

The 2023 Annual Report



The Town of Westhampton 2023 Annual Town Report

Contributors:

Todd Alexander, David Antosz, Katch Bacheller, Joseph Boudreau,
Steve Brooks, Mark Bushee, Patricia Cotton, Douglas Finn,
Ed Fisher, Bill Jablonski, Katrin Kaminsky, Amy Landau,
Julia Lennen, Jessica Lerman, Ryan Mailloux, Walter Marek,
Fred Morrison, Brian Pichette, Laurie Sanders, John Shaw,
Kelli Wainscott, David White, David Zagorski

Photo Credits:

DEDICATION:

-- Photos contributed by Audrey Antosz

FRONT COVER: “Couldn’t Ask for a More Beautiful View from the Hill”

-- Photo contributed by Laura Blakesly

BACK COVER: “Winter in Westhampton”

-- Photo contributed by Michele Witowski

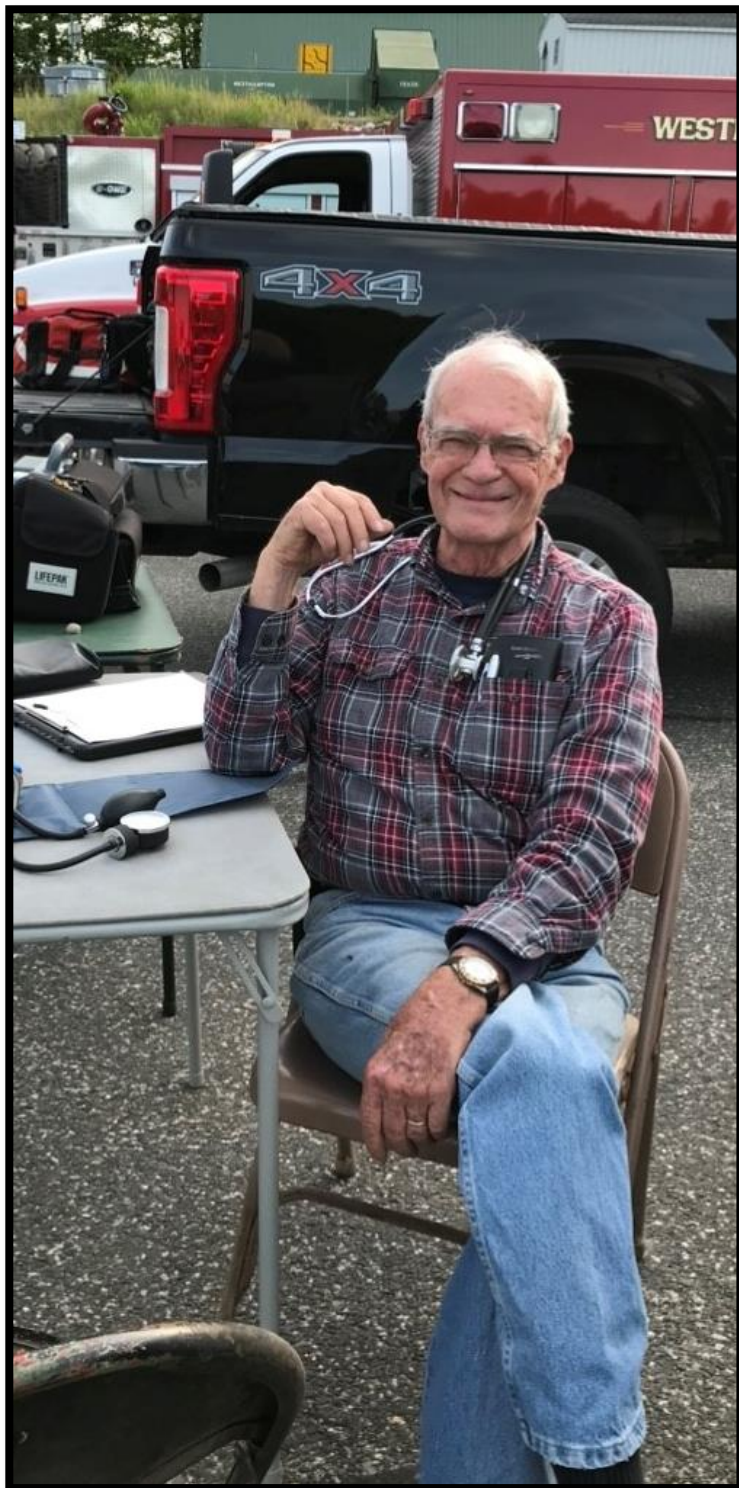
Additional Photos:

Audrey Antosz, Garrett Antosz, Douglas Finn, Julia Lennen,
Bill Randolph, Meaghan Schwelm, Michele Witowski, et als.

Compiled and produced by Douglas Finn
Supervising Editor: Susan Bronstein

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Dedication



Robert “Bob” Miller co-founded Westhampton Emergency Medical Services in 1983. The purpose of this service was to provide the citizens of Westhampton with a timely and important initial medical and trauma response from trained responders within the Town of Westhampton while waiting for an ambulance from outside Westhampton. David Bridgman, who was the fire chief and on the Selectboard at the time, was very responsive to this project.

Prior to the formation of WEMS there was little or no first responder response from within Westhampton. Patients generally waited until the ambulance arrived from Northampton or Easthampton before receiving care.

According to Lee Douchkoff (a WEMS veteran in his own right), Bob Miller has responded to more emergencies in the Town of Westhampton in his 40 years of service than anyone else ever has in the history of the town.

Many EMTs have come and gone over the years, and Bob Miller was a significant part of the recruitment process.

Bob was also the driving force behind the purchase and placement of semi-automatic defibrillators in the Town of Westhampton. A campaign to go door-to-door in 1989 to raise \$5500 for the purchase of a defibrillator actually raised \$13,000. A second campaign to raise \$2000 in 1998 to replace 10-year-old defibrillators raised \$12,000. Westhampton undoubtedly had more defibrillators on a per capita basis than any surrounding community. Bob recruited a large number of volunteers to canvas the whole Town in both fund raising efforts.

The money that was raised above and beyond what was needed in the campaign to purchase defibrillators was used to purchase important equipment and supplies for the EMTs recruited to be part of WEMS.



Some of the money that was raised after defibrillators were purchased was used to purchase adult and infant CPR mannequins. Bob oversaw the offering and teaching of monthly CPR classes to the residents of Westhampton. In the 10-year period between 1989 and 1999, between 80 and 100 Town residents were trained or recertified each year in CPR. Bob became synonymous with CPR in Westhampton.

This is only part of what might be said about Bob's significant contributions to the emergency medical care of the residents of Westhampton since 1983.

In honor of his volunteerism, his community spirit, and his commitment to the health and well-being of his neighbors in Westhampton, we dedicate this 2023 Annual Report to Mr. Robert Miller.

The Westhampton Selectboard

Maureen Dempsey, Chair
Scott Johndrow
Susan Bronstein

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General Government

Report of the Selectboard

Selectboard Membership

The year started with Phil Dowling serving as Selectboard chair, and Maureen Dempsey and Scott Johndrow serving as members.

Prior to Caucuses, Mr. Dowling noted that this would be his last term serving on the Selectboard, a post he had held since 2014 when he replaced Art Pichette.

Mr. Dowling's significant contributions to the Town through his service on the Selectboard include his contributed labor and coordination of work to revitalize and renovate the Town Hall, the securing of funding through the Green Communities program for energy-saving improvements to municipal buildings, and implementation of measures that significantly improved the Town's credit rating, enabling the Town to borrow for larger capital projects at incredibly low interest rates (the rate for the Public Safety Complex borrowing is fixed at 1.722%).

As the Selectboard's representative to the Public Safety Complex Committee, Phil helped to shepherd the Public Safety Building construction project from concept and design, to Town meeting and ballot box approval, to the selection of Owners Project Manager, Architect and Contractor, and through the entire construction process.

The Selectboard wishes to acknowledge and thank Mr. Dowling for his years of service to the town, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Municipal Election

In May, the Town elected Ms. Susan Bronstein to a three-year term on the Selectboard, replacing Mr. Dowling. Ms. Bronstein had previously served the Town on the Planning Board, where she also served for five years as chair. Ms. Bronstein has also recently served as a member of the MVP Core



Group, and helped to plan for, draft, revise, and present the MVP Comprehensive Plan for final review and adoption by the Planning Board.

The Board welcomes Ms. Bronstein to the Selectboard!

Completion of the Public Safety Complex

In January of 2023, Mr. Dowling was pleased to say that the Town had ‘taken ownership’ of the new Public Safety Complex. The new building is anticipated to meet the needs of Westhampton’s emergency services for the next fifty years. It provides secure police headquarters, fire offices, shared training facilities for staff and volunteers, emergency personal equipment storage areas, and vehicular storage for all safety equipment. The building is also ‘future-proof’, with an unfinished second level providing spaces for potential offices, training areas, and equipment storage if needed.

In the Spring, Westhampton’s Emergency Response Services staff held an open house at the station, with significant residents in attendance. Tours of the building were given, and refreshments served.

Through the remainder of 2023, the Board received regular updates on ‘punch-list’ items relative to the building project. As of the end of 2023, security systems have been installed, multi-band radios and antennas installed and operating, all system trouble-shooting and testing procedures completed, and the whole building confirmed as fully operational, and ready for business.

The Selectboard wishes to acknowledge and thank the volunteers – past and present - of the public safety construction committee for their tireless work on overseeing the construction, from first designs to last fixes and everything in between: **Christopher Brooks, Phil Dowling, Steve Gagne, Steve Holt, Art Pichette, Joe Pipczynski, Laurie Sanders, Stephen Wumbrand, and John Zimmerman.**



The board also wishes to thank Fire Chief **David Antosz**, Police Chief **David White**, Highway Superintendent **Bill Jablonski**, and Highway Crew members **Scott Tirrell**, **Michael Demery** and **Austin Norris** for their support – both on and off the clock. Without your assistance, the Westhampton Public Safety Complex project would not be the success that it is.

Resilient Westhampton Master Plan and Revised Open Space and Recreation Plan

With funds received through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program the Town completed its first Comprehensive Master Plan and a revised Open Space & Recreation Plan. The Master Plan was completed in 2023 with the input of residents, working groups, Town boards, and Town staff, and adopted by a vote of the Planning Board in August. The Open Space Plan is in final drafting. The documents can be viewed on the municipal website.

In addition, the Resilient Westhampton Master Plan received the 2023 Comprehensive Planning Award from the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association. Susan Bronstein (Selectboard Member) and Teri Anderson (Master Plan Project Manager) attended the annual awards luncheon on December 8, 2023 to accept the award on behalf of the town.

At its December 20th meeting, the Selectboard established the Master Plan Implementation Committee. Appointments will be made in 2024.



Westhampton Resilient Master Plan received the 2023 Comprehensive Planning Award from APA-MA. Pictured from left to right: Alison LeFlore, APA-MA President; Susan Bronstein, Westhampton Selectboard Member; James Riordan, Weston & Sampson Project Manager; Teri Anderson, Westhampton Project Manager; and Kenneth Comia, Deputy Director Land Use and Environment Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and APA-MA Vice President.

Municipal Energy Aggregation

In 2023, the board entered negotiations with Colonial Power Group, Inc., a company that provides municipal aggregation services to dozens of communities in Massachusetts. Municipal Aggregation is a process by which some Massachusetts cities and towns aggregate the demand for electricity in their community and bulk purchase electricity from a supplier on behalf of their residents. By

participating in the program, Town residents could see between eight and ten percent reduction in their power generation charges.

Over the course of the late winter and early Spring, the Selectboard received presentations, considered information and in June (after a vote of approval by Town Meeting to do so) signed a contract with Colonial Power, which began work on the legal requirements to draft the Town's aggregation plan.

The process will involve significant work over the course of the next one to two years. As of the end of 2023, the work is still ongoing, with more substantial progress anticipated in the second half of 2024.

Perry Hill Road Extension Bridge



IMAGE: The Westerly (downstream side) of the bridge along the Perry Hill Road Extension, which spans over the north branch of the Manhan River in the Town of Westhampton. The bridge is suffering from erosion and collapse of the NW wingwall and embankment on the upstream side. (Photo courtesy of MassDOT)

The single-lane bridge was built 67 years ago and consists of a single span steel beam with a reinforced concrete slab and gravel wearing surface.

In January of 2023, the Town began work in collaboration with Mass DOT on review of plans for the replacement of the bridge over the North Branch Manhan River on Perry Hill Road Extension. A '25%' design' was reviewed in January. The proposed bridge will be an open bottom culvert, and should not require any land taking nor expansion of the public way.

In late summer, a preliminary plan for slight changes to the existing public "Right of Way" was approved by the Selectboard. The final plan was presented to Town residents at a special Town Meeting in November of 2023.

Town Meeting voted to approve the proposed

change to the right-of-way, and granted the Selectboard the authority to enter into such arrangements as necessary to ensure that easements were secured for the work to be done.

As of the end of 2023, the work on the project is ongoing. The Selectboard hopes that the final designs and specifications plans will be completed and approved by summer of 2024, with construction to commence shortly after.

Participation in MassDOT “CoOp” program

Upon request from the Highway Superintendent and the Building Inspector, the Selectboard voted to participate in the “MassDOT Co-Op Reimbursement Program”, which would provide the Town with funding to employ a vocational technical school student as a Highway Department Trainee, and provide that student with valuable experience and time on the crew (required for certain licensure). At the end of 2023, the Town was still waiting for approval from MassDOT to make the hire.

Policy Review and Adoption

The Selectboard approved the following policies:

- Credit Card Policy (by a vote taken on January 3, 2023)
- Use of Municipal Flag Poles (by a vote taken on December 4, 2023)
- Policy Regarding Placement of Signs on Public Spaces and Public Rights of Way (by a vote taken December 18, 2024)

The policies as adopted are available for public review upon request, and on the municipal website.

Intermunicipal Contract for Ambulance Services

The Selectboard reviewed and signed a renewal of the three-year Intermunicipal Contract with the Town of Easthampton for ambulance services. The contract is written to provide benefits to both municipalities, and was broadly recommended by Fire Chief David Antosz. The total cost for the entire three year term will be \$112,500, and is deemed by the Selectboard to be a great benefit for the Town of Westhampton.

Cable Franchise Agreement

The Selectboard entered into informal negotiations for a renewal of the ten-year cable franchise agreement with Comcast / Xfinity. Of significant interest to the Board was confirming that all street addresses have access to the Xfinity network for provision of high-speed broadband access. As of the end of 2023, negotiations are ongoing. The Town has entered into an agreement with VHB, Inc, in order to conduct a digital equity survey, and to determine if and where there are unserved or underserved areas within the town. The current franchise agreement expires in October of 2024.



IMAGE: Scouts from Westhampton Troop #209 raise the flag as part of the 2023 Memorial Day Observances.

ACO Appointment

In early 2023, the Selectboard appointed Ms. Kelli Wainscott as the Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspection officer for the Town. Ms. Wainscott currently serves as ACO for Chesterfield, has all necessary certifications, and was willing to take on the position. This fills a void in the position that has lasted for the better part of a year, and the Board thanks M.s Wainscott for her service to the Town of Westhampton.

Declaration of Surplus Property

A number of pieces of equipment were declared as ‘surplus’ – of no practical use to the Town, and legally able to be sold, or otherwise disposed of. The Selectboard chose to authorize the sale of this equipment by public auction through Municibid. Equipment included:

- 1999 F350 Pickup (highway)
- 1979 Compressor (highway)
- 2009 F350 Pickup (highway)
- 2001 New Holland tractor and Mower (highway)
- Kohler Generator (highway)
- Marathon Ramjet MSW Compactor and Container (highway)
- 1947 Willys Jeep (Historic Commission)

Of note, the 1947 Willys Jeep was a donation to the town, given to support the Town’s Historic Commission and its mission. At the request of the Historic Commission, and with the approval of the Selectboard, the proceeds of the sale of this vehicle were appropriated by Town Meeting to the exclusive use of the Historic Commission. The funds will help to support and maintain the Blacksmith Shop and the Historic Commission’s programs.

The other equipment was also sold at auction, and resulted in about \$25,000 going into the Town’s “unanticipated revenues” line, and certified as free cash in late November of 2023.

Landfill Monitoring

The board signed contracts for “third-party inspection services” for the closed landfill, and for water quality monitoring in areas adjacent to the closed landfill. The FY24 budget as approved by Town Meeting in May of 2023 also presented long-term maintenance costs of the capped landfill as a separate budget item, distinct from ongoing transfer station operation costs.

Staffing Changes

In January of 2023, the Town’s treasurer submitted a notice of resignation, but agreed to continue in the office until a new treasurer could be hired. The Selectboard wishes to express its appreciation to Ms. Aimee Burnham for her diligent and dedicated service as Municipal Treasurer.

The process proved to be significant and troublesome with very few applicants for the 10-hour-per-week position. As part of the process, the Board considered outsourcing the duties of the office to private, for-profit companies. While some could provide some of the necessary services, no one company could fulfill all duties of the position, and the costs would be an order of magnitude higher than the Town’s budget would allow. The Board also considered consolidation of the positions of Treasurer and Collector into a single, full-time position; while the proposal would result in a higher total cost, the benefits to such an arrangement were significant and appealing.

The Selectboard ultimately decided to request an increase of funding for the position of Treasurer, so to attract a qualified candidate. After this change, the Selectboard was able to offer the existing part-time position of Municipal Treasurer to Mr. Ryan Mailloux, of Orange. Mr. Mailloux comes to Westhampton with extensive municipal treasury and collections experience, and broad endorsement from other towns in the region. Throughout the second half of the year, Mr. Mailloux was able to work with our Accountant and Collector to close out the FY23 fiscal year, complete the process of certification of free cash, advise the board on potential investment strategies, and assist with the completion of the fiscal audit.

The board happily welcomes Mr. Mailloux to the Town, and thanks him for his service.

Recognition of Grants

The board acknowledges the efforts of our dedicated municipal staff in securing grant funding for various projects:

- Police Chief White worked to secure a \$40,000 grant to purchase updated radio systems for police use. The radios are multi-band, and will better facilitate intermunicipal and interdepartmental communication.
- Police Chief David White secured a grant of \$19,474 for a trailered “speed monitor and feedback sign”, through the "Complete Streets" program. This speed sign can be deployed to various locations throughout town, and will help the Westhampton Police Department collect statistical information about traffic counts, average speeds, and “high” and “low” speeds of travel in multiple directions.
- Highway Superintendent Bill Jablonski secured a grant for the purchase of two "School Zone Traffic Calming Street Signs". The signs provide electronic feedback to drivers, noting their rate of travel, and



IMAGE: Westhampton Highway Department staff install one of two solar- and battery-powered speed monitoring and feedback signs on Kings Highway near the Westhampton Elementary School.

whether it is above or below the speed limit for the area at that time. It also collects traffic data, and can be used to effectively adjust traffic enforcement efforts. The signs are also battery and solar powered, and will slightly reduce the Town's energy bills each year. Signs were installed by the Westhampton Highway Staff, and are in use.

- Administrative Assistant Douglas Finn secured a \$38,000 grant for a complete rebuild of the municipal website, and training of staff on its replacement. The new website will use 'universal design' principles to ensure compliance with various state and federal regulations for accessibility, and will provide a more effective means to deliver essential information to Town residents.

Budget Notebook

The impact of the Covid19 pandemic continued to be felt in 2023. The Selectboard voted in early 2023 to continue to provide a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment ("COLA") for municipal employees. In addition, at the request of Mr. Patrick Brock, Chairman of the Hampshire County Retirement Board, the Selectboard voted to support a supplemental 2% COLA (resulting in a total 5% COLA for FY23) for Hampshire County Retirees. In addition, the Selectboard supported significant adjustments to specific staff positions, including Accountant, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector, Highway Staff, Council on Aging Director, and Library Staff.

ARPA

Westhampton was one of 351 Towns and Cities in Massachusetts that received funding in 2021, through the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF), a state program funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The purpose of the funding was to help communities recover from, and respond to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.

As a direct result of the Pandemic, the nation's supply chains were interrupted, resulting in delays and increased costs for supplies, goods and services. In Westhampton, this was felt most critically in the Public Safety Complex construction project.

The Selectboard continued to use ARPA funding to supplement the original appropriation for that project, and by the end of 2023, a total of \$230,000 had been committed to that purpose.

Uses of ARPA funding in 2023 are as follows:

PURPOSE	APPROPRIATION	DATE APPROVED
PSC - Cost Overruns - First Tranche	\$200,000	January 3, 2023
Town Hall Annex Front Door replacement	\$3,440	April 10, 2023
PSC – Cost Overruns – Second Tranche	\$30,000	April 24, 2023
Payroll Shortfall (Treasurer)	\$342	July 3, 2023
Stage Equipment (Grant Dependent)	\$9,424	December 4, 2023
TOTAL APPROPRIATION: \$243,206		

Presentation of "Boston Post Cane" award

In late May of 2023, the Selectboard participated in a ceremonial presentation of the "Boston Post Cane Award", to Ms. Sally Lawton, who at the time of presentation, was Westhampton's most senior

resident. The event was held at the Public Library, 1 North Road, with about 35 residents in attendance. Mr. Scott Johndrow represented the Selectboard, Ms. Julia Lennen spoke on behalf of the Westhampton COA, and State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa made a presentation on behalf of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. The event was well attended. Ms. Lawton was accompanied by family members, and offered gracious remarks and her thanks for the honor.

Licenses and Permits

The Selectboard issued four “Class” licenses to used auto dealers in Westhampton for the 2023 year. One Farmers Pouring license was renewed.

Several business permits were issued or renewed, and several tag sale permits were issued.



IMAGE: Ms. Sally Lawton (lower right), was joined by members of her family to receive Westhampton's "Boston Post Cane Award" in 2023.

Facilities Notes

The Town Hall and Annex both received general service and repairs in 2023. In particular, the Town Hall was outfitted with its first ever fire detection system, including smoke detectors, Carbon Monoxide / Carbon Dioxide detectors, alarms, strobes, and ‘pull boxes’. The system will automatically “call out” in case of emergency, which will help to ensure swift response in case of any fire-related emergency.

The Selectboard helped to oversee issues relative to leaks in the Library Roof. In cooperation with the Library Trustees and Westhampton Building Inspectors Todd Alexander and Wally Marek, specific causes for the leaks were identified, a best course of action determined, and repairs were arranged courtesy of Stone Mountain Roofing. As of December of 2023, the roof leaks are resolved, and there is no water damage or mold / mildew problems in evidence. The cost for repairs was paid for using the Town's ARPA / CLFRF appropriation.

The Town Hall heating system saw significant repairs to its air handling system, allowing for true ‘two-zone’ heat control. This should enable the system to heat the Offices in the Town Hall separately from the large activity space, and should reduce energy costs to some extent.

The Town continues to benefit from the Power Purchase agreement with Rockwood AG. The agreement allows the Town to purchase ‘credits’ for electric generation at a 15% discount from the Eversource rate. This will save the Town between \$200 and \$300 per month, or about \$3,000 per year.

In addition, telephone services were migrated from Comcast Cable Services to Clearfly VOIP. This change will result in a net savings to the Town of about \$250 per month, or about \$3,000 per year.

Adjustments to internet service at various Town buildings continues to provide a small reduction to the Town's data services costs, with no impact to Town functions.

The Selectboard wishes to thank the many volunteers who serve the Town of Westhampton on a committee, board, or as a volunteer on any number of special projects.

In particular, the Board wishes to thank those individuals who first volunteered their time, skills and experience in 2023, whether as a new board or committee member, or as a volunteer for a specific project or event. We appreciate your willingness to donate your time and experience to the town!



*IMAGE: The Westhampton Church and Westhampton Public Library,
December 2023.*

Respectfully submitted,

THE WESTHAMPTON SELECTBOARD
Maureen Dempsey, Chair (term ends in 2024)
Scott Johndrow (term ends in 2025)
Susan Bronstein (term ends in 2026)

Report of the Town Clerk

Vital records are kept by the Town Clerk. The State recommends not printing the names of births due to privacy regulations. Vital records are reported for the calendar year 2023.

Births

Westhampton welcomed 16 new people.

Marriages

08/26/2023	Janet Lynn Vance	to	Stephen Patrick Testori
09/16/2023	Richard Roland Laurin, Jr.	to	Kerry Anne Watson

Deaths

03/14/2023	Margaret Kelley	04/14/2023	Robert Roy
05/02/2023	Ruth Elaine Bishop	09/08/2023	Jaimee Roncone
09/26/2023	Richard Joseph Hayden		

Dog Licenses

Total	315	Total Kennel Licenses	1
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Dog Licenses are available beginning in January each year. All dogs six months or older must be licensed by June 30th. **A current rabies certificate is required each year**, even if it is a 3 year certificate which has already been provided. Per State Law, any person whose dog is not licensed by the June 1st deadline is subject to fines and penalties. A license application is included with the annual census mailer and is also available on the Town web site.

Meetings and Elections

Annual Town Meeting May 13, 2023

A Capital expenditure approved by voters from General Stabilization and transfers from existing accounts for use by the Highway Department was \$360,300 for a new 10-wheel highway truck with wing plow.

An expenditure approved by voters from Free Cash for use by the Tree Warden & Highway Department was \$40,0000 for roadside tree removal services.

Other expenditures of Free Cash approved by voters were \$350,000 transferred to the Stabilization Fund and \$136,464 to balance the budget and reduce the FY 2024 tax rate.

A resolution was passed in support of changing the State flag & seal.

The meeting was dissolved with no need for a reconvened session.

Annual Town Election June 3, 2023

Although there was a race for Selectboard on the ballot, voter turnout was a rather low 244 out of 1,343 registered voters.

Special Town Meeting November 6, 2023

Payment of several prior Fiscal Year invoices was approved. Edits & additions to the General By-Laws were approved. Voters also approved replacement of the existing Zoning By-Law with a new document as recommended by the Planning Board. This document resulted from eight years' work by the Zoning By-Law Review Committee (currently John Shaw, Steve Gagne, Brigid O'Riordan, Art Pichette, Pat Coffey & John Kelsey).

Attorney General review of these by-law changes should be completed by 2/6/2024.

State election law changes late in 2022 made vote by mail a required option for all elections going forward including Town elections. The in-person early voting option is also required for all state & federal elections. The convenience of voting by mail was welcomed by many but early in-person voting was not nearly as popular as it had been during the 2020 (Covid) elections. Clerks have been told that after some added cost tracking & reporting the Town will be reimbursed for part of the extra cost.

Census

Population from 2022 local census	1623
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Population from 2020 Federal census	1622
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Among other services and duties, the Town Clerk provides copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, issues marriage licenses, dog licenses and business certificates, receives special permit/variance applications and voter registrations and oversees all elections. All board and committee meeting agendas are posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Clerk's office and in the "agenda mailbox" in front of Town Hall or, if you have internet, they are also posted on the Town website www.westhampton-ma.com

The Town Clerk office hours for public access are Wednesdays from 8 AM to 4 PM. It is still recommended that you contact the office at 413-203-3080 or better yet email clerk@westhamptonma.org. Thanks to all for the continuing warm welcome to your beautiful community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrin Kaminsky,
Town Clerk

Report of the Treasurer

TREASURER'S YEAR-END CASH REPORT

For the Year ending June 30, 2023

Interest Bearing Checking Accounts

Financial Institution	Purpose	Balance	Sub - Total
ESB	old payables	423,558.95	
ESB	old payroll	(23,237.35)	
ESB	payables	(354,532.56)	
Unibank	payroll	(30,426.07)	
bankHometown	depository	41,960.63	
Unibank	general fund	375,849.08	
Unibank	building dept.	63,411.17	
Unibank	Fire	32,584.63	
MMDT	general fund	221,567.29	
MMDT	Septic	94,684.16	
ESB	field trip	6,085.14	
Unibank	Deputy Collector	130,732.08	
Unibank	Online collections	448,328.79	
ESB	collector	1,208,686.91	

\$2,639,252.85

Trust Funds

Financial Institution	Purpose	Balance	Sub - Total
ESB	Library	7,188.87	
MMDT	Stabilization	400,555.10	
ESB	St. & Wright	1,979.44	
MMDT	Cultural	7,060.77	
ESB	Germain	5,478.44	
ESB	Clapp	90,156.63	
ESB	OPEB	38,362.04	
MMDT	Veterans	2,492.90	
MMDT	Charity	7,153.00	
ESB	Norris	3,216.52	
ESB	Bridgman	1,123.14	
Peoples	Cemetery	58,244.35	

\$623,011.20

All Cash and Investments

\$ 3,262,264.05

I hereby certify that the bank statements have been reconciled through the date of this report, that the cash on hand and other items were verified by actual count, and that I have transmitted this form to the Accounting Officer for certification of Part II.

6/30/2023

Date



Ryan W. Mailloux
Town Treasurer

Report of the Finance Committee

This report covers the calendar year 2023 which includes the last half of FY2023, and the first half of FY2024. As of December 31, 2023, members and their respective terms were:

		Term Ends (June)
Carla Lussier	Member	2024
Marilyn Witherell	Member	2024
Richelle Hurd	Member	2024
Tad Weiss	Chair	2024
Scott Stanton	Member	2025
Stephen Holt	Member	2025
Vacant	Member	2025
Jennifer Milikowsky	Member	2026
Jeremy Durrin	Member	2026
Vacant	Member	2026

The Finance Committee's duties are to review department budget requests, prepare the Town's annual budget, serve as the Town's fiscal advisory body and approving body for mid-year, unanticipated transfers of money between accounts.

To create a balanced and fair budget, the Finance Committee encourages open dialogue with townspeople who know best what is needed. Several departments underspent their budgets and returned money to the Town for the fiscal year (FY) that ended June 30, 2023. The Finance Committee supports this practice and encourages open dialogue with the various departments – offering assistance mid-year should the need arise. If a budget is underspent in one year, it is not automatically reduced in a subsequent year; rather, the reasons and anticipated future needs are reviewed.

In March 2021, voters approved funding of the new Public Safety Complex. We continue to pay down approximately \$254,000 per year on that 20-year, low-interest loan.

At Town Meeting (TM) in May 2023, voters approved the cash purchase of a \$360,000, 10-wheeled dump truck with winged plow. We also voted to appropriate \$40,000 for much needed tree work around town. Additionally, we significantly increased salaries for a few key Town positions including Treasurer, Tax Collector and Highway staff. As pay scale rises around the region and state, we must offer competitive wages to keep people from leaving key positions in town. We also increased Police coverage. Our IT expenses rose sharply as a result of rising costs of outside support. The Town's portion of the HRHS budget, which is about 24% of our total operating budget – increased 6.5%. **In total, our operating budget, as voted at TM, rose about 5.6%, while overall expenditures including warrant articles and state aid offsets – rose about 7.6%. The average tax bill in Town rose \$254.56.**

Additionally, the committee reviewed requests from various Town departments for transfers related to unforeseen events. The following transfers were approved in 2023:

3/3/2023	Reserve fund to ConComm Expense	\$ 92.00
3/3/2023	Reserve fund to IT Support Expense	\$ 5,500.00
4/6/2023	Reserve fund to Assessor's Expense	\$ 1,000.00
6/28/2023	Reserve fund to Town Office Expense	\$ 2,356.54
6/30/2023	Reserve fund to Inspector Compensation	\$ 1,450.00
7/13/2023	Unemployment Expense to Group Health Insurance	\$10,444.16
7/13/2023	Transfer Station Expense to Highway Salaries	\$ 2,722.00
8/8/2023	Reserve fund to Medicare Expense	\$ 200.00

At the Annual Town Meeting, townsfolk voted to approve a number of articles, appropriations and transfers that effected Free Cash and Stabilization. Below is a summary that describes the resulting math of those accounts. Negative numbers (spending) are shown in brackets. It is our preference to support paying for capital projects with cash, where possible, to avoid financing charges.

FY2024 TM (May 2023)	Free Cash	Stabilization
Starting Balance	\$ 653,733.00	\$ 595,512.00
Appropriate to pay for truck		\$ (342,477.00)
Transfer to Stabilization	\$ (350,000.00)	\$ 350,000.00
Return to taxpayers	\$ (137,464.00)	
Appropriate to pay for tree work	\$ (40,000.00)	
Misc appropriations	\$ (41,428.69)	
Ending Balance	\$ 84,840.31	\$ 603,035.00

The Finance Committee would like to thank Town departments and committees for understanding the fiscal constraints that exist and submitting budgets reflecting those limits. As always, Finance Committee meetings are open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. Your input is welcomed!

Again, we offer thanks to our Town Administrator, Doug Finn, who has worked hard developing financial planning tools that make budgeting activities easier, more accurate, more transparent, and helpful in understanding how our money is raised, spent, and saved. Available for public viewing, these documents are found on the Finance Committee's link at Westhampton's website.

Lastly, I want to thank the members of the Finance Committee for their tireless commitment to seeing that our Town has the resources it needs to function well, and to oversee a responsible budget in these challenging times.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tad Weiss, Chair

Report of the Tax Collector

All Balances Due as of June 30, 2023

Fiscal Year	Real Estate	Personal Property	Motor Vehicle
2023	\$66,910.71	\$4,095.06	\$15,348.32
2022	\$4,923.19	\$88.11	\$3,104.96
2021	\$0.00	\$193.96	\$1,103.23
2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,286.83
2019	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$937.93
2018	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$241.57
2017	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$688.13
Prior Years	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$672.08
TOTALS	\$71,833.90	\$4,377.13	\$23,383.05

GRAND TOTAL: \$99,594.08

Tax Title Account

Name	Address	Balance due as of 6/30/2023	
Kellogg, Loretta	225 Northwest Rd	\$2,513.29	<i>Payment Plan</i>
Lacombe, Dana	46 Lyman Rd	\$10,852.27	<i>Payment Plan</i>
Montague, Matthw & Happy	61 Chesterfield Rd	\$54,548.02	
Progressive Structures	Northwest Rd	\$7,374.05	
Stone Norman	303 Southampton Rd	\$20,799.02	<i>Payment Plan</i>
		\$96,086.65	

Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are mailed and due quarterly.

1st quarter due: August 1st

2nd quarter due: November 1st

3rd quarter due: February 1st

4th quarter due: May 1st

Motor vehicle taxes are due 30 days from issue date.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Cotton
Town Collector

Report of the Town Accountant

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023

Receipts

TAXES

Property	5,128,092.66	
Motor Vehicle Excise	303,134.76	
Tax Liens	62,295.23	
Payments In Lieu of Taxes	153,851.03	
Rollback Taxes	12,310.68	
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	48,969.90	5,708,654.26

COMM MASS

Local Aid/Lottery UGGA	167,886.00	
Exemptions	17,834.00	
PILOT	2,905.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	480,230.00	
Charter School Reimbursement	30,369.00	
Vocational Transportation	6,825.00	
State Aid to Libraries	2,554.81	
Veterans Reimbursements	16,653.00	
Medicaid	2,800.15	728,056.96

MISC GRANTS AND GIFTS

COA – State	6,000.00	
Cemetery Gift	315.00	
Cultural Council	9,822.01	
Library Gifts	1,970.04	
Library Building Gift	10.71	
Library Grant Match	2,552.29	
Federal Fire Grant	5,050.00	
19 EMPG Grant	2,700.00	
20 EMPG Grant	2,700.00	
State AFG Grant	8,380.00	
State DCR Grant	1,789.50	
DEP Recycling Grant	8,600.00	
COVID CLFRF ARPA	158,984.03	208,873.58

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Licenses Selectboard	1,100.56	
Plumbing Fees	4,725.00	
Electrical Fees	3,525.00	
Building Permits	48,694.32	
Planning Board	146.00	
Zoning Permits	1,025.08	
Conservation Com Permits	262.50	
Library	15.09	
Tax Collector Fees	6,650.00	
HCOG Solar Credits	3,953.28	
Mark & Clear	1,260.00	
Town Clerk	2,430.00	
Insurance & Bonds Refund	1,822.00	
Other Departmental Revenue	1,321.62	
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,142.02	78,072.47

Receipts (cont'd)		
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Motor Vehicle Fines	197.50	
Police Detail Cruiser Fee	240.00	
Gun Permits	881.25	1,318.75
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Licenses & Permits, Fees	19,150.00	
Transfer Station Fees	67,965.15	87,115.15
REVOLVING FUNDS		
Montague Escrow 44,53G1/2	715.09	
TNC Fund	0.70	
Resource Officer	2,200.00	
Fire Dept. Revolving Fund	3,706.23	
Wetlands Conservation	267.50	
Septic Repayment	291.05	
Cemetery Revolving Fund	6,732.50	13,913.07
SCHOOL FUNDS		
Misc Reimbursements to Elementary School	32,039.03	
Choice Reimbursement	163,372.00	
Extra Relief Circuit Breaker	43,616.00	
GAPS/ REAPS Grant	9,226.00	
EBT Admin Grant	614.00	
ESSER II	53,437.00	
ESSER III	17,701.00	
Title IIA	360.00	
Local CC Grant	2,000.00	
STARS MCC Grant	1,200.00	
Pre-School	40,768.00	
Rural School Aid	10,747.74	
School Lunch Town	213.19	
School Lunch Federal	60,424.06	
School Lunch State	1,543.03	437,261.05
HIGHWAY		
Chapter 90	18,116.61	
Shared Streets & Spaces (HRSD)	36,000.00	54,116.61
TRUST		
Clapp Trust	134.66	
Sale of Lots C.114, S.15	0.00	
Cemetery Trust	211.62	
OPEB Trust	57.31	403.59
INTEREST		
On General Fund	2,450.93	
On Charity Funds	17.01	
On Veterans Trust	7.99	
On Stabilization	1,231.36	3,707.29
AGENCY		
Deputy Collector Fees	3,867.00	
Due to State Meals	5.31	
Gun Permits	2,643.75	
Police Outside Detail	3,586.00	
Payroll Deductions	756,697.16	766,799.22
TOTAL RECEIPTS		8,088,292.00

Non-Appropriation Expenditures

TAX REFUNDS

Property Tax	11,786.27	
Motor Vehicle Excise	3,316.75	15,103.02

AGENCY

Deputy Collector Fees	3,287.00	
Gun Permits	4,437.50	
Police Detail	4,675.00	
Payroll Deductions	751,581.82	763,981.32

SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

GAPS/REAPS Grant	20,858.48	
Extra Relief SPED Circuit Breaker	40,663.08	
Rural School Aid	14,857.79	
ESSER II	97,245.68	
ESSER III	11,719.05	
Title IIA	930.00	
Preschool	14,819.60	
School Choice	123,335.64	
Field Trips	3,022.46	
School Lunch	43,076.50	370,528.28

SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

Cemetery Revolving	8,781.70	
Cultural Council	5,250.00	
Council on Aging State	7,970.22	
CTCL Election Grant	3.53	
DEP Recycling Grant	3,792.92	
State Aid to Library	4,822.00	
Fire Dept. Revolving	1,982.60	
State AFG Grant	4,735.00	
Montague Escrow 44, 53G1/2	286,870.86	
Municipal Vulnerability Grant	106,023.46	
Green Community Grant	80,450.00	
22 EMPG Grant	2,563.74	
Covid19Cares CvRF	104,939.00	
Covid CLFRF ARPA	196,609.34	
CARES Postage	232.42	
HCGIT Wellness Grant	279.49	
Chapter 291 Highway Funds	278,249.62	
WRAP	146,209.72	
PD Shared Streets & Spaces	19,474.00	
Library Gifts	2,068.99	1,261,308.61

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Safety Complex Construction	1,875,270.76	1,875,270.76
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EXPENDABLE TRUSTS

Cemetery Trust	6,900.00	
Clapp Fund	395.29	7,295.29

TOTAL Non-Appropriation		4,293,487.28
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Appropriation Expenditures

	BUDGETED	SPENT	
<u>General Government</u>			
Moderator	538.00	538.00	
Selectboard Salary	5,655.00	5,655.00	
Selectboard Expense	5,100.00	4,677.35	
Selectboard Expense Enc.	14.05	14.05	
IT Support	28,404.00	27,792.90	
IT Support Enc.	820.60	820.60	
Administrative Assistant	57,384.00	57,384.00	
Accounting Officer Salary	17,525.00	17,525.00	
Accounting Officer Expense	4,790.00	4,701.42	
Treasurer Salary	17,525.00	17,525.00	
Treasurer Expense	8,250.00	7,763.14	
Tax Title Expense	6,500.00	2,694.40	
Assessor Salary	9,388.00	6,739.00	
Assessor Expense	17,577.00	17,315.50	
Assessor Expense Enc.	18.00	18.00	
Assessor Assistant	16,859.00	16,859.00	
Tax Collector Salary	17,525.00	17,525.00	
Tax Collector Expense	20,150.00	19,967.29	
Tax Taking Expense	800.00	0.00	
Town Clerk Salary	16,859.00	16,859.00	
Town Clerk Expense	8,165.00	6,452.97	
Clerk Board of Registrars	100.00	100.00	
Clerk Board of Registrars Enc.	100.00	100.00	
Training-Treasurer, Collector and Town Clerk	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Counsel Fees	18,000.00	11,602.17	
Counsel Fees Enc.	273.00	273.00	
Conservation Commission	317.00	317.00	
Planning Board	500.00	0.00	
Zoning Board of Appeals	600.00	547.76	
Town Offices	24,226.54	24,226.54	
Town Offices Enc.	353.00	353.00	
Paint Great Hall	8,732.77	0.00	
Town Hall & Annex Repairs C. fwd	2,500.00	2,183.19	290,529.28
<u>Protection of Persons & Property</u>			
Police Chief	35,767.00	35,767.00	
Police Department Expense	76,804.00	58,315.69	
Police Department Expense Enc.	6,683.16	6,683.16	
Police Vehicle	65,000.00	495.00	
Police Equip & Training Enc.	758.00	758.00	
Police Reform	7,500.00	6,517.87	
Police Reform Enc.	2,809.60	2,809.60	
Police Dual Band Radios	7,500.00	0.00	
Fire Chief Salary	14,177.00	14,177.00	
Fire Department Expense	40,250.00	29,964.63	
Public Safety Complex	18,600.00	16,966.98	
Public Safety Complex Enc.	4,703.42	4,703.42	
Emergency Management Dir.	2,745.00	2,745.00	
Emergency Medical Services	7,500.00	4,934.61	
EMS Coordinator	5,490.00	5,490.00	

Appropriation Expenditures (cont'd)

	BUDGETED	SPENT	
Ambulance Service	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Building Commissioner Salary	7,450.00	6,950.00	
Building Inspector Salary	28,000.00	28,000.00	
Inspector Expense	12,093.78	12,093.78	
Tree Warden	724.00	724.00	
Tree Warden Expense	2,600.00	2,600.00	
Animal Control Officer Salary	2,060.00	1,557.00	
Animal Control Officer Expense	2,200.00	309.32	267,562.06
Education			
School Committee	1,682.00	1,345.60	
Elementary School	2,023,922.04	1,965,197.97	
Elementary School Enc.	17,436.01	16,645.70	
Hampshire Regional	1,515,829.00	1,451,656.76	
School Choice Assessment	26,483.00	25,000.00	
Charter School Assessment	45,594.00	44,368.00	
Vocational Tutition	300,000.00	221,861.53	
Vocational Transportation	73,100.00	67,523.40	3,793,598.96
Public Works			
Highway Administration	10,000.00	9,063.44	
Highway Salaries	249,637.00	248,637.00	
Highway Materials	98,239.00	96,536.35	
Snow Removal	119,337.87	119,337.87	
Road Machinery	47,985.00	46,340.21	
Road Machinery Fuel	51,000.00	51,000.00	
Road Machinery Fuel Storage Tanks C Fwd	1,164.44	825.00	
Road Machinery Buildings	38,000.00	36,259.31	
Highway Utility Tractor	220,000.00	209,278.13	
Portable Compressor	29,000.00	28,421.45	
New Highway Truck	76,500.00	76,494.44	
Transfer Station	98,261.00	69,079.65	
Transfer Station Enc.	2,581.26	2,581.26	
Cemetery Salary	9,000.00	9,000.00	
Cemetery Commission	500.00	499.98	1,003,354.09
Human Services			
Board of Health Salary	1,359.00	465.00	
Board of Health Expense	500.00	0.00	
Hilltown Resource Mgt Coop	8,000.00	7,598.89	
Foothills Health District	24,313.00	24,312.37	
Animal Inspector Salary	1,030.00	515.00	
Council on Aging	3,025.00	3,025.00	
COA Coordinator	6,000.00	4,060.00	
Veterans Agent	1,968.00	1,968.00	
Veterans Expense	11,000.00	3,795.88	45,740.14
Culture & Recreation			
Library	119,806.00	116,448.69	
Library Enc	358.21	358.21	
Historical Commission	1,200.00	757.41	
Memorial Day	200.00	200.00	
Cultural Council	75.00	0.00	117,764.31

Appropriation Expenditures (cont'd)

	BUDGETED	SPENT	
<u>Debt</u>			
Public Safety Complex Bond	256,800.00	256,800.00	256,800.00
<u>Intergovernmental</u>			
State Assessments: Air Pollution	517.00	517.00	
RMV Surcharge	1,380.00	1,297.00	
Regional Transit	130.00	130.00	
PVPC	286.00	286.00	2,230.00
<u>Unclassified</u>			
Hampshire County Retirement	257,903.00	257,903.00	
Unemployment	9,555.84	7,504.87	
Group Health Insurance	412,694.16	412,694.16	
Medicare	32,800.00	32,705.81	
Insurance & Bonds	90,000.00	88,033.00	
OPEB Actuary Audit	2,925.00	0.00	
OPEB Trust (Transferred to Trust)	5,000.00	0.00	798,840.84
TOTAL APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES	6,998,040.75	6,576,419.68	
GRAND TOTAL - ALL EXPENDITURES			10,869,906.96

Combined Balance Sheet

A combined balance sheet, showing all fund types and account groups (as of June 30, 2023) is on next page.

Respectfully Submitted

Joseph Boudreau
Town Accountant

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Internal Services	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	(Memorandum Only)
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	1,471,980.95	908,989.84	17,822.71	0.00	0.00	862,403.03		3,261,196.53
Investments								0.00
Receivables:								
Personal property taxes	4,377.13							4,377.13
Real estate taxes	71,833.90							71,833.90
Allowance for abatements and exemptic	(49,592.91)							(49,592.91)
Tax liens	95,986.65							95,986.65
Deferred taxes								0.00
Motor vehicle excise	23,458.70							23,458.70
Due from other governments		118,079.60						118,079.60
Other receivables	18,032.58							18,032.58
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds							3,795,000.00	3,795,000.00
Total Assets	1,636,077.00	1,027,069.44	17,822.71	0.00	0.00	862,403.03	3,795,000.00	7,338,372.18
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY								
Liabilities:								
Accrued payroll	202,299.86							202,299.86
Withholdings								0.00
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	26,618.12							26,618.12
Tax liens	95,986.65							95,986.65
Motor vehicle excise	23,458.70							23,458.70
Other receivables	18,032.58	118,079.60				39,941.32		136,112.18
Agency Funds							3,795,000.00	3,795,000.00
Bonds payable							3,795,000.00	3,795,000.00
Total Liabilities	366,395.91	118,079.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	39,941.32	3,795,000.00	4,319,416.83
Fund Equity:								
Reserved for encumbrances	43,643.37							43,643.37
Reserved for expenditures	549,554.82							549,554.82
Reserved for continuing appropriations	104,226.87							104,226.87
Undesignated fund balance	572,256.03	908,989.84	17,822.71			822,461.71		2,321,530.29
Total Fund Equity	1,269,681.09	908,989.84	17,822.71	0.00	0.00	822,461.71	0.00	3,018,955.35
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,636,077.00	1,027,069.44	17,822.71	0.00	0.00	862,403.03	3,795,000.00	7,338,372.18

Report of the Board of Assessors

In 2023, the Board of Assessors recorded 56 property transfers. Also, the Board approved a total of 22 personal exemptions, 6 real estate abatements and 57 motor vehicle excise abatements.

Fiscal year 2024 was an interim recertification year for the Town of Westhampton. The State of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services reviewed and then certified the Town's values in October 2023.

Westhampton's assessed values for Fiscal Year 2024 are:

Real Estate -	\$260,459,733
Personal Property -	\$6,998,217
Exempt -	\$31,453,100

The tax rate was certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in November 2023 for fiscal year 2024 at \$20.69 per \$1000 of value.

The Assessor's Office is open to the public Tuesday evenings from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM, and Thursday mornings from 10 AM to 2 PM.

You can also reach the office at 413-203-3082 or via email at

assessor@westhamptonma.org

Property record cards can be viewed online at

<https://gis.vgsi.com/WesthamptonMA/Search.aspx>

Assessor's GIS Maps can be viewed online at:

<https://www.axisgis.com/westhamptonma/>

The Board of Assessors currently meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. Information on attending the meetings online is available on the Town website.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Morrey, Chair
Winnie Gorman
Marilyn Witherell

Report of the Zoning Board of Appeals

During 2023 the Zoning Board of Appeals received no applications and took no actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Westhampton Zoning Board of Appeals
Richard Tracy, Chair
Peter Ignatovich - John Kelsey
Dave Loven - Laurie Sanders

Report of the Planning Board

For the duration of 2023 the Planning Board was comprised of Susan Bronstein, Wade Clement, Pat Coffey, Jennifer Milikowsky and John Zimmerman; Susan and John were re-elected to the Board in June. Susan remained Chair until the June election after which Jennifer became Chair.

The Planning Board routinely met on the second Tuesday of the month. During January and February, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals met jointly four times to collaboratively review the work of the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee; these meetings were hybrid to allow remote participation.

In May a presentation of the proposed Master Plan Final Draft was held. This was also a hybrid meeting and included an explanation of its purpose, structure, and primary goals. In addition to the board, 11 people participated in a discussion of the proposed draft. At the conclusion, the Planning Board voted unanimously to adopt the Master Plan as proposed with the understanding that comments and suggestions generated would be included in the final Plan.

In August the Planning Board held a public hearing on the proposed zoning bylaws. In addition to the board, 25 members of the public were present to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed revisions. Following the public hearing, the Planning Board voted to recommend the adoption of the proposed zoning bylaws and sent the request to the Selectboard to hold a special Town meeting to do so.

Additionally, the Planning Board reviewed many ANR plans, approved plans for Kestrel Land Trust's permanent protection of forestland on Reservoir Road, and approved a revision in the Decommissioning Agreement with CVE for the permitted solar development on Montague Road. The Planning Board ended the year reviewing the newly adopted zoning bylaws to prepare for new responsibilities in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Milikowsky, Chair
Westhampton Planning Board

Report of the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee

In November of 2016 this committee was formed and charged with performing a complete review of the existing zoning bylaws dated May 1995 and to present a proposal to update/improve them. After seven years of committee meetings, public informational meetings, public hearings and approval at a special Town meeting on November 6, 2023, this is the final report.

We completed work on any new bylaws late in 2022. On November 16th and 30th 2022 we conducted public informational hearings to present the proposed draft and receive comments. After the public informational hearings, we started a final complete review of the bylaws. We sent a draft proposal to the Administrative Assistant, Doug Finn, and it was placed on the Town website. We sent changes to Doug as they were made during the final review, and he updated the website.

We completed our review in July 2023 and sent our final proposal to the Planning Board. The Planning Board scheduled a Public Hearing for August 8, 2023. The hearing was conducted, and the Planning Board voted approval and sent it to the Selectboard to schedule a Special Town Meeting.

On November 6, 2023, a Special Town Meeting was held, and the full bylaw proposal was passed by a super-majority vote.

The committee wishes to give special thanks to Doug Finn, Administrative Assistant, and Teri Anderson for their guidance during this very long process, Thank you to the residents of Westhampton for their patience and support for the committee's work.



Photo: Sodom Brook tire cleanup-up. November 2023

From left to right: Alyson Arnold, Bill Randolph, John Hoops (all Westhampton residents) Photo credit: Bill Randolph

Respectfully submitted,

Zoning Bylaw Review Committee

Pat Coffey

Steve Gagne

John Kelsey

Brigid O'Riordan

Art Pichette

John Shaw, Chair

Report of the Conservation Commission

Members: Brad Morse (Chair), Fred Morrison, Bill Randolph, Alyson Arnold, Jessica Lerman (recorder).

Associate (non-voting) members: Jerome Renault, Steve Holt

Under the Wetlands Protection Act, eight “interests” are protected by Town conservation commissions across the state. These commissions process thousands of applications every year for permits to perform work in and near wetlands, floodplains, banks, riverfront areas, beaches, and surface waters. (Source: Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions)

The eight important public values subject to protection, referred to as “interests,” are:

1. Protection of public and private water supply
2. Protection of groundwater supply
3. Flood Control
4. Storm damage prevention

5. Prevention of pollution
6. Protection of land containing shellfish
7. Protection of fisheries
8. Protection of wildlife habitat

Brief Summary of Activities for 2023

Site visits:.....	9
Continuation of Hearings.....	2
Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)	None
Order of Conditions	6
Notice of Intent (NOI).....	6
Certificate of Compliance (COC)	3
Building Permit Sign-offs	8
Forest Cutting Plan Notifications	4
Emergency Septic Repair	None
Violation Concern	None

Conservation Restriction Properties Monitored Annually

- Westhampton Public Library Conservation Restriction Area (2012)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restriction Area –Skibiski (2012)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restriction—Sarafin (2013)
- Hilltown Land Trust Conservation Restriction—Weiss donor (pre-2012)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restriction—Glass donor (2015)
- Martin/Held property Conservation Restriction (2016)
- Lewis Conservation Restriction (2018)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restriction—Hanging Mountain/Lashway (2018)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restriction—Collins (2018)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restriction—Greenberg (2018)
- Redwin Conservation Restriction (2019)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restriction—Harris parcel (2023)

Board Members’ Ongoing Professional Development (2023)

Massachusetts Conservation Commission Conference (MACC)

Respectfully submitted,

Conservation Commission

Public Safety

Report of the Police Department

After one full year of settling into the new public safety building, your officers are once again appreciative and thankful for the support the Town provided to all the first responders. This long-awaited facility is safe, secure, and has a place to store vehicles and equipment out of the elements. The office space is adequate to accomplish the day-to-day operations of the department for the town.

The officers of the Town have endeavored to continue to attain the training required under the police reform standards. Each officer has accomplished this requirement and meets the standards set by the Municipal Police Training Council. These mandatory, standardized trainings bring our part-time officers to the same training level and requirements of full-time officers. This includes firearms proficiency, less lethal force options, de-escalation skills, and first aid/CPR to include Narcan training for overdose situations. Furthermore, officers are given instruction in legal updates, refreshers in motor vehicle enforcement, skills to interact with persons with mental health concerns and report writing.

In addition to the grants for speed enforcement trailers and communication enhancement in FY 23, this year the Town was awarded approximately \$40,000 to improve the portable communications available to the officers. These portable radios are worn as part of the officer's duty equipment. The portables have all band frequencies, VHF, UHF and 800 to allow us to speak to Northampton Control Dispatch, The State Police, the Fire Department and other local police mutual aid partners. Certainly, this funding through the Byrne Grant process is no small amount in the overall needs for reliable emergency communications. The department is grateful for the funding opportunity and award provided.

Last year I wrote a reminder and caution about an increase in opportunity thefts from unlocked cars. This trend continued throughout the valley with a new twist. This year a trend in Town and in the region was to target items posted on social media. Ten motor vehicle larcenies occurred in Town in 2023. One unlocked car with keys inside was taken from a driveway and recovered within hours in Connecticut. The other nine were dirt bike type motorcycles stored inside garages, barns, or carports. The motorcycles that were recovered were also found in Connecticut. Once again, please lock your vehicles in your driveways. Take all valuable items inside and use outdoor lighting to dissuade would-be thieves. When posting items on social media, consider turning off location tags or going to a public space away from your home.

Other than these crimes of opportunity, which for Westhampton were significant, a total of 909 calls were documented which is up from 558 in the calendar year 2022. Some of the numbers can be attributed to an increase in assist citizen calls for various concerns (67), motor vehicle stops/complaints (118), investigations (23) and proactive patrols. Accidents were down from 35 to 28 in the 2023 calendar year. It should be noted that in 2023, we were able to fully implement the record management system managed by the Commonwealth to document the work of the police department more efficiently and completely. This may have contributed to the increase in documented calls.

Firearms Permits

Your application, new or a renewal, can be printed from

www.mass.gov/firearms

and mailed to 48 Stage Road. Please include any safety certificates and a check for \$100 made out to the Town of Westhampton. This will start the process and an officer will contact you if there are additional requirements for your application. Please remember to renew your license before your birthday to ensure your permit remains current. If you should have questions, please call the office at 527-6154.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. White,
Chief of Police

Report of the Westhampton Fire Department

The Westhampton Fire Department is an all-volunteer organization consisting of thirty-two Firefighters, Emergency Medical Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) that respond to numerous emergency calls throughout the year. All personnel are alerted to an emergency in Town through a paging system that provides the emergency responders with the location and nature of the call. Emergency personnel then stop what they are doing to respond to the Fire Station to retrieve equipment and vehicles needed for the response. We have continually educated people throughout the community that given the current type of volunteer organization the Town has in place, there is a possibility that someone may have an emergency and not get a response from a

member of the Westhampton Fire Department or Westhampton EMS. Additionally, we have informed the public that if we do have personnel that can respond, from the time of notification for an emergency, to the time we arrive on the scene and begin mitigation efforts, it could be anywhere from 10-15 minutes depending on the location in Town where the emergency occurred. This time frame is within the normal response time based on Call/Volunteer Departments as outlined in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1720 Standard.

The 2023 year was one of change with the biggest transformation being the move into the new Westhampton Public Safety Complex. We were fortunate for the Town's support in granting the funds to enable the emergency services in Town to build a modern facility. This has been in the



planning stage for many years and the public safety complex committee spent many hours researching what would suit the Town best and support it for many years into the future.

On April 22, 2023 we celebrated the move-in and completion of the new Public Safety Complex with the Westhampton Community and surrounding towns, holding an Open House. The event was well attended and a large amount of fun. Fire safety and EMS information was available, history of the process by the Town from Carter Cleary, and slide show of the building project (Phil Dowling) were at various areas. Herrell's donated their ice cream trailer and Tandem Bagel provided cookies and iced coffee along with many other donations of time and talent from the community.



Summer Firefighter Training on Northwest Road - Photo by Garrett Antosz

The Firefighter Safety Grant for approximately \$7,000 was awarded to the Town with which we purchased a complete set of protective turnout gear and spare SCBA bottles. We also are waiting for word on if we received any of the numerous grants from different state agencies that we have applied for. With these grants we will be able to outfit our newest and current members with compliant turn out gear and additional equipment to enhance our responder's safety and current response capabilities. These can account for approximately \$10,000 in equipment purchases that the Town will not have to fund.

We also signed another three-year agreement with the City of Easthampton Fire Department to provide paramedic level ambulance service for the Town of Westhampton. This service is in conjunction with Westhampton's EMS personnel and is a valuable cooperative effort between the

two departments to provide Town residents with the best possible care when emergencies happen. We continue to augment our current EMS personnel and have added additional EMT's and EMR's to help serve the residents of Westhampton. We are always looking for more individuals who would be willing to take on the task of helping our community.

Like many organizations, the fire service continues to face challenges. Recruitment of new personnel continues to be a major concern for small volunteer organizations. The Westhampton Fire Department is always looking for people willing to make the commitment and join the Department so we can maintain this active organization. Ongoing training and education are a significant focus in the fire service based on the need to keep up with changing protocols, new technologies and hazards encountered by personnel. The safety of all our personnel and mutual aid partners is paramount and a primary focus of our mission. Throughout the year, personnel are expected to attend local, county, state, or federal training programs to remain competent and operate safely during any emergency.

This year was one of transition.

Robert Miller retired from the Westhampton Fire Department after serving over 40 years as an EMT and First Responder. He was part of the original founding members of the Westhampton EMS team. His dedication to the EMS for the Town of Westhampton was second to none and he will be missed for his responses.

Retired Captain Mike Derouin also retired from being our Training Officer in 2023 after many years of dedicated service. His willingness to keep up to date on the latest training methods and curriculum was a tremendous benefit to the department. His knowledge and help will be extremely missed.

On an upbeat note, we welcomed new firefighter Christopher Phillips to the department. Chris will be attending the next Basic 6 training program in the spring of 2024. Chris comes from a family of firefighters and is eager to learn and help in the community.

We were fortunate to enlist Robert Dragon Jr. as our new EMS Coordinator. Bobby took over after Deputy Mark Gould stepped down from that position after many years serving as Westhampton's EMS coordinator. Bobby grew up in Westhampton and was once on the Westhampton Fire Department. He has moved back to Town and is a full-time paramedic with the Easthampton Fire



Westhampton Fire Department Tank Training - Photo by Audrey Antosz

Department. His knowledge and experience will be a great help with the Town's EMS system and cooperative training with Easthampton Fire.



Fire Truck Cleanup - Photo by Audrey Antosz

help maintain this type of organization. Open burning is only allowed on Saturday or Sunday during burning season with a valid permit. This is so there is a higher probability that personnel will be home during the hours of open burning to respond if the need arises.

The Department responded to one hundred and seventy-eight calls for service this year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous conditions response, carbon monoxide alarm activations, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations and other response types and requests.

We were also fortunate this year to have a new Junior recruit added to our ranks. Brandon Diaz has joined as our newest Junior Firefighter. Brandon will continue to learn the ropes with in-house training and will be transitioning to a full-fledged firefighter when he turns 18. Our junior firefighter program is still a viable option for young people and is open to Town residents that are between the ages of 16 to 18. They can join the department and participate in training and other activities.

Our Westhampton Fire Incident Auxiliary is still active and has done some joint training with fire department personnel this year. We are hoping to do more in 2024 and value their efforts and participation along with their willingness to help everyone out. If a major situation in Town occurs, they will respond and assist by setting up an area on scene with water, food and other needed items to help keep the responders safe and hydrated, supporting rehab of emergency personnel. The Department was awarded a \$2,700 Emergency Management Preparedness grant, submitted by our Emergency Manager Todd Alexander, to support this effort with needed supplies. The Westhampton Fire Incident Auxiliary group is a welcome addition to the Town's emergency response system.

Based on the volunteer nature of the fire department, many preventative measures have been explored and implemented to

2023 emergency calls breakdown

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	11	6.18%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	111	62.36%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	20	11.24%
Service Call	13	7.3%
Good Intent Call	5	2.81%
False Alarm & False Call	17	9.55%
Special Incident Type	1	0.56%
TOTAL	178	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
100 - Fire, other	2	1.12%
111 – Building fire	6	3.37%
131 – Passenger vehicle fire	1	0.56%
141 - Forest, woods or wildland fire	1	0.56%
162 – Outside equipment fire	1	0.56%
300 - Rescue, EMS incident, other	1	0.56%
311 – Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	0.56%
320 – Emergency medical service, other	50	28.09%
321 – EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	37	20.79%
322 – Motor vehicle accident with injuries	5	2.81%
324 – Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	16	8.99%
372 – Trapped by power lines	1	0.56%
400 – Hazardous condition, other	4	2.25%
410 - Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	1	0.56%
413 – Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1	0.56%
424 – Carbon monoxide incident	1	0.56%
444 – Power line down	13	7.3%
500 – Service Call, other	6	3.37%
520 – Water problem, other	3	1.69%
550 – Public service assistance, other	1	0.56%
551 – Assist police or other governmental agency	2	1.12%
561 – Unauthorized burning	1	0.56%
600 – Good intent call, other	2	1.12%
611 – Dispatched & cancelled en route	2	1.12%
671 – HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	1	0.56%
700 – False alarm or false call, other	2	1.12%
730 – System malfunction, other	2	1.12%

733 – Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1	0.56%
734 – Heat detector activation due to malfunction	1	0.56%
735 – Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	2	1.12%
740 – Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	2	1.12%
743 – Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2	1.12%
744 – Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	0.56%
745 – Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	4	2.25%
900 – Special type of incident, other	1	0.56%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	178	100%

In addition to the emergency responses, personnel commit numerous hours to training and other activities for the community. Continual training is a critical component for all our members to keep them safe and remain competent in their skill sets throughout the year. In 2023, our members conducted almost 500 hours of department training. This training included in-house courses along with Hampshire County and Mass Fire Academy courses, neighboring community mutual aid training exercises, and online courses that are offered through the Mass Fire Academy and IFSTA, an International Fire Service Training Association.

The Department's fleet of apparatus consists of a 2004 Engine, 1986 Engine, 2017 Tanker Truck, 2002 Brush Truck, 2009 Rescue Truck, 2009 Mobile Air trailer with a light tower and generator, Kubota UTV, and a 2009 Jeep Liberty. All vehicles are checked by department personnel on a weekly basis to ensure a state of operational readiness and reliability. All vehicles have maintenance service completed each year along with any repairs needed that require a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT's) to prolong the expected lifespan of the vehicles and improve safety during emergency responses. This maintenance also includes rescue equipment, SCBAs, and hose and pump testing procedures. They are reflected in the department's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating and meet the requirements set by National Standards pertaining to Fire Apparatus.

The Department continues to rely heavily on its website to help with communications throughout the community. The website is incorporated with the Town of Westhampton and all burning permits and smoke detector/CO inspection requests have transitioned to this online forum. This makes it more convenient for anyone to request a permit or inspection and receive a response in a short amount of time. For a department that is all-volunteer, we have already seen a dramatic improvement in communication, both externally and internally with our members. We hope to continually make improvements in the future to better service all Town residents as efficiently as possible.

The Town continues to have a mass notification system to alert all Town residents of any emergencies. This system is called CodeRED and provides the Town with the ability to call all landlines or cell phone numbers and text message or email individuals that are part of the program. The intent of this type of system is to improve communication prior to a large-scale disaster or weather-related event to provide guidance and direction to the community. Information such as time expectation of power being restored, opening of warming shelters, and items that individuals are expected to have on their own, are some examples of what may be shared. Anyone can sign up for this system by going to the Westhampton Fire Department website at westhampton-ma.com and click on the CodeRED icon on our homepage.

To conclude, I would like to thank every member of the Department for all the work they do. The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than just respond to emergencies. Throughout the year, they are involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, Fall Festival, the filling of residents swimming pools and Town cemetery and school garden water tanks, providing safety training to the local schools to include a Westhampton Elementary School Fire Safety Day visit, and have helped with the Boy Scouts. This year even saw a third-place trophy with our 'Peanuts, Charlie Brown theme' decorated Engine 2 at the Russell Parade of lights in December.

As is always the case, we continue to look for new volunteers that are interested in serving as an EMT, EMR (First Responder), Firefighter or in combined roles. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Antosz
Fire Chief / EMR / Forest Warden
Westhampton Fire Department

Members

Steve Holt- Assistant Chief/EMT	John Bridgman- Deputy Chief/EMR
Mark Gould- Deputy Chief/ EMT	Bill Jablonski- Captain/EMR
Rick Tracy- Captain/EMR	Christopher Brooks- Captain/EMR
Scott Tirrell- Captain/EMR	Don Fox- Firefighter/EMR
Michael Diggins- Firefighter/EMR	Jeff Brooks- Firefighter/EMR
Joe Bykowski- Firefighter/EMR on leave	John Zimmerman- Firefighter/EMR
Garrett Antosz- Firefighter/EMR	Jake Antosz- Firefighter/EMT
Cody Guessing- Ames- Firefighter/EMR	Adam Brunet- Firefighter/EMR
Chris Dunn- Firefighter/EMR	Austin Norris- Firefighter/EMR
Bridget Diggins- Firefighter/EMR	Ryan Gagne- Firefighter/EMR
McKenzie Nichols- Firefighter/EMT	Colton Garelli- Firefighter/EMR
Christopher Phillips – Firefighter	Brandon Diaz – Junior Firefighter
Michael Derouin – Training Officer Retired	Robert Miller- EMR Retired 2023
Lee Douchkoff – EMT	Audrey Antosz – EMT
Charleen Diggins – EMR	Barbara Nichols – EMT
Bob Dragon – Paramedic/EMS Coordinator	

Reports from the Building Inspection Department

There were 240 Building and Electrical permits issued in 2023 with \$63,369 collected in fees for projects valued at \$7,565,677.

• Residential permits-	155
• Commercial permits	3
• Sheet Metal permits-	6
• Tent permits-	1
• Sign permits-	0
• Annual Inspections-	4
• Electrical permits-	71

A building permit is required by the State Building Code to construct, alter, repair, remove, or demolish a building or structure. If you are not sure whether your project will require a permit, please call before you begin construction.

The Building Department's on-line permitting program has been in use for over three years now and is working well. The electronic payment portion of the program is now functional, allowing for permits to be paid for on-line at the time of the application.

Permit applications may now be completed through the new on-line building permits portal on the Town's website: www.westhampton-ma.com.

On November 6, 2023, a new version of the Westhampton Zoning Bylaws was approved by a vote of Westhampton Town Meeting. The Building Department is now responsible for completing Zoning Determinations and Zoning Enforcement. The new bylaws are available on the Town website. Please contact us with any Zoning questions.

The Building Commissioner's office no longer has regular office hours, but appointments can be scheduled if necessary. If you need help filling out the forms, please send us an email: buildinginspector@westhamptonma.org or give us a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Quinlan, Jr. - Westhampton Building Commissioner
Todd Alexander - Local Building Inspector
Wally Marek - Local Building Inspector

Report from the Plumbing and Gas Inspector

During the 2023 calendar year, the plumbing inspector's office received 39 requests for plumbing and gas inspections. 19 were for plumbing. Of those, 6 were for new houses and 13 for renovation. 20 were for gas inspections.

A total of \$3,635 was collected for permits and fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Biran Pichette
Plumbing and Gas Inspector

Report of the Foothills Health District / Health Agent

During 2023, the department issued 6 Food Permits, 1 Campground Permit, 15 Septic System Permits, 11 Septic Installers, 3 Refuse Haulers, 4 Septic Pumps, 1 Pool and 10 Wells. We also witnessed 13 Perc Tests and 11 Septic System Inspections.

A total of \$19,500 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 Foothills Health District:

- 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

We be reached at 413-268-8404. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 AM to 3 PM. Written messages or mail should be directed to me at P.O. Box 447 Haydenville, MA 01039, or via email at Foothills@Burg.org. I look forward to another productive year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Bushee, Health Director
Foothills Health District

Education

Report of the Hampshire Regional School District

It has been an interesting and busy 2023! This is my third and last year as Superintendent of Schools, and I hope that I am leaving the district in a better place with a clearer vision of becoming a high-performing district. Our central office saw a great deal of movement, and has several fresh faces: Mary Jane Rickson (Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment), Nicole Heroux (Director of Student Services), and Mickey Buhl (Business Administrator). Two new elementary principals joined our HRSD community: Amanda Faro at NHRES and Andrea McGrath at WES. All of these leaders are energetic, strong, knowledgeable, empathetic, flexible, and most importantly, love students!

I continue to be impressed with the district's sense of community, desire for increased collaboration, strive for academic excellence, and focus on students' mental well-being. The Hampshire Regional member school districts continue to work towards shared goals with the overarching goal of increasing the functionality and collaboration within our district to ensure efficiency, stability, and high performance. We continue to address this by concentrating on centralized leadership and operations, increased district collaboration, clearly defined business processes, in-depth program evaluations, improved communication with stakeholders, and the utilization of best instructional practices in all schools to address varied student needs in a consistent manner. Large strides have been made in getting all five districts to work collaboratively in an effort to have consistent policies and procedures, aligned curricula, and common expectations among all schools. The All Districts Committee, representative of all 5 school districts, finalized the Working Group Agreement, which is focused on the presentation of budgets and the Superintendent evaluation and hiring process.

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award from the Grinspoon Foundation is a highly coveted award and recognizes the accomplishments and best teaching practices of our outstanding educators. The winners of the award for the 2023 school year were Lisa Rice from William E. Norris Elementary School and Greg Reynolds of Hampshire Regional High School. Winners from local districts were celebrated at the annual banquet at the Log Cabin. Congratulations to both of our winners!

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 the Central Office, which is made up of 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

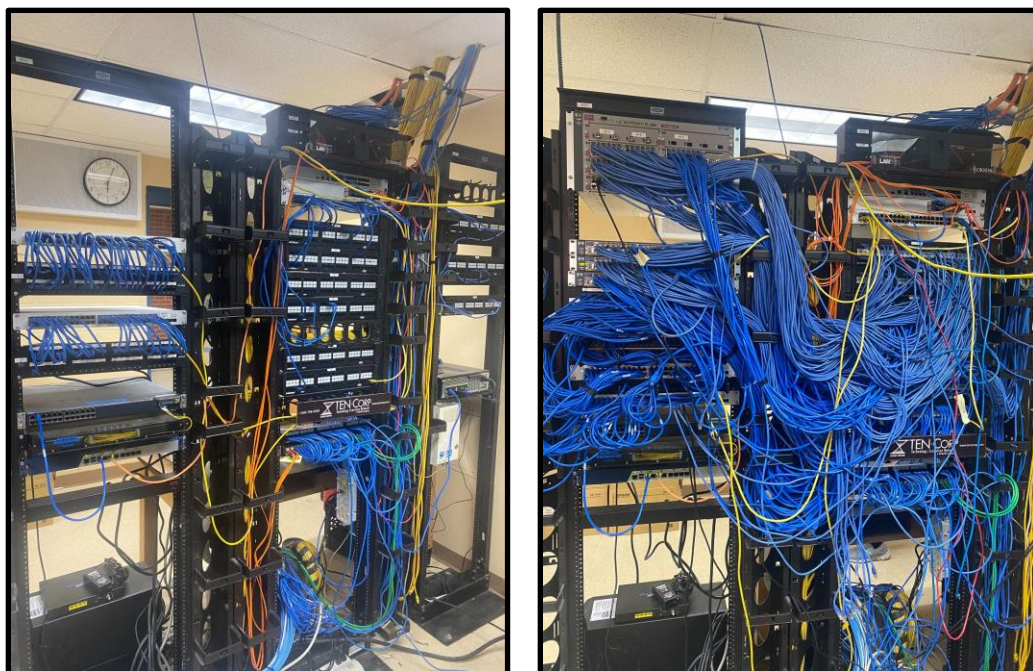
Mickey Buhl joined our NHRS team in July. The business office is responsible for all finance, operations, personnel, and contract functions for the five separate districts of Hampshire Regional Schools- this means five budgets, five different school contracts, and five different towns. The business office manages all five budgets to support nearly 1550 students and over 360 employees throughout the region. While much additional funding was provided in the past few years to help offset costs associated with Covid, most of the additional funding has been spent. Since the government has not provided us with additional funds with the exception of Rural Aid, we are trying to be strategic and focused in our spending. Additionally, in an effort to improve communication

pertaining to the budgeting process, 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 communication will be an ongoing effort of the school business office. Additionally, accounting and human resources procedures and protocols, as well as new payroll systems are being developed in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

Technology

An outside agency continues to meet our districts' Director of Technology needs, Todd Schubach and Blake Mallet were our Directors from Suzor IT. After an internal audit was completed in the Fall of 2022, Suzor IT determined that a network infrastructure update was the single most important priority to improve our technology speed and continuity of services. In addition to the hardware installation, critical changes were made to the network that helped strengthen connectivity issues, stability issues, and overall security. We also were able to move all of the phone systems within the district over to the newly installed switches. A new security camera system with 20 cameras was implemented at the Anne T. Dunphy School.

HRSD continues to have 1:1 devices at all schools, and Suzor IT has developed a comprehensive technology replacement plan that will help us maintain our devices and replace them as necessary.



Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction/Grants

Mary Jane Rickson became the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in September. Hampshire Regional is one of four districts across the Commonwealth that was awarded the SOA Rural Innovation and Efficiencies Grant (FC 123), which supports the alignment of mathematics (PK-12) across all the district's schools. The \$208,000.00 award, granted in 2022, enabled the purchase of a new 6-8 math curriculum (Into Math), and also supported professional development for all math teachers through online and in-person coaching. We have

already noticed improved MCAS math scores, and this specialized professional development played a large role in the increased scores.

Ms. Rickson organized a district-wide professional development day on December 15th. All of the elementary schools in the District were afforded the opportunity to meet by grade level to collaborate on curriculum, review school data, and discuss grade-level matters.

The district is currently working with an outside agency to audit our Pre-K programs, specifically in curriculum, early intervention referrals, and progress monitoring to identify strengths and challenges. We plan to create unified systems and processes that will provide the best educational environment to best serve our students and their caregivers.

Student Services

Nicole Heroux joined the team at Hampshire Regional in July. The Director of Student Services is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment while optimizing resource utilization for the benefit of all students. Her focus for the year is to determine how to support the districts and their special education programs. Ms. Heroux is currently collecting data aimed at identifying strategic measures to reduce special education costs. This effort involves gathering and analyzing data related to various aspects of special education services, resource allocation, and program effectiveness. The goal is to explore innovative approaches and evidence-based practices that not only enhance the quality of special education but also contribute to cost-saving measures within the department. Ms. Heroux would like to explore options of creating more in-house programs to support our students' needs and keep them in the community rather than sending students out of the district.

The Massachusetts Department of Education is currently in the process of disseminating the new Individualized Education Program (IEP), and dedicated training sessions are being provided to staff members. This initiative aims to ensure that all relevant personnel are well-informed and equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement and navigate the updated IEP guidelines. The training sessions are designed to empower staff members with a comprehensive understanding of the new IEP framework, fostering a seamless transition and promoting the delivery of high-quality special education services across the state. The Massachusetts Department of Education remains committed to supporting educators in their continuous efforts to meet the diverse needs of students through these updated protocols.

HRSD received \$509,577 (Grant 240) to supplement the costs of special education programming and services for all of our schools. In addition, an Early Childhood entitlement grant (Grant 262) brought in \$15,440 to supplement our early childhood programs. Additional monies are reimbursed for special education costs through the Circuit Breaker and School Choice Special Ed.

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

Sincerely,

Diana Bonneville, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Report of the Hampshire Regional High School

As we reflect on 2023 at Hampshire Regional High School, it's evident that our community continued to thrive and adapt to the evolving landscape of education. While challenges persisted, the resilience and dedication of our staff, students, and families remained unwavering. This report provides a snapshot of the achievements, events, and changes that shaped the past year.

Enrollment

At the end of 2023, 711 students were currently enrolled at HRHS. This is an increase in enrollment from the past few years.

Current Enrollment by Town:

- Chesterfield: 20 students
- Goshen: 31 students
- Southampton: 310 students
- Westhampton: 85 students
- Williamsburg: 86 students
- Worthington (tuition agreement): 27 students
- School Choice: 152

Current Enrollment by Grade:

- 7th Grade: 147 students
- 8th Grade: 139 students
- 9th Grade: 109 students
- 10th Grade: 103 students
- 11th Grade: 110 students
- 12th Grade: 103 students

Staffing

In February, it was my absolute pleasure to award the Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching award to French teacher Greg Reynolds. Greg was nominated by numerous colleagues who said that “Greg is a joyful educator. He is excited by his work and by interacting with students, which of course is then reflected in his teaching and in students’ learning... Greg is continually up to date with new practices and working hard to push [the world language department] forward.”

In 2023, we bid farewell to four staff members who dedicated many years to Hampshire Regional. Teacher Michele McHale retired at the end of the 2022-2023 school year after 24 years. Building Substitute Judy Thrasher retired in October after six years of service to our school, and Para Educator Laura Bean in September retired after 23 years. Van Driver Joyce Dragon retired after five years at Hampshire.

I was so pleased to welcome new staff members to our school community in August. Alyssa Prucnal, Alia Woofenden, and Joseph Castillo all joined our staff as Para Educators. Kimberly Downey has joined our staff as a Permanent Building Substitute. Clifford (CJ) Holt returned to Hampshire as our new Director of Student Activities. Finally, Melissa McDonnell joined our team in November as a Health/Physical Education teacher.

In December, our beloved Occupational Therapist and Para Educator Mia Sgueglia lost her life in a tragic car accident. Our students and staff are mourning this loss and our counseling department

provided additional support and resources to those who were most deeply affected. 8th grade student Taylan McColgan came up with the idea of a memorial scholarship in Mia's name to honor her life and her contributions to HRHS. The first Mia Sgueglia Memorial Scholarship will be given to a student in the class of 2024 this coming June.

Academic Achievements

Hampshire Regional High School earned a spot on the Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll and also earned the AP Access Award in 2023! This recognition from the College Board is based on our students' performance on AP exams, and underscores our commitment to providing students with access to challenging coursework, preparing them for future academic endeavors.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) assigns a rating and an accountability percentile to every school throughout the state each year. Hampshire Regional High School maintained a strong standing in the state's accountability system, reflecting our commitment to academic success and student growth. Our accountability percentile in 2023 is 80, which means



Juniors and seniors line up for Academic Society induction.

that Hampshire Regional High School is performing better than 79% of K-12 and middle/high schools across the state. This is an improvement from our accountability percentile of 72 last year, and is the highest accountability percentile we have been assigned since DESE began using this rating in 2013.

In November, 35 juniors and seniors were inducted into the Hampshire Regional High School Academic Society, run by HRHS librarian Andrea Belanger! In order to be eligible for Academic Society, students must have maintained a minimum of a 3.7 grade point average, completed their 30 hours of community service by the time they are applying, and complete additional community service throughout their time in Academic Society. This year, current Academic Society members chose Anne T. Dunphy Principal and HRHS Alumna Stacey Jenkins as their guest speaker.

Congratulations to the following Westhampton students on this accomplishment: Owen Connor, Isabella Colton, Dana Warren, and Alyssa Colon-Garcia.

Two students in the class of 2024 were named Commended Students as part of the National Merit Scholarship Program based on their outstanding PSAT scores. Congratulations to Nicky Elias-Gillette (Williamsburg) and Devin Lemay (Easthampton)!

Five additional Hampshire students earned national recognition from the College Board! This recognition is based on their academic performance in school in addition to their performance on the PSAT and/or AP exams. Congratulations to Alex Materdey (Williamsburg) who received National Hispanic Recognition Award, and Devin Lemay (Easthampton), Kaylee McConnell (Southampton), Tim Cahill (Southampton), and Tyler Hetu (Southampton) who all received the National Rural and Small Town Award.



Ali Jenkins plays on the varsity girls basketball team at their season opener at the Mullins Center.

Athletic and Extracurricular Achievements

Senior Gavin DaFonte (Southampton) was appointed to the MIAA Student Advisory Committee for the 2023-2024 school year. Gavin completed a thorough application process, including an interview, and will represent HRHS (and Western Mass) as he participates in a variety of leadership, sportsmanship, wellness, diversity, equity & inclusion and community service programs through the MIAA this year.

Our athletic teams have also experienced great success this year. Our softball team continues to shine and again won the Western Mass Championship in June! Our boys soccer team won their first Western Mass Championship since 2007 in November. Our cross country teams both made it to the

State Championship races this fall with the boys team coming in 10th place in the state and the girls coming in 9th place!

This year's spring musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, was just as fabulous as we have come to expect from our students and staff! Directed, produced, and supported by Myka Plunkett, Lauren Bell, Pam Plumer, and Dave Tripp, the spring musical captivated audiences with humor and talent. The dedication of the 33 students in the cast and crew shone through in each performance.

Two seniors from the class of 2023, Riley Smith (Southampton) and Ozzie Frazier (Easthampton), represented Hampshire Regional in the prestigious All-State Music Festival, showcasing their musical talents at Symphony Hall in Boston. Choral director Aidan Linden supported them throughout this process and helped make it possible for our students to achieve such success in this area.

The 2023 spring drama production was directed by graduating seniors Mimi Hihnbrand (Westhampton) and Penelope Black (Williamsburg). Mimi and Penelope directed a series of one-act plays in the black box theater. This was a fantastic evening with a wide variety of performances that allowed individual students to showcase their own talents and creativity!



Seniors at the "Senior Walkthrough" at the Westhampton Elementary School

High school Student Council students, led by teachers Kim Bush and Kelly Carpenter, orchestrated another successful series of "Raider Days" in April, a testament to their dedication to enhancing our

school's culture and fostering student leadership. Students participated in student-led workshops throughout the morning. Each workshop was supervised by at least one staff member but was facilitated by a high school Student Council representative. The workshops that were offered included:

- Stress Management and Movement
- Relationship Building Bracelets
- Time Management and Mental Health
- Why Hampshire?

After the workshops concluded, students played lawn games, participated in a kickball tournament, and attended the spirit rally. Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. Bush, and the whole Student Council put an inordinate amount of time into planning this day for the second year in a row. Their dedication and love for HRHS is evident through their work and was greatly appreciated by students and staff alike!

Class of 2023

Celebrating the 102 members of class of 2023 through their many seniors events, culminating in our June 3 graduation ceremony, was a joy for all. 70 awards were given out to a total of 46 seniors at Senior Awards Night on May 30. The next day, May 31, seniors went to Brownstone Adventure Sports Park for a day of fun and celebration with their classmates and class advisors. On June 1, seniors participated in a beloved annual tradition where they walk through their elementary schools with their caps and gowns as our district's elementary students and teachers cheer them on. Both students and teachers look forward to this event every year and there are many hugs, tears of joy, and high fives to go around! Our outdoor graduation ceremony almost did not happen this year due to the threat of rain and storms, but in the end, we were able to hold our outdoor ceremony on June 3 at 6 PM! It was a chilly but beautiful evening for us to celebrate the class of 2023 like they deserved. Graduation speakers included President Eliza Warner (Chesterfield), Vice President Silvia Bastek (Williamsburg), Secretary Stellina Simonelli (Williamsburg), Katie Sullivan (Northampton), Valedictorian Ellia Masenior (Northampton), and Salutatorian Riley Smith (Southampton). Seniors from our high school chorus performed Walking in the Wind and the HRHS Chamber Singers sang the National Anthem. I would like to extend our gratitude to the Westhampton Police Department who once again volunteered their time to help ensure a smooth graduation ceremony from start to finish.

Summer, College, and Career Programming:

Summer at Hampshire Regional was vibrant with various programs aimed at supporting our students. These included our transition program for incoming 7th grade students with IEPs, credit recovery for students in grades 7-11, 7th grade Raider Camp, building tours and locker practice for all new students, and 7th grade orientation. 125 of our 140 7th graders attended Raider Camp, and we had almost perfect attendance at 7th grade orientation, meaning that our students were extraordinarily prepared and ready to start middle school on the first day of school!

Our Counseling department, led by Amy Scully, has hosted numerous events for students and families to begin preparing for life after high school. During 10th grade ELA MCAS in March, junior students participated in College and Career Workshops to provide juniors with valuable insights into interview skills, resume building, college panels, career exploration, and more. During 10th grade Math MCAS in May, freshmen students participated in Career Exploration Days. They participated in activities to learn more about GPA and transcripts, heard from a college panel with representatives from local universities, and completed a career exploration lesson. The second day

was career day when we had a panel of presenters to share more about their jobs. Presenters included a physical therapist, electrical engineer, fire captain, probation officer, dentist, occupational therapist, state trooper, Sheriff Cahillane, software designer, physician assistant, and many more. Amy Scully did a stellar job planning these two days!



Middle school students pose for a photo at the Middle School Semi-Formal

the new FAFSA and other important information for families who are beginning this process. Also in December, we hosted Junior College Night for families of 11th grade students to really start to dig into the college process.

Contract Negotiations

We navigated contract negotiations throughout all of 2023 for our teachers and educational support professionals (admin assistants, para educators, and building substitutes). The school committee and the Hampshire Regional Education Association (HREA) are currently in mediation working to come to an agreement.

The success and vibrancy of Hampshire Regional High School are certainly a collective effort. We express our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff, students, families, community members, and elected officials. Together, we will continue to make Hampshire Regional a truly special place for learning and growth. Thank you for another remarkable year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Hotz, Principal
Hampshire Regional School

College Planning Night was hosted in June for families in 9th and 10th grade; families were able to hear from current and former parents about the college search process and to ask questions and get advice. In December, we held a Financial Aid Night for families of students in grades 9-12 to learn more about the financial aid process. A representative from Massachusetts Educational Financial Authority (MEFA) reviewed

Report of the Westhampton Elementary School



The Westhampton Elementary School experienced many changes during the 2022-2023. After 21 years as the school principal, Deanne Bates retired. His leadership, dedication, and commitment to the students, staff, and community allowed the school to thrive and flourish. We will continue to be grateful for his long-lasting and positive impact on the Westhampton Elementary School, the students, and the community. The new principal is Andrea McGrath, who started on July 1, 2023, with many years of experience as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and central office administrator.

Jenny Finnie resigned from her WES position to become a sixth-grade teacher at Norris Elementary School, so we welcomed Niall Sullivan to the WES family. Mr. Sullivan is our sixth-grade classroom teacher and fifth-grade math teacher. We welcome him to our school and thank Ms. Finnie for her years of service and dedication to the Westhampton Elementary School.

The Westhampton staff is growing and changing to meet our students' needs, class sizes, and changes in education. We welcomed some new paraprofessionals to our staff. Kavonnah Cruz supports our students in preschool, and Ruth Tracy as the Westhampton media center paraprofessional. The media center was closed during the pandemic, and watching our students get excited about borrowing books from the library has been a pleasure.

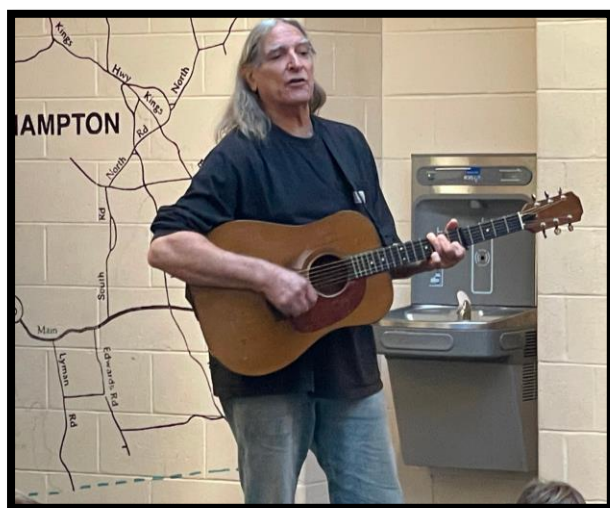
In June 2023, the sixth-grade graduation occurred. We graduated a class of 18 students: Sebastian Ady-Bell, Hazel Chute, William Cleary, Jailin Erickson, Jackson Galenski, Ryan Garvey, Talia Goddard, Jamyes Goddard, Owen Kakley, Colton McVeigh, Kennae O'Connell, Katelyn Perry, Hunter Poudrier, James Scott, Austin Sojkowski, Emmett Stith, Sadie Wasiuk, and Ethan Williamson. We wish our graduates good luck as they embark on the next phase of their educational journey!

During the last few years, several members of the Westhampton Elementary School served on a committee to select a new English language Arts curriculum to develop and enhance our students' literacy skills. The committee decided on the Wit & Wisdom program. Wit & Wisdom® is a comprehensive K–8 English language arts curriculum crafted to help students build the knowledge and skills they need to be successful readers, exceptional writers, and effective communicators. Wit & Wisdom leads students to develop reading, writing, speaking and listening, vocabulary, and language skills simultaneously. Instead of addressing standards individually, Wit & Wisdom arranges for students to practice required language arts skills in the context.

We continue to use Bridges as our primary math curriculum. Bridges in Mathematics is a full curriculum featuring relevant, open-ended tasks and a coherent set of visual models to help students develop their conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem-solving abilities. Bridges lessons allow educators to make productive adaptations to ensure each student can develop a positive math identity. One math routine and component of Bridges is the Number Corner. Number Corner is a skills-building program centered around the classroom calendar. Bridges has an intervention component that allows our teachers to use targeted, strengths-based instruction and assessment to help students understand essential mathematical skills and concepts. With English language Arts and math, we continue to use our trimester Fastbridge Assessment to monitor our students' progress. Our data team meets to discuss how to use our resources best to foster our student's academic growth through small group or individual instruction provided by our interventionists and classroom teachers.

We continued our partnership with the Westhampton Garden project, which created several raised garden beds behind the school. We look forward to installing more raised garden beds for more student involvement in planting, growing, weeding, and harvesting fruits and vegetables.

The HVAC project, installing mini-splits throughout the school, was completed in November. This project was funded by the Green Communities grant. We are learning how to use these units to allow for improved heating in the building and access to air-conditioning during the hotter months.



Westhampton Musician Jim Armenti

Our 2023-2024 school year enrollment is 105 in preschool through sixth grade. We have three new school-choice students for 13 choice students enrolled at WES. We use school choice funds to help offset budget costs to the town.

Our Friday Common Area activity has allowed us to bring many community members to meet with our students and share their experiences. **Jan Rolin**, a Westhampton resident and owner of Mycotera Farm, talked to our students about growing mushrooms and gave them a kit to grow their own at home. Thank you to the Westhampton Council on Aging for organizing this inter-generational presentation.

Jim Armenti sang and taught “The Great Pumpkin Roll song” to many students and staff before the annual Westhampton Pumpkin Festival.

We had a few veterans, Thomas and Meaghan’s grandfather, Ainsley’s Dad, and Henry’s grandfather, explain the significance of Veteran’s Day and their experiences as they served our country.

We had an opportunity to enjoy the talents of our fourth-grade students as they organized an entertaining talent show. Our Common Area activities bring us together as a family to celebrate and embrace everything that makes our school, students, and community-at-large special.

We ended the year with a school-wide holiday concert. Our students performed in the concert in front of a large audience that appreciated the performers’ hard work and enthusiasm as they got us into the holiday spirit.



Thank you to our School Committee members for their countless hours of service and dedication to the students and the staff. Their commitment and focus on providing the best education for all students is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Morley Cleary, Peter Cleary, Scott Johndrow, Julia Lennen, and Ian Stith.

We look forward to many more successful years together, working collaboratively with the community to provide a high-quality education for all our students. This collaboration prepares the students for their future, where they will positively impact Westhampton and the world through their dedication and compassion.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea McGrath, Principal
Westhampton Elementary School
January 2024

Public Works

Report of the Highway Superintendent

The winter of 2022-2023 started out with some larger storms in December and then we had a short break until mid-January. The Fire Department was also still in our building until their mid-January move to the new safety complex. The unusually warm winter made for muddy dirt roads and difficult plowing and up-keep.

The highway department works with the Westhampton Council on Aging to deliver buckets of sand to all its senior citizens that request it. We will continue to do this each winter.

The \$100,000 that was appropriated in the snow removal account was spent with a total of \$120,000.00.

In the spring, all paved roads and parking lots were swept, and during the summer, all catch basins were checked, cleaned, and given maintenance if needed.



Chapter 90 Projects

In 2023, the Highway Department

- Paved 0.81 miles of lower Southampton Road for \$132,529.20
- Chipped Sealed 2.5 miles of Northwest Road for \$91,316.00
- No crack sealing was completed due to all the rain.

We had \$146,209.72 in WRAP funding that had to be spent by June 30, 2023. We were able to have all the road lines painted in Town and 200 feet of new guardrail installed on Loudville Road. We were also able to purchase a hot box for keeping hot patch at temperature while patching so nothing is wasted.

Beavers

Beavers are continuing to cause problems on Rt. 66 and Northwest Road. Trappers were hired and 2 beavers from Rt 66 and 2 from Northwest Road were caught and removed.

Other Projects:

Safety Complex

In mid-January we were able to help move the fire department and police department to the new Public Safety Complex, between snowstorms! We were happy to have our space back just in time for the long winter.



Regular Maintenance

The usual maintenance was ongoing with brush cutting, hazardous tree removal, sign replacement/repairs, potholes filled, and gravel roads repaired and graded. The heavy rain made for a difficult summer. We recorded 64.74 inches of rain for the year. We spent many hours on dirt roads repairing them and flushing plugged drainage. We continue to do minor repairs and upkeep on all Town buildings. This includes helping at the elementary school when needed to move chairs to and from the building from the Town hall for special programs and help with any other large projects.

Other Department Responsibilities

Cemetery

The highway does all the traditional grave digging in the Westhampton Cemetery. We dug four graves this year.

Transfer Station

The Highway Superintendent oversees the Town transfer station. I work with HRMC (Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative) to make sure the Town is following all DEP and current recycling regulations. HRMC helps to keep the towns trash removal and recycling costs lower. I also work with them to receive grant money for new transfer station projects, buildings, and recycling costs.

Vehicles

In January we took delivery of a new John Deere tractor for mowing roadsides. We also use this tractor for blowing leaves off the drains and ditches in the fall. This tractor replaced our 2001 New Holland. We had to purchase this tractor because Eversource no longer funds roadside mowers for towns. Every roadside in Town was mowed over the summer months. We continue to do all the regular maintenance on the highway and fire vehicles. The highway department does most of the repair work and only sends out equipment to repair shops if needed. The more electronics in new vehicles, the more specialty fixes are required.

Department Employees

I would like to thank Scott, Mike and Austin for all of their hard work and for making my job easier on a daily basis. They are ready to go out and plow or pick up trees out of the road at a moment's notice 24/7, 365 days a year.

Also, a big thank you to Don Fox and Andrew Nichols for the efficient and great work that they do operating the transfer station.

Highway Department Email: **highwaydept@westhamptonma.org**
Highway Department Phone #: **(413)527-0136**

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Jablonski, Superintendent
Westhampton Highway Department

Report of the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative (HRMC) was created in 1989 by a group of dedicated volunteers who had the vision to seek a regional solution to help small towns attain sustainability and environmental objectives 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 2023 included: John Chandler, Chair (Chesterfield); Gordon Luce, Vice Chair (Williamsburg); and Thomas Poissant, Treasurer (Ashfield), and Administrator Linda Cernik In 2023, HRMC services included:

- Conducting annual DEP transfer station inspections and work as a liaison between members towns & MA DEP on transfer station compliance matters.

- HRMC Administrator has been certified as a third-party inspector with MassDEP maintenance and operations of a Transfer Station. The Administration conducted HRMC pre-inspections and third-party inspections, completed all official paperwork, reviewed with the towns, and all reports were signed and uploaded on the New MassDEP EEA portal.
- HRMC Mattress Recycling “HUB” diverted 228 mattresses from the waste stream (landfill) to recycling components within the units; Foam, boxsprings; wood and springs.
- Introduced New Recycling opportunities within the Textile services, Town diverted 9,211 pounds of textile from the waste stream.
- Introduced “Green Team” Mass DEP Program, Youth Educational Program,
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, over 130 households took part in this day. Yearly the event diverts household chemicals, paints, oil, stains ETC from the waste stream to Recycling venue, Clean Harbors Environmental.
- Program management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling, and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste, 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, the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group; and interfaces with local, regional, and State officials, and Mass Recycle Member.

The HRMC has an annual operation’s assessment that is approved by each town at their annual Town Meeting. The annual assessment budget is based on tonnage and population. In FY23, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$ 67,540. The assessments offset base operating expenses. HRMC recycling program collection costs are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to member 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 2023, all HRMC member towns were eligible for and received Recycling Dividend Program (RDP) Grants under the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). Applications were submitted for them through the HRMC. In total, the HRMC member towns received \$ 53250.00 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programs. Westhampton was awarded \$5,950 in RDP funds.

During the past year, the HRMC member towns collectively diverted 834 tons of recyclable materials to the MRF; the Town of Westhampton recycled 83 tons in 2023. 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 2023, the Town of Westhampton had a recycling rate of 50% compared with 49% in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cernik, Administrator
Hilltown Resource Management Collaborative

Community, Culture, and Recreation

Report of the Cemetery Caretaker

This year started off with the Cemetery shed receiving a new metal roof. I started off by painting the south section of the rail fence. This year I am planning on getting the rest of the fence painted and repaired. The water tanks also had new bases made for them. A few more overgrown shrubs were removed.

Everyone is reminded to keep their annuals as close to their headstone as possible and maintained on a regular basis. This is not just for mowing but for staying within your plot boundary. Mowing and trimming took the bulk of my time - especially with all the rain we had.

I would like to thank Don Fox and the Fire Department for keeping the water tanks filled. I would also like to thank Bill Jablonski and the Highway Department for everything they did for me this past year.

This past year there were:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 - New plot | 3 - Traditional Burials |
| 8 - Cremations | 6 - Grass-level Flat Markers |
| 5 - Foundations poured | |

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Fisher,
Cemetery Superintendent

Report of the Cemetery Commission

The Cemetery Commission is responsible for the management and care of the cemetery. There are three members appointed by the Selectboard, and a Cemetery Superintendent hired by the Selectboard with advice from the commissioners.

In 2023 the roof on one of the buildings was replaced.

Weather is making it difficult to keep the grass green and we will be looking at ways to maintain it. Please remember we may not mow as often if the moisture dictates it. We lost a great deal of green grass during the dry year in 2022 and hope to get it back as much as possible.

The commissioners are continuing to look at the following items:

- Rules and regulations that will govern the land.
- Rates to be charged for work performed by the superintendent.
- How to handle the wooden fence in the front.
- Plans for the new section. Drawings have been reviewed and more detailed drawings will be needed to be able to get a realistic price of the work needed.

Karl Norris did not accept appointment to the commission and resigned at the end of June. Karl has served on this committee for many years and leaves a very large void of knowledge. We wish him only the best but will not promise to leave him alone when we need his advice.

After a time of only two members, John Shaw was appointed a commissioner to try and fill Karl's void.

The commission does not meet on a regular basis so if you have questions/concerns please contact one of the Commissioners or Douglas Finn, Town Coordinator. We are open to your comments.

We ask you to always remember that a cemetery is very hallowed and sacred grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I Tracy

Thomas Warren

John Shaw

Westhampton Cemetery Commission

Veterans' Service Agent

The Veterans Agent, also known as a Veterans Service Officer, provides comprehensive professional veterans services to Town veterans and their dependents in compliance with state law.

Eligible veterans and family members may get financial assistance, peer support from the Statewide Advocacy for Veteran Empowerment (SAVE) team, connection to the Women Veterans' Network, or opportunity for burial at the Massachusetts Veteran Memorial Cemeteries in Agawam and Winchendon.

Chapter 115 Benefits

The Department of Veterans' Services offers a benefit to veterans with little income, called Chapter 115 benefits, which can help pay for daily living expenses, medical costs, housing, and other necessities. Veterans can contact their local Veteran Service Officer to apply.

Annuity Payments

The Department of Veterans' Services also offers an annuity to certain disabled veterans, parents of a deceased veteran, and the unmarried spouses of deceased veterans. The annuity is \$2,000 which is payable biannually on August 1st and February 1st in two installments of \$1,000 each.

Westhampton's Veterans Service Officer is Joe Henning, who can be reached by telephone at (413) 427-3054.

Report of the Council on Aging

The Council on Aging in Massachusetts is composed of 350 communities (COAs) consisting of 1.7 million older adults, 60 and over. Each COA provides a variety of support services to older adults, families and caregivers in the community. COAs advocate for elders – offering services and activities for older adults with the mission of assisting them in leading healthy, purposeful lives.

The elder population of Westhampton has grown with more Town residents reaching the age of 60+. Our COA serves an estimated 678 residents out of a total population of approximately 1600 residents – nearly 30% of the Town’s demographic. With state grant funds, Town funds, federal funds provided by Highland Valley Elder Services, support from the Friends of the COA, and our many volunteers, the COA was able to offer a variety of programs and services for elder residents and to not only resume but increase programming suspended by the pandemic in 2020.

The Westhampton COA consists of a Coordinator and Board of between five and seven members, appointed by the Selectboard. The COA also works closely with the Northern Hilltown Consortium, which assists us in securing grant funds for some of our programs and provides guidance on valuable resources for our residents.



Westhampton Council on Aging hike to Big View in Williamsburg on April 19th. Photo by Ray Fontaine.

Our board currently consists of Julia Lennen (Chair), Colleen Basile (Secretary), Ray Fontaine, Lorraine Galica and Dave Goddard.. We are always on the lookout for new Board members and encourage anyone interested to attend one of our monthly Board meetings. There is no age requirement to join the Board.

2023 Highlights

Critical Binder Communal Program

On November 9th, the COA hosted the Critical Binder program (aka “How Do I Plan For The Future?”) as our monthly communal program. This program was spearheaded by Board Member, Lorraine Galica. The program drew a crowd of 29 in-person participants at the Town Hall. The binders offer a thoughtful system of organization for crucial medical and estate-related documents, including emergency, professional, Insurance, health care, MOLST, and other financial records – along with special wishes for the time of death. Attorney Carol Klyman helped interpret the information and answer questions. Following the program, 19 more people requested binders, meaning that the COA provided a total of 48 binders to Westhampton elders. We plan to do follow up programs with a more detailed focus on areas of interest.

Highland Valley Elder Services Hot Meal Program

Our monthly Highland Valley Elder Services (HVES) Hot Lunch Program, led by board member, Lorraine Galica, is still going strong and remains our most popular monthly program. This program began with a pilot toward the end of 2022. We have 40 older adults registered and an average of about 30 people picking up meals at the Westhampton Woods Community Room. Although participants choose to pick up meals rather than to eat in the Community Room, this event is still a very social time in which people take time to reconnect with friends and neighbors as they collect their meals and select the next month’s meal.

COA Newsletter

The printed 8-page newsletter, Moving Forward, reaches approximately 400 households and perhaps nearly twice this number of individuals. Edited by Daniel Valinski, the newsletter is sent to 37 additional elders electronically. Although our prior Northern Hilltown Consortium of COAs’ grant funding from the MA Dept. of Elder Services came to an end, we were able to secure an additional \$12,500 from the Service Incentive Grant (SIG) through the Massachusetts Council on Aging (MCOA) and a state earmark of \$12,500.00 in order to finish the year. Since we do not currently have Consortium newsletter-funding for future years, we are in the process of requesting additional funds from the Town to continue this crucial form of communication to Westhampton elders.

Transportation

In 2023, we hired Westhampton resident Danielle Buzzee as our official Transportation Coordinator. Danielle takes calls and emails from older adults in Westhampton and matches these riders with volunteer drivers who receive a mileage stipend through the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority (FRTA) grant. Danielle has created a very efficient system via email for matching riders to drivers. She also provides detailed records on a quarterly basis. We have 9 volunteer drivers and 17 riders with approximately 5 riders using the service most frequently.

Additional Services & Programs

We continue to host monthly communal programs on 2nd Thursdays at the Town Hall and Westhampton Congregational Church with free lunch provided. Programs range from musical to educational to purely social. Our grant-funded intergenerational program on Mushrooms featured Mycoterra Farms and took place at the Westhampton Elementary School. Participants were provided with individual Shiitake Mushroom Growing kits.

In 2023, we provided weekly Chair Yoga with Angelica Lopez and Fitness with Friends with Heather Gaida in the Town Hall without interruption in order to ensure both continued physical well-being and social stimulation. Computer Classes with Bob Miller take place twice monthly at the library with the exception of a brief hiatus.

Hiking, led by Ray Fontaine and Chuck Horn, remains a strong draw for our community and beyond with memorable hikes throughout the local region (see photo).

Lillian Baxter coordinates the “HEN” program (Hilltown Elder Network, supported by the Hilltown CDC) which provides assistance to elders.

Donated medical equipment and other supplies are tracked by Ray Fontaine who ensures that requested equipment is provided when available.

Friends of the COA

The Friends of the COA mail birthday cards to Town elders and provide gift cards to those reaching landmark birthdays. They host the well-attended Veterans’ Breakfast. This past year, they partnered with the COA to sponsor the Lady Bea Cruise and also funded the Dan Kane & Friends Holiday Concert.

Our partnership with the Hampshire Regional High School Life Skills Program continues with soup-making/delivery, holiday goodie bags and more.

We are grateful for our continued partnership with the Selectboard, Town Clerk, Administrator, Accountant, Treasurer and Library. We encourage all residents to volunteer, participate and share ideas to make Westhampton a safe, vibrant, and welcoming place for our aging population.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Landau, Coordinator
Westhampton Council on Aging

Report of the Westhampton Public Library

Library Mission Statement:

Westhampton Public Library will be a center for community gathering and lifelong learning. We will create opportunities for learning and enjoyment for all library users.

The combined dedication and enthusiasm of staff, Friends, trustees, volunteers, and patrons have made for another busy and successful year for the Library. 2023 was filled with gatherings and events ranging from established groups such as knitting, Scrabble, and Book Group to monthly art exhibits, crafts programs for kids and adults, and occasional Friday Movie Nights.

We had 297 live, in-person programs with 2, 145 in attendance.

Here are some statistics for FY23.

How many residents use Westhampton as a Home Library? (As of January 2024) 874

Books Circulated.....	16,867
Periodicals	789
Audio	818
Video	3,367
Ebooks and downloadable audio	4,791
Downloadable video (Kanopy)	401
Children's materials	11,076
Young Adult materials	985
Trybrary (Library of Things)	149
Items lent to other libraries via ILL.	4,471
Items borrowed from other libraries via ILL	2,902

Total Items Circulated

27,191

Program Attendance

297 live, in-person programs with 2,145 in attendance:

- 114 Children's programs with 892 in attendance
- 6 Teen programs with 19 in attendance
- 161 Adult Programs with 996 in attendance
- 16 general audience programs with 238 in attendance

Meeting rooms were used 262 times.

Facebook Video Views: 1,609

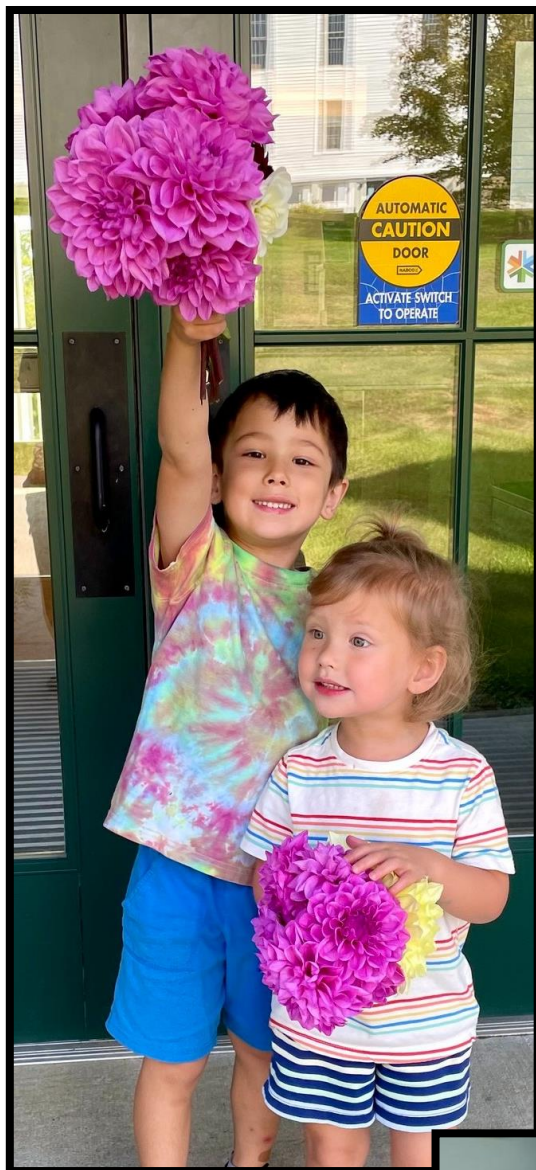
Virtual Programs: 5 with 21 in attendance



Summer Reading Participation: 67 people participated in the summer reading program.

Teen Programs: Attendance at teen programs in FY24 year to date has already doubled from attendance at teen programs in 2023 overall! This is due to a thoughtfully conceived series of teen craft programs led by Youth Services Librarian Emily Wayne.

Friends Members: 150



adopting a bed or co-adopting a bed with a friend or family member.

735 Hours of Volunteer Time!

Once again, we want to acknowledge the contributions of our volunteers (14 Total)

Angela Griefen, Sheila Marks, Katharine Nelson, Hilary Nolan, Barbara Pelissier, Ruth Tracy, Judee Wayne, Victoria



Income from Library Solar Panels \$43,715.79

Building and Grounds

Maintenance: Now in its 14th year of operation, the library building is requiring increasing maintenance. Phil Dowling finished painting the front and sides of the Judd house, donating both his time and the materials to get the job done. We are very grateful. In addition, with the advice and support of our Selectboard and building inspectors, we have been working to address leaks in the roof under the solar panels.

Accessibility committee: A committee of local residents and library stakeholders has formed to conduct a feasibility study of the library yard and how to make it more accessible for people with disabilities and mobility challenges. A student from the Conway School of Design has been supporting this process. We hope to make the library yard more user friendly for all ages for years to come. The Outdoor Accessibility Committee has already installed new lighting to make the yard easier to navigate after evening programs.

Adopt-a-bed program: The library has started an “Adopt-a-bed” program to help share the work of maintaining our beautiful gardens. Tom Martin and other dedicated volunteers continue to spend hours maintaining the beds and are always in need of more hands to make the work light. Please consider

Yoshen, and from HRHS: Fadhil Al Baghdadli, Sabah Alshmlh, and HRHS Homework Helpers: Lydia Donatelli, Isabella DeMar, and Olivia Manganelli.

Ellice Gonzalez retired after being a Library Volunteer for over 25 years! She started the community Book Group which is still going strong after 25 years. Ellice also spent countless hours shelving library materials and helping patrons at the desk. A very special thanks to Elice for sharing her love of books, reading, and libraries with the community and for her many years of dedicated service to Westhampton Public Library.

Custodian Jared Brown has served the library and the Town of Westhampton as our Custodian for more than 10 years. Kudos to Jared!

The Trustees would like the residents of Westhampton to know that our budget, the balances in the library accounts held by the town, and the income generated from the library solar panels can all be found at our website at:

<https://www.westhampton.ma.com/westhampton-public-library>

This website can also be found as a link on the Town website. Anyone without computer access can ask the library for paper copies.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Trustees:

Anne Marie O'Reilly, Chair

Angela Griefen, Vice Chair

Jackie Brodeur, Treasurer

Deb Estelle, Secretary

Debra Smith

Caralyn Whipple

Report of the Westhampton Historical Commission

The Historical Commission members are Steve Brooks, Richard Tracy, Daniel Krug Jr. and Leah Stanton. The Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum are frequent attendees of our monthly meetings. We thank Scott Stanton, Nick Jarjoura, Bob Lapalme, and the Treasurer of the Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum Dave Goddard for their commitment and support. We would also like to thank Wayne Perrea for imparting his wealth of knowledge to us about our town.

Robert Dragon Sr., a 10-year member, retired from the Commission this year. He gave a great amount of value to our team. There was no project too difficult or menial for him, he always took on a task wholeheartedly. We would not have such a beautiful and well-organized museum without his hard work. Thank you, Robert, for everything -- you will be greatly missed!

This year we have been continuing our efforts to make improvements to the Museum. We did some landscaping and maintenance, improving our curb appeal, continued cataloging artifacts and interviewing Town members about the history of Westhampton.

During the fall festival we provide entertainment and education about our local history. The demonstrations included the Blacksmith, Fiber Spinner, corn huskers and Hit & Miss Motors. This year we were able to expand our venue by adding a Broom Maker. If there is something you would like to showcase or something that you would like to see, let us know.

You can contact us at wtonblacksmith@gmail.com

The Museum is open 2-4 PM on Sundays from Memorial Day to the Fall Festival. All visitors are welcome.

We are always looking for new members of the Friends of the Blacksmith & Museum. We welcome anyone who wants to help in big or small ways in preserving our Town history.

Remember, History Happens Every Day!

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Brooks, Chair
Westampton Historical Commission

Report of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

During 2023 the Open Space and Recreation Committee met several times to continue editing and updating the DRAFT Open Space and Recreation Plan. The document includes 11 sections, plus multiple appendices, and integrates new findings related to climate change as well as the results of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey.

A summary chapter of the Open Space and Recreation Plan was included in the Master Plan. A DRAFT of the OSRP was approved by the Conservation Commission in May 2023. The committee expects to submit a final DRAFT to the MA Department of Conservation Services for their review and approval in Spring 2024.

The committee includes:

Carter Cleary, youth representative
Ali Jenkins, youth representative
George Graham, wildlife expertise
Robert LaPalme, conservation expertise
Jessica Lerman, conservation commission
Jennifer Milikowsky, planning board, forestry and agriculture
Kate Moloney, recreation expertise
Fred Morrison, conservation commission
Kate Parsons, farming and agriculture
Pandora Redwin, recreation and agriculture
Laurie Sanders, conservation
John Zimmerman, Planning Board

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sanders, chair

Records, Tables and Resources

Elected Town Officials

Selectboard - 3 members

Susan Bronstein	2026
Maureen Dempsey	2024
Scott Johndrow	2025

Board of Assessors - 3 members

Marilyn Witherell	2026
Walter Morrey	2024
Winnie Gorman	2025

Planning Board - 5 members

Susan Bronstein	2026
Wade Clement	2025
Donald (Pat) Coffey	2024
Jennifer Milikowsky	2025
John Zimmerman	2026

Finance Committee - 10 members

Stephen Holt	2025
Vacant	2025
Scott Stanton	2025
Jeremy Durrin	2026
Jennifer Milikowsky	2026
Vacant	2026
Tad Weiss	2024
Richelle Hurd	2024
Marilyn Witherell	2024
Carla Lussier	2024

Elementary School Committee - 5 members

Morley Cleary	2025
Scott Johndrow	2025
Peter Cleary	2026
Julia Lennen	2026
Ian Stith	2024

Hampshire Regional School Committee – 2 elected, 1 appointed by local school comm.

Scott Johndrow	2024
Thomas M. Cleary, Jr.	2026
Peter Cleary (appointed)	2024

Moderator

Benjamin A. Warren	2024
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Tree Warden

Tom Jenkins	2024
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Library Trustees - 6 members

Debra Smith	2025
Deb Estelle	2025
Jacqueline Brodeur	2026
Anne Marie O'Reilly	2026
Caralyn Whipple	2024
Angela Griefen	2024

Constables

Robert E. Miller (Center District)	2024
Leroy Douchkoff (North District)	2025
Charles Inman (South District)	2026

Appointed Town Officials

Police Chief

David White 2024

Police Officers

Jason Graham 2024

Jeff Fish 2024

Fire Chief & Forest Warden

David Antosz 2024

Emergency Management Director

Todd Alexander 2024

Emergency Medical Services Coordinator

Bob Dragon 2024

Highway Superintendent/Trench Permitting

Bill Jablonski 2024

Veterans' Agent

Joseph Henning 2024

Animal Control Officer

Kelli Wainscott 2024

Inspector of Animals

Kelli Wainscott 2024

Cemetery Superintendent

Ed Fisher 2024

Cemetery Commission - 3 members

Thomas Warren 2024

Richard I. Tracy 2025

John Shaw 2026

Town Counsel

Kopelman & Paige, P.C 2024

Administrative Assistant

Douglas Finn 2024

Town Accountant

Joseph Boudreau 2024

Treasurer

Ryan Mailloux 2024

Aimee Burnham (through 6/19/23)

Tax Collector

Patricia Cotton 2024

Interim Asst. Tax Collector

Joseph Pipczynski 2024

Town Clerk

Katrin Kaminsky 2024

Board of Registrars

Katrin Kaminsky, Clerk 2024

Mary Vachula 2024

Catherine Shaw 2024

Patricia W. Cotton 2024

Election Officers

Deborah Barthelette 2024

Barbara Moynihan 2024

Louise Jasionkowski 2024

Shirley Raymond 2024

Erika Subocz 2024

Jean Webster 2024

Marilyn Witherell 2024

Charlotte Wood 2024

Susan Bronstein 2024

Dolores Thornhill 2024

Lora Saltis 2024

Deborah Ford 2024

Carol Inman 2024

Susan O'Rourke 2024

Zoning Board of Appeals - 5 members & 3 associate members

Richard W. Tracy 2025

John Kelsey 2026

Laurie Sanders 2024

Peter Ignatovich 2027

Dave Loven 2028

vacant - associate

vacant - associate

vacant – associate

Board of Health - 3 members

Bri Eichstaedt	2025
Katch Bacheller	2026
Robbie Armenti	2024

Historical Commission - 5 members

Steve Brooks	2024
Leah Stanton	2025
Robert Dragon (resigned 12/23)	2025
Richard W. Tracy	2026
Daniel Krug, Jr.	2026

Surveyors of Wood, Lumber & Bark

Vacant	2024
Richard I. Tracy	2024
Richard W. Tracy	2024

Field Drivers & Pound Keepers

Stephen Holt	2024
Vacant	2024
Vacant	2024

Fence Viewers

Vacant	2024
Glenn Loud	2024

Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer

Thomas Quinlan	2024
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Local Inspector of Buildings and Zoning Enforcement Officer

Todd Alexander	2024
Walter Marek	2024

Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Brian Pichette	2024
Assistant Anthony Karella	2024

Wiring Inspector

James Mailloux	2024
Assistant John Lyons	2024

Health Agent

Foothills Health District	2024
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Almoners of Street & Wright Fund

Janice Tracy	2024
Margot Cleary	2024
Phil Dowling	2025
Barbara Pelissier	2024
Susan O'Rourke	2024

Conservation Commission - 5 members

Brad Morse	2024
Alyson Arnold	2024
Jessica Lerman	2025
Fred Morrison	2026
Bill Randolph	2026

Council on Aging Coordinator

Amy Landau	2024
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Council on Aging - 7 members

Vacant	2025
Vacant	2025
Colleen Basile	2025
Raymond Fontaine	2026
Howard Davis "Dave" Goddard	2026
Lorraine Galica	2024
Julia Lennen	2024

Cultural Council

Jessica Lerman	2026
Margot Cleary	2025
Sheila Marks	2026
Julie Held	2026
Mary Cleary	2026
Ruth Tracy	2026
Sam Taylor	2025
Jacque St. James-Wong	2025
Wade Clement	2026
Jean Stawarz	2026

Insurance Committee - 5 members

John Moynihan	2026
vacant	2024
Philip Dowling	2025
vacant	
vacant	

Hampshire County Insurance Trust

Ryan Mailloux	2024
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Agricultural Commission - 7 members

Richard Tracy	2024
Arthur Clapp (resigned 7/23)	2024
Thomas Hathaway	2025
John Moynihan	2025
Steve Holt	2025
Edward Parsons	2026
Marilyn Witherell	2026

Capital Improvement Planning Committee - 5 members

Tom Cleary	2024
Bill Jablonski	2024
Scott Johndrow (Selectboard)	2024
David Antosz	2024
Steve Holt (Finance Committee)	2024

Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Susan Bronstein	2024
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Planning Board Associate

vacant

Zoning By-Law Review Committee

Steve Gagne	2024
Brigid O'Riordan	2024
Arthur Pichette	2024
John Shaw	2024
Pat Coffey (Planning Bd.)	2024
John Kelsey	2024

Public Safety Building Committee

Art Pichette	2024
Steve Holt	2024
Chris Brooks	2024
Philip Dowling	2024
Dave White	2024
Stephen Wurmbrand	2024
John Zimmerman	2024

Open Space & Recreation Committee

(new in 2021 re:

Municipal Vulnerability Planning)

Laurie Sanders	2024
Fred Morrison	2024
Jessica Lerman	2024
Jennifer Milikowsky	2024
Pandora Redwin	2024
Carter Cleary	2024
George Graham	2024
Kate Parsons	2024
Alice "Ali" Jenkins	2024
John Zimmerman	2024
Kate Moloney	2024

Assistant Assessor (appointed by Bd of Assessors)

David Zagorski	2024
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Capital Improvement Planning Schedule (simplified)

Description	Dept	Yr of Purchase	Cost Est.	FISCAL YEAR					
				2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
4-door 4wd truck (may be sourced through DCR at no cost)	Fire	2013	\$65,000			65,000			
Brush Truck	Fire	2002	\$300,000						
Chief's Vehicle (Jeep)	Fire	2004	\$50,000			50,000			
Fire Engine 1	Fire	2004	\$500,000						
Fire Engine 2	Fire	1986	\$360,000				360,000		
Rescue 1	Fire	2009	\$100,000						
SCBA Trailer (check year of purchase with Chief)	Fire	2010							
Tanker	Fire	2017	\$500,000						
Utility ATV/Trailer	Fire	2009	\$10,000						
Single-Axle Four-Wheel Dump Truck with Wing Plow	Highway	2016	\$360,000						
10-wheel dump truck with wing plow	Highway	2006	\$360,300		360,600				
10-wheel dump truck with wing plow	Highway	2019	\$360,000						
Asphalt Roller	Highway	2015	\$30,000						
Backhoe	Highway	2012	\$180,000					180,000	
Bucket Loader	Highway	2022	\$220,000						
Compressor Trailer	Highway	1999	\$20,000	20,000					
Generator	Highway	2022	\$30,000						
Pick-Up Truck (F-350 or sim.)	Highway	2023	\$75,000	75,990					
Pick-Up Truck (F-350 or sim.)	Highway	2022	\$75,000	101,440					
Road Grader	Highway	1985	\$225,000				225,000		
Tractor with OTR brush mower	Highway	2023	\$200,000	220,000					
Transfer Station MSW Compactor	Highway	2023	\$40,000	39,000					
Wood Chipper	Highway	2010	\$70,000						
Patrol Vehicle	Police	2023	\$70,000	65,000					
Patrol Vehicle	Police	2018	\$70,000				70,000		
				\$521,430	\$360,600	\$115,000	\$655,000	\$180,000	\$0

Proceedings of the Annual Town Meeting – May 13, 2023

A quorum of approximately 63 being present, Moderator Ben Warren called the meeting to order at 9:07am. Recognition and a standing ovation were given to Phil Dowling for his many years of very active service on the Selectboard. Recognition and a standing ovation were also given to Dean Bates, Westhampton Elementary Principal for 21 years. Tad Weiss, Finance Committee Chair, summarized FY24 budget process concerns and issues. The following articles were then acted upon:

ARTICLE 1: It was voted unanimously to accept all reports of boards & committees as presented.

ARTICLE 2: It was voted unanimously to amend the general bylaw of the Town of Westhampton by adding section four dash five dash two, part i - 4-5-2 (i) - as follows:

(1) One Alternate Member of the Planning Board, in accordance with
Section 81A of Chapter 41 of the General Laws

ARTICLE 3: It was voted unanimously, pursuant to Chapter 164, Section 134 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to grant the Board of Selectmen/Selectboard the authority to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of residents and businesses in the Town and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money for the payment of unpaid bills of previous years, incurred by the departments, boards and officers of the Town of Westhampton, or take any other action relative thereto.

It was voted unanimously to take no action on the article.

ARTICLE 5: It was voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Nineteen Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Seven Dollars and Eighty Seven Cents (\$19,337.87), to account number 015423.700, "Snow Removal".

ARTICLE 6: It was voted unanimously to authorize the Selectboard to take care of the highways, including entering into contracts, and accepting any money from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or other sources.

ARTICLE 7: It was voted unanimously to authorize the Selectboard to apply for and expend grants from federal or state programs.

ARTICLE 8: It was voted unanimously as amended to reauthorize the Fire Department revolving fund and the Westhampton Cemetery revolving fund, with the purposes, sources of funds, and maximum fund amounts as noted in the warrant. Police Chief, Dave White, noted that the school is no longer budgeting for a SRO.

FY2024 – REVOLVING FUNDS

FUND	PURPOSE	SOURCE OF FUNDS	MAX AMOUNT
Fire Department	Materials, supplies and training	Inspection Fees	\$2,500.00

Westhampton Cemetery	Cemetery upkeep, maintenance and grounds-keeping	Fees Charged	\$6,000.00

ARTICLE 9: It was voted unanimously as amended in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L., which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town, to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$18,775) exactly for Salaries and Compensation to be as of July 1, 2023 as follows:

Official	Salary	Appropriate
Moderator:	\$ 555	\$ 555
Selectboard Chair:	\$ 2,264	\$ 2,264
Selectboard Member (2):	\$ 1,779	\$ 3,558
Board of Assessors Chair:	\$ 3,471	\$ 3,471
Board of Assessors Member (2):	\$ 3,099	\$ 6,198
School Committee Chair:	\$ 521	\$ 521
School Committee Member (4):	\$ 302	\$ 1,208
Tree Warden:	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
TOTAL:		\$18,775

ARTICLE 10: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy Eight Dollars (\$388,878) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of General Government Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote
ARTICLE 10: GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
015122.700	Selectboard Expense	5,800	5,800	5,800	(6,0,0)
015122.711	Information Technology Support	22,904	41,300	41,300	(6,0,0)
015122.714	Document Management Sys	2,100	-	-	(6,0,0)
015129.113	Administrative Asst. Sal.	57,384	59,106	59,106	(6,0,0)
015132.780	Reserve Fund	15,000	20,000	20,000	(6,0,0)
015135.114	Accounting Officer Sal.	17,525	22,571	22,571	(6,0,0)
015135.200	Independent Audit	14,500	18,000	18,000	(6,0,0)
015135.700	Accounting Officer Exp.	4,790	5,103	5,103	(6,0,0)
015141.116	Assessor Assistant	16,859	17,365	17,365	(6,0,0)
015141.700	Assessors Expense	16,577	16,577	16,577	(6,0,0)
015145.113	Treasurer Salary	17,525	42,000	42,000	(6,0,0)
015145.700	Treasurer Expense	8,250	8,250	8,250	(6,0,0)
015145.703	Tax Title Expense	6,500	6,500	6,500	(6,0,0)
015146.113	Tax Collector Salary	17,525	28,000	28,000	(6,0,0)
015146.700	Tax Collector Expense	20,150	21,650	21,650	(6,0,0)
015147.000	Tax Taking Expense	800	800	800	(6,0,0)
015151.300	Counsel Fees	18,000	15,000	15,000	(6,0,0)
015161.113	Town Clerk Salary	16,859	20,838	20,838	(6,0,0)
015161.700	Town Clerk Expenses	7,715	5,595	5,595	(6,0,0)
015161.704	Training-Treas, Coll, T.Clerk	2,000	5,000	5,000	(6,0,0)
015163.113	Clerk Board of Registrars	100	100	100	(6,0,0)

015171.700	Con Com Expenses	225	1,200	1,200	(6,0,0)	
015175.700	Planning Board Expenses	500	1,200	1,200	(6,0,0)	
015176.700	Zoning Board of Appeals	600	1,200	1,200	(6,0,0)	
015192.700	Town Offices Expenses	19,070	23,223	23,223	(6,0,0)	
015192.710	Town Hall & Annex Repairs	2,500	2,500	2,500	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL: GENERAL GOVERNMENT		311,758	388,878	388,878		

It was noted that the increase to IT Support is due to insurance requirements and that the increase to Treasurer and Tax Collector salaries is due to difficulty filling the Treasurer position.

ARTICLE 11: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Fifty Six Dollars (\$237,956) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Fire, Police and EMS services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
ARTICLE 11: FIRE, POLICE, EMS						
015210.113	Police Chief Salary	35,767	36,840	36,840	(6,0,0)	
015210.114	Police Dept. Salary	52,104	63,700	63,700	(6,0,0)	
015210.700	Police Dept. Expense	24,700	24,480	24,480	(6,0,0)	
015210.704	Police Reform	7,500	7,500	7,500	(6,0,0)	
015220.113	Fire Chief Salary	14,177	14,603	14,603	(6,0,0)	
015220.700	Fire Department Expense	42,750	42,750	42,750	(6,0,0)	
015229.700	Safety Complex Building	14,100	30,100	30,100	(6,0,0)	
015232.113	Emergency Mgt Dir - Salary	2,745	2,828	2,828	(6,0,0)	
015232.700	Emergency Medical Serv.	9,500	9,500	9,500	(6,0,0)	
015232.702	EMS Coordinator - Salary	5,490	5,655	5,655	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL - ARTICLE 11: FIRE, POLICE, EMS		208,833	237,956	237,956		

It was noted that the increase to Safety Complex Bldg. is due to higher utility costs and that the Police Reform figure is an average as the Chief is still assessing the potential cost of the new State law.

ARTICLE 12: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Ambulance Services.

		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
ARTICLE 12: AMBULANCE SERVICE						
015232.703	Ambulance Service	25,000	35,000	35,000	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL - ARTICLE 12: AMBULANCE SERVICE		25,000	35,000	35,000		

ARTICLE 13: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Two Thousand, Seven Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$62,715) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Building Inspection and Other Public Safety Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
ARTICLE 13: INSPECTIONS / Other Pub. Safety						

015241.114	Inspector Compensation	6,000	6,000	6,000	(6,0,0)	
015241.115	Building Insp/Comm Salary	28,000	33,000	33,000	(6,0,0)	
015241.700	Inspector Exp.	12,000	13,315	13,315	(6,0,0)	
015294.700	Tree Warden Expense	2,600	5,200	5,200	(6,0,0)	
015295.113	Animal Control Officer - Salary	2,060	3,000	3,000	(6,0,0)	
015295.700	Animal Control Officer Expenses	2,200	2,200	2,200	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL - INSPECTIONS / Other Pub. Safety		53,584	62,715	62,715		

ARTICLE 14: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Million, Seventy Three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty Eight Dollars (\$2,073,948) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Educational Services at the Westhampton Elementary School for the 2023-2024 School Year.

ARTICLE 15: It was voted by a majority to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Six Hundred Fifteen Thousand, and Twenty Three Dollars (\$1,615,023) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Westhampton's Assessment for Educational Services at the Hampshire Regional School for the 2023-2024 School Year.

ARTICLE 16: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Six Dollars (\$300,696) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Vocational Tuition Expenses for 2023-2024 School Year.

ARTICLE 17: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$70,900) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Vocational Transportation expenses for the 2023-2024 School Year.

ARTICLE 18: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Thirteen Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty One Dollars (\$513,481) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Road Maintenance Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

ARTICLES 18: ROAD MAINTENANCE...		FY2023 Appropriated	FY2024 Adopted	FinComm Recommend	FinComm Vote	
015421.700	Highway Administration	10,000	12,700	12,700	(6,0,0)	
015422.115	Highway Salaries	246,915	259,781	259,781	(5,1,0)	
015422.700	Highway Materials	98,239	100,000	100,000	(6,0,0)	
015425.700	Road Machinery	47,985	50,000	50,000	(6,0,0)	
015426.700	Road Machinery Fuel	51,000	51,000	51,000	(6,0,0)	
015429.700	Road Machinery Buildings	38,000	40,000	40,000	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL - ARTICLES 18: ROAD MAINTENANCE...		492,139	513,481	513,481		

ARTICLE 19: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Snow Removal Services.

ARTICLE 20: It was voted by a majority to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Five Thousand, Five Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$105,519) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Salaries and Expenses related to the operation of the

Westhampton Transfer Station and the long term monitoring and maintenance of the closed Westhampton Landfill.

ARTICLE 20: TRANSFER STATION and LANDFILL		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
015430.115	Transfer Station Salaries	16,643	20,479	20,479	(6,0,0)	
015430.700	Transfer Station Expense	76,440	76,440	76,440	(6,0,0)	
015431.700	Landfill Maintenance Expense	7,900	8,600	8,600	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL: TRANSFER STATION and LANDFILL		100,983	105,519	105,519		

ARTICLE 21: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand, Five Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$12,515) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the operation and maintenance of the Westhampton Cemetery, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

ARTICLE 21: Westhampton Cemetery		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
015491.113	Cemetery Salary	9,000	12,000	12,000	(6,0,0)	
015491.114	Cemetery Commission	500	515	515	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL: Westhampton Cemetery		9,500	12,515	12,515		

ARTICLE 22: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty Four Dollars (\$35,544) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Public Health Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

ARTICLE 22: PUBLIC HEALTH		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
015512.113	Board of Health Salary	1,359	1,401	1,401	(6,0,0)	
015512.700	Board of Health Expense	500	500	500	(6,0,0)	
015513.690	HRMC	8,000	7,830	7,830	(6,0,0)	
015513.700	Foothills Health District	24,312	24,313	24,313	(6,0,0)	
015519.115	Animal Inspector Salary	1,030	1,500	1,500	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL - ARTICLE 22: PUBLIC HEALTH		35,201	35,544	35,544		

ARTICLE 23: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Four Dollars (\$9,774) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Council on Aging Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

ARTICLE 23: COUNCIL on AGING		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Requested	Recommend	Vote	
015541.113	COA Coordinator	6,000	6,750	6,750	(6,0,0)	
015541.700	Council on Aging	3,025	8,524	3,024	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL - ARTICLE 23: COUNCIL on AGING		9,025	15,274	9,774		

ARTICLE 24: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand, Twenty Eight Dollars (\$10,028) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Veterans Services and Benefits, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

ARTICLE 24: VETERANS' SERVICES		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
015543.115	Veterans Agent	1,968	2,028	2,028	(6,0,0)	
015543.700	Veterans Expense	11,000	8,000	8,000	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL: VETERANS' SERVICES		12,968	10,028	10,028		

ARTICLE 25: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty Four Thousand, One Hundred and Six Three (\$124,103) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the maintenance and operation of the Westhampton Public Library.

ARTICLE 25: WESTHAMPTON LIBRARY		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
015610.700	Library	119,806	124,103	124,103	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL: WESTHAMPTON LIBRARY		119,806	124,103	124,103		

It was stated that salary and expense line items would be listed at next year's annual meeting.

ARTICLE 26: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand, Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,450) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for the provision of Culture and Recreational Activities and Services, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

ARTICLE 26: CULTURE and RECREATION		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
015691.700	Historical Commission	1,200	1,200	1,200	(6,0,0)	
015692.700	Memorial Day	200	200	200	(6,0,0)	
015699.700	Cultural Council	75	50	50	(6,0,0)	
TOTAL - ARTICLE 26: CULTURE and RECREATION		1,475	1,450	1,450		

ARTICLE 27: It was voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, One Hundred Five Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy Nine Dollars (\$1,105,479) exactly, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for Employment Benefits, Insurance, and other Mandated Expenses, in accordance with the specific purposes and amounts as follows:

ARTICLE 27: MANDATED EXPENSES

700 - DEBT SERVICE		FY2023	FY2024	FinComm	FinComm	
		Appropriated	Adopted	Recommend	Vote	
015710.917	Debt: Public Safety Construction	256,800	256,850	256,850	(6,0,0)	
		256,800	256,850	256,850		
800 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES						
015840.690	PVPC	286	300	300	(6,0,0)	
		286	300	300		

900 - UNCLASSIFIED

015911.170	Hampshire Cty Retirement	257,903	251,758	251,758	(6,0,0)	
015913.170	Unemployment	20,000	23,350	23,350	(6,0,0)	
015914.170	Group Health Insurance	402,250	439,721	439,721	(6,0,0)	
015915.171	Medicare	32,600	33,500	33,500	(6,0,0)	
015945.740	Insurance & Bonds	90,000	95,000	95,000	(6,0,0)	
015998.083	OPEB Trust	5,000	5,000	5,000	(6,0,0)	
Total Unclassified		807,753	848,329	848,329		

TOTAL - ARTICLE 27: MANDATED EXPENSES 1,064,839 1,105,479 1,105,479

ARTICLE 28: It was voted by a majority to appropriate the sum of One Hundred Eighty Three Thousand, Eight Hundred Forty Seven Dollars and Forty Four Cents (\$183,847.44), as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds from the Transportation Bond Issue.

ARTICLE 29: It was voted unanimously to transfer from free cash the sum of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$2,925) exactly, for an Actuary Report on the OPEB costs and liability for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

ARTICLE 30: It was voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifteen Dollars and Eighty Two Cents (\$8,815.82), for the purposes of opioid abuse treatment and prevention, said funds to be expended at the direction of the Westhampton Police Chief after consultation with the Westhampton Fire Chief, Westhampton Emergency Management Coordinator, and Director of the Foothills Health District.

ARTICLE 31: It was voted unanimously that the Town purchase a new 10-wheel highway truck with wing plow, and to fund said purchase, transfer Two Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars Exactly (\$2,800.00) from Account Number 305426.000, the surplus proceeds from the purchase of a 2018 payloader, transfer Fifteen Thousand Twenty Two Dollars and Seventy One Cents (\$15,022.71) from Account Number 305426.001, the surplus proceeds from the purchase of a 2021 Highway Truck, and transfer the sum of Three Hundred Forty Two Thousand, Four Hundred Seventy Seven Dollars and Twenty Nine Cents (\$342,477.29) from General Stabilization, for a total amount not to exceed Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Three Hundred Dollars Exactly (\$360,300).

ARTICLE 32: It was voted unanimously that the Town transfer Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two Dollars and Twenty Nine Cents (\$8,732.29), the unspent appropriation from Account Number 015192.712 – the "Great Hall Paint" project – for the purpose of the purchase and installation of a fire detection, alarm, and access control systems for the Town Hall and Town Hall Annex buildings. It was noted that ARPA funds would also be used to cover the project cost.

ARTICLE 33: It was voted unanimously as amended to transfer from Free Cash the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars exactly (\$40,000.00), for the purposes of Roadside Tree Removal Services; said funds to be expended jointly or severally at the direction of the Westhampton Highway Superintendent and the Westhampton Tree Warden. It was

noted that this is a start on a long neglected issue and total removal costs may eventually be \$100,000. Future plans may include planting costs.

ARTICLE 34: It was voted unanimously that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of Ten Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Dollars Exactly (\$10,350.00), the total amount of the winning bid from the auction of a 1947 Willys Jeep, to Account Number 825170.000, "the Clapp Fund"; said funds to be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the Blacksmith Shop.

ARTICLE 35: After much discussion it was voted by a majority as amended to transfer the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) exactly, from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund.

ARTICLE 36: After much discussion it was voted by a majority to transfer the sum of One Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four Dollars exactly (\$137,464.00) from Free Cash to balance the budget and reduce the tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2024.

ARTICLE 37: It was voted unanimously to adopt the following non-binding resolution:

Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts

Whereas the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, at Wessaguset (now Weymouth) in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived;

Whereas the Colonial broadsword held by a white hand above the head of the Indigenous person on the Massachusetts Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Indigenous leaders that resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Indigenous person on the Flag and Seal were taken from the skeleton of an Indigenous person unearthed in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from an Indigenous man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and the facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in the winter of 1675, the enslavement of Indigenous people in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Indigenous men, women and children in

Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Indigenous adult males by 1772, half that amount for Indigenous women and children; Whereas Indigenous people were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that Colonial law was finally repealed; Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate government policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, occurred in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to an appreciation of the need for better relations between the descendants of the Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth; Whereas the land area now known as the Town of Westhampton, shares a rich Native history with tribal Nations such as the Norwottuck or Nonotuck, who inhabited this area long before the first colonial settlers arrived, in 1762;

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Westhampton hereby adopts this resolution in support of the work of the Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, established by a Resolve of the General Court in 2021 and appointed by the Governor to recommend changes to the current flag and seal of Massachusetts, and in support of a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth that may better reflect our aspirations for harmonious and respectful relations between all people who now call Massachusetts home. The Town clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Sen. Paul Mark and Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, with the request that they continue their strong support for the work of the aforementioned Special Commission and advocate for a new flag and seal for the Commonwealth.

It was then voted unanimously that the Selectboard send a letter to the printer of the Annual Report thanking them for such a fine job.

The meeting dissolved at 11:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrin Kaminsky, Town Clerk

RECAPITULATION

Article 9 Salaries of Elected Officials	18,775
Article 10 Gen'l Gov't	388,878
Article 11 Fire, Police, EMS	237,956
Article 12 Ambulance	35,000
Article 13 Bldg. Insp & other safety	62,715
Article 14 Elementary School	2,073,948
Article 15 Regional School	1,615,023
Article 16 Vocational Tuition	300,696
Article 17 Vocational Transportation	70,900
Article 18 Highway	513,481
Article 19 Snow Removal	100,000
Article 20 Transfer Stn & landfill	105,519
Article 21 Cemetery	12,515
Article 22 Public Health	35,544
Article 23 COA	9,774
Article 24 Veterans	10,028
Article 25 Library	124,103
Article 26 Culture & Rec	1,450
Article 27 Emp benefits & Ins	1,105,479
Total raise and appropriate [recap pg.4 (B)]	6,821,784.00
Articles 5, 29, 30, 33-35 from Free Cash for specific purposes [recap pg.4 (C)]	431,428.69
Articles 28, 31, 32 from other Available Funds [recap pg.4 (D)]	552,879.73
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS [recap pg.4 (A)]	7,806,092.42
Article 36 from Free Cash to balance budget/reduce tax rate [recap pg.2]	137,464.00

Proceedings of a Special Town Meeting – November 4, 2023

A quorum of approximately 60 being present at Town Hall, Moderator Ben Warren called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The following articles were then acted upon:

ARTICLE 1: It was voted unanimously:

That the Town transfer from account number 01 5 151.300 – Legal Counsel – the sum of \$1,542.34, for the purpose of paying three outstanding invoices from a prior fiscal year, received from K & P Law, P.C. as follows:

- Invoice #130500, dated March 24, 2021, in the amount of \$347.62
- Invoice #133579, dated October 25, 2021, in the amount of \$473.22
- Invoice #136633, dated April 28, 2022, in the amount of \$721.50

AND

That the Town transfer from account number 01 5 220.700 – Fire Department Operations – the sum of \$1,469.34, for the purpose of paying two outstanding invoices from a prior fiscal year, received from Witmer Public Safety Group as follows:

- Invoice #108066, dated September 22, 2022, in the amount of \$795.00
- Invoice #161214, dated December 14, 2022, in the amount of \$674.34

AND

That the Town transfer from account number 01 5 210.700 – Police Department Expense – the sum of \$806.40 for the purpose of paying one outstanding invoice from a prior fiscal year, received from Witmer Public Safety Group as follows:

- Invoice #236385, dated April 10, 2023, in the amount of \$806.40

ARTICLE 2: It was voted unanimously

to amend the General Bylaw of the Town of Westhampton, Article 2 “Elected Officers” as set forth in bold underline below for new language and strikethrough for deletions as follows:

Article 2 - Elected Municipal Officers

and further, to amend Article 2, Section 1, as follows:

Section 1 – Elected Officers to be Elected

ARTICLE 3: It was voted unanimously

to remove gender specific terms from the General Bylaw of the Town, by amending the General Bylaw, Article 1 “Town Meetings”, Section 1-7-2 as set forth in bold underline below for new language and strikethrough for deletions as follows:

1-7-2 The moderator shall appoint all committees established by the Town Meeting unless the meeting otherwise directs. ~~He~~ The moderator may direct that only voters be admitted to the place of meeting or to a definite portion thereof.

and further, by amending Article 2 “Municipal Officers”, Section 2 – Town Clerk: Duties, Section 2-2-1, as follows:

2-2-1 ~~The Town Clerk~~ shall keep and cause to be permanently bound one or more files of the Town reports and recover one copy of each past year that is possible. ~~He~~ They shall notify all persons chosen or elected by the Town or appointed on committees of their election, choice, or appointment. ~~He~~ They shall furnish all boards and committees with a copy of all votes affecting them. ~~He~~ They shall not allow original papers or documents of the Town to be taken from ~~his~~ their office except as they remain in ~~his~~ their custody or by authority of the law.

ARTICLE 4: It was voted unanimously

to amend the General Bylaw of the Town of Westhampton by adding to Article 1 “Town Meetings” Section 1-3-2 as follows:

1-3-2 All petitions to add articles to a scheduled special or annual Town Meeting warrant must be filed with the Selectboard at least 45 days prior to the date of said Town Meeting. This requirement may be waived by the Selectboard on its own motion, if it finds that failing to address the subject of the petition could pose a real, measurable and significant detriment to the health or welfare of the Town.

ARTICLE 5: It was voted unanimously but one

to amend the General Bylaw of the Town of Westhampton by amending Article 2 “Municipal Officers”, by adding a new section, Section 4 - Treasurer as follows:

Section 4 - Treasurer

2-4-1 - The Town Treasurer is responsible for the deposit, investment, and disbursement of all Town funds and plays a principal role in borrowing, in accordance with state law, including, but not limited to, Section 35 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, and other federal and state codes, laws, and regulations as applicable.

2-4-2 - The Treasurer of the Town shall give no note as Treasurer unless authorized by vote of the Town to borrow money and approved by vote of the Westhampton Selectboard.

2-4-3 - The Treasurer shall pay no money from the Treasury except upon a warrant signed by the Town Accountant and by the officer or by a majority of the Board or Committee authorized to make the expenditure.

2-4-4 - The Treasurer shall, before entering upon the discharge of their duties, pursuant to Section 35 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, give bond for the faithful performance of their duties in a sum and with sureties approved by the Selectboard, which bond shall be paid for by the Town.

2-4-5 - The Treasurer shall coordinate all human resources records and actions, and administer all employee benefits. The Treasurer shall, under the direction of

the Selectboard, act as the Town's retirement system and employee insurance benefits representative.

2-4-6 - In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 60, § 62A, payment agreements are hereby authorized between the Treasurer and persons entitled to redeem parcels in tax title, subject to the following terms and conditions:

A. Each such agreement shall be for a term of five years and shall waive 50% of the interest that has accrued on the tax title account. No tax principal or collection costs/fees may be waived pursuant to the terms of any such agreement.

B. Payment of 25% of the total tax title account balance as of the date of the agreement must be received by the Treasurer upon final approval/execution of the agreement.

C. Such agreements and waivers shall be available for and uniformly applied to parcels of real property with an assessed valuation, as of the January 1 preceding the date of the agreement, equal to or less than 150% of the mean assessed value of residential properties in the Town.

D. During the term of the agreement, the Treasurer may not bring an action to foreclose the subject tax title unless payments are not made in accordance with the schedule set out in the agreement or timely payments are not made on other municipal taxes, assessments, or charges due to the Town that constitute a lien on the subject tax title parcel. In the event of any default in payment obligations stipulated in said agreement, the Treasurer may pursue any or all remedies prescribed by MGL c. 60 for the collection of unpaid taxes, including, but not limited to, tax title foreclosure.

E. The failure of the property owner to comply with any of the conditions or requirements imposed under this bylaw or to make payments in accordance with the terms of any agreement executed pursuant hereto shall be cause to rescind the waiver of interest and to reinstitute the interest that was waived. In the event of such noncompliance, the tax account for the property shall be recalculated to reflect the amount of taxes and statutory interest that would have been then due and payable but for the initial waiver of interest.

F. Nothing in this bylaw shall preempt or preclude the authority of the Treasurer to accept partial payments or to negotiate and enter into payment agreements authorized by the provisions of MGL c. 60, §§ 22 and 22A, or any other statutory authority.

ARTICLE 6: It was voted unanimously

to accept the layout of a portion of Perry Hill Road Extension as a public way in the location depicted on the plan entitled "Plan of Road in the Town of Westhampton, Hampshire County, laid out as a Town Roadway by the Town of Westhampton," dated August 16, 2023, prepared by Samuel A White, Jr., PLS # 35045, as heretofore laid out by the Selectboard and filed with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Selectboard to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise the fee to and/or easements in said Perry Hill Road Extension as depicted on said plan and to

enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out said acquisitions and other acts authorized herein.

It was noted that no expenditure of Town funds is anticipated or requested.

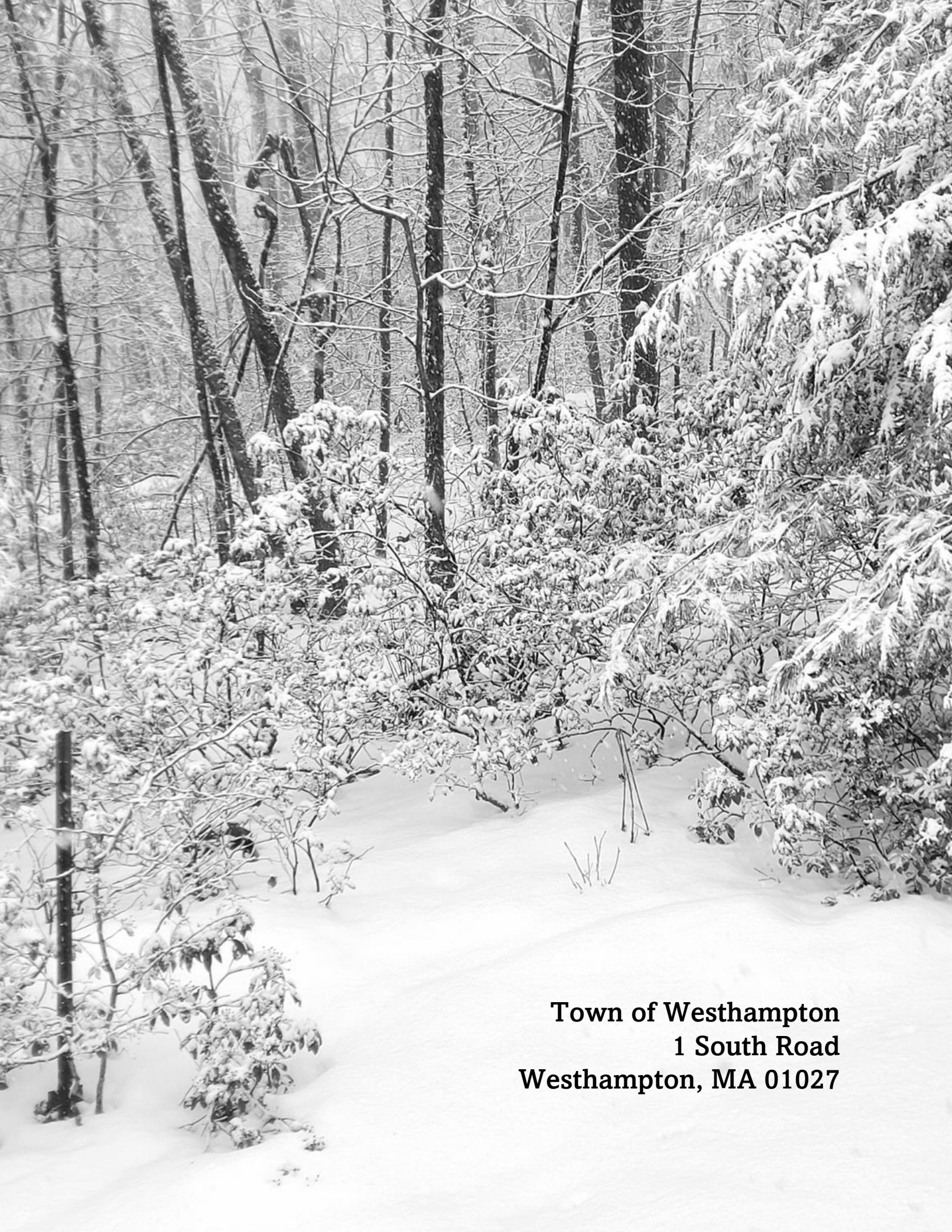
ARTICLE 7: It was voted by a declared two-thirds majority

to amend the Westhampton Zoning Bylaw by striking in its entirety the existing Town of Westhampton Zoning By-law, as adopted May 13, 1995 and as further revised, and replacing it with the document entitled "Town of Westhampton Zoning Bylaws, recommended by a vote of the Planning Board on September 10, 2023", and as submitted to the Town Clerk on September 27, 2023.

Voted to dissolve at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrin Kaminsky, Town Clerk



**Town of Westhampton
1 South Road
Westhampton, MA 01027**