

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS**



**TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON**

**FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020**

DEDICATION

David Blakesley

In recognition of his dedication and service to the Town of Westhampton, the Selectboard dedicates the 2020 Annual Town Report to David Blakesley.

David Blakesley was born and raised in Westhampton, graduating from the Hampshire Regional High School. From there he joined the Westhampton Highway Department as a crew member. He was also a member of the Westhampton Fire Department for nearly 40 years. David's dedication to serving the town was apparent from the start of his long career on both departments.



He earned his position as Highway Foreman in 1986. Upon the retirement of Richard Tracy in 2000, David was promoted to Highway Superintendent, the "Road Boss", where he spent the remainder of his working career. His guidance and leadership developed a crew of competent and hard-working employees. The Highway Department never hesitated to go above and beyond to assist other departments and support town functions, even if it meant after hours or a weekend. That work ethic that continues today.

During David's tenure as superintendent, the oversight of the transfer station was shifted from the responsibility of the Board of Health to the Highway Superintendent. David assumed this role as well as becoming a town representative of the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative.

More accomplishments that David oversaw or participated in during his tenure as superintendent include:

- Construction of new highway garage
- Reconstruction of South Road, including one bridge
- Secured a \$400,000.00 grant for Hathaway Road
- Designed Hathaway Road (no engineer had to be hired)
- Constructed and donated the fill for the Westhampton Elementary School ball field
- Secured \$845,000.00 for the construction of Louds Bridge
- Secured \$200,000.00 for the Northwest Road culvert relining project
- Mill and paved Route 66 (Main Road)
- Completed right of ways for the reconstruction of the North Road Bridge
- Designed and completed right of ways for the reconstruction of a Kings Highway Bridge

- Designed and completed right of ways for the reconstruction of another Kings Highway Bridge (“skinny bridge”), which began construction this year.

He is quick to acknowledge others that assisted with the projects.

Since 2015, David has served on the Board of Health. He also serves on the Town Property & Energy Committee. David continues to be a valuable resource for the town regarding roadways and historical events. Since his retirement, he spends much of his time working on the farm and enjoying the company of his 3 grandchildren.

We are grateful to David Blakesley for his past and current contributions to the Town of Westhampton.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Dowling, Chair
Maureen Dempsey, Clerk
Teri Anderson

REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

The year began with Phil Dowling as Chair, Maureen Dempsey as Clerk and Teri Anderson. In July, Phil Dowling was re-elected for a third three year term. When the board met to reorganize, it voted Phil Dowling as Chair and Maureen Dempsey as Clerk. Cheryl Provost continues as Administrative Assistant.

The Town website continues to be a resource for residents and visitors to stay connected with town events. To learn more visit us at: <http://www.westhampton-ma.com/>

On March 10 Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency in response to the growing number of presumed positive cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. On March 16 the Selectboard and Board of Health declared a state of emergency to take steps to protect the health and welfare of the people of Westhampton. This declaration facilitated and expedited the use of resources to protect persons from the impacts of COVID-19, including state and federal funding and limitations on operating hours and access to public buildings. The Emergency Operations Center was established at the Town Hall where weekly meetings of the emergency officers and Board of Health were held. The meetings continued while MEMA/FEMA, MA legislatures, MA Dept. of Public Health, and Center For Disease Control developed laws, plans, and research to evaluate and respond to the situation. Eventually the meetings were moved to the public safety complex where key emergency officers continued to meet.

Annual Town Meeting was postponed and held outdoors at the Elementary School in June and Annual Town Election was postponed until July. Boards and Committees became educated in the use of Zoom and other virtual meeting platforms while office staff adjusted to hybrid on-site/remote access work. The status continued through the remainder of the year and into the next.

The ground-mounted solar energy system, "Sunset on Montague Road, LLC", began operation December 28, 2020 with a name plate capacity of 6.86 MW DC. The Town negotiated a PILOT Agreement (payment in lieu of taxes) with the owner, resulting a first year payment of \$89,193.00 (which increases by one percent each year for 20 years).

The Zoning Bylaw Review Committee continues the monumental task of updating the Westhampton Zoning Bylaws. The Selectboard wishes to thank committee members: John Shaw (Chair), Art Pichette, Brigid O'Riordan, Steve Gagne, John Kelsey and Pat Coffey for their years of work on this tedious and necessary project.

The Public Safety Complex Building Committee continued their work on final plans and specifications with Digiorgio Associates, Inc (architects) and D.A. Sullivan & Sons (Owner's Project Manager) for a New Public Safety Building. The Plans were completed in December and the project was put out to bid. Bids are due in January 2021 and a Special Town Meeting will be held to seek voter approval followed by a debt exclusion ballot question. The Safety Complex Building Committee will oversee the bidding process and provide public information. Members are Steve Holt (Chair), Dave White, Art Pichette, John Zimmerman, Laurie Sanders, Christopher Brooks, Phil Dowling and Stephan Wurmbrand.

The Town Property and Energy Assessment Committee continues to review and make recommendations for repairs of town buildings. With funding approved at Annual Town Meeting, the town hall and annex deteriorating slate roofs were removed and replaced with asphalt shingles. The committee is now working on lighting upgrades for the Highway Garage, Town Hall, Annex and Library. At the Town Hall pricing is being sought for: insulation, door replacement, meeting room floor re-finishing and painting. An evaluation of the Elementary School Heating System was performed by UMass Clean Energy Extension and a report will be issued in April 2021. Members are David Blakesley, Barbara Cook, Chris Brooks and Art Pichette.

Improvements and upgrades to the town's information technology infrastructure provides officials and employees with office equipment that is efficient and improves data security. An inventory list is maintained to determine replacement schedule. An email migration onto the new domain "@WesthamptonMA.org" was completed for the Accountant, Assessor, Building Inspections, Board of Health, Fire Dept., Highway Department, Police Dept., Selectboard/Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Treasurer. It is our goal to migrate additional emails in the coming year.

A State Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 was awarded to examine the community's vulnerabilities and strengths and identify priority actions to build resilience as the climate changes. With a portion of those funds, the Selectboard contracted Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. as Project Manager to assist in completing requirements to attain certification under Massachusetts' Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. This enables the town to seek additional grant funds through the program to implement action plans developed by the study.

The Town was awarded a State "Shared Streets" Grant of \$61,000 to help create a new drop off and pick up area at the Elementary School on Hathaway Road. Additional parking and a pavilion to protect bikes and students was also part of this grant. The Selectboard would like to acknowledge and thank the Westhampton Highway Department for their work and supervision on this project.

In June, the Selectboard adopted the following Anti-Racism Resolution:

"We, the members of the Westhampton Selectboard, are horrified by the recent violent deaths of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement officials across the country. We recognize that these actions are only the most recent in a long history of violence and are part of the structural racism that has existed in the United States since its foundation. We condemn racism, racial bias, intolerance, and the violence it facilitates. Therefore, we hereby resolve:

- To identify, through education, conscious and unconscious racial biases that affect our public and personal decision-making processes.
- To work with our Federal and State Legislators, local Municipal Officials, Westhampton Boards, Departments and Residents to examine and challenge societal norms and governmental systems that perpetuate racial inequalities.

- To strive to make Westhampton a welcoming, safe, and inclusive community to all people.

We invite all Westhampton residents to join us in this commitment.”

In addition to annual appointments, the Selectboard made the following appointments in 2020. Appointments run by fiscal year, July 1 - June 30 for terms of 1 or 3 years, depending on the position. Mid-year appointments fill vacancies for the remainder of a term, or in the case of an elected position until the next town election. Town officials are listed on the Westhampton website on the "officials" link located on the home page.

Patty Cotton - Tax Collector

Wally Marek - Local Inspector of Buildings

Todd Alexander - Local Inspector of Buildings

Todd Alexander - Co-Emergency Management Director

Winnie Gorman - Board of Assessors

Paul Nevins - Board of Assessors

The COVID-19 pandemic has made this a challenging year, but town residents, staff, and boards all stepped up to minimize the impact in Westhampton. The Selectboard wishes to thank all the officials, board members, employees and volunteers that selflessly dedicate their time and services to the Town of Westhampton. In particular, the Selectboard would like to acknowledge the work of the Board of Health, Tom Martin (Chair), David Blakesley and Roberta Armenti, for their long and uncounted hours of work. And finally, our Town Clerk and Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Provost, for managing three elections in the face of unprecedented challenges. Your dedication not only allows the town to function, it makes Westhampton a great place to live. The Selectboard also wishes to thank the Congregational Church for creating a local food bank and the schools for providing ongoing meals throughout the school year and summer. It is with sorrow the Selectboard gives condolences to residents, employees, and officials that lost loved ones to the pandemic.

The Selectboard meets every other Monday evening and is here to serve you. Contact Cheryl at 413-203-3086 or Administration@WesthamptonMA.org to make an appointment to be included on the Selectboard agenda.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Dowling, Chair
Maureen Dempsey, Clerk
Teri Anderson

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The year 2020 Cheryl Provost served as 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 2020.

Births 7

Westhampton welcomed 3 girls and 4 boys

Marriage Licenses Issued 6

09/12/2020	Christopher Albert Grillo	to	Erica Rose Belanger
09/25/2020	Andrew Michael Dunn	to	Abigail Ann Macutkiewicz
10/10/2020	Michael Robert Gauvin	to	Carrienne Leigh Trask
10/23/2020	Ryan Anthony Freeze	to	Simone Gabrielle Stemper
11/24/2020	Travis Winston Odom	to	Alexandra Marie Meier
11/26/2020	Roger Paul Malo	to	Kerry Anne Daysh

Deaths 14

01/16/2020	Joseph Eldis Worpek, Jr.	06/01/2020	Scott Norman Carrier
01/29/2020	James A. Conz	07/16/2020	Sonya Evelyn Funk
01/29/2020	David Conner	09/29/2020	Eleanor Gugenberger
04/13/2020	Daniel Munks	10/01/2020	Sharlotte Caroline Risley
05/02/2020	Thomas Edward Subocz	10/12/2020	William Anthony Rose, II
05/05/2020	Arron Hurd	10/18/2020	Daniel Webster
05/15/2020	Leonard E. Day, Jr.	12/01/2020	Carlton Clyde Kelley

Dog Licenses

Males	11	\$ 110.00	Kennel 4 dogs or less	0	\$ 0.00
Females	8	\$ 80.00	Kennel 5 to 9 dogs	0	\$ 0.00
Spayed	109	\$ 545.00	Kennel 10 dogs up	0	\$ 0.00
Neutered	101	\$ 505.00			
Totals	229	\$1,240.00	Total Kennel Licenses	0	\$ 0.00

New dog licenses arrive at the beginning of each year and expire March 31 the following year. All dogs six months or older must be licensed by June 30th; a current rabies certificate is required. Per State Law, any person whose dog is not licensed by the June deadline is subject to fines and penalties. License information is included with the annual census and application is available on Town web site.

Town Clerk Fees Collected

Burial Permits	6	\$ 120.00
Death Certificates	45	\$ 225.00
Birth Certificates	6	\$ 30.00
Marriage Certificates	13	\$ 65.00
Marriage License	6	\$ 120.00
Business Certificate	9	\$ 180.00

Total **\$ 740.00**

At the Annual Town Meeting June 27, 2020, it was voted to establish and fund a new Ambulance Service Account for ambulance services provided by the City of Easthampton. Voters also approved funding a new Consultant/Planner Services Account.

Voters authorized borrowing for a new pickup truck for the highway department, contingent upon passage of a debt exclusion ballot question. The question was subsequently approved by voters at Annual Town Election to complete authorization of the purchase.

Other capital expenditures approved by voters from Free Cash were for replacement of the slate roof on town hall and annex and for a new generator for the highway department garage.

Other business of Annual Town Meeting included a Resolution Endorsing the Protection of Pollinators and Enhancement of Pollinator Habitat, submitted by petition of qualified voters. The article was tabled.

Population from local census **1652**

Total Registered Voters **1264**

Democrats	292
Republicans	110
Green Rainbow	5
Libertarian	4
Designation	6
Unenrolled	847

The Annual Town Election was held July 25, 2020. Voters approved the following: Question 1 Shall the Town of Westhampton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay costs to purchase a four-wheel drive pickup truck for the Highway Department?

The year was busy with elections, beginning with the Federal Presidential Primaries on March 3. Within days of that the Commonwealth, and subsequently the town, were in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 world health crisis. With state primaries in September and state/presidential election in November, in addition to local elections, state legislatures worked closely with the Elections Division to provide relief to municipalities. Laws were amended to enable Early Vote by Mail to reduce in person voting. Clerks across the Commonwealth had to

be on top of the changes, inform voters, and educate workers. Early in person voting was also offered to voters. An official ballot drop box was purchased with grant funds then installed in front of the Town Hall by the highway department to reduce in person contact even more. The box continues to be used as a no contact option for dropping off items to the Town Clerk, such as street listing and dog license applications. It will also continue to be used as an official ballot drop box for elections. Additional election supplies were purchased with the grant funds to better direct voters and maintain what became the common “social distance”. The elections division provided municipalities with Personal Protective Equipment for workers and voters. I made revisions to election day voting procedures in compliance with the all state and federal guidelines, making small adjustments with each election. When the Presidential election in November was held workers and voters were well rehearsed and in the end all elections were conducted safely. At the November election nearly half of the votes cast were early votes.

I give a special thank you to each and every election worker and volunteer for all your help throughout the year. You are a very special group of individuals and I could not have conducted successful elections without you.

Among other services and duties, the Town Clerk provides copies of birth, death and marriage certificates; issuing marriage licenses, dog licenses, business licenses and special permit/variance applications; voter registration; and information needed for all elections. All board and committee meeting agendas are posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Clerk’s office and in the mailbox in front of town hall, or if you have internet access the Town website www.westhampton-ma.com

The Town Clerk office hours for public access was limited by closure of Town Hall due to the state of emergency and continues so into 2021. For hours or inquiries it’s best to contact the office at 413-203-3080 or email, Clerk@WesthamptonMA.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Provost,
Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance July 1, 2019	\$ 1,904,551.75
Receipts	\$ 7,779,114.14
Disbursements	\$ 6,974,012.69
Balance June 30, 2020	\$ 2,729,653.20

Easthampton Library	\$ 7,140.16
Easthampton Savings Collector	\$ 143,647.30
Easthampton Savings Sweep	\$ 208,176.45
Easthampton Savings Bank Charity	\$ 1,970.66
Easthampton Payroll	\$ 13,320.12
MMDT General	\$ 221,562.19
MMDT Cultural Council	\$ 6,751.05
MMDT Septic Grant	\$ 90,531.38
Peoples Solar	\$ 284,752.95
Peoples Cemetery	\$ 57,482.20
Unibank General MM	\$ 695,876.97
Unibank Online Collections	\$ 396,707.47
Unibank Fire Online Collections	\$ 32,520.14
Unibank Deputy Collector	\$ 53,604.13
GermainTrust	\$ 5,441.27
Clapp Trust	\$ 89,545.02
OPEB Trust	\$ 38,101.79
MMDT Charity	\$ 7,153.00
MMDT Veterans Trust	\$ 2,382.59
MMDT Stabilization Fund	\$ 382,986.36
Balance June 30, 2020	\$ 2,729,653.20

Interest Earned	\$ 16,282.42
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Tax Title Account

Name	Balance due as of	6/30/2020
Conz, James	271 Northwest Rd	\$ 32,231.46
Creek, Von & Jean	105 Reservoir Rd	\$ 25,233.71
Kellogg, Loretta	225 Northwest Rd	\$ 21,100.81
Montague, Matthew & Happy	61 Chesterfield Rd	\$ 30,534.73
O'Brien, Martin J	42 Pine Island Lake	\$ 28,338.35
Progressive Structures	Northwest Rd	\$ 6,448.71
Stone, Norman	303 Southampton Rd	\$ 17,609.33
Wright, Joel	0 Southampton Rd	\$ 4,299.16
		\$ 165,806.26

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia W. Cotton, Treasurer

Combined Balance Sheet

All Funds and Account Groups

June 30, 2020

	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	1,077,483.86	892,823.87	160,800.00			598,545.47		2,729,653.20
Investments								0.00
Personal property taxes	7,093.68							7,093.68
In Lieu of Taxes	18,165.03							18,165.03
Amounts to be provided - payment of bonds							144,428.00	144,428.00
Total Assets	<u>1,387,106.59</u>	<u>965,176.71</u>	<u>160,800.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>598,545.47</u>	<u>144,428.00</u>	<u>3,256,056.77</u>
Accounts payable	169,541.03							0.00
Accrued payroll and withholdings		25,204.25						194,745.28
Deferred revenue:								
Real and personal property taxes	70,432.44							70,432.44
Tax liens	165,806.26							165,806.26
Rollback	705.78							705.78
Other receivables		72,352.84						72,352.84
Due from other governments	13,911.11							0.00
Reserved for encumbrances								13,911.11
Reserved for appropriation deficit Safety Complex			(78,000.00)					(78,000.00)
Undesignated fund balance	565,073.06	867,619.62	2,800.00			586,486.45		2,021,979.13
Total Fund Equity	<u>907,942.83</u>	<u>867,619.62</u>	<u>(75,200.00)</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>586,486.45</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,286,848.90</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	1,387,106.59	965,176.71	160,800.00	0.00	0.00	598,545.47	144,428.00	3,256,056.77

**REPORT OF THE
TOWN ACCOUNTANT
July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020**

RECEIPTS

TAXES

Property	4,779,144.30	
Motor Vehicle Excise	225,361.76	
Tax Liens	7,109.86	
Payments In Lieu of Taxes	0.00	
Rollback Taxes	0.00	
Interest and Penalties on Taxes	23,511.73	5,035,127.65

COMM MASS

Local Aid/Lottery UGGA	153,875.00	
Exemptions	1,506.00	
PILOT	1,176.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	487,210.00	
Charter School Reimbursement	11,529.00	
Vocational Transportation	3,151.00	
Special Ed Assmt Reimbursement	6,075.00	
Extended Polling Hours	258.00	
State Aid to Libraries	3,624.81	
Veterans Reimbursements	13,343.00	
Medicaid	3,982.94	685,730.75

MISC GRANTS AND GIFTS

COA – State	5,980.51	
Cultural Council	4,911.77	
Library Gifts	3,087.80	
Library Building Gift	21.53	
		14,001.61

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Licenses Selectboard	828.00	
Plumbing Fees	2,575.00	
Electrical Fees	5,470.00	
Building Permits	70,933.59	
Planning Board	0.00	
Zoning Permits	133.00	

Library	0.00	
Tax Collector Fees	4,505.00	
HCOG Solar Credits	6,006.72	
Mark & Clear	1,080.00	
Town Clerk Fees	1,957.00	
Other Departmental Revenue	614.64	
Miscellaneous Receipts	3,175.00	97,277.95

FIRE DEPARTMENT

State DCR Grant	977.74	
Federal Fire Grant	1,544.00	
EMPG Grant	2,460.00	
Sale of Town Property (Ambulance)	2,000.00	
Ambulance Receipts Reserved	467.18	7,448.92

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motor Vehicle Fines	512.93	
Police Detail Cruiser Fee	645.00	
Gun Permits	1,531.25	2,689.18

BOARD OF HEALTH

Licenses & Permits, Fees	11,050.00	
Transfer Station Fees	52,769.50	
DEP Recycling Grant	5,600.00	
Covid19Cares CvRF	28,150.00	97,569.50

REVOLVING FUNDS

Consultants C.44, 53G		
Montague Escrow 44,53G1/2	284,752.95	
TNC Fund	18.00	
Resource Officer	2,590.67	
Fire Dept. Revolving Fund	2,030.00	
Septic Repayment	1,441.34	
Cemetery Revolving Fund	6,652.50	297,485.46

SCHOOL FUNDS

Misc Reimbursements to Elementary School	1,350.00	
Choice Reimbursement	136,673.00	
Extra Relief Circuit Breaker	36,450.00	
GAPS/ REAPS Grant	7,886.00	
Kindergarten Enhancement	100.00	
Pre-School	20,971.00	
HCGIT Wellness Grant	400.00	

Building Use	900.00	
Rural School Aid	22,504.42	
School Lunch Town	14,282.33	
School Lunch Federal	6,312.71	
School Lunch State	330.05	248,159.51

HIGHWAY

Chapter 90	211,432.81	
Highway Misc	40.00	211,472.81

TRUST

Clapp Trust	270.02	
Sale of Lots C.114, S.15	0.00	
Cemetery Trust	741.46	
OPEB Trust	100.47	1,111.95

INTEREST

On General Fund	6,386.57	
On Charity Funds	83.28	
On Veterans Trust	39.41	
On Stabilization	6,331.63	12,840.89

AGENCY

Deputy Collector Fees	3,518.00	
Meals Tax	47.11	
Gun Permits	4,543.75	
Police Outside Detail	9,727.00	
Payroll Deductions	689,934.10	707,769.96

PROCEEDS OF BORROWING

Safety Complex	236,000.00	236,000.00
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TOTAL RECEIPTS		7,654,686.14
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NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS

Property Tax	7,864.38	
Motor Vehicle Excise	3,665.21	11,529.59

AGENCY

Deputy Collector Fees	3,518.00	
Meals Tax	47.11	
Gun Permits	4,087.50	
Police Detail	10,047.00	
Payroll Deductions	691,353.82	709,053.43

SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

REAPS grant	21,000.02	
Extra Relief SPED Circuit Breaker	16,076.52	
Rural School Aid	250.00	
Preschool	12,099.64	
School Choice	99,994.40	
School Lunch	19,250.40	168,670.98

SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS

Cemetery Revolving	4,996.80	
Cultural Council	2,920.00	
Council on Aging State	5,999.04	
State Aid to Library	3,398.24	
Resource Officer	4,103.47	
Fire Dept. Revolving	2,009.05	
Federal Fire Grant	1,544.00	
State DCR Fire Grant	1,975.24	
Covid19 Cares CvRF	1,085.49	
DEP Recycling Grant	14,080.00	
HCGIT Wellness Grant	339.85	
Chapter 90 Highway Funds	211,432.81	
Consultants 44, 53G	4,500.00	
Library Gifts	1,581.97	259,965.96

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Safety Complex	78,000.00	78,000.00
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TOTAL Non-Appropriation		1,227,219.96
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APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

	BUDGETED	SPENT	
<u>General Government</u>			
Moderator	499.00	0.00	
Selectboard Salary	5,253.00	3,668.00	
Selectboard Expense	5,800.00	5,126.36	
IT Support	14,689.00	10,042.31	
Document Management System	2,100.00	2,100.00	
IT Support Infrastructure FY19 Encumbrance	358.97	319.98	
Administrative Assistant	37,734.00	37,734.00	
Accounting Officer Salary	16,234.00	16,234.00	
Accounting Officer Expense	4,040.00	3,621.78	
Independent Audit	28,500.00	28,500.00	
Treasurer Salary	16,234.00	16,234.00	
Treasurer Expense	7,000.00	6,868.60	
Tax Title Expense	4,524.49	3,430.09	
Assessor Salary	8,720.00	5,926.00	
Assessor Expense	13,600.00	4,846.30	
Assessor Assistant	15,273.00	14,790.03	
Field Review Conversion	12,500.00	12,500.00	
Tax Collector Salary	16,234.00	16,234.00	
Tax Collector Expense	16,523.00	15,733.03	
Tax Taking Expense	1,000.00	309.30	
Town Clerk Salary	13,917.00	13,811.20	
Town Clerk Expense	6,058.00	2,347.43	
Clerk Board of Registrars	100.00	100.00	
Counsel Fees	25,000.00	11,295.53	
Conservation Commission	450.00	340.00	
Planning Board	300.00	0.00	
Planning Board FY19 Encumbrance	295.04	295.04	
Zoning Board of Appeals	600.00	0.00	
Town Offices	26,465.00	23,338.11	
Town Hall & Annex Repairs	7,982.44	304.29	256,049.38
<u>Protection of Persons & Property</u>			
Police Chief	33,052.00	33,052.00	
Police Department Expense	77,946.00	58,795.96	
Police Dept Expense FY19 Encumbrance	301.48	301.48	
Police Equip & Training	4,316.00	0.00	
Fire Chief	13,100.00	12,600.00	
Fire Department Expense	44,200.00	39,419.13	
Public Safety Complex	13,500.00	11,974.02	

Emergency Management Dir.	474.00	460.00	
Emergency Medical Services	17,000.00	6,242.62	
EMS Coordinator	474.00	276.50	
Covid-19	2,500.00	1,329.42	
Inspector Compensation	6,000.00	4,840.00	
Building Insp/Comm Salary	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Inspector Expense	5,440.00	3,438.99	
Tree Warden	673.00	673.00	
Tree Warden Expense	2,600.00	1,215.00	
Tree Warden Expense FY19 Encumbrance	341.10	341.10	
Animal Control Officer Salary	1,794.00	1,860.70	
Animal Control Officer Expense	400.00	173.50	196,993.42

Education

School Committee	1,565.00	1,296.00	
Elementary School	1,776,429.00	1,698,020.47	
Elementary School FY19 Encumbrance	18,520.96	17,985.22	
Elementary School Parking Lot	20,000.00	0.00	
Hampshire Regional	1,273,148.00	1,273,148.00	
Hampshire Regional Debt	63,207.00	63,207.00	
School Choice Assessment	43,841.00	28,121.00	
Charter School Assessment	88,415.00	72,168.00	
Vocational Tution	325,000.00	293,075.96	
Vocational Transportation	60,104.00	58,108.92	3,505,130.57

Public Works

Highway Administration	5,850.00	5,568.45	
Highway Salaries	211,849.00	204,782.73	
Highway Materials	91,225.00	88,703.73	
Snow Removal	104,843.64	104,843.64	
Road Machinery	41,700.00	40,324.86	
Road Machinery FY19 Encumbrance	181.57	181.34	
Road Machinery Fuel	21,250.00	18,841.90	
Road Machinery Fuel Storage Tanks	47,773.00	2,752.07	
Road Machinery Buildings	29,887.00	25,797.62	
Transfer Station	66,250.00	61,056.46	
Cemetery Salary	6,667.00	6,667.00	
Cemetery Commission	470.00	469.98	559,989.78

Human Services

Board of Health Salary	1,260.00	1,260.00	
Board of Health Expense	500.00	0.00	

Hilltown Resource Mgt Coop	6,915.00	6,915.00	
Foothills Health District	21,455.00	21,455.60	
Animal Inspector Salary	862.00	491.68	
Council on Aging	3,025.00	2,023.34	
COA Coordinator	4,500.00	4,500.00	
Veterans Agent	1,825.00	1,825.00	
Veterans Expense	14,460.00	14,286.04	52,756.66
<u>Culture & Recreation</u>			
Library	103,963.00	99,458.30	
Historical Commission	1,300.00	190.37	
Memorial Day	200.00	112.00	
Cultural Council	75.00	0.00	99,760.67
<u>Debt</u>			
Highway Truck/Loader	234,000.00	234,000.00	
Interest Long Term Debt	9,839.00	9,839.13	243,839.13
<u>Intergovernmental</u>			
State Assessments: Air Pollution	506.00	506.00	
RMV Surcharge	1,380.00	1,000.00	
Regional Transit	206.00	206.00	
Special Education	8,091.00	6,075.00	
STRAP	12,000.00	12,000.00	
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm.	266.00	265.81	20,052.81
<u>Unclassified</u>			
Hampshire County Retirement	207,770.00	204,104.00	
Unemployment	20,000.00	2,212.00	
Group Health Insurance	410,000.00	370,025.01	
Health Insurance Agreement	6,491.04	6,491.04	
Medicare	30,000.00	29,225.54	
Insurance & Bonds	87,570.00	68,162.00	
OPEB Trust	5,000.00	5,000.00	685,219.59
TOTAL APPROPRIATION			
EXPENDITURES	6,043,730.73	5,619,792.01	
GRAND TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES			6,847,011.97

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Boudreau, Town Accountant

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

	Real Estate Balances	Personal Property	Motor Vehicle Balances
	as of June 30, 2020	Balances	as of June 30, 2020
	as of June 30, 2020	as of June 30, 2020	as of June 30, 2020
2020	65,148.01	63,385.26	49,662.94
2019	26,405.52	609.33	2,790.99
2018	14,467.57	99.09	499.08
2017	-	-	795.63
2016	-	-	575.84
2015	-	-	188.74
Prior Yrs.	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$106,021.10	\$7,093.68	\$54,513.22

GRAND TOTAL: \$167,628.00

All payments are due on the quarterly system, with due dates as follows:

1st quarter - August 1

2nd quarter - November 1

3rd quarter - February 1

4th quarter - May 1

Bills are mailed quarterly, one month before due date.

The Tax Collector can be reached at 413-203-3084 or email

TaxCollector@WesthamptonMA.org

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Marie Knox, Tax Collector

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2020, the Board of Assessors recorded 54 property transfers. Also, the Board approved a total of 22 personal exemptions, 5 real estate abatements and 65 motor vehicle excise abatements.

Fiscal year 2021 was a revaluation year for the Town of Westhampton. The State of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services is involved in this process. They reviewed and then certified the Town's values in December 2020.

Westhampton's assessed values for Fiscal Year 2021 are

Real Estate - \$235,720,850
Personal Property - \$6,234,211
Exempt - \$29,436,800

The tax rate was certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in December 2020 for fiscal year 2021 at \$20.64 per \$1000 of value.

Due to Covid-19, the Town Hall Annex and Assessor's office are not currently open to the public. Business can be transacted by calling the office at 413-203-3082 or via email at Assessor@WesthamptonMA.org.

The Board of Assessors currently meets Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Information on attending the meetings online are available on the town website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter Morrey, Chair - Paul Nevins – Winnie Gorman

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board reviewed and approved two site plan and two building permit applications this past year. The Board also approved the Decommissioning Agreement for the solar array project off Montague and North Roads.

The Planning Board held three Public Hearings: to authorize the Selectboard to appoint an associate member of the Planning Board which was approved; to consider a proposed solar array on Hathaway Road which was ultimately withdrawn; and collaboratively with the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee to review the proposed marijuana bylaws.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Bronstein, Chair

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of December 31, 2020 members and their respective terms were:

Mary Cleary	Chair	2021
Jake Antosz, Secretary	Member	2023
Sarah Mulvehill	Member	2021
Tad Weiss	Member	2021
Vacancy	Member	2021
Stephen Holt	Member	2022
Andrew Klyman	Secretary	2022
Priscilla (Pat) Miller	Member	2022
Jeremy Durrin	Member	2023
Barbara Pelissier	Member	2023

The Finance Committee's duties are to review department budget requests, prepare the town's annual budget, and serve as the town's fiscal advisory body.

Several departments underspent their budgets and returned money to the town for the fiscal year (FY) that ended June 30, 2020. As a matter of policy, the Finance Committee supports this practice, seeking to encourage open dialogue with the various departments and support the discussion of adjustments should they arise during the course of the fiscal year. The Finance Committee strives to support the appropriation of funds for accurate budgets that reflect the needs of the various departments. To do this, an open dialogue is essential so that the townspeople can best determine how to allocate the limited town resources. The result is that 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 2020, the committee continued to support the goal of preparing the town's finances to accommodate a potential public safety complex. The Finance Committee continued its collaboration with town departments, the Selectboard, and the Capital Planning Committee to anticipate capital needs over the next 10 years so that resources may be allocated on a rotating basis.

The Finance Committee considered and supported the following items for FY2020:

- The addition of an online permitting system for the Building Inspector
- An increase in Transfer Station operating costs to account for a change in recycling systems
- Replacement of Town Hall and Annex roofing
- Adding Emergency Services Coordinator role at the Fire Department
- Adding Emergency Director responsibilities to Assistant Fire Chief role

Additionally, the committee is tasked with reviewing requests from various town departments for additional funding related to unforeseen events. The following transfers were approved in FY 2020:

Reserve Fund to Fuel Storage	\$3,000
Reserve Fund to Health Agent	\$300
Reserve Fund to Field Rev Conv	\$2,948
Reserve Fund to New COVID-19 Account	\$2,500

Reserve Fund to Snow	\$4,843.64
Reserve Fund to Con Com	\$225
Unemployment to Tax Title	\$1,024.49
Road Machinery Fuel to Transfer Station	\$3,200
Road Machinery Fuel to Highway Administration	\$100
Road Machinery Fuel to Transfer Station	\$7,500
Road Machinery Fuel to Highway Administration	\$1,000
Road Machinery Fuel to Fuel Storage Tanks	\$10,000
Highway Salaries to School Parking Lot	\$20,000

The Finance Committee would like to thank the 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. For much of calendar year 2020, meetings were held via Zoom as a COVID-19 safety precaution. Westhampton residents' input is welcomed, as it helps Finance Committee members understand the town's financial needs and what our neighbors want for Westhampton.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Cleary, Chair

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Well, 2020 was quite a year and it didn't do anything good for the Historical Commission. Covid 19 hit early in the year, and because of it we lost one of our commission members, Leonard Day. We will miss Leonard very much and his expertise on anything military, or metal work.

We met only twice during the year, and felt because of the virus we couldn't open the museum at all. So other than a few visits by members, to keep an eye on things, the museum was closed all year.

We have not found anyone to replace Leonard, so if you are interested in history, or care about all of those who came before us in Westhampton, give us a call and let us know of your interest in serving on this commission.

Members of the Board are Steve Brooks, Robert Dragon, Dan Krug Jr., Dave Goddard, and Richard W. Tracy.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Chair

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During the year 2020 the Plumbing Inspectors office received 41 requests for plumbing and gas permits. Of those 19 were for plumbing. Of those 3 were for new houses and 16 for renovations. There were 22 were for gas permits.

A total of \$3,780.00 was collected for permits and fees.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Pichette, Plumbing and Gas Inspector

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER

There were 110 building permits issued in 2020 with \$44,362.70 collected in fees for projects valued at \$4,872,051.

Permit Classification	Project Value	Number
Roof	203,333	14
Pool	35,233	3
Wood Stove	36,300	13
Windows	206,715	11
Deck	5,000	1
Solar	276,429	8
Renovation	672,205	14
House	2,212,337	8
Cell Tower	100,000	2
Garage	429,000	4
Barn	500,000	1
Temporary Structure	17,842	1
Weatherization	9,100	3
Pavilion	14,375	1
Porch	7,000	1
Insulation	23,135	7
Roof Structure	18,000	3
Pergola	1,500	1
Sheet Metal	18,900	1
Siding	35,486	2
Kitchen	28,200	1
Chimney	1,250	1
Carport	4,643	1
Door	4,568	1
Shed	11,500	2
Tent Permits	0	2
Annual Inspections	0	3
Totals	4,872,051	110

The Building Department received an IT grant to purchase software and hardware to implement an on-line permitting program and also added two new Local Building Inspectors to the staff.

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

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 Quinlan, Jr.
Building Commissioner
(413) 364-7782

Todd Alexander
Local Building Inspector
(413) 652-3430

Wally Marek
Local Building Inspector
(413) 977-9539

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals started the year with members, Laurie Sanders, as Clerk, Richard W. Tracy as Chair, John Kelsey, Wayne Parks, and Peter Ignatovich.

In July, the Selectboard appointed David Loven to replace Wayne Parks, whose term had expired. The year has been greatly affected by the arrival of the Coronavirus early in the year. We met in the first 3 months, but then suspended meetings until September. A Public Hearing, seeking a special permit, for 43 Pine Island lake had been scheduled for March, but the Covid-19 restrictions required us to ask the applicant to withdraw.

Starting in September we met via Zoom, and in October and November we were able to meet, with restrictions, in person. In December we went back to virtual meetings via Zoom.

A public Hearing seeking a variance to adjust the boundary between #16 and #18 South Road, both owned by the same person, was held on November 19th. The variance was granted.

A Public Hearing seeking a variance and a special permit for 156 North Road, was held on December 17th, and continued to January 19, 2021. At the January meeting, the applicants withdrew their request without prejudice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard W. Tracy, Chair

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Members: Brad Morse(Chair), Fred Morrison, Elvira Loncto, Jessica Lerman (Secretary).
Associate (non-voting) Members: Bob LaPalme and Steve Holt.

Under The MA Wetlands Protection Act, eight “interests” are protected by town conservation commissions across the state. Those commissions process thousands of applications every year for permits to do work in and near wetlands, floodplains, banks, riverfront areas, beaches and surface waters, (source: Mass Assn 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.

What follows is a brief summary of WCC activities for year 2020:

Site visit	9
Public hearing	2
Continuation of Hearing	1
Request for Determination (RDA)	3
Notice of Intent	1
Violation concern	1
Order of Conditions	1
Emergency Septic Repair	1
Forest Cutting plan notification	3
Building permit wetland sign-offs	2

Other: This year the pandemic has required conservation commissions to adjust their activities as required by the state. This was accomplished while still achieving our mandate to protect regulated resources via state wetland regulations, while serving the residents of Westhampton by assisting with the completion of projects within regulated areas.

Major project: Solar arrays at Montague Road, Kurt Meehan owner. The WCC required professional wetland consultants, paid for by the applicant, to review all work in the wetlands-regulated areas associated with this project. As the work progressed, routine monthly reports were submitted to the WCC during 2020. Wetlands issues related to this project are still on-going because of a lack of vegetation and/or mulch on portions of the site’s steep bare ground. Because these issues have not been resolved, the WCC has not yet signed off on the solar project’s Certificate of Compliance.

Conservation Restricted Properties annually monitored by WCC:

- Westhampton Public Library Conservation Restricted Area (2012)

- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted Area; Skibiski (2012)
- Kestral Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Sarafin (2013)
- Hilltown Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Weiss donor (pre 2012)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Glass donor (2015)
- Martin-Held property Conservation Restricted (2016)
- Lewis Conservation Restricted (Westhampton co-owner of CR) (2018)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Hanging Mountain/Lashway (2018)
- Kestrel Land Trust Conservation Restricted; Collins (2018)
- Kestrel land Trust conservation Restricted; Greenburg (2018)

Note: Some of these properties include land in towns that abut Westhampton

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert LaPalme

FOOTHILLS HEALTH DISTRICT HEALTH AGENT

During 2020, the department witnessed 10 perc tests and 15 Title 5 inspections. Septic system permits were issued for 11 new systems or system components. A total of \$12,950 was collected in fees.

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark R. Bushee Health Agent, FHD

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter of 2019-2020 was a transition time for the Highway Department. David Blakeley retired in February and I, Bill Jablonski took over the position of Highway Superintendent. (The highway dept ran with a 3-person crew until July 2020.) \$100,000 was appropriated in the Snow Removal account and a total of \$94,156.50 was spent.

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.

Due to the world-wide pandemic, many everyday practices at the highway dept. had to change. Some major changes were only 1 person to a vehicle at a time, surfaces cleaned daily and unable to do extra training due to cancelled classes and meetings.

Chapter 90 Projects

Hot Mix Paving

Southampton Road from Stage Road to Main Road (Rt. 66) was shimmed and over laid.
Total paved= 1.25 miles

Chip Seal

The following sections of roads were chip sealed:
Edwards Road from Rt.66 to the dirt section (.7 miles)
Laurel Hill Road from Southampton Road to the dirt section (.2 miles)
Southampton Road from Rt.66 to the Beagle Club (.7 miles)
Total Chip Sealed=1.6 miles

Guardrails

450 feet of new guardrail was installed on Southampton Road from house #47 to house #56.

Line Painting

32,636.90 feet of line painting was completed on all main roads throughout town.

Beavers

Beavers are continuing to cause problems on Lyman Road and the Bridge on Rt. 66. Trappers were hired and 2 beavers were caught and removed from those locations.

Other Projects

Elementary School

The town received a \$61,100.00 Shared Streets grant. We were able to use it to pave the elementary school rear parking lot, off of Hathaway Road. A pavilion was also built to help with drop offs and outdoor classrooms for social distancing due to Covid 19. 150 feet of chain link fence was installed to separate the parking area from the school grounds to keep the students safe.

Fuel Tanks

New gas and diesel tanks were installed and ready for use in July. A roof was installed over them to protect them from the weather and help them to last longer. A fence and bollards were installed around them to be compliant with fire codes.

New generator

At the June 2020 town meeting, \$30,000.00 was voted to be used from Free Cash to replace the generator that was failing at the highway building. The old cement pad was extended and bollards were installed to protect it.

Regular Maintenance

The usual maintenance was ongoing with brush cutting, hazardous tree removal, sign replacement/repairs, potholes filled, and gravel roads repaired and grated. We continue to do minor repairs and upkeep on all town buildings.

Vehicles

It was voted at town meeting that a Debt-Exclusion ballot question was to be voted on and it was approved to purchase a new Ford F550. It is to replace the 1990 Ford F350. The town has not received this vehicle yet due to the Pandemic. The vehicle plants have either been shut down or have been making ventilators for medical needs at this time. We are hoping things get back on track and the truck is received in 2021.

Kings Highway Bridge

In November, the Kings Highway bridge was closed due to necessary tree removal. In December, the bridge was closed during work days to install a retaining wall, move utility poles and get things ready for the bridge replacement in the spring of 2021. The bridge will be closed starting April 2021 until the job is complete.

Changes with the Department Employees

A big Thank You goes out to David Blakesley for his years of service to the Westhampton Highway Department!

The department is now working with a full crew after a number of months being down a person. Michael Demarey was hired to join the crew in July. Mike comes to us with years of experience as a ground crew worker at the 3-County Fairgrounds in Northampton.

As I was moved up to Superintendent, Scott Tirrell moved up to the position of Foreman. Scott has been on the department for 10 years and it has been a seamless transition for him and the department.

I would like to thank Scott, Zach and Mike for all their support in making my 1st year as Superintendent go as well as it did during these crazy times in a World-Wide Pandemic.

Highway Department Email: HighwayDept@WesthamptonMA.org Phone #: (413) 527-0136

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Jablonksi, Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Westhampton Fire Department is an all-volunteer organization consisting of thirty-one Firefighters 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 could be anywhere from 10-15 minutes depending on the location in town that 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 past year was certainly out of the ordinary for the Westhampton Fire Department. Having been in the position of Fire Chief for approximately 6 months and our newly appointed Emergency Management Director, Assistant Chief Steve Holt, and EMS coordinator, Deputy Mark Gould, being in those positions for even less time, we came face to face with a global pandemic. This was not the way we were anticipating starting off the New Year. Being newly appointed in these three positions and facing something none of us had experienced before, we were able to overcome many of the hurdles and uncertainties we were presented with. We were able to coordinate and work with local and state agencies to both attain knowledge and protective equipment for our first responders. We were also fortunate that Todd Alexander agreed to help with the Emergency Management duties, which he eventually took over from Assistant Chief Holt. His knowledge and experience with state agencies proved extremely helpful during this time.

The EMS crews that went out on what would be considered standard calls, now faced the uncertainty of encountering the virus. Short on PPE and limited knowledge of what the best protocols were that we needed to implement (these seemed to change daily), we pulled together as a group and grew to be able to render care and respond to calls without a single responder becoming ill. Working together with a developed modified response to emergencies we were able to keep the virus from impacting the department and its response to emergencies. By the end of April 2020, we had secured an adequate supply of protective equipment, with more on the way in May and June.

In April of 2020 our ambulance license was expiring, and we had to come up with the best solution possible to ensure adequate response for EMS. I had been contacted by Chief Dave Mottor of the Easthampton Fire Department with a proposal for them to take over our ambulance service. After investigating our options, I was able to bring our findings to the Westhampton Selectboard which proposed having Easthampton take over a 24 hour a day 365 days a year paramedic capable level service to the town. This was fortunate timing as early 2020 saw a major pandemic viral outbreak that pushed our capabilities beyond what we had been accustomed to.

We were also fortunate to have town residents respond positively and offer help in any way they could. Some by making PPE masks for first responders, the elderly and at risk, people with necessary jobs, and anyone else who was in need, to help protect them from the virus. Desperately short on needed items such as face masks, cleaning products, nitrile gloves, protective gowns, eye protection and even toilet paper and hand towels, made what would be a normal running of the safety complex into a scramble for necessary items. We are thankful for in that time of need to have neighboring departments that lent us a hand with some of these items we did not have and, in return, when we were able, reciprocate the help.

As is the case in many situations when you have cleared the first challenge, there is usually another. One of my goals for 2020 was to increase and offer training that is most relevant to serving our town. After laying out our training schedule with our training officer, retired Capt. Mike Derouin, the pandemic made offering training difficult. Training was done virtually as the pandemic grew and then with a renewed yet restricted in-person training schedule in June. This was done in conjunction with the Mass Fire Services recommendations and training strategies.

We also had a rare occurrence with our interoperable capabilities this past year. In June we were activated as part of a district tanker task force that is called upon when a large-scale fire or emergency is happening. Westhampton is the designated leader of the Hampshire County District 10 Tanker Task Force. This call was to help support the Strathmore Paper Mill fire in the town of Russell. We were then activated again in October for the Bondi's Island Landfill fire that burned for several days. We were activated three times for that event, twice for a tanker task force and once for a forestry task force. I cannot say enough about the individuals that took the time and responded to these events. They are scheduled for 12-hour blocks of time and are usually quite tedious. In addition, as we finished the last active tanker shuttle task force, the Fire Chief of Agawam gave the group extremely high praise. He stated that his department had hydrants every couple hundred feet and never had to worry about where they could get water until this fire. He was amazed at how many towns were able to come together and fill the portable water tanks with enough water that his operations at the fire scene never ran low on water over the course of three days of trying to extinguish the fire.

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 anyone 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 technologies and hazards encountered by personnel. The safety of all our personnel and mutual aid partners has always been 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.

Based on the volunteer nature of the fire department, many preventative measures have been explored or implemented to help maintain this type of organization. Open burning is only allowed on Saturday or Sunday during burning season with a valid permit. This is to have a higher probability that personnel will be home during the hours of open burning if needed to respond. Residential sprinklers have been required previously in subdivisions here in town, as well as

promoted during any new construction projects. Fire extinguisher training programs have been conducted to help people understand how to safely operate these devices.

The Department responded to one hundred and ninety-six 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 among other responses and requests.

2020 emergency calls breakdown

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	18	9.18%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat-no fire	1	0.51%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	131	66.84%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	15	7.65%
Service Call	7	3.57%
Good Intent Call	7	3.57%
False Alarm & False Call	16	8.16%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	.51%
TOTAL	196	100.00%

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 in order to keep them safe and remain competent in their skill sets throughout the year. In 2020, members in our organization trained to a modified schedule and training methods due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This training included in house courses along with Hampshire County and Mass Fire Academy courses and neighboring community mutual aid training exercises, along with 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, 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 of these vehicles have service completed each year along with any repairs needed that require a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT's) throughout the year to prolong the expected lifespan of the vehicles and improve safety during emergency responses. These testing procedures are also 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. We have moved the website to be incorporated with the Town of Westhampton and have transitioned all our burning permits to this online forum. This makes it more convenient for anyone to request a permit and get immediate feedback. 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 such as this in the future to better service all the residents as efficiently as possible.

The town continues to have a mass notification system to alert all town residents for any emergency needs. This system is called CodeRED and provides the town the ability to call all landlines, 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, such as expectations of power being restored, opening of warming shelters, and items that individuals are expected to have on their own. We have done two test calls with this system and received positive feedback from the community. 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.

We welcomed new firefighters Bridget Diggins, Zach Pruzynski, Sophie Morini, Shomari Francis and Ryan Gagne to the department. We were also fortunate to welcome Fire Captain and Paramedic Tom Rice to our department. With his skills and depth of knowledge he is a welcome addition to the volunteer ranks of our department not only in his professional capacity but also for his mentoring ability to our new firefighters. We hope young volunteers along with established residents in town will continue to step forward and volunteer their time and skills.

Lastly, 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, filling of residents swimming pools and the water tanks at the Town Cemetery, providing safety training to the local schools and have helped with the Boy Scouts. Due to the pandemic this year, they also helped when asked to do a Santa parade and many additional parades for birthdays and graduations hoping to bring some enjoyment to the community.

As is always the case, we continue to look for new volunteers that are interested in serving as an EMT, First Responder, Firefighter or in combined roles.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Antosz,
Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020, a year like no other. The Pandemic and shutdown began to impact us all in mid-March 2020. The Public safety group in town consisting of Fire, EMS, Police, The Highway Department, Council on Aging, Board of Health and Selectboard met weekly as information was released at a dizzying pace. This group recognized early on that the town would not be immune to the impacts of Covid 19 on residents, businesses and the schools. A coordinated effort to obtain medical supplies, personal protective equipment and resources from the State began. This continued throughout the year to culminate with an attempt to recoup funds for expenses through the Massachusetts Covid Relief Fund that is ongoing.

Calls for service, accidents and reported criminal incidents were down. This can be partly attributed to the lockdown and quarantine we all endured for months. People simply were not leaving their homes. The one area of note that did show an increase was online fraud and Covid related Covid unemployment scams. To better educate yourself regarding some of these very elaborate scams, please visit the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office for tips on how to safeguard from these unscrupulous and persuasive people that want to take your well-earned dollars. The Northwestern District Attorney's Office also has resources to assist in identifying and avoiding scams.

We have changed the way we accept firearms permits. Your application, new or a renewal, can be printed from www.mass.gov/firearms and mailed to 48 Stage Rd. 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.

Lastly, the officers of the Westhampton Police Department would like to express how appreciative we are for your continued support in these difficult times. Exciting times are ahead with the approval of the construction of a new Public Safety Complex. The next year will focus on the police reform bill and the implementation in our small part-time force. I am confident many of the changes to come will help us better serve residents and the community as a whole.

Respectfully Submitted,

D. White #671, Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE TRIAD COUNCIL

The TRIAD Council is comprised of volunteers that strive to empower those 60 and better. By harnessing information and providing tools, Triad promotes financial, medical, physical safety and well-being to seniors. Triad is sponsored by the Hampshire County Sheriff's Dept. and Office of the Northwestern District Attorney; we assist in implementing County Safety Programs in our community.

Due to Covid this year an Annual Report was not submitted. Throughout the year 2020, Ginny Curtis has kept up with writing monthly articles for the Belltower and the COA Newletters

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER & INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

The Animal Control Officer enforces the state and local laws of the keeping of domestic animals.

The Inspector of Animals conducts barn inspections to document ownership of all agricultural animals to be used for the return of found animals and provide the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources with data for emergency response planning. Inspections are also to ensure the animals are in good health with access to food, water, and adequate shelter. The Inspector also responds to bites of unknown origin, orders rabies testing, and quarantines animals if required.

In the year 2020 Don Tryon served as Animal Control Officer and Inspector of Animals.

The state waived annual inspections of agricultural farm animals due to the pandemic.

Animal Control continued to make every attempt to handle non-urgent calls and complaints by phone whenever possible. There was an increase in calls in the year 2020, possibly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with several high priority calls that forced officers from several agencies to respond to animal related emergencies. Precautions were taken to minimize in person interaction while responding to calls.

Teri Donovan currently fills the position of Inspector of Animals. Meanwhile, the Selectboard is conducting a search fill the position of Animal Control Officer.

The Animal Control Officer and Inspector of Animals can be contacted by email at AnimalControl@WesthamptonMA.org

Emergencies can be directed to Northampton dispatch at 413-586-1508.

Additional information is provided on the department webpage of the Town website: <http://www.westhampton-ma.com/animal-control-officer>

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl A. Provost, Administrative Assistant

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 677 residents out of a total population of approximately 1800 residents – nearly 30% of the town's demographic. With the State Formula Grant funds, expenditure funds from the town itself, federal funds provided to us by Highland Valley Elder Services, support from the Friends of the COA, and our many volunteers, the COA is normally able to offer a variety of programs and services for residents. However, due to the pandemic, this past year was unlike any other, in that we could not hold most of our signature congregate programs for public health reasons. However, through some creative work and a learning curve, we did manage to transition two of our programs – the COA Luncheon and the COA Breakfast to the Zoom digital platform.

The Westhampton Council on Aging consists of a Coordinator and Board of between five and seven (currently five) members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. 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.

Our board currently consists of co-chairs Louise Jaisonkowski and Julia Lennen, Charles Horn, Ray Fontaine and Colleen Basile, a new member. We are actively seeking new Board members and encourage anyone interested to attend one of our monthly Board meetings, held on the last Friday of the month. There is no age requirement to join the Board!

COA Newsletter – This year, our beloved newsletter editor, Wendy Blow, resigned and was replaced by Daniel Valinski. The 8-page newsletter, *Moving Forward*, reaches approximately 330 households (and perhaps nearly twice this number in terms of individuals) in Westhampton through generous funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elder Services. The newsletter is available electronically on the town website as well.

Ongoing Programs and Services – Although our typical programs were curtailed by the pandemic, we did manage to provide some important services to seniors and to update COA equipment in order to better serve them. Through the Title III CARES grant from Highland Valley Services, an outdoor bulletin board was purchased and installed in the Town center (approved by the Selectboard) to serve as a vital conduit of communication for older adults, particularly those without internet services. Five (5) Samsung tablets were purchased for older adults to assist in providing social connection and telehealth services. Essential office supplies such as an all-in-one printer (with scanning and copying capacity) was purchased for the COA Coordinator's use. In addition, COA Board members delivered two installments of frozen meat boxes donated to us through Highland Valley Elder Services to the homes of Westhampton seniors.

Lillian Baxter coordinates the "HEN" program (Hilltown Elder Network, supported by the Hilltown CDC) which provides light household and yard work to seniors.

Louise Jaisonkowski coordinates our volunteer transportation program sponsored by FRTA, matching drivers with residents in need of rides to nearby appointments and shopping. Volunteer drivers receive

small mileage compensation. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering to accommodate those in need of a ride.

Jean Webster tracks donated durable goods (walkers, wheelchairs, shower seats) and other supplies for residents needing equipment.

Communal Events (Virtual) – Although we began 2020 with our regular in-person programs on the first Thursday of every month, these plans (upended by the pandemic) required us to transform our monthly programs into COA “Zoom at Noon” sessions in place of our traditional, in-person gatherings. Our in-person programs included a well-attended computer security program by Adam Jasionkoswki (Jan.) and the annual Talent Show program hosted by the 4th grade of Westhampton’s Elementary School (March). Our Zoom programs included musician Roger Tincknell (July); Joan Griswold, Nutrition (Sept.), Medicare Fraud and Abuse (Oct.) and “All About Us” – a community sharing program (Nov.). In December, our COA Coordinator helped to collaborate with other COA directors in the region on a special holiday “Mass Appeal” TV program with a focus on seniors and healthy ways of weathering the pandemic. Of all the programs we held in 2020, our most interesting and engaging one was the “All About Us” program in which we shared our own interests, hobbies and talents with one another. We were able to host these programs in part through our membership in the Northern Hilltown Consortium which covered the bulk of the cost of our Zoom subscription.

Pen Pals Program – The COA Coordinator connected with 4th Grade teacher Sarah Overstreet on a pen pal program between Westhampton seniors and 4th graders in order to maintain connection and reduce social isolation during the pandemic. This program was quite successful.

Friends of the COA – The Friends of the COA, led by Deborah Barthelette, organize outings and raise funds to support trips, memorial gifts, and other activities for town seniors. Although the Friends continued to connect on future plans during 2020, they were unable to conduct regular activities because of the pandemic.

AgeFriendly – Preparations for the AgeFriendly initiative begun through the Northern Hilltown Consortium of Council on Aging continued in 2020. We received confirmation from the AARP Age Friendly Director, Antron Watson, that we can customize our initiative to meet the needs of the Town through multiple partnerships and are working toward that end.

We are grateful for our continued partnership with the Selectboard, Town Clerk, Administrator, Accountant and Library.

We encourage all residents to volunteer, participate in events and share ideas to make Westhampton a safe, vibrant, and welcoming place for our aging population.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Landau, COA Coordinator

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Westhampton Public Library has had a challenging yet successful year. Despite the obstacles and uncertainties brought on by the pandemic, the library staff and volunteers have continued to serve our community with dedication, determination, and enthusiasm.

When the library was forced to close its doors on March 14, the library trustees and staff began preparing to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic and continue serving the community in a safe manner. The library has offered curbside pick-up services for residents throughout most of the pandemic. Instructions explaining how to search online and request items that the library has in stock were posted on both the library and town websites. An online newsletter, which library patrons can subscribe to for free, highlights all new materials that have been added to the library. The library has also expanded its Ebook holdings and provided public wifi in the parking lot.

In mid-August, following state guidelines and working closely with the Westhampton Board of Health, we were able to offer limited browsing inside the library. The Board of Health strongly advised us to keep windows and doors open for proper air circulation. Except for a two-week interruption in September, due to a spike in Covid cases, the library remained open on a limited basis until late November, when it became too cold to continue.

The Westhampton Public Library has long served as a gathering place with a variety of community events and programs. Library Director, Meaghan Schwelm and Youth Services Librarian, Emily Wayne have kept the spirit of community and connectedness thriving with a combination of new offerings and creative twists on old favorites. Throughout the past year, patrons have participated in crafts on Facebook, Take and Make crafts, online story times, a virtual adult book group, a virtual young adult book group. This year's summer reading program, "Summer at Hogwarts", was a big success. The library has offered "bundle up pop-up browsing" events when tables are set up outside the library with a selection of books for patrons to browse and borrow. Special programs offered include a climate change film discussion and a virtual visit with author Maeve Ronan for young adults and teens. The library has continued to play an active role in the community life of Westhampton.

Library Cards: 921 (Westhampton as home library)

Materials Circulated:

Books: 15,010

Periodicals: 1,126

Audiobooks: 1,948

DVDs: 4,108

Ebooks: 2,292

Trybrary: 133

Interlibrary Loan

Items lent to other locations: 4,708

Items received from other locations: 4,034

Public Programs (FY 2020)

Children: 70

Attendance: 442

Teen: 15

Attendance: 172
Adult: 179
Attendance: 1,836
Meeting Room Use: 254
Virtual Program Attendance March 2020 - June 2020: 145
Facebook Videos: 1,230

Volunteers have continued to play an important part in the library's ability to serve the citizens of Westhampton. Their hard work and enthusiasm during the pandemic are deeply appreciated. The Trustees want to thank Angela Griefen, Barbara Pelissier, Ellice Gonzalez, Victoria Yoshen, Judee Wayne, Sheila Marks, Judee Wayne, Julia Laplante, and Jeffrey Olsen for contributing their time and talents to our community.

The Trustees also want to thank Jared Brown, custodian. In addition to Jared going above and beyond to keep all high touch areas sanitized during the pandemic, he helped to install our first ever illuminated "tree of hope" in the library yard this winter.

The new library building was officially opened for ten years as of October 17, 2020. The Friends plan to host celebrations during our fifteenth year being open, since many in-person programs were cancelled due to the pandemic.

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 on 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 director for paper copies. The income from the solar panels goes directly into the town general fund. Since becoming operational, the panels have generated over \$35,000 in revenue for the town.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board of Trustees: Chair Anne Marie O'Reilly, Treasurer Michelle Nevins, Secretary Carol McMurrich, Lynn Cooper, Brian Mulvehill, Celeste Whiting

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

Routine clean-up and maintenance was completed in early spring and continued throughout the entire season.

14 old tablet headstones had fallen over and were stood up and repaired.

The cemetery equipment is in good working condition.

I recommend tree work be completed along the East fence line to prevent limbs from damaging headstones. Cemetery Commission looked at the tree line and will get estimates from contractors.

Consideration should be made to layout new section (North section)

There were:

10 Traditional burials and 4 cremations

7 Burial lots were given

6 Burial lots were sold

6 Foundations were installed

I would like to thank the Westhampton Highway Department for their assistance in 2020.

I would like to thank Don Fox and the Westhampton Fire Department for continuing to keep the water tanks filled at the cemetery.

I can be reached by calling (413) 527-6480 or (413) 626-2259.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward H. Thornton, Cemetery Superintendent

REPORT OF THE VETERANS' AGENT

The year 2020 veterans continue to face concerns with health care, education, jobs and guidance. Veterans and Veterans' family members can get quick answers and guidance from MassVetsAdvisor.org.

Their web site provides avenues to State and Federal areas of need. If you are not computer savvy, then call your Veterans' Agent and we become the front-line in your effort to get info and answers.

Visit the Veterans Agent page of the Westhampton town website for links to MassVetsAdvisor and other informational sites.

Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 115, 108 provides many avenues for benefits for the veterans and their families.

Contact your Veterans' Agent at 413-427-3054 to set up an appointment and learn more about your benefits.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Henning, Veterans

REPORT OF THE ZONING BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

The committee was formed in December of 2016. The following members were appointed by the Selectboard: Ginny Curtis, Steve Gagne, John Kelsey, Brigid O’Riordan, Art Pichette, John Shaw, and Bob Turner.

The committee was charged with the responsibility of reviewing all present Zoning Bylaws, but not General Bylaws or Sub-division Rules and Regulations. The present Zoning Bylaws were 21 years old, last revised in May 1995, and would require a complete page by page analysis. The Committee was asked to make recommendations for updating the bylaws, and presenting those recommendations to the Planning Board. The committee would conduct public hearings in conjunction with the Planning Board on proposed changes, and then bring to a town meeting for a vote.

The committee contacted Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for assistance and received approval for a technical assistance grant. The scope of services of the grant were;

A comprehensive review of the town’s zoning and development regulations to ensure compliance with sound planning practices and state law; and

Re-codification/reorganization of the town’s Zoning Bylaw.

The grant covered 150 hours of time for services, and Larry Smith represented the PVPC.

After being formed, the committee held a meeting to meet to solicit recommendations and concerns from town officials, boards and residents.

Bill McCloud was appointed to the committee in 2017, and Cindy Turner served as a non-voting member to act as our recorder during the meetings.

Much of 2017 was taken up with focusing on eliminating grey areas of “Definitions” and reworking the “Table of Uses”, and proposing a Zoning Permit to be used by the Building Inspector’s Office in the future. The committee also proposed “Conditions of Construction” rules to eliminate the confusion surrounding how to get a building permit. The rules state that the first department/board that an applicant should see is the Building Inspector, who will make a determination on what to do next.

On December 14, 2017 the Planning Board in conjunction with the ZBRC held a public hearing on the following bylaws:

Solar Bylaw, roof and ground mounted,

Personal Wireless (cell towers),

Medical Marijuana Dispensary,

Recreational Marijuana Moratorium

About 25 residents were present to participate in the hearing.

By December 20, 2017, the committee had used up the 150 hours from the PVPC and thanked Larry Smith for his assistance. The committee agreed to look for additional funding for future services if needed.

On February 12, 2018, at a special town meeting, the Planning Board in conjunction with the ZBRC received an affirmative vote to establish a Temporary Moratorium on Marijuana Establishments, (not applicable to Medical Marijuana). The moratorium went into effect thru December 31, 2018.

Voters also approved the Registered Marijuana Dispensary (Medical) Bylaw.

The committee then turned its focus on preparing for Annual Town Meeting. Lehrer it would present the Solar Bylaws. The committee reworked the wording to reflect recommendations from residents at the public hearing. There were no substantial changes.

A new overlay district will be proposed Solar Photovoltaic (SP), which will be for large scale solar projects only.

The committee continued to hold public informational meetings on recreational marijuana, and used a handout for residents to submit suggestions and comments to the Committee. Some of the meetings were well attended, whereas others consisted of more committee than residents.

The committee formally asked the Selectboard to provide a laptop to assist with the ongoing work on the zoning bylaws. The Committee received one, which will allow the town to have electronic copy of new proposed and revised bylaws.

The committee recognized that the Marijuana regulations from the Cannabis Control Commission were a work in progress, and prepared to apply for an extension of the moratorium thru June 30, 2019. The committee also considered proposing a permanent ban on marijuana establishments, and agreed to assist the Selectboard and Police Department in proposing a General Bylaw if the permanent ban passed.

The committee continued to work on all other parts of the bylaws as often as possible along with the marijuana topic.

In October 2018, Bob and Cindy Turner resigned from the committee. Their years of service were of great value to the town. The committee asked the Selectboard to appoint another member from the Planning Board to join us.

The Attorney General approved all bylaw articles passed at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting

The Selectboard and Planning Board approved moving our request for a moratorium extension, and set a public hearing for December 4, 2019. Steve Gagne continued to be the lead on presenting information on all marijuana related issues. There were no objections to the extension at the hearing.

The committee approved the date of January 15, 2019 for a public informational meeting on Commercial Marijuana Establishments.

Brigid O'Riordan contacted the Attorney General's office to get a ruling on how we will be required to prepare for the final bylaw proposals. Since we will be presenting the complete Zoning Bylaws at public hearing, it is important to know what the public notice will require.

On January 15, 2019 we held another public informational meeting on Adult Recreational Marijuana. Steve Gagne provided a power point presentation that showed the difference between Medical and Recreational marijuana bylaws, and how public use and growth of marijuana (small amount) will not be prohibited. The questions asked by residents shed light on the need for a better understanding of what had been passed on the state wide marijuana vote in November 2016. Surveys that were distributed and returned showed a 72% opposed retail sales, with a firm no to "not in my neighborhood".

On February 19, 2019 the Committee presented (4) four zoning and two (2) general bylaws to the Selectboard.

To meet exact open meeting and zoning regulations we needed the proposed bylaws to move quickly from Selectboard to Planning Board for posting of legal notice for public hearing held on 4/10/2019, than to the annual town meeting on 5/11/2019, followed by a ballot vote at annual elections.

Steve Gagne asked the committee to establish a sub-committee to continue discussion of recreational marijuana that he would chair, but there was only one interested resident to serve on the committee at that time.

Ginny Curtis resigned from the committee in April 2019. Ginny has been a strong advocate for zoning, and has served on many committees and boards having to deal with zoning. Her work will be missed.

We continued to work on many parts of the bylaws, including new proposals for common driveways, short term rental, cell towers, and wind turbines.

All 4 zoning and 2 general bylaws passed at annual town meeting and all ballot questions on the articles passed at annual election. They will now be sent to the Attorney General for approval. The Attorney General approved all articles from annual town meeting in September 2019.

Pat Coffee, member of the Planning Board, has been appointed as a member of the Committee Pat comes with a wealth of experience in planning and will be a great addition to the Committee. The Selectboard was contacted to see what hours are available to ZBRC from the PVPC to assist with some of the new proposed bylaws. Ken Comia from PVPC came to our September meeting to work with ZBRC. We had 22 hours of their time and asked for proposals on common driveways and short term rental. We continue to discuss the new proposals.

The ZBRC meets on Wednesday evenings (see posted meeting agenda) but does not have a set week due to members serving on many different committees with differing commitments. All meetings are open to the residents for their comments, and concerns.

This is a long report involving 3 years due to our lapse of not issuing our annual reports in the past.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Shaw, Chair Zoning Bylaw Review Committee

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As Principal of Westhampton Elementary School, I am pleased to report that despite what is a very difficult and unusual year, we have made the necessary adjustments to cope as successfully as possible with the present pandemic. Despite many obstacles, our staff continue to make steady progress towards our goals of continued improvement of our educational programs and maintaining and updating our facilities.

During the second half of the last school year, our school improvement efforts focused on improving academics in the core areas of reading and mathematics. A contingent of teaching staff worked toward developing consistent procedures in employing student support systems and improving outcomes for special education students. Our classroom teachers and their aides focused on implementing our new *Bridges* math curriculum in grades Pre-k through 5 and *Big Ideas* in grade 6.

Teaching staff engaged in ongoing professional development related to implementation of key components of the mathematics program. We began a pilot of the Fastbridge Assessment Data program and started looking toward next steps in safety planning with enhanced evacuation drills.

As a result of Covid-19, enrollment and staffing were affected: our third-grade teacher, John Bye, decided to retire. Our first-grade teacher opted to take a year-long leave of absence. Two members of our support staff opted to take leaves of absence, and another resigned her position. Our librarian, Karen Rousseau, opted to resign her position, as did our cafeteria manager, Wendy Wilcox. The school guidance counselor Shaleen Driscoll resigned her position for family reasons. We hired a new school nurse, Anne Chaput. I feel fortunate to have been able to hire Lisa Florek, a veteran teacher and Westhampton community member to be our third-grade teacher. Tylor McCallumore and Kaitlyn Kelly were hired as special education paraprofessionals. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our departing staff that worked so diligently on behalf of our students and school community.

This year due to Covid-19 circumstances, we have six families that opted to home school their children, which brought our total to seven homeschoolers. We have another six students participating in our parallel remote program.

On a bright note, last May, our Special Education teacher Lindsey Meisner was honored with the Grinspoon Award, which recognizes outstanding educators from across Western Massachusetts. In addition to all of the excellent work Lindsey does to support our special education students, she is always willing to pitch in and help out with many other school community events and activities. This is a well-deserved award. I am also happy to announce that she will be having her second child later this spring and we will be hiring someone to cover for her while she is out on maternity leave.

Many of our traditional school community events and practices are canceled, rescheduled, or where appropriate, done remotely. Our annual town meeting last May was postponed and then held outside at Westhampton Elementary. In our budget presentation, we originally asked for a 2.47% budget increase that included contracted pay increases for our teachers and a new position

of part time math interventionist. Unfortunately, it was necessary to cut funding in the FY 20-21 budget to pass on a more reasonable increase to the town. Ultimately, the budget included a 1.97% increase from the previous budget year. As a result of scaled down activities and building use in the spring, we were able to return \$80,000 to the town from our 19-20 operational budget. In June we held our sixth-grade graduation beginning with a parade led by our Highway, Police, and Fire Departments. The remainder of the ceremony was held virtually. Thank you to Bill Jablonski, Dave White, Dave Antonz, and members of their departments for their support and participation in making this a more special occasion for our graduates and families. I would also like to acknowledge our sixth-grade teacher, Jenny Finnie, for working to make our virtual graduation as meaningful as possible for our students and families.

Over the last summer we witnessed to racial unrest across areas of our country. The School Committee and administration discussed how best to respond to these issues. It was decided that we would all commit to a multi-year school improvement goal. The first step being to analyze our current efforts in regards to antiracism education. Next, we will begin the work of expanding and developing a more challenging and age-appropriate anti-racist curriculum for the Westhampton Elementary School.

Throughout the pandemic our school committee and administration worked with members of the Westhampton Teacher's Union and the Board of Health to plan for the safest and best possible educational model to benefit our students. We are determined to develop practices to maximize student learning and to ensure we were meeting more rigorous standards for student instruction and engagement.

We felt strongly from our experiences in the spring that we required a more rigorous and comprehensive remote model. Our aim was to communicate with the larger school community and use that feedback to help inform our planning. We held Zoom community forums, as well as surveyed parents and community members to ensure all voices were heard.

In September, we shifted to focus on health-related training and creating procedures for maintaining a healthy environment for students and staff to be back together in a hybrid model. It was necessary to change most of the school day, including drop off and pick up procedures, redesign classrooms and move furniture out of the building to maximize physical distancing. We dedicated a space to allow for the isolation of suspected Covid-19 cases and made repairs and improvements to the school's HVAC system. Another special thanks to Bill Jablonski and the Highway Department for developing our back-parking lot into an alternate drop off / pick up space for students with a covered back rack and more parking spaces for staff and families.

The school and town received Covid relief in the form of grants. These grants helped us to fund a distance learning teacher, a part time daytime custodian, increased storage space, personal protective equipment for students and staff, tents and portable desks for outdoor learning, computers, tablets and augmented learning platforms to support hybrid and remote learning.

Students began the 2020 – 21 school year in a hybrid model on September 16th, having lost 59 in-person school days by that date. We completed our normal universal screenings in mathematics, reading and writing. Students generally lost less academic ground than expected in grades 3-6. However, data suggests that the gap from in-person learning from March to June had a greater effect on students in Prek - 2. On November 9th, we modified our hybrid plans to

combine both cohorts of students in grades K -3, allowing students in those grades to attend in-person school four days a week.

Our updated School Improvement Plan includes our goals related to improving academics and safety procedures. It begins work on a multi-year goal of improving anti-racist education. In this year's budget proposal, there is a request to fund extended summer classes for both regular education and special education students. The plan is also to dedicate two professional days at the end of this school year to analyze students' learning in order to identify any gaps or areas for improvement and create curriculum maps that will help inform our instructional planning for summer school and the 21-22 school year.

I want to thank all our School Committee representatives, members of our town government, emergency services, and Board of Health for all stepping up during this difficult time to provide additional support that helps to keep our school a safe place.

I have been working with Selectboard Member Phil Dowling to complete an energy audit of the elementary School. We hope to explore recommendations for upgrading our heating systems and make changes that may be more environmentally friendly and cost efficient.

Last year we graduated a class of 16 students: Ishetia Black, Phoebe Bowser, Keegan Butler, Eleanor Cleary, Carter Corbeil, Owen Drysdale, Cody Gaida, Jayden Hamel, Samuel Jenkins, Efreem Korytoski, Reese O'Connell, Amelia Perry, Lillian Popham, Logan Rourke, Bridget Sullivan, and Kylie Wauczinski. Congratulations to all of our graduates for all of their hard work.

I am proud of our school. We will always do our best to meet the needs of our families and to be responsible partners with the larger community. It is our goal to be a source of pride for the town of Westhampton.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deane Bates, Principal

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Students and staff at Hampshire Regional showed impressive resilience and compassion during the 2020 calendar year.

January and February of 2020 began in our typical fashion of hitting the deck running into the new year. Our academic programming was in full swing and students were engaged in numerous educational opportunities on and off campus. Notably, the math department led by program leaders Nicole Rainville and Terry Barut was in the process of including new inquiry-based learning lessons into their classes based on meaningful professional development they had earlier in the school year. A new interdisciplinary course, AP Seminar, engaged students in critical thinking and research on a number of current events such as school safety taught by librarian Andrea Belanger. Both eighth grade teams visited UMass in January on their annual college visit. Extracurricular student-led activities such as esports was a new organization that gained popularity in 2019, and our highly anticipated spring musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* was in rehearsals. Winter athletics such as basketball, wrestling, skiing, and our co-op programs with Easthampton for swimming, diving and hockey had high participation with Hampshire athletes. Hampshire Regional experienced a shift in leadership when the Assistant Principal, Mark Biagini resigned in February and Karen Milch, the school's Evaluation Team Leader was hired in his place. Karen's proven track record at Hampshire made her a good fit to fill in the mid-year vacancy and she seamlessly took on the leadership role.

Special education teacher Jason Threlfall was awarded the Harold Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence from Hampshire in February. Jason was an ideal candidate for this accolade due to his tireless work with students he works with and his clear dedication to ensuring they grow and learning with his support.

The winter months also included a number of conversations with member towns' select boards and finance committees regarding important building projects that needed to be done at Hampshire Regional based on the school's capital improvement plan. Given the school renovations were complete almost 20 years prior there were a few key areas that needed immediate attention, including the school's HVAC system, recommended safety upgrades, sidewalk repairs, water tank repairs, locker upgrades and field irrigation. Significant collaboration took place between all towns, the district's central office, and the school's administration to determine how to fund these improvements with a specific focus on the HVAC system. Little did any of us know that this project served to be extremely valuable for health and safety purposes related to COVID-19 in the fall.

March of 2020 brought some significant, unexpected changes to the school year with the infection rate of COVID-19 affecting our state. The School Committee had several emergency meetings to discuss the cancellation of international trips to Ireland, Berlin/London/Paris, and France. After working in partnership with our local Board of Health from Westhampton, the musical was able to have one evening show with a limited audience on Friday, March 13 with the shows on Saturday and Sunday being cancelled. That same day, school was canceled for several weeks to encourage community members to stay home to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our area. Educational programming was challenging due to the inequities across the districts including access to broadband internet, access to technology, and availability of support at home. Because of this, the administration worked to provide packets of work to students and streamline

assignments to focus on English language arts, mathematics, wellness, and a daily journal. Weekly communication included family newsletters, faculty meetings, and class meetings.

Once the school closure was extended to include most of the spring, the staff rallied around the Class of 2020 and became the first in the area to deliver lawn signs to seniors to recognize and appreciate their strength during what should have been an exciting and busy time for them. Many staff members contributed to the signs and had car parades to deliver them to students' houses around the district. Senior post-graduation plans were highlighted on the school's Instagram and Facebook pages. Later in the spring, the governor announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the school year. April vacation was changed to school days to end the school year earlier in June. Teaching and learning transitioned from general assignments to course-based assignments for the fourth quarter, and online learning commenced without training or support. Teachers worked hard to develop appropriate lessons that were accessible to all, regardless of the access issues. Wireless hotspots were provided to families, as were laptops. Hampshire Regional offered a grab and go meal program that was popular with the local community led by cafeteria manager Carol Inman. The junior prom was rescheduled and then cancelled, along with many other exciting spring events that all students were looking forward to enjoying including the middle school semi-formal, jazz and arts night, all athletics, the sophomore Washington DC trip, and senior activities including the senior banquet and the senior class trip.

Instead of canceling graduation, the school administration and class advisors Tonya Aitken and Steve Croft hosted an individual ceremony for each of the 119 graduates over the course of a week and had a professional videographer, Reelife Productions out of Williamsburg, record each ceremony to make one special production. The class valedictorian, Emma Civello of Southampton and class salutatorian and president, Annie Curran of Southampton both gave moving remarks, and additional highlights included speeches by the class Vice President April Warner of Chesterfield, the class Secretary Aine McDonald of Worthington, and class treasurer, Aiden Braastad of Southampton. The school photographer, Grynne and Barrett, provided professional photos to graduates and their families, and Forget Me Not Florists out of Northampton donated roses to each graduate. The ceremony was available to all on YouTube, Facebook, and through the Southampton local access channel on June 5, the originally scheduled graduation date. An additional ceremony was planned for August with all graduates celebrating together, but after consulting with the board of health, the decision was made to cancel that event.

The end of the school year brought about a much-needed break for hardworking students and staff. Special education teacher Glenda Hall, school psychologist Leslie Giordano, and para educator Sue Henson decided to retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and special education teacher Roberta (Bobbie) Smith and para educator Liz Sormanti retired in the fall of 2020. The dedication and support these women offered to our students will be greatly missed. Additionally, the school superintendent, Aaron Osborne, resigned at the end of August and interim superintendent Michael Sullivan was selected by the school committees to lead the district for the year.

The summer of 2020 consisted of a great deal of planning for the upcoming school year in addition to these leadership shifts. Town meetings occurred over the summer and voted to approve the Hampshire Regional budget as well as the HVAC project for the school, while other

capital items were withdrawn by the school administration and school committee earlier in the summer due to budgetary implications due to COVID affecting towns. The HVAC project focused on the heat of the building, but additional components of ensuring acceptable air exchange rates and the installation of MERV13 filters were added to the scope of the work to be done. The school committee met on a weekly basis to discuss school reopening and all of the details that accompanied it. The local boards of health were often consulted and our district's nurses worked throughout the summer to comply with the Department of Public Health with procedures in schools for health and wellness. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provided resources and directives for schools to prepare for opening with COVID under three potential models; a full reopen, a hybrid reopen, and a remote reopen. The number of school days for students was decreased from 180 to 170 to allow for staff to have an additional ten days of professional development, which was highly valuable to the HRHS faculty and staff. Staff engaged in lessons on zoom, google classroom, apps such as Padlet and FlipGrid, as well as engaged with one another to share best practices for distance learning. Staff also read one of four anti-racism texts and shared their learning during the professional development time.

Hampshire had some faculty members shift roles for the 20-21 school year including:

- Katie Watkins moved from counselor to Evaluation Team Leader to replace Karen Milch
- Alicja Duprat moved from para educator to Special Education teacher to replace Jeff Carriero
- Erin Mahon-Moore moved from Special Education teacher to English teacher to replace Glenda Hall
- Dan Charko moved from van driver to cafeteria staff to replace Maryrose Cerulla

Hampshire also welcomed a number of new faculty members:

- Emily Krems as Middle School Counselor replacing Katie Watkins
- Mya Holmes as School Psychologist replacing Leslie Giordano
- Cayce Williams as Special Education teacher replacing Bobbie Smith
- Melissa Zazzaro-Williams as Spanish teacher replacing Ana Rueda-Hernandez
- Kristin Brouillette as English teacher replacing James Belcastro
- Jules Marciano as a para educator replacing Melinda Conway
- Adam Burt as a para educator replacing Madison McCarthy
- Keri Doldoorian as a para educator replacing Sue Henson
- Andi Moriarty as a para educator replacing Liz Sormanti
- Sarah Manley as a para educator as a new position
- David Cook as a building substitute
- Kevin Marsh as a cafeteria helper replacing Sevun Moran

Additionally, some temporary staff were hired to replace teachers taking a one year leave of absence including:

- Josh Lane as a middle school history teacher replacing Tracey Pinkham
- Kasey Soderberg as a middle school English teacher replacing Allison Coates
- Nora Penn as a high school math teacher replacing Matt Geertsma

With the new staff in place, the additional time at the beginning of the school year was even more important to orient the full faculty to the new way of teaching and learning for the first quarter.

After significant discussion, the school committee decided to open in a hybrid model for incoming 7th grade students and open remotely for students in grades 8 through 12. The HVAC project was a major component, and the school committee wanted the contractors to have access to the building to complete their work with limited interruptions to student learning. At the same time, the 7th grade students were prioritized for in person learning due to their status of being new to the school. Students with significant disabilities would be invited into the building to participate in learning from the building in small learning pods. Fall athletics was allowed to proceed with modifications to each sport to comply with health protocols. The school committee formed a safety committee that included teachers, administration, school committee members, and nursing staff to consult with the Board of Health to make recommendations based on the data for our community and the progress of the HVAC project.

Due to COVID, there were a number of operational changes to teaching and learning at Hampshire. The schedule shifted from a seven period rotating waterfall schedule to an eight period schedule with four periods each day and no rotation. This allowed for more classes to be offered to reduce class sizes. Also, it enabled all students to add a new class to their schedule called COVID support. This class offered students the opportunity to engage in lessons that provided academic, social and emotional support, as well as be a consistent place for students to receive information and check in with a familiar teacher. PE electives were streamlined into a general course, limiting the physical interaction between students. Incoming school choice programs were closed due to needing to plan for the current population of students and limiting class sizes to be the appropriate distance from one another in classes.

The school year officially began for students on September 16 and welcomed 699 students enrolled at Hampshire Regional.

GRADE	ENROLLMENT
7	132
8	121
9	104
10	101
11	137
12	98
Post Grad	6
Total	699

Seventh graders had the unique opportunity to be in the building without any upperclassmen, and they engaged in in-person learning two half days a week while students in grades 8-12 learned online through the first quarter. A great deal of learning took place outside for students in person, and Hampshire is fortunate to have a wonderful campus for this to occur. By the end of the first quarter, the staff recognized a number of shifts that should occur for the second quarter to optimize teaching and learning including more synchronous time in the remote model and additional support for students who were struggling to engage. A number of student activities were put on hold to focus on academics for the fall including academic society induction and

many extracurricular clubs. However, some groups were able to meet remotely such as the game club, yearbook committee, and student council elections were held in December. The class of 2021 held some socially distant activities with the support of the Board of Health. All students who participated were compliant with safety guidelines and engaged in the movie night, parking lot paint party, sunrise watch party, and annual Halloween parade.

As soon as the HVAC project was complete in late November, the learning model shifted for a half day hybrid for all students in grades 8-12, with a fully remote option still available for any student at Hampshire. After reviewing the data in our own school and locally, our local health experts and school superintendent recommended this model due to evidence that COVID is not transmitted in schools due to the mitigation strategies in place. With COVID cases on the rise locally, the school committee and safety committee met regularly to continue discussing the best option for Hampshire students to continue learning into the new year.

The year 2020 was filled with a number of unexpected twists and turns and ups and downs due to the global pandemic. Even still, the admirable qualities of our district shone through even in these unsettling times. The community continued to care for one another and show amazing grace and compassion throughout the year. As I reflect on the mountains moved this year, I am incredibly grateful to lead this amazing school community into 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Smidy, Principal

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

Annual Report for fiscal year 2020

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 2020 included: Joe Kearns, Chair (Middlefield); John Chandler, Vice Chair (Chesterfield); and, David Blakesley, Treasurer (Westhampton). In 2020, HRMC services included:

- Conducting annual DEP transfer station inspections and work as a liaison between Towns & MADEP on transfer station compliance matters.
- Bid Administration for a new 3-year municipal waste hauling and disposal contract.
- Representation and bid liaison on a new 5-year recycling contract with extension options.
- Work with regional entities to challenge increased prevailing wage rates for hauling.
- Execution of an annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.
- Program management of transfer station recyclables including collection, hauling and recycling of tires, electronic waste, universal waste (including free recycling of mercury thermostats and re-chargeable batteries), books, and Freon evacuation.
- Outreach on transfer station operations and recycling initiatives.
- Submittal of member-Town DEP annual surveys, grants, and reports.
- Financial administration of HRMC programs and monitoring of grant activities.

The day to day business and program operations of the HRMC are managed by a contracted Administrator, who also serves as a representative to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Municipal Advisory Board (Vice-Chair), the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group; and, interfaces with local, regional, and State officials. Board meetings are held on alternate months. The March 16, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to the Covid 19 social distancing guidelines. All subsequent meetings were held virtually. Throughout the pandemic, the HRMC provided guidance on operations protocols.

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 FY20, the combined assessment for all ten towns was \$ 63,289. The Assessments offset base operating expenses. HRMC recycling program collection costs are pass-thru expenses from the HRMC to the Towns to best maximize economy of scale and to enable the HRMC administrator to have review and oversight of vendor relations and program operations.

In 2020, 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 Towns received \$ 47,250.00 in grant funds to be used to further enhance recycling programs. Westhampton was awarded \$5,600. The Town used a portion of their accumulated RDP funds to purchase a metals recycling open-top roll off, and a new MRF box for containers (bottles, cans, plastic tubs) as they made a transition from single stream to dual stream recycling.

During the past year, the HRMC member-Towns collectively diverted 965 tons of recyclable materials to the MRF; the Town of Westhampton recycled 108.34 tons in 2020. 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 2020, the Town of Westhampton had a recycling rate of 34.9% compared with 33.7% in 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator

SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

WESTHAMPTON 2020 ANNUAL REPORT - CAPITAL PLANNING

DEPARTMENT	2-May-21	Purchase	Life Exp.	Cost Est.	Loan term	Loan %	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Highway Dept.																	
	(2009) Pick Up Truck	2022	10	\$ 119,000	5 years			\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500					
	(2008) Generator	2022	15	\$ 30,000	cash		\$ 30,000										
	(2001) Brush Mower	2023	22	\$ 150,000	10 years	4%				\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
	(2006) Dump Truck	2023	15	\$ 275,000	10 years	4%				\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000
	(2012) Backhoe	2027	15	\$ 150,000	10 years	4%									\$18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
	(1985) Grader (used?)	2026	25	\$ 150,000	10 years	4%							\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
	(1999) Compressor	2029	30	\$ 40,000	cash?			\$ 40,000									
	(2016) FWD Dump Truck	2031	15	\$ 275,000	10 years	4%											
	(2019) Bucket Loader	2029	10	\$ 175,000	10 years	4%										\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000
	(2010) Wood Chipper	2030	20	\$ 70,000	cash?								\$ 70,000				
	(2019) Dump Truck	2034	15	\$ 300,000	10 years	4%											
	(2015) Asphalt Roller	2035	20	\$ 30,000	cash?												
	Building Improv: Break Rm	2022	50	\$ 34,000	cash?			\$ 24,000	\$ 10,000								
Elementary School																	
	Replace Boilers (Green ?)																
	Parking Lot						\$ 61,100										
	Elem. School Heat Sys upgrades																
Select Board																	
	Town Hall & Annex Roofs	2021	25	\$ 55,000			\$ 90,000										
Police Department																	
	Patrol Vehicle (2010) Ford		10	\$ 60,000	cash?			\$ 60,000									
	Digital Dual Band Radios**		5	\$ 13,000	cash?			\$ 13,000						\$ 13,000			
	Petrol Vehicle (2018)		10	\$ 70,000	cash?										\$70,000		
Fire/EMS Department																	
	(1987) Fire Engine 2 (used?)	2027	35	\$ 300,000	10 years	4%											
	Fire Engine 1 (2004)	2034	30	\$ 500,000	10 years	4%								\$ 37,000	\$37,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000
	Tanker (2017)	2037	30		10 years	4%											
	Rescue 1 (2009)	2039	30		10 years	4%											
	Brush Truck (2002)	2032	30		10 years	4%											
	Utility ATV/Trailer (2009)	2029	20		10 years	4%											
	SCBA Trailer		20		cash?												
	Jeep 2004 (Club Cab 4WD Pickup?)	2024	10	\$ 50,000	cash?					\$ 50,000							
COA																	
	Senior Center																
Lighting Upgrades - Town Hall, Annex, Library, Highway Garage							\$ 55,712										
Safety Building			50+	\$ 4,260,000	20 years	3.15%		\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
subtotals:							\$ 120,000	\$ 349,500	\$ 448,500	\$ 427,500	\$ 377,500	\$ 377,500	\$ 440,000	\$ 420,000	\$495,000	\$ 446,000	\$ 446,000
Current Debt							\$ 147,229										
Highway Truck and Loader (2018) Includ. Interest thru 9/2019)				\$ 387,321		2.50%	\$ 167,000	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,300					
Public Safety Building Design																	
Balance of Public Safety Design Fund (\$72,000)																	
TOTAL CAPITAL PAYMENTS							\$ 434,229	\$ 364,800	\$ 463,800	\$ 442,800	\$ 392,800	\$ 392,800	\$ 440,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 495,000	\$ 446,000	\$ 446,000
Stabilization Fund:																	
Free Cash: (6-30-2020)				\$ 383,515													
Total Stabilization and Free Cash (2-1-2019)				\$ 518,509													
				\$ 902,024													

ARTICLES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MAY 8, 2021

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by ballot necessary officers to serve in the ensuing year:

Selectboard	One for three years
Board of Assessors	One for three years
Board of Assessors	One for two years
Board of Assessors	One for one year
Planning Board	One for three years
Planning Board	One for two years
Finance Committee	Four for three years
Library Trustees	Two for three years
Hampshire Regional School Committee	One for three years
Westhampton Elementary School Committee	One for three years
Moderator	One for one year
Tree Warden	One for one year
Constable (Center District)	One for three years

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 4: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L., which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal Year 2022, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school tuition, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school transportation, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,500.0 for a Financial Audit for the Town, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,925.00 for an Actuary Audit of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000.00 for Treasurer/Collector/Town Clerk Support/Training Expenses, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,620.00 for Administrative Assistant Search/Training Expenses, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for painting interior walls and refinishing floors of great hall at Town Hall, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for design and construction of a break room in the highway department garage, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money as may be certified from available funds, due to the Town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for ambulance services, as provided by an agreement with the City of Easthampton, and to determine whether this amount shall be raised by taxation, transferred from available funds, or otherwise, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide \$20,000 to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$2000 for the Fire Department, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$6000 for the Westhampton Cemetery, under MGL Chapter 44, Sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to re-authorize a revolving fund not to exceed \$8,000.00 for the Police Department School Resource Officer payroll, under MGL Chapter 44, sec 53 E1/2, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000.00 for Police Department equipment and training, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,500.00 for Police Reform Training, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (Free Cash balance \$518,509.00 /Stabilization balance as of January 31 \$383,515.18)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to balance the budget, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to adopt a resolution submitted by petition as follows.

Resolution Declaring Westhampton to be a Pollinator-Friendly Community

The purpose of this resolution is to increase pollinator education and take action to further support the health of pollinators.

Bees, butterflies and other pollinators are vital parts of our ecosystem. They provide essential services for valued crops and thus contribute to our local agricultural economy. The caterpillars of moths and butterflies are an exceedingly important food source for songbirds, enabling them to successfully rear their young.

As a right-to-farm community, our action in support of pollinator health concurrently supports local farms. In addition, these efforts increase community resilience, enhance food security and contribute to the overall health of the environment.

Some pollinator species are in sharp decline due to multiple stressors, including a loss of habitat, the impact of climate change, the arrival of non-native parasites and pathogens, an increase in artificial lighting, and exposure to pesticides and other environmental contaminants. The overall impact is a reduction in biodiversity.

A federal strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators was created to address these issues due to the fact that pollinators contribute over 15 billion dollars in agricultural value to the United States each year.

In addition, Massachusetts created a Pollinator Protection Plan (in 2017) which outlines best management practices and actions to benefit pollinators.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Westhampton join in this effort to support pollinators by declaring the town of Westhampton a Pollinator-Friendly Community. As such, the town encourages the adoption of policies and practices that support pollinator health including:

- ☐ Increasing community education on pollinators and pollinator health.
- ☐ Following pollinator-friendly best practices as outlined in the Massachusetts Pollinator Protection Plan.
- ☐ Expanding pollinator habitat on town properties.

The Town Clerk is requested to send copies of this resolution to Governor Charles Baker and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

NOTE: The final 2021 warrant is posted at least seven days before the Annual Town Meeting at Town Hall, Library, and Outlook Farm, and town website. Copies will be available at the Town Hall prior to and at the meeting.

SALARIES FISCAL 2021/PROPOSED FISCAL 2022

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted

<u>ELECTED OFFICIALS</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>Proposed FY22</u>
Selectboard 3 Chair/Others	2083/1,585	2,135/1,665
Board of Assessors 3 Chair/Others	3,190/2,852	3,270/2,901
Moderator	509	519
School Committee 5 Chair/Others	492/276	500/282
Tree Warden	686	700
 <u>APPOINTED OFFICIALS</u>		
Town Clerk	14,195	16,367
Town Accountant	16,599	17,014
Treasurer	16,599	17,014
Clerk, Bd. Registrars	100	100
Election Workers	12.00/hr.	12.00/hr.
Administrative Assistant	41,988	43,038
Tax Collector	16,599	17,014
Assessor Assistant	15,968	16,367
COA Coordinator	18.36/hr.	18.82/hr.
Animal Inspector	879	901
Animal Control Officer	1,830	1,876
Veterans Agent	1,826	1,910
Building Inspector/Commissioner	24,600	28,000
Wiring	50/inspection	50/inspection
Plumbing Inspectors	50/inspection	50/inspection
Board of Health 3	1,285	1,317
Cemetery Commissioners 3	482	494

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Superintendent	69,791	71,536
Grade 1A	26.87/hr.	27.50/hr.
Grade 1	25.85/hr.	26.48/hr.
Transfer Station Attendant	16.26/hr.	16.89/hr.
Transfer Station Assistant	0/hr.	14.25/hr.

LIBRARY

Director	50,089	51,341
Staff Librarian	15.38/hr.	17.00/hr.
Custodian	13.50/hr.	14.25/hr.

TOWN HALL

Custodian	13.50/hr.	14.25/hr.
Snow Removal	19.09/hr.	19.57/hr.

POLICE

Chief	33,713	34,556
Sergeant	24.00/hr.	24.60/hr.
Officers	20.00/hr.	20.50/hr.

FIRE CHIEF	13,362	13,696
EMERGENCY MGT DIR	475	485
EMS COORDINATOR	475	2400
CEMETERY CARETAKER	6,667	6,800

BUDGET FISCAL2021/PROPOSED FISCAL 2022

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	FY2021	FY2022
Counsel Fees	20,000	20,000
Moderator	509	519
Selectboard Salary	5,358	5,465
Selectboard Expense	5,800	5,800
Document Management	2,100	2,100
Administrative Assistant	41,988	43,038
Administrative Assistant Search	0	3,620
Town Accountant Salary	16,599	17,014
Town Accountant Expense	4,200	4,350
Audit	14,500	14,500
Actuary Audit	0	2,925
Assessor Salary	8,894	9,072
Assessor Expense	15,000	12,000
Assessor Assistant	15,968	16,367
Field Review Conversion	12,500	0
Treasurer Salary	16,599	17,014
Treasurer Expense	7,000	7,500
Tax Title Expense	3,500	6,500
Tax Collector Salary	16,599	17,014
Tax Collector Expense	18,670	19,716
Tax Taking Expenses	800	800
Town Clerk Salary	13,195	16,367
Town Clerk Expense	5,800	5,800
Clerk, Board of Registrars	100	100
Training/support Treas, Coll, T Clerk	3,500	2,000
Conservation Commission	225	225
Zoning Board Expense	600	300
Planning Board Expense	300	300
Consultant Planner	6,000	6,000
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Salaries	237,645	243,586
Highway Administration	7,426	10,000
Highway Materials	93,505	95,843
Road Machinery	42,742	43,811
Road Machinery Fuel	43,050	43,050
Snow Removal	100,000	100,000
Road Machinery Buildings	29,887	30,634
Transfer Station Expenses	79,006	84,108
Hilltown Resource Management Co	7,529	7,550
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS	1,380,138	1,439,409
HRHS Capital	13,400	0
Vocational Tuition	375,000	375,000
Vocational Transportation	60,104	60,897
Elementary School	1,804,844	1,903,830
School Committee Salary	1,596	1,628
Library	106,859	110,997
VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	14,460	14,460
Veterans Agent Salary	1,863	1,910
Memorial Day	200	200

CEMETERIES

Cemetery Expenses	6,800	6,970
Cemetery Commission	481	494

PROTECTION OF PERS. & PROP.

Police Chief	33,878	34,556
Police Department	81,410	80,830
Fire Chief	13,428	13,696
Emergency Management Director	2,600	2,665
Fire Department	42,200	42,200
Safety Complex	13,500	13,700
Emergency Medical Services	9,250	9,250
Emergency Medical Services Coordinator	5,200	5,332
Ambulance Service	25,000	25,000
Inspector Compensation	6,000	6,000
Building Inspector/Commissioner Salary	24,000	28,000
Inspector Expense	9,200	11,140
Tree Warden Expense	2,600	2,600
Tree Warden Salary	686	700
Animal Inspector Salary	879	901
Animal Control Officer Salary	1,830	1,876
Animal Control Officer Expenses	1,043	1,043
Board of Health Salary	1,285	1,317
Board of Health Expense	500	500
Foothills Health District	22,538	28,997

DEBT AND INTEREST

Long Term Debt(hwy. truck & loader)	144,428	0
Long Term Debt(hwy. truck & PSC design)	167,000	40,800
Long Term Debt (public safety complex)	0	300,000
Interest Long Term Debt	2,801	4,300

UNCLASSIFIED

Insurance & Bonds	87,570	87,570
Town Offices	28,573	28,610
Information Technology Support	11,108	15,272
Council on Aging	3,025	3,025
COA Coordinator	4,590	4,893
Cultural Council	75	75
Historical	1,200	1,200
County Retirement	217,213	229,706
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	274	280
Unemployment	20,000	20,000
Group Insurance	395,000	395,000
OPEB Trust Fund	5,000	5,000
Medicare	30,000	30,000
Reserve Fund	15,000	10,000
Town Hall & Annex Repairs	600	0
Police Equipment & Training	0	5,000
Police Reform Training	0	7,500
Highway Garage Generator	30,000	0
Roof Replacement Town Hall & Annex	90,000	0
Town Hall interior paint & floors	0	9,000
Highway garage breakroom construction	0	20,000

TOTAL APROPRIATION BUDGET	6,213,323	5,963,317
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