deepest condolences to all families who lost a loved one this year. In 2021, Goshen recorded seven deaths.

<u>Dogs:</u>	Single Licenses Issued: 241
	Kennel Licenses Issued: 1

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 Listing), entering all town residents into the state database.

2021 Street Listing: 988 Residents

Registered Voters: 804

Town Meetings held in 2021: (See pages 54-56 for meeting minutes)

- March 15, 2021 (Annual Town Caucus)
- June 12, 2021 (Annual Town Meeting)

Elections held in 2021:

- May 1, 2021 (Annual Town Election; 62 ballots cast)

Beginning in March 2020, all Town Clerk business had to be conducted by appointment or by mail as the town offices were closed to the public due to the pandemic. What a joy it was to welcome people into my office again when we reopened in June 2021! Getting to know all of you and visiting with you in

person as we deal with the transactions of everyday life is one of my favorite parts of being your town clerk.

With one year of the pandemic under our belt, the Annual Town Election in May went smoothly. I'd like to thank Evelyn Kellogg-Culver, Election Warden, and Kit Rock, Election Clerk, as they once again handled all the Covid-19 precautions and vote-by-mail ballots efficiently. I am sad to report that Evelyn has decided to step down as Election Warden; her expertise and friendly demeanor will be missed. I have confidence that Kit Rock and Shannon Wade will both do well as our two new Wardens.

Thank you, election workers and constable, for your hard work. Thank you, Ronnie Loven, for setting up and taking down all the election equipment. Last but not least, thank you, Gina Papineau, for your continued assistance and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen M. Estelle, Town Clerk of Goshen

TOWN OF GOSHEN

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

FIELD BEHIND TOWN OFFICES

Saturday, June 12, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m., a quorum being present and 67 voters signed in. The meeting was held under a tent in the field behind town offices, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Chairs were spaced six feet apart and masks were optional.

Moderator Keith Wright informed the group that the meeting was being recorded to aid the Town Clerk in taking minutes. He recognized the Goshen residents who passed away since the last annual town meeting: Clarence Rowley III, James Kandrotas, Mario Arrubla, Evelyn Arnold, and Anthony Thomas Jr., who was a selectman for 15 years, Town Moderator, and a member of numerous town boards and committees. He also volunteered for more than 20 years as an EMT on Goshen Ambulance, and was on Goshen, Chesterfield and Williamsburg Fire Departments. Tommy served our town with a dedication and spirit that will be missed by all.

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

Angela Otis, Chair of the Select Board, introduced State Representative Natalie Blais, who came up to the podium and presented Certificates of Recognition for the four soon-to-be retired town employees: Police Chief Jeffrey Hewes, Police Officer Donna Hewes, Fire Chief Susan Labrie, and Fire Captain Robert Labrie.

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 authorize the chief elected officials to apply for Massachusetts Small Cities Programs, or other Federal, or any State monies, and to expend any monies received as set forth in the appropriate application.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$6,931.91 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Ford Super Duty F350 ¾ ton pickup truck.

Ford Super Duty F350 pickup truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$6,278.90	\$653.01	\$6,931.91

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 2nd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing. **Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 3: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$23,899.78 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019Mack single axle primary plow/dump truck.

Mack Primary Plow/Dump Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$22,000.00	\$1,899.78	\$23,899.78

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 2nd of 10 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$9,238.50 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	\$238.50	\$9,238.50

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

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

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 5: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$11,802.97 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD.

Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$10,691.10	\$1,111.87	\$11,802.97

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 2nd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 6: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow a sum of \$50,000.00 for a period of up to five (5) years or less, in accordance with the capital plan, to fund the purchase of a Kubota 3560 HSCT

four wheel drive tractor, heated cab, six foot snow blower, seven foot road side mower and a bucket loader outfitted for the Highway Department.

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: The new tractor would replace both the existing 1973 & 1976 failing tractors.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to expend from the Capital Stabilization account, the sum of \$7,000.00 for the purchase of a replacement VOIP phone system.

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This will replace an aging and unsupported phone system that does not perform the required functions and cannot be maintained or upgraded.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the treasurer to expend from the Fire Department Vehicle Stabilization account, the sum of \$8,600.00 to purchase a used replacement for the 2002 Ford Rescue [56 Rescue 1]. The 2002 Ford Rescue vehicle is to be sold within six months of acquiring the replacement vehicle from HAEMS.

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This vehicle is scheduled, on the Capital Plan, to be replaced in FY2025. The current vehicle is in poor shape and requires in excess of \$10,000.00 in repairs to make it to FY 2025. This will allow us to delay the planned new vehicle replacement. Highland Ambulance has offered to sell their used vehicle for \$8,600.00 to the town.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from Free Cash the sum of \$8,448.09 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	\$214.09	\$8,448.09

Note: Majority vote is required.

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

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000.00 to the Capital Stabilization Account.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: To fund the Capital Stabilization Account in accordance with the parameters in the bylaw passed at the Annual Town Meeting of July 2020.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 as a one-time expense to restructure our chart of accounts and to authorize the expenditure of these funds.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000.00 to the MLP High Speed Internet account and to authorize the expenditure of such funds on operating expenses for the MLP High Speed Internet project.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This will allow the MLP to have operational expense monies with which to pay bills before there is sufficient revenue generated to cover expenditures.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$10,000.00 for the purpose of tree removal. And, to authorize the Select Board to expend such monies for this purpose.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is to proactively remove trees that are a danger to the functioning of the fiber optic network and to alleviate the frequency of electrical outages. The work would be planned, overseen, and executed by the Tree Warden.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer the sum of \$602.13 from Free Cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the purpose of payment of FY2020 bills from the following accounts, or take any other action relative thereto.

Purpose	Amount
Historical Commission expense reimbursement	\$65.46
One Way Screen Printing for Transfer Station disposal permit stickers	\$375.00
Admission tickets to the Mount, Edith Wharton's home, for the 2020 season, purchased by the Library	\$75.00
Select Board Expense for office supplies	\$79.03
Conservation Commission reimbursement for postage	\$7.64

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

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 15: Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and to vote to set all Town budgets.

Note: Majority vote is required.

General Government

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$431,221.00 for General Government.

Passed unanimously.

Public Safety

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$229,137.00 for Public Safety.

Passed unanimously.

Public Works

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$456,524.34 for Public Works.

Passed unanimously.

Public Health & Sanitation

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$79,643.34 for Public Health & Sanitation.

Passed unanimously.

Community Services

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$98,194.45 for Community Services.

Passed unanimously.

Pensions and Insurance

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$194,668.00 for Pensions and Insurance.

Passed unanimously.

Education

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$1,644,546.00 for Education.

Passed unanimously.

Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$94,300.00 for the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund.

Passed unanimously.

Total Debt Exclusion

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$74,872.00 for Total Debt Exclusion.

Passed unanimously.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate **\$3,303,106.14** for sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and to vote to set all Town budgets.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded that the Town permit the Select Board to set the compensation of Town employees and appointed officials as established in the Town’s personnel policies.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 17: Motion made and seconded that the Town fix the salaries and hourly rates of all compensated elected officers of the Town for fiscal year 2022 as indicated by M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108.

ELECTED POSITION	COMPENSATION
Board of Assessors	\$2,368.00
Moderator	\$176.00
Select Board, Chair	\$5,000.00
Select Board, Vice Chair	\$4,000.00
Select Board, Clerk	\$3,000.00
Town Clerk	\$14,000.00

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 18: Motion made and seconded that the Town 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 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Note: Majority vote is required.

Appropriations:

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$5,000.00

Passed unanimously.

Reserves:

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$16,000.00

Passed unanimously.

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$16,000.00

Passed unanimously.

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$16,000.00

Passed unanimously.

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$95,000.00

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 19: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2022 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows.

Program or Purpose	FY 2022 Spending Limit
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

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 20: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer the sum of \$38,696.00, as appropriated under Article 21 at the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday, May 20, 2019, for the purposes of demolishing and removing a Town-owned uninhabitable structure located at 149 South Chesterfield Road, to the Capital Stabilization account. The total funds appropriated thereunder were not necessary for the purposes allocated and remain unused.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 21: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer the sum of \$24,646.21, as appropriated under Article 8 at the Special Town Meeting held on Monday, September 17, 2018, for the purposes of tarping of the roof and the design of a new roof at New Hingham Regional School, to the Capital Stabilization account. The total funds appropriated thereunder were not necessary for the purposes allocated and remain unused.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 22: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.268A, §21A to authorize the Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Select Board and the Tilton Town Supervisors to appoint their own members to positions under their respective jurisdictions and supervision as shall be established by Town Meeting.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Due to the continuing need to find and fill roles with qualified and available individuals in small towns, this article allows these elected Boards or Committees to appoint their own members to subordinate positions.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 23: Motion made and seconded that the Town adopt and accept the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 32B of the *Massachusetts General Laws*, as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, establishing an Other Post-Employment Benefits [OPEB] Liability Trust Fund;
To authorize the Treasurer to execute a declaration of trust creating an expendable trust for the purpose of holding monies appropriated to such fund;
To designate the Treasurer as the trustee of such trust;
That the Treasurer/Custodian, as Trustee, be authorized to employ investment consultant(s), as well as outside custodial service(s) to hold the monies in the Fund, and to pay for those services from the OPEB Fund;
To authorize the transfer of any and all monies currently held for the purpose of paying retiree health and life benefits to such trust; and to authorize the trustee to invest and reinvest the monies in such fund in accordance with the Prudent Investor Rule established under Chapter 203C of the *Massachusetts General Laws*.
And, to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$5,000.00, to the OPEB Liability Trust fund for the purpose of covering Other Post Employment Benefits. And, to authorize the Treasurer to expend such monies for this purpose.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Other post-employment benefits (OPEB) are benefits other than pension distributions that employees may begin to receive from their employer once they retire. Other post-employment benefits can include life insurance, health insurance, and deferred compensation. This is a standard governmental accounting best practice for recording unfunded future liabilities. No funds will be expended until it is fully funded.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 24: Motion made and seconded that the Town amend its General By-laws as follows:
To amend the date of the **Annual Town Caucus**, currently the third Monday in March to the second Monday of April;
To amend the date of the **Annual Town Meeting**, currently the third Monday in May to the third Saturday of May;

To amend the date of the **Annual Town Election**, currently held on the first Saturday in May to the first Saturday of June.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is to adjust the date of the Annual Town Election to always follow the Annual Town Meeting so that the current experienced elected officials are in office during the entire preparation process leading up to the Annual Town Meeting. Moving the Annual Town Meeting to Saturday will also allow more voters to participate.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 25: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation in the form set forth below; and provided further that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition.

An Act Relative to the Select Board of the Town of Goshen:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive body of the town of Goshen, previously known as the Board of Selectmen, shall be known as the Select Board and shall have the powers and authority of a Board of Selectmen under any general or special law; provided, that the members of the Select Board, previously known as Selectmen, shall be known as Select Board members

SECTION 2. The General and Zoning By-laws of the Town of Goshen are hereby amended by striking out the words "Board of Selectmen", each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words: Select Board.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This article will remove gender-specific naming conventions related to the Town's governing body. Subsequent to passage at the Annual Town Meeting the article is to be forwarded to our State Senator and State Representative for sponsorship to pass in the state legislature. If successfully passed and signed into law the town will be notified.

Passed by requisite majority.

Robert Labrie talked about the upcoming auction of the Williams-Boltwood House, located at 2 Williams Drive, and urged residents to speak to him afterward if they were interested in hearing more about the historic property.

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle, Town Clerk

Town Treasurer

For the Fiscal Year 2021: July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Receipts	
July 2020	\$590,911.83
August	408,987.04
September	109,032.82
October	285,961.68
November	569,133.18
December	149,738.23
January 2021	451,110.99
February	473,120.33
March	180,101.87
April	495,988.39
May	323,033.41
June	1,230,987.03
TOTAL	\$5,268,106.80*

*Includes all sources: real estate, personal property, and motor vehicle excise taxes, local receipts (i.e. transfers station, various permits and fees etc.), all grants received and all borrowings initiated wherein new proceeds were realized. Simply put, the receipts represent all inflows of cash during the fiscal year.

Tax Title Accounts Receivable as of June 30, 2021

PARCEL	TAX TITLE AMOUNT Certified by Collector
Map 2, Lot 0 32-0	\$ 8,276.16
Map 9, Lot 0 24-0	348.32
Map 10A, Lot 0 364-0	555.00
Map 10A, Lot 0 33-0	1,237.63
Map 10A, Lot 0 610-X	1,205.37
Map 10A, Lot 643-0	589.59
Map 10A, Lot 645-0	548.78
Map 10A, Lot 635-X	604.11
Map 10A, Lot 682-0	440.66
Map5A, Lot 0 165-0	1,551.58
Map 10A, Lot 0 719-0	1,566.60
Map 10A, Lot 0 661-0	820.63
Map 3, Lot 0 4-0	11,355.86
Map 3, Lot 0 2-0	8,154.06
Map 8, Lot 0 50-0	2,523.51
Map 10A, Lot 0 276-X	914.85
Map 5, Lot 104-0	3,686.03
Map 10A, Lot 0 317-0	1,245.93
Map 10A, Lot 0 616-X30	838.80
TAX TITLE ACCOUNTS TOTALS:	\$ 46,463.48**

**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.

Debt Outstanding				
	Outstanding Debt as of July 1, 2020	New Debt Issued during FY 2021	Retired during FY2021	Outstanding Debt as of June 30, 2021
Highway 2008 Int'l Plow Truck	\$16,468.00		\$8,234.00	\$8,234.00
Police 2017 Ford Explorer	18,000.00		9,000.00	9,000.00
Clean Water Trust (Landfill Cap)	615,336.00		24,891.00	590,445.00
Police Vehicle & Hwy Truck	84,850.00		16,970.00	67,880.00
Hwy Truck	220,000.00	190,500.00	220,000.00	190,500.00
Broadband Construction	350,000.00	1,100,000.00	350,000.00	1,100,000.00
Totals	\$1,304,654.00	1,290,500.00	\$629,095.00	\$1,966,059.00

Debt Authorized and Unissued as of June 30, 2021				
	Vote Date	Amount Authorized	Issued Retired Rescinded	Amount Unissued
Broadband Network	6/10/15	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,100,000.00	\$300,000.00
Landfill Cap	09/17/18	355,000.00	315,336.00	39,664.00
Hwy Pick-up	5/20/19	33,000.00	32,994.00	6.00
Total Authorized &Unissued				\$339,670.00

Respectfully submitted,

Allan L. Kidston, CMMT, Treasurer

Tree Warden

Several times during the year, I survey the roadside trees on each town road. My main focus is to identify trees that could be a potential hazard. I create a priority list of trees to be removed.

Some of these trees are marked with a yellow "X". These I will ask National Grid to remove because they are a threat to the utility wires.

The other trees marked for removal are marked with a red "X". Trees marked with a red dot are of lower priority and will be removed later as time and money permit.

I mark trees with a blue dot to be pruned as time permits.

When 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 wish. There isn't money in the budget to haul it away.

Our town highway crew has been a huge help in hauling wood away, and they are the ones who respond when storms knock trees down onto the road.

At Town Meeting an additional \$10,000 was appropriated to be used to remove or prune trees that could potentially damage the fiber optic cable. We focused on Shaw Road, Ball Road, East Street, and South Chesterfield Road.

Please call or text me at 413-320-3100, if you have any questions.

Submitted by,

Bob Goss, Tree Warden

Veterans Services

A new Veterans Service Officer, Robert Vigneault, has joined our team replacing Tom Geryk who has moved on. Robert is also an Air force veteran and is very connected with those who serve at Westover ARB. He will be participating in the SHINE training that will begin as the pandemic subsides, and he will become our new certified SHINE Representative. The federal government has made significant changes (Mission Act of 2018) to the VA Healthcare system nationally and in Western Massachusetts. The law mandated the creation of the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission, which would consider which of the VA's healthcare facilities to close, improve, repurpose, or consolidate. The secretary's list will include not only entire medical centers but also inpatient units, emergency rooms, and outpatient clinics. Critics of the AIR process, and I am one of them, worry that commission members (who have yet to be announced) will ignore a wealth of studies demonstrating that the VA delivers better outcomes at a lower cost than the private sector. We will need to provide the best information possible as our older veterans are being compelled to use more and more health services in the community.

Our office collaborated with Baystate Health, Western Massachusetts veterans outreach project, and the VA medical center to design and implement a nine-week training program for mental health and medical staff addressing issues faced by our veteran population and their families. “The Military Veterans Healthcare Virtual Lunchtime Series” began in November 2021 and spanned through February 2022 covering issues ranging from community reintegration and veteran’s suicide to the challenges facing those who suffered a traumatic brain injury and the benefits of service animals. We will continue to work with this group as we assist with the planning of a 2023 veteran conference, focused on military and veteran families.

We were able to participate at the Big E on Veteran and Military Appreciation Day, and we did connect with several veterans in our district to help them with their VA benefits and healthcare needs on site and back at our office over the following couple of months. The number of veterans receiving aid through our financial assistance program decreased again this year, and we recently learned at our statewide training sessions that the decline is statewide. It should be noted that although the demand for our financial benefits has lessened, our demand for the benefits from the federal government through the Department of Veterans Affairs and Social Security have increased during the pandemic. The Department's objective is ongoing, and efforts to find new and innovative methods of outreach will be important to ensure that all who need assistance receive it. We plan to develop a relationship with the Community Action Team (CAT) and the Community Action Board (CAB) from Westover ARB to expand awareness of our services, focusing on veterans who are currently serving and those who are coming back from conflicts in the Southwest Asia and the Middle East and residing in the Hilltown area.

The two biggest days of recognition for our veterans are Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day. The Memorial Day ceremonies were provided by the Cumington American Legion and other veteran members of the Hilltown communities. They visited many of the various town cemeteries and provided a ceremony in honor and remembrance of our deceased veterans at each stop. The 2021 Chesterfield Fourth of July parade returned this past year, but, due to the pandemic and the lack of time to prepare, it became a unique event of antique cars and other unique vehicles being displayed along the parade route. We are looking forward to the Fourth of July 2022 and the return of the great festivities that occur in Chesterfield every year on the nation’s birthday.

The Veterans’ Day ceremony in Williamsburg was a spirited and well-attended event. Many members of the neighboring communities, such as Chesterfield, were also in attendance. Although held on a relatively cold day, it was heartwarming to see so many members of the community out to honor our veterans from yesterday and today. This year’s guest speaker was MAGNUS, KAREN L CIV USAF AFRC 439 AW who spoke eloquently about what it means to serve an entire career in the Air Force and now to be a veteran. Great thanks go out to Dan Nye of the Veterans Memorial Committee, who spearheaded the effort to show appreciation for veterans by coordinating so much of our commemorative events.

Lastly, this year many veterans and some dependents of Goshen received VA compensation and pension benefits in the amount of \$15,195 on a **monthly basis**. In addition, the town was able to help several veterans and families by providing financial assistance in accordance with M.G.L. CH 115. In all, the town issued \$41,617 in benefits for FY 2021 and received 75% of that money as a reimbursement from the state.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a volunteer board appointed by the Select Board. It consists of four members (Chair, two Members and one Alternate).

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 hearings when applications are presented, receives input from abutters and the general public before deliberating and rendering decisions.

During the 2021 calendar year, one application for Special Permit was filed, and one application was allowed. There were no fillings for variances or appeals of the Building Inspector's decisions.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

William M. O'Riordan, Chair
Stephen Estelle, Member
Corey Carvalho, Member
Roger Culver, Alternate



Goshen DAR Sunrise in the spring from the top of Moore Hill
Photo from the Bob Labrie Collection

Town of Goshen

Massachusetts

2021 Annual Town Report



Upper Highland Lake in Goshen in the summer
Photo from the Bob Labrie Collection

Reports through December 2021
Financials based on Fiscal Year 2021
July 1, 2020 -June 30, 2021